

Worship services are being cancelled until further notice because of Covid-19. However, we will have worship services through the Internet Zoom platform every Sunday at 10:30 AM in NB, NS and PEI. The Zoom link for this service will be sent to you by email. The telephone numbers for Zoom always remain the same but the Meeting ID and password number change every week. Please let Mr. Vautour know if you would like to be added to the weekly email list. See the bottom of the bulletin for the contact information.

**If you have friends or acquaintances who want to join in the worship service, please do not hesitate to share with them the Zoom links to join with us in the worship our great God.**

**Please note that audio and video sermons and other materials are also available on our local website at [www.gcine Brunswick.org](http://www.gcine Brunswick.org)**

**The complete study of the book of Acts led by Mr. Gary Deddo is available on our local website.** It is an excellent Bible Study. You are encouraged to take the time to study it.

There is also a new article under the tab **FEATURED ARTICLE**. There is a new article on the **Book of Revelation** taken from the GCI website and written by Paul Kroll. Included are the first 11 chapters. Other chapters will be added as formatting is completed.

**Prayer Meeting: Our next prayer meeting will be on Thursday, April 15 @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Phishing email:** If you received this email, please do not respond to it. It is not an email from Mr. Williams. You will notice that the email address does not belong to Mr. Williams. Mr. Williams never uses the term "The Lord's Chosen".

**From:** Dr. Greg Williams [<mailto:gregoryw.gci@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Saturday, April 10, 2021 3:34 PM

**To:** [warrenwilson50@outlook.com](mailto:warrenwilson50@outlook.com)

**Subject:** God bless you Pastor Warren

*Good afternoon The Lord's Chosen, are you less busy at the moment? I got a request for you to manage confidentially. Having a busy schedule so no calls, kindly respond back via email to avoid disturbance. Yours Sincerely, Dr. Greg Williams  
President Grace Communion Intl.*

To see specific prayer requests from the church, please go to [www.gcine Brunswick.org](http://www.gcine Brunswick.org) – under "Members Only" and type the password. If you do not know the password, please contact Mr. Vautour.

- Let us pray according to God's will and as per his instructions: "1 ¶ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people, 2 for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. 3 This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, 4 who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Ti 2:1-4 ESV)
- Let us thank God that in his love and mercy God the Father so loved the world that he gave us his Son to save us from eternal death and to give humanity the sure hope of a better, evil free world. This gift if for all who have and who will trust and have faith in God's beloved Son, Jesus Christ when God opens our eyes.

- Let us pray for our brothers and sisters in GCI who are living on the island of St. Vincent where the La Soufriere volcano has just erupted. Please pray for all people living on that island as well as people living in adjacent islands also affected by the ash spewed by this powerful volcano.
- Please pray that God will strengthen and protect GCI members and all Christians living where the Covid 19 pandemic is raging including we who live in Canada. Areas especially hard-hit in Canada are the province of Québec, Ontario and the other Western provinces. The northern Western part of New Brunswick is also affected overwhelming the hospital capacity to care for all patients. Let us pray to remain faithful and to continue to have faith and trust in our faithful Lord Jesus.
- Let us thank God for all those who are working tirelessly to help others such as doctors, nurses, all those working in seniors' homes, special care homes, researchers, and so many more.
- Although death is inevitable, let us pray to have the courage and God-given ability to express the love of God shed abroad in our hearts (Romans 5)
- Let us also pray that during this difficult time, God will open our eyes to the good works he has already prepared for us.
- As the apostle Paul prayed, let us pray for one another asking that we may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May we be strengthened with all power according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Let us thank him that he has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption for the forgiveness of sins. (From Colossians 1:9-14)

**Offerings: (Paraphrase of some information given by Mr. Hall, GCI Canadian Director):** Just a reminder that any donations we receive via either Credit Card or Canada Helps are subject to about a 3-3.5% fee which means any donations we receive for your congregation, are reduced by that amount. Direct Debit (Pre-authorized Payment) or E-Transfers have much lower transaction fees, that we do not back charge to the local congregation. (Cheques do not have a transaction fee). One can send E-transfers to [khorwood@gcicanada.ca](mailto:khorwood@gcicanada.ca) (her full name is Kathleen Horwood) if their bank uses INTERACT. There is no need for a password as the donations are deposited directly into the GCI banking account. In the subject or message line, write the name of your church and your member number. There is no need for a password as your offering will directly immediately in the GCI church bank account. Most bank send an immediate confirmation of successful deposit. If you do not know your member number, please write to Mr. Vautour at the email address below.

You can send your offering directly by cheque to the following address: **Grace Communion International- Canada, Suite 203A, 2121 Airport Dr., Saskatoon, SK 7SL 6W5.** If you prefer, you can also call **1-306-653-2705.**

*You can also donate via phone using a credit card, or via Canada Helps using **the donate button** on our website at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/7735>. All donations received via "Canada Helps" are credited to the members local congregation. It is therefore important that you include your address and other information Canada Helps asks.*

## 2021 Virtual Denominational Celebration

April 4, 2021



Please see <https://www.gci.org/events/2021> for schedule. It **also posted on our local Website under bulletins 2021 – April.** **Registration is to begin on April 15<sup>th</sup>.**

## The Post-Covid Church (April 7, 2021)



Greg and Susan  
Williams

Dear GCI Family and Friends,

The COVID-19 pandemic was an external shock to our established systems unlike any of us have ever experienced. Our pastors and ministry leaders have been challenged to re-think church. It has certainly been a time we have needed the creative voices among us. Many congregations have done well to listen to the creatives and have found clever ways to worship and fellowship via technology. ([GCI Creative Community FaceBook Page](#) is a splendid resource for continued sharing of fresh ideas).

So, now that we are a quarter of the way through 2021 and are seeing signs of hope, how do we approach the possibility of movement out of the pandemic?

Meredith McNabb, Associate Director for Educational Programming at Lake Institute, says this:

*“On the practical management side, in a time of external shocks, the leadership task might best be summed up as asset management: what resources do you have, and what do your core values say should be done with those resources?”*

This is good, straight-forward advice. I would add that it needs to happen in the spirit of **Acts 15** and the Jerusalem Council, where after hearing testimony and meetings bathed in prayer, they arrived at meaningful conclusions that “seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us” (**verse 28**).

As we have relied on our creative folks to help learn new ways to sustain the work and presence of the church, now is a good time to for church leaders to convene and have serious conversations about the values and mission of their local church.

McNabb adds these helpful questions:

1. Why does the congregation exist?
2. What is the spiritual, transformational, life-giving, and meaning-making work that caused the congregation to gather in the first place?
3. How do these elements play out going into our future?

These questions set the table for what could turn into a transformative leadership meeting.

I am happy that our focus this year is on the Faith Avenue. Much of our pre-Covid focus was on the Sunday gathering. I would speculate that up to 80% of our attention, resources and energy went into the Sunday meetings, and then the pandemic shut our doors. This blip in church life may prove to be an incredible wake-up call for the church to better distribute its attention, resources, and energy.

### **What is the new storyline for our church?**

Connect Groups are a timely answer as we continue to build and nurture relationship with one another, and collectively walk with Jesus. These groups can thrive online or in the physical setting of someone’s living room. Cross-Generational Care is a demanding need as some of our senior members and at-risk members will not be able to gather the same as before the pandemic. It is the authentic care of the church that finds meaningful ways to keep these members still included as part of church life. This is an area that requires us to step up.

Community-Building Events may receive more attention than usual since many of these activities can happen outside in a safer setting for social distancing. This is a key spot where the Faith Avenue Team converges with the Love Avenue Team. Sharing and comparing ideas from both teams that will develop into plans will be extremely helpful. And be sure to give special consideration to how these activities mix and match with neighborhood engagement.

A healthy church will find ways to function well in all three ministry avenues – Love, Hope, and Faith. It begins with a focus on Jesus as our Lord, Provider, and the Head of our church. What has Jesus been saying to us through this global health challenge? How has he reorganized our church? What priorities is he directing us toward? These questions need to begin the assessment process for your leadership teams, as you gather to set your eyes toward the future.

Jesus is our Love, Hope, and Faith. As we actively pursue thoughts, plans and activities in each of these avenues, let’s be assured that he is the one leading, and we are alongside as participants.

Faith Forward! Greg Williams

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### **Lament for the Asian-American Community (Mr. Greg Williams – April 7, 2021)**

GCI mourns the eight lives senselessly lost at Atlanta-area spas, including six women of Asian descent. The attacks took place against a backdrop of increased violence against Asian Americans and intensifies fear and trauma for many in the Asian-American community.

GCI denounces violence and hate in all forms against any person or persons made in the image of God. To raise your awareness, over the past year, nearly 3,800 incidents of name-calling, shunning and assault against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been reported to Stop AAPI Hate. Some of the incidents include being spat at, coughed on or physically attacked while being verbally blamed for the coronavirus.

Christians are ambassadors of grace and reconciliation. We have a unique and compelling call to provide leadership for the benefit and dignity of all ([2 Corinthians 5:16–20](#)). The Bible uniformly teaches the essential dignity of all humans and the shared desire to belong in community. GCI understands that the heart of Jesus is for the “other” and the marginalized.

As Christians, we seek to stand with the marginalized. We encourage our members to grieve for the families and friends of the victims, then to seek understanding of the historical and contemporary facets of racism in our country, to willingly enter into hard conversations, and to humbly listen to the hurt while empathizing with the pain of others. All in the hope of the healing that can only come from Jesus.

Greg Williams

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### Devotional: The Sparks of Disagreement (April 7, 2021)



Rick Shallenberger  
Regional Director  
USA, North Central



*“As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.” ([Proverbs 27:17](#))*

*Twice in the past week two people have quoted this verse to me and pointed out the reality of iron sharpening iron. This verse, which is often quoted in sermons, article and books, is often used in reference to people spending time together in a connect group or in fellowship together. “How can we grow together unless we spend time together, after all, iron sharpens iron...” We often think in terms of rubbing off on each other—sharing the good things with each other.*

*What we fail to focus on is that when iron sharpens iron, friction occurs and sparks fly. The truth is, iron sharpening iron is not always a pleasant experience. People disagree with you. People get upset with each other and sparks fly. Things are sometime said that shouldn't be*

*said—or in a manner or tone that is less than graceful. Tempers can raise, voices can raise, friction occurs and sparks fly. And this is what the Scripture is telling us. These things are part of growing together in grace and truth.*

Relationships are important for many reasons. They help fill a basic human need and they give us opportunity to love and share life with others. Relationships without friction and sparks might not be as healthy as one might think. It may surprise some to hear that Cheryl and I have disagreements. (Tongue firmly implanted in cheek.) She is not a mini-me and I am not a mini-her. We are two different people with different backgrounds, who grew up in different environments, who had different learning experiences and who—hold your breath—have different opinions about things. As a result, in some of our discussions friction occurs and sparks fly. And not every disagreement ends in perfect peace, we simply agree to disagree. However, and this is vital, we choose to not be disagreeable. There is a significant difference. Our goal is to love each other, to grow in our marriage, to understand each other better. Neither one of us is disagreeable—defined as being unfriendly and bad tempered. In our 36 years of marriage we have experienced iron sharpening iron, and I can say with conviction that I love Cheryl much more now than I did when we first married; she can say the same.

There are two other verses in Proverbs 27 that reinforce this principle.

- “Better is open rebuke than hidden love.” (Verse 5)
- “Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.” (Verse 6)

Healthy relationships grow when we listen and seek to understand why someone disagrees—when we focus on the other rather than on the disagreement. Relationships grow when we try to see things from another’s point of view and choose to not be offended when someone doesn’t immediately agree with us or struggles to understand our point of view. I would suggest that God is never put off when we disagree—and let’s be honest, we often do. Why didn’t you heal this person? Why didn’t you answer that prayer? Why didn’t I get that job? God, I disagree with your decision. God, I wish you weren’t so far removed from me. God, why don’t you take care of these people who bother me? God why aren’t you more involved?

The Psalms are full of David asking those very questions of God. God why didn’t you..., why won’t you..., why aren’t you... These questions don’t bother God because they are part of the friction of iron sharpening iron. David might not agree, we might not agree, but we are not being disagreeable.

And here's the key: When it comes to our relationship with Father, Son and Spirit, God is always the one doing the sharpening. But notice, he does it by becoming like us. He becomes the iron that will sharpen us. He rubs off on us. He seeks to make us stronger, sharper, better. And while some of that sharpening causes friction, and there are sparks, we know the end result is good. In the end, we are sharpened into what God intends us to be.

**Prayer:** *Lord, thank you for loving me enough to not be concerned about the friction and the sparks in our relationship. Thank you for dedicating yourself to mold me into whatever it is you want me to be. Thank you for putting up with my disagreements, and patiently helping me see things your way and to trust you. I may not like the friction and the sparks, but I know they are the result of your unconditional love. Thank you!*

**GCI principle website and Moncton Websites**—a) [www.gci.org](http://www.gci.org), b) [www.gcine Brunswick.org](http://www.gcine Brunswick.org), c) [www.gcicanada.ca](http://www.gcicanada.ca); d) [www.facebook.com/GCIMoncton](https://www.facebook.com/GCIMoncton);

For a wealth of helpful articles about God, grace, and his plan for salvation, who we are, etc., please see the GCI.org website. Contact Information: Pastor's contact information: email—[evautour47@outlook.com](mailto:evautour47@outlook.com)