

Greetings from Rideau Park: The origins of Valentine's Day come from Roman rituals celebrating love and fertility in mid-February. Christian tradition tells of an early priest named Valentine, executed for performing secret marriages. The date of the original Roman festival was then taken by the Church to encourage people to act with love and courage, in memory of Valentine. This February, choose "love and courage" with the support of these upcoming events at Rideau Park.

We hold in our prayers the families of these members of our church family, whose lives we remember: Norine Wolfe (Dec 7), Dora Scott (Dec 23), Daniel Welch (Jan 11) and Daphne Campbell (Jan 25).

Saturday, February 1, 4:00 pm – Worshiplude 2020 – This year's gathering of young people from congregations across Ontario and Quebec follows a new format. We begin with all-ages worship at 4:00 pm, with our teen bell choir *Grace Notes*, Rod Hagglund's group *Stream* and Emmanuel's *JAM* leading the music. After the service there will be a pizza supper (\$10) followed by youth programs and activities.

Sunday, February 9:

- **10:00 am service** – We light a candle of remembrance for all members of our church family who died in 2019.
- **11:15 am** in Beecroft Hall - We call to order the Annual Congregational Meeting. Agenda items include: receiving the 2019 financial statements, approval of 2020 Budget, reports from Strategic Planning and Property Renewal. All members and adherents are able to vote, and your input is needed! Lunch will be provided.
- **3:00 pm** in the sanctuary – Schubert! With Bradley Christiansen, baritone, and Andrew Ager, piano. Tickets at the door: \$25/\$15 student.

Thursday, February 13, 9:30-11:30 am – Valentine Coffee Party: Come and enjoy the bake sale, potpourri table, coffee, tea, baking and conversation.

Sunday, February 16, 10:00 am service – As part of the service we will recognize and thank our current and past Stewards and Elders, who served Session and Stewards faithfully since the beginning of Rideau Park United Church. In our new governance model, the work of Session and Stewards will be done in other ways.

Monday, February 17 – Family Day: The Office will be CLOSED.

Saturday, February 22, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm – Eastern Ottawa Outaouais Regional Council meets at Glencairn United, 140 Abbeyhill Drive, Kanata. If you are interested in learning more about the wider church, or being one of RPUC's delegates, speak to Elizabeth or Steve.

Tuesday, February 25, starting at 5:30 pm - Pancake Supper: hosted by the 28th Ottawa Scouts, who are fundraising for a trip to Poland. Tickets \$10 for adults, \$6 for children, available through the office and at the door.

Wednesday, February 26, 11:00-2:00: Harmony Club for Seniors. The last Wednesday of the month this group gathers for informal card games, then a delicious lunch (RSVP to the office required.) At 1:00 pm everyone is welcome to presentations by interesting speakers.

Wednesday, February 26, starting at 6:30 – Encarna and Labyrinth on Ash Wednesday. Encarna is a multimedia journey through prayer stations and meditation, open **6:30 – 8:30 pm** in the sanctuary. The Labyrinth will also be set up in Beecroft Hall. At **7:15**, we will move into the chancel area for an Ash Wednesday service, with communion.

Sunday, March 1, 10:00 am service – Lent 1 Sunday worship, with **communion served in the pews.**

Starting March 4 at 7:15 pm – Five Wednesday evening Reflections for Lent.