



## Minister's Message

To clap or not to clap...that is the question:

Whether it is nobler to sit in silence, maintaining an air of reverent praise,

Or to raise our hands in acknowledgment of glorious inspiration...

Ah...the age-old question of whether or not we should clap in church. I grew up in a church where applause was never heard. I think it was because our White Anglo-Saxon Protestant sensibilities considered such displays of emotion as destructive to an atmosphere of reverent meditation. For the same reason, people only spoke to each other in quiet whispers before or after the service, and children were only allowed in the sanctuary on special occasions – to sing a song or receive their Sunday School certificates – before being ushered quickly and quietly back down to the basement.

By contrast, one of the first churches I served clapped for everything! They clapped for anthems, for solos, and for anything done by children. They clapped for the announcements, the prayers of thanksgiving, and occasionally during the sermon!

Applause was an expression of the joy they experienced; being in the presence of God with like-minded people of



faith. Children were always present for the first part of the service, and once a month on communion Sunday, they would return to join us in a circle, as we served the elements to each other.

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### Rideau Park United Church

Telephone: 613-733-3156

Email: [info@rideaupark.ca](mailto:info@rideaupark.ca)

Website: [www.rideaupark.ca](http://www.rideaupark.ca)

**Sunday Worship: 10am**

**Sunday School: 10am**

**Coffee Hour: 11am**

### OUR MINISTRY TEAM

#### Minister

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### *Minister's Message (continued from page 1)*

Most congregations fall somewhere in-between, and inevitably someone asks whether it is appropriate to clap in church. My answer is always the same, "It depends."

If we look to the Bible for answers, Psalm 41 says, "Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!" In chapter 55 of Isaiah, the prophet states, "For you shall go out with joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands." This sentiment is echoed in Psalm 98 which says, "Let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy together." And don't even get me started on Psalm 150, which says that we should praise God's mighty deeds and greatness, in the sanctuary, with trumpets, lute, harp, tambourines, strings, pipe, dancing and loud crashing symbols!

But I digress...we are just talking about clapping. The scriptures generally highlight it as an expression of joy, celebration, and praise to God. One commentary said that, "For most North and Euro-American worshippers, the only "sanctioned" spontaneous response we've been taught is clapping. We didn't learn, nor was it ok, to raise our hands or voices in "Amen!" and "Praise God!" when we felt a stirring within us based on a verbal, musical or other offering. So, all we feel comfortable doing is clapping, to express ourselves in praise and thanksgiving."

Another stated that when people applaud, they "...are allowing the joy that is welling up in their hearts to overflow into their hands." I like that. It suggests that the response is Spirit-led. It is not just a polite reaction to a good performance, it is our heart's recognition of God's presence in what we just experienced, and joy overflowing in an act of praise and thanksgiving.

That said, there are times when the Spirit calls us to be silent, to listen and to meditate. Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Remembrance Sunday are examples of services where we naturally refrain from applause, because we are honouring sacrifice. There are also times when an anthem or a solo is in itself a prayer, or carries a message that inspires us to deep reflection, and the only appropriate response is silence.

This brings us back to where we began: To clap or not to clap...that is the question. The answer seems to be "it depends." And if we listen, the Spirit will lead us.

*Rev. Jim Baldwin*



### **Our Hearts Remember**



We hold in our thoughts and prayers the families and loved ones of these Rideau Park friends who have passed away.

Merle Brown	February 6
Murray Ferguson	February 18
Doug Wilson	March 6
Mary Arthur	March 24
Kay Carter	March 25
Joan Tweedie	April 6
Chris Inrig	April 27
Doug Robinson	April 29

*I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.*

John 11:25-26

## Bells in Spring Concert Sunday, May 3 at 7pm

The Bells in Spring Concert features three handbell choirs from Rideau Park (A Touch of Brass, La Bell Ensemble and Ringing Praise) as well as handbell choirs from Emmanuel United Church (Emmanubells), St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (St. Andrew's Ringers) and Trinity Presbyterian Church (Trinity Hilltop Ringers). The bell choirs will perform en masse, as well as individually. The concert can be viewed online by clicking [Watch Live](#) at the start of the concert and it will later be posted on the [Webcast Archives](#). A freewill offering will go to support the various bell choirs.



## Red Dress Day Tuesday, May 5

May 5 is Red Dress Day: a national day of awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirited People. Indigenous people believe that red is the only colour the spirits can see, so red dresses are used to call the spirits of missing and murdered women and girls back to their loved ones. You are invited to wear red on Sunday, May 3.



## Family Sunday Service at Rideau Park Sunday, May 10

Everyone is invited to join in harmony with our chancel and children's choirs for our Family Sunday choral anthem, entitled *My Mother's Love*. Our Music Ministry Coordinator Iain Macpherson looks forward to blending the voices of many individuals as possible – mothers, fathers, children, grandparents, extended family members, etc. The only rehearsal required is on the day itself, Sunday, May 10, at 9:15am. If interested, [email Iain](#) or [rideauparkunited@gmail.com](mailto:rideauparkunited@gmail.com) for practice resources and recordings.

*Iain Macpherson, Music Ministry Coordinator*



We are looking for greeters to welcome people to coffee hour. There is a sign-up sheet beside the sheet for coffee servers on the board in Becroft Hall. All ages are welcome!

## Delphina Quintet Saturday, May 23, 7:30pm

The Delphina Quintet, featuring Renée Michaud (flute), Iain Macpherson (violin), Jon Mak (viola), Alex Gayowski (cello) and Renée Leblanc (piano), returns to play at Rideau Park. Please join us for music of Reylandt, Dubois and Mozart. Entrance is pay-as-you-are-able, suggested \$10 cash. Proceeds go to Rideau Park.



## Tulipathon Walk, 2-3km

**Sunday, May 24, 2pm registration, walk starts at 3pm**

Rideau Park is once again participating in Multifaith Housing Initiative's annual fundraising event, Tulipathon, at Commissioners' Park, Dows Lake. Last year, a small group of us walked but a large group of us donated. Tulipathon is an annual fundraiser for ongoing rent subsidies for affordable housing tenants and is held rain or shine.

To donate, go to <https://pro.gofundme.com/fundraiser/7164762> or send a cheque to Multifaith Housing Initiative, 404 McArthur Avenue, Unit 206, Ottawa, ON K1K 1G8.

For more information, go to <https://www.multifaithhousing.ca/tulipathon.html>.



## Seniors Communion Service and Tea Sunday, May 24 at 2pm

Rideau Park's annual Seniors Communion Service and Tea will be held this year on May 24 at 2pm. This service is hosted by the Pastoral Care team in support of seniors who can no longer attend regularly, but the invitation is extended to all elderly seniors whether they are still active in our church community or not. The tea and refreshments that follow also provide an opportunity to visit with old friends.



## Living with Transitions Monday, May 25, 7-8:30pm at Emmanuel United

Marc Séguin, author of the book *Advocacy in Aging*, will be leading families in a discussion about how to plan for and support each other in aging. All members of our cluster congregations are welcome. Come with your support network to

Emmanuel United Church, 691 Smyth Road, and take part in this interactive session. For more information, go to <https://emmanuelunited.ca/event/living-with-transitions-a-conversation-opportunity-for-families/>.



## 55+ Spring Luncheon Wednesday, May 27 at 12pm

The luncheon is open to everyone over the age of 55. The cost is \$10/person; cash, cheque or e-transfer can be used to pay for your lunch. To reserve your seat, RSVP to the church office at 613-733-3156 by Friday, May 22. If you are able to help with the lunch (baking a cake, potato salad, setting or clearing tables, clean-up, etc.), please let the office know.

After lunch, there will be an optional presentation in the Parlour about downsizing, "Less Space, More Living", organized by Oakpark Retirement Community.

## Living in Community: Big Soul Project Concert Saturday, May 30, 7:30pm; doors open at 7pm

Enjoy classic R&B, gospel, funk and soul music, presented by the Big Soul Project Community Choir in support of the [Multifaith Housing Initiative](#). The concert will lift your spirits and launch you into spring. With a large choir and a four-piece band, they will be shaking down the house! The choir is under the direction of Tahlia De Corso and backed by the Deep Groove Band. Please grab your friends and family and come join in the fun! Tickets are \$25/person; youth under 12 are free. [Click here](#) for more information and [click here](#) to purchase tickets.

Every ticket sold for this concert brings us closer to achieving the mission of Multifaith Housing: "to provide and promote safe, affordable, and well-maintained housing in inclusive communities, and to mobilize resources for these purposes".

If you can volunteer on the day, we're looking for volunteers to usher and pass the plate. It would be great to have some extra muscle for setting up the stage that afternoon. Please let Rev. Jim know if you are available to help.

## Coffee Hour



April helpers were great! No nagging or pestering required! May's sign-up sheet is posted in Beecroft Hall if you'd like to try helping at Sunday coffee hour. At the end of June, we switch to cold drinks until September; no tea or coffee, so setup, serving and cleanup are easy-peasy. Just a pleasant way to see lots of familiar and new faces. Questions? Stop by at coffee hour or e-mail [nancymcp58@gmail.com](mailto:nancymcp58@gmail.com).

*Nancy McPherson*

## Collection of Personal Care Items

The Social Action and Outreach Committee will be collecting personal care items for the four Community Houses in our area (Banff/Ledbury, Blair Court, Russell Heights and Confederation Court) during the month of May. You may drop items off anytime at the church in the green bin located at the top of the Beecroft stairs. Following are suggested items: toothpaste/brushes, dental floss, soap/body wash, shampoo/conditioner, brushes/combs, deodorant, disposable razors/shaving cream (men and women), feminine hygiene products, hand/body lotion, and lip balm. Thank you for your support; the Community Houses greatly appreciate the donations.

## Scouts Garage Sale at Rideau Park Saturday, June 13, 8am-2pm

The 28th Ottawa Scouts will be holding a garage sale at Rideau Park. Donations of household goods are welcome. Or consider renting a table to sell your own items on sale day – contact [dps@rogers.com](mailto:dps@rogers.com) to rent a table for \$25. There will be a BBQ and bake sale with hamburgers, hot dogs, snacks, drinks and baked goods for sale. They'll also be hosting a bottle drive as part of this event – please consider dropping off your empty bottles and cans to help support the Scouts.



Rideau Park will also be hosting a book sale in the church basement.

## Tribute to Bob Roden

Thank you Bob Roden for your long-serving dedication both as Treasurer and Chair of our Finance Committee. Bob is well known for his abundant, entertaining poems over the many years while he was outlining our financial position here at Rideau Park. During the tribute to him on Sunday, April 12, Bob remarked that he wanted to step down and quietly ride off into the sunset but then realized he didn't have a cowboy hat and he didn't have a horse so that wouldn't work. Bob also said he is very honoured and humbled to be a part of the congregation with all their support. But he couldn't resist a final quip about the upcoming organ project saying it "is the first project in all the years he has been here where they've pulled out all the stops. It's a noteworthy project and it's a sound investment." Sharon Charron couldn't let him go without a song, just like he's done for us so many times. Sarah's version of Kenny Rogers "The Gambler", renamed "The Financer", ended with:

*Bob sure knew when to spend em, and when to save em.  
Knew how to write songs, and have some fun.  
He would count our money when he's sitting at his table.  
Bob handled our accounting, now his work is done.*

Thank you, Bob, for all you have undertaken on behalf of Rideau Park!



## News from the Volunteer Coordination Team

If you attended the recent Annual Congregational Meeting, you already know that the Nominations Committee has changed its name to "Volunteer Coordination Team". This name is more representative of how we will be recruiting in the future. We also want to ensure that the volunteers we do have will feel supported and able to participate in ways in which they feel comfortable. We want to broaden our volunteer base and make it more sustainable for our congregation going forward.

The theme for this year's Volunteer Week was "Ignite Volunteerism". On Volunteer Day, Sunday, April 19, we distributed "Ignite Volunteerism" handouts, encouraging the congregation to volunteer for one of the current opportunities that were outlined. Attached to the handout was a candle that we asked them to ignite for Rideau Park when they volunteer. Besides our current opportunities, they could also share with us a different suggestion, a way to challenge our faith, or something that was a personal passion. Lighting that candle is one way we can feel a sense of belonging within our church family.

Whether you have a little time to volunteer or a lot, we always love to hear your thoughts. Please send your ideas (along with your name, phone number and email address) to the team at [volunteer.coordination.team@rideaupark.ca](mailto:volunteer.coordination.team@rideaupark.ca).

Thank you for all you do when you volunteer for our church family! It helps us and our community immensely!

*Carolyn Scollick, Chair*



## News from the UCW

### UCW Potluck and General Meeting, Monday, June 1 at 6:30pm

All "UCW and E-Buddy Friends" are invited to our June social meeting and potluck of COLD finger foods – sandwiches, appetizers, desserts (store-bought or homemade). Join us for a brief review of 2026 so far, a financial snapshot, a short but meaningful worship portion, and a chance to chat with friends, old and new! For more information or if childcare is needed, please contact [ucw@rideaupark.ca](mailto:ucw@rideaupark.ca).



### Spring Nearly New Thrift and Used Book Sale

A big thank you to all who volunteered and shopped at the spring sale! It was a great success. The fall sale takes place on September 25 and 26 so mark it in your calendars. Used books are still available for your summer reading in Room B20, downstairs. If you haven't had a chance to visit the "Bookstore", please do – it's delightful!

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## *News from the UCW (continued from page 7)*

### **Winter Soup Lunches**

Our soup lunches were very much enjoyed, both by those eating the soup and by those making it. They provided a wonderful opportunity for fellowship after church. We hope to continue the lunches in the winter of 2027.

### **Easter Card Memorial Project**

Delivering hand-made cards at Easter is a project that is very meaningful to our UCW members. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project.

### **Spring Deli Pies**

We hope to have some deli pies for sale in May. We will put a notice in the congregational weekly emails regarding Sunday morning sale times. If you have any questions, contact Lisa at [lisadler@hotmail.com](mailto:lisadler@hotmail.com).

## **Summer Zoom Book Study Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm, July 8-August 26**

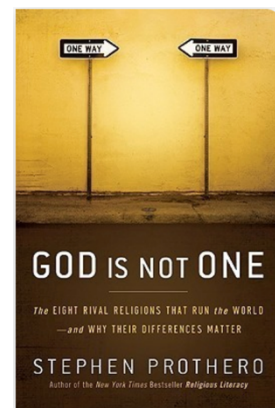
This summer, Rev. Jim and Sharon Sanderson will be offering a Zoom book study using *God Is Not One* by Stephen Prothero.

Religion is one of the most powerful forces. It impacts culture, politics, economic and international relationships. It can be a force for good or a force for evil, violence, or oppression. We often hear that the various religions, such as Hinduism and Islam, Judaism and Christianity, are just different paths to the same God. But we have to ask "Whose vision of God do they mean?" The world's major religions do agree on ethics, many have some form of the Golden Rule. This is a comforting vision which, hopefully, helps us to live in harmony.

But there are big differences in doctrine, ritual, mythology, experience, and law. These differences matter to ordinary religious people. "What the world's religions share is not so much a finish line as a starting point." (*God Is Not One*, Koyaanisqatsi, para 1). That starting point is that there is something wrong with the world. "They part company, however, when it comes to stating just what has gone wrong, and they diverge sharply when they move from diagnosing the human problem to prescribing how to solve it." (*God Is Not One*, Koyaanisqatsi, para 1). For example, in Christianity, the problem is sin; the solution (or goal) is salvation. In Buddhism, the problem is suffering; the solution (or goal) is nirvana.

Join us as we explore how different religions identify:

- the problem;
- the solution to this problem, which also serves as the religious goal;
- a technique (or techniques) for moving from the problem to the solution; and
- an exemplar (or exemplars) who chart this path from problem to solution.



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### *Summer Zoom Book Study (continued from page 8)*

We have purchased 10 books that you can buy for about \$12. The chapters are quite long (approximately 40 pages), so it may be difficult to share books.

The Zoom meetings take place on Wednesday evenings, 7-8:30pm, July 8-August 26. You can join the conversation from home, cottage or anywhere you have internet access. Please register with the office by emailing [administrator@rideaupark.ca](mailto:administrator@rideaupark.ca) or calling 613-733-3156.

## Cluster Update

Support from Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council (EOORC) is needed to help the Southeast Ottawa Cluster and its communities of faith determine how best to act on the information provided in the Towards 2035 Workshops. Possible topics include:

- different communities of faith are at different points in their journey;
- the United Church has a congregationalist approach; how can we accommodate different groups doing things differently;
- information on how to navigate a possible church closure;
- enable discussions about where we feel the Spirit might take our ministry;
- navigating the challenges of financial issues; and
- paid staff and volunteer shortages and burnout.



The cluster has asked the EOORC Vision and Transformation Team for a grant to hire a facilitator to lead the cluster in these discussions. At Rideau Park's Annual Congregational Meeting on April 12, we voted to contribute a share of the cost (\$500) and to solicit volunteers to participate on our behalf. If you are interested in representing Rideau Park in these discussions, please contact Stephanie Bailey.

The following sub-groups have already met:

- Clergy/Lay Subgroup
- Pastoral Care Subgroup
- Youth and Family Subgroup
  - Southminster holds Coffee Houses periodically which may be of interest to youth and young adults.
- Communications Subgroup
  - Glebe-St. James is seeking a communications volunteer and they will organize a communications cluster meeting.
- Technology Subgroup
- Administration Subgroup

Upcoming event offered by our cluster partners: Pastoral Care Workshop on May 25, 7-8:30pm at Glebe-St. James United Church, 650 Lyon St. S., Ottawa.

*Sharon Sanderson*

## What Was the Sermon About?

I have a problem. My problem is that I can't remember what the sermon was about! For some of you this may not be a problem. You may have a great memory and have no trouble remembering what last week's sermon was about, some of the stories the preacher told and how it relates to your own life. But that's not me! You may be quite happy leaving the sermon in the sanctuary; it was interesting but it's not very relevant for you. But that's not me! Maybe you are thinking "My goodness, that sounds like a lot of work. It must be exhausting. Maybe she should be grateful that she can't remember the sermon!" But that's not me.



You see, I am always looking for a different perspective, a new idea. I want to absorb the old, faithful but, maybe, forgotten comfort. I want to accept the old challenge but in today's context. I want to get inside the scripture passages. I want to look at them with different coloured lenses – what do I see, what is hidden? I study them from up and from down, and from up-side-down – hmmm, I never noticed that before! I study them close up and from far away – wow, the context makes such a difference! I pull them apart, reflect on the pieces, the words chosen, the words of a different translation or paraphrase – now, which word would I have chosen? Which version do I think most closely resembles what really happened, what Jesus actually said? I put them back together – has this given me any new insight? I want to own it, make it mine! This is what I do when I am preparing a new sermon. This is what I want to do with the sermon I just heard.

And here comes the BUT...

But I can't remember the sermon. By the end of the service, I can usually remember the main points, and the really good illustrations and stories. By the time I get to my car, I can usually remember the really good illustrations and stories. But, by the time I get home, it's gone – maybe I can remember one story or illustration.

Perhaps, you are thinking that, maybe, the sermons weren't all that good to begin with or, maybe, they aren't relevant for me. That's a possibility (not likely at Rideau Park). But EVERY sermon? That can't be right! This is particularly upsetting when I was the preacher last week.

My problem is that I am a visual learner. People can tell me things but I probably won't remember. This is particularly embarrassing when people tell me their name and two minutes later, it's gone. I won't remember the lecture unless I am taking notes. I avoid making decisions with only a conversation – I need a written confirmation of what was discussed and decided. So I use text messages and email a lot. I mean A LOT.

I have come up with a couple of ideas:

- Take notes during the sermon; but then I am not immersed in the experience. It's like taking a picture of a beautiful sunset but you aren't really enjoying it.
- Listen to the sermon online and take notes then.

How do you remember the sermon?

But that's just what I think. What do you think?

*Sharon Sanderson*

Did you know? The texts of sermons are posted on Rideau Park's website. The link is in the yellow top banner beside RP News as well as under the Resources dropdown menu.  
<https://www.rideaupark.ca/resources/documents/#62-sermon-texts>

## Valentine's Tea, Scouts Pancake Supper, Stan Clark Orchestra and more!



### Weekly Events

#### Social Activities

Mondays, 1pm Knitting Group  
 Thursdays, 9:30am Quilting Group  
 Thursdays, 1pm Euchre Club

#### Healing Pathway/Meditation

Tuesdays, 12:30pm Healing Pathway  
 Thursdays, 12:30pm Healing Pathway  
 Thursdays, 10am Meditation Online

#### Fitness Classes

Tuesdays, 9:15am Fitness 50+  
 Thursdays, 9:15am Fitness 50+  
 Saturdays, 10:45am Tai-Chi Class

Click below to view the full calendar:

<https://www.rideaupark.ca/news-events/calendar-of-events/>

## Mark Your Calendars

Sunday, May 3	Food Bank Sunday
Sunday, May 3, 10am	Communion; wear red to church to recognize Red Dress Day
Sunday, May 3, 7pm	Ringling in Spring Handbell Concert
Tuesday, May 5	Red Dress Day
Wednesday, May 6, 9:30am	RP Men's Breakfast at Hometown Sports Grill, 1525 Bank St.
Sunday, May 10	Mother's Day
Monday, May 18	Victoria Day – Office closed
Saturday, May 23, 7:30pm	Delphina Quintet Concert
Sunday, May 24, 2pm	Senior Service and Tea Party
Sunday, May 24, 2pm	Tulipathon Walk (registration at 2pm)
Wednesday, May 27, 12pm	55+ Luncheon
Wednesday, May 27, 2pm	Program about downsizing and decluttering
Saturday, May 30, 7:30pm	Living in Community: Big Soul Project Concert (doors open at 7pm)
Monday, June 1, 6:30pm	UCW General Meeting
Saturday, June 6, 3pm	"Love is in the Air" Concert – Sue Reive
Sunday, June 7	Food Bank Sunday
Saturday, June 13, 8am-2pm	28th Ottawa Scouts Garage Sale and RP Book Sale
Sunday, June 14, 10am	Pride Sunday, Guest Speaker Maureen Stark
Sunday, June 21	Father's Day
Wednesday, July 1	Canada Day – Office closed
Sunday, July 5, 10am	Guest Speaker Jeremy Geelen; Food Bank Sunday
Sunday, July 5, 4pm	Brian An Concert
Sunday, July 12, 10am	Guest Speaker Dr. Anthony Bailey
Sunday, July 19, 10am	Guest Speaker Georgina Fitzgerald
Sunday, July 26, 10am	Guest Speaker Sharon Sanderson
Sunday, August 2, 10am	Shared service at Emmanuel United Church
Monday, August 3	Civic holiday – Office closed
Sunday, September 6, 10am	Food Bank Sunday
Monday, September 7	Labour Day – Office closed
Monday, September 13, 11:15am	Welcome Back Lunch

If you would like to have an RPUC name tag, please contact the office and provide the spelling for your full name, specify if you want a magnet or pin on the back and include your preferred pronouns (if you wish).

Be a "Talent Seeker" – do you know people who have skills and interests and might like to join one of Rideau Park's committees? Let the Volunteer Coordination Team know.  
[Volunteer.coordination.team@rideaupark.ca](mailto:Volunteer.coordination.team@rideaupark.ca)