

Greetings from Rideau Park:

For the December congregational email, we should probably go back to the continuous sheets in your 1995 printer that just kept on rolling page after page. It is a busy month! There are times of deep Advent reflection, events with joyful Christmas celebration and opportunities for faithful Christian generosity. Take note of the many things taking place in the building and out in the community as we share the joy of Christ's new birth with the world.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Sheelah Sims (Nov 16) and Sheila MacPherson (Nov 23) and all who mark Christmas with a loss in their families this year.

Friday, November 29, 6:00 pm – Roast Beef Supper. Tickets: \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children under 10 years. Tickets available at coffee hour after church or through the office during the week. Volunteers always needed – sign up at the upper hallway counter.

Sunday, December 1, 10:00 am service – Advent 1: our worship service will include lighting the Advent candles, communion and a special re-dedication of the plaque under the window remembering Jamie and Marcia Gosse.

Sunday, December 1, 11:00 am – Advent Happening: Following the service families are invited to gather and create gingerbread houses, then enjoy a potluck lunch. An offering of \$10.00 to cover the costs of the houses, icing and candies will gladly be accepted at the door. Please sign up by e-mail to: taralockhart8@gmail.com to reserve your gingerbread house.

Sunday, December 1, 7:00 pm – Ringing in Christmas – featuring all our bell and chime ringers, children, teen and adults. Freewill offering in support of Christmas Cheer and Heron Emergency Food Centre.

Monday, December 2, 1:30 pm – UCW Candlelight service.

Wednesday, December 4, 11:00-2:00 – Harmony Club for seniors holds its annual Christmas lunch, featuring special Christmas music afterwards. Please rsvp to the office if you plan to attend the lunch, everyone is welcome to enjoy the musical presentation, starting at 1:00 pm.

Wednesday, December 4, 6:30-8:30 - Encarna - A multimedia series of prayer stations in the sanctuary, deepening the hope peace joy and love of Advent.

Sunday, December 8, 7:30 pm – Christmas Celebration concert – featuring Rideau Park's Chancel Choir, touch of Brass and organist Andrew Ager. Freewill offering for Christmas Cheer.

Wednesday, December 11, 7:15 pm – Advent Retreat – a time of quiet reflection in the midst of a busy season. Take an evening to replenish your spirit and hear Advent's call.

Sunday, December 15, 10:00 am service – Christmas Pageant Sunday – come support our children and youth as they re-tell the story of Christmas' true message.

Friday December 20 – Christmas Cheer – A busy day at the church while we pack our Christmas hampers (10:30 am), load and deliver them (shifts starting at 12:00 and 12:30 pm.) Volunteer signup sheets are posted on the green Helped Wanted bulletin board in the upper hallway.

Sunday, December 22 at 3:00 pm – Blue Christmas Service – A quiet Christmas service for those who are seeking peace this Christmas, in times of loss, doubts or worry. Led by Sharon Sanderson.

Christmas Eve services – December 24:

6:30 pm – Family Service, featuring our children's choirs, bell and chime ringers and reading through the Christmas story.

8:30 – Candlelight Communion – Reflections on the meaning of Christmas with the Chancel Choir and communion.

10:30 – Candlelight Communion – Christmas message with Chancel Choir, Touch of Brass bells and communion.

December 25, 10:00 am – Christmas Day service, led by Sharon Sanderson.

Sunday December 29, 10:00 am – Sunday worship service.

Sunday, January 5, 10:00 am – Epiphany: Our shared service will be held at Emmanuel United Church, along with Emmanuel and Riverside United Church, and a combined choir.

The office will be closed from 4:00 pm on December 24 until it re-opens January 2nd. During office closure, there will be Christmas Eve services, and a 10:00 am Sunday service December 29. The administrator will be in the church Tuesday, December 31, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm for accounting purposes. If there is a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact one of the ministers' extensions for more information.

Sent on behalf of Elizabeth Bryce.