

August 30, 2020

## Greetings from Rideau Park

*We celebrate the life of one of the members of our Rideau Park family, holding her family and friends in prayer: Helen Gardiner (August 10).*

As I sit here – at home – it is hard to imagine the difference between this September and last September. Last year the staff of Rideau Park was gearing up for another year of busyness. The Committees were preparing their agendas for programs and events. The lazy days of summer were coming to an end and we all considered this “normal” (how I have come to dislike that word) and natural. This summer has been full of adjustments and making plans to bring back programs and activities in the safest way possible. Baby steps and evaluation at every step are key to moving forward.

The Council of Rideau Park thanks all who have worked continuously to make responsible decisions, write protocols, research cleaning and sanitizing products and read endless government reports. We thank our ministry staff for continuing to deliver worship services, provide spiritual guidance and pastoral care and be there for grieving families.

## Updates

### **Meditation Group Online: Thursdays at 10am, starting September 3rd.**

Twenty minutes of quiet, peace, and mindfulness, shared together through Zoom. Meditation is not difficult. And group meditation is a deepening experience. We will record the sessions so you can participate later if Thursdays at 10am don't work for you.

To join in the live group, please email Rev. Steve Clifton ([sclifton@rideaupark.ca](mailto:sclifton@rideaupark.ca)) to receive the zoom invitation. The recorded sessions will be posted within a few days after the online group session.

### **Sunday School: Looking for Volunteer(s)**

**Sunday School** is restarting and is going online, starting Sunday September 20. There will be 4 separate groups to join in with: Age 3,4 & 5; Grades 1,2,3, Grades 4,5,6 and our Youth Class. More information on how to connect will be coming soon.

The Kindergarten Sunday School team is looking for volunteer(s) to join the existing teaching team for this coming year. The Kindergarten team will be offering live, in-camera sessions of about 10-15 minutes each week featuring stories, songs and other activities (for ages 3,4 & 5). If you would be willing to volunteer to teach every 3rd or 4th week in our Kindergarten rotation, we would LOVE to have you! We can train you on how to use Zoom and we have a curriculum resource plus returning teachers to help get you going. If you have questions or are interested in working with a GREAT group of kids and volunteers, please get in touch with Andrea Laliberté, CD committee co-chair, at [marcandrea@rogers.com](mailto:marcandrea@rogers.com) or 613-762-1777.

**Youth Confirmation Class:** We are offering an online Zoom class this fall, for Grade 8 and up. We will meet at a day and time that works for everyone. If you are interested or want more information please contact Steve: [sclifton@rideaupark.ca](mailto:sclifton@rideaupark.ca)

**HearSay, ringing and choirs:** Due to the current Pandemic situation and the Public Health regulations that are in place for Places of Worship, no Thursday night programming will be offered this fall. That means the HearSay dinner for families, Cherub Choir, Joyful Noise Choir, Xpressions Choir, Note-Able Sound Chimes Choir and Grace Notes Teen Bells group are cancelled for the fall term. The adult handbell programs are also suspended for the fall term, and the adult Chancel Choir will not be meeting in person either.

**Chancel and Adult Bell Choir Concerts:** At this time there are no plans to put on a Christmas concert this year for the Choir or the Bells. Participation in Christmas Eve services is under discussion and any participation will be quite different from past years.

**In person worship to resume:** Council has decided to begin the process of having worshippers present while the service is being livestreamed. Another email will follow with more detailed instructions on re-entering the building.

**Activities and programs:** Council Executive decided that committees, groups and organizations will be contacted about their plans to return to their meetings. Council has decided that no indoor activities will begin before October. Guidelines are being prepared that will outline the strict protocols that take into account all Public Health measures.

**E-transfers: NEW!** Through online banking, send your transfer to: [accounting@rideaupark.ca](mailto:accounting@rideaupark.ca). We have not been able to securely use the auto deposit feature so a security question and answer will be necessary. Please use one of the following questions. If you are not sure of the answer please email your answer separately to [accounting@rideaupark.ca](mailto:accounting@rideaupark.ca).

Question #1: What is our denomination?

Question #1: What is the name of the upper hall?

In the Comment section, include **your Envelope Number** (if you have one) to help us prepare your tax receipt. You may also designate your gift for a specific purpose, or for **Ministries and Programs**.

If you do not have an Envelope Number, you will receive an email within 60 days requesting contact information for your tax receipt.

**News from Elizabeth:** I want to share the news that this summer I was diagnosed with breast cancer after a small tumour was detected in a regular screening. I will be having surgery as soon as it can be scheduled, and taking medical leave as needed for my recovery and any further treatment. I am very hopeful for a good outcome, and also inspired by the many women I know who have modelled courage and grace through their own breast cancer journeys. I also know that God has given us an amazing capacity to experience healing in body and spirit, and to care for one another through times of trouble. Keep me and my family in your prayers.