

Greetings from Rideau Park

Every year, the Advent and Christmas season absorbs our energy and attention. Then there is that sinking feeling that emerges after New Year's when you open the new calendar and realize you have nothing planned! As the lockdown continues through most of January we will be worshipping, meeting and meditating online. We hope you will continue to connect over the telephone, in church mailings and emails, and through our Facebook Group. Even while the church is closed and staff work from home, do not hesitate to call the church if you need support (613-733-3156 directory 2 for ministers).

We remember these members of our church family who have died in recent weeks, and hold their loved ones in our prayers: Evalyn Collins (Dec 10); Art Redekopp (Dec 29).

Sunday, January 10, 10:00 am service – In our worship we covenant with the Executive of our **United Church Women**, and invite all members to support them (virtually) with their presence.

On January 10, Sunday School classes on Zoom resume. Contact Steve (sclifton@rideaupark.ca) for more information.

Sunday, January 24, 10:00 am service – I Have a Dream Sunday.

Thursday mornings, join our **meditation group** on Zoom. Gathering at 10:00 am and at 10:05 am we begin a 20-minute time of silence. Contact Steve (sclifton@rideaupark.ca) for coordinates if you would like to give meditation a try.

We still have a few bottles of **Zatoun olive oil from Palestine (\$20)**. If you are interested, contact Elizabeth (ebryce@rideaupark.ca).

Celebrating the work of Debby Gerro

Owing to the pandemic circumstances, the Ministry and Personnel Committee is planning a different kind of (surprise) celebration of the work of Debby Gerro, our former administrative assistant. We plan to show our love to Debby on Valentine's Day, February 14. You can contribute to this celebration by writing a card or message to Debby, which you can send to Judy Paré:

- by e-mail: judy2006@sympatico.ca -OR-
- by regular mail at: J. Paré, 103-518 Rochester Street, Ottawa, ON K1S 5W4.

We will also be collecting contributions towards a monetary gift for Debby. You can provide a financial contribution* by:

- sending an e-transfer to accounting@rideaupark.ca, and specifying in the comments section that this is for Debby Gerro, -OR-
- you can enclose a cheque with your card or message if you are sending it by regular mail to Judy Paré. Please make the cheque payable to Rideau Park United Church and note "Debby Gerro" in the memo line of the cheque.

We ask that you send your card, message and monetary contribution by February 1, 2021 at the latest. This will give us time to gather the cards and messages together for presentation to Debby, along with a monetary contribution of the sum total of the financial gifts we receive for her from you. One of us will then take these gifts of love to Debby at her home on February 14, to thank her for her devotion to us and her warm and welcoming presence at Rideau Park.

**Please note that as the contributions are personal gifts no tax receipt will be issued for them.*

In 2020, your Mission & Service gifts were hard at work during the global pandemic. Over the last year, your gifts:

- helped people at home and abroad struggling to put food on the table for their families;
- ensured those who are most vulnerable receive medical care and personal protective equipment;
- supported those who struggle with addiction and mental health issues to access counselling services;
- created networks of support for young people whose rhythms and relationships are disrupted because of the virus; and
- provided emotional and spiritual care for those in hospital and their families as well as medical staff.

These are just some of the concrete ways your reliable support through Mission & Service has already made a huge difference during this crisis. Thanks to your generosity, **Rideau Park United Church raised an additional \$2965.00 for Mission and Service through our Christmas Appeal.**

Put this date on your calendar! As you may remember, we are getting close to the time when we would normally hold our **Annual Congregational Meeting**, in early February. In these special times, we have decided to push the date back a bit to give everyone time to pull together their reports and to figure out the logistics. The meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 28th, starting at 11:30, on Zoom**. More information on how to register will be sent in February.