

### ***Greetings from Rideau Park:***

Thanks to everyone who made the **February 28 Annual Meeting** on Zoom possible; to Patricia our Chair, Lynn who took Minutes, Ken, Steve, Sheila and Debi for co-hosting, and to Sheila, Patricia and Debi for compiling the Annual Report. Most of all hats off to our congregation for tuning in and following the instructions! We have been navigating a huge cultural shift thanks to the pandemic. With your cooperation we were able to close the books on 2020 and prepare for 2021.

A few highlights for those who were not able to attend:

- 49 devices were connected to Zoom, with 59 attending;
- The 2020 financial statement shows that we were able to end the year with surplus. The consistent congregational support made a big difference. With operating expenses reduced by Council decisions in 2020, we hope to balance the budget in 2021.
- We were able to thank retiring Council members and committee chairs, and then welcome some new faces around the table for the year ahead.
- Property Renewal for 2020-2021 has pivoted to projects that make the best of an empty building and plans for coming back safely when the time is right.
- Our livestream worship averages about 365 in attendance. Thanks to Brian and Doreen Hamilton who keep this ministry working.

A gentle reminder the building is closed and **all services, meetings and programming are online**, either through Zoom or webcasts on [www.rideaupark.ca](http://www.rideaupark.ca). Staff are working from home, except to pick up mail or for essential building maintenance.

**Wednesdays, March 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 7:00 pm – Lenten Reflections:** Join us on Zoom as we reflect on a series of “Conversations with Jesus” in prayer and discussion. Contact Steve or Elizabeth for the Zoom invite, and it will be posted in the Facebook group.

**Every Thursday morning** at 10:00 am, you are invited to a 20 minute **morning meditation** session over Zoom. Contact [sclifton@rideaupark.ca](mailto:sclifton@rideaupark.ca) for the invite.

**Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm**, Iain Macpherson has started **Zoom choir practices** for singers with rusty pipes! (Don’t worry we all mute ourselves when actually singing.) If you would be interested in exercising your vocal chords with some beautiful music, contact [choirdirector@rideaupark.ca](mailto:choirdirector@rideaupark.ca) for more information.

**Friday, March 5 at 2:00 pm – You are invited to a World Day of Prayer Service.** This year the service has been put together in a video, which we invite you to watch on Zoom, hosted by Riverside United Church. Please contact [ebryce@rideaupark.ca](mailto:ebryce@rideaupark.ca) for the Zoom invite.

**Sunday, March 7, 10:00 am service** – will include the annual **lighting of a Memorial candle** in memory of the members of our church family who died in 2020. The 28<sup>th</sup> Ottawa Scouts have also provided us with a video for children’s time.

**Sunday, March 14 is P.I.E. Day**, a day when we commemorate our choice to be Public – Intentional – Explicit about our decision to be an LGBTQ+ inclusive faith community. In morning worship and a special Zoom event in the evening at 7:00 pm, there will be a time for sharing stories, poems or other creative ventures. For an invite to the evening event contact the ministers.

**Sunday, March 28, 10:00 am service – Palm Sunday service.**

**Thursday, April 1, 7:00 pm** (exact time to be confirmed) – **Holy Thursday**, a shared service with Emmanuel and Kitchissippi United Churches, livestreamed from Emmanuel United's website: <http://www.emmanuelunited.ca>.

**Friday, April 2, 10:00 am – Good Friday service**, shared with Emmanuel and Kitchissippi United, livestreamed from Rideau Park United.

**Sunday, April 4, 10:00 am – Easter Sunday worship.**

### **Easter Memorials**

As the Covid 19 Pandemic continues, the UCW will be sending hand-made cards to those who, in years past, have received Easter Lilies. The UCW wants to remind those in receipt of a card that they are not forgotten, and hope the card is a cheery reminder of Rideau Park at this lonely and difficult time. For information on how to make your donation in memory of family and friends please click here (link: <https://www.rideaupark.ca/easter-memorial-project/> ) We will publish the memorial list as a special Easter e-mail.

Thank you for your continued support of our Easter memorials, remembering those we have loved and lost, and those in our congregation who can no longer be an active part of our family. A copy of the wording you wish to include must be forwarded to [rpuceaster21@gmail.com](mailto:rpuceaster21@gmail.com) no later than Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

### **UCW Soup-er Winter Fundraiser!**

Delicious, homemade soup for sale at Rideau Park. To order, and for more details, e-mail [nmcpherson@rogers.com](mailto:nmcpherson@rogers.com) or phone Nancy at 613-737-7339 by Saturday, March 13th. Pick-up of soup (frozen, in two sizes) will be at the Beecroft door of the church on Wednesday, March 17th from 1pm to 3pm. The website has more information, click this link: <https://www.rideaupark.ca/ucw-soup-er-winter-fundraiser/>.