

CHURCHPOST

RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH



Minister's Message

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OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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We need more than patience...we need hope

It seems as though we spend our lives waiting. I read that, annually, the average person spends 13 hours on hold for customer service, 38 hours stuck in traffic and 146 hours waiting for friends who are late, delayed trains and late deliveries. Over the course of a lifespan, six months are spent waiting for a red light to turn green and at least three years waiting in line. Then comes COVID-19.

For the past 20 months we've been waiting for the pandemic to be over. Personally, I can't wait to sing hymns in church, join my fellow Rideau Parkers for Coffee and Conversation in Beecroft, and see Iain sing without a mask (although, fortunately, his marvellous voice comes through with one). I can't wait to see my grandchildren sitting on the floor listening to Elizabeth or Steve during Children's Time, singing in the junior choir, playing teen bells. I can't wait for in-person meetings with my UCW unit and the return of those wonderful church suppers. Yet wait I must.

When COVID first appeared, we thought it would be over in a matter of months. Some of us were expecting church activities to get back to normal in September – September of 2020, that is. But the pandemic dragged on. There was *good news* – vaccines became available. Surely COVID would be over once everyone received their second dose. There was *bad news* – more contagious variants came along. And *more bad news* – not all of our fellow citizens welcomed the vaccines as we did.



As we head into our second pandemic Christmas, it's dawning on us that the coronavirus may never completely leave. At this juncture, we need more than patience; we need hope. Hope is required when the outcome is not assured and that's certainly the case with COVID. And, in this case, hope has to be tempered with realism. What the future holds may not be the old normal but a new one. One that includes getting a vaccine booster along with our flu shot every fall.

Coming to terms with the unexpected is part of life. The shock of bad health news, for example, will unnerve us for a while. Over time, though, we accept our situation, integrate it into our lives and keep on going. The same applies to any serious disappointment. In time, we adjust and then we carry on as best we can. Global pandemics and personal crises notwithstanding, the resiliency of the human spirit continues to amaze me.

Advent blessings,
 Georgina Fitzgerald

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RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH

Worship (online): 10 a.m.
Coffee Hour: Suspended
Sunday School: Online

OUR HEARTS REMEMBER

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

Jean (nee McDuffee) Corbin Sept. 22
 Irene and Fred Myers Sept. 21
 (Memorial service)



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

**Advent Events**

Advent 1 Service with Communion
 (in person and live-streamed)
 Sunday, November 28 at 10am

Online Advent Services (via Zoom*)
Wednesday evenings at 7pm
 December 1, 8, 15 and 22

Online Rideau Park Christmas Bell Concert (archived)
 Sunday, December 5 at 7pm

Christmas Pageant (livestreamed)
 Sunday, December 12 at 10am

Blue Christmas Service (online via Zoom*)
 Wednesday, December 22 at 7pm

Christmas Eve Service (in person and livestreamed)
 Friday, December 24 at 7pm

Please don't forget to register online if you are attending in person (www.rideaupark.ca).

***Contact the church office for the Zoom invitation.**

Wednesday Nights in Advent

Rideau Park and Kitchissippi are joining together for evening gatherings in Advent. We will be offering 30-minute online gatherings on the four Wednesdays of Advent – December 1, 8, 15 and 22. December 22 will be a Longest Night service led by Sharon Sanderson. More details will be coming as Advent draws nearer.

**Forest Church**

Forest Church will meet at 4pm on Sunday, November 21 and Sunday, December 19 to worship with and within creation. We gather in front of the church and walk in to Cunningham forest. The nights are getting longer, so you may wish to bring a flashlight, and definitely dress for the weather!



Elizabeth Bryce

Healing Pathway

Practitioners are available for healing prayers over the phone, and also host a YouTube [Healing Circle](#) session on Sundays at 11:15am on our [Rideau Park YouTube channel](#).



Children's and Youth Ministry News

Our Sunday School has been meeting on Sundays since September. There are four age groups: JK/SK at 10:20am, Grades 1-3 at 10am, Grades 4-6 at 10am and our youth class at 11:30am. All these groups are meeting on Zoom. A huge thank you to our teachers Ruth, Meg and Allyson for making this possible! If you would like to join in, message Steve Clifton for the Zoom coordinates.



We are looking for a youth leader to join the youth drop-in group in January. Speak to [Steve Clifton](#) to learn more.

Christmas Shoebox Project 2021

The tradition continues, as we spread our Christmas joy to the children and youth of Banff Avenue Community House (BACH) and the women and children at Minwaashin Lodge! On Sunday, November 21, we will start handing out information for this season's giving. Please note that, this year, we are adopting a BYOB approach (that is to say, Bring Your Own Box/Bag). You can collect an information sheet in person from the church or you can email [Heidi Hopkin](#) for an info sheet. Each info sheet will represent a child from BACH or Minwaashin Lodge.



Heidi Hopkin



Volunteer Opportunity: Duty Officer Coordinator

Rob Blake has stepped down from this task after many years. Ron Macpherson has been filling in as interim Duty Officer Coordinator, but is unable to continue indefinitely. If you are interested in taking on this position, Ron can be reached at Ron.w.macpherson@gmail.com.

Next ChurchPost Submission

Due: 12 Noon, Friday, February 4, 2022

Pick-up: Sunday, February 13, 2022

Submissions to ChurchPost can be emailed to:

nmcpherson@rogers.com

and should include the name and phone number of the author(s).

Social Action and Outreach

Collection of Personal Care Items for Banff-Ledbury Community House

This Youth Outreach event (targeted for youth aged 13 and up) is being held on **Monday, November 29 from 1pm-3pm**. They are requesting items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant (both men and women), socks, hats, body wash/body scrubs, hand lotions and body mists. Donations can be dropped off at Rideau Park on November 29, 1pm-3pm.

Basic Income Now

Have you noticed the lawn signs on church property encouraging the adoption of a national basic income guarantee so that no one is left behind? The Basic Income Now campaign is coordinated by Canada's leading organizations and allies who are committed to addressing poverty and inequality. The United Church of Canada has supported a Guaranteed Livable Income for decades. [Click here](#) to learn more about the United Church of Canada's program and actions that can be taken.

Lynn Sherwood, Chair, Social Action and Outreach

Vespers Service on Rideau Park's YouTube Channel

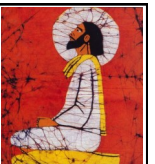
Come all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest (Matt 11:28). When the activities and issues of the day past or the day to come leave you restless, this gentle time of prayer and scripture is a wonderful opportunity to rest in the presence of God. It is a peaceful way to end your day.

Sharon Sanderson



Meditation Group Online

For a year now, a group has gathered on Thursdays at 10am on Zoom to share 20 minutes of quiet, peace, and mindfulness. To join in the live group, please email [Rev. Steve Clifton](#) to receive the Zoom invitation. For those who cannot attend online, meditation videos are posted on our [website](#) and [YouTube channel](#) for use at another time.



In-Person Worship

Under the current provincial and Ottawa Public Health guidelines, we are able to welcome up to 75 people in the Sanctuary for worship on Sunday. We are following Public Health guidelines and have protocols in place so that all might feel safe. In addition, all attendees need to show proof of full vaccination. [Click here](#) for more information on our reopening procedures and how to register to attend in person. Our services will also continue to be livestreamed.

UCW Update

I had the privilege of acting as Bazaar Convenor this year, although my last year as Convenor should have been 2020. But that's COVID for you. Putting things on hold, cancelling events, making everyone, everywhere, scramble. "Pivot" sounds so much more intentional and dignified than scramble, so I'll say that both the UCW Executive and the bazaar convenors' committee pivoted their hearts out this last while.

Again, because of COVID, we held a hybrid bazaar this fall: one part an outdoor Mini-Bazaar on September 25 and the second part an online Food Bazaar, the first week of November. Both events exceeded expectations. Our Mini-Bazaar in September raised \$5,837, including some generous donations; our November event raised \$6,538, including more donations and after expenses. This is a total of **\$12,375**. We did really well, despite COVID-related limitations; for instance, this figure is more than half of what is usually raised from our traditional bazaar, but we raised it without advertising in the *Ottawa Citizen*, and with about a third of the items we usually sell.



It would be an oversight, however, to focus solely on the funds raised for our charitable giving at year-end. The biggest reason why these two fund-raisers were successful is the Rideau Park congregation (and its friends). It was a joy to see dedicated volunteers working really hard but very contentedly at both of these events, and an even greater joy to see familiar faces come to shop or pick up their purchases. The warmth and relief in our eyes and body language were wonderful. Obviously, we couldn't see each other's smiles through our masks, but we could feel them.

Special thanks to organizers John Durkee and Nancy Begg-Durkee, Heather and Wayne Bennett, Sue Davidson, Cathy Hollands, Heather Ingrams, Christel Kurz, Judy Paré, Bob Roden, Elaine Robertson, Lisa Sadler and Ruth Scobie. All of you stepped up and thought outside the box. Your commitment and creativity do you great credit. The website for the online bazaar will stay in my memory for a long time! Also, my thanks to our custodian, Geoff Scollick, for his support and patience for receiving directions that often reversed as I pivoted, so to speak, on the set-up days in November.

Turning to other UCW business, the Memorial Fund presently has a balance of \$9,324 and the General Fund has \$20,121. Lisa Sadler has been emailing UCW members for their input on spending the Memorial Fund monies. A number of us have expressed a desire to have donations directed toward more environmentally-dedicated issues. Please let Lisa know if you are interested in attending the Zoom Finance meeting (lisadler58@gmail.com). Please let me (Nancy McPherson) know if you would like to attend the Zoom UCW Executive Annual General Meeting (UCW@rideaupark.ca).

The Candlelight Service is scheduled for Monday, December 6 at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary. All COVID protocols will be followed. At this service, four Life Memberships will be presented, deferred from our General Meeting in June 2021. Please register with Judy Paré (judy2006@sympatico.ca). All UCW members are invited to attend. Please check the website for any updates.

UCW Finance Meeting: Monday, November 22 at 1:30pm via Zoom
 UCW Executive's AGM: Monday, November 29 at 1:30pm via Zoom
 Candlelight Service: Monday, December 6 at 1:30pm in the Sanctuary



Nancy McPherson, UCW President



Sewing Machines Needed at The Haven

The Haven is a Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) and is fortunate to have a volunteer who will give sewing lessons at The Haven in Barrhaven. Unfortunately, there are not enough sewing machines available although there are people interested in the classes. Would you be able to donate a machine, in good working order? If instruction books are available that would be helpful but not required. Any type of machine would be welcome.

Please contact Sahada Alolo at MHI (comm.engagement@multifaithhousing.ca) if you have questions or wish to make delivery arrangements. With thanks.

