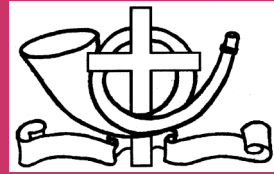


CHURCHPOST

RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH



Rideau Park's website:
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OUR MINISTRY TEAM

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Minister's Message

Finding Hope and Strength

“God, what a world. What a heartbreaking, terrifying freak show. ...Ukraine, Sandy Hook, the melting permafrost...” So writes Anne Lamott.

It has been a lot. We have lived with a global pandemic going on two years.

We have not been able to gather in the normal way. Significant events like baptisms, weddings, celebrations of life, graduations, family events and other life milestones have been postponed, postponed indefinitely, or diminished.

Living with COVID has been wearying. We may have been anxious or worried. We may have felt isolated or lonely. Different responses to COVID and its restrictions may have strained relationships and have put stress on the social fabric.

We have also been remarkably resilient. People have learned to connect in new ways, have embraced new technology, and have discovered new ways of working and learning. And we have found ways to nurture hope.

In February, Keva and I visited with our son Owen, who is spending the winter term at UC Berkeley on San Francisco Bay. While in Northern California, we



*after you survive your storm
 become a lighthouse
 your scars are meant to burn so bright
 that it will help a person lost at sea find
 the shore
 every wound you carry has a 1000 watt
 bulb inside of it
 that will preach the gospel of the coming
 dawn one burst of daybreak at a time
 it's the circle of survival
 you have endured to help others endure
 you have outlasted the dark to become a
 disciple of light
 this is your calling now
 to plant your feet in the same shore you
 washed up on
 and ignite, my love, ignite
 ~ john roedel*

stood next to ancient redwoods that soar 300 feet into the sky. We saw many hundreds of sea lions calving on the seashore. We stood on a huge expanse of empty beach with no one else in view, marvelling at the power of the wind and waves. In the awesomeness of Creation, we felt the presence of the Creator.

Where in this COVID time have you found hope or connected to the deep life of the sacred?

We have been through a lot. Perhaps we have found new strength from it all.

May we keep burning bright.

Blessings!
 Steve Clifton

EDITOR: Nancy McPherson, nmcpherson@rogers.com


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EOORC Representative	Nancy McPherson
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	Committees (Email addresses are on RPUC website)
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Congregational Life	Judy Paré, Chair
Nominations	Pat Whitridge, Chair
Pastoral Care	Brian Neal, Chair
Congregational Dev.	Greig Scott, Chair
PROGRAMS	Steven Neal, Liaison
Worship & Music	Karen Lamb and Sharon Sanderson, Co-Chairs
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Christian Development	Meg Steele, Chair
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Finance	Bob Roden (Treasurer), Chair
Property	Brian Hamilton, Chair
Stewardship	Gavin Currie, Chair
Administration & Comm.	Kristie Marr, Chair

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:

Corinne Godding	December 29, 2021
Dorothy Good	February 6, 2022
Jean Matheson	February 13, 2022
Jim Holton	March 1, 2022
Gaston Dolbec	March 1, 2022
Beulah Tulloch-Janzen	March 6, 2022
Dorothy Horwood	March 14, 2022
Mary Harris	March 24, 2022
Marg Sturley	May 10, 2022



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



Finance Committee Note

As we slowly emerge from all the disruptions caused by the pandemic, here is a brief status report on our finances. At the end of April, we had a deficit of approximately \$20,955 (budgeted deficit for the same period was \$28,583). Last year's deficit for the same period was \$6,195. However, this amount was net of \$17,700 in government subsidy revenue, which we no longer receive. We continue to pay our staff and meet our obligations to suppliers and to the National Church for both M&S and the National Assessment. Our cash position continues to be good. As always, PAR has played a key role in enabling us to provide Sunday worship services and to continue assisting those in need. The Finance Committee would like to thank those of you who have provided extra financial support through additional givings by cheque, through the Canada Helps – Donate Now button on our website, or via e-transfer. In the meantime, we hope that you and your families continue to stay healthy and safe, as we begin the slow return to more normal operations.

*Rideau Park Finance Committee,
Brenda Bethune, Joann Roebuck, Debi Brown and Bob Roden*




Canada Summer Job Grant

Rideau Park has received a Canada Summer Job Grant and is now accepting applications. The work will run for eight weeks, from June 27 through to August 19. The work will include committee projects and being the congregational host for Camp Awesome. The applicant needs to be 16 or older. For more information, contact Steve Clifton. To apply, send resumes to Debi Brown at administrator@rideaupark.ca. Applications are due by May 23, 2022.

Next ChurchPost Submission

Due: 12 Noon, Friday, September 2, 2022
Pick-up: Sunday, September 11, 2022

Submissions to ChurchPost can be emailed to:
nmcperson@rogers.com
 and should include the name and phone number of the author(s).

Children's and Youth Ministry News

Sunday School: A big "thank you" to our teachers who have offered online Sunday School through this year: Meg Steele, Allyson Hopkin, Ruth Bryce and Peter Osudar. We so appreciate the time and effort given to make Sunday School happen in a strange time.



Confirmation: We have 12 young people who have completed the confirmation program. We look forward to the time when we are able to gather with our congregation in the sanctuary to celebrate this step in their faith journey.

Camp Awesome will be offered **in person** at Rideau Park Church from August 8-12. Online registration is now open through a new Camp Awesome website: <https://camp-awesome.ca/>.



Nearly New/Used Book Sale

The Nearly New/Used Book Sale takes place **OUTDOORS** on Saturday, June 11 from 9am to 2pm. Payment is by cash or credit (Square). Rain date is Saturday, June 18.



Drop-off dates and times for donations:

Used Paperbacks BEECROFT HALL – No hardcovers, please!
May 25 and 26 from 9:30am to 4:00pm

Nearly New Clothing Sale BRACKENRIDGE HALL
June 9 from 9:30am to 4:00pm; 6:00pm to 8:00pm
June 10 from 9:30am to noon

Contact Nancy at nmcperson@rogers.com to volunteer or with questions.



MHI Annual Tulipathon

Sunday, May 29, 2022

Multifaith Housing Initiative (MHI) believes that people are better able to move forward with their lives if they are first housed. Each year, MHI provides rent subsidies to the majority of their tenants who need a bit of help each month to make ends meet. MHI's annual **Tulipathon** walkathon raises funds to help. We invite you to join members of many other faith traditions on the afternoon of May 29 at Dow's Lake to demonstrate how, working together, we can support affordable housing! This year it would be great to have a "Rideau Park United Team" and register donations online. If you would be interested in a fun, easy walk, speak to:

Elizabeth Bryce (ebryce@rideaupark.ca) or
Lynn Sherwood (socialaction@rideaupark.ca)



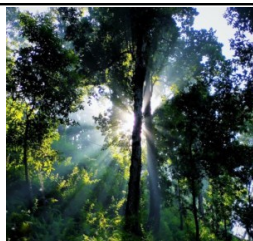
**Red Dress Day:
Each person loved and missed**

On May 5, Emmanuel United Church and other organizations hung red dresses outside their buildings to express our support for the families who have lost loved ones due to the high number of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls in Canada. This is a tradition begun by Métis artist, Jaime Black, on the campus of the University of Winnipeg in 2011. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry issues a number of calls to action, and these installations remind the government that they need to act on them. To read the full report of this national inquiry, go to: www.mmiwg-ffada.ca.

Forest Church

Sunday, May 22, 2022 at 4pm

Come and join us as we take time for prayer with all God's creatures in Cunningham Forest. We meet in front of the church – dress for the weather!



Collecting Personal Care Items

Social Action and Outreach is collecting personal care items on the following days.

- Monday, May 30 from 1pm to 3pm
- Monday, June 27 from 1pm to 3pm
- Monday, July 25 from 1pm to 3pm
- Monday, August 29 from 1pm to 3pm

Please drop off items outside the Beecroft entrance and stop to say "hello"!



Second Annual Merry Dairy Fundraiser
June 20-July 15, 2022

In addition, on July 15 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm, Merry Dairy's Soft Serve truck will be at Rideau Park! Details on RPUC website soon. Proceeds to charities.



Refugee Work at RPUC

Rideau Park has a long history of working with refugees, both as a congregation, as well as ecumenically, and with community partners.

We welcomed a Somali refugee in April 2015 from a camp in Kenya. We have applied to bring some of her family members to Ottawa from a refugee camp in Uganda. Fundraising for this project is underway.

On February 8, 2016, a Syrian family of five arrived via Jordan, under the Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) program.

In January 2016, we also partnered with a constituent group, the Ottawa Syrian Family Sponsorship Project, who sponsored a family of six.

We work with families in Ottawa to sponsor refugees who will be supported by their relatives upon arrival.

We are part of the regional Refugee Sponsorship Network in EOORC (Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council of the United Church of Canada). This group recently wrote a letter of concern to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship about the backlog in processing refugee arrivals.

If you would like to support our refugee program, you can write a cheque to Rideau Park United Church and indicate "Refugee Fund", or you can donate online through our website. In this case, click on "Donate Now", then under "Select Fund", choose #6, enter the amount, and in the "Message for Rideau Park" box, type in "Refugee Fund". Questions? Contact the church office.



UCW General Meeting

Monday, June 6, 2022, 7pm-9pm

Guest speaker: Susan Palmai, Glebe St. James

Topic: Community Fridges

Where: In person, Beecroft Hall

Light refreshments. Freewill offering.

RSVP: Nancy McPherson, ucw@rideaupark.ca or
Judy Paré, judy2006@sympatico.ca

Refugee Network Addresses Backlog

Rideau Park United is part of the regional Refugee Sponsorship Network. Many congregations with applications in process have been frustrated with the delays and lack of service for these applications, some of which have been in process for four years. The network took a look at how many applications our congregations have sponsored and who are still waiting for arrivals (there are 77 at time of writing). The network has written a letter of concern to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship. You can read the letter on the www.EOORC.ca website. Please consider writing your own letter, or contacting your local MP to talk about these concerns.

Flannelette Baby Quilts for Sale

The Rideau Park quilting group has a variety of flannelette baby quilts for sale. The quilts can be viewed and purchased on Thursday mornings between 9:30 and noon or by calling the church office to set up another time. Cost is \$45 each.

Note from the UCW President

The UCW is off to a very good start in 2022. Our fundraising and outreach efforts to date have surpassed our expectations, and we have several events planned for June. The Easter Memorial Card project raised over \$2,000 and the Andrew Rader space presentation raised \$1,520. Unit 7's Annual Bake Sale brought in \$1,020 and the UCW Soup Sale another \$650. We are holding our first Nearly New and Book Sale since fall 2019 on Saturday, June 11, outside at the church, and the Merry Dairy ice cream fundraiser will run June 20 to July 15. We are able to host our UCW General Meeting in person in Beecroft on Monday, June 6 at 7:00pm; hope you attend for the meeting and speaker, Susan Palmai, and a little socializing over light refreshments. All are welcome. Finally, on Sunday, June 12, the UCW of Rideau Park will lead the regular service in celebration of the 60th anniversary of United Church Women. I hope you are able to participate in many of these events. We always appreciate your help in raising funds for good causes, as well as celebrating our gradual return to "normal", especially as we mark our 60th anniversary this year.

Nancy McPherson, UCW President

