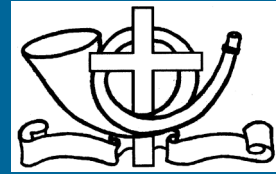


CHURCHPOST

RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH



Minister's Message

Rideau Park's website:
www.rideaupark.ca

E-mail:
info@rideaupark.ca

Telephone #:
 (613) 733-3156

Fax #:
 (613) 733-1657

OUR MINISTRY TEAM

Ministers

Rev. Elizabeth Bryce
ebryce@rideaupark.ca
 Ext. 224

Rev. Steve Clifton
sclifton@rideaupark.ca
 Ext. 225

Rev. Georgina Fitzgerald
gfitzgerald@rideaupark.ca
 Ext. 226

Organist

Andrew Ager
organist@rideaupark.ca
 Ext. 223

Music Ministry Coordinator

Iain Macpherson
choirdirector@rideaupark.ca
 Ext. 301

Church Administrator

Debi Brown
administrator@rideaupark.ca
 Ext. 228

Custodian

Geoff Scollick
custodian@rideaupark.ca
 Ext. 229



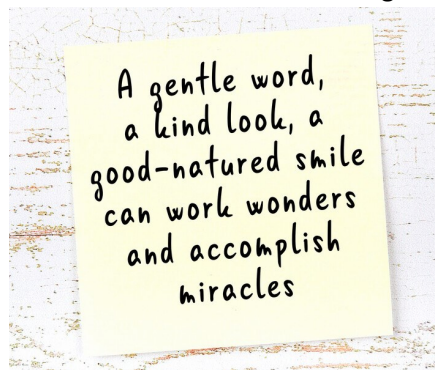
The Impact Our Words Have on Others

For the past several years, I've participated in **Clean Speech Month**, which is a program sponsored by the Jewish community of Ottawa. Its purpose is to remind us to be aware of the impact our words have on others. As someone has described it – the tongue is a two-edged sword. It can both cut and heal. In Judaism, any form of speech or action which hurts, embarrasses, or angers a fellow human being is classified as *ona'as devarim* – a verbal assault.

The New Testament book of James also recognizes the effect of words. Using the analogy of one tiny spark setting a whole forest ablaze, James describes the tongue as a dangerous weapon – small in size but capable of doing great harm.

Being mindful of the impact of what we say is important. When an insult is directed toward someone, it's meant to hurt, but often our comments can hurt someone unintentionally. This may be the result of an attempt at humour or an offhand or sarcastic remark. A verbal assault can also come from someone who prides themselves on speaking the truth regardless of how their words impact others. Unfortunately, the ones who suffer most from careless or hurtful words are children who are still developing their self-image, and adults who are already struggling with low self-esteem.

The other side of the coin though is that words can comfort and encourage.



Hearing a kind word at a difficult time is like receiving a hug. And in a church environment, where people take on responsibilities on a volunteer basis, words of appreciation are essential. When we compliment someone, we may not realize how much our words have boosted the person's confidence, or encouraged them to keep up the work they're doing.

So, let's be intentional about saying "thank you" and complimenting the people in our lives, including some we see at Rideau Park who are doing a good job. The power to build up another human being belongs to each one of us. Let's use it generously!

Blessings,
 Georgina Fitzgerald



EDITOR: Nancy McPherson, nmcpherson@rogers.com

Council**DIRECTORY OF CHAIRS**

Heather Ingrams, Chair council@rideaupark.ca
 Ken Tong, Past Chair pastchaircouncil@rideaupark.ca

Permanent Committee Representatives

Stewardship Gavin Currie, Chair stewardship@rideaupark.ca
EOORC Representatives Alyce Dunnewold and Nancy McPherson
Ministry & Personnel Patricia Whitridge, Chair mandp@rideaupark.ca
Trustees Michael Presley, Chair trustees@rideaupark.ca
United Church Women Nancy Begg-Durkee, ucw@rideaupark.ca
 Acting UCW President

Committees (Email addresses are on RPUC website)

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Nominations Vacant
Pastoral Care Brian Neal, Chair
Congregational Dev. Vacant
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 Karen Lamb and Sharon Sanderson, Co-Chairs
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RESOURCES
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Stewardship Gavin Currie, Chair
Administration & Comm. Kristie Marr, Chair

RIDEAU PARK UNITED CHURCH

Worship: 10:00am
Coffee Hour: 11:00am
Sunday School: Resumes in Sept.

OUR HEARTS REMEMBER

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

Llew Gwynne-Vaughan	January 20
Della May Moodie	February 10
Ruth Sutherland	March 17
Sharon Gwynne-Vaughan	March 30
Iva "Beryl" Bayne	April 15
Roberta Raubach	April 26



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

Next ChurchPost Submission

Due: 12pm, Friday, September 8, 2023

Pick-up: Sunday, September 17, 2023

Submissions to *ChurchPost* should be emailed to:

nmcperson@rogers.com

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

**What does spring have to do with our fall Bazaar?**

Spring has sprung, and gardeners are keen to venture outdoors and prepare their beds for planting. The RPUC Christmas bazaar will return to the old format this fall – an in-person event on November 4th! We invite you to keep the bazaar in mind when you are planning a vegetable garden...with a little extra to make jams, jellies, relishes, pickles, salsa, or whatever your favourite offering may be. Thank you.

Peggy Rader and Christel Kurz (your 2023 bazaar convenors)

Forest Church

Sunday, May 28 at 4pm

Meet at the church for a walk in the Cunningham woods, and pause for reflection on God's creation. Led by Elizabeth Bryce – dress for the day!

**Can you help?**

From time to time, Rideau Park requires assistance for various activities/events. **Volunteers** are required for Rideau Park programs, events, and activities. Some of these activities are on a schedule and some are for seasonal events. We also seek **Event Hosts**, as per the Rental Policy. Event Hosts are paid an honorarium in the range of the minimum wage. Training will be provided for both positions. If you are interested in assisting as either a volunteer or an Event Host, please contact the Administrator, administrator@rideaupark.ca or call 613-733-3156, ext.228.

Healing Pathway

Healing Pathway offers healing sessions on Thursday afternoons between 12:30pm and 2:30pm. For further information or to make an appointment, send an email to healingpathway@rideaupark.ca or speak to Brian Neal or Sharon Sanderson.



Celebration of Debi

You have likely heard that Debi Brown, our Administrator for 15 years, is retiring on June 30. This is sad news for us, for many reasons, but also a reason for a party!

Do you have any anecdotes or memories of Debi that you would like to share with her? Please put them in one of the boxes (see below for details) or send them to whitridge.patricia@sympatico.ca.

Event: Celebration of Debi

Date: Sunday, June 11, 2023

Time: After the worship service

Refreshments will be served.

There will be many opportunities to contribute towards a gift, and sign a card, for Debi.

Boxes and cards will be placed at the Sanctuary entrances each of the following Sundays:

Sunday, May 21

Sunday, May 28

Sunday, June 4

You may **contribute by cash or by cheque** (made payable to Rideau Park UCW) or **e-transfer** (any time between now and June 4) to ucwfinance@rideaupark.ca.

**** Please put Debi's name on the memo/notes line of the cheque or e-transfer.**



Constantine was the worst thing to happen to Christianity!

Up until the Roman Emperor Constantine, followers of Jesus were persecuted by Romans. Because they considered themselves part of the children of Israel, they were caught in Jewish persecution. They were also persecuted for their own beliefs. But Constantine realized that he needed something to hold his immense empire together. He decided to use religion. And he chose Christianity. Not that he was a devout Christian – he wasn't baptised until his death bed.

Constantine decriminalized Christianity. After centuries of being outcast and persecuted, this must have seemed like a dream come true to the early Christians. It must have seemed like God's kingdom had finally arrived. But it was not so.

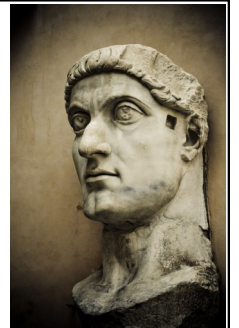
From the very beginning, there had been several forms of Christianity. But now, it became important that everyone believe the "true" Christianity. Soon there were formal doctrines, catechisms and a limited number of documents considered holy scripture. Soon there were priests, bishops, archbishops and a pope to make sure everything ran smoothly and to deal with those who promoted beliefs contrary to the Church.

Constantine was very supportive of the Church. He provided significant funds to build and run churches, as did other prominent people in the cities. It was virtually impossible for the Church to say "no" to these financial supporters. Soon the Church became rich while the poor starved. Soon there was nepotism, murder, and bribery involved in securing high ranking positions in the Church. Christianity swiftly took care of those deemed to be heretics.

And, finally, in the 1100s, came the crusades. The warring arm of the Church off to convert the Holy Land. The persecuted had become persecutors. Christians no longer challenged the secular or religious status quo for fear of going to hell. I am not sure that Jesus would even recognize that the Church had anything to do with his teachings.

Constantine is the worst thing to happen to Christianity. With Constantine began a terrible union of church and state, which became even worse when Christianity became the Roman state religion in 380CE. By joining church and state, Constantine did a great disservice to Jesus and the followers of Jesus, and its impact is still felt today. But that's just what I think. What do you think?

Sharon Sanderson



Community Building

When the UCW established the budget for 2023, they included a line item for Community Building...a new concept for the UCW and for Rideau Park. The objectives of this group are:

- To explore ways and means of building community between the UCW and other individuals/groups within the church, and perhaps outside of the church community;
- To increase UCW membership;
- To support other groups in the church in their activities and purpose; and
- To find new (and better?) ways of “being church” as UCW members.



A cross section of members of the congregation have joined together to pursue this initiative. The first endeavour was a Chili Supper on March 30 with a goal of serving 100 people. Through advertising on social media platforms, as well as a sign on the front lawn, we managed to gather 86 individuals together to enjoy this event! Our goal was to cover our expenses but, to our delight, we had a profit of \$626.

Going forward, we will be participating in the **Alta Vista Garage Sale on June 10**. We will have tables for the garage sale from 9:00am to 2:00pm, and will be selling coffee, tea and muffins starting at 9:00am and then hot dogs, hamburgers, chips and drinks starting at 11:00am. We welcome donations of paperback books, hand tools, toys, jewelry, knick-knacks, household items, etc. **Please, no clothing, linens or draperies and nothing broken!** If you have items to contribute for the garage sale, we will have people at church receiving them on Thursday, June 8 in the evening, then on Friday, June 9 during the day and evening. If it is a rainy day, we will simply move inside to Beecroft. Stay tuned for more information in the weekly emails and RP News.

Following the **garage sale**, we are thinking about a **strawberry social** mid-summer, and **welcome lunches** in the fall. After that, perhaps **an event with a live swing band**. Many more events and activities to come as we work to re-build and grow our community! Maybe even **an event in fall 2024 to celebrate the first Canadian to go to the moon!**

If you have suggestions for events you would like to see, please let us know! Email us at info@rideaupark.ca.



UCW Merry Dairy Ice Cream Fundraiser 2023

Merry Dairy is a local ice cream store located at the corner of Gladstone and Fairmont and all Merry Dairy products are peanut, tree nut and sesame-free. Teaming-up with Merry Dairy, we are again making their “tastes like old-fashioned ice cream” available for **purchase between Sunday, May 7 and Saturday, June 24**.



For every pint you buy at \$10 (the store’s regular price), the UCW receives \$2. All proceeds received from this initiative will be directed to Indigenous charities.

For more information, go to <https://www.rideaupark.ca/ucw-merry-dairy-fundraiser-2023/>

SAOC Collection of Personal Care Items

The first drive will be on Monday, May 29 from 1pm-3pm under the flowering crabs at the Cunningham entrance to Beecroft Hall. We are looking for personal care items, including feminine hygiene products, diapers and personal hygiene items which will be donated to the Banff Ledbury Community House. People are welcome to drop the stuff off on May 29 but can also leave it in the bins at the Cunningham entrances.



Harmony Club Update

We started welcoming back Harmony Club last fall with two social coffee events and a Christmas lunch. This year, we have held a further two social coffee events. Our last event before summer will be a spring lunch on Wednesday, May 31 at noon.

We will be serving glazed ham, potato salad, green salad and fresh rolls. Dessert will be cake with fresh berries and whipped cream. The meal will be followed by music, featuring Andrew Ager on the piano. Cost is \$8 per person.

This event is open to everyone over the age of 60. RSVP to Carolyn Scollick at scollicc@yahoo.ca no later than noon, Thursday, May 25. We hope to see you on May 31!

Thank you for your support as we work to re-build Harmony Club in the post-pandemic world. We are very interested to hear your feedback on this past year, including suggestions for the coming 2023-2024 year.

Sandra Weedmark and Patricia Whitridge

Nearly New Sale and Book Sale Thank you, thank you, Thank You!

With your help, the Nearly New Sale and Book Sale was a huge success. We succeeded in having fun, building community, doing a little side shopping along the way – and have raised more than \$4,000, when all is said and done.

We are so very grateful for every minute of help that all you wonderful 50+ volunteers put in. Sorting while standing on the hard floors is tiring, but so worth it when we see the results. We believe we had some happy shoppers as they went home with bags of books and clothes. Thank you; we could not have done this without every one of you.



The eight Scouts and their leader were invaluable as they helped with clean-up and loading the vehicles with items that were taken to the Salvation Army Store. Everything was cleaned up and put away, including the books, by 12:15 pm. Leaders, please pass along our thanks to them.

Geoff, thank you for all your help throughout Thursday and Friday. Debi, to you as well, thank you for all your patience as we tried to work quietly to accommodate others in the building.

For those of you who had daughters, sons, grandkids, friends, or other family members help, please convey our thanks to them for their help in making this sale an extremely successful event.

WELL DONE! THANK YOU!

The UCW



Youth and YA News

We are very thankful for the teachers and childcare workers who gave their time and enthusiasm to our young people on Sunday mornings this year. A huge thank you to teachers Meg Steele, Allyson Hopkin and Peter Osudar, and to our childcare staff – Jessica Roebuck, Hailey Laliberté, Grace Lockhart and Nessa Hopkin.



Ontario Youth Parliament (OYP) is meeting at Rideau Park from May 19-22. For youth aged 14-21, OYP is fun, welcoming, inclusive and supportive. Visit <https://www.oyp.on.ca/> for more information.

We will be offering a **confirmation class** in the fall. If you are interested, please email [Steve Clifton](mailto:Steve.Clifton@rideaupark.ca). He will organize things when he returns from sabbatical in September.

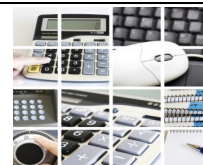
Camp Awesome returns to Rideau Park, August 14-18. Combining teaching through stories, songs and crafts, along with interactive games and theme day fun, the program runs from 9:30am to 3:30pm each day. Extended care at no additional cost is available from 8:30am to 9:30am and 3:30pm to 4:30pm. Camp Awesome is also looking for staff – it's a great summer job. For more information and registration, see <https://camp-awesome.ca/>.



Please note that Steve Clifton is on sabbatical from May 8 until September 5, the first Tuesday after Labour Day.

Finance Committee Update

Here is a brief status report on our finances to April 30. We had a deficit of approximately \$44,869 (budgeted deficit for the same period was \$39,266). Last year's deficit for the same period was \$21,309. Increased snow clearing costs and an unexpected plumbing repair are the primary reasons that the expense budget was exceeded. Our cash position remains good. PAR continues to play a key role in enabling us to provide Sunday worship services and to assist those in need. However, a concern is that givings to the Ministries and Programs Fund are down approximately 7% from both the budget and from last year. This is something that we all need to be aware of so that those who can afford to increase givings do so during the year and not just at year-end. If you wish to provide additional support, you can do so by cheque (see [Donate Now](#) for more info), by credit card or Interac (through CanadaHelps.org), or via e-transfer to accounting@rideaupark.ca.



Your Finance Committee,
Brenda Bethune, Joann Roebuck, Debi Brown and Bob Roden

Rideau Park United Church
2203 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa, ON, K1H 7L9