Kitchissippi UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, March 28, 2021
Palm Sunday

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP LIVESTREAM - 10AM
www.rideaupark.ca

MESSAGE FROM REV. JENNI

Good rainy afternoon to you all!

Facebook has this interesting feature called "Memories", wherein it reminds you of what you posted last year, 5 years ago, 8 years ago - and every time in between! Today, I was reminded that 5 years ago, the kids and I were blowing the contents of an egg out through pin pricks in each end (I can't remember if we ever painted them for Easter, but the blowing part was super fun!). I was reminded that also 5 years ago, a little bird landed on the podium where Bernie Sanders was speaking and the FB account "God" posted about it. That same year, Syrian refugees were being welcomed by Canadians in an effort to get them out of terrible circumstances. (Link attached, written by our own Anita Grace.) Seven years ago, I was on a 4 day cruise off the coast of Florida, enjoying the sunshine and the beautiful ship with a friend. (Picture attached of a very rare sunrise - rare for me, as I prefer to sleep through sunrises.)

Before I got to all these other memories, last year's posts stopped me in my tracks. This one year anniversary of the pandemic announcement and subsequent lockdown has me feeling nostalgic and also very thankful. I read articles like this: https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2020/03/26/working-from-home-can-be-tough-not-wearing-pants-is-only-the beginning.html?fbclid=IwAR104QBooWzdOUphnYpVYVr0OysYKojW8x98qq28nzDjwqBnvn1Ct-rNMwA to help me be kind to myself while trying to work from home full time. I read and took to heart the advice in a post by a psychologist (Word document attached) and a list that reminded me what people who are scared do. I also, on this day a year ago, dropped a really big bottle of wine in my garage and lamented the loss (yes, I like to document my failings!)

I have been reminded that a year ago, we were on a learning curve that was really steep and we had no idea. We didn't know if quarantine would last a month and we certainly weren't envisioning a year. There was a lot of panicking, a lot of anxiety and so much fear. Rev. Elizabeth, Rev Steve and I began planning Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday to empty sanctuaries. We began to use Zoom exclusively. (Please see the adorable story about a Zoom meeting with dogs.) I think we all walked around in a bit of a daze, wondering what was happening - I know I sure did. But, when you have dependents (teens, in my case), you are forced to do a lot of personal work and meaning making for yourself so that you can do it for them. (Isn't this what parenting is about? I'd also argue this is what ministry is about, but that's for another day.) To process and then explain a global pandemic with so much unknown was a serious challenge.

It became very important to remain emotionally agile: processing new information (which was coming fast and furious), adapting to it, explaining and implementing it. I found myself reading as much as I could, any given day, to this end. I found myself praying at any given moment for wisdom and clarity. I found myself asking God to illuminate the unknown, to make it plain so that I could understand. I found myself asking God to protect my immediate family and my church family (and, on good days, all people). I prayed that politicians would listen to medical professionals. I prayed for medical professionals. I prayed for wisdom, safety, epiphanies, grace, patience, peace. I didn't know to pray for hope in the beginning.

A year later, I feel like there is so much hope. People tell me every day that they've gotten their vaccine and I cheer! The vaccine, which was not projected to be ready for 2 years, was ready much sooner and began to be injected early January 2021. I didn't know to hope for this, I didn't know to pray for this. I was adapting, pivoting, trying to remain agile with all of the newest information.

A year later, we have so much good to look forward to: a vaccine that will protect us from death from Covid 19. This will mean a reunion with loved ones, both young and old. This will mean a return to in-person community experiences including worship, coffee time, rummage sales, Christmas hamper packing: you know your favourites. The bottom line is that we will not be separated from one another for much longer (I mean, it might still be months, but the end is on the horizon). We will gather in community once again. We will, once again, derive strength, healing, and wisdom from one another. We will, at some point, express empathy and compassion for one another face to face: in a handshake (remember those?), a hug, a knowing look. We will, once again, pray together, praise together, be the hands and feet of Jesus, together. We will recommence our face to face work of being community: we are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God. (A New Creed, UCC 1968)

It is my hope that you have leaned on your faith while we've been apart. It is my hope that your faith has been bolstered during this time and will continue to be a source of comfort and challenge. It is my hope that when we gather together again, face to face, we will give thanks for all of the activities we have been able to be a part of separately, and recommence the activities that we value and help us to fulfill God's and our mission. I look forward to these days: of seeing your faces again, hearing your voices in person and working alongside you for the work God calls us to do, together.

May you have a blessed and hopeful weekend,
Jenni

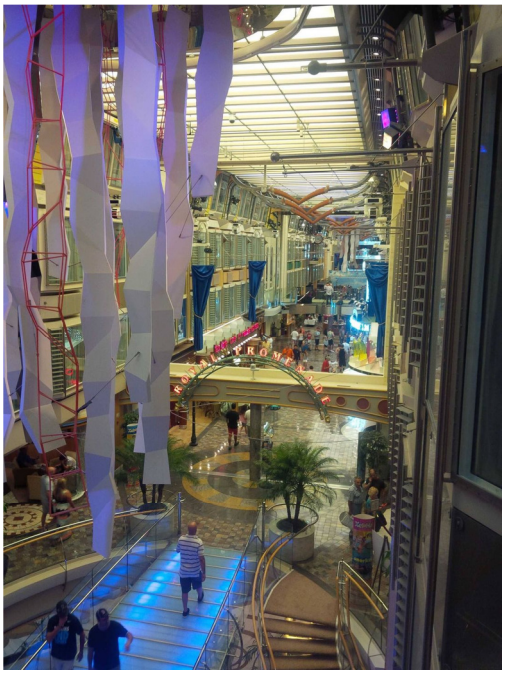
TONIGHT: TRIVIA NIGHT - 7pm our monthly fun evening! Everyone welcome! Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82250633588

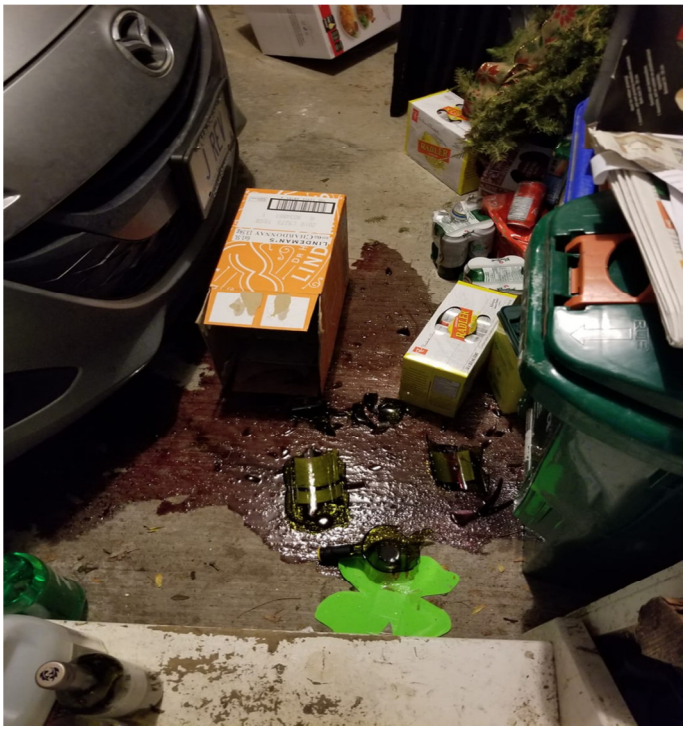
Sunday - Palm Sunday - rideaupark.ca at 10am. You'll hear and see all the Confirmands tell the Palm Sunday story, including 4 teens from Kitchissippi! Will you recognize them after a year of pandemic growth? (Hint: they are all taller and some have deeper voices!)

IMAGES FRM JENNI

God
@TheGoodGodAbove

Hey Bernie,
Did you get the tweet I sent you?





Chris Bellers
18 Mar at 14:25 •

Im on a work conference call at home with 20 people on it. Someones dog started barking. Then my dog started barking. Then EVERYONES dog started barking.

Everyone lost their shit laughing and the meeting host had to apply global mute, it took a few minutes to get things back under control.

This is officially the best meeting Ive ever been on.

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, May 1st - Spring Fling at KUC!

Kitchissippi United Church is planning an outdoor event in May.
More details to follow!

FAITH FORMATION - SUNDAY SCHOOL

Palm Sunday Make & Bake with Jennifer Reid at 1:00 via zoom
Topic: Palm Sunday Make & Bake with Jennifer Reid
Time: Mar 28, 2021, at 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom
Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89034588295?pwd=SXNhNDdBdHlqeG1DK3k3NnpFME10UT09

Meeting ID: 890 3458 8295
Passcode: Baking

For Palm Sunday we invite our Sunday School families (and the young at heart if you like!) to bake along with Jennifer Reid as she makes Hot Cross Buns.
Here is the recipe she will be using so you have time to get the ingredients you need: (it's attached and also linked here). https://www.fleischmannsyeast.com/recipe/hot-cross-buns/

Partway through we will also have a little Lenten story and a mini Palm Parade. You are invited to wave branches and shout Hosanna!

You may not have a palm branch, but many Christians around the world wave branches of whatever trees grow near. You could use some cedar branches, leaves, or twigs of trees from your yard, or make a newspaper palm branch. I remember learning how to make one from Mr. Dressup a few years ago (okay, more than a few years ago!). I couldn't find the Mr. Dressup clip but here's a paper palm tutorial**:**
https://youtu.be/9cVMM_8__aA

If you haven't baked together via Zoom before, here are Diana's tips (especially if you have a Very Small Person):

- set your tablet or device well out of reach of your little one/where you won't spill all your ingredients on it (likewise keep hot or sharp bits away from child and tablet)
- have back-up, pre-measured amounts of some ingredients
- use unbreakable bowls/cups/etc
- have a sense of humour

We hope you join us!
Diana and Sarah

No Rummage please!

Please do not bring or drop off Rummage donations of any sort at the church. For public health reasons we are not able to hold a Spring Rummage Sale. Thank you for understanding.

Other Rummage Drop off options in Ottawa:

Value Village: https://stores.savers.com/on/ottawa/valuevillage-thrift-store-2081.html
St. Vincent DePaul: https://saintvincentdepaul.ca/
Salvation Army: https://thriftstore.ca/

HAPPENING THIS WEEK

BROADVIEW (ON-LINE) BOOK CLUB

ZOOM Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89093844185

Broadview
SPIRITUALITY, JUSTICE AND ETHICAL LIVING

Tuesday March 30th	**Monday April 12th
Tuesday April 6th	Tuesday April 20th
	Tuesday April 8th

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU - PLEASE REACH OUT

Kitchissippi United Church
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CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ALL Email and phone messages are checked daily!

www.kitchissippiuc.com

facebook

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