



Kitchissippi UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, Aug 16, 2020
Season of Pentecost

Message from the KUC Chair of Worship and Chair of Council

Happy summer people of Kitchissippi

The Worship Circle met this week to discuss services for the remaining of the summer and early Fall of 2020.

We are pleased to report that three outside worship services will be offered August 23, Forest Church at the Arboretum on August 23rd, and then two from the front steps of Kitchissippi UC on September 20th and October 18th. The Creative Worship Circle will be meeting on those same steps to plan celebrations for the Season of Creation and Thanksgiving and our anniversary of KUC's amalgamation.

In all these venues we will be putting into practice all Public Health measures for safe gathering. Although we can't sing, we will be including several different types of musical offerings at each service. It will be so nice to see Kitchissippi's people gathered again, although physical hugs and handshakes will need to be replaced with touch free gestures. Perhaps we can have a challenge to think of new manners that would allow us to pass the peace without physical contact. We may incorporate some liturgical dancing, biblical dramas, and lip synced anthems to add new dimensions to our worship. We know that certain aspects of our worship style may never be the same again but as a church it is good for us to stretch ourselves, evolve and make new traditions.

Some people are hearing from others that a number of United Churches in Ottawa are considering how they will open for inside worship services. Kitchissippi's Reopening Circle has met once in July to assign roles to volunteers from Council who will be coordinating our efforts to meet all Public Health measures for safe indoor worship. All of our church staff are members, Rev. Jenni Leslie, Kirsten Gracequist and Diana Brushey of this circle along with Scott MacCrimmon (facilities preparation), Brenda Harcourt (pre-registration and screening), Jane Christie (in church attendance, ushers, signage) and Pete MacEwen (high risk management and liaison with Public Health), Ian McGregor (chair of Council) and Denise Bonomo (Chair of Worship Circle).

This group is meeting again on September 10th and will put forth recommendation to Council which meets September 16. By the following week our decisions about reopening indoor worship will be communicated to the congregation as a whole.

*Denise Bonomo
Ian McGregor
Rev. Jenni Leslie*

Message from Rev. Jenni

Hello all,
I hope this email finds you well!

In these pandemic times, it is difficult to know how to proceed personally and collectively. Some of us have a low risk tolerance, and for others of us, there is a higher risk tolerance. Some of us feel comfortable dining out on patios and in restaurants and some of us only recently feel comfortable going back to Costco. Some of us are feeling like a return to school for our youngest members is a good thing and others of us feel it is a decision fraught with unknowns and fears. I suspect some of us are keen to return to the church building to worship and others of us are keen to continue to watch/participate in online services.

As leaders, myself and the Council (and the newly formed Reopening committee) have very difficult decisions to make: do we begin services in the church this fall without singing, without coffee time, without handshaking and hugging or do we continue to livestream with Rideau Park? Do we offer outdoor services - once in August, September and in October to get together again - to see one another (and again without contact and with safe distancing), to worship in Creation? Do we offer some combination of all of these options or do we adopt a wait and see approach?

Given that public health is asking those who are immunocompromised, older adults and those with underlying conditions to stay home as much as possible, continue to wash hands frequently and wear masks, our decision is all the more difficult. Since Premier Ford announced that churches could reopen in early June, United Church ministers and Councils have been feeling pressured, anxious and worried for their congregants.

Some United Churches are looking to open sometime after Labour Day, some have chosen to think about opening after Thanksgiving, others will wait until January to reevaluate.

Recently, Rideau Park, our faith partners since March 22, held a Council Executive meeting and they will be taking a recommendation to their Council next week, to allow for < 25 people to attend the Sunday morning webcast, starting Sunday September 13th (with all precautions and protocols in place). It is also recommended that a small group of Council members attend on September 6th to test run the procedures. If the recommendation is passed, Ottawa is still in Phase 3 on Thanksgiving Sunday, and if all has gone well with <25, Rideau Park would move to <50 on Sunday October 10th.

From Denise Bonomo - Chair of Worship:

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which meets September 16. By the following week our decisions about reopening indoor worship will be communicated to the congregation as a whole.

As a community of faith, Kitchissippi together will need to make a decision on how to move forward. Thankfully, we do not have to feel pressure from a financial perspective: the financials are well under control thanks to an ad hoc finance committee that was struck early on in the pandemic (our new treasurer, Doug Brooks, is (now) well versed in government subsidies).

There will also be an outdoor service, led by Andrea Prazmowski on August 23rd. She will lead a worship service in the Arboretum and more details about this service is included in the Friday file.

We are also considering holding two services outside - once in September and October, details to be confirmed.

Do we all want to return to "normal", of course! 'Normal life' seems like such a distant memory and perhaps we won't return to 'normal' until a vaccine is created. Can we function with 'near normal'? Hopefully, yes. What does that look like for Kitchissippi? What does that look like for you?

Here is a perfect opportunity to practise our Christian faith: let us not judge one another. Let us do our best to cultivate our love of God and love of neighbour. Let us not condemn those who feel differently than us. Loving our neighbour has meant leaving a good (distanced) space between us - some might call this space for the Spirit.

Please consider what a return to church might look like for you, personally? Please consider what you'd like to see happen? Please pray about what Kitchissippi should do during these pandemic times?

Kitchissippi's committees and Council will continue to do the same: consider, evaluate, pray, discern.

As I leave for 2 more weeks of holidays (including a tent camping experience in Algonquin - wish us luck!), please know that I hold you all in my heart and prayers, that Rideau Park will continue to livestream services throughout (rideaupark.ca - you can watch live Sunday mornings from 10-11 or you can watch archived services anytime), that Rev. Steve is on call if you have an emergency, and that there are many other services to take a look at for worship ideas Kitchissippi might try (Emmanuel United: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFT4S_5a1oL-tUdpZLXg2WQ/videos, Trinity United: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC32DshldrYJB3rOGPb5EYzA/videos>, Parkdale United: <https://www.youtube.com/c/SermonsParkdaleUnitedChurch/videos>).

May summer blessings be yours,
Jenni

A PRAYER FOR YOU - <http://www.kitchissippiuc.com/stay-connected-with-the-kff/>

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KUC FOREST CHURCH:

Touch the Earth – Sunday, August 23rd

You're invited to "Forest Church" at the Arboretum off Prince of Wales Drive, hosted by KUC and led by Andrea Prazmowski, with Drumming Song by Raven Brightmoon and Daniel Spiritwolf.

Please extend an invitation to people in your circle who may wish to join us. You could share the attached poster with them.

To respect distancing guidelines we've put a cap on the numbers, so we're offering two times, to accommodate more people:

1st gathering: 8:30 am to 9:30 am

2nd gathering: 10 am to 11:00 am

Please register by email with the names of the family members who plan to attend, for which time (8:30 or 10 am) and provide a phone number in case contact tracing becomes necessary.



Send names and number to Denise Bonomo before noon on Thursday, August 20th.
denisebonomo@outlook.com or phone 613-728-6164.

* Plan to arrive at the parking lot 15 minutes before the gathering begins, so you can take a very short stroll to our gathering spot and get seated in time. There will be greeters in the parking lot to direct you. All the details and a map will be sent closer to the date.

Forest Church is generously supported by the people of the United Church of Canada, through the "Embracing the Spirit" Fund.

MUSICAL REFLECTION FOR AUGUST

MUSICAL REFLECTION- Gavan Quinn and the KUC Choir - As Torrents in Summer

<http://www.kitchissippiuc.com/music-at-kuc/musical-reflections-2/>

We are here for you! Please reach out!

Kitchissippi United Church

630 Island Park Drive
Ottawa, ON K1Y 0B7

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE
TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

Rev. Jenni Leslie

Minister

Rev. Jenni will be on vacation from August 14th to August 28th

Diana Brushey

Faith Formation Leader

STAFF

jleslie@kitchissippiuc.com

diana.brushey@kitchissippiuc.com

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facebook

Kirsten Gracequist

Office Administrator

kgracequist@kitchissippiuc.com

KIRSTEN IS ON VACATION from - July 27 to AUG 7th

Gavan Quinn

Music Director

gavanquinn@gmail.com

Jerzy Spychalski Custodian