



### ***Practising Stillness***

was drawn by Lianna Murdoch <http://www.liannamation.com/>  
for the Week of Guided Prayer series *Living in the Presence*

## ***Sabbatical Information for Rockwood Stone***

The essence of sabbatical is rooted in the biblical practice of the Sabbath day described in the creation story. Jesus kept this practice when he took time in his ministry for renewal. He often went away to pray and reflect in silence and meditation “on mountain tops and by lakesides.” The daily practice of ministry may involve the pressure of many tasks compressed into too few hours, leaving little opportunity for reflective, prayerful time. In the context of ministry, sabbatical time is for learning through reflection, revitalization, and recreation. It is, therefore, personal and individual in nature. It may include study, spiritual retreat, and rest and will probably be a blend of all of these.

When ministry personnel take a sabbatical, communities of faith benefit from the opportunity to reflect on their mission and ministry and experience different gifts of lay leadership. The sabbatical offers the community of faith a minister who returns with new energy and clarity about the tasks at hand.

*From Pastoral Relations: Supporting the Pastoral Relationship (January 2019), p. 12.*

## ***Our Minister's Sabbatical***

Rev. Heather Leffler will be on Sabbatical, Vacation and Study Leave from May 1 to September 4, 2019. This time will allow her to spend time

- focussing on her family, including visiting her brother in Gatineau and travelling to Austria with John
- reading in the areas of theology and practice of ministry
- worshipping in different congregations
- discerning where God might be calling us as Rockwood Stone Pastoral Charge
- taking time for walking and other exercise to help find renewal for her physical well being

Following the sabbatical, Heather, John, Lisa and Sarah Leffler invite you to join them for **Brunch** following our **combined Worship Service**, on **Sunday, September 8, at 10 am**, at **Stone**. Heather will share some of her experiences that Sunday. She will provide a written and oral report to the Ministry and Personnel Committee, the Pastoral Charge Board and our congregations.

## ***Contact with Minister***

Brian Mack will inform Heather Leffler of illnesses, deaths and other significant events in the pastoral charge.

Our congregations are asked not to contact Heather directly during this time so that she is free to disengage and focus on rest and renewal.

## ***Worship***

Lisa Leffler, Stone's Candidate for Diaconal Ministry will lead worship from May 5 to September 1 except for the following Sundays:

- The Worship Committees will lead worship at the Pastoral Charge Picnic on May 26 at Camp Brébeuf.
- Rev. Mary Elliott will preach and preside at communion on Pentecost Sunday, June 9.
- The Finance and Stewardship Committee will lead worship on August 11.

## ***Summer Worship Schedule 2019***

All services will begin at **10:00 am**

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Church</b>	<b>Worship Leader</b>
<b>June 30</b>	<i>Stone</i>	Lisa Leffler
<b>July 7</b>	<i>Rockwood</i>	Lisa Leffler
<b>July 14</b>	<i>Stone</i>	Lisa Leffler
<b>July 21</b>	<i>Rockwood</i>	Lisa Leffler
<b>July 28</b>	<i>Stone</i>	Lisa Leffler
<b>August 4</b>	<i>Rockwood</i>	Lisa Leffler
<b>August 11</b>	<i>Stone</i>	Finance & Stewardship
<b>August 18</b>	<i>Rockwood</i>	Lisa Leffler
<b>August 25</b>	<i>Stone</i>	Lisa Leffler
<b>September 1</b>	<i>Rockwood</i>	Lisa Leffler
<b>September 8</b>	<i>Stone</i>	Rev. Heather Leffler

### ***Funerals***

Mary Elliott will preside at funerals or assist in finding another minister to preside.

Heather will be informed of deaths in our congregations and will send cards as she is able and will connect with families on her return.

### ***Weddings***

Mary Elliott will preside at the wedding of Mike Zammit and Holly Whittingstall at Stone on Saturday, July 13 at 2:15 pm. Liz Guthrie will play the organ.

Mary will preside or arrange for another minister to officiate for weddings during the Sabbatical.

Brian Mack [dbmfarm@gmail.com](mailto:dbmfarm@gmail.com) or 519-856-9783 will contact Heather with requests for weddings after September 3, 2019 to confirm dates.

## ***Pastoral Care***

Our congregations all care for one another through visits, phone calls, emails and cards. Heather connects with folk on Sundays, at meetings and activities, in homes and hospital, by phone and email, sends cards and Christmas cards. When she is away, you are invited to continue to care for one another. Emergency pastoral care will be provided by Mary Elliott.

Cards – Contact Patty Lancaster [patlarlancaster@hotmail.com](mailto:patlarlancaster@hotmail.com) or 519-822-1621 at Stone or Ione Cox [kit3@mybluecat.xyz](mailto:kit3@mybluecat.xyz) or 905-878-9558 at Rockwood who will send cards for special occasions, thinking of you, illness, surgery and sympathy. Rockwood Pastoral Care is sending cards to people who are not able to attend worship every other month.

Visits – Contact Patty Lancaster [patlarlancaster@hotmail.com](mailto:patlarlancaster@hotmail.com) or 519-822-1621 at Stone or Ellen Thomson [raefield@sympatico.ca](mailto:raefield@sympatico.ca) or 519-856-9953 at Rockwood, if you or someone else would like a visit from a member of our church family.

Emergency Pastoral Care – Patty Lancaster, Ellen Thomson or Brian Mack will contact Mary Elliott to provide pastoral care in the case of sudden illness or death.

## ***Pastoral Charge Supervisor***

Mary Elliott [mary.elliott@rogers.com](mailto:mary.elliott@rogers.com) or 519-767-3417 is pastoral charge supervisor. She will be present at any meetings of the Board, Council, Congregations, Pastoral Charge or Trustees.

## ***Sabbatical Committee***

If you have questions before or during the Sabbatical, contact Barb Eley [jeanbarbara2880@aol.com](mailto:jeanbarbara2880@aol.com) or 519-856-2880, Brian Mack [dbmfarm@gmail.com](mailto:dbmfarm@gmail.com) or 519-856-9783, or Ellen Thomson [raefield@sympatico.ca](mailto:raefield@sympatico.ca) or 519-856-9953.