

# INVITATION TO CHALMERS' FOCUS GROUPS

As you will recall, there was recognition at the March Congregational Forum that we needed to strengthen our ability to speak with each other about matters we care about deeply, even when we disagree. **It was recognized that there is a need to build trust and strengthen our relationships so we can find our way forward together.**

**To support this, we have engaged Bill Shields from Ottawa, an experienced consultant and facilitator who has done this kind of work with community and faith groups over the past 25 years. Bill will be leading the Congregational Community-Building Forum on Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**In preparation, he has asked to meet with some of the members of the congregation beforehand so he can hear directly from them** about their experience and get a good understanding of the challenges we need to address on the 30<sup>th</sup>. We have scheduled a number of small group sessions of 12-15 participants to provide opportunities for Bill to hear from you. These sessions will provide an open space for you to speak honestly and openly about your experience at Chalmers over the past while and what you think we need to do to restore our relationships and seek direction for the future.

**Please let us know if you would like to attend one of these sessions.** It won't be possible (or necessary) for Bill to meet everyone in advance so participants will be included on a first come, first served basis.

## **SMALL GROUP SESSIONS**

**Wednesday November 20**

2 – 3:30 pm

6 – 7:30 pm

**Friday November 22**

10:30 am – 12 pm

**Saturday November 23**

2 – 3:30 pm

## **COMMUNITY-BUILDING FORUM**

**Saturday November 30**

9 am – 12 pm

**To attend** one of the small group sessions please register with Carol Sleeth in the office at [carol.sleeth@chalmers-sydenhamstreet.com](mailto:carol.sleeth@chalmers-sydenhamstreet.com) or 613-546-3263 ext. 222 by Monday Nov 18, 2019 by 5pm



## PALESTINIAN PEACE GIFT BOX AVAILABLE

Once again, the Bay of Quinte Fair Trade Coordinator is partnering with Zatoun, a not for profit volunteer organization operating in Canada, by making a **gift bag of Palestinian FairTrade products** available. This year the gift bag will consist of one 750ml bottle of extra virgin olive oil, one package of Za'atar spice and a bar of soap made from olive oil. The total cost for the gift bag is \$35.00 of which \$3.50 is donated to the United Church Mission and Service Fund.

Yearly Zatoun pays over \$250,000 to farmers, press operators, bottlers, printers, carton makers and labourers in Palestine. Since 2004, Zatoun has planted over 30,000 olive trees on small farms in Palestine. It has donated almost \$124,000 from its proceeds to Project Hope to bring volunteers (many from Canada) to offer art as therapy - painting, drawing, drama, music, photography - to youth living in refugee camps.

Pre-order with payment is required.

Contact is Bruce Hutchinson, 613-542-7645, [hutchinb@queensu.ca](mailto:hutchinb@queensu.ca) or Rosemary MacLachlan, 613-549-6008, [mmaclachlan@cogeco.ca](mailto:mmaclachlan@cogeco.ca).

Gift box orders will be taken on Sunday Nov. 17 and 25.  
Delivery to church in early December.