

## This week at a glance

**Sunday, April 1 - Easter**

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary

**Monday, April 2 – Easter Monday**

Building closed

**Tuesday, April 3**

7:00 p.m. Tai Chi – Garden room

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

**Wednesday, April 4**

9:30 UCW – Centennial Hall

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

7:00 p.m. Worship Committee

**Thursday, April 5**

6:15 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

**Saturday, April 7**

8:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast – lower gym

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming –Garden Room

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

### Worship

**March 29<sup>th</sup> : Maundy Thursday**

**6:15 p.m.** Readings focusing on Jesus' last night with his disciples, and the sharing of communion.

**March 30<sup>th</sup> : Good Friday**

**10:30 a.m.** A service with Youth and Chancel Choirs.

**March 31<sup>st</sup>: Holy Saturday**

We may not gather in church but we pause with the disciples as they mourn Jesus' death. Many people fast and pray on this day.

**Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>:** We gather for our Easter celebration as we ponder two different versions of that Sunday morning - Mark 16:1-8 and John 20:11-18. The two stories contrast each other. In the first the women are so overwhelmed by the empty tomb they run away and tell no one what they saw. But in the second we get a different sense of Easter. This is less about absence and more about presence. In "From Empty Tomb to Full Heart", James will explore Easter as a spiritual encounter that changes our hearts and minds. There is a children's activity in the hall for part of the service. We also share communion.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>:** We read together John 20:19-31. This traditional reading for the Second Sunday of Easter offers us the story of Thomas.

The RHUC Djembe drummers will be drumming prior to the start of the service.

### Minister's Message

"Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!" This traditional greeting for Easter comes to us from the Orthodox churches. Note that the statement isn't "Christ was risen" but instead is in the present tense. This reminds us that Easter isn't the celebration of a one-time miracle two thousand years ago but is an ongoing experience. We experience Easter all around us. We experience Easter within us too. Easter reveals to us that love wins, that life wins, that hope wins. Easter reminds us that the shadowed experiences of our world, the conflicts and injustices, the hurts and fears, will never be the last word. Instead we are on a trajectory of love and renewal. Jesus is experienced as living still, an abiding and healing presence leading us on not just as individuals, not just as a church, but as a reconciled humanity in a creation made whole. "Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!"

## HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support health and peace and the breaking down of barriers to peace. In the Holy Land, bringing ordinary Israelis and Palestinians peacefully together is extremely difficult in such a tense and violent environment. But the International Christian Committee in Israel (ICCI) does just that. Along with Palestinian girls' empowerment programs in Arab towns in Acre, the ICCI brings Palestinians and Israelis together through a variety of programs, from academic conferences to supporting inter-ethnic organ donation. As Hussam Elias, ICCI's Executive Secretary, says, "Arabs and Jews are not 'doomed' to live together but should live together." The medical expenses related to organ donation in Israel are covered by the state; the ICCI raises awareness and organizes conferences to break down the social barriers and conflicting ideas about organ transplants that have been in place across cultures. Often, people only want to donate within their own ethnicity. As a result of the support of the ICCI and other organizations, Israeli and Palestinian families come together in very unique, life-giving situations. One Arab youth was killed in a car accident, and his family donated his heart to a Jewish person; when the boy's mother met the recipient, they hugged, and she said it felt like she was hugging her son. In another case, a Jewish family donated the liver of a relative to a young Arab man. When he got married, he invited his donor's family, and the wedding photos show them all together as one big family. As a piece of anonymous street art in the city of Haifa says, "This is for the organ donors, reminding us all that we won't be strangers for long."

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

### Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, April 7th, 2018**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, with breakfast in the gym at 8:30 prepared by our UCW friends. New participants are always welcome. The Men's Breakfasts are a time of fellowship and camaraderie. Feel free to contact us if you're interested in more information about it. Cost is \$10 / person, with net proceeds to the UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran ([hramsaran@rogers.com](mailto:hramsaran@rogers.com) or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, April 5th. Thank you!

"After breakfast, Carl MacMillan will talk about "BECOMING HUMAN: ONE MAN'S JOURNEY IN L'ARCHE". Carl has been the Community Leader at L'Arche Daybreak in Richmond Hill since 2005. Founded in 1969, L'Arche Daybreak is the second L'Arche community in the world and the first in North America. Since the L'Arche community was started by Jean Vanier in France in 1964, it has become an international movement of over 150 communities in 40 countries around the world. Carl will share his personal journey of "becoming human" with L'Arche as backdrop for the past 30 years. He will invite discussion about role models, mentoring, and the quest for belonging, intimacy, and transformation."

**Looking ahead:** Future dates for 2018 are May 12, September 8

### RHUC Book club

Please join the RHUC Book Club on **Wednesday, April 25th** to discuss the novel (historical fiction) entitled *The Lost Diaries of Susanna Moodie* by Cecily Ross. There are two copies available at both the Richmond Hill and Aurora libraries, as well as three copies and one e-book available at the Markham Public Library. As I mentioned at the last meeting, the e-book is on sale through Kobo for \$2.99, if you have an e-reader.

It is the 1830s, and despite their dreams, **Susanna** is woefully unprepared for life in the wilderness. **Susanna Moodie's** true story of hardship and survival in a log cabin deep in the bush is part of our national mythology [in Canada].

Please join us at 7 p.m. in the Chapel for a discussion about *The Lost Diaries of Susanna Moodie*. New members are warmly welcome. Speak to Sandra Loughton or call the church office for more details. (905.884.1301 Ext. 5)

## Special Occasions

While we include in our prayers, the names of people who are ill or mourning, we are not always aware of the special occasions which give rise to rejoicing. Please let us know to add any special occasions that are coming up.  
Happy 95<sup>th</sup> birthday to **Oda Barlow!**

## United Church Women

All women are invited to join us in Centennial Hall for worship, learning and fellowship on **April 4, 2018 at 9:30 a.m.** Rev. James Ravenscroft will be speaking to us about his experiences with First Nations people.

Please hold the date for **Wednesday, June 13, 2018** for the annual UCW bus trip – heading East this year! Details to follow.

## H.A.I.R.

The Monday evening study group will begin discussion of the book **THE GOD WE NEVER KNEW** by Marcus Borg on **Monday, March 12 from 7:00 - 8:30** in the chapel. Borg famously asked people who said they doubted the existence of God to tell him about the God they did not believe in, because chances are he did not believe in that kind of God either. In this book Borg reviews various understandings of God, and offers his interpretation of a way to reconcile faith in God with science, history, critical thought and reason. On March 12 we will discuss the introduction and chapter 1. All are welcome.

## Bible Study

No need to have been before. Come once. Or every week. Or drop in every so often. We will look at the reading for the upcoming Sunday. See you in the chapel!

## Shalom Seekers

Please join us on Monday, April 9th from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Chapel. For this session please read Chapter 4: Jesus, Our Model for Being Spirit-Filled from the book **Days of Awe & Wonder: How to Be a Christian in the 21st Century** by Marcus Borg.

Please speak to Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton for more details about the book and the group. New members are always welcome to try us out!

**N.B. There will be no meeting this week - Monday, April 2nd - due to the Easter holiday.**

## UCW



**UCW Spring Luncheon on Saturday, April 21 at 1:00 p.m.**

**Tickets for the UCW Spring Lunch are available from members of the UCW. The cost is \$20.00.**

The UCW will be preparing for the Spring lunch on **Wednesday April 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am**. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to join us. For more information, please call June Blanchette at 905-780-0048

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

## The United Church Observer – Faith, Justice and Ethical Living

It is renewal and new subscription time! \$25 Please pay for your renewal / start your subscription by April 6, 2018.

‘Founded in 1829, **The Observer** is the oldest continuously published magazine in North America and the second oldest in the English speaking world. It has won international acclaim for journalistic excellence and garnered more awards for writing than any other Canadian religious publication.’

‘**The Observer** connects United Church members from coast to coast to coast. It’s the tie that binds the United Church of Canada together.’

## RHUC Golf Tournament



The 20th annual RHUC golf fun day is **Saturday, May 26** at Bathurst Glen GC with tee times [starting at noon](#). Same scramble format as the last couple of decades and just a fun day! Anyone can win and skill is not a requirement - smile! All participants WILL have fun....

The cost is an astonishing \$55 per person including a BBQ and friendly banter after the golf. We have spots for 24 players so please sign up early.

To sign up, please let George Moon know you are coming at [georgemoon@gmail.com](mailto:georgemoon@gmail.com) or in person.

## Prayer shawl knitting

We will be gathering to knit or crochet prayer shawls again this year during Lent. Finished shawls are given to people who are unwell, grieving, moving away, and also to celebrate a birth or other special occasion as a way of showing that we care and hope the warmth of the shawl will give comfort and joy. Anyone who would like to be part of this ministry is invited to come on **Thursday, March 8, 15, 22 and 29, in the Chapel, 5:00 to 6:00**. Last year we had 8 people gathered and a couple people made them at home. Patterns and some yarn are available.

To unsubscribe, please write to: [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.