

## This week at RHUC

### Sunday, April 14

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour

### Monday, April 15

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel  
7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Cubs - gym

### Tuesday, April 16

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

### Wednesday, April 17

6:30 p.m. Meditation service – Chapel

### Thursday, April 18 – Maundy Thursday

5:30:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl knitting – Chapel  
6:15 p.m. Service - Sanctuary  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

### Friday, April 19 – Good Friday

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary  
3:00 p.m. Decorating of sanctuary  
Office closed

### Saturday, April 20 – Holy Saturday

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

### Sunday, April 21 – Easter Sunday

**6:15 a.m.** Sunrise service – 19 Church St. S  
**10:30 a.m.** Easter service - Sanctuary

### Monday, April 22 – Easter Monday

Building closed

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

## Minister's message

"Eco-commons". Did you know that is the word that captures two important aspects of the vision we have adopted. "What is it?" you might ask. Well, as I learned at the meeting I was invited to at Geneva Park this past week, the idea of the commons is as old as humanity, even though it has not been our dominant practice for the last century or two. Many people picture a village green in Europe somewhere when they hear the word, but all around the world people have shared, and continue to share, resources - be it a forest or a mill - for the good of all. The practice of commoning recognizes there are many things, like the air, or the ocean, that can't be owned. It is a shared resource. What one person or group does to it impacts everyone else. Other things, like a pasture, don't always need to be individually owned but can be co-managed so multiple people can access it for the good of the wider community. In recent years this idea is being reclaimed in the Global North with the rise of the sharing economy along with renewed interest in cooperatives. Commoning is also a way to respond to our ecological crisis. Sharing resources lowers our collective carbon footprint and enables us to live on the earth more gently. So as we live into our vision of sharing our space with partners, we are also responding to our ecological vision. "Eco-commons" - a great word to describe what we are planning to be.

**Minister's Office Hours:** James' regular office hours are from 1:00 until 4:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays each week.

## Worship notes

**Sunday, April 14:** We mark the beginning of Holy Week as we gather for Palm Sunday. We begin our service by recalling Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. We will have a parade with palm branches as we sing together. Everyone is invited to participate. Following the procession we will reflect on the events that happened next, pointing us toward the Triduum, the three holy days where we remember Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.

**The Triduum:** These three days, beginning with Maundy Thursday evening and concluding with Easter celebrations, are really one long service during which we go home for rest breaks. We celebrate four liturgies.

**Maundy Thursday, April 18:** We gather at **6:15 pm** in the sanctuary as we remember Jesus' last supper with his friends when he washed their feet. We will share a potluck supper during which we will celebrate communion. The service concludes with quiet meditation mirroring Jesus' time of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Potluck items should be lighter fare.

**Good Friday, April 19:** In this **10:30 am** service co-led by members of our youth choir, we recall Jesus' trial, crucifixion, death and burial. We reflect on the story through scripture, poetry and symbols. As a continuation of the previous evening's service and pointing to the next, we begin and end in silence.

**Holy Saturday, April 20:** While there is **no formal service** on this day, you are encouraged to take time in meditation and prayer as we wait for the morning.

**Easter Sunrise, April 21:** As the sun begins to rise, we come together at **6:15 am** in James' and Glen's backyard (19 Church St. S.) for the first celebration of the resurrection. As we gather around the fire, we place Jesus' story in the wider context of the unfolding story of liberation from creation and the Exodus to the prophets and the Exile. As the sun rises we retell the story of resurrection before gathering for breakfast.

**Easter Morning:** Our final service of these great three days is at **10:30 am**. Beginning with trumpet fanfare we give thanks for the new life we share in Christ. Children participate in special activities in Centennial Hall before we all come together again for communion.

**Meditation Service:** Come to the Chapel from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays from **March 6<sup>th</sup> – April 17<sup>th</sup>** for a time of quiet and contemplation with readings, music, silent reflection and a theme-based ritual.

### Easter flowers

If you would like to have a **'Memorial Message'** placed in the order of service on Easter Sunday, there will be a table in Centennial Hall this Sunday, April 14 after the service where you can leave your message and a donation for flowers, if you wish.

### Decoration of sanctuary

The Sanctuary Committee will be decorating the sanctuary for Easter on **Friday April 19 at 3 pm** (after the Youth Choir practice). Any help will be greatly appreciated.

### Chancel Choir Spring Concert



**'Celestial Sounds'** – music for choir, harp, organ and piano. **Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.** Featuring the Chancel Choir, Emily Belvedere on harp and Stillman Matheson on piano. A concert not to be missed!  
 Adults - \$20 Seniors: \$15 Students (13-19): \$15 Child (6-12): \$7.50 Children under 6: Free  
 Family: (2 Adults/2 children (6-12)) - \$50  
 Tickets: 905-884-1301 ext. 5 / Richmondhill.Snapd.com and from Choir members.

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

### Living In Right Relations Committee

The United Nations declared 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages. In Canada, we have 60 Indigenous languages spoken in 12 language 'families' according to Statistics Canada. UNESCO indicates approximately 90 Indigenous languages in Canada. [https://www.itk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/TableauFiP\\_EN.pdf](https://www.itk.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/TableauFiP_EN.pdf)  
 The most common language family is the Algonquin which includes Cree, Ojibway, Innu, and Oji-Cree.

"Languages play a crucial role in our daily lives. They are not only our first medium for communication, education and social integration, but are also at the heart of each person's unique identity, cultural history and memory. The ongoing loss of indigenous languages is particularly devastating, as the complex knowledges and cultures they foster are increasingly being recognized as strategic resources for good governance, peacebuilding, reconciliation, and sustainable development. More importantly, such losses have huge negative impacts indigenous peoples' most basic human rights. An International Year is an important mechanism dedicated to raising awareness of a topic of global interest and mobilizing different players for coordinated action around the world. In 2016, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution (A/RES/71/178) proclaiming 2019 as the International Year of Indigenous Languages, based on a recommendation by the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. At the time, the Permanent Forum expressed concern that 40 per cent of the world's estimated 6,700 languages were in danger of disappearing— the majority belonging to indigenous peoples." To learn more, go to <https://en.iyil2019.org/> Next Week - on vacation

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### Prayer Shawl knitting for Lent

We will come together again this year during the Christian season of Lent to knit and crochet prayer shawls. Finished shawls are given to people who are unwell, grieving, moving away and also to celebrate a birth, joining our church or other special occasion as a way to show the church cares and hopes the warmth of the shawl will bring them comfort and joy. Anyone who would like to be part of this ministry is invited to come to the **Chapel from 5:30 to 7:00 pm, on Thursdays in April: 11, 18**. Come every week or as often as you are able. Last year we had six gather and another three make shawls at home. Patterns, yarn and needles are available.

*Donna Smith, Coordinator, 905-884-6307*

### RHCPA Speaker Series Spring 2019

April 18 – 10:00 am – 12 p.m. Karen King: Civil rights in Canada

April 25 – 10:00 am – 12 p.m. David Newland with Siqiniup Qilautu The Northwest Passage in Story and Song  
\$45 for entire series. RHCPA Box office: 905-787-8811 or rhcentre.ca

## HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### Food Bank Donations

Collection for the Food Bank continues at RHUC. Please put your non-perishable donations in either of the two boxes – one outside the church office and the other in the Narthex. Donna McErlain collects the food from the two bins and brings it to the Food bank. Thank you!

### Minutes for Mission

Our gifts for Mission & Service support food, health, and wellness programs at ministries like St. Paul's Family Resource Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia. We tend to think of food banks as something relatively new. This may be true in some places, but not in Halifax, where there is a long history of helping those who need support. For example, after the War of 1812, there were soup kitchens in downtown Halifax. Samuel Cunard (who founded the Cunard Steamship Company, at one time the largest steamship company in the world) worked at that soup kitchen. He and his wife, Susan, donated food and then served it to the hungry. This is a long way from modern food banks, although the need for food is still as great as it was back in the 19th century. The Family Resource Centre, which is an outreach ministry of St. Paul's United Church in Spryfield, Nova Scotia, offers more services than a food bank: clients can sit at the Food Bank Café and have coffee and a snack while waiting to pick up their order, rather than waiting out in the cold or rain. The centre also offers a volunteer income tax service to those with limited income, and Legal Aid is often on hand to address concerns individuals may have. The Food, Fitness and Fun class is always being fine-tuned, and there are nursing students on hand to offer advice on health and nutrition. We are thankful for the many ways St. Paul's Family Resource Centre offers a place of welcome and support to those who come through its doors.

### A Taste for Life in York Region

The AIDS Committee of York Region (ACYR) annually participates in and organizes the fundraising event A Taste for Life (TFL) in York Region. Each year in April, restaurants across York Region team up with ACYR and donate 25% of their lunch/dinner sales to support our work.

Support your community by dining out on **Wednesday May 1st, 2019**.

Bhai's Indian Canteen in Richmond Hill - Lunch: 11:45 AM TO 2:45pm

The Host, Fine Indian Cuisine in Richmond Hill - Lunch: 12:00 PM TO 2:30 PM, Dinner: 5:00 PM Onwards

Bijoy's Restaurant in Aurora - Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm

Symposium Café Restaurant & Lounge in Keswick - Dinner: 5:00 PM Onwards

Olde Village Free House in Newmarket - Dinner: 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

### H.A.I.R.

The Monday evening study group resumes its watching and discussion of thought-provoking TED talks this Monday. All are welcome in the chapel from 7:00-8:30.

### Shalom Seekers

On **Monday April 15th**, we will be continuing our study of Barbara Brown Taylor's book "Learning to Walk in the Dark". We will be sharing some lingering thoughts about chapter 7's 'dark night of the soul' and discussing chapter 8: "Working with Darkness". In chapter 8, Brown Taylor shares her experience of what is called *Green Enlightenment or Enlightenment of the Dark*, a form of Buddhist Meditation. If you are intrigued, please join us on Monday morning in the chapel from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. New comers are very welcome. For more information, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton.

### Spring Luncheon



**Saturday, April 27 at 1:00 p.m.** Tickets: \$20 are available after church service in Centennial Hall.

### U.C.W. bus trip

**SAVE THE DATE!** UCW Annual Bus Trip will take place on **Wed. June 5th, 2019**.  
Elora/Elora Gorge/Fergus Unique Shopping Lunch Museum Tour and More  
For more information, please speak with Bev Blake.

### Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality will meet on **Saturday, April 13 at 9:45 a.m.** in the Garden Room for refreshments and conversation followed by a program by Karen: we find it is possible that "The Unexplained" things in life ... are "more" than "The Explained".

### Bible Study

There will be no Bible Study for three weeks: April 3rd, 10th, 17th

### Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, April 13th, 2019**. 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. Cost is \$10 / person, with net proceeds to the UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran ([harrypersad.ramsaran@gmail.com](mailto:harrypersad.ramsaran@gmail.com) or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, April 11th. Thank you!

**Looking ahead: Future dates for 2019: May 11<sup>th</sup>, September 14<sup>th</sup>, October 19<sup>th</sup>, November 9<sup>th</sup>, December 14<sup>th</sup>.**  
After breakfast you are invited to the Parlor for a presentation about the Wrongfully Convicted by Harold Levy, lawyer and Toronto Star journalist, reporter, investigative journalist and Editorial Board Opinion columnist.  
Each of us, our children, families, friends, neighbours are potentially the Wrongfully Convicted perhaps, thereby, leaving a perpetrator to walk our streets. Harold Levy, has worked tirelessly for justice including freeing the Wrongfully Convicted and fixing the flaws of Criminal Justice systems in Canada and around the world. His first law changing investigative success was at age 13. His notable coverage includes: his first trial, the Adolph Eichmann trial, in Jerusalem in 1961 at age 20; the OPP shooting of native protester Dudley George at Ipperwash; the multi-year former Dr. Charles Smith saga which led to the wrongful convictions of innocent parents and caregivers. He also covered the Paul Bernardo trial. Harold created the Charles Smith Blog. <http://www.smithforensic.blogspot.com>. By now about 2 million people have visited the blog from all over the world. Major media follow and reference the blog which once per day publishes contributions and updates on wrongful convictions around the world and the role of the courts in countering junk science, intrusion of criminal law on the reproductive rights of women and the increasing risk posed by algorithms in public surveillance, police investigation and court processes. Harold is founder and Past President of the Toronto Guitar Society. He was appointed member of the Tarion Board, regulator of the new home building industry in the province.

## RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, April 24** at 7 p.m. in the Chapel to discuss *The Ocean at the End of the Lane* by British writer Neil Gaiman. "*The Ocean at the End of the Lane* is told with a rare understanding of all that makes us human, and shows the power of stories to reveal and shelter us from the darkness inside and out. A stirring, terrifying, and elegiac fable as delicate as a butterfly's wing and as menacing as a knife in the dark." For more details, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, or call the Church Office at 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.

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