

This week at a glance

Sunday, April 15

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

Monday, April 16

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

Tuesday, April 17

7:00 p.m. Tai Chi – Garden room
7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, April 18

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

Thursday, April 19

6:15 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

Saturday, April 21

1:00 p.m. Spring Luncheon – lower gym
3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming –Garden Room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

Sunday, April 15: We reflect on John 21:1-19, an added resurrection story to last week's concluding chapter to the gospel. Having gone back to fishing, the disciples see Jesus on the lakeshore and miraculously bring in a huge haul of fish. Peter then is given an opportunity to renew his commitment to Jesus. Both parts of this story point to the power of starting over, of finding a way forward in the midst of feelings of loss, guilt and shame.

Sunday, April 22: We welcome Jeffrey Dale as our guest preacher. Jeffrey is the youth ministry coordinator for Living Waters Presbytery and youth minister at Grace United Church in Barrie. Jeffrey will be reflecting on John 10:11-18.

Sunday, April 29: Consensus Circle - following worship. We will gather in Centennial Hall as we take time to discuss the final report of the Circle Process in which is listed the intentions and values we have named over the last 12 months. Also listed are a series of projects based on those intentions. In our time together we will come to consensus regarding the direction we are setting.

Minister's Message

Last Friday the country received the shocking news of a fatal collision between a semi-trailer and the bus carrying the Humboldt Broncos to a hockey semi-final in Nipawin. With the death of Dayna Brons, this crash has claimed 16 lives, not to mention the 13 who were seriously injured. This week has been shaped by an outpouring of grief and a desire to remember the lives forever changed. At the same time we lift up residents of Douma in Syria who were victims of a chemical gas attack that claimed the lives of more than 70 and injured 500. Words fail in the face of such heartache. At the beginning of the week a colleague posted words that offered me some comfort and I hope the portion I share offers you the same. I'm grateful to Rev. Matthew Heesing for his reflection on last Sunday's gospel in relation to so much loss and the tension we feel as we strive to return to some kind of rhythm in life while still carrying a grief that will never really leaves us. The following is an excerpt:

"The risen Christ comes into the room—
with holes still in his hands and feet,
because that's our own experience of hope,
isn't it?

We experience new life,
we find a new beginning,

we somehow move on,
and live our lives,
and from our reeling,
our dealing with what happens,
we somehow find healing
with time and talking
and walking together,
but still,
there is a hole.

The kind of hole that will never be filled.
A hole in our hands, our feet,
our hearts.

But the message of Easter
says the holes
are not the end of the story.
And even though we
might carry these holes
for the rest of our lives—
some more intimate than others,
some more noticeable than others,
some more hidden than others,
or deeper
or heavier,
or harder than others—
our holes
will not stand in the way of hope,
for our hope has a space for holes.

For those that are Christians,
our hope has holes:
the holes in the hands and feet of Christ,
who emerges from the tomb,
who stands in our room
of fear and pain and heartbreaking loss,
and says
“Peace be with you,”
who proclaims
new life is possible,
who brings
a new beginning,
who from the beginning,
has been making all things new,
our own lives too,
who offers a hope
than can be ours, as well,
who reminds us all,
I am with you,

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always.
You are not alone.

So as time goes on,
may we all remember
a hope with holes
is always possible.
A hope with holes
is already present.
A hope with holes
is a holy hope,
for it's the only kind of hope
we have:
a hope that recognizes
that even though our woundedness
will never really go away,
that even though our grief,
like a small black scarf,
will stay,
as we continue on the way
we will experience new life."

Centering Prayer

Each Thursday afternoon James attends a Contemplative Prayer Group in Newmarket for Centering Prayer and conversation. The group meets from 3:30 to 5:00 pm in the Rectory at St. Paul's Anglican Church. For the next several weeks, the group will be viewing the DVD **The Eternal Now – and how to be there** as an educational component to their regular 20 minute practice of silent prayer. Father Thomas Keating and Father Richard Rohr explore aspects of accessing the "sacrament of the present moment" through Centering Prayer. If you are interested in attending, James would be happy for the company on the drive there and back again. He leaves at 2:50

Thank you!

Each time we celebrate communion, we do so knowing that the way we receive the elements has changed over the years. For many years, we stayed in the pew and received the tray from an Elder, each taking and then passing along the row, first the silver bread trays with little squares of white bread, and then the juice, from trays with a silver grid holding little glasses. Each was consumed separately, but as a community. We always knew we were finished as people put their glass in the holders on the back of each pew, making a "clunk" sound. But before those years, when our sanctuary was built in 1880, we Methodist worshippers came to the front and knelt along the communion railing which curved around the dais (platform where pulpit stands). We received in kneeling reverence at the symbolic "table", the rail's surface, just as the disciples did sitting at the table with Jesus at the Last Supper. The rail is long gone but someone in their wisdom and vision kept the railing ends and they were made into flower stands. After years of use, the stain had lost its shine and some of the decorative woodwork broke off and went missing, looking quite unpleasant, and they were put aside and not used.

We are grateful that Ken Dunn has repaired and refurbished these flower stands, one in time for Christmas and the other for Easter. They are beautiful - do take a closer look and at the photo of the railing, and notice the oval cut in each, showing where the rail had been attached. Our heartfelt thanks to Ken for his hours of craftsmanship and loving care in making this part of our history worthy of being used again; it was beautiful to see the pots of daffodils in the stands for Easter.

Volunteers needed

Seeking Volunteers to Lead Acknowledgements of the Land: Each Sunday as part of worship, we offer a word of gratitude for the land and acknowledge the local First Nations whose traditional territory we are in. We also affirm that we come together in a safe and inclusive space. Beginning this Sunday, this portion of the service will be led by lay volunteers. If you are interested in helping with this portion of the service, speak with James or a member of the Living into Right Relations Team (they will be leading this portion initially). James and LIRR members are available to offer help in how to write the welcome and acknowledgement.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Truth and Reconciliation Committee: The Truth and Reconciliation Committees report included Calls to Action for churches. One of these requested churches to begin to educate their constituencies about the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples (affectionately known as DRIPS), with the goal to ensure we are complying with the declaration. Over the course of this year, the Living in Right Relations committee will be sharing the articles in DRIPS. Once a month, the first article from a section will be read during the Worship Service. The remaining articles from the section will be included weekly in RHUC online.

Article 31: 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their cultural heritage, traditional knowledge and traditional cultural expressions, as well as the manifestations of their sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts. They also have the right to maintain, control, protect and develop their intellectual property over such cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and traditional cultural expressions.

2. In conjunction with indigenous peoples, States shall take effective measures to recognize and protect the exercise of these rights.

Article 32: 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine and develop priorities and strategies for the development or use of their lands or territories and other resources.

2. States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of mineral, water or other resources.

3. States shall provide effective mechanisms for just and fair redress for any such activities, and appropriate measures shall be taken to mitigate adverse environmental, economic, social, cultural or spiritual impact.

Article 33: 1. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions. This does not impair the right of indigenous individuals to obtain citizenship of the States in which they live.

2. Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the structures and to select the membership of their institutions in accordance with their own procedures.

Article 34: Indigenous peoples have the right to promote, develop and maintain their institutional structures and their distinctive customs, spirituality, traditions, procedures, practices and, in the cases where they exist, juridical systems or customs, in accordance with international human rights standards.

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Mission & Service is how we live out the call of the church to do God's mission. Mission & Service wasn't always called Mission & Service. Before 1925, the three original denominations that joined to create The United Church of Canada—Presbyterians, Methodists, and Congregationalists—saw mission as an important part of church life and supported it in many ways. Since church union, the name for the way we support the mission and service of the church has gone through many changes: first came the Woman's Missionary Society along with the Home and Global Mission Boards, then the Missionary and Maintenance Fund, and later the Mission and Service Fund. Now, it is simply the Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada. Mission & Service is not a separate fund within the church. It is the foundation of how we offer healing and hope in a hurting world. Mission & Service supports education programs; women's empowerment; food, housing support, and advocacy to alleviate poverty; assistance for theological students, lay leaders, and camping; congregational support; healing the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people; youth programming like Rendez-vous, and much more!

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Women's Spirituality

This **Saturday April 14th** Women's Spirituality will meet in the Garden Room at 9:45 a.m. Program: "Little Gems for the Soul". Please bring sayings/quotes - bring several - that have a special meaning or maybe a story about how it came to you.

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.

United Church Women

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 is discussing the book **THE GOD WE NEVER KNEW** by Marcus Borg on Mondays 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. Please join us.

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 15th from 9:30 to 10:30 in the Chapel. For this session please read Chapter 5: Reclaiming Mysticism 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!

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 11th and 18th 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

Spring Concert

"A Choral Retrospective" – favourite anthems old and new!

When: Sunday, May 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Who: RHUC Chancel Choir Accompanist: Stillman Matheson Music Director: Barry Peters

Tickets: Seniors: \$15 Students (13-19): \$15 Adults - \$20 Child (6-12): \$7.50

Children under 6: Free Family (2 Adults/2 children (6-12)) - \$50

Tickets available from the Chancel Choir and church office.

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 georgecmoon@gmail.com or in person.

LISTENING, LEARNING AND LIVING INTO RECONCILIATION

LISTENING, LEARNING AND LIVING INTO RECONCILIATION A WEEKEND OF INDIGENOUS HISTORY, CULTURE, FOOD AND ART APRIL 20-22, 2018, LANSING UNITED CHURCH, TORONTO

This event is hosted by a committee from both Lansing and Cummer Avenue United Churches as a part of their ongoing response to live as witnesses to the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The agenda includes the movie "Colonization Road", keynote speaker Lee Maracle, a KAIROS Blanket Exercise, workshops by Brian Charles and Jennifer Henry, a Survivor-led Residential school sharing circle, and more. More Information www.lansingchurch.com | www.cummeravenueuc.ca/trc-event

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