

**This week at RHUC****Sunday, April 21 – Easter Sunday**

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

**Monday, April 22 – Easter Monday**

Building closed

**Tuesday, April 23**

12:15 p.m. RHUC Quilters – Garden room  
7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

**Wednesday, April 24**

12:00 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel  
6:30 p.m. Meditation service – Parlour  
7:00 p.m. Book Group - Chapel

**Thursday, April 25**

6:15 p.m. Service - Sanctuary  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

**Saturday, April 27**

9:45 a.m. Women's Spirituality – Garden room  
1:00 p.m. Spring Luncheon – lower gym  
3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Garden Room

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

**Minister's message**

Every so often, Holy Week and Passover are celebrated in the same week. With this being the case this year, I got to thinking about Passover and the traditions of the Seder plate. There are several items that are essential: matzot, a piece of roasted meat to represent the paschal lamb that was sacrificed, bitter herbs representing the bitterness of slavery, etc. As you can see, the Seder meal is highly symbolic, telling visually as well as in words the story of liberation of the Israelites from bondage. In recent years, other items have been placed on the plate. Most famous is the addition of an orange. It represents LGBTQ2 people and others who have historically been marginalized in the Jewish community and so symbolizes a call to inclusion. It is fascinating to read all the different items people have added to the plate as a way to highlight the ongoing need for liberating justice in our world. This got me wondering about the way we tell the Easter story in our homes as well as in church. Many of us have family traditions for our Easter meal. How do you represent the liberation we experience through the resurrection, not just two thousand years ago, but right now? It's a question I will be pondering this year, especially as reports came in of how quickly large donations were given for the future rebuilding of Notre Dame in Paris when we often struggle to raise funds for ongoing issues of hunger, disease and homelessness in our world. Don't misunderstand me. When I saw the cathedral in flames my heart broke. Notre Dame is an architectural gem, significant religiously and culturally. I am thankful that it will be repaired. But the church is us, not a building, and part of being church is sharing the same depth of love Jesus did, a love that led to the cross. Like our Jewish siblings adding to their tradition to affirm how they are called to bring liberation to our world in today's context, what can we add to our tables beyond decorated eggs to remind us of the love, justice and renewal we are to nurture? It bears pondering not just for our tables but how we are called to live the Easter message in our lives.

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

**Worship notes**

**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.

**Sunday, April 28:** On this second Sunday in the Easter season, we reflect on Luke 24:13-35, the story of two disciples having an encounter with the Risen One while walking to Emmaus. Echoing the worship experience of the early church, this story reminds us that Christ walks with us even when we don't recognize his presence. We will receive new members as part of the service.

**Forest Church experience for April:** Sunday, April 28 at **3:00 PM at Lake Wilcox Park**. In October we bid farewell to the birds and other creatures. Now we celebrate their return, giving thanks for the renewal of life that happens each year. We will meet at the boat sculpture and then take time for individual meditation as well as communal celebration. All are welcome. Bring a friend.

**Meditation Service:** Come to the Chapel from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays from for a time of quiet and contemplation with readings, music, silent reflection and a theme-based ritual.

## 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

### Cash cards

If you would like to put an order in this month, cash card orders are due next **Wed., April 24**. Thank you! By using RHUC's ongoing fundraiser, 1 – 10% of your purchase goes to RHUC.

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### RHUC Quilters

Our dedicated quilter's group meets on Tuesday at 12:15 pm in the Garden Room, every other week and wrap up by about 3 pm. Bring along your lunch if you'd like and tea will be available. No experience is required. For more information, contact Penny Fabbro at [pennyfabbro@rogers.com](mailto:pennyfabbro@rogers.com). Our next meeting is **Tuesday April 23rd**.

### 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: 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 25 – 10:00 am – 12 p.m. David Newland with Siquiniup 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 work with parents and children on the autism spectrum, like Footprints 4 Autism. With programs located in Pickering and Whitby, Ontario, Footprints strives to provide respite care to as many as possible. Having a child diagnosed with autism can be one of the most stressful situations a parent faces. Both the child and parent must learn together how to identify, prepare for, and manage the variety of behaviours that make up the autism spectrum. These might include impaired cognition and communication, social deficits, frequent tantrums, and other challenging behaviours that often lead to physical and emotional exhaustion for all involved. Faced with such overwhelming stress and barriers, many parents of children with autism find themselves unable to cope. Respite care can help ease some of the burden on these families, ensuring that, for a few hours each month, they can enjoy a short but much-needed break from the 24/7 care these children require. The respite also allows parents to pay extra attention to their other children, spend some time together, run errands, or just have some down time. Many children affected by autism spend several hours a week in therapy classes and often do not have a lot of time for social play and to just be. Under the guidance of trained volunteers who are supervised by a trained program consultant, Footprints offers participants social interaction with others in a safe and happy environment. Your gifts to Mission & Service make respite care for parents and recreational play for children on the autism spectrum possible.

## 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

## Concert at RHUC – Tuesday, May 7

### Birthdays, Mothers and the Music of Brahms!

A concert with Joanna Grace, on the horn and resident of Richmond Hill, Vivian Kukiel, on violin, and Chris Au on piano at RHUC. This young woman received a Richmond Hill Community and Culture Grant to support this concert on **Tuesday May 7 at 7:30.** Tickets are \$25.00 cash at the door or \$20.00 in advance at <http://joannagrace.eventbrite.ca>

## 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

There will be no meeting on Easter Monday but Shalom Seekers will resume on **Monday April 29th** in the chapel from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. We will continue our study of Barbara Brown Taylor's book "Learning to Walk in the Dark" by reading Chapter 9: "Our Lady of the Underground " and the Epilogue called "Blessing the Day."

In chapter 9 Brown Taylor spends part of the chapter describing Notre Dame cathedral and its impact on her spiritually. Interesting timing for us to reflect on with the tragic fire that destroyed part of that beautiful, sacred space.

If you would like to start your week with some lively conversation about faith questions, please join us on Monday mornings. We offer coffee and a warm 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.

### United Church Women

Please join us in the Parlour on **May 1, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.** when our guest speaker, Constable Delora Wood, Seniors' Safety Officer for York Region Police, will be informing us about keeping safe in her presentation, "Keeping Our Seniors Safe". This will be followed by a time for questions. We hope you will join us for worship, fellowship and information.

### 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.

### Bible Study

Bible study takes place Wednesday at noon in the Chapel.

### 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.

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.