

## This week at a glance

### Sunday, April 22 – Earth Day

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

### Monday, April 23

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel  
11:30 a.m. Krasman Lunch – lower gym  
7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Cubs - gym

### Tuesday, April 24

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

### Wednesday, April 25

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym  
7:00 p.m. RHUC Book club – chapel  
7:00 p.m. Property Committee

### Thursday, April 26

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

### Saturday, April 28

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

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

### Worship

**Sunday, April 22:** We welcome Jeffrey Dale, the youth ministry coordinator for Living Waters Presbytery. As we mark both the Fourth Sunday of Easter and Earth Sunday, Jeffrey will reflect on John 10:11-18 as well as "Carry It On" by Buffy Sainte-Marie.

**Sunday, April 29:** We jump forward in the gospel to John 15:1-8 as Jesus reflects on our shared relationship with him like branches to a vine. Following worship we will convene in Centennial Hall for our Consensus Circle as we consider the direction we have voiced through the Circle Process this past year.

**Upcoming Forest Church:** On May 6 at 2 pm. A time of prayerful walking and meditation with the trees. We will gather in the parking lot of Elgin West Community Centre for an initial teaching about different trees and then take time for personal reflection. We will conclude with a sharing of refreshments.

### Minister's Message

What a weekend we have all had. First there was the ice storm that caused so much concern across the GTA on Saturday and Sunday. After much debate we decided to err on the side of caution and cancel the worship service. We weren't alone in that. Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church made the same decision and St. Mary's Anglican Church might as well have given the difficulty the few who made it had getting there. I am thankful for the conscientious care of both the Worship Committee and Council Executive. I also want to thank Dan, Peter, Donna, Don and Muhammad for the way they mobilized on Monday and the days following. At that time we discovered significant flooding in the CD Building caused by ice build-up and consequent infiltration of water through the upper gym windows. They all worked hard to get things under control and continue to do so to ensure our buildings are safe. In the midst of all this I was back and forth to Orillia helping to support my dad in his hospitalization. I am grateful for all the people who have made enquiries regarding his health. He is slowly on the mend. Weeks like this can try the best of us but they also reveal our mettle. It is a blessing to be part of such a dedicated and caring community.

### 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 35

Indigenous peoples have the right to determine the responsibilities of individuals to their communities.

#### Article 36

1. Indigenous peoples, in particular those divided by international borders, have the right to maintain and develop contacts, relations and cooperation, including activities for spiritual, cultural, political, economic and social purposes, with their own members as well as other peoples across borders.
2. States, in consultation and cooperation with indigenous peoples, shall take effective measures to facilitate the exercise and ensure the implementation of this right.

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

Our gifts for Mission & Service support inner-city programs for children, like Camp Cosmos run by Montreal City Mission. An 11-year-old girl has new respect for her 9-year-old brother with special needs thanks to the environmental summer day camp. Eden Haber, Assistant Director of Camp Cosmos, learned about the experience from their mother. Before the camp, the girl felt ashamed of her brother, says Eden. At the camp she was able to see how he interacted with other campers and how they enjoyed being with him, and her attitude changed. "She came out of the camp saying she was proud to have him as her brother." This is just one example of how Camp Cosmos brings together children: those with special needs and those without; kids who have lived in Canada their whole lives and refugees who arrived a month ago; children from different economic backgrounds, cultures, and faiths. "It's a good opportunity for kids to integrate with other kids," says Eden. An environmental focus is fundamental. It's reflected practically, as the camp tries to achieve zero waste through recycling and composting. "These kids are growing up downtown and don't have a tangible connection with the environment," says Eden. The camp provides that. Campers learn through ecological games, organic gardening, outings in nature, and visits to local farms. Montreal City Mission, through Camp Cosmos, offers children and youth an appreciation of nature and a place to learn leadership skills that will help them become caring adults working for a better world.

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

### 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)

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### 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 24th 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 Spring Luncheon



**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.**

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### Spring Concert – May 6 @ 7:00 p.m.

**“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 [georgemoon@gmail.com](mailto:georgemoon@gmail.com) or in person.

### Music Workshop

"Trends in Christian Music in the GTA: A workshop on discovery and diversity. We are people from around the globe, how does music shape who we are today?"

**Sunday, May 6, 2-4 p.m.** With Dr. Swee Hong Lim, from Emmanuel College. Thornhill United Church, 25 Elgin St. Freewill offering.

## Green Church

Next Sunday, April 22nd 2018, in honour of Earth Day, St. Gabriels Passionist Parish has invited us to visit their "green" church. Fr. Stephen Dunn, Passionist Priest and retired Professor of Moral Theology at St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, and Roberto Chiotti, architect, with a degree in Master of Theological Studies from St. Michael's College will speak about the vision behind the building of the church and its realization. This will be followed by guided group tours of the church and garden. The church, which is fully accessible, was built in 2006 and received Gold Certification from the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEEDTM)  
Sunday April 22nd, 2018 from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM at [670 Sheppard Avenue East \(opposite Greenbriar\)](#)

An RSVP would be appreciated to either your congregational MOSAIC representative or one of MOSAIC's co-chairs Fran Isaacs at: [thisisfran@yahoo.com](mailto:thisisfran@yahoo.com) or Shabnees Siwjee: [shabnees@yahoo.ca](mailto:shabnees@yahoo.ca)

## Special presentation



**Special Presentation – Hosted by 14<sup>th</sup> Willowdale Scouts Group**

**All Welcome!: Scouting Youth, Families, Friends, Churches, *You!***

When: **Thursday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 ~ 7:00pm – 8:30pm**

Where: 53 Cummer Ave, Willowdale, N of Finch, E of Yonge (**Cummer Avenue United Church**)

**Special Guests: Willowdale MPP Honourable David Zimmer,**

**Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and John Currie, Executive Director of HIP (Honouring Indigenous People)**

Learn what it's like to serve as an MPP, a Minister and Cabinet Member, and about topics related to good citizenship, advocacy, government, and service to society. A great chance to learn about recent achievements, challenges, partnerships, and opportunities related to our friends in and from Ontario Indigenous communities.

Questions? Scouter Kathy 647-458-2717 [kathryn.mcbey@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.mcbey@gmail.com)

We look forward to seeing everyone next Thursday @ 53 Cummer Avenue! Accessible meeting room.

## 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](http://www.lansingchurch.com) | [www.cummeravenueuc.ca/trc-event](http://www.cummeravenueuc.ca/trc-event)

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