

## Listening Circles

### “LISTENING CIRCLES”

Two weeks ago we announced that we were making two invitations to the congregation...  
First...Invitation to provide Hosts and support Team  
Second...invitation to everyone to be part of a Listening Circle

**PURPOSE...To identify our longer term Missional Goals that may lead to answers about the future of the Building and Long Term Financial Strength of the Church.**

**Good News...**as of today we have 11 Hosts identified...

- **We are still looking for another 6 Hosts.**
- **We also need 2 more people to attend meetings to record on a Laptop.**
- **We would appreciate your help with these, please.**

**GOALS...**The Four Circle Process: provides opportunity for all voices to be heard in order for the gathered wisdom to identify mission and next steps.

The process creates a culture that is safe and respectful for people to share their wisdom and creativity, to enhance the vision that longs to emerge within the community. There will be a sense of “buy-in” by providing significant opportunity for people in the congregation to feel that their wisdom has been combined with the wisdom of others in regard to the future direction of the church.

**FIRST PROCESS: LISTENING CIRCLES...**Listening Circles create opportunity for Significant Conversations in which we listen deeply to each other, to the wisdom within ourselves, to the nudges and guidance of Spirit for the purpose of allowing future possibilities to emerge.

**CIRCLE MEETINGS...**are held in homes and consist of up to 9 people plus the facilitation team of three. Each meeting lasts 2 hours with arrival 15 minutes ahead. There are 18 Circles scheduled in mornings, afternoons, evenings and weekends.

**We are hoping that everyone in the congregation will be able to attend a circle. We really want to hear the different voices that echo through RHUC and share the wisdom!**

You will be receiving a separate invitation by email and also included with the Programme on Sunday. This will include a list of dates, times and hosts (where known). **Please indicate on the scheduled slots your #1, #2 and #3 preference. Hand in your completed form on Sunday to either Joanne or Terry or email to Deb Fratin in the Office.** Please let us know if you have any questions.

**Joanne Scofield [jscofield@rogers.com](mailto:jscofield@rogers.com) & Terry Davies [terry.t.davies@gmail.com](mailto:terry.t.davies@gmail.com)**

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

### Worship

**April 23<sup>rd</sup>** In these fifty days we celebrate the resurrection as it is lived out in the church as a whole and our lives  
**Upcoming readings for the Season of Easter:** This year our Easter focus will be on readings from the book of Acts. Beginning on April 23, our Sunday scripture readings will be as follows: Acts 10:34-43; Acts 7:55-60; Acts 9:3-9, 17-19; Acts 17:22-31; Acts 1:1-11 and Acts 2:1-21.

**12:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn with Khwaka Kukubo.** Khwaka Kukubo has been the National advisor, Refugee program for the United Church of Canada since 2010. She is currently the main contact person for the Sponsorship Agreement for the United Church of Canada and the government of Canada’s Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) Previously she worked with the Refugee Sponsorship Training Program (RSTP) and before that she worked in various UNHCR refugee camps overseas. Her work at the UCC has helped her enable the sponsorship of about 4558 refugees from all over the world through United Churches. Come and meet Khwaka and enjoy soup, fresh bread, cheese, cookies and fruit and this one time only - African meatballs!

### **April 17th to June 4<sup>th</sup> The Easter Season**

In these fifty days we celebrate the resurrection as it is lived out in the church as a whole and our lives.

## Chancel Choir Concert



'Canadian Choral Celebration' Celebrating Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> year! Sunday, May 7, 2017 @ 7:00 p. m.

Tickets can be purchased from a choir member or after church in Centennial Hall:

Adult: \$20 Senior/Student: \$15 Family: \$50

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

## United Church Women – Spring Luncheon – this Saturday!



UCW Spring Luncheon on Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 p.m. A celebration of Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Ticket: \$20  
Tickets are available at the door!

## UCW

On **Wednesday, May 3** when we meet in the **Parlour at 9:30 a.m.**, our speaker will be **Ward 4 Councillor, David West**. He will be informing us about plans for the Civic Precinct Project at the South-West corner of Major Mackenzie and Yonge Street. Please join us for this morning of worship, learning and fellowship.

## UCW June day trip

**Date:** Wednesday, June 7th, 2017 **Price:** \$60.00 **Leaving:** Barrows Arena (as usual) **Time:** Leaving at 8:30 a.m.

**To:** Travel to Niagara Parkway with stops along the way to Niagara-on-the Lake

**Lunch:** Grace United Church put on by their UCW ladies.

### Activities:

- Shopping in the lovely historic Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- We will end our trip at Southbrook Winery for a wine tasting of three wines in the Grand Room, including an explanation of each wine, and also information about the excellent work being done in Organic farming and wine making. This is a chance to "catch up" with Bill and the family.
- If not too late in the season, we may see some of the new lambs!
- There will also be an opportunity to shop in the Southbrook Wine Shop.

Tickets will be available after Church or contact Bev Blake 905-780-6019 [blakeb@rogers.com](mailto:blakeb@rogers.com)

## Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality will gather **this Saturday April 22nd - Earth Day** at 9:45 a.m. in the Garden Room. Program: the Spirituality of Trees. So hope you can join us.

## RHUC Book Club

Please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, **April 26** at 7 p.m. in the Chapel to discuss David Bergen's novel, **Leaving Tomorrow**. David Bergen is a Canadian author and he won the Giller Prize for an earlier novel, *The Age of Hope*, as well as other awards and honours. "*Leaving Tomorrow is a thoughtful, tender, often wry novel of growing up and falling in love. In the small Alberta town of Tomorrow, young Arthur yearns for a larger life. His father loves horses and good books, while his mother follows practicality and her faith. Bev, his rough-edged brother, chooses action over thought. Arthur lives among them—intelligent, curious, romantic and at odds with his surroundings and his religion. His one ally is his adopted cousin, the fearless Isobel. Their mutual admiration for the land, literature, all things French and each other sustains Arthur.*"

We have been invited by the Aurora Library to take part in the **OneBook/OneAurora** program this spring and fall. I will be picking up and distributing copies of our book for **May 31st** at the April meeting. The novel is **Natural Order** by **Brian Francis** and we are welcome to take part in an author visit in Aurora this coming fall. (Saturday, October 21 at 2 p.m. at the Aurora Library - free tickets available starting August 1st) *In the novel, author Brian Francis inhabits the mind of an elderly woman who remembers her life in episodes dealing with her son's sexuality and the constraints of small-town society in the '50s and '60s. Key to the narrative is a compelling commentary on how we treat seniors in our society. Natural Order is beautifully written, serious while at the same time, really funny.*

For more details, please speak to the group's facilitator, Sandra Loughton, or call the church office at 905.884.1301. Hope you can join us. Newcomers are always welcome!

## Bible Study

James will be facilitating a Thursday evening bible study sessions from **6:15 – 7:15 PM** in the chapel. We will begin by looking at the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday, looking at their historical and cultural contexts and the wisdom they can offer us.

## Shalom Seekers

The group will meet on **Monday, April 24th** to discuss Chapter 8: Contemplation from Diana Butler Bass' book "Christianity for the Rest of Us". If you would like to join us on Mondays, we promise a friendly place and lively discussion in the chapel from 9:30-11:30 a.m. For more information, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Dawn Moon, or Peg Hiscoke.

## H.A.I.R.

H.A.I.R. On **Monday, April 24**, we begin a new DVD study, "Painting the Stars – science, religion and an evolving faith" – part of the Living the Questions series. This 7 week study will finish on Monday, June 12 (excluding Victoria Day). Come join in the discussion at 7:00 pm in the chapel.

## Nurturing our Spirituality

On the **first Tuesday** of the month, **Joanne Scofield** will be offering **Yoga and Meditation** - a yoga practice that will use postures and breathing to bring the body and mind to a place of relaxation and stillness for meditation. The next Yoga and Meditation will be on **Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 7:00 – 8:00 in the Chapel.**

## Special Occasions

Writing to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul urged them: "rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep". 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. This column is an effort to rectify that situation. Don't hesitate to add any special occasions you know about.

## HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

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

Our gifts for Mission & Service have supported Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre for decades. We give thanks that we have been part of the education, sanctuary, and playfulness of Five Oaks through the NEOS Youth Ministry Program, guided retreats, youth confirmation programs, and summer day camps. Let us hear this message from the Board of Directors. The news that Five Oaks was ceasing operations in November 2016 was extremely difficult to hear. Letting go of what once was is never easy; but what if, in letting go, we make space for God to present the next opportunity—a new possibility for something amazing? We celebrate all that was received by the many who visited Five Oaks and found rest and education in its meeting spaces. Many formed lifelong friendships from their time there and found their spirits were nurtured in ministry so they could minister to others. We give thanks to Bev Oaten for founding such a sacred place. Thank you for over 60 years of ministry! We give thanks for the staff who have offered leadership and hospitality to the many people who have gathered within the walls of the education centre. We are hopeful that the time for healing and self-nurturing will be a time for the legacy of Five Oaks to transform and grow. It is our hope that, through seeking new ways to be, Five Oaks may be transformed. We are thankful for the past, for the many gifts of Spirit, and we look forward to the future! If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

## RHUC Quilters

Next sewing bee will be **Saturday May 8th at 12:30 in the Garden Room.** We should have a whole village by then! Sewers and non-sewers welcome.

## Annual RHUC Golf Fun Day!

The Saturday after the long weekend, **May 27th at Bathurst Glen Golf Club** with tee times [between noon and 1 p.m.](#) The cost is only \$55 including the BBQ after play. This is a scramble event that allows all levels to play; even those that don't! Please save the date and let George Moon ([georgecmoon@gmail.com](mailto:georgecmoon@gmail.com)) know if you want to be part of the exciting day!

## 'Anything Goes' at the Newmarket Theatre

**April 20-23, 2017** @ the Newmarket Theatre with Glen. Tickets 905-963-5122. [www.wavestagetheatre.com](http://www.wavestagetheatre.com)  
'Bon voyage! Set sail on a "de-lovely" cruise through some of Cole Porter's most famous songs. A brassy nightclub singer, a starry-eyed stowaway and Public Enemy No. 13 are booked on a transatlantic luxury liner bound for romance and laughter. Hum along with an easy-to-love score packed with hits including "I Get a Kick Out of You," "You're the Top," "It's De-Lovely," "Blow, Gabriel, Blow" and more!' **Glen (James' spouse) is in the production.**

## Blog post

Lent and Easter Services at RHUC <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2017/03/09/lent-and-easter-services-and-events-at-richmond-hill-united-church/>

Spiritual Practices for Lent <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2017/03/08/spiritual-practices-for-lent/>

RHUC Bookclub March 2017 <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2017/03/03/rhuc-book-club-under-the-visible-life-march-22-2017/>

The Hop <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2017/03/02/the-hop/>

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.