

This week at RHUC**Sunday, April 28**

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir - Parlour
3:00 p.m. Forest Church – Lake Wilcox Park

Monday, April 29

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 30

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, May 1

9:30 a.m. UCW - Parlour
12:00 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel
1:00 p.m. Lay Pastoral Visitors - Parlour
6:30 p.m. Meditation service – Chapel

Thursday, May 2

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, May 3

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

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER**Minister's message**

On Monday as many of us took advantage of the long weekend to extend our Easter celebrations, many people also paused to mark Earth day. While Earth Day has been celebrated for 49 years, the need to mark this day has become more pressing than ever. In the UK there have been a series of protests going on organized by "Extinction Rebellion", a group whose name is intended to highlight the depth of the climate crisis we are in. On Thursday some of this group glued themselves across the entrances to the London Stock Exchange as a way to emphasize the role that big business can play in helping lower greenhouse gas emissions. On Earth Day, Greta Thunberg, the 16 year old from Sweden who has galvanized young people through School Climate Strikes, spoke to the crowd. We need people like her and Extinction Rebellion. They are speaking to our hearts about climate change in a way that intergovernmental agencies can't. Have you listened to her speech to the United Nations? It is both inspiring and chilling. How do you argue with the statement "You lied to us. You gave us false hope. You told us that the future was something to look forward to"? She is right when you consider that in our own province, efforts to lower GHGs are being rolled back. As she kept on repeating phrases like "Is my microphone working?" or "Is my English not good enough?" she punctuated the gap between our knowledge and action. There is hope though. Organizations like Project Drawdown offer initiatives we can take to shrink not just our own carbon footprint but to support others in doing so. The Green New Deal being promoted by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez in the US Congress got its start in the UK in 2007. The concept was simple. Get financial institutions to fund average working people to retrofit their homes to lower their emissions and spur green technologies. There was some movement on it until the recession of 2008 and austerity became the buzzword. In its recent version in the US its reach is much larger than the UK's, adding particularly US issues like universal healthcare. While this possible overreach may stall this New Deal for our time, the impetus is still significant. It highlights that the issues we face are more than climate. Our planet is an interconnected system and we need to be attentive to our impact on that system. As so often happens in families around holiday time, my brother and I got into some political debate. We are respectful in our divergent views. One statement he made applies to our climate crisis. He said that as a fiscal conservative he believes we need to live within our means. He is right in terms of the planet. As we give thanks for the Earth this week, may we seek ways to live gently on our planet home.

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

Worship notes

This Sunday, April 28: In Luke 24:13-35, we hear how on the evening of Easter two of Jesus' disciples were walking to Emmaus and had an encounter with the Risen Christ, although they didn't realize it was him until they were at table. Jesus walks with them in their confusion and grief, not lifting it but helping them to understand it. In a similar way, he walks with us, leading us through our experiences and into the new life we seek. As part of our celebration, we receive a new member into our community of faith.

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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.

Next Sunday, May 5: In Luke 24:36-48, we hear a continuation of the previous story, as the Risen Christ appears to the disciples. On this day we will dedicate our prayer shawls.

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.

Chancel Choir Spring Concert



'Celestial Sounds' – a varied repertoire from Renaissance to Celtic. **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.

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

Lay Pastoral Visitors

A Lay Pastoral Visitors' meeting will take place on **Wed., May 1 at 1:00 p.m.** in the Parlour. A physiotherapist from Mackenzie Health will be presenting information about strokes. All are welcome!

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. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, May 7**.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Hands & Hearts for Africa meeting

On **Sunday May 5th** there will be a meeting of Hands and Hearts for AFRICA in the Common Room from 12 noon to 1 pm. We will hear the latest news from the Stephen Lewis Foundation and look forward to upcoming events. Part of our meeting will include brainstorming new ideas for future fundraisers. For more information, please speak to Peg Hiscoke and Donna Harrison.

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 enable community ministries like Massey Centre to create new programs that meet the needs of young, single mothers. Massey Centre in Toronto, Ontario, has been a place of refuge and encouragement for almost 120 years. The centre has grown over that time. In 1947, the Massey family gave the centre their summer home; the centre was renamed the Massey Centre Home for Unwed Mothers, and it is now known as Massey Centre for Women. While the original home is still part of the footprint, the centre has expanded to include pre-and post-natal housing, education programs, a daycare, and infant mental health programs. "Everyone has a connection to Massey Centre!" exclaims Chief Executive Officer Ekuia Asabea Blair. Massey Centre is a place that people speak fondly of, and many choose to stay connected to. Lisa, who works as the centre's receptionist, is a welcoming face and voice for first encounters at the centre. When Lisa was 18, she found out she was pregnant. She had no family support when she came to Massey Centre. Massey Centre is very thankful for United Church support, whether in the form of Mission & Service giving, local United Churches' gifts of diapers, or United Church Women who knit beautiful blankets. All these gifts are changing lives each and every way.

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

Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality will gather **this Saturday April 27th in the Garden Room at 9:45 a.m.** Ruth Perratt will lead us with the program: "Mindfulness: A way to gently let go of stress and be in the moment".

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

Shalom Seekers will meet 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, Barbara Brown Taylor spends part of the chapter describing Notre Dame cathedral and its impact on her spiritually. Interesting timing in light of 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 from the church office.

They are serving a delicious lunch of ham or vegetarian quiche, rolls, spring salad, carrot cake, tea and coffee.

RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, May 22 at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss **The Great Alone** by Kristin Hannah. In this spellbinding novel, a family of three moves to Alaska to reinvent themselves and to find healing. Life is tough in the wilds of Alaska and the family is tested in ways they could never have imagined. All are welcome to try out the group. Please speak to Sandra Loughton or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301 Ext. 5 for more information.

United Church Women

Please join us in the Parlour on **May 1, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.** when our guest speaker, Constable Debora 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.

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, and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin.
Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.