

This week at RHUC

Sunday, April 7

9:00 a.m. Finance meeting - Chapel
10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour
12:00 p.m. Faith Exploration classes – Chapel

Monday, April 8

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

Tuesday, April 9

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, April 10

6:30 p.m. Meditation service – Chapel
7:30 p.m. Board meeting - Parlour

Thursday, April 11

5:30:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl knitting - Chapel
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, April 13

8:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast – lower gym/Parlour
9:45 a.m. Women's Spirituality – Garden Room
3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Garden Room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

There are many ways we welcome someone into "the family". When Glen and I got married, my previously aloof father-in-law gave me a warm handshake. In Newfoundland people are sometimes "screeched in" to become honorary Newfoundlanders. As part of our Christian heritage we often see the baptism of babies as a way to welcome children into our faith family. Baptism is more than a welcoming rite. It signifies a joining of the person into the Body of Christ, the person professing their belief in God as experienced in and through Jesus. We have witnessed this as a congregation recently, our last three baptisms being of two adults and a teenager. This reminds us that all baptisms, even of babies, is about professing faith. Sometimes parents feel they would rather not make a profession of faith on behalf of their child, believing that their child should be able come to an informed choice about belief on their own. In these cases we have the option to welcome a baby into our "family" through a dedication ceremony. In many ways it is like a baptism of a baby. We pray with the family. They make commitments. We affirm our commitment to walk with them and their child. We give them signs of our welcome. This is what we will be doing on Sunday as we welcome Lysander, Dave and Vanessa Armstrong's child through a dedication ceremony.

Minister's Office Hours: James' regular office hours are from 1:00 until 4:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays each week. However, the next two weeks he has commitments out of town on the Wednesdays. **James will be at Church House for meetings on Wednesday and Thursday the week of April 1-7 and at meetings in Orillia on Tuesday and Wednesday the following week (April 8-14).** He will be in the office on both Mondays.

Worship notes

Sunday, April 7: We reflect together on Luke 7:36-50, the story of the woman who anoints Jesus' feet with oil. She knows herself and accepts the wounds of her heart. This enables her to love deeply in contrast to the host of the banquet who judges others. We also welcome Dave and Vanessa Armstrong as they introduce us to Lysander, their baby.

Sunday, April 14: We mark the beginning of Holy Week as we gather for Palm Sunday. We begin our service by recalling Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem. We will have a parade with palm branches as we sing together. Everyone is invited to participate. Following the procession we will reflect on the events that happened next, pointing us toward the Triduum, the three holy days where we remember Jesus' passion, death and resurrection.

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.

Meditation Service: Come to the Chapel from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays from **March 6th – April 17th** for a time of quiet and contemplation with readings, music, silent reflection and a theme-based ritual.

Drivers Needed: If you are able to assist with driving a senior from Oak Ridges to church on Sundays from time to time, please contact Sandra Loughton for more details at 905.773.5189 or e-mail me at bookgirl8@hotmail.com.

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

Living In Right Relations Committee

There are many ways we can learn about the lives of Indigenous peoples of Canada. We are in a time of awakening of the earth, its animals and plants. Here are just a few ways to open our minds and hearts through experiences in the coming months; attend an event eg. speaker series, pow-wow, drumming listen to an elder visit an Indigenous community learn a craft taught by an Indigenous artisan attend a screening of an Indigenous film eg. TIFF, <http://www.imagenative.org/list-of-festivals> read a book written by an Indigenous author eg. 'Beautiful Scars' (Tom Wilson), 'A Mind Spread Out on the Ground' (Alicia Elliott) spend time out in nature eg. The Great Spirit Circle Trail (Manitoulin Island) <http://circletrail.com/?pmo=ON> explore historical sites eg. Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo-Jump (Alberta) <http://www.history.alberta.ca/headsmashedin/?pmo=AB> view documentaries eg. First Contact Series <https://aptn.ca/firstcontact/> Enjoy!~
 Next Week - We'll learn more about The United Nations declaring 2019 The International Year of Indigenous Languages

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

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 March: 7, 14, 21, 28, and April: 4, 11, 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 18 – 10:00 am – 12 p.m. Karen King: Civil rights in Canada
April 25 – 10:00 am – 12 p.m. David Newland with Siqiniup 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

Lenten givings

Engaging youth in environmental initiatives is a federal and municipal priority. Engaging and empowering our youth in an environmental initiative that they will design - they will set the parameters and drive the project. **The seed money we collect on two Sundays in Lent, March 31 and April 7**, will be our way of supporting them - a wonderful way to invest in a sustainable future and harness all the youthful energy and wise counsel that we see around us.

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

Globally, human trafficking is the third largest organized crime after drugs and the arms trade. Close to 80 percent of human trafficking across the world is related to sexual exploitation, but exploited labour, sale of human organs, and forced marriages are also linked to trafficking. In Asia, India is considered the hub of this crime. In India, the national government reports that a child goes missing every eight minutes. West Bengal, close to the Bangladesh border, is a hotbed of trafficking. Mission & Service partner Church of North India, Durgapur Diocese, is tackling the issue with an anti-human-trafficking program. The program educates communities and community leaders about trafficking, rescues those who have been trafficked, and provides safe haven and support for those rescued. Japhet Ndhlovu, staff with The United Church of Canada, recently visited the project: "Children, especially girls and young women I met, told me they were taken from their homes and sold in faraway places for sexual exploitation and to work as bonded labour by agents who lured their parents with promises of education, a better life, and money. Instead, traffickers put children to work in brick kilns, carpentry units, as domestic servants, or beggars. Some are the victims of organ harvesting." Community volunteers are collaborating to fight this evil and to care for those rescued from trafficking. Children and adults are provided with shelter, food, and education. Mission & Service partner Church of North India is working to defend and protect the safety and dignity of all. No one should be trafficked.

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.

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

On **Monday April 8th**, Shalom Seekers will continue their study of Barbara Brown Taylor's book "Learning to Walk in the Dark" by looking at Chapter 7. In this chapter, Brown Taylor focuses on The Dark Night of the Soul", which she describes as a critical moment in our spiritual life, bringing healing and moving us forward in our faith journey.

If you would like to explore this more, please join us on Monday in the Chapel from 9:30 to 11:30 am. A warm welcome is promised! For more information, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton.

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.

Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality will meet on **Saturday, April 13 at 9:45 a.m.** for refreshments and conversation followed by a program in the Garden Room.

Bible Study

There will be no Bible Study for three weeks: April 3rd, 10th, 17th

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, April 13th, 2019**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, with breakfast in the gym at 8:30 prepared by our UCW friends. New participants are always welcome. The Men's Breakfasts are a time of fellowship and camaraderie. Feel free to contact us if you're interested in more information. Cost is \$10 / person, with net proceeds to the UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran (harrypersad.ramsaran@gmail.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, April 11th. Thank you!

Looking ahead: Future dates for 2019: May 11th, September 14th, October 19th, November 9th, December 14th.

After breakfast you are invited to the Parlor for a presentation about the Wrongfully Convicted by Harold Levy, lawyer and Toronto Star journalist, reporter, investigative journalist and Editorial Board Opinion columnist.

Each of us, our children, families, friends, neighbours are potentially the Wrongfully Convicted perhaps, thereby, leaving a perpetrator to walk our streets. Harold Levy, has worked tirelessly for justice including freeing the Wrongfully Convicted and fixing the flaws of Criminal Justice systems in Canada and around the world. His first law changing investigative success was at age 13. His notable coverage includes: his first trial, the Adolph Eichmann trial, in Jerusalem in 1961 at age 20; the OPP shooting of native protester Dudley George at Ipperwash; the multi-year former Dr. Charles Smith saga which led to the wrongful convictions of innocent parents and caregivers. He also covered the Paul Bernardo trial.

Harold created the Charles Smith Blog. <http://www.smithforensic.blogspot.com>. By now about 2 million people have visited the blog from all over the world. Major media follow and reference the blog which once per day publishes contributions and updates on wrongful convictions around the world and the role of the courts in countering junk science, intrusion of criminal law on the reproductive rights of women and the increasing risk posed by algorithms in public surveillance, police investigation and court processes. Harold is founder and Past President of the Toronto Guitar Society. He was appointed member of the Tarion Board, regulator of the new home building industry in the province.

Faith Exploration Classes

Are you curious about the teachings of Jesus, especially how we live them out within The United Church of Canada? Do you want to translate what you were taught in Sunday School into an adult understanding? Are you wondering about baptism or considering becoming a member of RHUC through confirmation or transfer from another congregation? Or maybe you are just interested in sharing faith with other adults? Then come to James' office and explore faith with others. The sessions run from now until April in 3 week blocks based on themes. Faith Exploration Classes are at noon on Sunday. Everyone welcome. **Section 4: Living in Faith:** April 7: Living with difficult ethical questions

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.

Congratulations to: **Peter Devita** on receiving a Town of Richmond Hill "Volunteer Achievement Award"!

and to: **Lyn May** on being selected the recipient of "The Citizen of the Year Award"!

They will be presented at the Richmond Hill Volunteer Achievement Awards ceremony on April 10th at RHPAT.

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