

### Sunday, December 1

10:30 a.m. Service 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour  
12:00 Healing service - Chapel  
4:00 p.m. Craft Dinner – Centennial Hall

### Monday, December 2

7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Beavers - gym

### Wednesday, December 3

10:00 a.m. UCW Christmas Potluck  
6:30 p.m. Meditation Group –James' office

### Thursday, December 4

6:30 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Scouts – gym  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

### Saturday, December 7

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Lower Centennial Hall  
1:00 – 4:00 p.m. UCW Christmas Tea – Centennial Hall

**Minister's message:** If you read "The Liberal" on a regular basis you will know the difficulties with neighbours that 360Kids have been dealing with this past year. In the community meetings that have been held, those who represent 360Kids have not been able to set the record straight. To this end, a meeting was held this past week at RHUC and I was fortunate to be invited to represent us. One of the key messages was the importance of telling the whole narrative of 360 Kids, voted as one of the top charities in the country. We are lucky to have them on our doorstep. Did you know that 360Kids is 30 years old and started with a drop-in centre to offer support for kids in York Region, including kids from Richmond Hill? Did you know that over half of the kids seeking help come from upper and middle class backgrounds? Did you know that 360 Kids runs over 25 programs to ensure that kids in crisis receive wraparound support? Programs like HOPE, a 3 phased support program to assist young woman who have been victim of human trafficking. Or like work assistance programs, one of which is focused on the culinary arts. The seniors who live at the Hub (where one of two drop-in centres is located) receive the meals. Initially eating with their own peers, seniors now eat together with teens and form community. Or like iGrad which helps kids graduate high school. Thirty-nine since 2016. RHUC is a big supporter of this local organization. But it's important to be reminded, even if you already know much of this. The next time someone starts to talk negatively about 360 Kids, tell them about the amazing things this organization is doing. They are not without fault. But they are responding to concerns. Information about the programs 360Kids offer as well as what they have done to address neighbours' concerns is available in the office. Let's keep being cheerleaders for 360 Kids as they fulfill a very simple mission - to make sure every young person in York Region has access to a safe home.

## worship and music

**Sunday, Dec. 1:** We begin the Advent season with an All Ages Service. We reflect on Jesus' family tree (Matthew 1:1-17) and how just as our own histories shape how we are known, so does Jesus' history shape how we see him. We also share in communion. Following worship there is a healing service in the chapel. There is also a meeting for leaders of Prayers of the People.

**Kick off Advent with Craft Dinner:** Our annual child-friendly craft evening and potluck is on **Dec. 1 from 4:00-6:30 pm**. We will gather in Centennial Hall for Christmas crafts followed by the meal and then into the sanctuary for a short prayer service in preparation for the coming season.

**Sunday, Dec. 8:** Having been introduced to Jesus' ancestors, we begin to unpack the significance of the women who show up in his family tree. We begin by looking at the stories of Tamar (Genesis 38:12-23) and of Rahab (Joshua 2:1-21)

## programs for all

**World AIDS Day 2019:** Join us for courageous conversations at **RHUC on Friday, Nov. 29 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.**  
3:-3:30 Meet & greet 3:30 – 4:30 Courageous conversation  
4:30 – 5:30 Performances 5:30 Candlelight vigil  
6:00 Closing Online registration at <https://tinyurl.com/y3j6bqos>  
This is a free event and all are welcome.

**Pub Theology: Friday, November 29 at 7:30 pm.** King Henry's Arms Pub (16th and Yonge). Come to this informal gathering to look at life's big questions through the lens of faith, spirituality, and beer (or the beverage of your choice).

**Shalom Seekers:** Please join us on Monday, December 2nd from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel for a discussion of several articles on the topic of Christmas from the December 2019 issue of Broadview magazine (formerly known as The United Church Observer). It is the issue with the gingerbread person on the cover. New members are always welcome to join us at any time. Please bring your copy of the magazine on December 2nd if you have one. Copies of the articles will be available for those needing one.

We will finish up the year on Monday, December 9th with our Christmas Tea and visit with RHUC staff. Please note we will start at 10 a.m. that morning with the staff joining us at 10:30 a.m. for refreshments and fellowship.

Please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton for more details about the group.

**Changing the Time for Bible Study:** Beginning the week of November 18-24, the time for Bible Study is shifting from Wednesdays at noon to Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:20 PM. The study is based on the Bible reading for the coming Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

**RHUC Book Club:** Please join us on Wednesday, January 29th at 7 p.m. in the RHUC Chapel to discuss two books: **The Story of Arthur Truluv** by Elizabeth Berg AND **Now That You Mention It** by Kristan Higgins.

Both of these books are more light-hearted than the 'heavier' books we have been reading this fall. New members are welcome to join us at any time. No previous book club experience is necessary - just a love of reading and discussing books. We are a friendly bunch!

For more details about the group, please speak to Deb Fratin in the church office (905.884.1301) or Sandra Loughton, Book Club Facilitator.

**H.A.I.R.:** (Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels and Other Riffraff) is the Monday evening study group where we gather to explore questions, express doubts, and realize that we are not the only ones who have wondered these things. We meet Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 in the chapel and all are welcome. Please join us any Monday to explore your faith and its applicability to our lives, to ask the questions you may not have felt comfortable raising, and to learn with and from a stimulating group of fellow questioners.

**UCW** will hold their Christmas Pot Luck Lunch **on Wednesday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.** All women are invited.

**Faith Exploration:** Are you curious about Christian teaching? Do you want to know more about the beliefs and practices of The United Church of Canada? Are you thinking about being baptized or confirmed? Or perhaps you just want to explore your faith from an adult perspective? Then consider participating in Faith Exploration sessions. They are held on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month, beginning at about 12:15 pm. For more information, email James (james@rhuc.org).

## outreach activities

**Krasman Centre Visitor "new Item" Holiday Donations**  
Once again at Advent, we are **collecting new backpacks and reusable bags filled with Wellness and Winter Need items for Krasman Centre drop-in Visitors.** The Richmond Hill Krasman Centre is located @ 10121 Yonge St. just 2 blocks south of the church. All donated items to be new. Loose items are welcome too, just put them in a reusable bag.

**On Sunday Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>,** please place these items in the bushel baskets under the trees in the sanctuary. Krasman Centre needs these items by Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. During the weeks before Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> there will be bushel baskets in the office, if it is more convenient to drop off items there.

Please note that 10% of K.C. visitors are homeless and approx. 2/3 of their visitors are men. There are women too, but not as many. Many Krasman Centre visitors "drop-in" because: they are interested in the programs offered, able to talk with peers (including staff) about their daily stresses, need an advocate to help with: navigating government assistance paperwork / housing / mental health & addiction issues; or just need a safe, supportive place to meet friends without being labelled or judged. It is a unique place "inspiring peer support one connection at a time". Let's help them feel "special" at this holiday time of year.

Here is a list of **special Wellness Items for K.C. Holiday Gift Bags:** notebooks & pens, word & number puzzle books, playing cards & fidget toys, travel-sized board games, art supplies, adult colouring books, pencil crayons / sharpeners, small change purses, gift cards to Tim Hortons or McDonalds in small denominations.

List of **K.C. Visitor frequently requested Winter Needs** (all new items): gloves, scarves, hats, hygiene items, non-perishable snacks (small, sealed, store bought like hot chocolate, tea, small treats, granola bars), backpacks, warm socks & underwear, sweaters & pants, Thermos & water bottles.

**Minute for Mission:** Paul said, "I'm going to die on February 23rd at 10:30 a.m." Paul has cancer. He was given three months to live but he has already surpassed that timeline by a month. In the meantime, his body continues to waste away and he is in constant pain. Here is a story from a United Church hospital chaplain about Paul. "I have been visiting Paul for several weeks in the palliative care unit of the hospital. He has called me in on this particular day to tell me that he has requested medical assistance in dying, and the date and time for the procedure are set. "I sit and listen while he talks about the decision he has made, how he came to it, and how his family members are reacting to it. Our conversation that afternoon is heartfelt and real. There is no place for pretence or false bravado in the presence of imminent death. It is a sacred moment. We say a prayer together. My eyes tear up as we say our goodbyes. I know it will be the last time I see him." A hospital is not only a place for physical care; it is very much a place for spiritual care. It is here that difficult decisions, life and death decisions, are made on a daily basis. Illness can turn lives upside down. Hospital chaplains are specifically trained to help patients and their families find ways to cope spiritually and emotionally in such times of personal crisis and upheaval. Thank you for being a part of our ministry."

**Gifts With Vision:** The United Church of Canada has released this year's gift catalogue, an alternative to the usual catalogues of "stuff"! Looking through, you can choose which project you would like to support in the name of someone on your Christmas shopping list. These projects have been verified and are monitored to ensure they are working towards people's wellbeing. The areas of support included are: Healing & Reconciliation, Leadership, Wellness, Safe Spaces, Education, Poverty and Hunger. Some are in Canada and some are global efforts; they support children and adults; and they range from \$10 to \$200 each. The projects speak to all this with the name **Gifts with Vision** - they offer immediate assistance working towards a vision of justice for all. Talk this over with the family and get children involved in knowing the great work they can help with. Copies of the catalogue are in RHUC office, at the Welcome table or go to [www.giftswithvision.ca](http://www.giftswithvision.ca) to see the projects - you can place your order and pay on line, making shopping easy. Give others and yourself the gifts of this Advent season: hope, peace, joy and love. Donna Smith 905-884-6307

**Targeting Climate Change #5:** Members in your local community are coordinating our fifth **Targeting Climate Change event to mobilize the community to action on the climate crisis**. People are looking for information and leadership on the climate crisis - so please **promote this free and informative event by posting and sharing the information below**. I am also attaching the Targeting Climate Change flyer for the event - feel free to print it and post it in your local community.

**Targeting Climate Change #5 – mobilizing Richmond Hill for action!**

Saturday, December 7th, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Anglican Church, 10030 Yonge Street

Contact information:

Email: [targetclimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:targetclimatechange@gmail.com)

Facebook Group: Targeting Climate Change - Richmond Hill

(<https://www.facebook.com/events/2118654528427079/?ti=icl>),

Register for the event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/targeting-climate-change-dec-7th-2019-tickets-79082697477>

If you would like to tweet or post on Instagram about the event, please use the #TargetingClimateChangeRH and @TargetClimate.

This event will welcome Dr. Martin J. Bush author of "Climate Change and Renewable Energy – How to end the Climate Crisis." You may find his online blog here: <https://climatezone.org/about-this-blog/>. After his short talk, people will be invited to ask questions.

There is hope, if we act together and if we act now.

Esther Collier, Targeting Climate Change - Richmond Hill, Management Team

## church news

**Generous Spirit update:** Many thanks to all the folks who contributed sandwiches and sweets for our Generous Spirit luncheon last Sunday! Also, we greatly appreciate everyone who helped with coffee, tea, juice, and jumped in to help with set-up and clean up. **Reminder:** If you have not yet picked up your Generous Spirit envelope, they will be in Centennial Hall after service this Sunday. Please return your PLEDGE FORM to the church office or in the offering plate by December 8. The pledges are SO important to help with financial planning!

**Special Occasions:** Congratulations to **Lynne Saul** as the contest winner for the new name of our weekly newsletter!

**Are you planning to move away?** Do you know of someone who is? Problem: the church finds out that someone attends RHUC has moved, often well after the fact! We feel badly that their life and contribution to our worship and work has not been recognized and our goodbye and best wishes have not been expressed. Please let me or Deb in the Church Office of any such moving plans. Thanks, Donna Smith, 905-884-6307

**Ladies - circle this date:** Friday, January 31 to Sunday, February 2, 2020 because that's the **Women's Winter Weekend**. More info will follow the beginning of January or phone Donna Smith, 905-884-6307.

## upcoming events

**UCW Christmas Tea: Saturday, Dec. 7 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Tickets: \$10**

**Free Holiday High Tea Celebration:** for 2SLGBTQ+ and older adults and seniors. **Monday, December 16 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.** in Centennial Hall at RHUC. Please advise of dietary diets. RSVP required: [rainbowspace@acyr.org](mailto:rainbowspace@acyr.org) or 416-938-4458

**Out of the Cold program:** Volunteers needed: Located at Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church  
Sunday evenings: November 24, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, January 5, 12, 19  
Times: 5:00 - 8:00 for food preparation  
6:00 - 9:00 for serving meals and clean-up  
Contact Angie Fix: [angie\\_isme@hotmail.com](mailto:angie_isme@hotmail.com)

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.