

Sunday, December 8

9:00 a.m. Finance – Lower Centennial Hall 10:30 a.m. Service
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour
12:00 p.m. Healing service - Chapel

Monday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 10

6:30 p.m. Meditation Group –James' office
7:30 p.m. Board meeting – Parlour

Thursday, December 11

7:00 p.m. Scouts – gym 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, December 14

8:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast - Gym
9:45 a.m. Women's Spirituality - Chapel
3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Lower Centennial Hall

Minister's message: Thirty years ago this Friday, violence erupted at an engineering school in Montréal. In what would become known as the Montreal Massacre, Marc Lépine went to a mechanical engineering class at L'École polytechnique de Montréal and after separating the women from the men, told the men to leave and shot the nine women, killing six. He then roamed the corridors on his way to the cafeteria, targeting women as he went. In the end he killed 14 women, injured another 10 women and injured 4 men. After 20 minutes of senseless violence he shot himself. Mass shootings are still relatively rare in Canada and it is because of this tragedy that we strengthened federal gun legislation. But what made this shooting stand out is the rationale - Marc stated that he was fighting feminism. But what is there to fight? Feminism simply has at its core the recognition that women and men are equal and so have the same rights, including access to employment, career advancement, and equal pay for equal value of work. Women also have the right to fully access healthcare, including treatments for disease that take gender into account rather than researching only male subjects, the right to exercise their voice in the political process, including holding office, and the right to freedom from harassment, including not being pressured to have sex with men, especially those in a position of power. All of these seem fair to me. Why shouldn't 51% of the global population have the same rights as the other 49%? Unfortunately, we are still a long way from the equality that should be automatic. In fact, we are seeing the rights that were gained over the decades being eroded. The violence of 30 years was shocking, but it is not an isolated incident. Women experience high rates of domestic violence, sexual assault, and increased likelihood of workplace injury. And this doesn't take into account all of the micro aggressions that women face every day. It is time we finally embrace the equality that is everyone's right, no matter who we are, what chromosomes we were born with or how we identify.

worship and music

Sunday, Dec. 8: We begin to explore the significance of the 5 women named in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. In "Peace between the Sexes?" we reflect on Genesis 38:11-19 (the story of Tamar) and Joshua 2:1-8 and 15 (the story of Rahab), exploring how gender is a part of all 5 women's stories and how the "reset" Jesus brings is to challenge power dynamics that continue to be at play.

Healing Service: The Healing Service scheduled for last Sunday, Dec. 1 will be held this coming Sunday, Dec. 8 after worship. The service will be in the chapel.

Sunday, Dec. 15: We look at the stories of Ruth (Ruth 2:1-13) and Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11:1-17) as a way to explore how Jesus "resets" how we view ethnicity, race and religion.

7:00 p.m. A Service Carols and Readings

This service of readings, anthems and congregational carol singing is led by the Chancel and Youth Choirs.

Wednesday, December 18th: 7:00 p.m. Longest Night Service

Hosted by Richmond Hill United Church and co-led with Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church, St. Mary's Anglican Church, Richmond Hill Community Church and St. Matthew's United Church, this quiet and reflective service is for anyone who has experienced loss and finds this season difficult. There will be an opportunity to light a candle in memory of someone and to receive anointing. Refreshments will be served in Centennial Hall.

Each Church season has a tone and rhythm. Given this, an attempt is made to have similar elements throughout in order to tie it together. An example of this in Advent is having a wreath with a time for candle lighting at the beginning of each service. Another continuous element is the choice for the Prayer of Jesus. The version that has been chosen for this Advent is a translation based on the original Aramaic. The composition is based on Prayers of the Cosmos: Reflections on the Original Meaning of Jesus' Words by Neil Douglas-Klotz. The imagery of light and darkness in this particular version ties well with the growing darkness and hope for coming light that is so much a part of this time of year.

programs for all

Bible Study: Thursday evening bible study is canceled this week, Dec. 5th. We will resume in January should there be interest. Please let James know if you want bible study to continue.

Shalom Seekers: 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.

Men's Breakfast: The next gathering will be on **Saturday, December 14th, 2019.** Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, followed by breakfast 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 about it. 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, December 12th. Thank you!

After breakfast you are invited to a presentation by Sandra Agayby. Sandra joined Mackenzie Health Foundation seven months ago as Community Giving Officer. As part of the Community Gifts team, Sandra actively engages with local businesses, community groups, foundations and individuals in Vaughan to encourage their support of Mackenzie Health and its vision of building and equipping Canada's first smart hospital.

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.

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

Project 2020 is the name we are giving our ongoing collection for a youth-based climate action project. Advent envelopes will be in the pews on Dec. 8 and 15 and money collected will be added to our Lenten givings. We hope, through direct action, to challenge each family to reimagine how we live, work, travel and worship. Building on the incredible work Esther has done, connecting us with Draw down Richmond Hill and Neighbours of the Planet we are excited, as we should be in Advent, about the possibilities. Watch for details in January 2020!

Please remember Krasman backpacks will be collected through December with a special presentation under the trees on Dec 15. Also, sign up lists with Wendy to bring side dishes or to help with serving or cleaning up for our annual Krasman holiday turkey dinner at noon on Fri. Dec. 20.

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. 8th and 15th, please place these items in the bushel baskets under the trees in the sanctuary. Krasman Centre needs these items by Dec. 16th. During the weeks before Dec. 15th 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.

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 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

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-7908269747>

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

Minute for Mission: Many ministries these days are wondering what they can do to serve young adults. In 2015, a small team of youth and young adult leaders in Southern Ontario met at Five Oaks Education and Retreat Centre to envision a resource that could be used by the church to accompany young adults as they discerned questions of vocation and meaningful work. The hope was to create an opportunity for spiritual development that was more advanced than youth confirmation, but more accessible and broad than the discernment process for paid accountable ministry. The Discoverment Process was born out of those conversations. It launched as a free online curriculum in early 2017. The Discoverment Process is a seven-session small-group program that brings together young adults finishing high school, or in their 20s, with adult mentors to explore questions of faith in the 21st century. With additional funding from Mission & Service via a Vision Fund for Flourishing Ministry Programs' grant, the Discoverment Process is currently developing a workbook for individual use, as well as a series of retreats where young adults can engage with the Discoverment materials over a weekend. Mission & Service supports programs like the Discoverment Process that offer a way for young adults to discern what God is calling them to.

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 or 416-938-4458

church news

A MAP Minute: As part of our MAP initiatives, we have formed a RHUC Concert Series Core team with the goal of developing a concert series in our sanctuary. We want to share this amazing space with the greater community of Richmond Hill.

This initiative was sparked by ideas shared in the Circle Process held in 2017-18, along with the Community Roundtable. Through these conversations, we discovered a need for another cultural event venue. This aligns with the MAP intent to create a “centre of community” that includes meeting, office and performance space at RHUC. In using our space in this way, we foster community among newcomers and established residents to meet, interact and learn from one another in a shared activity – the love of music!

The first concert series is an intercultural concert series focused on local performers from diverse backgrounds and neighbourhood caterers/restaurants. The hope is that this series will evolve to have other types of programming in addition to music concerts - spoken word, dance, cultural events, talks (like TedX Talks) broadcasted on social media/YouTube etc.

Volunteers Required!

- Treasurer for Concert series (pay the bills/manage the budget)
- Marketing / Publicity (need a Strategist plus 2-3 people)
- Catering Liaison – work with caterers on needs/set up
- Volunteer Manager (manage volunteers and Front of House)
- Ticket Sales liaison (familiar with online tickets)
- Volunteers to sell tickets, manage the intermission appetizers/ coffee/tea, and Promote, Promote, Promote!

Next meeting: **Thurs. Dec. 19th at RHUC 7 pm**

RSVP to Nicole Moore (co-chair) at willowrose@pathcom.com or 905-508-5253. We need many hands if this series is going to be successful and be an alternative source of funds to keep the wonderful work of RHUC alive.

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.

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.



We appreciate those who have passed in their pledge form and we would really appreciate receiving pledge forms from those who have not yet done so to the church office or in the offering plate by December 8. The pledges are SO important to help with financial planning!

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