

This week at RHUC

Sunday, February 10

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

Monday, February 11

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

Tuesday, February 12

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, February 13

12:00 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel
7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym
7:30 p.m. Council – Garden Room

Thursday, February 14

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, February 16

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

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

At this time of year the chairs of committees and other groups are putting together their reports in preparation for the Annual General Meeting (to be held on March 3 so mark your calendars). Each chairperson has been asked to use our Mission Action Plan as a lens by which to reflect on their work. An overarching vision for our M.A.P. is being "a centre for community" and this weekend we are living out a bit of what that could mean. On Saturday afternoon we are hosting a Targeting Climate Change Forum in collaboration with Richmond Hill Drawdown, a group committed to encouraging us all to find ways to "draw down" greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. It is important for us to be able to use our space to bring people together. And it is important for us to be showing leadership on this issue. One of the realities of tackling climate change is the sense of isolation that people feel. People do what they can but feeling like they are on their own can feel discouraged. But when we meet with others who are also targeting climate change, share with each other and offer support, we are much more likely to keep at it. This is just one example of how we can be "a centre for community". I look forward to other opportunities for RHUC to be a place where people can come together in leadership, in support, in facilitating change.

Minister's Office Hours: James will be keep office hours from 1:00 until 5:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays each week. Feel free to stop in to see him.

Worship notes

Sunday, February 10: As Jesus leaves Nazareth behind he goes to the Sea of Galilee where he calls Peter, James and John to become "fishers of people". In "Casting on the Other Side" James will explore the significance of "fishing for people" in deeper waters than we have generally done.

Sunday, February 17: We hear Luke's version of the beatitudes. In Luke 6:17-26 Jesus offers not just a series of "blessed are you"s but also a list of "woe to you"s as well.

Lunch and Learn on Sunday, February 17: During the Circle Process last year there were a number of comments made about our present governance and the need to adapt a structure that will help us live into our vision of being "a centre for community". This need was named as one of the projects we voted on in April last year. With this in mind, a governance review task group was struck and they have a proposal to present for feedback prior to the AGM on March 3. So come to a Lunch and Learn on February 17 to learn more.

On Sunday, February 24, there will be further opportunity for discussion. On that day however it will be a "Coffee and Learn".

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Living In Right Relations Committee

This week we're going to review another portion of the Indian Act of 1867. In particular, the encourage voluntary and enforced enfranchisement. "Prior to 1951, the Indian Act defined a "person" as "an individual other than an Indian." The only way to change that, for an Indian, was to give up their Indian Status. Only then, would the assume all the rights of Canadian 'persons'.

Male Indians over the age of 21 who were "deemed sober and industrious" were able to apply for enfranchisement. If they qualified, they would receive land from their home reserve and after three years receive a deed to that land. If he was married, his wife and children were automatically enfranchised. If he were to die, with children under the age of 21 they would become wards of the government.

The government expected Indians to eagerly embrace this opportunity, but they were wrong. Only one man took up their offer. [Source: 21 Things You May Not Know About The Indian Act - Joseph, Bob]

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

RHUC Quilters



Our next get together is **Tuesday, February 12th** in the **Garden Room** which is booked from 12:15 to 3:00 (although I'm sure we can go a little longer if we need to finish up). We will be working on the Wacky Web and House quilts. All are welcome, whether experienced or not.

We are also looking for international fabrics for a project that James has proposed if you have any you would like to donate. Feel free to bring along your lunch. Tea will be available.

Prayer Shawl knitting/crocheting

We have received a large amount of yarn for people to use with their making of prayer shawls. We usually meet during Lent once a week to make them together, and we will do so again this year, but if you would like to make a shawl during these cold winter days, please come to the cabinet in Centennial Hall for some yarn after worship on Sundays. We also have needles and hooks.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Net Zero event at RHUC – Targeting Climate Change



We will be running an important networking event to target climate change in Richmond Hill. Please print and share this flyer wherever you can and come with your questions, anxieties, and concerns. We want to act together, not alone, and to ensure the next generation knows we are not ignoring a crisis that they will have to face.

- **February 9th, 2019**
- Sanctuary and Centennial Hall
- 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- experts from the town, engineering and science sectors, funding and legal experts, and vendors will be present with plenty of time to answer questions and resolve issues together
- contact targetclimatechange@gmail.com with questions and to indicate interest

Sock Hop / Auction coming soon!

SOCK HOP: SATURDAY FEB 23 (5:30-9:30pm)

If you are tired of snow and need to chase away those Mid-winter Blues, come join us on Saturday Feb 23 at our 50s-60s Sock Hop! Bring your friends and family to our fun winter evening of live music, pasta dinner and auction. We will be gathering in the lower gym at 5:30pm and we invite you to wear your craziest socks for the Crazy Sock Challenge. TICKETS ON SALE TODAY and every Sunday before our event in Centennial Hall or at the office during the week at 905-884-1301 ext. 5. Why not treat your Valentine sweeties to Tickets? Cost is \$25 adult, \$20 for seniors or students and \$55 for families. Our favourite band, Little Peter and the Elegants, will be there to get our feet dancing!

Sock Hop Auction 2019 - Smaller and Elegant!

This year as in other years we welcome donations to our Silent Auction tables. However for Sock Hop Saturday Feb 23, we are aiming for a much smaller and more elegant look. In order to achieve this, we would like to preview potential auction items. If you would like to donate an item, please send us a photo by email to handsandhearts@live.ca We have set a deadline of Feb 16 for donation submissions. For more information or if photos are a challenge, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Donna Harrison.

Hands & Hearts for Africa Virtual Walk

Virtual Walk Around Africa: Approaching Namibia.

There is a saying in Namibia that the 'Left hand must learn before the right hand is broken' (in other words "Be Prepared!") 'As we trek through sub-Saharan Africa, we have been on a steep learning curve, surprised by the beauty of the land and the joy and dignity of the people. We feel especially blessed to be meeting with grandmothers who are caring for extended families impacted by AIDS. We celebrate the dignity and courage of these grandmothers who are not broken after 30 years of battling the AIDS virus but instead are vocal advocates for better healthcare, land rights, human rights for themselves and others.

We are still some distance from Windhoek in Namibia but we will be there soon. Situated in the center of the country, Windhoek lies on top of the Khomas Highland plateau at an elevation of 5430 ft. Our trek winds steeply upwards to this city, founded in 1840 by a South African farmer and then again in 1890 by Curt von Francois, an army major in the Imperial German Army. From the city we can see the Eros and Auas mountains surrounding.

Tourists often describe Windhoek as the most 'un-African' because of its cleanliness. The city center has many German-style buildings including the Tintenpalast or parliament buildings and the alte Feste fort. Because of hot water springs nearby, the city has had many names: Herero Otjimuisie or 'place of steam' and Damara which means 'firewater' in the Nama language. Windhoek in South African means 'windy corner'.

We walk slowly as the combination of altitude and temperature of 34c makes our way exhausting. Part of our trek through southern Namibia is along the rim of the Fish River Canyon which is the largest canyon in Africa, 100 miles long, 27 km wide and almost 550 meters deep. It is also supposedly the second largest canyon in the world after the Grand Canyon and a natural wonder of exposed rock with no plant life.

We are heading to the 'windy city' to meet with Lorenz Hembapu of the Catholic AIDS Action, which provides home-based care in rural areas of Namibia. As we make our way through the countryside, we understand how the geography of the land and the oppressive heat make home-based care a necessity to ensure meds are taken and much-needed counselling and testing supports are received.

Breakfast club volunteers needed!

Looking for bright, cheerful volunteers to assist with making nutritional breakfasts for our students Tuesday morning from approximately 8:00 -9:30 a.m. at **Sixteenth Ave., P.S.** No experience needed. Contact Lezlie Hood at Sixteenth Avenue P.S. 400 Sixteenth Avenue, Richmond Hill tel: 905-884-5598 ext. 101

Minutes for Mission

Our gifts for Mission & Service support meal programs like the one at the House of Lazarus Community Outreach Mission in Mountain, Ontario. House of Lazarus has had great success in building community through community partnership and sharing hope through new programs. It is helping develop Places for People Dundas County, a new affordable housing project for the community. Its Green Food Box program is the largest of its kind in the area. The program provides people with staple and seasonal fruits and vegetables along with simple and nutritious recipes. The House of Lazarus team, which includes 18 employees, nine board members, and more than 100 volunteers, is the driving force behind it all. "I witness the passion and the dedication of the House of Lazarus team daily," notes Executive Director Cathy Ashby. "Their commitment to this community is commendable. Their efforts ensure that programs continue and gaps in service are filled. I look forward to the coming year and its promises."

Free Valentine's Day Social for 2SLGBTQ+ Seniors and Older Adults

Love is Love: Celebrate the month of love with music, dance, karaoke, food and loads of fun on Sunday, Feb. 24 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the McConaghy Seniors' Centre. Only 50 spots open. For free tickets call 905-884-0613 or email myhouse@acyr.org.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, February 9th, 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 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, February 7th. Thank you!

After breakfast you are invited to the Parlor for a presentation **Title: "Brexit - We don't need EU anymore!"** by Heather MacRae. Heather MacRae is Associate Professor of European Politics at York University. She held a Jean Monnet Chair in European Integration from 2014-2017. Her research interests span a wide range of European Politics, but especially focus on Gender Policy in the European Union. She is currently working on a SSHRC project on the "Invisibility of Gender in European Policy Making". In 2016, the citizens of the United Kingdom voted by a slim majority to leave the European Union. Even as the vote was held, it was not clear what "exiting" the European Union really meant. Now, only weeks before the deadline for withdrawal, we are not much closer to knowing what Britain without the EU and the EU without Britain really entails. This talk will start by explaining what the EU is, how it works and why the UK felt its interests were not being met through the Union. From there, we will look at the main difficulties with "just leaving" the EU. We will wrap up with some thoughts on what might happen in the near future.

Looking ahead: Future dates for 2019: March 9th, April 13th and May 11th

Bible Study

For 2019 we are moving Bible Study to **Wednesdays at noon**. Please bring your lunch with you. This means no Thursday evening Bible Study.

H.A.I.R.

We are starting our new HAIR season with a series of 5-6 sessions that will explore the issues facing the people indigenous to Canada. We will be using the series **First Contact**: Most Canadians have never taken the time to get to know Indigenous People or visit their communities. First Contact takes six average Canadians, all with strong opinions about Indigenous People, on a unique 28-day journey into Indigenous Canada. Leaving their everyday lives behind the six will travel deep into Winnipeg, Nunavut, Alberta, Northern Ontario, and the coast of BC to visit Indigenous communities. Narrated by host and social justice activist George Stroumboulopoulos, First Contact is a journey that will turn the six participants' lives upside down. Challenging their perceptions and confronting their opinions about a world they never imagined they would see. It is an experience that will change their lives, forever. <https://aptn.ca/firstcontact/>
Please join us - the discussions are open and safe and intelligent and entertaining! Monday nights, 7:00 pm, Chapel.

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 3: What does it mean to be church?

February 10: The gift of the Spirit

February 24: Being Church

March 3: How do we worship?

Section 4: Living in Faith

March 17: Living with Respect in Creation

March 24: Living in Service

March 31: Living for Just Relationships

April 7: Living with difficult ethical questions

April 20: Retreat Day

RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, February 27th at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss the novel *Please Look After Mom* by Kyung-Sook Shin. This book was translated from the Korean by Chi-Young Kim. Kyung-Sook Shin was the first woman to win the Man Asian Literary Prize. This was her first novel to be published in English and Shin has won numerous literary awards for her other works. "Shin renders a tender and beautiful portrait of South Korea, but the novel recognizes a familial dilemma experienced throughout the world." ~ Ms. Magazine blog

"Lovely. . . Please Look After Mom, especially its magical, transcendent ending, lifts the spirit as only the best writing can do." ~ Minneapolis-Star-Tribune

For more information, please speak to Sandra Loughton or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5 and speak to Deb Fratin. New members are welcome to drop in to any of our meetings. No previous book club experience is required just a love of reading!

Shalom Seekers

Please join us on **Monday, February 11th** from 9:30 to 11:30 am in the Chapel for a discussion about our new book *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. For this week's discussion please read Chapter 1: Who's Afraid of the Dark?

Due to the Family Day holiday, there will be no session on Monday, February 18th. For more information about the group, please speak to Co-facilitators Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton. New members are always welcome to join us.

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.

Happy 103rd birthday to **Viola Butler** and happy 100th birthday to **Tom Gorman!**

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.