

## This week at RHUC

### Sunday, February 17

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

### Monday, February 18 – Family Day Building closed

### Tuesday, February 19

12:15 p.m. Quilters – Garden room  
7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym  
7:00 p.m. RHUC Community Engagement  
Debrief Meeting - Chapel

### Wednesday, February 20

12:00 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

### Thursday, February 21

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

### Saturday, February 23

9:00 a.m. RHUC Centre for Community Vision -  
Parlour  
3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Garden Room  
5:30 p.m. Sock Hop - gym

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

## Minister's message

On Monday evening I attended the Town Council meeting in order to make a presentation in support of a motion. David West, Councillor for Ward 4, had submitted a proposal for Town Council meetings to begin with a land acknowledgment and he asked me to speak. I did not expect it to go through unanimously but I had expected it to pass. After all, land acknowledgments are offered in many different places and before a variety of events, including as part of school announcements, at the beginning of worship services like our own, and before council meetings in many different municipalities. More symbolic than legally binding, land acknowledgments are nevertheless a sign of respect, a way to affirm the ongoing presence of Indigenous peoples, not as a vestige of the past, but as a continuing community who dwelled in these lands long before anyone from another continent settled here, and who still live here as our colleagues, neighbours and friends. As people committed to reconciliation, we need to show respect and affirmation. It is also part of truth telling. Much of government policy was an attempt to erase the presence of Indigenous people. By acknowledging traditional territory we help undo some of that wrong. Imagine my surprise then when not only did a councillor speak in opposition, but another presented a motion to defer the motion so residents of Richmond Hill can be consulted. As a faith community who knows well the importance not just of land acknowledgments but of any and all steps towards right relations. I invite you to take up the councillor's request for input. Pay your ward councillor and local/regional councillors a visit. Speak with our mayor. Let them know why land acknowledgments and other signs of respect and affirmation of First Nations, Métis and Inuit are important to you. And be sure to come out to, even speak at, the Town Council meeting on March 25 at 7:30 P.M. when this will be debated. You can be sure I will be there.

**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 17:** As we celebrate Family Day Weekend, we hear how Jesus went to a "level place" and preached not just a series of blessings but also woes (Luke 6:17-26). In "Reconciling Opposites" James explores how his "Sermon on the Plain" is reminiscent of Mary's Magnificat, revealing Jesus as one who reconciles and calls us to a greater sense of equanimity and peace.

**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.

**Sunday, February 24:** We mark Scouting Sunday as we are joined by various "scouting" and "guiding" troops. Joanne Scofield is our guest preacher as we explore Luke 6:27-38.

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

**Forest Church for February:** Given the colder weather we have been experiencing lately, our Forest Church event **February 24 at 7:00 pm** will be mostly indoors. We will watch "Home", a documentary about our planet and how interconnected we all are. We will also spend a bit of time outside appreciating the gift of winter. Our February event will be at James and Glen's: 19 Church St. S, just a few doors south of the church.

**March 3:** Annual General Meeting: It is that time of year again. Our AGM is scheduled to take place right after worship in the gym. Refreshments will be provided.

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

### Living In Right Relations Committee

This week we're looking at the portion of the Indian Act of 1876 - 1985 with respect to land expropriation of reserves for public works. Land is a HUGE and continuing issue for Indigenous peoples everywhere. In Canada, under the Indian Act, 1876 it was taken "for granted that Indians' land could be expropriated by any private group or level of government wanting a way through it. It would not be long before the government could also remove an Indian band from a reserve deemed too close to a town or city of 8,000 or more." Who has not heard about the Trans Mountain/Keystone Pipeline or issues regarding mineral rights on Indigenous lands? The Kitsilano Reserve of Vancouver, B.C. is just one example of the government manipulating the Indian Act for its own needs. <http://themainlander.com/2013/07/25/city-of-perpetual-displacement-100-years-since-the-destruction-of-the-kitsilano-reserve/>

[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 19th** 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

### 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](mailto: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.

## **Winter clothing/wish list**

### **Winter Coats + Wish List Items needed for DFC in Thunder Bay! February Collection!**

RHUC has partnered with Dennis Franklin Cromarty (DFC) First Nations High School, whose 125 students have to leave home to live in boarding houses from grades 9-12 to get their education, because their 23 remote Northern fly-in communities don't have high schools. The teens miss their families and friends and do not have much money for necessities. They appreciate the school's alliance with RHUC.

Attached are (1) the school's Wish List supplied by the teachers in response to an invitation to let us know what they need and (2) an updated flyer on our February 2019 Winter Coat and Wish List drive. Please feel welcome to share with families and friends. During February please drop off donated items to the outer office. We'll have a packing/shipping time in early March. There's also info on how to make an online donation via "Canada Helps", which generates a tax donation receipt right away. Donations go towards items on the wish list.

Here's info from our RHUC grade 12 student, Matthew Warrick, who chairs his high school's Social Justice Council. Matthew arranged last week for his fellow students to make 125 hand-made Valentine cards for the students of DFC, shipped to Thunder Bay for distribution today.

## **Minutes for Mission**

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the work of Iridesce: The Living Apology Project. This project was created to encourage storytelling around the 1988 decisions to welcome gay, lesbian and bisexual people into full membership and ministry in the United Church—a welcome that was expanded to include people of all sexual orientations and gender identities in 2009. Iridesce has brought stories of challenge, conflict, and lament to light. One participant wrote, "The battles of 1988 left behind one legacy that I think has not served us well, a legacy of fearfulness of conflict." For many, of course, the decision was a celebration and continues to empower communities to draw the circle wide and wider still. "We are all stronger when given unapologetic, radical love," wrote Catherine. Dani shared, "I am a trans non-binary person... I wasn't expecting to be so openly accepted, and it fills my heart to know that I can love God and be proud of my gender identity." Morgan, who grew up in the post-1988 church, wrote, "It is my hope that the church will not simply take for granted its policy... that we will recognize how far we are from embodying that policy and how much farther we are from assimilating it into the earth-shattering welcome of the people of God." We give thanks for the gifts of Iridesce: The Living Apology Project.

## **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](mailto:myhouse@acyr.org).

## **ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH**

## **Women's Winter Retreat**

On Saturday morning, February 8th, we woke to flurries landing on a white layer of snow on the grounds of the Loretto Maryholme Spiritual Retreat Centre on the shores of Lake Simcoe, just outside of Keswick. What a beautiful peaceful start to our time together. RHUC's ninth Women's Winter Retreat was an enjoyable experience with 10 people staying overnight Friday, 13 over Saturday night and 20 ladies for the day on Saturday. There were two ladies who attended for the first time and it was good to get to know them. During the two sessions with the theme "Gestating in Winter: The Spirit's Time Before Spring's Emergence", we looked at the season of winter as our time in the quiet and darkness to seek the inner light of renewal in preparation for a spring of new life. Group discussion, individual time, chats around the fireplace, a walk in nature, good food and lots of laughter has brought us new joy and friendships to accompany our days. All ladies are invited each year to attend so consider joining us for 2020's Retreat.

## 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.**

## Bible Study

For 2019 we are moving Bible Study to **Wednesdays at noon**. Please bring your lunch with you.

## 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 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 27 at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss *Please Look After Mom* by Korean writer Kyung-sook Shin. Come and join the discussion of this novel which won the Man Asian Literary Prize. (If you have a library set copy, please ensure that it is returned either that evening or arrange a time with Sandra to return it prior to the meeting. Thank you.)

For more information about the club, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, or Deb Fratin in the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5. New members are always welcome to try out a meeting. No previous book club experience is necessary and we are a friendly bunch!

## Shalom Seekers

Please note: There will be no session this week (Monday, February 18) due to the Family Day holiday.

Please join us on Monday, February 25 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel to discuss Chapter 2 of *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor.

New members are always welcome to join the group. Please speak to one of the two facilitators: Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton.

## 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](mailto:office@rhuc.org), and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.