

## This week at a glance

### Sunday, February 18 – Lent 1

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Common Room  
12:00 p.m. Adult Baptism/Membership meeting - Chapel

### Monday, February 19 – Family Day – building closed

### Tuesday, February 20

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym  
7:00 p.m. Tai Chi – Garden room

### Wednesday, February 21

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

### Thursday, February 22

5:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitting – Chapel  
6:15 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

### Saturday, February 24

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

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

### Worship

**This Sunday:** We embark on the journey of Lent, reflecting together on John 1:29-39. I feel this meeting between Jesus and some of John the Baptist's disciples speaks to Lent in Jesus' response of "Come and see" to their question "Where do you live?" Lent is a wonderful time to be more intentional in prayer and meditation, to focus on growing in our relationship with Christ. So often Lent is seen as a journey. In many ways it is also a coming home.

**Sunday, February 25:** Our scripture reading will be John 3:14-21, an exploration of Jesus' meeting with Nicodemus. This Sunday will also be Scouting Sunday.

### Minister's Message

Lent is now upon us. In the first centuries of Christianity, this special season was first a preparatory time for people who had chosen to be baptized. The initial week long period of fasting and prayer which became extended to forty days, paralleling Jesus' time of prayer and reflection in the wilderness. This season was adopted as a time of penitence by all Christians, who, like Jesus, wrestled with their "demons" and discerned how to respond faithfully to the gospel path. We symbolize the beginning of this discernment by receiving ashes. Like the Ninevites in the Book of Jonah we receive ashes as a sign of grief, that is, as a recognition that we have hurt others and ourselves by not always living Jesus' way of love and transformation. On Sunday, anyone who wishes may come forward to have the cross traced in ash on their forehead. In addition, when people arrive for worship, they will receive an itinerary of an "imaginary pilgrimage" to follow throughout the season. Each weekly stop will be an opportunity to practice a different style of reflection and prayer. Finally, because Lent was traditionally a time of preparation for baptism, after worship (at noon) we are beginning sessions for adults who wish to learn more about Christianity, especially the way we live out this faith tradition within the United Church of Canada. These sessions are in particular of benefit to adults who may want to become baptized (or confirmed if they have been baptized previously). The number of sessions is open-ended so as to respond to the spiritual needs of the participants. Lent is a special time. May it be for all of us a time of reflection and growth.

### World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer will be held on **Friday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at 7:30 pm at St. Mary's Anglican Church, 10030 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill.** This service this year was prepared by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname. Everyone is invited.

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

### Tour of RHUC

RHUC has gathered at the corner of Yonge & Centre Streets for worship, concerts, events, food and fellowship since our 1880 building was constructed. There is lots of history that has happened which will be shared, along with a tour of even the "hidden" places, after the service on **Sunday February 25th. Gather in the sanctuary right after you pick up a coffee/tea; I will aim to be finished at 1:00.** *Donna Smith, 905-884-6307*

### Finance Committee

Tax receipts are available for pick up in Centennial Hall.

### Nominating Committee

**Do you have gifts that you wish to share with our community of faith?  
Interested in learning more about how you can contribute to the mission of our church?**

We have several specific volunteer opportunities in our congregation:

- Welcome Leadership – Providing leadership for the team that helps connect the newest people in our congregation to all of our activities
- Work Party Organization – Supporting our Property Committee by organizing our volunteer work parties
- Mission & Service Enthusiast – Our congregational champion for promoting the activities supported by the M&S Fund, and stewarding our congregational contributions

You may also have skills that could be contributed to any of our Standing Committees:

- Christian Development – Participating in the work of programs and activities offered to children, youth and adults which nurture and encourage faith exploration and formation
- Fellowship – Participating in the work of events and activities to sustain and develop fellowship within the congregation
- Finance – Participating in the work of overseeing financial expenditures and coordination of budgeting
- Lay Pastoral Visitors – Participating in the work of our program of lay pastoral visitation
- Ministry & Personnel – Participating in the work of overseeing relationships within the pastoral charge ministry, particularly the roles and functions of paid leaders and employees
- Outreach and Social Action – Participating in the work of fostering understanding and action concerning the church's mission in our local community, our country, and our world
- Property – Participating in the work of supervising, maintaining, and improving all church property
- Stewardship (Generous Spirit) – Participating in the work of encouraging the congregation's stewardship of time, talents and treasure
- Welcome – Participating in the work of welcoming new people into our church
- Worship – Participating in the work of overseeing the worship life of the congregation

Come share with our Nominating Committee in discerning if any of these roles might be for you. The Committee members are Nancy Hart (Chair), Donna DeVita, Heather Moon, Brandon Moore, James Ravenscroft, and Donna Smith.

## HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### 50 – 60's Sock Hop!

#### Stephen Lewis Fundraiser

#### 50's-60's SOCK HOP on SATURDAY FEB 24 from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.!

Hands and Hearts for Africa warmly invite you to our Fabulous February Sock Hop. Coming soon on Saturday Feb 24 from 5:30 -9pm in the lower gym.

Brush off your dancing shoes and join us for a fun evening of delicious pasta, live music and silent auction. Be sure to wear your craziest socks for the Crazy Sock Prize and bring your friends and family. Tickets cost \$20 Senior/ Student, \$25 adult, \$55 per family of 4. Tickets are on sale today after the service or call Deb at the church office. Come join us at the Hop and support the Stephen Lewis Foundation!

Ground breaking News: Did you know the Stephen Lewis Foundation is doing ground breaking work with African AIDS families in Sub-Saharan Africa? Why ground breaking? Because the Foundation supports and mentors community-based programmes for the long term and consults with the families and grannies directly. Ground breaking because the Foundation has developed an assessment tool to measure the impact of community-based programmes on Quality of Life- something never done before re AIDS but soon to be used by UNAIDS, the Global Fund and on the agenda for the World AIDS conference next year!

### Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support children's rights in Kenya. Near Lake Victoria, the Kenya Alliance for the Advancement of Children's Rights works in schools in the area, creating a child ambassador program that seeks to live out the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child. Javan was 11 years old when he lost both of his parents, leaving him to look after his younger brother. He had to leave school to sell mangoes and oranges to raise money to keep his younger brother in school. When Javan was 12, he heard about the child rights program. He was so inspired by what he heard that he worked to get himself enrolled in this program. Soon he was back in school. Through the partnership of the Kenya Alliance for the Advancement of Children's Rights and Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada, we are thankful that Javan and his brother are able to continue their education. Javan will soon be going to university to study to become a medical laboratory technician, and his brother is now in high school. Our gifts for Mission & Service made this possible. If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

### Out of the Cold

We have the dates and menus set for this year at St. Mary's Anglican on Mondays. We will be preparing 4 dinners:

- Jan. 29 - Shepherd's Pie
- Feb. 12 - Beef stew
- Feb. 26 - Chicken Quesadillas
- March 26 - Roast chicken.

In case you are interested and/or available, we get together from 1 to 4 in the kitchen at St. Mary's Anglican Church and prep the main, veggies and salad. It's lots of fun and not usually much later than 3:30. If anyone would like to contribute salad materials that would be great. I make the dressing but always need greens etc. Just bring them directly to St. Mary's the day of. We aren't responsible for desserts this year as they usually get lots of contributions but homemade cookies and bars are always welcome for snacks and bag lunches. Just bring them to the RHUC kitchen large fridge labelled in a disposable container. I can't promise to get people's family heirloom cookie tins back to them. **If you would like to serve or help in other ways from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 29, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 26 or March 26, give your name to me and I'll pass it along.** Thanks for your help in past years and looking forward to working together again this year. *Lyn May, Chair of Outreach*

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

### Opportunities for youth/young adults

Opportunities for youth/young adults:

- Living Waters Presbytery is seeking four young people to fill the positions of Camp Counselors for Camp Awesome. Application deadline is now Feb. 13! More information: [https://gallery.mailchimp.com/928324dba8f52b79a022086b9/files/21c2a0ff-fdb5-46c7-8f52-4a1f231c3073/Youth\\_Job\\_Opportunity\\_bulletin\\_insert\\_2018\\_002\\_.pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/928324dba8f52b79a022086b9/files/21c2a0ff-fdb5-46c7-8f52-4a1f231c3073/Youth_Job_Opportunity_bulletin_insert_2018_002_.pdf)
- The United Church has been invited to recruit one individual -- hopefully a young adult -- to participate in the 2018 Korea Peace Treaty Seminar organized by the National Council of Churches in Korea. <http://www.united-church.ca/opportunities/national-council-churches-korea-peace-treaty-seminar>

### Bible Study

No need to have been before. Come once. Or every week. Or drop in every so often. We will look at the reading for the upcoming Sunday, in this case John 1:29-39. See you in the chapel!

### Shalom Seekers

The group will be off this Monday, February 19 as it is Family Day. Our next session will be on **February 26 from 9:30-11:30 in the Chapel** for a continuation of the DVD series on the Protestant Reformation: This Changed Everything. Our discussion will focus on the Church, Scripture and Tradition.

All are warmly invited to join with the group. For more information, please speak with Dawn Moon, Sandra Loughton or Peg Hiscoke.

### H.A.I.R.

Each Monday evening from 7:00 - 8:30 pm, RHUC's evening discussion group gathers in the chapel. We are going to be viewing 'The Challenge of Paul' for the next 3 weeks, Jan. 29, Feb. 5 and Feb. 12. Featuring renowned historical Jesus scholar John Dominic Crossan, this video series explores the world of Paul's time and place. Crossan pushes past generations of doctrine and dogma to reveal the real-life character of Paul who shaped a generation of courageous Christ-followers to boldly challenge the greed and violence of the Roman Empire.

### UCW



**UCW Spring Luncheon on Saturday, April 21 at 1:00 p.m.**

Tickets for the UCW Spring Lunch are available from members of the UCW. The cost is \$20.00.

### RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, February 28th at 7 p.m. in the Chapel** as we discuss the novel "**The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper**" by Phaedra Patrick.

"Phaedra Patrick understands the soul. Eccentric, charming, and wise, **The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper** is about finding courage, generosity, and compassion, even when all seems lost. With clear-eyed prose and a moving story, Patrick reminds us how selfless people can be; she reminds us to be brave."

New members are welcome to check out the group at any time. No previous book club experience is necessary! Please speak to Sandra Loughton for more information.

### 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.

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### Prayer shawl knitting

We will be gathering to knit or crochet prayer shawls again this year during Lent. Finished shawls are given to people who are unwell, grieving, moving away, and also to celebrate a birth or other special occasion as a way of showing that we care and hope the warmth of the shawl will give comfort and joy. Anyone who would like to be part of this ministry is invited to come on **Thursday, February 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, in the Chapel, 5:00 to 6:00**. If this time does not fit into your schedule, please contact Donna Smith 905-884-6307 to see about arranging another time. Last year we had 8 people gathered and a couple people made them at home. Patterns and some yarn are available.

### Skylight Festival

Until February 15th, you can register for the early bird rate of \$149. That includes a whole weekend of amazing speakers, musicians, artists and workshops - at a savings of \$50!

Register here: <https://fiveoaks.secure.retreat.guru/program/skylight-festival-2018/>

And keep checking (our soon to be brand new!) website for updates on contributors and sponsors. [Skylightfestival.ca](http://Skylightfestival.ca)

### Blanket Exercise

February 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Richmond Hill Presbyterian (Wallace Hall) Our Lenten Reflections this year are on the theme of reconciliation. You are invited to the Blanket Exercise to learn more about the relationship between First Nations and settlers in Canada. We will be led by Carragh Erhardt, Healing and Reconciliation Programme Assistant for the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The Blanket Exercise is an experiential learning tool about the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. People from the community and other churches are welcome. Lenten Reflections series will run from February 21<sup>st</sup> to March 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:00 p.m. There is no charge – refreshments will be served. Address 10060 Yonge Street: parking first left north of Major Mackenzie.

### March Break Go Project Camp

March Break Go Project Camp at Islington United Church from March 12 – 16. Open to Grades 7+. \$395/youth/week. Meals and accommodations included. Email [paige@islingtonunited.org](mailto:paige@islingtonunited.org) to RSVP or for more info. [www.thegoproject.ca](http://www.thegoproject.ca) or call 416-239-1131 ext. 31.

### The Go Project

Job opportunities and children's camps: visit [www.thegoproject.ca](http://www.thegoproject.ca).

### GROUNDING: ECOLOGY, FAITH. HOPE

**GROUNDING: ECOLOGY, FAITH. HOPE** (May 25-26, 2018) is a unique event being sponsored by Bracebridge United Church. Through expert speakers, artwork, workshops, music, and worship we'll explore hopeful ways to respond to the ecological crisis as people of faith. This will be a companion event to the 2018 Muskoka Summit on the Environment which will take place May 24-25 at the Bracebridge Sportsplex. The Summit brings together speakers from the world of environmental science. This year's theme, *Restoring Our Relationship with the Natural World*, is a great fit for those of us who belong to a faith tradition. To learn more, and to REGISTER go to: [www.grounding.ca](http://www.grounding.ca)

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