

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

Sunday, February 19th – Baptism Message: “Courage in the Face of Conflict” by Joanne Scofield

The scriptures for this week are: Matthew 5:38-48 and 1 Corinthians 3:18-23. Next week’s readings are Exodus 24:12-18 and Matthew 17:1-9.

Sunday, February 26th – Scouting Sunday

12:00 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting

Minister’s Message

You may not realize this, but even when we don’t share communion, the general flow of worship is based on it, namely that the service is a two-fold structure of reflect and respond. We gather and ready ourselves to reflect together on the readings, and then we respond in thanksgiving (prayers, communion) as we prepare to return home, having been nurtured by the experience. On a non-communion Sunday (the majority for us) there is still a tone of response after the readings and sermon (message). We pray together in the Prayers of the People, sharing a word of gratitude as well as offering our concerns for what is going on in the world, in our community, and the needs of those who are sick, suffering, needing support. When we pray we do so not so much to “tell God what to do” but rather to prayerfully name the needs we carry knowing that we have been placed in the world to respond with compassion and a desire for social action in our world. We share our monetary gifts as a continuing sign of gratitude and again knowing that they will be used to respond compassionately and justly. We pray a blessing on each other, knowing it is in the day to day that we are called to be the hands and feet of Christ.

Old Palms and New Ashes

In a few weeks it will be Lent once more, a time of spiritual reflection and preparation for Easter. A traditional way to begin Lent is to have the cross traced on your forehead with ashes. These ashes are created by burning the palm branches from last year, both what we keep here at the church and what people bring home. Should you have palm branches from previous years, we invite you to bring them in to the church so they can be burned in preparation for Lent. While ashes are generally received on Ash Wednesday, this year we have decided to integrate this practice into the First Sunday of Lent (March 5).

Youth Confirmation

Youth Confirmation (Reaffirmation of Faith): This coming Lent and Easter, we will be having preparation sessions for youth to reaffirm their baptismal faith (be confirmed). We will meet on Sundays after youth choir for about 90 minutes. Please bring your lunch. We will have an information session on March 5 and then begin formally after March Break. Let James know if you are interested.

Scripture readers

If you would like to participate in the worship service as a scripture reader, please contact Joan Verner at joanverner@rogers.com.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Prayer Shaw 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 **Thursdays March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6 and 13 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.

Getting to Know You

With all the boxes unpacked, Advent and Christmas well behind us and a routine slowly getting established, James would love to start getting to know people better. He’s always up for a coffee or tea (and even a cookie). He’d love to come visit people in their homes, at local cafes, or even for a walk in the woods. He’s open to individual, family and group visits. The key is a nice visit to get to know each other better. You can reach him by email at james@rhuc.org or by phone either at the church or on his cell – 647.705.2754.

United Church Women

UCW will meet on **Wednesday, March 1 at 9:30 in the Parlour** – “Danny Boy” that haunting Irish ballad that everyone loves! What do you know about the mystery myth? Lynne Saul will attempt to unravel this for us. Come and join us for our St. Patrick’s Day program with tea, Irish refreshments and conversation. See you there!

Bible Study

Thursday Bible Study: Beginning **Thursday, January, 19th**, James will be facilitating a Thursday evening bible study sessions from **6:30 – 7:30 PM**. We will meet in “**The Meeting Room**” (not sure what else to call Linda’s office). We will begin by looking at the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday, looking at their historical and cultural contexts and the wisdom they can offer us.

H.A.I.R.

HAIR, the Monday evening study group, will be beginning a GREAT new book on **January 30th**. We will read and discuss the book **Faith versus Fact** by Jerry A. Coyne. The author argues that science and religion are incompatible. Come join the discussion at **7:00 p.m. in the chapel**. Copies are available from Deb in the church office for \$20.00, or pay what you can. It is an easy read and written for the layperson.

February 20 - Family Day (no session)

February 27 - Chapter 3a: Why Accommodationism Fails? (26 pp.)

March 6 - Chapter 3b: Why Accommodationism Fails? (26 pp.)

March 13 - March Break (no session)

March 20 - Chapter 4a: Faith Strikes Back (33 pp.)

March 27 - Chapter 4b: Faith Strikes Back (39 pp.)

April 3 - Chapter 5: Why Does It Matter? (39 pp.)

Shalom Seekers

Please remember that there will be no session this Monday due to the Family Day holiday.

Join us on Monday, February 27 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel to discuss "**Christianity for the Rest of Us: How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith**" by Diana Butler Bass. The reading for that session will be Chapter 2 (Remembering Christianity) and Chapter 3 (The New Village Church).

For more information about this study group, please speak to Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton, or call the church office at 905.884.1301.

RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, February 22 at 7 p.m.** to discuss Thomas King's *The Inconvenient Indian: A Curious Account of Native People in North America*. This work of non-fiction was a 2015 selection for CBC's Canada Reads competition. "Every Canadian should read Thomas King's new book. . . It's funny, it's readable, and it makes you think. If you have any kind of a social conscience, The Inconvenient Indian will also make you angry." ~ Toronto Star

We have obtained a book club set of ten books from the Aurora Library and those have been distributed to book club members already. Both the Richmond Hill and Aurora libraries have copies of this book, or you could check with someone in the group and borrow a book set copy. Members of the congregation are more than welcome to join us for this meeting. For more information, please speak to Sandra Loughton or Lyn May.

Special Occasions

Writing to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul urged them: “rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep”. 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. This column is an effort to rectify that situation. Don’t hesitate to add any special occasions you know about.

Nurturing our Spirituality

On the first Tuesday of the month, **Joanne Scofield** will be offering **Yoga and Meditation** - a yoga practice that will use postures and breathing to bring the body and mind to a place of relaxation and stillness for meditation. The next Yoga and Meditation will be on **March 1 from 7:00 – 8:00 in the Chapel**.

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

General Council Remits Process

Context: The General Council #42 met in Cornerbrook in August 2015 and approved a number of changes within the United Church. In order to bring these changes into effect, Pastoral Charges and Presbyteries are required to vote on a series of Remits.

8 Remits are required to be approved by a majority of governing bodies. Non-response is assumed to be a negative vote.

In broad strokes, RHUC Council, as the governing body, is responsible for making the decisions on the Remits and agreed that we would start the process of approval in September 2016 and each month one Remit has been reviewed and discussed. Council will vote on the Remits at a meeting following the AGM.

We invite you to review the attached material which provides a summary of the Remits. Hard copies of this material will be available at the AGM.

We will be engaging the congregation in Table Groups at the AGM to provide the opportunity to answer questions and receive input.

We encourage you to look at www.GC42.ca where a great deal of material is available to elaborate on the proposed changes.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Out of the Cold 2017 – help needed!

Out of the Cold starts at the end of January on Monday nights at St. Mary's Anglican church. Our church is providing 4 dinners - Feb 6 and 13, and March 6 and 27th. I will be looking for dessert contributions - Feb 6 fruit crisps, Feb 13 carrot cake, March 6 gingerbread and applesauce and March 27 TBA. Of course, homemade cookies and squares are always welcome, any time for snacks and bag lunches. It's easiest if you bring things in disposable containers, and leave them in the big glass frig at church. I check regularly and freeze whatever needs to be kept. I will be available after church for sign up or you can let me know via email or phone. If you are interested in volunteering in other ways, just let me know and I'll find a spot for you! Thanks for your help in the past, and anything you can do this year. Lyn May, Outreach Chair

Minute for Mission Called to be the Church

Our gifts for Mission & Service support youth and young adults. Rendezvous is a place where leaders can be inspired and, in turn, inspire youth and young adults in their communities! Dancing, singing, praying, playing, laughing, and learning—these are all elements of Rendez-vous 2017. Hundreds of youth, young adults, and their leaders will gather at Concordia University in Montreal in August 2017 to celebrate faith. This will be the third event. Rendez-vous was held in Toronto in 2011 and in Winnipeg in 2014. Each one has a different theme and a regional flavour. The common thread is the energy and enthusiasm that youth share and take back to their local communities of faith and regions of the country. Participants at Rendez-vous offered some of the following feedback: “My home group and our leaders were amazing. Rendez-vous wouldn't have been the same without the connections, support, and love!” “I was moved by the diversity and courage of all speakers and appreciated that there was something for everyone.” “Youth events are extremely important because they give the youth a community to connect with and a sense of belonging with other youth.” We sing thanksgiving for Rendez-vous! Our gifts for Mission & Service offer youth and young adults a place to gather in community. If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

Sock Hop!



SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25th from 5:30pm-9:30pm

COME JOIN US AT THE HOP--our special fundraiser for Stephen Lewis Foundation! We promise a wonderful evening of pasta dinner, silent auction and live 50s-60 music. Get ready to have a hopping good time in the lower gym, as we welcome back the live music of Little Peter and the Elegants from 7pm-9pm. To add to the fun, we will be inviting our guests to wear their craziest pair of socks for **THE GREAT SOCK CHALLENGE**.

Prizes will be awarded for the funniest pairs. There will also be a table quiz called the Feelin' Groovy Trivia challenge. Tickets are on sale now after the service and throughout February at a cost of \$25 single and \$45 per family. Tickets are also available at the church office during the week at 905-884-1301 Ext 5. We hope to see you there to help us make a difference for Africa's AIDs families. (This event is hosted by Hands and Hearts for Africa)

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

Youth Opportunity

We have been given tickets for the “We Can Change the World Day 3” which takes place on Sunday, February 12th, 2017 (1:00 to 4:30pm) at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. These are for youth 14 - 20. If you are interested, please contact the church office at: 905-884-1301. (Tickets are limited) Thank you to the “Connecting the Community” community for this generous donation.

Quilting group

The **RHUC Quilters** will meet on **Saturday March 11th** in the Garden Room at 12:30. We will continue to work on our village quilt top. No quilting experience is necessary. If you like working with fabrics or fun colour matching, join us. All are welcome to bring a bagged lunch and tea will be available.

Research on Indigenous issues in Canada

Kiara Fabbro is planning on researching the congregation's education on Indigenous issues in Canada. This involves when they were learned, where, what was learned, and what impact that may have on the level of involvement and interest in these issues. This study is focusing on the differences between generations and she is asking anyone interested to participate, children who may have started learning about this in class are also welcome to participate. There is a Letter of Invitation posted on RHUC's website.

Please read the Letter of Invitation before you respond to the survey
[Letter of invitation](#)

Follow this link to the Survey:

[Take the survey](#)

Or copy and paste the URL below into your internet browser:

https://qtrial2017q1az1.qualtrics.com/SE?SID=SV_baqpgc23D7ZJM45&RID=MLRP_88rXE03FEHa2oeh&Q_CHL=email

Blog post

Finding the Divine ~ RHUC'S Seventh Annual Women's Spirituality

Retreat <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2017/02/08/finding-the-divine-rhucs-seventh-annual-womens-spirituality-retreat/>

Food blog by Glen Warren

Want a recipe? On occasion you have had a chance to taste some of Glen's sweet treats after worship. If you'd like the recipes, check out his food blog: www.gutfounded.com.

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