

## This week at RHUC

### Sunday, February 24

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour  
12:00 p.m. Coffee & Learn – Garden Room  
12:00 p.m. Faith Exploration - Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Forest Church – 19 Church St. S.

### Monday, February 25

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel  
12:00 p.m. Krasman Lunch – lower gym  
7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Cubs - gym

### Tuesday, February 26

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

### Wednesday, February 27

12:00 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym  
7:00 p.m. RHUC Book Club - Chapel

### Thursday, February 28

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

### Friday, March 1

7:00 p.m. World Day of Prayer – RH  
Presbyterian Church

### Saturday, March 2

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

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

## Minister's message

Once again it is time to gather for our Annual General Meeting. This is an important time to come together, not just to review our upcoming budget, hear presentations about what various committees and teams have been up to this year, and elect our various committee chairs and members. This is the first year we are meeting since we voted to adopt our Mission Action Plan, the end result of over a year of discussing and discerning together. Since we made that decision, various project teams have been working hard implementing our vision, including how we can best utilize our space as a "centre for community". We will hear about these teams, especially through the work of the MAP Pilot Team. One project of note is our governance review and the proposal to move from a Council model (which means every chair of every committee is part of the governance structure) to a Mission Team model which streamlines the governing body into a board for long-term planning and draws together other committees and teams into broad areas of ministry. Our hope is that this new structure will help us live into our vision more adeptly. At our AGM we will review this proposal and decide whether or not to pilot it for a year. All in all this stands to be an important AGM so I encourage you to come out and lend your voice to realizing our future as a faith community.

**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 24:** We welcome scouting and guiding troops on this Scouting Sunday and Joanne Scofield as our preacher. Reflecting on Luke 6:27-38, a continuation of Jesus' "Sermon on the Plain", Joanne shares her thoughts on what it means to be an inclusive community which shares radical love.

**12:00 p.m. Coffee and Learn:** There will be further opportunity for discussion on our governance review.

**7:00 pm Forest Church** 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. Where: James and Glen's: 19 Church St. S, just a few doors south of the church.

**Friday, March 1:** World Day of Prayer at 7:30 p.m. at Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church. A prayer movement that invites us to enrich our faith experience with the experience of Christians from other countries and cultures and to bring hope to women touched by injustice.

**Sunday, March 3:** We celebrate Communion and our third Ember Day, reflecting together on our call to be stewards of the Earth, especially as we struggle with the impacts of climate change. Scripture reading: Romans 8:18-22.

**March 3:** Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place right after worship in the gym. Refreshments will be provided.

**March 5<sup>th</sup>: 4:30 – 6:30 Shrove Tuesday pancakes** and fellowship in Centennial Hall

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

### Living In Right Relations Committee

What is the power of a name? In evoking a name we conjure all that holistically anchors it to our world: the cultural context, the gendered, racial, and even socioeconomic threads that we, consciously or not, pick-up on as a means of personal identification. Though a rose by another name may be as sweet, in practice our name is a key piece of our identity, and it becomes our handshake to the world. Names, over the ages, have gifted people with the inheritance of great wealth and power, they have also condemned people to slavery, second class citizenship and concentration camps. Surely everyone can remember the titular scene in "Roots" where Kunta Kinte is being beaten, as they force him to change his name to "Toby." A name is a powerful thing, names like Louis Riel can raise rebellions, and names like Joan of Arc can change entire countries.

As a measure to ensure the assimilation of the indigenous populace, the *Indian Act* set to assigning new 'English' names to people who bore no connection to them: "[t]raditionally, Indians had neither a Christian name nor a surname. They had hereditary names, spirit names, family names, clan names, animal names or nicknames. None of the great heritage, symbolism, or tradition associated with names was recorded, recognized, or respected during the renaming process."

Charged with documenting the names of indigenous peoples on reserves, *Indian Agents* found the naming practices in place overwhelming. Generally, agents gave each man a Christian name and surname; women were given Christian names with the surname of their fathers or husbands. West Coast Indigenous peoples were typically assigned biblical names and often various unrelated families were given the same surnames. Once on the band list, one became a status Indian. This haphazard, impersonal, and disenfranchising practice lost the named lineages of an entire group of people: cutting them off from their history, their culture, their identities. Now, the Indigenous are reestablishing themselves and building a new identity in the 21st century.

*If you're interested in Indigenous Celebrations this Spring, the Toronto Reference Library is hosting the following; David Treuer "Beyond Wounded Knee", Nick Estes on Indigenous Resistance, Devon Mihesuah on Ned Christie, Suzanne Methot on Trauma and Indigenous Healing and Bruce Pascoe on Aboriginal Australians and the Birth of Agriculture.*

[Source: <https://www.goodtherapy.org/blog/identity-power-of-name-0625135>, Joseph, Bob "21 Things You May Not Know About the Indian Act"]

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### Prayer Shawl knitting for Lent

We will come together again this year during the Christian season of Lent to knit and crochet prayer shawls. Finished shawls are given to people who are unwell, grieving, moving away and also to celebrate a birth, joining our church or other special occasion as a way to show the church cares and hopes the warmth of the shawl will bring them comfort and joy. Anyone who would like to be part of this ministry is invited to come to the **Chapel from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, on Thursdays in March: 7, 14, 21, 28, and April: 4, 11, 18.** Come every week or as often as you are able. Last year we had six gather and another three make shawls at home. Patterns, yarn and needles are available.

*Donna Smith, Coordinator, 905-884-6307*

## HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### Sock Hop

**This Sat. Feb. 23!**

#### ROCK WITH US! SOCK HOP THIS SATURDAY FEB 23 5:30-9:30PM

Come have a blast at our fabulous evening of live band, pasta dinner and auction. Our Sock Hop features the 50s-60s band of Little Peter and the Elegants. Pasta is available in gluten free, vegetarian and meat options. Our auction will be both silent and live this year. Tickets available at the office 905-884-1301 ext 5 or at the door. Sr/Stu \$20, adults \$25, family of 4 \$55. We hope you will join us and help make a difference for African AIDS families.

### 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.

### Hands & Hearts for Africa

#### OUR WALKING TEAM HAS ARRIVED!

After 10254 kilometers of walking, we have arrived in Botswana at the end of our Virtual Walk. Please take time to congratulate our walking team made up of Penny Fabbro, Esther Collier, Rose Blois, Linda Clark, Linda Lindberg, Karen Scott, Carmel Griffin, James Ravenscroft, Glen Warren, Peg Hiscoke, Donna Harrison, Ruth Perratt, Barbara Cooper. Hats off to Donna Harrison who averaged 80 kms per week during our journey! We deeply appreciate the sponsorships for our walk and the ongoing interest in our virtual travels.

### Minutes for Mission

June 5, 2017 marked the 50th year of Israel's military occupation of Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. More than two generations of Palestinians have known no other reality than Israeli military occupation. Staff in the United Church's Church in Mission Unit recently visited Palestine-Israel, where they were hosted by Wi'am: The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center. Opening in 1994, Wi'am works to resolve disputes in the Palestinian community, support reconciliation, and address the psychological and physiological consequences of long-term conflict and occupation. Located just inside the separation walls surrounding Bethlehem, Wi'am literally faces the occupation—one quarter of its property is lost to the eight-metres-high Israeli separation wall, and an Israeli security tower overlooks its outdoor space. In spite of the 24-hour, seven-days-a-week surveillance, Wi'am is committed to providing programs, empowering Palestinian youth, children, men, and women. One of its programs is a community garden. Even such simple projects face big challenges. At the height of summer, running water is denied to Bethlehem residents to maintain uninterrupted service to Israeli settlements. And the nearby Israeli military base directs its sewage run into the garden. In spite of these obstacles, Wi'am was proud to offer United Church staff a tour of its small garden and share a harvest of fresh pea pods, snapped off and enjoyed in the last rays of sunshine on a warm evening. Mission & Service works with our partners striving for justice and peace in Palestine-Israel.

### 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

### Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality will gather **Saturday, Feb. 23rd** in the Garden Room at 9:45 for a Spiritual Pot Luck. Each person is to bring something to discuss; like an article that interested you, something you are questioning, something you just discovered.

### U.C.W. Spring Luncheon

Hold the date of **Saturday, April 27 at 1:00** for the Annual Spring Luncheon! Tickets: \$20

### 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

On **Monday, February 25th** we will be continuing our study of Barbara Brown Taylor's book "Learning to Walk in the Dark". which Taylor describes as a " spiritual skill some of us could use right now.' We will be looking at Chapter 2: The Fear of the Lord.as we come to understand her exploration of the spirituality of the dark. If you are looking for a safe place to talk about real-life faith questions, please feel welcome to join us on Monday mornings in the chapel from 9:30-11:30 am. For more information, please speak to 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.