

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

### Worship

#### Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>

Message: "Called to Shine" by Rev. James Ravenscroft      Readings: Matthew 5:13-20 and 1 Corinthians 2:1-10a  
12:00 p.m. Healing service

#### Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup> – Guest drummer Larry Graves

#### Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup> – Baptism

12:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn

#### Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> – Scouting Sunday

12:00 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting

### Minister's Message

Having looked at the opening portion of a Sunday worship service, we now turn our attention to what is sometimes called "the service of the word." This is the largest part of the service, an opportunity to reflect together on the biblical story, as well as to consider other readings, perhaps poetry or a text from another faith tradition. We honour the biblical text not as an exclusive source of wisdom but as uniquely placed as foundational for us as followers of Jesus' way. We listen to readings from the First Testament (sometimes called the Old Testament or Hebrew Scriptures) because they express the sacred story that inspired Jesus and his first disciples. They help us to place the readings of the Second Testament (sometimes called the New Testament or Christian scriptures) into context as part of larger unfolding story of hope and challenge. Of the readings of the Second Testament we give greatest attention to the Gospels, because in them we encounter the reflections of the early church on Jesus, both in his life and their experience of him as Risen. The gospels are not historical but rather theologies for us to ponder who Jesus continues to be for us. We strive to relate these readings to our own lives and issues in the wider world, principally through the sermon, or message, seeking inspiration and guidance.

**Invitations to Prayer:** This has been an overwhelming week of first shock and then deep sadness. Many of us want to do something to show our love and support to our Muslim siblings. We can. **We have received an open invitation from the Islamic Society of York Region to attend Friday prayers.** Here is what the imam writes: "If you or any members of your congregation would like to join us, please feel free. **Please arrive before 12:45 and proceed to office. The sermon starts at 1 pm and lasts till 1:30 pm** following by formal prayers that last for about 10 minutes. We are located at 1380 Stouffville Road (Leslie St Intersection)."

In addition, Mosaic Interfaith has organized a vigil service to take place from 4:00-5:00 pm at St. Luke's Roman Catholic Parish, 39 Green Lane, in Thornhill. There is overflow parking available at the mall across the street. This is a troubling time but we do not face it alone.

### Upcoming Baptism Celebration

Is there a new (or not so new) little person in your family? Were you considering the possibility of baptism? We have a celebration coming up on **February 19, 2017**. Contact James ([james@rhuc.org](mailto:james@rhuc.org)) to find out more, including details about preparation sessions leading up to the celebration.

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

### Bible Study

Thursday Bible Study: Beginning **Thursday, January, 19<sup>th</sup>**, 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.

## Men's Breakfast

The Richmond Hill United Church next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, February 11, 2017**. 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 ([hramsaran@rogers.com](mailto:hramsaran@rogers.com) 905 508 4758) by Thursday, February 9th. Thank you!

After breakfast, our guest speaker Barry Rieder will share his experience with us on his role and work at The Jane-Finch Community Ministry. Barry is originally from Calgary, Alberta but has lived in Toronto now for the last 30 years. He has a Social Work degree from the University of Calgary and a Master of Theological Studies from Waterloo Lutheran Seminary. Although his formal training is in social work and theology, much of his learning and education has come from various communities and organizations that he has worked with over the years. He has been a children's counsellor in the Battered Women's movement, a youth literacy worker with the Downtown Church Worker's Association, a community youth worker at Davenport Perth Community Health Centre, a community development worker for an inter-faith coalition in Lawrence Heights and a program consultant with the Addiction Research Foundation. For the last 22 years he has been working for The United Church of Canada as a Community Minister in the culturally diverse, low income community of Toronto called Jane and Finch. In Jane and Finch there is representation of over 100 ethno-cultural groups speaking 72 different languages and dialects. The Ministry office is situated in a small public housing community called Firgrove and Barry's role has been to provide community development support, pastoral care and advocacy through coalitions and networks. In 2006 Barry received an award at City hall for Outstanding Achievement in the area of Social Justice and in Oct. 2009 he received an honorary Doctorate Degree for his work in the Community.

## 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 6 - Chapter 2a: What's Incompatible? (38 pp.)

February 13 - Chapter 2b: What's Incompatible? (31 pp.)

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 join us on **Monday, February 6th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel**. We will be discussing the recent letter regarding President Trump from our U. C. Moderator, Jordan Cantwell. We will also be reflecting on our visit to the Art Gallery of Ontario to view the Mystical Landscapes exhibit. The following week, February 13th, we will be starting our new book study: **Christianity for the Rest of Us~ How the Neighborhood Church is Transforming the Faith** by Diana Butler Bass. Please read the Introduction and Chapter 1 for February 13th. Please check at the church office if you have not picked up your book yet. The books are in the Shalom Seekers' basket and are \$18.50 each which can be handed in at one of our sessions. For more details about the group, speak to Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton. New members would be warmly welcomed at any time!

## 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 **February 7 from 7:00 – 8:00 in the Chapel**.

## 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

## Net Zero

The Net Zero Committee would like to wish you a Happy New Year and to remind you to stay the course on acting for the environment. The issues facing our planet have moved past 'serious' into 'dire'. Rather than being extremist, this is actually probably understating the situation, which has reached this stage because we are often too uncomfortable to speak about the reality. While the science is alarming, there are also many rational answers available and exciting solutions to our global issues - if we will pay attention.

The Net Zero Committee is asking you to resolve to start the conversation with your family and at work, regularly, throughout the coming year. We offer the following resources to help you find quick information to support your conversations:

The David Suzuki Foundation: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blogs/science-matters/2017/01/its-time-to-heed-warnings-about-humanitys-collision-course/>

Ecos Environmental Health: <https://www.facebook.com/EcosEnvironmentalHealth>

Keep sharing your eco actions with each other as well - let's challenge ourselves to do what we can to make a difference.

## Sock Hop!



**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25<sup>th</sup> 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)

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

**Black History Month:** Our gifts for Mission & Service support racial justice and our intercultural journey.

As we begin Black History Month or African Heritage Month in Canada, let us celebrate the many contributions of Black people to Canadian society and to the United Church. Let us take time to remember African-Canadian history, the struggles and the haunting legacy of the trans-Atlantic slave trade. Black people have been part of the United Church from its beginning and continue to play a vital role in the church today. We celebrate this history by sharing the story of Union United Church in Montreal, Quebec. This church was created in 1907 and was known as Union Congregational Church. From the start Union led the way in reaching out to the Black railway porters and their families who were segregated from the rest of Montreal, offering them a place of worship and a place to call their own.

We sing thanksgiving for the foundation of Black people who have led the way toward The United Church of Canada becoming an intercultural church, a church where all are welcome!

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### Volunteer Opportunity @ RHUC

- Are you interested in communication?
- Do you have knowledge about marketing, design, website and social media?
- Do you want to see us improve how we share our message both within our congregation and to the broader community?

Then we have a great opportunity for you! We are putting together a **Communication and Promotion Team** for RHUC. Let James know if you are interested.

### Quilting group

The **RHUC Quilters** met on Saturday January 21st and made significant headway on our first donation quilt for 2017. Our next sew day will be **Saturday February 18th from 12:30 to 3:00** in the Centennial Hall. Sewers and non-sewers alike are welcome. There is always a job for everyone. Feel free to bring along your 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 which will be posted during this week. There will be a link connecting you to the survey posted on RHUC's website once it is up and running.

### Blog post

Soc Hop - Saturday, February 25, 2017 <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/05/soc-hop-saturday-february-25-2017/>

### 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](http://www.gutfounded.com).

### Counselling available

Joanne Scofield is currently doing a Counselling Internship at RHUC. This is in conjunction with a course she is taking at the Toronto Centre for Pastoral Care Education. The counselling is confidential and free of charge. If you are interested in counselling, please contact Joanne directly at 416-618-5597.

### Treasures – donations needed

Treasures Charity Thrift Shop is in need of donations: 12 Levendale Road, Richmond Hill, 905 883 5122:

- Clothing
- Books
- Household items

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.