

Sunday, February 16

10:30 Service – Sanctuary
 10:00 a.m. Service – Mackenzie Health Continuing Care
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour
 12:00 p.m. UCW Executive – Chapel

Monday, February 17

Family Day – Building closed

Tuesday, February 18

7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

Wednesday, February 19

6:30 p.m. Meditation Group – Parlour

Thursday, February 20

7:00 p.m. Scouts – gym
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, February 22

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Lower Centennial Hall

Minister's message: The protest at an encampment in the traditional territory of the Wet'suwet'en spilled over into national news this week with solidarity protests held across the country, a demonstration at the office of Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations, and blockades of the rail line near Belleville. There is a plurality of opinion across the country about what has happened. Many are sympathetic with the cause of the hereditary chiefs, especially if they see the protest through the lens of climate action. On the other side are those frustrated that a local issue has gone national with far-ranging economic impacts. What is missed in much of the coverage is that this is not just about a pipeline. It is also about Indigenous sovereignty, especially in British Columbia where much of the territory the province treats as Crown land is unceded. Part of the sovereignty question is that of who speaks for the Wet'suwet'en. Is it the band chiefs? These elected officials are the creation of the Indian Act, a governance structure imposed on Indigenous communities and often at odds with traditional forms of government. Add to this that the Wet'suwet'en nation is composed of distinct kinship houses that were split into separate bands by the federal government. There's a saying about dividing people. Then is it the hereditary chiefs? After all they are vocally speaking for the unity of the nation and holding fast to their culture. In the end we need to listen to both. The band council has jurisdiction over the reserve while the hereditary chiefs speak for the larger territory. It is incumbent on non-Indigenous people to take significant time in communities to engage in dialogue with all groups and not just "those in power". To do otherwise is to maintain the colonial strategy at a time we claim to want nation-to-nation relationships. The protest we are witnessing is a watershed moment for our nation. We need to do things differently. If we keep paying lip service to consultation then perhaps reconciliation truly is dead.

worship and music

Sunday, Feb. 16: As we come together for Scouting Sunday, we also celebrate baptism. We will be reflecting on Matthew 5:38-48 as Jesus challenges us to "turn the other cheek". Often misinterpreted, James will look at this passage through the lens of civil disobedience. In "The Call to Protest" he also reflects on a passage from *The Soul of Black Folk* by W.E.B. DuBois. This is an All Ages Worship service. Teens will meet separately after the message to have further conversation. Children will remain so they can see and help with the baptism.

Sunday, Feb. 23: We gather on this last Sunday of Epiphany to mark our third Ember Day of the year. Reflecting on Isaiah 43:18-21, we will consider how the renewal promised in the passage comes through our concrete action in response to the climate crisis we are facing. Following worship on February 23, those who wish are invited to a "Shrove Sunday" lunch in the common room. We will need some help with preparing batter and flipping pancakes. Contact Donna Smith if you can help out.

Three Rivers Forest Church February 23 at 3:00 PM: In the spirit of how finicky February weather can be, this month's Forest Church prayer time will be held mostly indoors. We will gather in the chapel here at the church for a "Walking the Celtic Cross Meditation". This prayer time is half learning and half meditation, a time to learn about the Celtic Cross as it relates to the wheel of the year and to prayerfully walk it as well.

12:00 p.m. Sunday, March 1: Annual General Meeting
 This year's AGM is scheduled for March 1 following worship. The meeting will be held in the gym. This is a very important meeting as we receive a recommendation from the Mission Action Business Plan Team in regard to our facilities, vote on our budget, make decisions about our governance, receive nominations and discuss a Climate Action Plan prepared by the Net Zero Committee. As the meeting is held over the lunch hour, we are seeking help with sandwiches, squares and cookies. We need help setting up tables. Sign-up sheets for both are in Centennial Hall.

Worship Notes: This Sunday we celebrate baptism. Baptism is a sacrament, defined as a visible sign of invisible grace. Sacraments are not just about what we offer to God or what God gives to us, but a celebration of relationship. Because of this, sacraments are always a response to the word. We see this when we share communion. It is celebrated after we listen to readings and reflect on them in the message. This is traditionally how the United Church celebrate baptism. We see this when we baptize an adult. When we baptize children, we may do so at the beginning of worship so that other children can participate. This Sunday, we honour both approaches. We will be splitting the ritual into two parts with commitments made at the beginning and the sacrament itself coming after the message. Any children present (this is an All Ages Service) will help by pouring water into the font.

programs for all

Shalom Seekers: There will be no meeting of Shalom Seekers on Monday Feb 17 due to Family Day. Our next meeting on Monday February 24 will focus on the final two chapters of Kate Bowler's book "Everything Happens for a Reason". Chapter 8 titled Restoration has a focus on Lent; chapter 9 focuses on the church season of Ordinary Time. In a moving way, Bowler connects her experience of cancer with these two seasons. If you would like to join us on Mondays in the chapel from 9:30 am to 11:30am, we promise a warm welcome and interesting conversation. For more information, please speak to Sandra Loughton and Peg Hiscoke

H.A.I.R.: Our Monday evening study group (Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels and other Rif-raff), which welcomes and explores questions, doubts and uncertainties about the relevance of our faith at 7:00-8:30 in the chapel. New participants are welcome at any time.

RHUC Book Club: Please join us on **Wednesday, February 26th at 7 p.m. in the RHUC Chapel** to discuss the novel **THE BOSTON GIRL** by Anita Diamant. (Please take careful note of the author's name as there is another book with the same title.) From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Red Tent* and *Day After Night*, comes an unforgettable coming-of-age novel about family ties and values, friendship and feminism told through the eyes of a young Jewish woman growing up in Boston in the early twentieth century. Eighty-five-year-old Addie tells the story of her life to her twenty-two-year-old granddaughter, who has asked her "How did you get to be the woman you are today?" She begins in 1915, the year she found her voice and made friends who would help shape the course of her life. Visitors are always welcome to try out the group. No previous book club experience is necessary - just a love of reading and talking about books, or listening if you just want to see what it's all about. Please speak to Sandra Loughton or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301 Ext. 5 for more information.

Dedication of bulletin covers: If you would like to dedicate a bulletin cover please speak to Deb in the office. \$20/Sunday

Prayers Shawls: We will come together again 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 with a hope that the warmth of the shawl will bring comfort and joy. Anyone who would like to be part of this ministry is invited to come to the **Chapel from 6:00-7:00 on Thursdays beginning February 27th through April 9th.** Come every week or as often as you are able. Last year we had seven come on Thursdays and another four made shawls at home. Patterns, yarn and needles are available. Donna Smith, Coordinator, 905-884-6306

outreach activities

Donations north to DFC School: Coats+ Drive for DFC First Nations High School students in Thunder Bay has been extended:
1. Please bring requested donated items into the church by **Friday, February 21st.**

- Any of the items requested in the list below are very much appreciated, and thanks!
- Items can be left in the outer office near the upper elevator door.
- Any donation cheques can be left with Deb in the office.

2. So far we have some coats, hats, 100 girls' hairbands, and donations of \$100. Thank You!!

When asked what the students need next, DFC's staff rep, Sean Spennath indicate these items would be a big help:

1. Winter coats - ideally 50, adult sizes, with a special request for some L and XL if possible (hats, gloves/mitts welcome too)
- 2, Girls' hair bands- 200
3. Swimming trunks (Male; ideally: 10 Medium ,10 Large, 10 XL
4. Towels- 30
5. Lip chapsticks, hand creams, and face lotions. - ideally 120 each

RHUC will sort, pack and ship donated items north to DFC School. Please bring new or gently used items (or donations with which we can purchase items) to RHUC Office, and thank you so much!

Thursday, March 5: World Day of Prayer 2020, 7 p.m. at St. Mary Immaculate Church. "Rise! Take your mat and Walk". All welcome!



**FEB 29TH FAMILY LEAP NIGHT
FEATURING CHILI DINNER AND BOARD GAMES
COME LEAP INTO MARCH WITH US!**

WHEN? SATURDAY FEB 29, 2020 FROM 5:30PM-8PM
WHERE? MAIN FLOOR OF RHUC, A FULLY

ACCESSIBLE EVENT! ENTRY AT YONGE ST DOOR

MENU? VEG OR MEAT-BASED CHILI, SALAD, ROLL AND BEVERAGE WITH SWEETS TABLE.

GAMES? CHOOSE A GAME WE PROVIDE OR BRING YOUR OWN FAVOURITE!

SPECIAL HAPPENINGS? RHUC DRUMMERS, DOOR PRIZES, RAFFLE, BAKE SALE, LEAP DAY QUIZ.

WHO IS INVITED? ANYONE WHO LIKES TO PLAY CARDS OR BOARD GAMES

TICKETS? \$10 SINGLES, \$5 FOR 14 AND UNDER.

ON SALE? CHURCH OFFICE /905-884-1301-EXT 5; SUNDAYS AFTER SERVICE AT OUR TICKET TABLE

WHAT FOR? SUPPORTING AFRICAN AIDS FAMILIES AND STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION,

HOSTED BY? HANDS AND HEARTS FOR AFRICA



RHUC's newest refugee, Ashrf, has arrived with his beautiful smile and hopeful dreams. It was a magical day!

church news

2019 tax receipts are available for pick-up in Centennial Hall.

The **UCW** has decided not to hold their Annual Spring Lunch. As everyone enjoyed the quiches, as a fundraiser, we will be making them in time for Easter. Details to follow.

A Minute for MAP: As previously shared, one part of becoming a "centre for community" is to ensure everyone who comes here feels welcome, no matter their background, culture, faith or life experience. To this end we have been engaged in a renaming exercise for the CD Building. Thank you to all who participated in the online survey. The top names were very close. We have scheduled a focus group meeting with community partners for the end of February and will unveil the chosen name at the AGM on March 1.

Minute for Mission: Thanks to Affirm United and Mission & Service, the Living Apology Project gave many a place to heal and to learn. Seeing the poems, laments, stories, and pieces of art created by people affected by the 1988 decision to accept LGBTQIA2S+ people as full members in The United Church of Canada was therapeutic for some; for others, it conjured up memories of anger and fear. The late Former Moderator Anne Squire shared the first reflection on the Iridesce website: My secretary once handed me a letter, saying, "I don't want to give you this, but I have to." It was from Elizabeth, outlining her work in the church; she said the last straw was the possible ordination of gay and lesbian people. She ended with "My prayer is that you will be stricken with AIDS. Yours in Christ, Elizabeth." Another day a big box arrived with no indication of the sender. One of my staff said, "Don't open it; it might be a bomb." I said, "We can't live in fear this way." Inside were two 10-inch cubes of acrylic; embedded in each was a metal rod that had been bent into a Greek letter. One was Alpha and the other was Omega. When someone asked what this meant, I said it meant that God was with us at the beginning of our life and will be with us at the end. I also felt that it meant that God was with us in this divisive project and would help guide us. To answer that hurtful letter now, I say, "Yes, Elizabeth, I do have aids but not the kind you are talking about. My aids are Affirm, my family, my friends, and my faith."

Coldest Night of the Year Fundraiser on Feb. 22: Many of the faith based communities have supported the efforts of Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold to help the most vulnerable in our community. There is a need now to step up and go for a walk, to raise funds for Coldest Night of the Year. The needs have increased and costs have increased. Walkers, teams, donors and sponsors needed on Feb. 22nd, 2020. St George's Antiochian Church (Bayview and 16th) 2, 5 or 10 km walk. Registration 4 pm. Family friendly. Food following. www.cnoy.org/location/richmondhill

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