

Sunday, February 2

10:30 Service - Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour
 12:00 p.m. Healing service – Chapel

Monday, February 3

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – chapel
 7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel 7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Tuesday, February 4

7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

Wednesday, February 5

9:30 a.m. UCW – Chapel
 1:00 p.m. Lay Pastoral Visitors - Parlour
 2:00 p.m. Worship Committee – Chapel
 6:30 p.m. Meditation Group – Parlour

Thursday, February 6

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

Saturday, February 8

8:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast - gym
 3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Lower Centennial Hall

Minister's message: The worship service for this Sunday uses a good deal of light imagery, based on the gospel reading where Jesus calls his followers the "light of the world". As I share in this week's Worship Notes, light is associated with wisdom across many faith traditions. Before electric lights, the night, while time to rest from the day's work, tell stories, dream, was also a time of threat. This makes the day-night contrast a powerful image. But there is more to the story. The contrast of light and dark took an insidious turn. When Europeans began the colonialist enterprise more than 500 years ago, they sought to justify exploitative actions, including the enslavement of Indigenous and then African peoples. It seems impossible to fathom, but so-called scholars made arguments about race and ethnicity, especially that darker skinned peoples were less intelligent, less industrious, even less than human. That misguided thinking continues to leave its mark as we continue to struggle with racism. It is so important then that we take time to mark Black History month, along with Asian Heritage Month, and other commemorations. We need to celebrate the contributions and gifts of us all. When we don't, it is far too easy for people to fall back into prejudiced reactions to a health crisis like coronavirus. If it wasn't for the blight of racial bias from the Enlightenment through to today, few people would make links between an illness and an ethnic group. As we move from Lunar new year into Black History Month, may we exercise caution in how we speak of light and dark, challenging unspoken biases. More than that, may we celebrate the dark as well as the light, celebrate all the various shades that we come in as a human race. After all every people and culture is a gift.

worship and music

Sunday, Feb. 2: We are pleased to welcome DJ McCready back into the pulpit with the assistance of Brandon Moore as lay liturgist. In "The Source of Light", DJ will be reflecting on Matthew 5:13-20 with an emphasis on our call to shine with light as we model ourselves after Jesus. The second reading is "The lights" by Miranda Nash. Following worship, there will be a healing service at noon in the chapel.

Sunday, Feb. 9: We continue to reflect on readings from the "Sermon on the Mount". In Matthew 5:21-37, we hear Jesus challenge us to consider not just our external actions but their source in the human heart. Following worship, we have a second opportunity for pre-AGM conversations with a focus on our buildings as well as our new governance structure. In preparation for the governance conversation, please send written feedback about our trial model to James (james@rhuc.org).

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

Worship Notes: The beginning of our worship begins with a candle lighting ritual. Candles are a traditional element not just in Christian liturgy but in many faith traditions. We need to be cautious in how we speak about light imagery. Light should not be seen as better than the dark. Light came to be associated with wisdom. This is understandable because we see clearly in the daylight. We kindle light (or turn on a switch) when the night comes. But the dark is also critical for our physical and spiritual health. We have evolved on a planet that spins on its axis, thus giving us both day and night. The night is an important time of rest, sleep, discernment, dreaming. In the mystical tradition we speak not just of G-d's glory but as G-d being behind a cloud of darkness. We have opted to have three candles on the communion table. One as a sign of our being in community, called together through the life and witness of Jesus, one as a reminder of our call to right relations with Indigenous peoples (this is a four directions candle) and one as a reminder that we are a ministry where everyone is welcome and affirmed (this is a rainbow candle). As a trio they remind us of the Christian tradition of the Trinity as a way to speak about G-d.

programs for all

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.

Shalom Seekers: Please join us on Monday, February 3rd from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the RHUC Chapel to continue the discussion of Kate Bowler's book: *Everything Happens for a Reason (And Other Lies I've Loved)*. For this week, please try and read Chapter 6: Christmas Cheer. The author, 35 years old at the time, is still dealing with the devastating diagnosis of Stage IV colon cancer and discovering what her options are for treatment around Christmas time. This group is lively and curious and we're always open to welcoming visitors or new members. Currently, we are a group of about 14 people. These sessions are a wonderful way to start your week. For more details about Shalom Seekers, please speak to anyone in the group or to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton, Co-Facilitators.

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.

outreach activities

1st Sustainability Symposium in Richmond Hill: Hosted by Councillor David West / Sponsored by [CEDS Environmental Care](#)
Date: Sunday Feb 9, 2019 Time: 1 - 4pm
Location: Richmond Hill Centre for Performing Arts

This is a FREE event but a donation for the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank would be appreciated.

"We are excited to announce the 1st Sustainability Symposium, happening February 9, 2020 at Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. The Symposium is a full day of educational and awareness sessions, sustainability topics and waste management best practices. Please join us to hear experts from across the region and beyond as they gather to discuss their current work, opportunities for social, environmental, and economic impact, and challenges ahead in the sustainability field."

[For more details and to register.](#)

Minute for Mission: Black History Month is a time to honour and celebrate the contributions of Black people in Canada and to look at the past while giving thanks as we look forward to the future. The history of Black people in Canada is part of the history of the United Church. In 1907 Union Congregational Church formed in Montreal when Black railway porters and their wives came together to worship with dignity. This was something they were not able to do in other congregations because the church was created during a time of legal segregation: Black people could not worship as equal participants. Nowadays, the United Church continues to work toward its commitment to be an intercultural church, although many in our congregations still encounter Black isolation and segregation. Many congregations in diverse parts of Canada do not reflect their community. There is a clear lack of education around what it truly means to be intercultural, and there is a sense among some people of being singled out as different. Many Black people do not feel welcome at church, which should be a sanctuary from racism. Thanks to your gifts for Mission & Service, a group called The Journeys of Black Peoples in The United Church of Canada was formed. We have come a long way from the days of slavery and segregation, but we still have a long way to go. This Black History Month, let's take the time to learn about the saints who have gone before us and their impact that is still felt today.

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

Donations north to DFC School: Update on Coats+ Drive for DFC First Nations High School students in Thunder Bay:

1. Please bring requested donated items into the church by this coming Valentine's Day February 14th.
 - 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!!
3. Here's a link to an APTN news report on life for indigenous teenage students at Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School, most of whom come south to Thunder Bay boarding houses, for grades 9-12, living away from their homes and families in 23 Northern remote fly-in First Nations communities.

The short video is inspiring and features DFC grads - teens to whom we at RHUC have sent coats and boots, birthday cards and Valentines in past - telling in their own words, of their high school years, challenges, successes, hopes and dreams:

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&source=web&rct=j&url=https://aptnnews.ca/2018/05/17/after-living-away-from-home-for-years-dfcs-grads-talk-about-how-they-did-it-and-life-after-high-school/&ved=2ahUKEwjO8Yuh7qvnAhWGGsOKHRC6CvQQtwAnoECACQAg&usq=AOvVaw2ATPBOpNzMxXfc7GsavHQw>

When asked what the students need next, DFC's staff rep, Sean Spenrath 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 collect these items for the next month until Valentine's Day, Friday February 14th at which point we'll 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! Read two issues of **The Moccasin** on our website.

New mural unveiled at Dennis Franklin Cromarty high school ...
<https://aptnnews.ca/2019/01/31/new-mural-unveiled-at-dennis-franklin-cromarty-hig...2:11>

A painted mural depicting the education journey of students at Dennis Franklin Cromarty high school in Thunder Bay was unveiled Thursday. According to the school, the painting is meant to help students succeed. After living away from home for years, DFC's grads talk about ...

<https://aptnnews.ca/2018/05/17/after-living-away-from-home-for-years-dfcs-grads-t...>

Questions? Kathy McBey, RHUC Outreach/Living in Right Relations Team 647 458 2717 kathryn.mcbey@gmail.com

church news

[The United Church of Canada is concerned](#) for all those affected by the outbreak of the coronavirus spreading in China and globally.

United Church Mission & Service partner the Amity Foundation has requested emergency medical supplies (medical masks, goggles, and gowns) for use by medical first responders and communities in Wuhan. As part of a North American ecumenical response, the United Church is collaborating with the American Baptist International Ministries, which is coordinating the provision of these supplies to address the crisis. Please pray for the sick and those who have lost their lives, as well as the families, caregivers, medical responders, and communities affected by this outbreak around the world.

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.

The **UCW** will hold their monthly meeting on February 5th, 2020 at 9:30am. All ladies are invited to join us for a friendship morning.

We need your opinion! As previously shared, we are looking to rename the CD Building. Why do this? We decided in April 2018 that we want to be a "centre for community", sharing space with various groups in York Region. If we want the CD Building to be a place where people can build bridges and nurture community, everyone who comes needs to be at ease. A new name is especially important if we want to create a safer space for people who have been hurt by the church in the past. The survey is one question. It should only take a couple of minutes to finish. Please complete the survey by January 31. Afterwards, we will be bringing the shortlisted names to a community-based focus group. Please click the following link. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TXJB5BB>
 Thank you so much for your help in this important work.

A Minute for MAP: At our last AGM, we adopted a few governance structure on a year trial basis. This was in response to the Mission Action Plan Commitment to review our governance so we could be more flexible in how we make decisions and empower more experimentation. A key component of this was the creation of three forums, one for "Worship, Music & Spiritual Formation", one for "Leadership and Congregational Development" and the continuation of our "Outreach and Justice" forum. As we approach this year's AGM, we are requesting feedback on the structure. Please submit written comments to James at james@rhuc.org. Those submitted prior to next weeks' pre-AGM conversation on governance will be included in the conversation.

Changing the Conversation on Abuse: Wed., Feb. 5 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at RHUC, hosted by RHUC's Lay Pastoral Visitors. Topics you will learn about: How to recognize warning signs of abuse. The different types of abuse. How to respond safely and supportively. To register contact either Donna McErlain at bmcerlain@sympatico.ca or Linda Ind at lind@chats.on.ca.

2nd annual Love is Love: Sunday, Feb. 2, 3-6 p.m. McConaghy Seniors' centre, Multi-Purpose Room. A free Valentine's Day Social for 2SLGNTQ+. Celebrate the month of love with music, dance, karaoke, food and loads of fun. RSVP required by Jan. 24. For free tickets call 416-938-4458 or email rainbowspace@cayrcc.org. RHUC has partnered with CAYR on this event.

To unsubscribe, please write to: office@rhuc.org, and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.