

Sunday, February 23

10:30 Service – Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour
 12:00 p.m. Shrove Sunday pancake lunch - Gym
 3:00 p.m. Forest Church - Chapel

Monday, February 24

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

Tuesday, February 25

7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

Wednesday, February 26

6:30 p.m. Meditation Group – James' office
 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday service - Chapel
 7:00 p.m. RHUC Book club - Parlour

Thursday, February 27

6:00 p.m. Prayer shawl making - Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Scouts – gym
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Friday, February 28

7:30 p.m. Pub Theology – King Henry's Arms

Saturday, February 29

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Lower Centennial Hall
 5:30 p.m. Family LEAP Night – Centennial Hall

Minister's message: As the rail blockades continue on and the economic impacts are felt by more and more people, especially CN workers recently laid off, it is clear that Canadians are going to start to suffer. Given this there is a question that sits on my heart - can suffering bring about solidarity? In some respects the answer is yes, but only when coupled by a willingness to understand the issues. The rhetoric I hear from some politicians and business leaders suggests to me a lack of that willingness. I cringed when I heard the leader of her Majesty's Honourable Opposition tell "protesters" they need to "check their privilege". Who are these protesters? If he is referring to people on rail blockades or participating in street demonstrations, he must be aware that a significant portion of those taking part are Indigenous people, especially those blocking the railroad passing by Mohawk First Nation in Tyendinaga Township. I'm not sure how one considers as privilege the imposition of the Indian Act, the breaking of treaties and subsequent dispossession of land, loss of culture and language, intergenerational trauma from Indian Residential Schools, underfunding of services on reserves, lack of adequate housing and clean drinking water, racially motivated failures to investigate murdered and missing women, the list goes on. The reality is that Indigenous peoples have been suffering for generations. It feels reasonable to me for settlers and immigrants to suffer for a time in order to highlight the ongoing issues facing Indigenous peoples. Issues that have been hundreds of years in the making won't be solved in a couple of weeks. As we wait for negotiations to bear fruit, may we each ponder the suffering that Indigenous peoples have experienced, and consider the ways that settlers and new Canadians can check their privilege.

worship and music

Sunday, Feb. 23: As we celebrate our Third Ember Day, we take time to reflect on Isaiah 43:18-21. These words of promise for the people in exile in Babylon speak of the desert being renewed. As we consider the climate crisis we are facing, we too yearn for renewal. This renewal is in our hands and so we take time to consider what people are doing to address climate change. We also celebrate the sacrament of communion. Following the service, a Shrove Sunday pancake lunch will be served in the lower gym.

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.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 27: This coming Wednesday we begin Lent. Following a shorter meditation service (from 6:30 - 7:00 PM), there will be an Ash Wednesday service in the chapel. At this 7:00 PM service we reflect on the call for a "change of heart". Those who wish have a cross of ash traced on their foreheads.

Sunday, March 1: We celebrate the First Sunday of Lent as we reflect on John 1:29-39 in which two people follow Jesus and upon asking him "Where are you staying?" Jesus responds "Come and see." This question opens up the theme of Lent this year as we reflect on who Jesus is and what changes he is inviting in our lives. At the end of the service, those who wish may receive ashes. The Annual General Meeting will take place in the gym following the service.

Pub Theology: Come to King Henry's Arms Pub on **Friday, Feb. 28 at 7:30 PM** for a chance to have a beer (or soft drink) with friends and chat about faith, spirituality and life's big questions.

Worship Notes: Have you ever noticed that the "Call to Worship" is in third person when addressing God but that the "Opening Prayer" is in the second person? That is intentional. The "Call to Worship" is addressed to the people who have come together for worship. We are speaking together, naming why we have come together and preparing to pray together. It is often written responsively, that is, written with one person speaking, followed by a shared response. There are other ways to draw everyone together to begin. The lighting of the Advent candles functions as a "Call to Worship" as does a refrain which we sing together. The prayer that follows is our shared prayer to God. The leader of prayer opens by saying "Let us pray". This is an invitation for us all to offer our personal prayer in quiet and then the leader offers a prayer on behalf of everyone. This is why this prayer is sometimes called a "collect". It is also called a "Prayer of Approach" because we are turning our hearts to God as we begin worship.

programs for all

Shalom Seekers: 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 Parlour** 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!



**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

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



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

Minute for Mission: Farmers learn best from one another. The Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) supports farmer-to-farmer knowledge exchange through interactive model farms. OAIC is one of our longstanding Mission & Service-funded global partners. The farmer-to-farmer project would not exist without your gifts to Mission & Service. The model farms in West Pokot, Kenya, give rural farmers opportunities to physically demonstrate and teach each other appropriate technologies and new methods. Depending on what's being tested or showcased, the demonstration farm could have different types of crops and crop varieties, livestock or poultry breeds, fertilizer treatments, or technology such as drip irrigation. The practical learning sites have proven popular with the younger generation, who want hands-on involvement in the changes. More primary schools are actively engaged with 4K clubs—clubs that teach children how to grow crops—in Vihiga County, Kenya. One of OAIC's initiatives is to promote chicken farming to farms that are subject to extreme weather or aren't large enough to raise cattle. Women in particular have taken to raising chickens to boost their household income and also for the eggs, a good source of protein for their families. Well-presented demonstrations enable farmers to see for themselves how the new technology works; small-scale farmers adopting new methods are taught how to cope with and manage ongoing agricultural challenges, climate change, and food insecurity.

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: Part of the ongoing implementation of our Mission Action Plan has been focused on assessing our facilities. The group doing this task is called the Mission Action Business Plan Committee. They have been working with SHS Consulting. It was through the work of this joint group that FCAPX was hired to do an Integrated Facilities Assessment. That report, in conjunction with other considerations like our commitment to be a "centre for community" and to shrink our carbon footprint, was an important part of the meeting on December 12 when 25 people from the congregation met to discern future possibilities for our buildings. A recommendation from that meeting along with further input from the MABP Committee and our board will be coming to the AGM on March 1.

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