

Sunday, February 9

9:00 a.m. Finance Committee – Lower Centennial Hall
 10:30 Service - Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour
 12:00 p.m. Sermon Talkback - Chapel

Monday, February 10

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

Tuesday, February 11

7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

Wednesday, February 12

6:30 p.m. Meditation Group – Parlour
 7:30 p.m. Board meeting - Parlour

Thursday, February 13

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

Saturday, February 15

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

Minister's message: It's that time of year again. In popular culture the end of December is a time of reflection as we all consider the year that has passed, but in churches that time of reflection gets delayed to the lead up to the annual general meeting as chairs of various committees and other team leaders write their reports. This year is no different although the structure for the annual report will reflect the changes we made to our model of governance. Along with various committee contributions (remember to get those in to Deb) we will have reports on our forum gatherings and updates on various projects from our Mission Action Plan (MAP). It should be an interesting report. It should also be an interesting meeting. After all in addition to regular items around budget and election of leaders, we will receive the recommendation of the Mission Action Business Plan Team in regard to our facilities, consider the input garnered from the pre-AGM conversations, including the governance model we've been using this year, and discuss ways to implement the climate action plan developed by the Net Zero Committee. As we ponder the year that has been, we look ahead to the year before us. One group that will not be moving forward into the new year is the MAP Pilot Team. The team felt it was time to merge its facilitation work with that of the board and other groups. As this group folds, I would like to take this space to express my gratitude to Carol, DJ and Jane for all of their dedication to our MAP. It is the work of so many dedicated volunteers that makes RHUC the amazing community of faith that it is and will surely continue to be.

worship and music

Sunday, Feb. 9: As we continue listening to the Sermon on the Mount, we reflect together on Matthew 5:21-37 as Jesus challenges his listeners to look not just to their actions but to what motivates their actions. In "Attentive to the Spirit", James will explore how important it is to consider what lies at the heart of what we do and the decisions we make.

Sunday, Feb. 16: We mark Family Day weekend and Scouting Sunday on this weekend before Baden Powell's birthday. This is an All Ages Worship service as we reconsider the meaning behind Jesus' call for us to "turn the other cheek" (Matthew 5:38-48).

A Pancake Lunch Plus: 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.

12:00 p.m. Sunday, March 1: Annual General Meeting

Worship Notes: In last week's "Worship Notes" you likely noticed a spelling choice that was made, namely to spell "God" as "G-d". It has been my habit for many years to use this spelling in sermons that are posted online or otherwise printed and so can possibly circulate in the public domain. This spelling is commonly practiced in the Jewish community as well as in academic circles as a way to show respect to the holy name. It is an extension of the practice not to use vowels when writing the name revealed in Exodus, that is YHWH. We have not always shown consideration for this practice, even adding what we believe to be the correct vowels. I adopted the practice of spelling out "G-d" as an extension of the recommendation in *Bearing Faithful Witness*, our policy document regarding United Church - Jewish relations, to not spell out YHWH and in general to be sensitive to Jewish sensibilities about language. Given not only our strained relationship in recent decades, but a history of anti-Semitism, adopting the "G-d" spelling was a way for me to personally and consciously cultivate a relationship of love and respect with our Jewish siblings. In future, a footnote will be added in published sermons to explain the practice.

programs for all

Women's Spirituality: This Saturday Feb. 8th Women's Spirituality will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. June is presenting the program: February 13th is **Galentine's Day**. It is a day to celebrate your friendships with your best friend.

Richmond Hill United Church next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, February 8th, 2020**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, followed by breakfast 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 (harrypersad.ramsaran@gmail.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, February 6th. Thank you!

After breakfast you are invited to a presentation by Bri-anne Swan (D.L.M) on The Living Presence Ministry. The Living Presence Ministry is developing a unique approach to mission by starting a new community (pioneer) ministry while simultaneously revitalizing the existing congregations in the area. This 'both – and' approach means we are working to find new ways of connecting with those who are not drawn to traditional church and helping the local congregations become as attractive and inviting as possible for new residents who might be looking for a spiritual home.

Two members (David Leyton-Brown and Terry Davies) of Richmond Hill United Church were instrumental in creating the "Living Presence Ministry".

Shalom Seekers: This Monday, Feb. 10, we will be continuing our study of Kate Bowler's book "Everything Happens for a Reason". Our focus will be on chapter 7 called 'Certainty.' Bowler in this chapter attempts to make sense of her experience of dying by writing an article for the New York Times. Most of the chapter focuses on various reactions to her article. Insightful, touching and challenging are all words to describe this book. If you are intrigued, please join us on Monday mornings in the chapel from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Newcomers are very welcome. Ask Sandra Loughton or Peg Hiscoke for more information.

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

outreach activities

**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

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: When you first arrive at Pearce Williams Camp in Fingal, Ontario, you immediately encounter a feeling of the sacred. Walking around the grounds, that feeling transforms into the knowledge that God is up to something amazing here.. At the camp, children gain self-esteem, confidence, independence, and many more life skills that will help them succeed. Summer camp helps children develop into leaders, thinkers, and doers; it helps them discover who they are away from their everyday lives. Above all else, camp gives children a fun space to grow.

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=2ahUKEwjO8Yuh7qvnAhWGGs0KHRC6CvQQtwIwAnoECACQAg&usq=AOvVaw2ATPBPnZMxXfc7GsavHQw>

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.

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

church news

The Women's Winter Retreat, held January 31 to February 2nd at Loretto Maryholme Retreat Centre, Keswick, went very well. This was our 10th Retreat and a total of sixteen women attended, two who were new to this experience. We had cake and party hats to celebrate (we made fascinators with a coloured curly Kate and decorations from the craft box, so they were environmentally friendly - reusable and from recycled stuff). The discussions centred around keeping the Christmas Spirit in our life; Candlemas; and Mary's purification and the presentation of Jesus at the temple, both after his birth. We had Sunday worship with our Youth Group who were having their Retreat in the cottage beside the main house, discussing being the Light of the World, and of course singing "Jesus bids us shine". We talked, ate, enjoyed winter walks, the ambience of the location and laughed. Photos on RHUC's Blog Submitted by Donna Smith

[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.

A Minute for MAP: At the **Annual General Meeting** on **Sunday, March 1** there will be opportunities to review our MAP goals, discuss recommendations about our buildings and ponder our climate action plan.

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.