

Sunday, January 12

10:30 Service - Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour
 12:00 p.m. Hands & Hearts for Africa - Chapel
 12:00 p.m. Sermon Talkback – Common Room

Monday, January 13

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

Tuesday, January 14

7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

Wednesday, January 15

6:00 p.m. Vision Keepers - Chapel
 6:30 p.m. Meditation Group –James’ office
 7:30 p.m. Leadership & Congregational Development - Chapel

Thursday, January 16

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

Saturday, January 18

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

Minister’s message: Turn on the TV any night and you are hit with a barrage of bad news stories, especially this week as we heard news of a Ukrainian International Airlines plane en route to Kyiv may have been shot down by a missile just outside of Tehran, killing all 176 passengers, 63 of whom were Canadian. This tragedy happened on the heels of two Iranian airstrikes on American bases in Iraq following the US drone strike on Iranian General Qasem Soleimani. The escalating tension in the Middle East leaves many of us feeling paralyzed and afraid, even with President Trump claiming that the Iranian government is prepared to stand down. This is trouble enough, but we are seeing the worst bushfire season in Australia. The wildfires have been raging for months with 27 people killed, thousands more left without homes, properties razed to the ground, let alone the untold loss of forest and wildlife. It feels like there is nothing good in the world and we can start to feel overwhelmed. In our fear we many want to go to bed and pull the blankets over our heads. Alternatively, we may want to lash out, but in the end we hurt those around us, and ourselves. There is another way than fear. It is to keep living in hope, treating everyone around us with kindness, extending love and compassion wherever we can. Our Iranian neighbours especially need this to be our response. They are overwhelmed by grief, not just for the loss of loved ones but for the crisis happening for family members still in Iran. As followers of Jesus, how can we do anything but follow his example and live in love? And not just for reasons of faith. You will be amazed at the ripple effect as we extend love, compassion and kindness outward. It may give someone encouragement, soften someone's heart, motivate someone to do the same and perhaps change the narrative that we hear all around us.

worship and music

Sunday, Jan. 12: Following the biblical sequence, we hear about Jesus' sojourn in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). While we are used to hearing this reading as a way to begin Lent, in an Epiphany context, we hear about Jesus seeking clarity about his own identity. As we face the challenges of our world, we feel like we are in the wilderness. The question is, how will we respond to the challenges we face? Is it a place where we will find our own clarity?

A Vigil in Honour of the Passengers of Flight PS752: We have been asked by the town to host a community vigil on the evening of **Tuesday, January 14, at 7:30 PM** in honour of the passengers aboard Flight PS752, tragically killed this past Wednesday. Stay tuned for more information.

Sunday, Jan. 17: Jesus now returns to Galilee where he calls his first disciples, telling them they will be fishing for people (Matthew 4:12-22). John Currie from HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples) will be our guest speaker, sharing with us how we can help respond to the needs of various Indigenous communities.

Worship Notes: Each Sunday toward the beginning of worship, we share about our "Work and Worship". While most of the announcements in this time are given by the leader of worship, occasionally members of various groups will also share about upcoming events. Those giving announcements are asked to submit a request to James by Thursday. To be most effective, announcements should be to the point. With this in mind, please keep to no more than 50 words.

programs for all

Men’s Breakfast: Saturday, January 11th, 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, January 9th. Thank you!

After Breakfast, Wilhelm Bleek will speak about “Paul Schneider: A Christian Martyr in Nazi Tyranny”. Wilhelm’s Father and Grandfather were pastors of the German United Church, active in the religious resistance against the Nazi ideology and oppression. Recently sorting the papers of his ancestors, Wilhelm came across the fate of the Reverend Schneider, who in July 1939 was the first protestant pastor to be murdered by the Nazis.

Women's Spirituality: This coming Saturday, Jan. 11th we will gather at the home of Donna Smith, #302, 67 Richmond St. and have a chance to get caught up with each other. Come at 10:00 and bring something savoury or sweet to share; coffee and tea will be ready! Please let me know if you are able to come on Saturday, so I have enough mugs ready! Donna Smith
donnasmith44@rogers.com

Bible Study: We will resume in January should there be interest. Please let James know if you want bible study to continue.

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, will resume on Monday January 6 at 7:00-8:30 in the chapel. On the 6th we will watch and discuss one last TED talk (on the subject of science and religion) before beginning on January 13 an 8-week study of John Spong's provocative and definitive final book, Unbelievable. This book argues that Christians need to replace rigid, problematic and outdated dogma with a radically new kind of Christianity connected to human experience and the advances in our knowledge. New participants are welcome at any time, but January 6th or 13th are good obvious starting points.

RHUC Book Club: Please join us on **Wednesday, January 29th at 7 p.m.** in the RHUC Chapel to discuss two books: **The Story of Arthur Truluv** by Elizabeth Berg AND **Now That You Mention It** by Kristan Higgins. Both of these books are more light-hearted than the 'heavier' books we have been reading this fall. New members are welcome to join us at any time. No previous book club experience is necessary - just a love of reading and discussing books. We are a friendly bunch! For more details about the group, please speak to Deb Fratin in the church office (905.884.1301) or Sandra Loughton, Book Club Facilitator.

Shalom Seekers: This Monday Shalom Seekers will continue their study of Kate Bowler's book "Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved." We will be discussing chapter Two (Object Lesson) and chapter Three (Magic Tricks). Bowler shares her life and faith story as she comes to grips with stage IV cancer. Starting out as the history writer for the Prosperity Gospel Movement, Bowler shares her gradual disenchantment with this movement and invites us to join her spiritual journey.

If you are drawn to learn more, please join us in the chapel on Monday mornings from 9:30am until 11:30am. Newcomers are welcome at any time. For more information, please speak to Sandra Loughton or Peg Hiscoke.

outreach activities

HANDS AND HEARTS FOR AFRICA: The meeting on Sunday January 12, 2020 at noon is to look ahead at plans for future events. There will also be updates about the progress of grassroots programmes for African AIDS Families supported by the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Newcomers are always welcome! For more information please speak to Donna Harrison or Peg Hiscoke.

Volunteer for Breakfast Club: Volunteers are needed to prepare breakfast at Walter Scott P.S. We would love to hear from you if you have 90 minutes before school one day a week from 7:15 – 9:00 a.m. Call Deb in the church office at 905-884-1301 ext. 5.

Out of the Cold: This is just a heads up for anyone who would like to help out on Mondays in February and March with making a dinner at St. Mary's Anglican for our Out of the Cold friends. We get together from 11:30 to 1:30 on four Mondays - two in February and two in March and make a home cooked winter dinner. It's fun for us and we know how appreciated it is by the diners! Let me or the office know if you would like to join us or help out in any way (cookies anyone?) Lyn May

Minute for Mission: Our gifts for Mission & Service offer students an opportunity to gather for a meal in a multi-faith, safe space at places like the large Halifax campus of Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia. If you visit Dalhousie's Multifaith Centre on Monday night, you will be greeted with a free hot meal provided by United Church chaplain the Rev. Robyn Brown-Hewitt, and so much more! In the midst of a large university campus, the Monday Night Meal creates an inviting and intimate space in which chaplains greet students from diverse backgrounds by name. Even the food available (including vegetarian, halal, and kosher options) reflects an intentional effort to support respectful, intercultural and multi-faith community bonds. As they share soup and conversation, students build trust with one another and the chaplains. They share stories and opinions, including personal beliefs and spiritual perspectives. During special seasons on the inter-faith calendar, the Multifaith Centre student assistants occasionally take the lead, contributing food and related traditions that are essential to their faith. At the Monday Night Meal, there's an open table and a warm welcome!

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



Richmond Hill Winter Carnival

Do You Love To Volunteer?

We'd love your help with activities such as:

Button Sales Trainers	Children's Craft Supervisor
Ticket Sales	Stage Crew
Face Painting Supervisor	Food Tent Supervisor
Fire Pit Attendant	Kitchen Assistant
Hockey Timekeeper	Parking Lot Attendant



Register online today at www.wintercarnival.net
 Richmond Hill Winter Carnival - Mill Pond, February 1-2, 2020

church news

Leadership and Congregational Development Forum: Our Forum is on Wednesday, January 15th at 7:30pm in the Chapel. The Forums are part of our new governance structure, creating space to activate ideas in particular areas of our mission. It based on the successful model of our work in the Outreach and Social Justice Forums. Leadership and Congregational Development is where we explore who we are, who we are called to be, and how we carry out our mission. It encompasses ongoing historic work like fellowship, lay pastoral visitors, Generous Spirit, Vision Keepers, and Men's Breakfasts, and aspirational work in volunteer development, and growth of our community of faith. At our first Leadership and Congregational Development Forum last June, we created our "Welcome Sunday" that we held in early October. One of our "goals and interests" that we have named is growth of our community of faith, and so we will be exploring those ideas at this Forum, listening to where the spirit calls us, and developing the ad hoc groups to move forward with the ideas that emerge from that calling. We invite you to join us, bring a refreshment to share, share in the conversation, and be part of future activities.

Women's Winter Retreat: This will be our 10th Anniversary to go away for a time together, getting to know each other and talk about our journey of faith and spirituality.
Program: "Nurturing the Christmas Spirit through the Winter Months" with group and individual time. Sitting by the fireplace or going for a walk in the snow (hopefully) brings relaxation and rejuvenation.

Location: Loretto Maryholme Spirituality Centre, Keswick, a beautiful old estate home on the shore of Georgian Bay, about 45 min. from Richmond Hill.

Dates: Friday January 31 at 5:00 pm till Sunday February 2nd at 3:00 pm; some come for the two nights, some for one and others just for Saturday.

Cost: \$135 for two nights; \$70. for one night.; and \$35. for the day
 Prices include accommodation and food.

Ten years of caring for ourselves, eating and having fun together.
 Contact Donna Smith if you like to join us: 905-884-6307.

Volunteer Counters Needed: After service each Sunday, teams of 3 counters gather in the office to count, record and prepare the offering for deposit. We're looking for 3 volunteers to fill vacancies. The commitment is around 30 minutes every 5 weeks. Please speak to Dianne McLeod after the service if interested.

Finance: 2020 offering envelopes are available for pick up in Centennial Hall.

A Map Minute: We have had ongoing issues with the CD roof and leaks into the 3rd floor on and off since the middle of last year. In a recent MAP Minute, we announced that the source of the problem had been identified and a fix installed. Unfortunately, there seems to be an additional issue and we continue to seek the root cause of the problem. It is clear in this that we are dealing with a complex issue that impacts more than our congregation. The Bravo dance school has re-located to the Garden Room for the foreseeable future and has exclusive use of that space. This impacts New Life Church, ESL Classes, and has a domino effect on our programs. The complications with the roof have been an additional challenge as we work towards decisions related to our facilities and living into our vision to be a centre for community in the core of Richmond Hill. Be assured that solutions are being sought. We have been in contact with the roofing company that installed the roof and the representative worked with Dan to address what we thought was the problem. Two independent reviews have suggested the roof be replaced, even though it is only 2 years old. The damage sustained on the third floor ceiling cannot be fixed until we have solved the problem. In the meantime, Dan plans to make a temporary fix over the winter in preparation for a longer term fix in the spring. As said above, the issues with the roof are complex. If you have expertise to share that may help us find a solution, please let us know.

Are you planning to move away? Do you know of someone who is? Problem: the church finds out that someone attends RHUC has moved, often well after the fact! We feel badly that their life and contribution to our worship and work has not been recognized and our goodbye and best wishes have not been expressed. Please let me or Deb in the Church Office of any such moving plans. Thanks, Donna Smith, 905-884-6307



Ruth Campbell is moving to a retirement home in Orangeville to be closer to her family. Ruth came to RHUC 20 years ago and has been involved with the work of the Worship Committee, Sanctuary Committee and Hands and Hearts for Africa; she has attended Women's Spirituality and Shalom Seekers and the Book Club. We are sad to see Ruth leave but wish her good health and much happiness as she settles into her new community.

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.