

This week at RHUC

Sunday, January 13

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Common room
12:00 p.m. Exploration Class - Chapel

Monday, January 14

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

Tuesday, January 15

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, January 16

12:00 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel
7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

Thursday, January 17

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

Saturday, January 19

10:00 a.m. Women's Spirituality – 67 Richmond St.
3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming –Garden Room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

Just scan the headlines and you will see story after story about the environment, climate change, concerns about resource extraction, and the like. These news articles highlight the consensus of scientists that the environment is not as robust as we once thought but rather is easily impacted by our actions. Despite this consensus we continue to choose human wants over the needs of other creatures, forgetting that the same environment impacts our health as well. Case in point is Bill 66 which is before our provincial legislature. Called the "Restoring Ontario's Competitiveness Act", this bill would allow municipalities to bypass the various protections acts like the Greenbelt Act, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, the Clean Water Act, the Great Lakes Protection Act and the Lake Simcoe Protection Act. These acts have helped preserve our watersheds, mitigate urban sprawl and slow the impacts of climate change. There are many in our community who are concerned that the aim to "cut red tape" threatens the delicate balance of our environment and chooses further sprawl over the green spaces that we love so much. If you are concerned as well, you have until January 20 to leave comments with the Environmental Registry of Ontario.

Minister's Office Hours: James will keep office hours from 1:00 until 5:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays each week. Feel free to stop in to see him.

Worship notes

Sunday, January 13: As we shift from Christmas into the Sundays after Epiphany we wrap up the stories about John the Baptist that paralleled the stories about Jesus we heard during Advent and Christmas. We reflect on Luke 3:15-22 as we remember John's challenge to people to change their lives as well as Jesus' baptism and the profound spiritual experience he had afterward. In "Embodying the Kin-dom" James will reflect on the significance of our own baptism. As part of our worship we will celebrate the sacrament of baptism.

Sunday, January 20: We reflect on Luke 4:14-22 in which Jesus returns to his hometown and spends time with his neighbours in the synagogue. He takes the scroll of Isaiah and proclaims that the words he reads are being fulfilled. As part of our worship Melissa Carter will share about her experiences as a teacher in Central America.

On **Sunday February 3rd after worship**, the Vision Keepers Committee is hosting a pot luck lunch in the Garden Room for our LGBTQ community, their friends, families and allies. We held this event last year and it was well attended and appreciated; we can find support and make connections with each other. This is a time of sharing as we create the safe and accepting place that RHUC strives to be.

Announcements: A reminder that if you would like to make an announcement on a Sunday you need to let James know by the Thursday prior. He is able to make the announcement for you. If you would like to make it yourself, it needs to be brief. Please keep to 50 words or less.

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Community Engagement Task Group – volunteers needed for Community Roundtable!

Community Roundtable: Thursday, January 24 from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. As part of the ongoing implementation of our Mission Action Plan to become "a centre for community", the Community Engagement Task Group has been organizing a community roundtable with leaders in various sectors in our town. Arts groups, business leaders, social service agencies and politicians will come together to offer feedback and help us further discern how best to implement our vision. It will include a tour of our facilities. To help make the roundtable a success we need assistance in a variety of jobs including greeters, parking attendants, table facilitators, servers, etc. There will be sign-up sheets in Centennial Hall following the service.

Living In Right Relations Committee

Miyo Ohcetow Kisikaw! (Happy New Year) - Northern Cree

The new year has been active with news of Indigenous related events; Indigenous-led demonstrations continue in B.C. protesting pipelines, northern Manitoba's Grass Hill First Nation is leary of its drinking water and Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe issued an apology on behalf of the province he represents.

This week, we're going to take a look at Premier Scott Moe. Monday January 7, 2019, Saskatchewan's Premier Scott Moe apologized for the province's role in the Sixties Scoop. "The Sixties Scoop refers to a practice that occurred in Canada of taking, or "scooping up", Indigenous children from their families and communities for placement in foster homes or adoption. Despite the reference to one decade, the Sixties Scoop began in the late 1950s and persisted into the 1980s. It is estimated that a total of 20,000 aboriginal children were taken from their families and fostered or adopted out to primarily white middle-class families as part of the Sixties Scoop.

Each province had different foster programs and adoption policies. Saskatchewan had the only targeted Indigenous transracial adoption program, called Adopt Indian Métis (AIM) Program.[3] While most "scooped" children were placed in foster care or for adoption in Canada, some were placed in the United States or Western Europe. The term "Sixties Scoop" was coined by researcher Patrick Johnston in his 1983 report Native Children and the Child Welfare System.[5][6] It is similar to the term "Baby Scoop Era," which refers to the period from the late 1950s to the 1980s when large numbers of children were taken from unmarried mothers for adoption. The continued practice of taking Indigenous, Inuit and Métis children from their families and communities and placing them in foster homes or for adoption is termed Millennium Scoop." Loss of culture, language, family, identity, physical and emotional abuse, incarceration, addiction, self-harm, lives lost... Recall The Telegram's 'Today's Child'? Some children 'scooped' were adopted out through this column - later moved to The Toronto Star. In early 2018, the Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Saskatchewan (SSISS) was formed. The group met with the Saskatchewan government April 2018 to discuss their mandate and intention to travel across the province to speak, including eight sharing circles for survivors, with those affected by The Scoop. It was thought that if a provincial government apology was to follow, it should be with awareness of what they're apologizing for. The apology itself almost split up the group, dividing by those that felt the apology was bogus and too painful to speak of and those hopeful it would bring about healing. Saskatchewan followed Alberta and Manitoba in issuing an apology. The apology can be viewed using the following link -

<http://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/5676902/Government-of-Saskatchewan-s-Sixties-Scoop-apology.pdf>

[Sources - <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/saskatchewan/sask-premier-sixties-scoop-apology-1.4965238>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sixties_Scoop, <https://leaderpost.com/news/saskatchewan/sixties-scoop-survivors-sask-government-meet-to-discuss-apology>

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Hands & Hearts for Africa

Hands and Hearts for Africa Meeting: Sunday January 20, 11:45am -1pm in the Chapel

Please feel welcome to attend our meeting on Sunday January 20th after the service. We will hear the latest news from the Stephen Lewis Foundation and its ground breaking programmes to combat the impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa. As well we will look ahead to our future fundraising events. If you are interested in becoming a helper at an event or you need to complete your community service hours for high school, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Donna Harrison.

Hands & Hearts for Africa Virtual Walk

Virtual Walk around Africa: Almost to Cape Town, the "Mother City": As we celebrate the New Year, we approach Cape Town, South Africa on the most southerly tip of the African continent. This city is the oldest South African city, known to locals as the "Mother City." As we walk in the shadow of Table Mountain, we remember the sad history of apartheid and the painful struggle for liberation, led by Nelson Mandela. The surprises to newcomers like us are the beautiful beaches, the white-washed Cape Dutch architecture, and the many opportunities for adventure and culture. Sadly, we only have time for a short break in the cool quiet of the beautiful Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens. We are here in this beautiful city to visit with leaders of two innovative community-based programmes supported by the Stephen Lewis Foundation. In these programmes, we see the living out of the African saying that "Children are the reward of life", We have walked many kilometers to hear how these new initiatives address the particular treatment needs of children and youth.

Our first visit is to the Blue Roof Clinic which is home to the Kidz Alive programme, with its focus on improving the interaction of healthcare workers with children around HIV issues. Kidz Alive builds adult skills and confidence and encourages counselling in the child's own language, the use of play and art therapies and creation of child-friendly spaces. ...

Our second visit is with leaders of MUSIC WORKS, which runs weekly music therapy sessions for children who have been referred by health clinic staff, teachers, nurses, or parents. In the 'Music for Life' programme there are many stories of how children, traumatized by AIDS, have begun to heal by learning music skills and by making music together. We are delighted to be asked to join in the music. However, we will soon have to take our leave and begin the trek to Windhoek Namibia to the northwest.

Update about our Virtual Walking Team: New feet on the road! We are pleased to welcome some new walkers to our Virtual Walking Team. Their names are Don, Glen, and Robert. They are family members who have decided to ramp up their support of our efforts in the final leg of our journey. They have already given us a leap forward and with their added steps we hope to reach our destination of Gabarone Botswana by February 23, the night of our Sock Hop. We remind you that there is still time to make a donation in support of our walking efforts up until February 23. .For more information, please speak to Donna Harrison or Peg Hiscoke or contact us at handsandhearts@live.ca

Net Zero

We will be running an important networking event to target climate change in Richmond Hill. Please print and share this flyer wherever you can and come with your questions, anxieties, and concerns. We want to act together, not alone, and to ensure the next generation knows we are not ignoring a crisis that they will have to face.

- **February 9th, 2019**
- Sanctuary and Centennial Hall
- 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
- experts from the town, engineering and science sectors, funding and legal experts, and vendors will be present with plenty of time to answer questions and resolve issues together
- contact targetclimatechange@gmail.com with questions and to indicate interest

Net Zero

Tell the Ontario government to Stop Bill 66, save the Greenbelt and protect our water. Premier Doug Ford promised to protect the Greenbelt but his proposed "Open for Business" Act (Bill 66) will put new factories and sprawl in the Greenbelt and other sensitive farmland, forests and water sheds. Ontario cities and towns already have enough land for new businesses and houses within their boundaries. Ontario residents want affordable townhouses, apartments and houses built close to transit, schools, hospitals and workplaces. They don't want factories and subdivisions built on farmland, watersheds and forests. Sprawl destroys natural areas, threatens our local food supply, creates gridlock, favours rich land speculators and increases our property taxes. If you log into Ontario Greenbelt Alliance you will find a prepared petition letter with space to add your own message. When this is completed, it will be sent to The Ont. Prov. Govt and your local MP. Also municipalities are allowed to stay out of Bill 66. So we may let our council know you that we want to stay out of Bill 66 and retain protection for the Greenbelt and Water sources. Mayor Barrow's address -- officemayo@richmondhill.ca Email addresses for councillors can be found online.

Minutes 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!

Mosaic Interfaith

Dear MOSAIC INTERFAITH supporters: A reminder that our annual program in honour of Dr. Martin Luther King Junior's birthday will be held on Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 2 pm at Temple Har Zion. This year our guest speaker will be Rafi Aaron. Rafi is an award winning poet, and is the spokesperson for The Interfaith Coalition to Fight Homelessness. He is also the co-chair of Beth Sholom/Beth Tzedec's Out of the Cold Shelter. Rafi's topic for the afternoon will be "Faith and Social Justice: The Story of the Interfaith Coalition to Fight Homelessness". His presentation begins at 2 pm. Light refreshments will be served following the program. Please feel free to share with your friends, family and community. An RSVP would be appreciated in order to allow our hosts to prepare for our visit.

Temple Har Zion is [located at](#): 7360 Bayview Avenue, Thornhill, ON L3T 2R7 and is fully wheelchair accessible.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Bible Study

For 2019 we are moving Bible Study to **Wednesdays at noon**. Please bring your lunch with you. This means no Thursday evening Bible Study.

H.A.I.R.

We are starting our new HAIR season with a series of 5-6 sessions that will explore the issues facing the people indigenous to Canada. We will be using the series:

First Contact: Most Canadians have never taken the time to get to know Indigenous People or visit their communities. First Contact takes six average Canadians, all with strong opinions about Indigenous People, on a unique 28-day journey into Indigenous Canada. Leaving their everyday lives behind the six will travel deep into Winnipeg, Nunavut, Alberta, Northern Ontario, and the coast of BC to visit Indigenous communities. Narrated by host and social justice activist George Stroumbouloupoulos, First Contact is a journey that will turn the six participants' lives upside down. Challenging their perceptions and confronting their opinions about a world they never imagined they would see. It is an experience that will change their lives, forever. <https://aptn.ca/firstcontact/>

Please join us - the discussions are open and safe and intelligent and entertaining! Monday nights, 7:00 pm, Chapel

Women's Spirituality

The first gathering of 2019 will be **Saturday January 19th** at the home of Donna Smith, #302-67 Richmond St., at 10:00 a.m. to be together as a group and share some food and conversation in a relaxed morning.

Women's Retreat

All women are invited to come to the RHUC's Women's Winter Retreat at Loretto Maryholme, a beautiful estate home on the shore of Lake Simcoe, just outside Keswick: www.lorettomaryhome.ca. This location is nice and close, about 45 min. drive from the church. We gather for a program, with group and individual time to discuss our faith and we get to know each other better than a "hello" on a Sunday morning. And we eat and have fun also! Sitting at a warm fireplace or going for a walk in the snow (hopefully) brings us relaxation and rejuvenation. The date for this our ninth retreat is the **evening Friday February 8th to the afternoon Sunday February 10th**. Some stay for the two nights, some one night and some come just for Saturday. The cost for accommodation and food for two nights is \$125; for one night \$65; and for the day only is \$35. For further information contact Donna Smith, 905-884-6307. Consider this your welcoming invitation to attend!

Faith Exploration Classes

Are you curious about the teachings of Jesus, especially how we live them out within The United Church of Canada? Do you want to translate what you were taught in Sunday School into an adult understanding? Are you wondering about baptism or considering becoming a member of RHUC through confirmation or transfer from another congregation? Or maybe you are just interested in sharing faith with other adults? Then come to James' office and explore faith with others. The sessions run from now until April in 3 week blocks based on themes. Faith Exploration Classes are at noon on Sunday. Everyone welcome.

Section 2: Who is Jesus?

January 13: Jesus' Life and Ministry

January 20: Jesus' Teaching

January 27: Jesus' Death and Resurrection

Section 3: What does it mean to be church?

February 10: The gift of the Spirit

February 24: Being Church

March 3: How do we worship?

Section 4: Living in Faith

March 17: Living with Respect in Creation

March 24: Living in Service

March 31: Living for Just Relationships

April 7: Living with difficult ethical questions

April 20: Retreat Day

RHUC Book Club

The RHUC Book Club will meet again on **January 23, 2019 at 7 p.m.** At that time, we will be discussing the novel *The Marriage of Opposites: A Novel Based on the Life of Rachel Pissarro* by Alice Hoffman. "From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Dovekeepers*, *Practical Magic*, and *The Museum of Extraordinary Things*: a forbidden love story set on the tropical island of St. Thomas about the extraordinary woman who gave birth to painter Camille Pissarro—the Father of Impressionism." For more information about the book club, please speak to Sandra Loughton or call the church office at 905-884-1301, Ext. 5 to speak to Deb Fratin, Office Administrator. New members are always welcome!

Shalom Seekers

Please join us on **Monday, January 14 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel**. This week we will be viewing photos and hearing stories from Linda Lindberg's recent trip to the Middle East. While last week's photos and stories focused on the life of Jesus, this week's photos will focus on other Biblical stories and places in Israel and Jordan. We very much appreciate Linda's willingness to share these interesting stories and photos with the group!

New members are always welcome! Please speak to facilitators Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton for more information, or contact Deb Fratin in the Church Office for more details at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5.

Special Occasions

While we include in our prayers, the names of people who are ill or mourning, we are not always aware of the special occasions which give rise to rejoicing. Please let us know to add any special occasions that are coming up.

Happy birthday to **Tracy Wixon's mother, Thelma Beatty**, who celebrated her 90th birthday on Monday January 7.

Shining Waters Regional Council, Region 10

NAME OF THE REGION: Shining Waters Regional Council is the name of our new region. In the Anishinaabemowin language Georgian Bay is referred to as 'Shining Waters'. Also the word 'Ontario' is related to Haudenosaunee words describing a beautiful or sparkling lake.

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