

DISCERNING FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR RHUC –

THE MENU OF OPTIONS

PLEASE PLAN TO SHARE YOUR VOICE IN THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR CIRCLE PROCESS
January 14th 12 – 2 pm at RHUC

The planning team has been hard at work synthesizing responses from our Listening and Conversation Circles. This phase of the process is to move us close to the priorities we will be setting for the congregation based on congregational input. We have developed a survey that we will be completing individually - but all at the same time - on January 14th after worship. There will be two locations - one in the Gym and one in the Garden Room. The survey will present a Menu of Options in 8 areas of church life - and you will have a chance to indicate what is important to you and where you might be interested in getting involved. There will be an additional section which speaks to our RHUC buildings. The results of this survey will be brought to the Annual General Meeting for consideration by the congregation. In addition to initiatives/directions that may be new for RHUC - we are also aware that in order to take on new projects - there will be an essential need to let some things go. This will be an important piece of our intentional shared work as we move forward together. We plan to offer some simple refreshment to keep you going while we do the survey. We believe doing this together will invite us to collectively share our opinions and for the Spirit to be in our midst as we do this work. If you are unable to attend and would like to fill out a survey - please let the office know and we will have them available for pickup. We want to ensure that as many as possible are completed. It is critical that we get your input as soon as possible after January 14th. Your planning team, Terry, James, Joanne, Nancy, Jane and Karen

This week at a glance

<p>Sunday, January 14 – 1st Sunday after Epiphany 10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Part III of our Circle Process – Lower gym and Garden room 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Common Room</p> <p>Monday, January 15 9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel 7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel 7:00 p.m. Cubs - gym</p> <p>Tuesday, January 16 7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym 7:00 p.m. Tai Chi – Garden room</p> <p>Wednesday, January 17 7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym</p>	<p>Thursday, January 18 6:15 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room</p> <p>Friday, January 19 9:15 a.m. Yoga Energetics – Upper gym A perfect way to start your day! By meditation, strengthening muscles and increasing your flow of energy.</p> <p>Saturday, January 20 3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming –Garden Room</p>
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WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

Sunday, January 14: On Sunday we look at Mark 1:4-11, the story of Jesus' baptism. We often think only of Jesus being called as God's beloved child but what if we all saw ourselves in the same way? How would that change how we see ourselves and each other? Next Sunday, January 21, our scripture reading is Mark 1:14-20.

Minister's Message

It's time for Part III of our Circle Process this coming Sunday and I'm getting quite excited! It was powerful during the spring to gather in homes and to hear the deep sharing in all of the Listening Circles. It was equally special when we came together at the Legion last fall for an extended worship and conversation time. Having had the privilege to work with Terry Davies, Nancy Hart, Joanne Scofield, Jane Wedlock and our consultant Rev. Karen Hilfman-Milson as we sifted through the various ideas and comments from both processes, I can feel a growing sense of the Spirit's work. We have created a space to hear each other without judgment. We have taken time to listen for shared wisdom. We have been attentive to common threads and shared ideas. And through it I feel we are each able to claim where we see Spirit leading us. So often congregations wait until there is nothing they can really do to address the growing issues they are facing. With little hope left they finally scramble to turn things around. We haven't waited for that. Instead we are facing our issues and concerns, both in terms of our buildings but our shared ministry in the village core. And we are doing it with trust that we have a future that God is leading us into. I feel very privileged to be walking with you in this time. So let's all come together after worship on Sunday as we fill out our "Menu of Options". As a community we are going to do great things.

Adult Baptism /Membership

Do you want to learn more about the teachings of Jesus and what it means to be Christian? Are you interested in becoming a member of Richmond Hill United Church? Are you seeking to grow spiritually? Are you looking to share your beliefs with a supportive group of friends? Then consider joining a series of teaching sessions this coming February and March (even longer depending on the needs of the group). **We will hold our first meeting on February 18 after worship.** See James for more information.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Hands & Hearts for Africa

MEETING JAN. 21 at 12 NOON: Hands and Hearts for Africa will meet in the **chapel at 12 noon on Sun., Jan. 21** for a 10th anniversary DVD from Stephen Lewis Foundation. We will also be planning for our Sat. Feb 24 Sock Hop with the fabulous band Little Peter and the Elegants. We welcome helpers for our events and newcomers. For more information speak to Peg Hiscoke or Donna Harrison about the work SLF does for African AIDS families.

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries for families, like this ministry in Nova Scotia. In 1986, Fairview United Church in Halifax opened a family resource centre in its building. The programs the church initiated focused on providing education and support in a safe and welcoming environment. Let's hear from one long-time participant, now board member Tia Forsythe, about the centre's lasting impact: "I first heard of Parent 'n' Tot (as it was called then) when we first moved here in 2006. While my husband went to work every day, it was hard for me and my three children to make connections.... I was told there was a great playgroup, so off we went. "It is a decision I am thankful for every day. My children made friends that they still are connected to over 10 years later. I met people who became my support system in the city.... I have been privileged to watch not only my children grow and achieve amazing things, but also the children they met all those years ago. "The Family Resource Centre has had to move out of the church to a new, larger building. Programs and services offered today include advocacy and referrals, health and wellness, youth, preschool, adult skill development, health and safety, pre-kindergarten, parenting skills and support, and community partnerships. "I want to say a big thank you to Fairview United Church and also to the people of The United Church of Canada. Through your generous gifts to Mission & Service, you are making a true and lasting impact on communities and in the world, in Jesus' name." Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Out of the Cold

We have the dates and menus set for this year at St. Mary's Anglican on Mondays. We will be preparing 4 dinners:

- Jan. 29 - Shepherd's Pie
- Feb. 12 - Beef stew
- Feb. 26 - Chicken Quesadillas
- March 26 - Roast chicken.

In case you are interested and/or available, we get together from 1 to 4 in the kitchen at St. Mary's Anglican Church and prep the main, veggies and salad. It's lots of fun and not usually much later than 3:30. If anyone would like to contribute salad materials that would be great. I make the dressing but always need greens etc. Just bring them directly to St. Mary's the day of. We aren't responsible for desserts this year as they usually get lots of contributions but homemade cookies and bars are always welcome for snacks and bag lunches. Just bring them to the RHUC kitchen large fridge labelled in a disposable container. I can't promise to get people's family heirloom cookie tins back to them. **If you would like to serve or help in other ways from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 29, Feb. 12th, Feb. 26 or March 26, give your name to me and I'll pass it along.** Thanks for your help in past years and looking forward to working together again this year. *Lyn May, Chair of Outreach*

Thank you!

Many thanks from the Outreach committee for all the Advent/Christmas support. We will be working out the details of which Ninoskomtin project our Advent Givings will be supporting - details coming soon but thank you so much for your generous donations.

The Krasman festive meal on Dec 23 was a wonderful success - over eighty people eating a wide array of turkey and all the fixings, sides of every description and fabulous desserts. No one even noticed the missing mashed potatoes - it turns out gravy on couscous and macaroni is delicious! Thanks to Linda Lindberg for helping me out at the early turkey carving shift and Wendy and her team with all the side setups, serving and clean up in the gym and Centennial Hall. Donna Smith kept everyone upstairs fed and happy. We couldn't have done it without all the contributions of time and delicious dishes. It is always amazing how well it works out - the Krasman guests and staff were thrilled and it is always a wonderful way to kick off Christmas. Many thanks as well to Dan and Deb for taking on all the extra work with a smile and making our church such a welcoming place. See you again next year. *Lyn May, Chair of Outreach*

Mask Sculpting workshop - Cancelled

It is with regret that we announce the cancellation of the Mask workshop fundraiser for Stephen Lewis Foundation that was to be held at RHUC in late January. If you had signed up, please contact Andrea Chan directly for other options at creative genius within.

Winter coats collected for First Nations Teens - update!



Thanks to the generosity of dozens of donors of warm winter coats, outerwear, backpacks, shoes and sports gear, plus funding in support, and to the sharing of time and talent by 3 dozen energetic volunteers at our two Work Parties, we were able to ship 3 skids of boxes of the

items needed by the teens, during the snowstorm on Monday.

Snowbird Transport of Hamilton donated a truck and driver to take the shipment to the main transport depot in Mississauga, where ERB Transport loaded the skids Tuesday - another generous shipping cost donation by good hearted folks - and it's now on route to the school!

The plan is the Phys Ed classes will unload the gifts and thereafter there will be an opportunity for distribution soon afterwards. More info to follow. Thanks to all! *Kathy McBey*



ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Bible Study

Bible Study will resume next Thursday, January 18 at 6:15 pm. No need to have been before. Come once. Or every week. Or drop in every so often. We will look at the reading for the upcoming Sunday, in this case Mark 1:4-11. See you in the chapel!

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, January 13**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, with breakfast in the gym 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 UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran (hramsaran@rogers.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, January 11th. Thank you!

Donald Trump - the man most experts predicted would never become President of the United States - has completed his first year as President. On January 13 our Political Science professor, David Leyton-Brown, will speak about the Trump presidency, and the kind of president Donald Trump has been. All are welcome to the talk.

Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality will meet on **Saturday January 13th from 10:00 till noon at 302-67 Richmond Street**. Please bring something savoury or sweet to share.

Shalom Seekers

The group will continue the discussion of the DVD series "This Changed Everything: 500 Years of the Reformation" on Monday, Jan. 15th. This week's topics help to explain more about how we got to where we are now in the Church, and include ecumenism and orthodoxy, Eucharist, history of reform, and indulgences. All are warmly invited to join us in the Chapel from 9:30-11:30. For more information please speak with Sandra Loughton, Dawn Moon or Peg Hiscoke.

H.A.I.R.

Each Monday evening from 7:00 - 8:30 pm, RHUC's evening discussion group gathers in the chapel.

- This Monday we will have another open conversation, this time exploring the merits of protest in a world that increasingly focuses on identity politics
- The following week we will begin a video series called "The Challenge of Paul". Featuring renowned historical Jesus scholar John Dominic Crossan, this video series explores the world of Paul's time and place. Crossan pushes past generations of doctrine and dogma to reveal the real-life character of Paul who shaped a generation of courageous Christ-followers to boldly challenge the greed and violence of the Roman Empire.
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Women's Winter Retreat - 2018

This will be **RHUC's eighth annual Women's Winter Retreat at Loretto Maryholme (Theme: Nurturing the Spirit Within): www.lorettomaryholme.ca** - a beautiful estate home on the shore of Lake Simcoe, just outside Keswick. This location is nice and close, about a 45 min. drive from the church. We gather for a program, with group and individual time, to discuss and reflect about our faith and we get to know others. And we eat and have fun also! Sitting at a warm fireplace or going for a walk in the snow brings us relaxation and rejuvenation. Date for 2018 is **evening Friday January 26th to afternoon Sunday January 28th**. Some come for the two nights, some for one night and some for Saturday only. The cost for accommodation and food for two nights is \$120; for one night \$60; and for the day only is \$35. For further information contact Donna Smith, 905-884-6307. **All women are warmly welcome to come!**

United Church Women – Hold the date!

Hold the date for the **UCW Spring Luncheon on Saturday, April 21 at 1:00 p.m.**

RHUC Book Club

Please join us on Wednesday, January 31st at 7 p.m. in the Chapel for our first meeting of 2018. We will be discussing the novel *The Sandcastle Girls* by Chris Bohjalian. We have borrowed a set of 10 books from the Markham Public Library and there are a few spare copies available for book club members in the Book Club basket in the outer office should you need a copy.

New members are always welcome to try out the group. Please speak to Sandra Loughton for more details or call the church office at 905.884.1301.

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.

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

A second Sunday Brunch

On **February 11** after worship, in the Garden Room, **we are hosting a potluck brunch for the LGBTQ2S community**, their friends, family and allies. Come out to this meal where all can find support and make connections. This is a time of sharing as we create the safe and accepting place that RHUC strives to be.

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.