

Sunday, January 19

10:00 a.m. Service at Mackenzie Health – Ian Wilgus is leading the service with Harrison Gao playing the piano.

10:30 Service - Sanctuary

12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour

12:00 p.m. Lunch+ – Common Room

Monday, January 20

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – chapel

7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Tuesday, January 21

7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

Wednesday, January 22

6:30 p.m. Meditation Group – James' office

7:30 p.m. Trustees meeting - Chapel

Thursday, January 23

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

Saturday, January 25

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

Minister's message: The events of the last two weeks have broken our hearts. The loss of 176 people from Flight 752, many of them Canadian, is beyond understanding. Many people are impacted by this tragedy, evident at the vigil on Monday as more than 3000 of us stood in the cold drizzle outside the Dr. Bette Stephenson Centre for Learning in Oak Ridges. We are privileged to have several people from Iran who are part of our faith community and we stand in loving solidarity with them and all the members of the Iranian community. One of them, Arezoo, would like to offer her reflection on what has happened: 'Migration means: choosing to have peace and being nostalgic instead of being quiet and lazy. This is the cruelest decision a human being has to make. Either choice ultimately leads to hidden regret. Today I want to tell you that I'm sorry for my friends, family and countrymen. In a way, all of them were on Flight 752. We struggle in this life, facing an unwanted war. No matter where we are, in the vibrant street or in the privacy of our religious beliefs, we are lost. I am sad because I lost two people on that flight - an old acquaintance who was a lovely, kind dentist, as well as a wife and mother; and a young boy who was also an athlete and a good student. The loss of these and all the lives, breaks my heart. I feel more sorry knowing that it was human error caused by the war. No follow-up for countries like Canada would be like all the previous bad things, all the crashed planes of the past, all the troubles of Iran, would be buried there outside of Tehran, the truth never coming to light. Today I want to thank all of my Canadian friends, my new compatriots, whose presence and sympathy for my nation are encouraging to me. Your support is encouraging to my nation as well, a nation that is tired of war and oppression and truly loves peace and friendship.'

Today, I am happy to be here with my daughter, where we can breathe freely, where humanity is valued and important, where honesty and discovering the truth are also important. I wish there was no war in the world, no missiles, no bombs, no more mourning mothers and fathers, no more grief because of war. I hope that we never see such bitter events again. I pray that these dear ones who died may be at peace. Amen.'

Arezoo's words capture with such depth and honesty what so many are feeling. May we stand in solidarity with one another and continue to offer love and support in the coming weeks and months. Perhaps change the narrative that we hear all around us.

worship and music

Sunday, Jan. 19: We are pleased to welcome John Currie from HIP as he shares about his faith journey, especially in responding to the need to offer support to Indigenous communities. The gospel is Matthew 4:12-22 when Jesus calls his first disciples, telling them they will become fishers of people. Youth stay in the service for John's message and then leave the sanctuary with John to continue the conversation. Following the service there will be a Lunch+. Come for soup and a chance to chat further with John.

Sunday, Jan. 26: We reflect together on the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), the beginning of Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount". As part of the service, we will engage in a gratitude exercise, taking time to give thanks for RHUC. Following the service, come for the first of 2 facilitated conversations in preparation for the AGM.

Meditation Walk and Mandala Making: Three Rivers Forest Church is hosting a meditative walk and mandala activity on **Sunday, January 26 at 3 PM** at Phyllis Rawlinson Park (on Leslie between Elgin Mills and Stouffville Rd.). Using found objects picked up along their walks, participants will come together to make individual sun mandalas in gratitude for the strengthening light. If there is time (and snow) those who wish may conclude by walking a snow labyrinth. Refreshments to follow. Bring a friend and be sure to dress warmly.

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

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

Shalom Seekers: Please join us on Monday, January 20th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. to continue our discussion of Kate Bowler's book *Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I've Loved*. This week we will be looking at Chapter 4: Seasons. We will also be delving into the topic of televangelists who espouse the "prosperity gospel" in their ministries. New members are welcome to try out the group at any time. Please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton for more details.

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.

outreach activities

Candlelight Vigil in honour of the lives lost on Flight 752. Friday, January 17 at the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts from 7 – 8:15 p.m.

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

Donations north to DFC School: Richmond Hill United Church and Friends are long-term allies of the students, staff and families of Dennis Franklin Cromarty First Nations High School in Thunder Bay.

This year there are 145 students, up from 100 in 2017 when we first formed our partnership with this remarkable school where teens come from Thunder Bay and from 23 remote northern First Nations communities in the northwestern quadrant of Ontario, for grades 9-12. Most live in boarding houses scattered across the city. Some must take 3 buses between home and school twice a day. These students work hard for their high school diplomas and RHUC and friends cheer them on as they move forward on their pathways to success.

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.

Questions? Kathy McBey, RHUC Outreach/Living in Right Relations Team 647 458 2717 kathryn.mcbe@gmail.com

Minute for Mission: It's a beautiful spring day in Nova Scotia, and at Tatamagouche Centre people are scrambling through the underbrush looking for special plants—plants to settle a tummy ache or headache, or plants to help ease many of life's daily ills. Under the careful watch of Judy Bernard-Googoo, a Mi'kmaq healer, everyone is learning a few of the basics from centuries of Mi'kmaq traditional healing. Judy learned it from her mother, as did her mother before her. Now, Judy wants to share her knowledge with others. "We are all one people," she says. At Tatamagouche, mending the divide between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people is a high priority. By openly sharing their traditions and learning together about the plants and herbs that are the basis of traditional Mi'kmaq healing, which creates a window into Mi'kmaq culture, they will build bridges of understanding. "Everything is done with respect. You have to respect the plant, take only what you need, and always give thanks to the Creator for providing these healing medicines," explains Judy. "You have to be careful; there are a lot of plants that can hurt you. It's like going to the drugstore—you have to make sure you choose the right medicine. That's the knowledge I have that I want to share."

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

church news

We need your opinion! As previously shared, we are looking to rename the CD Building. Why do this? We decided in April 2018 that we want to be a "centre for community", sharing space with various groups in York Region. If we want the CD Building to be a place where people can build bridges and nurture community, everyone who comes needs to be at ease. A new name is especially important if we want to create a safer space for people who have been hurt by the church in the past. The survey is one question. It should only take a couple of minutes to finish. Please complete the survey by January 31. Afterwards, we will be bringing the shortlisted names to a community-based focus group. Please click the following link.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TXJB5BB>

Thank you so much for your help in this important work.

A Minute for MAP: In preparation for the AGM on March 1, we are having two pre-meeting conversations, one on January 26 and the other on February 9. On each day there will be 2 simultaneous conversations, one in the common room and the other in the chapel. On January 26, one conversation will focus on finances and stewardship while the other will be about cultivating partnerships in our "centre for community" along with the upcoming Concert Series. On February 9, one group will discuss the situation with our buildings while the other will have a conversation about the governance model we have been piloting since our last AGM.

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.

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.

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

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.

Changing the Conversation on Abuse: Wed., Feb. 5 from 1:30 – 3:00 p.m. at RHUC, hosted by RHUC's Lay Pastoral Visitors. Topics you will learn about: How to recognize warning signs of abuse. The different types of abuse. How to respond safely and supportively. To register contact either Donna McErlain at bmcerlain@sympatico.ca or Linda Ind at lind@chats.on.ca.

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.