

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

Sun., January 22nd – Third Sunday after Epiphany

10:30 a.m. Message: "Left Behind" by Rev. James Ravenscroft Readings: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 & Matthew 4:12-23

Minister's Message

This week I turn my attention to the details of our Sunday Gathering, specifically to the beginning. We arrive from many places in our community, but that is just our physical journey. We are also on a spiritual one, as we grow in awareness of the Holy Mystery we call God, in relationship with Christ, in solidarity with one another. Some faith communities like ours symbolize this pilgrimage by having the choir process in to the sanctuary during the first hymn. We continue with a word of welcome, and acknowledge our treaty relationship with Indigenous people. We do this as a sign of our desire to be in right relationship. We also acknowledge what we are doing to walk our faith beyond the Sunday morning. Some congregations place this "announcement" time at other moments in the service, including towards the end in connection with prayers and offering. In our congregation we then centre ourselves. This could be a poem, a responsive "Call to Worship" inviting us into prayer, perhaps a time of quiet meditation. We conclude with a prayer intended to open us to the Holy, to God, and to prepare us to engage a time of listening.

A Very BIG Thank you!

You know what they say about good intentions. Well it was my intention to send a personal thank you to everyone who gave me Christmas present. Alas, time has slipped away, so I am taking this approach instead. So.... a very BIG thank you to everyone who gave me a gift. Every gift was very meaningful, each one saying I am part of the family. So THANK YOU so very much. Migwetch.

Upcoming Baptism Celebration

Is there a new (or not so new) little person in your family? Were you considering the possibility of baptism? We have a celebration coming up on **February 19, 2017**. Contact James (james@rhuc.org) to find out more, including details about preparation sessions leading up to the celebration.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Youth Group Outing!

Calling all youth and their friends too!! Next **Friday, January 27th**, we will be meeting at **Laser Quest Richmond Hill** and doing one of their escape rooms. Our adventure will be booked on Monday January 23rd and we will need firm numbers beforehand. The Key Quest hours are from 8-11pm but they may open at another time for a group of 6 or more. The cost is \$15/person and we'll have some snacks and social time afterwards. Once the booking is made an email will be sent to those who have rsvp'd with exact details of the time and which room we will be solving. It's going to be a lot of fun!! Please RSVP to Paula Windsor at 647-237-5037, or gelpwind@sympatico.ca by 9pm Sunday January 22nd. You can also speak to her at church Sunday morning.

Bible Study

Thursday Bible Study: Beginning **Thursday, January, 19th**, James will be facilitating a Thursday evening bible study sessions from **6:30 – 7:30 PM**. We will meet in "**The Meeting Room**" (not sure what else to call Linda's office). We will begin by looking at the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday, looking at their historical and cultural contexts and the wisdom they can offer us.

Shalom Seekers

On **Monday, January 23rd** Shalom Seekers will be discussing Chapter 7 of John Dominic Crossan's series "Violence Divine: Overcoming the Bible's Betrayal of its Non-Violent God". This chapter focuses on "The 'Violentization' of Jesus. If you find this intriguing, please join us in the chapel at 9:30 am. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Peg Hiscoke or Dawn Moon.

Special Occasions

Writing to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul urged them: “rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep”. 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. This column is an effort to rectify that situation. Don’t hesitate to add any special occasions you know about.

RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, January 25th at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel. We will be discussing the novel *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain. This book is based on a real figure from history: Beryl Markham. During the pioneer days of aviation, she became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic from east to west. She is now primarily remembered as the author of her memoir, *West with the Night*.

New members are welcome at any time. Please speak to Sandra Loughton or call the church office at 905-884-1301 for more details.

Nurturing our Spirituality

On the first Tuesday of the month, **Joanne Scofield** will be offering **Yoga and Meditation** - a yoga practice that will use postures and breathing to bring the body and mind to a place of relaxation and stillness for meditation. The next Yoga and Meditation will be on **February 7 from 7:00 – 8:00 in the Chapel**.

Women’s Retreat

This will be RHUC's seventh annual Women's Winter Retreat at Loretto Maryholme: 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 get to know others. And we eat and have fun also! Sitting at a warm fireplace or a walk in the snow will bring relaxation and rejuvenation. Date for 2017 is evening Friday January 27th to afternoon Sunday January 29th. 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 \$110; for one night \$55; and for the day only is \$30. For further information contact Donna Smith, 905-884-6307. All women are warmly welcome to come!

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Hands & Hearts from Africa meeting

MEETING Sunday, Jan. 22nd OF HANDS AND HEARTS FOR AFRICA (12 noon-1pm).

Our Grandmothers and Others Group will be looking at an update about the Stephen Lewis Foundation and planning for our Sock Hop on Feb 25. If you would like to hear more about the Foundation's work with African AIDS families or help with the Sock Hop, please join us today. Newcomers are always welcome. Our meeting will be in the Garden Room.

Out of the Cold 2017 – help needed!

Out of the Cold starts at the end of January on Monday nights at St. Mary's Anglican church. Our church is providing 4 dinners - Feb 6 and 13, and March 6 and 27th. I will be looking for dessert contributions - Feb 6 fruit crisps, Feb 13 carrot cake, March 6 gingerbread and applesauce and March 27 TBA. Of course, homemade cookies and squares are always welcome, any time for snacks and bag lunches. It's easiest if you bring things in disposable containers, and leave them in the big glass frig at church. I check regularly and freeze whatever needs to be kept. I will be available after church for sign up or you can let me know via email or phone. If you are interested in volunteering in other ways, just let me know and I'll find a spot for you! Thanks for your help in the past, and anything you can do this year. Lyn May, Outreach Chair

Sock Hop!



Come and enjoy our 2017 fun-raising **SOCK HOP on Saturday Feb 25 starting at 5:30pm**. We promise that the lower gym of RHUC will be a lively place with live band, pasta dinner and silent auction. Again this year we will have a combo playing during dinner and then from 7-9pm the wonderful 50s-60s music of Little Peter and the Elegants. Starting TODAY, tickets can be ordered at the church office at 905-884-1301 ext 5 or at handsandhearts@live.ca. This fun evening would be the perfect birthday or Valentine gift for someone special. Tickets are \$25 per person or \$45 per family. Later in January and throughout February, tickets will be on sale after church as well. Help us make a difference for African AIDS families and let’s meet at THE HOP! For more information, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Donna Harrison of Hands and Hearts for Africa.

Net Zero

The Net Zero Committee would like to wish you a Happy New Year and to remind you to stay the course on acting for the environment. The issues facing our planet have moved past 'serious' into 'dire'. Rather than being extremist, this is actually probably understating the situation, which has reached this stage because we are often too uncomfortable to speak about the reality. While the science is alarming, there are also many rational answers available and exciting solutions to our global issues - if we will pay attention.

The Net Zero Committee is asking you to resolve to start the conversation with your family and at work, regularly, throughout the coming year. We offer the following resources to help you find quick information to support your conversations:

The David Suzuki Foundation: <http://www.davidsuzuki.org/blogs/science-matters/2017/01/its-time-to-heed-warnings-about-humanitys-collision-course/>

Ecos Environmental Health: <https://www.facebook.com/EcosEnvironmentalHealth>

Keep sharing your eco actions with each other as well - let's challenge ourselves to do what we can to make a difference.

Fabric Sculpture Workshops



Fabric Sculpture Workshop on Saturday Jan. 28! CREATE A MERMAID for your home or garden and help make a difference for African Aids families. Andrea Chan of Creative Genius Within will be our teacher and will show us how to create a lovely piece of art out of tee shirts, foil, wire and Paverpol.

Date? Sat Jan 28

Time? 9-4

Cost? \$125

Anyone 16 to 96 is welcome. Children aged 14 and up with an accompanying adult are also welcome. Andrea would appreciate signup as soon as possible to help her plan ahead. Please see Peg Hiscoke after the service or contact her at handsandhearts@live.ca. We regret that the Three Birds workshop on Jan 21 has been withdrawn.

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Campus Ministry: Our gifts for Mission & Service support university students on campus. Let us hear the story of one of our Mission & Service university chaplaincies. In the centre of the University of Guelph in Ontario is Raithby House. The childhood home of George Raithby, it served as a manse and then became his home when he was a professor at the university. It is now the home of the university's Ecumenical Campus Ministry and the Multifaith Resource Team. Students have often left home for the first time and find it challenging to be away from everyone and everything they have ever known. At the Ecumenical Campus Ministry they can find a place of welcome. The addition of Andrew Hyde to the chaplaincy team marks a return of the United Church presence at the University of Guelph, a highly visible one that connects with the student population. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

Volunteer Opportunity

- Are you interested in communication?
- Do you have knowledge about marketing, design, website and social media?
- Do you want to see us improve how we share our message both within our congregation and to the broader community?

Then we have a great opportunity for you! We are putting together a **Communication and Promotion Team** for RHUC. Let James know if you are interested.

Quilting Group

The Quilters are meeting this Saturday, January 21st at 12:30 in the Garden Room. Sherry Lynn has prepped fabric for our 360 Kids donation quilt so bring along a machine if you have one and your colour matching skills for assembly. Feel free to pack a lunch. Tea will be available. We will discuss the project that Linda Clark emailed to us earlier in the month.

Blog post

Soc Hop - Saturday, February 25, 2017 <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2017/01/05/soc-hop-saturday-february-25-2017/>

Counselling available

Joanne Scofield is currently doing a Counselling Internship at RHUC. This is in conjunction with a course she is taking at the Toronto Centre for Pastoral Care Education. The counselling is confidential and free of charge. If you are interested in counselling, please contact Joanne directly at 416-618-5597.

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