

### Sunday, January 26

10:30 Service - Sanctuary  
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour  
 12:00 p.m. Pre-conversation – Common room  
 12:00 p.m. Pre-conversation - Chapel

### Monday, January 27

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

### Tuesday, January 28

7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

### Wednesday, January 29

6:30 p.m. Meditation Group –James’ office  
 7:00 p.m. RHUC Book Club - Chapel

### Thursday, January 30

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

### Saturday, February 1

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

**Minister’s message:** Each year at about this time (the end of January and beginning of February), a number of special days and festivals all happen. First we have Martin Luther King Jr. Day, an official holiday in the US but significant for many on this side of the border, a reminder to us all of the need to strive for civil rights, especially for people of African descent who continue to experience significant social and economic barriers. Then we have Robbie Burns Day, celebrating the great bard of Scotland. This year his birthday coincides with Lunar New Year, the beginning of the new year for many people of Asian heritage. While most of us think of February 2 as Groundhog Day, it is also Candlemas, the day that Christians celebrate Jesus being presented in the Temple. This is a holiday for people of French descent (and without the Jesus connection an important day in the Celtic calendar). All of these days coming together remind me how important it is to cultivate not just an acceptance of each other’s cultures but to really celebrate them, to give thanks for our diversity and to continue the struggle for civil rights, a world where everyone is respected and supported, where no one is left behind simply for what they look like, where they come from or what language they speak. I am so thankful that we take this seriously at RHUC. Being an Affirming Ministry means being intentional about creating space where everyone feels supported and loved. And more than that, to be intentional in advocating for an end to racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, and all other types of prejudice. In a world where politicians and pundits highlight divisions in order to get ahead, may we continue to offer a different narrative, one of love and inclusion for all, where no one is excluded from being a part of our community, including exercising leadership. So to borrow a phrase from a Vancouver celebration. Gung Hay Fat Haggis to everyone! May this be a year of health, joy and prosperity for each and all.

**Requesting a toaster oven:** Do you have a toaster oven you can lend for Discovery Time on Sunday? The children are taking part in a baking activity. If so, please let James know at james@rhuc.org. Thanks.

**Food needed! Want to help?** Next weekend (January 31 to February 2) our youth group will be headed to Loretto Maryholme in Keswick for a retreat. In support of their venture, we are seeking some food supplies. We are requesting the following: spaghetti noodles and tomato sauce, caesar salad (not mixed) and dinner rolls, microwave popcorn and other snacks like chips, cookies, fruit, pancake mix, bacon, fruit platter, yogurt, bagels, cream cheese, instant oatmeal, tortillas, ground beef, taco seasoning and fixings, assorted beverages. See Paula in Centennial Hall on Sunday to let us know what you can donate.

## worship and music

**Sunday, Jan. 26:** We reflect together on Matthew 5:1-12. The Beatitudes have often been called the manifesto of Christian life. In "Solidarity Song" James will explore how these opening words of the Sermon on the Mount are a call to solidarity. Following worship, there will be an opportunity to participate in a pre-AGM conversation either about finances (in Common Room) or about developing partnerships (in Chapel).

**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.

**Sunday, Feb. 2:** We continue to reflect on the Sermon on the Mount, this time as Jesus tells his disciples they are the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-20). DJ McCready will be preaching and Brandon Moore will be our lay liturgist while James is away on retreat with the youth group.

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

**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:** On Monday January 27, we will be discussing Chapter 5 in Kate Bowler's book "Everything Happens for a Reason and Other Lies I have loved". In this chapter called "Surrender", Bowler recalls her experience with cancer and her struggles to hang onto some control of her life in the midst of serious illness. If you would like to join the discussion about this humorous and moving book, please join us in the chapel on Mondays from 9:30 am-11:30am. Newcomers are very welcome. For more information, please speak to Sandra Loughton or Peg Hiscoke.

**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

**Minute for Mission:** Mission & Service provides grants to United Church camps like Camp Whitney in Alberta, where children between the ages of 6 and 15 can explore their relationship with God, nature, and each other. So what should kids expect at Camp Whitney? Each day is special and packed with fun for each camper. One activity is God Talk, where campers get to know more about the Bible in exciting and enjoyable ways. Campers can also take part in sports such as archery, swimming, or canoeing or get involved with arts and crafts or drama. There's time to relax on a beautiful beach, have fun playing outdoor games, enjoy nature, and gather around the evening campfire to sing and share stories. Most of all, Camp Whitney is a place for Christian fellowship and to make friends. Camps are important places for children and youth to explore their faith and develop leadership skills.

**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.

**New mural unveiled at Dennis Franklin Cromarty high school ...**  
<https://aptnnews.ca › 2019/01/31 › new-mural-unveiled-at-dennis-franklin-cromarty-hig...2:11>

A painted mural depicting the education journey of students at Dennis Franklin Cromarty high school in Thunder Bay was unveiled Thursday. According to the school, the painting is meant to help students succeed.

**After living away from home for years, DFC's grads talk about ...**

<https://aptnnews.ca › 2018/05/17 › after-living-away-from-home-for-years-dfcs-grads-t...>

Questions? Kathy McBey, RHUC Outreach/Living in Right Relations Team 647 458 2717 [kathryn.mcbeey@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn.mcbeey@gmail.com)

**1st Sustainability Symposium in Richmond Hill:** Hosted by Councillor David West / Sponsored by [CEDS Environmental Care](#)

Date: Sunday Feb 9, 2019

Time: 1 - 4pm

Location: Richmond Hill Centre for Performing Arts

**This is a FREE event but a donation for the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank would be appreciated.**

"We are excited to announce the 1st Sustainability Symposium, happening February 9, 2020 at Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts. The Symposium is a full day of educational and awareness sessions, sustainability topics and waste management best practices. Please join us to hear experts from across the region and beyond as they gather to discuss their current work, opportunities for social, environmental, and economic impact, and challenges ahead in the sustainability field."

[For more details and to register.](#)

**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. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020. St George's Antiochian Church (Bayview and 16<sup>th</sup>) 2, 5 or 10 km walk. Registration 4 pm. Family friendly. Food following. [www.cnoy.org/location/richmondhill](http://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.

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.

**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.

**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](mailto:bmcerlain@sympatico.ca) or Linda Ind at [lind@chats.on.ca](mailto: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 [rainbowospace@cayrc.org](mailto:rainbowospace@cayrc.org). RHUC has partnered with CAYR on this event.

To unsubscribe, please write to: [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.