

This week at RHUC

Sunday, January 6

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

Monday, January 7

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

Tuesday, January 8

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, January 9

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

Thursday, January 10

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

Saturday, January 12

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming –Garden Room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

As we were eating supper the other day, my dad asked Glen and me if we had made any resolutions for the new year. I fibbed. "I don't wait until the new year," I said. "If I want to make a change I do it right away." Now it was only a small fib because if I want to make a change and it is March or August, I am certainly not going to wait until the new year. But as I looked back over the year, I had thought of one or two things I would like to start (or start again). There is something about this time of year that does invite us to reflect and seek to make some positive changes in our lives. Ideally those changes have an impact wider than our own lives. In a time when more and more people feel isolated, a change I hope to implement is to take more time to smile and say hello to people I pass by, to even stop and chat. Doing so will help me connect more with my neighbours and hopefully will brighten their day. What is something you can do that will impact your life as well as wider and wider circles around you?

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

Orphaned Christmas Plate: Are you on Council and have discovered you are missing a plate with a picture of a Christmas tree on it? If so James has it in his office. A member of council left it at his home after the council potluck. (Hint: it arrived with cookies on it.)

Worship notes

Sunday, Jan. 6: Normally we end the Christmas season listening to the story of the Magi but this year we are concluding the first two chapters of Luke as we reflect together on Luke 2:41-52, when a twelve year old Jesus goes up to Jerusalem with his parents. We also hear a short reading from the Infancy Gospel of Thomas. It is a gospel that never made it into the bible but is worth reflecting on. We round out our celebration with the sacrament of communion.

Sunday, Jan. 13: We turn our attention to an adult Jesus as we remember his baptism by John (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22). We celebrate the sacrament of baptism.

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.

2019 Calendar

The 2019 Canadian church calendars “Faith, Hope, and Love” are available at the Welcome Table for \$5.00.

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

RHUC Council

The end of 2018 marks the closing of Living Waters Presbytery, as the United Church of Canada reorganizes into a three-court structure consisting of communities of faith, regional councils, and General Council.

For many years, members of RHUC have given their time faithfully in service of Living Waters Presbytery. Council wants to acknowledge and honour the contributions of everyone who has served as Presbytery Representatives on behalf of RHUC – past and present. Thank you for sharing your gifts and your time to strengthen our greater church community.

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.

H.A.I.R. will resume in 2019. HAIR, the Monday evening study group, is using TED talks and other videos to trigger discussions about ethical questions, the implications of faith in the modern world, and other important issues of our time, such as when to stand up against discrimination, how to make a difference in helping others (effective altruism), environmental challenges, etc. Since each discussion is self-contained it is possible to join us in the chapel any Monday at 7:00 without having to “catch up”. Everyone is welcome to any or all of these fascinating discussions.

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

Women's Retreat

Ladies mark your calendars - the **RHUC Women's Winter Retreat** is **Friday February 8 to Sunday February 10, 2019** at **Loretto Maryholme in Keswick.**

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 7th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel** for the first session in the New Year. We will be hearing from one of our long-time Shalom members about her recent trip to Jordan, Israel, and Egypt. New members are always welcome. Please speak to facilitators Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton for more details about the group.

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.

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.