

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Note from James

I, along with Terry Davies and David Leyton-Brown, will be in Oshawa attending the GC43 from July 21 – 27. Pray for everyone as they discuss together, make decisions, and elect a new moderator.

I will then be attending the Skylight Festival from July 27 – 29 where Glen and I will be presenting and co-leading, with another Forest Church leader from Kitchener Waterloo, about 'Forest Church'. There is still time to register at skylightfestival.ca.

General Council 43

Join us for the [opening worship of the 43rd General Council](#), at 9:45 a.m., Sunday, July 22 - in person or online! For those attending opening worship at General Council 43 in person at the DC-UOIT Campus in Oshawa, please arrive by 9:30 a.m., in time for the start of the service at 9:45. Seating is on a first come, first served basis. Opening worship will be held in the "Campus Recreation and Wellness Centre" (Gyms 3-5). It's very close to our parking lot at Commencement Lot 1. There will be signage and volunteers to help you find your way. You can find maps, directions, and other information about visiting the DC-UOIT campus [here](#). Opening worship begins with the Edge of the Woods ceremony, which will take place a few minutes walk from the main plenary space and down a hill. The terrain is a bit uneven and people usually stand throughout the ceremony. The event will also be live streamed into the plenary, where there is lots of seating available. In addition, the organizers have asked that people not take pictures during the ceremony. For those planning on worshipping with the General Council via the livestream, the broadcast will begin about 9:45 on Sunday, July 22 when the service begins. You will be able to find the livestream on our [YouTube channel](#). A button will also appear on GeneralCouncil43.ca linking to the livestream. Download the outline of the [opening worship service](#). Sign up to receive daily [news updates](#) from the 43rd General Council, and follow along on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) using the social media hashtags: General Council: #GC43; Festival of Faith: #GCFaithFest.

Skylight Festival – register now!

Skylight Festival: **July 27-29** at Five Oaks Retreat and Education Centre in Paris Ontario. Come and listen to a presentation by "Science Mike" McHargue of "The Liturgist Podcast" as he explores the intersection between science and spirituality. Come and explore justice topics like #ChurchToo, racial justice, the intersection of ecology and faith. Come and listen to a variety of musicians, including Matt Epp, Micah Bournes and Diem LaFortune, and spoken word artists like Emily Joy. Come and participate in creative worship experiences like "Courage", worship through the music of The Tragically Hip. **Come learn about "Forest Church" (James and Glen will be presenting and co-leading with another Forest Church leader from Kitchener Waterloo)**. Come and be nurtured in spirit and heart at this amazing retreat centre along the banks of the Grand River. Founded in 2015, Skylight is a celebratory and creative space where diverse communities connect to explore the arts, faith, peace and justice. Register at skylightfestival.ca

Worship Notes

We look forward to the return visit of our guest preacher, The Reverend Jane Sullivan, on July 22 and 29. She is the Minister for Congregational Support with Living Waters Presbytery.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding worship services please speak to a member of the Worship Committee, or to Rev. James Ravenscroft. The members of the Committee are as follows: Anne Dunn, Anne Leyton-Brown, Craig Lee, Dawn Moon, Dominick Shelton, Harry Ramsaran, Joan Verner, Linda Clark, Barry Peters, and Rev. James Ravenscroft. Sandra Loughton, Chair of Worship is currently away, but will be available in mid-August. Please note that Sandra's term as Chair of the Committee will end on September 1st and a new Chair has not yet been appointed. **Thank you, Sandra for your years of dedicated service.**

Christian Development

We are looking ahead to our children's programming for next year. **We are now searching for one or two people to coordinate Sunday Morning Programs for Youth. Jennifer Townsend has taken on the role of Coordinator for Sunday Morning Programs for Children.** There is an honorarium for these positions. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact Joan Verner at joanverner@rogers.com or 905-539-1222.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

We celebrate that our gifts for Mission & Service have supported Wesley Urban Ministries, which has been offering support for the homeless, refugees, and working poor of Hamilton, Ontario, for over 30 years. In downtown Hamilton sits a building that looks like any other apartment building, yet when you enter the front doors of the Ferguson Street Centre of Wesley Urban Ministries, you are greeted with the sights and smells of hospitality. Here, meals are served, the coffee and tea are always on, and usually there is a board game that you can join. Journeying from the hum of conversation on the first floor up the stairs, you will encounter a simple room, the chapel. On one wall is a beautiful painting of Christ's life and the cross, along with plaques bearing names. The names tell stories to those who knew these people, stories of addiction and homelessness, but also of friendship and care. One name on the wall is that of a young man who found a family at Wesley Urban Ministries. People from the community came together in the chapel to say goodbye to him, a man taken too early in life. A few months after his death, a woman came to the centre asking about him. She was his mother and had been searching for him. She was taken to the chapel, and when she saw his name and heard that he had died, she sat and prayed. The staff spoke to her about how many people had come to his funeral and how he was loved in the community. She was so thankful to Wesley Urban Ministries for loving her son and being in his life. Wesley Urban Ministries is present for those on the margins in life and in death, and their compassion makes a huge difference.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

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.

RHUC Book Club

The RHUC Book Club is taking a break over the summer and will reconvene on **Wednesday, September 19th at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel. (Please note that this is the third Wednesday of the month instead of the usual 4th or 5th Wednesday.)

We will be discussing John Steinbeck's novel *East of Eden* which was published in 1952 and is often described as the author's most ambitious novel. The book for discussion for the meeting on October 24th will be *The Lightkeeper's Daughters* by Jean Pendziwol. New members are always welcome to join us and see if a book club is for them! For more details, please speak to Sandra Loughton in person or e-mail Sandra at bookgirl8@hotmail.com. Happy summer and happy reading!

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

Fellowship cOMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee is looking for volunteers for our after worship coffee teams. We are currently updating our schedule and have some vacancies due to losing some volunteers because they're moving, retiring from their coffee team or have taken new opportunities to serve our congregation.

Our teams have generally have 5 or 6 members and prepare the tables in Centennial Hall before the service, then serve the tea, coffee and juice and finally wash the dishes and generally clean up. Each team is "on" 7 times a year.

If this would be something you would be interested in doing, either as a team member or as a spare; please contact me at 905 884 2169 or janetcenta@gmail.com or talk to me this Sunday in Centennial Hall as I will be serving the cold drinks that we serve during the summer. Thank you for your consideration. Janet Centa for the Fellowship Committee

The Festival of Faith

When: Saturday and Sunday, July 21–22, 2018 Where: 43rd General Council at UOIT Durham in Oshawa, ON
What: A celebration of our work and witness through the arts Cost: Free!

The Festival of Faith marks the start of GC43. It's a chance to celebrate the hopeful things that are already happening across the country in many communities of faith. This festival will bring together musicians, authors, dancers, storytellers, and craftspeople. Like an old-time country fair, artists and artisans will roll in early in the morning, scrambling to set up their tents before the crowds arrive. Workshops will inform, inspire and share the vitality of our work and witness. There will also be opportunities to explore your faith, connect with others and offer your own voice and artistry in the coffee house, or on the green. Music, spoken word, ideas, movement, workshops and spiritual exploration—all on offer at this GC43 Festival of Faith. See you there! Follow the Festival of Faith on Facebook for details on performances, events and workshops you'll want to participate in—and let us know if you plan to attend this inspiring event. What's happening at the Festival? Music: Experience inspiring performers playing a variety of genres at multiple stages. Enjoy a DJ by the games and artisan market area where there will be a silent dance party as well as a lip-sync competition. Interactive art: Explore amazing art displays, including stories and images of over 80 projects supported by Embracing the Spirit, a new United Church learning network and innovation fund that you can get involved in. Join a Messy Fiesta led by Messy Church Canada and paint a pew! Workshops: Be inspired by 25 Festival of Faith workshops featuring amazing facilitators from across Canada. Spirituality: Discover different ways to express your faith through various prayer stations on the festival grounds. Coffee house: Come to the café and join the open mic experience. Enjoy spoken word, poems, songs and a variety of other artistic expressions. Everyone is welcome to contribute to the onstage experience. Artisan market: Explore the market sprinkled with local artisans and social enterprises displaying their products and services. Learn more about the emerging social economy. The Alvin Dixon Memorial Run/Walk: Start your second day of festival fun on the right foot at 8 am with this 5km run / 1km walk 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.