

This week at a glance

Sunday, June 10 – Pride Sunday & Sundaes Sunday

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir pizza practice – Parlour

Monday, June 11

7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel

Thursday, June 14

7:00 p.m. Worship Leader Training 2 - Chapel
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, June 16

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

Sunday, June 17

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary - Youth Musical

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

Sunday, June 10: It's Pride Sunday as we also celebrate our 5th Affirmaversary. We give thanks for the musical gifts of the ensemble of "Singing Out!" as we also welcome special guests from PFLAG, York Region Pride Fest and the Town of Richmond Hill. We reflect together on Mark 3:21-35 in which Jesus affirms the importance of unity and how we are invited into being family together. In "Creating Family", Jesus reflects on this and the importance of being family where all people feel safe and loved.

Sunday, June 17: It's our Youth Musical! Following the reading of Exodus 3:9-12 in which Moses is called by God to lead the people out of slavery, our Youth Choir (plus alumni) present "Who Me?". We also acknowledge various graduates on this day.

Minister's Message

It's June again! Time to celebrate Pride Month as we affirm the lives of all sexual and gender diverse people, celebrating how far the LGBTQ2+ community has come and ensuring that everyone's rights continue to be affirmed and upheld. As a congregation, we are an important part of this celebration and protection. Having supportive spaces gave many LGBTQ2+ people the safe haven they needed to recharge as they worked for inclusion. Equally, having straight allies meant that we were not just a fringe group that could be ignored. We all need a circle of loving friends. Affirming churches offer the gift of welcoming community. And they do so from the vantage point of faith. This is an important addition. Many sexual and gender diverse people are very spiritual. We longed to be included in churches only to have the door slammed in our faces. Having safe and affirming spaces like RHUC has meant that we can continue to nurture our whole selves. As we celebrate five years as an Affirming Ministry, may we continue to be haven of love and support for everyone. As we focused last year on ensuring we are a safe space for all regardless of race and culture, may we focus this year on being a welcoming community for all ages and abilities. As we do so may we consider the significance of intersectionality. May we offer safe space especially for LGBTQ2+ seniors. So often seniors have to go back into the closet when they move into assisted living. Young people too need support. A high percentage of youth on the street have left home because they were not safe because of their sexual orientation and/or gender identity. We need to be conscious as well of people with varying abilities. We often forget about the sexual and romantic needs of people with physical and other challenges. As we look to another five years as an Affirming Ministry, may we continue to be a place to celebrate all people's gifts, protect everyone's rights, and nurture the spiritual lives of every person who walks through our door.

Are you a 2017 graduate?

On Sunday June 17, we will take time to pray for our graduates as they begin a new phase of their lives. If you know someone graduating from university, college, apprenticeship, high school, whatever it may be, please let James know so we can acknowledge them during the service.

Worship Notes

The Worship Committee met on Wednesday, June 6th and one of the topics on the agenda was a "debriefing" of the joint service with the New Life Korean Methodist congregation on Sunday, June 3rd. Please be assured that we discussed all aspects of the service including the length of the service, the differing theologies, and the glitches with the translations. This was a learning experience for both congregations and the best part of the afternoon was the shared meal and fellowship after the service. Important connections were made and we will build on those in the future, perhaps getting together again over a meal between our two services.

Looking ahead, we look forward to hosting several guest preachers over the summer months when James will be away. The Reverend Jane Sullivan of Living Waters Presbytery, Minister for Congregational Support, will be with us for three Sundays: June 24th, July 22nd, and July 29th. On July 1st we will be fortunate to hear from our own Joanne Scofield, a candidate for ministry.

As always, if you have any concerns or celebrations to share with us around worship at RHUC, please speak to any member of the Worship Committee: Anne Dunn, Anne Leyton-Brown, Craig Lee, Dawn Moon, Dominick Shelton, Harry Ramsaran, Joan Verner, Linda Clark, Rev. James Ravenscroft, Barry Peters, or me, Sandra Loughton, Worship Committee Chair.

Christian Development

We are looking ahead to our children's programming for next year. We are searching for two people to co-ordinate our programmes. 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.

Youth Choir Musical

Don't go to the cottage on June 17! One of the highlights of the RHUC church year is the annual youth musical. The Youth Choir has worked for months preparing their musical, "Who Me?". Treat yourself to this special event on Sunday, June 17 at 10:30 in the worship service. Hold off going on a picnic, talk up our wonderful Youth Choir to your friends and neighbours, and enjoy the presentation by these remarkable young people on June 17. Let's fill the sanctuary!

Worship Leader Training Part 2

Are you interested in learning how to lead worship, to write a sermon and compose prayer? This month James will be offering workshops on Thursday June 7, Thursday June 14 and Wednesday June 20 at 7:00 pm.

Chime Players Wanted

This is a follow-up notice about the need for a few more people to join the existing Chime Players team. If you can play a melody line on the piano (i.e. one hand only!) you would be able to play the chimes on our wonderful church organ. Please speak to Barry Peters, Kathleen Crosbie, or Sandra Loughton if you'd be interested in this exciting volunteer opportunity. The commitment would be 10 minutes just before the start of the service once every five or six weeks from September to May. *Sandra Loughton Chair ~ Worship Committee*

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Sunday June 10 - Hands and Hearts for Africa Meeting All are welcome!

On Sunday June 10 after the service there will be a meeting of Hands and Hearts for Africa in the Chapel. We are the Richmond Hill chapter of the Grandmothers (and friends) Campaign who raise awareness and funds for grassroots programmes of the Stephen Lewis Foundation to support African AIDS families. We will be planning ahead for our fall activities and will be tasting one or two African food items made from the new Stephen Lewis Foundation cookbook called "African Food for Thought". Keep your eyes on RHUC online for news about our Virtual Walk around Africa which we hope to launch on Grandparents' Weekend in September. We will be looking for walkers for our walking team as well as sponsors. Newcomers are very welcome at our meetings! For more information, speak to Donna Harrison or Peg Hiscoke.

Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Truth and Reconciliation Committee: The Truth and Reconciliation Committees report included Calls to Action for churches. One of these requested churches to begin to educate their constituencies about the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples (affectionately known as DRIPS), with the goal to ensure we are complying with the declaration. Over the course of this year, the Living in Right Relations committee will be sharing the articles in DRIPS. Once a month, the first article from a section will be read during the Worship Service. The remaining articles from the section will be included weekly in RHUC online.

Article 44 (both male & female, and all other genders)

All the rights and freedoms recognized herein are equally guaranteed to male and female indigenous individuals.

Minute for Mission Called to be the Church

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the intercultural journey of learning and practice. Carmen Ramirez shares her story today. "It has been great to be a part of the United Church's intercultural work. One highly effective branch of this work is the Deepening Understanding for Intercultural Ministry (DUIM) program, which has helped church leaders and community members develop tools and foster attitudes to engage their own contexts. The program has been a life-changing experience for both the participants and the facilitators. "As a facilitator for DUIM I have been able to learn more about dominant culture individuals and their experience. This has made me a more patient and understanding person. I have realized that we are all not in the same place in our intercultural or faith journey." Similarly, one participant had this to say about the program: "I am looking forward to using many of the tools in a variety of my ministry contexts. This includes home in Kahnawake as we engage in relationship building outside the reserve; Montreal City Mission, where we work ecumenically; interfaith encounters with a wide variety of marginalized communities; through my work on right relations with our presbytery; working with my home congregation on relationship building with a variety of cultural groups; and my ongoing work with the Muslim Association of Canada. My heart and head are full of ideas, possibilities, and opportunities to engage the various ministries where I work." The DUIM program allows people to move forward in their intercultural work. Our gifts for Mission & Service make this journey possible.

Vision Keepers – York Region Pride Parade

Are you proud of being part of an Affirming congregation? Show it by participating in the York Region Pride Parade on **Saturday June 16th**, being held in Newmarket. The parade starts at 3:00, marching down Main Street, and ending at the Community Fair, where booths will be set up to share information, news, supports and selling wares specifically for the LGBTQ2 community. This year, RHUC will be having a booth to represent faith communities who are a welcoming and safe place to be for worship, work and friendships. If you want to be part of carpooling, meet in the church parking lot at 1:30 - we leave promptly. More information at yorkpridefest.com. *Donna Smith, Vision Keepers Committee, 905-884-6307*

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Church memorial garden

The spring bulbs, blooms and leaves have been so welcomed this year and the church gardens are being prepared for planting and care during the summer. We have a special section (at the steps on the north side of the Yonge Street CD wing of the church) for a Memory Garden. Each year, those who would like me to plant an annual flower in memory of a loved one can give me \$3 and I will purchase and plant one, in the colour of your choice. This person being remembered does not have to be a member of our church. When completed, a marker will be posted with the names of those being remembered. *Donna Smith 905-884-6307*

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

UCW – Camp Big Canoe Wish List

Camp Big Canoe Wish List: Empty pill bottles with label removed, elastic bands, embroidery thread, coloured paper, craft paint, clean used margarine and yogurt containers, plastic 500ml peanut butter jars with screw top lids. A full list can be seen on the UCW bulletin board next to the Parlour.

Please DO NOT bring these items to the Church before June 17th as we have no space to store them. For further information please call June Blanchette at 905-780-0048”

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.

Congratulations to **Claudia Montoya** on winning her second award for extraordinary community service! It is the second time in 5 years Claudia has been recognized for her settlement work with new Canadians. Her work at the Etobicoke Library Culture Link program has helped new Canadians in often dire circumstances acclimatize to Toronto life.

On Saturday June 2, 2018 **Peter Nelson**, who was baptised and grew up at RHUC, was married to Melissa Holt. Peter is the son of Janet and Fraser Nelson. The wedding, which took place at his parent's home in Caledon, was a surprise to everyone except the bride and groom and Rev Warren McDougall who performed the ceremony! Peter and Melissa live in Newmarket with their 18 month old daughter, Grace. Congratulations!

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!

United Church Women

UCW Bus Trip is ready for boarding! **Wed. June 13th, 2018 Cost: \$60.00** (including gratuities). Please meet Elgin Barrow Arena Parking Lot **by 8:15 Leaving at 8:30 a.m.** Return: 5:30 - 6:00 p.m

We will visit the **Whetung Ojibwa Centre** at Curve Lake, **Lunch with a UCW group** in Peterborough, a stop at the famous **Peterborough Lift Locks** and visit the **Canadian Canoe Museum and Gift Shop**.

H.A.I.R.

H.A.I.R continues to meet Monday nights from 7:00-8:30 pm in the chapel using video or print resources as the basis for stimulating discussion. Please join us.

Bible Study

Bible Study will resume in September.

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

Women's Spirituality

Saturday, June 9: We will do a tour of Marylake Shrine (north of King City) go for a walk and then have lunch at Pine Farm Orchard. Meet at RHUC parking lot at 10:45 a.m.

Secret Friends

June is the month when our young people are finishing up another school year but for Grade 12 students, June is the closing of a chapter of years in high school and sights are being set on beginning college/university in September. For most, this will mean leaving home for study and we at RHUC keep in touch with them through our Secret Friends ministry. These students are matched with a volunteer who sends cards, notices and goodies throughout their first year with our faith community's best wishes and support during this big change in their lives. Please give these students' names to me and they will be part of this program. *Donna Smith, Coordinator 905-884-6307*

Tai Chi ends for the summer

Victoria Day marks the traditional closing date for tai chi for the summer. Watch for announcements about our resumption in the fall.

Need a ride to the polls?

If you, a family member, a friend or neighbour, live in the town of Richmond Hill and need a ride to and from your polling station on provincial election day, June 7, please contact Bruce at 905-770-4233, bruce@brucerhodes.ca. Would anyone requesting a ride please have available the exact address of the polling station to which they will need to be driven.

Richmond Hill Family Pride event

When: Sunday, June 10 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Where: Richmond Hill Heritage Centre, 19 Church St., North

Limited seating. Please bring your own picnic chairs and blankets. For more information contact Gary Wu at 641-381-0439 or gwu@acyr.org.

Liona Boyd – free concert

Liona Boyd will be back on **Thursday, June 28** to televise an hour concert with the Chancel Choir.

Time: 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Where: Sanctuary

Cost: free of charge

Please bring your friends and a winter coat to wear as the concert is a shorter reproduction of the "Winter Fantasy" concert held here in November.

Summer Concert – July 13 @ 7:00 p.m.



The Choir of Christ's College, Cambridge UK Canada Tour! Sponsored by RHUC's Chancel Choir

Christ's College is one of the constituent colleges of the University of Cambridge, and has had a chapel choir since its foundation in 1505. Conducted by Professor David Rowland, director of music at Christ's College, the choir sings a selection of music from English and European choral traditions from the 16th to 20th century.

This tour they are singing a wide range of music: Parry's Songs of Farewell, Howell's Requiem, Finzi's Lo, The Full, Final Sacrifice, to name a few, maintaining a variety of music from both religious and secular traditions, ranging from Tallis to Britten. CDs will be on sale at the concert.

Find out more at www.cambridgechoir.co.uk

Date: Friday, July 13, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 Tickets available from the Chancel Choir, church office and <https://richmondhill.snapd.com/events/view/1154576> and at the door!

Skylight Festival

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 Bourne 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

Page 5 of 5

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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.

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