

Listening Circles

We need your help! We would like to have more opportunities for people to attend Listening Circles. These are just a few of the ways people have described their experience at Listening Circles:

I felt heard.

There was a sense of community.

It was so non-threatening.

It was good to participate....it feels like we are moving forward. It is different than anything we have done before.

It felt like we not only dreamed but came up with practical steps.

We have new dates! If you have not yet signed up there are still opportunities for you to participate! Join a Listening Circle to help shape the future of RHUC. This is an opportunity to reflect on what we do well as a church and share future possibilities. To sign up, please check out the dates below, including new dates for June, and email Deb Fratin in the Office (office@rhuc.org). Indicate your #1 and #2 preference.

Joanne Scofield & Terry Davies

Fri June 9	10:00 – 12:00
Mon. June 12	7:00 – 9:00
Sat June 17	2:30 - 4:30

Joanne Scofield & Terry Davies

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

June 11: Celebrating Pride Week Message: “The Power of Radical Welcome” by James Ravenscroft
Reading: Galations 3:26-29

Upcoming services: We have some special events coming up over the next few weeks.

June 18: Confirmation

June 25: Aboriginal Solidarity Sunday

Call for your photos!

Want to see your photos on our Sunday order of services? Please consider submitting your best photos of Canadian scenery and nature, photos that convey Mission & Service and stewardship, or church life: lighting candles, hands holding hymn books, etc.

Format:

- Bright, colourful, crisp pictures.
- Vertical photographs preferred.
- Digital jpeg files required: sent to office@rhuc.org or send on CD/DVD/USB key.

Labelling your submissions:

- Put the photographer’s name in the file name (e.g., HenryLee-nature-2.jpg)
- Remember to label your CD/DVD/USB key.
- Include a typed list of all submissions, including photographer’s name, photo location, and any helpful information (e.g. species of bird) for each.

Worship Notes

It has been a while since I wrote a "Worship Notes" article letting you know what the Worship Committee is working on at present. Currently, we are busy planning summer worship services and arranging for coverage during James' holiday time. When the details are all planned and confirmed, I will submit another update. We have confirmed speakers or plans for all the non-preaching Sundays in the fall.

- Sunday, September 24 – Ian Wilgus of our congregation will be speaking to us about his experience working at a United Church in Regina in the Explorer Program.
- Sunday, October 22 – In honour of "Canada 150", we will be holding an all-Canadian hymn sing. Barry is already working on this!
- Sunday, November 26 – Pioneer Minister, Bri-ann Swan, will be our guest preacher. More details to follow.

Finally, here is a list of those who are on the Worship Committee, so feel free to pass on your comments or celebrations to them about worship at RHUC: Linda Clark, Anne Dunn, Craig Lee, Anne Leyton-Brown, Sandra Loughton (Chair), Dawn Moon, Barry Peters, Harry Ramsaran, James Ravenscroft, Dominick Shelton, & Joan Verner. *Sandra Loughton, Chair*

Minister's Message

This coming Sunday is a special day for us. As we celebrate our annual "Pride Sunday" we put out the welcome mat to the wider community. Together we are kicking off Pride Week in York Region. We can't underestimate the importance of publically marking events like this. We have come a long way in Canada in regard to the full inclusion of LGBTQ+ people. And yet we know that the rights of sexual and gender minorities are easily eroded. You only need to look south of the border not only to President Trump's refusal to mark Pride Month as his predecessor did but to actually speak at "Road to Majority", an anti-LGBTQ+ conference. Even here in Canada we should note the Bill C-16, the bill to amend our human rights legislation to include transgender people, continues to be stalled in the Senate. Ongoing public witness for full inclusion and affirmation continues to be needed. So let's kick off Pride Week with gusto, and include next Saturday with a large showing of RHUC folk in the parade in Newmarket.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Camp Canoe Wish List!

The camp would like donations of pencils, paints, elastic bands, embroidery thread, coloured paper, clean used margarine and yogurt containers, plastic 500ml peanut butter jars with screw top lids and paper towel rolls. These items can be left at the Church on **June 18th** **But NOT BEFORE AS WE HAVE NO SPACE TO STORE THEM.** For more information please call June Blanchette 905-780-0048.

Shalom Seekers

On Monday, June 12 the group will gather for a short worship service in the Chapel at 10:30 a.m. before our pot-luck lunch to close out the season. As always, if you can arrive at 10:00 a.m. to help set up for the lunch that would be appreciated.

For more details, please speak to one of the facilitators - Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton.

H.A.I.R.

H.A.I.R. On **Monday, April 24**, we begin a new DVD study, "Painting the Stars – science, religion and an evolving faith" – part of the Living the Questions series. This 7 week study will finish on Monday, June 12 (excluding Victoria Day). Come join in the discussion at 7:00 pm in the chapel.

RHUC Book Club

Members of the RHUC Book Club are taking a break for the summer, but please join us on Wednesday, September 27 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel to discuss the non-fiction book, **THE PRISON BOOK CLUB** by Ann Walmsley. New members are welcome at any time! Please speak to Sandra Loughton for more details or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301. Happy summer reading!

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.

Congratulations to **Lynne and Gord Saul** on their celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary this past weekend!

Your friends and neighbours at **St Matthew's United Church** send their congratulations and love on this the fourth anniversary of your having become an affirming community!

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Annual 'Stride to Turn the Tide' Walk

This Sunday morning the Hands and Hearts for Africa Walking Team will be joining 9 other Granny Groups from Toronto and striding through Earl Bales Park. This is the annual 5 kms walk in support of African grandmothers and their AIDS-orphaned grandchildren. We will be remembering African grannies who walk many kms to fetch water, to go to market, and to seek out food or healthcare for themselves or their families.

Thank you to all who sponsored our footsteps today. From The Walking Team--Enid, Donna Mc, Rose, Esther, Sharon, Peg.

Thank you for your support!

Last Saturday, June 3, Hands and Hearts for Africa partnered with the Aurora-Newmarket Grandmother group, GranAurora, to host a delightful concert by the FOUR MEN quartet. It was a moving collection of music with down east appeal and often witty commentary.

We thank all those who attended for their generous support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. Although final tally for the Marketplace sales is not available yet, we know that the net receipts from ticket sales alone raised \$565.50 for each charity. With many thanks for your ongoing support!

Net Zero Committee

The Net Zero Committee thinks we need to talk seriously and loudly about climate change.

The current calls of warning about climate change have reached a crescendo. Timeframes have dropped significantly so that the serious impacts are now expected within our lifetimes - and also the possibility of reaching the point-of-no-return. This is not fake news nor unsupported news - it is based on hard scientific evidence. Our faith community needs to speak together and to speak up on this issue.

While the news is bleak, there are also many simple solutions that can change the negative course. Each of us is probably attempting some of these and we should be sharing ideas with others and encouraging each other to make the changes necessary. We would love to hear your suggestions! To learn more, please head to the RHUC blog and look for the post on Climate Change: <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com>

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the work of healing and reconciliation. Let us hear a story of how The Healing Fund is changing lives. The Liqwiltach Elders' and Youth Culture Group hosts events and learning experiences in the Campbell River area of British Columbia. Led by volunteer June Johnson, the group connects residential school survivors with local Indigenous youth to provide learning experiences that revitalize culture and language. These experiences also provide a space for youth from different communities to share their oral histories and traditions, which are once again being passed down from generation to generation. One of the learning experiences uses button blankets. As the group grows and travels to different communities, it needs financial support to make new blankets and masks. The blankets are adorned with unique family crests. Each mask signifies a particular dance. A mask dancer teaches the youth the dance and mentors them through the dance process. These events, acknowledged by The Healing Fund Council and supported through your gifts for Mission & Service, help people reconcile the residential school experience and restore Indigenous languages and cultures in Indigenous communities. A Liqwiltach Elder noted, "I am happy that our children are learning the culture, and you see the pride they have to show off their dances. It gives them the sense of belonging, of who they are and where they come from." We sing thanksgiving for the gifts of The Healing Fund. If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

Outreach Forum

Tuesday June 13 at 7 pm at Lyn May's house 156 Church. Everyone is invited. We will be discussing Refugee support, Lenten and Advent givings, the work of the Right Relations Committee (response to the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action) and speakers and Lunch and learns for next year. If you have something you'd like to discuss or find out more about please come. Just RSVP to Lyn May at lynniemay@gmail.com or the church office office@rhuc.org so I have an idea of how many glasses to put out!

Interactive discussion with Indigenous Leaders

Making Right Relations with the Creator, the Land and Eachother: An interactive discussion with Indigenous Leaders Stan McKay & Neil Monague.
When: Saturday, June 17, 2017 from 1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Where: St. John's UC, Alliston
For more information, contact Wayne at whvandyke@gmail.com

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Memory Garden at RHUC

The spring bulbs and blossoms have been wonderful this year in our church gardens. We have a special section (at the steps on the north side of the Yonge Street CD wing of the church) named our 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 a colour you choose. When completed, a marker will be posted with the names of those remembered.

Donna Smith 905-884-6307

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

York Pride Parade

Are you proud of being part of an affirming congregation? Show it by marching in the annual **York Pride parade on Saturday, June 17**. This year's parade is in Newmarket. If you're interested in carpooling, meet in the RHUC parking lot at 9:00 am. The parade starts at 10:30 am at Riverwalk Common. Free parking is available on Charles St. from 9:30 am - 5 pm. For more information on events, go to: <http://yorkpridefest.com/>

Richmond Hill's 2017 Strategic Plan

You are invited to attend a community presentation of the Town's 2017 Strategic Plan Annual Report. The Town has made substantial progress towards achieving our shared vision for the future: *Richmond Hill, where people come together to build our community*. At the community presentation you will learn about the progress Richmond Hill has made in implementing the goals and aspirations that you have set out for us in our Strategic Plan.

Date and Time: June 13 at 7:30 p.m.
Location: Council Chambers, Municipal Offices (1st Floor)
225 East Beaver Creek Road

Feel free to invite your friends, family and neighbours. No RSVP is required. Thank you for your interest in the Town's initiatives and we look forward to your attendance. If you would like more information please contact Ashley Dickinson at 905-771-9996 ext. 3829 or ashley.dickinson@richmondhill.ca

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