

This week at a glance

Sunday, June 17 – Youth Musical
10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary

Monday, June 18
7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel

Wednesday, June 20
7:00 p.m. Worship Leader Training 2 - Chapel

Thursday, June 21
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir – year end gathering at home of Craig and Mary Lee

Saturday, June 23
3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming –Garden Room

Sunday, June 24
10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn with Living into Right Relations Team

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

Sunday, June 17 We celebrate worship through our Youth Choir musical - "Who Me?" We also honour our Grade 8, Grade 12 and post-secondary graduates. If you have not yet let James know that a loved one is graduating, please do so ASAP.

7:00 p.m. Come celebrate the beginning of Summer a bit early! Three Rivers Forest Church is hosting a **Summer Solstice Prayer Gathering**. Take time to give thanks for the gift of warmth and light, and spiritually prepare for the slow shortening of days that is to come. Refreshments will be shared as part of this gathering. **Meet at 19 Church St. S.** (2 doors up from the arena). Bring a friend!

June 24: Worship will be led by Rev. Jane Sullivan.

Lunch and Learn: Following worship on Sunday, June 24, there will be a Lunch and Learn focused on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People. Hosted by our Living into Right Relations Team, participants will have a chance to further engage the various articles of the declaration that have been presented over the year. As the name suggests, lunch will be provided. See you there.

Minister's Message

In anticipation for this coming Father's Day, Glen and I were listening to a podcast about "old dad's tales", that is the embellished advice, sometimes even outright falsehoods that dad's sometimes tell their children. It could be an assertion that you shouldn't eat more than one banana a day. Sometimes it's a warning like Dan telling his son not to eat sweets near a bees' nest because he will get stung. When asked why geese fly in a vee shape, one dad asserted they sometimes fly in other letter shapes. Why do dads do this? One possible answer is because children look up to dad's as a source of knowledge. So they offer an answer even if they don't know the right one. Over the years I have sought advice from my dad. He has equally offered it to me unsolicited. These past two weeks since my dad moved in with us I have received advice and while as a younger man I may have sloughed it off, I now relish it. Who knows how many more Father's Days I will have with him? This Father's Day may we each take time to give thanks for our dads, even when they may advise you not to wear white near a pond because a goose will think you are a piece of bread and bite you.

On holiday: Beginning June 21, James will be on holiday visiting family in Manitoba. While he is away, Rev. Warren Ball from St. Matthew's United Church will be covering any emergencies. Please contact Deb for his number. Worship will be led by Rev. Jane Sullivan on June 24 and by Joanne Scofield on July 1. James will return on July 6.

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

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*

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 45 (no diminishing of rights in the future)

Nothing in this Declaration may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights indigenous peoples have now or may acquire in the future.

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the work of reconciliation with Indigenous brothers and sisters. The Mohawk words "Akwe Nia'Tetewá:neren" (in English, "All My Relations") were added to The United Church of Canada's crest in 2012, recognizing that we are all connected to each other and all of creation. A recent visit from the Uniting Church in Australia's Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress demonstrated the truth of this phrase. The visit was part of a dialogue on reconciliation between our two countries and churches. A return visit from Canada took place in March 2018. The Australians arrived in Vancouver, British Columbia, and after exploring its urban Indigenous context, were scheduled to fly up the coast to the Indigenous community of Bella Coola. The United Churches there had worked to ensure a meaningful visit, but wildfires intervened. Concerned that the community might need to provide refuge for those displaced by fire, everyone reluctantly decided to cancel the visit. Several phone calls later, friends in Peepeekisis and Carry the Kettle First Nations in Saskatchewan helped out with "Plan B." The warmth with which the visitors were received was overwhelming. In Peepeekisis, after a brief service in the beloved old church, everyone was invited to a community feast, where the Australian guests participated in sacred ceremony. At Carry the Kettle, a visit to the annual powwow turned into the Australians being part of the Grand Entry—an incredible honour, and an experience that most will likely never have again. This happened because of a simple recognition, that no matter how far apart we are, we are all connected; we are all relatives.

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

RHUC MISSION ACTION PLAN (MAP) 2018 and Beyond - Update

Thank you to those you who presented an update after worship on May 27th. This was an information session to provide a preliminary update to some early brainstorming discussions that were held related to 3 of our intentions that are of particular priority

- #2 Engage with the community in Our Neighbourhood
- #3 Ensure our Facilities Align with our Values, Identity and Purpose;
- #8 Be Good Stewards of our Finances and our Facilities

The work is just beginning, and teams are starting to form. No decisions have been made. There was feedback at that session that it would be helpful to have an overarching vision to guide our efforts. The following statement was presented to RHUC Council at their retreat on June 2nd with consensus that it could be a working draft as we move forward.

WORKING VISION TO GUIDE OUR INTENTION PROJECTS:

RHUC is called to be a Centre for Community actively engaged in our neighbourhood.

∅ We will provide opportunities for deepening relationships and spirituality, and develop partnerships with the community where there is alignment with our intentions and values.

∅ We will cultivate radical hospitality as we share space, welcome new friends, support each other, and be responsive to community needs and longings.

∅ We commit to upholding our agreements of how we will be with one another, and to reflect and learn as we go.
June 1, 2018 draft

The Coordinating Team will be providing regular updates through email blasts and RHUC Online. If you do not have email - copies of communications will be available through the Church Office.

If you have questions about this important work, or wish to get involved in a project - please reach out to the Coordinating Team members. *Terry Davies, Nancy Hart, James Ravenscroft, Joanne Scofield, Jane Wedlock.*

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

UCW – Camp Big Canoe Wish List and a visit

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.

Upcoming dates to visit Camp Big Canoe. Monday June 18th, UCW Living Waters Presbyterial Meeting. Sunday July 1st, Annual Open House and Retirement Celebration for Bill Stevens and Saturday September 22nd, Living Waters Fall Fair. For more information contact June Blanchette 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.

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!

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

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.

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*

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 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

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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