

## **RHUC CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION MEETING – SUNDAY JUNE 25TH.**

You are invited to a very important information meeting at **11: 45 am after worship on June 25th, 2017.**

The purpose of the meeting is to share recent developments related to the condition of RHUC facilities and a plan by Council to address these issues in the short term and to share our approach to next steps in our ongoing efforts to ensure a vibrant future for RHUC in the community of Richmond Hill.

We have already had valuable input from many members of the congregation through our Listening Circle Process which is helping us discern plans for our shared future. Please come out and be part of the information meeting - we value your feedback/input!

Blessings, Brandon Moore, Chair of Council

## **WORSHIPPING TOGETHER**

### **Worship**

**June 18:** Confirmation Message: "Following the Way in the 21st Century" by James Ravenscroft. As we celebrate confirmation, James will explore what it looks like for our youth and all of us to be followers of Christ in the world today. Reading: Matthew 16:24-27

**June 25:** Aboriginal Solidarity Sunday  
7:00 p.m. Celebrating Solstice in the garden area

### **Forest Church: Celebrating Solstice (well, almost)**

Do you connect with Spirit when you are in nature? Do you seek connection outside when you need to be spiritually recharged? Then we have a gathering for you. On **June 25th** (the Sunday after the Summer Solstice) there will be a celebration of prayer and reflection at **7:00 PM** in the garden area just in front of the CD Building. We will share together and conclude with refreshments. This will hopefully be the first of regular spiritual gatherings outside, sometimes for a meditative walk, sometimes to learn more about the natural world, sometimes to do something which helps to heal the earth (and us), sometimes to gather for prayer and ritual. Come and celebrate the Summer Solstice in a reflective way.

### **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](mailto: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.
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### **Minister's Message**

This Sunday we celebrate confirmation (and baptism) for some of our youth. They have been reflecting together on the United Church's creed, pondering what it will mean for them to affirm faith in Christ, a relationship professed for them by their parents. In preparation, each of our four youth have written their own statement of faith, summarizing what they believe. The word believe has come to mean an idea to which we give assent, but originally it meant believe. It spoke of a relationship. As Sunday approaches, may each of us ponder what we believe. As they reaffirm their beliefs, may we join with them and renew our commitment - to be a follower of Christ and to domso with one another.

## 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*

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

### Pit Clean – Up on Sat., June 24

The property committee will be disposing of extraneous goods and materials that have accumulated in the pit over many years. **If you know of things that have been stored there that you want kept, please inform Deb.**

Volunteers are needed. If you would like to help for a **2 hour shift on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>** please contact: Kathleen Crosbie 905-884-4678 [kltcrosbie@gmail.com](mailto:kltcrosbie@gmail.com)

If anyone wants skids (old wood and dry - they burn very well) for firewood please contact Deb at the church office at [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org).

### 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*

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

### UCW Presbyterial meeting

The UCW Presbyterial meeting will be held on **Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> at Camp Big Canoe in Bracebridge**. If you would like to go contact June Blanchette at 905-780-0048 by Friday June 16<sup>th</sup> to arrange car pools.

### 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 18<sup>th</sup>** **But NOT BEFORE AS WE HAVE NO SPACE TO STORE THEM**. For more information please call June Blanchette 905-780-0048.

### 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!

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Vanessa Armstrong, Coordinator, Sunday Morning Programmes for Children & Youth

Joanne Scofield, Coordinator, Sunday Morning Programmes for Youth

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## 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.

**Terry Davis** was installed as Chair of Living Waters Presbytery on Tuesday, June 13th.  
RHUC is in Living Waters Presbytery, one of four Presbyteries  
In Toronto Conference of the United Church of Canada.

## HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### Annual 'Stride to Turn the Tide' Walk

Last Sunday June 11, six Walkers plus two little ones from Hands and Hearts for Africa joined many Toronto Granny Groups to raise funds for African AIDS families through the Stephen Lewis Foundation. We met at Earl Bales Park and in spite of a very hot day walked 5 kms on treed paths and through a forest. The participants enjoyed a singsong, warm ups, face painting for children and the company of large furry mascots. Check out the photos of our local Granny Walking Group with their mascot buddies on the rhuc blog.

Thanks to all who sponsored us? It was a fun day for fundraising! From Peg, Enid, Esther, Sharon, Donna McErlain and Rose.

### 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 healing and reconciliation. Let us hear a story of one ministry and a historic event in Moraviantown, London Conference. We give thanks that in April 2016 land was transferred from The United Church of Canada back to the Delaware Nation. The land is known as Fairfield and has become a national historic site with a history dating back to the 1700s. In June 2015 the Executive of London Conference had been directed to continue its ongoing discussions with the Delaware Nation concerning Fairfield. In the spirit of reconciliation the conversation was about two parcels of land the United Church had owned and that were connected to the early village, including the burial grounds of the Delaware Nation up to the 18th century. As we work toward reconciliation, the actions of London Conference are to be celebrated as important moves toward partnership. The land will remain a historic site as well as a Canadian Foodgrains Bank field, with the addition of an interpretive centre to share the story of the Delaware, particularly their experience at Fairfield. The museum is a testimony to a time of safety, nurture, and peace between two cultures in the past. It is a symbol of the United Church's efforts toward healing and reconciliation in the relationship between these two cultures in the present. We sing thanksgiving for the heart of London Conference in its work toward reconciliation!

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### Living in Right Relations (LIRR)

Good News! Missed the **Blanket Exercise** last year at RHUC? Thornhill is holding a session at 3.0 p.m. on **Sunday 18th June**. They would be thrilled to have people from RHUC join them. It is a truly wonderful and profoundly disturbing history of Settlers and Indigenous People through history.

To unsubscribe, please write to: [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.



Celebrate our heritage – look to our future!

Camp Big Canoe <http://www.campbigcanoe.ca> is celebrating

**our 50<sup>th</sup> year on Hart Lake**

**July 2 2017**

from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

1012 Sherwood Forest Road Bracebridge ON.

RSVP to [director@campbigcanoe.ca](mailto:director@campbigcanoe.ca) or 416.722.3625

Join us for the memories; see the changes and the things that have stayed the same.  
You will find something for everyone. Lunch will be provided.

