

This week at RHUC

Sunday, June 23
10:30 a.m. Service - Sanctuary

Monday, June 24
7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel

Wednesday, June 26
6:30 p.m. Meditation service – Chapel

Thursday, June 27
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir - Parlour

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER**Minister's message**

Some people call Prime Minister Trudeau a hypocrite. After all no sooner did the government pass a motion declaring a Climate Change Emergency than they also announced the approval of twinning the TransMountain Pipeline. How can he have done both in 24 hours if not to score political points with two groups and ironically cancelling them out with both? I am not as quick to pass judgement, especially as I continue to drive my gas-powered car. Notable in his announcement is the commitment to take the profits from the pipeline and use them for green energy projects. It is a commitment to fund the transition from a petroleum based economy to one that uses alternative energy sources. Transition is the key for me. The reality is that here in Ontario we have a diverse economy that is powered mainly by hydro and nuclear energy. Other parts of the country are more reliant on fossil fuels. People in Alberta are trying to feed their families like the rest of us and they have had a much more difficult time recovering from the recession. When I attended the Town Hall Meeting regarding the Green New Deal, I was struck by the commitment not to leave anyone behind in our transition. It recognized that we all have immediate commitments even as we work to shift gears in response to the climate crisis. Understanding the legitimate concerns of people who rely on the oil industry will help us all pull together to protect our planet rather than creating two sides pulling in opposite directions. As we mark our fourth Ember Day this Sunday and pause to make commitments on our own response to climate change, may we do so with understanding for those who feel the stress of the transitioning economy more than most.

Worship notes

Friday, June 21: Three Rivers Forest Church is hosting a summer solstice meditation at 7 p.m. Come to 19 Church St. S. to mark the longest day of the year. People of all faith perspectives are welcome.

Sunday, June 23: As we mark the beginning of summer, we also celebrate our fourth Ember Day, worship services intentionally focused on the gift of creation and our responsibility to care for it. In "Trust or Oppose" James will be reflecting on the story of Jesus calming the storm (Luke 8:22-25). How we interpret Jesus' action says a lot about us. Did he exert power over the wind and water? Or did he trust it and so the experience of wind and water shifted to one of calm? We also begin to include "Minutes for MAP" as part of our service.

The May hospital service for Long Term Residents was conducted by D. J. McCready. The hospital service for June 23rd will be led by Esther Collier with music provided by Lynn Townsend.

Sunday, June 30: On this Canada Day weekend, we reflect on Luke 9:51-62 in which Jesus invites his followers to be dedicated to their calling even though like him it may mean they "have no place to lay their head".

Meditation Service: Come to the Chapel from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays for a time of quiet and contemplation with readings, music, silent reflection and a theme-based ritual.

Upcoming Vacation: James will be away on vacation and study leave from July 10 to 29. During that time Rev. Basil Coward of Victoria Square United Church will be available for any pastoral emergency. Please call the office for contact information

Celebrations of Life

Upcoming Celebrations of Life:

There will be a celebration of life for **Art Miller on July 8 at 1 pm** in the chapel.

On **July 11 at 7 pm**, there will be a celebration of life for **Jim Quance** in the sanctuary followed by a reception in Centennial Hall.

A MAP Minute

Wednesday we had another successful cluster gathering, this time for the Leadership and Congregational Development Cluster which brings together groups focused on pastoral care, stewardship, volunteerism, fellowship and other congregational activities. The energy of conversation was high as participants talked about having regular lunches after worship on a Sunday, possible fun evenings like a board game night as well as designating September 22 as "Welcome Sunday" (a time where everyone is encouraged to invite someone to accompany them to church). On the planning team for Welcome Sunday are Anne Leyton-Brown, Carolyn You, Donna McLain, Sharon McNutt.

Dedicate a bulletin cover

You are invited to contribute to a week or more of bulletin covers as a dedication to a special person or occasion. The 2020 bulletin booklet will be at the Welcome Table for 3 weeks. Cost is \$20/2 packages – 100 bulletins. If you would like to participate, please fill in your name and number of packages beside the bulletin cover you would like to sponsor, pay Deb in the office (cheque payable to Richmond Hill UC, cash or e-transfer to office@rhuc.org) and let her know of dedication. Please note that there can be more than one dedication per Sunday and covers can be used more than once. Thank you!

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Wanted - yarn

Cleaning out, downsizing? Bring unwanted yarn to the church to be knit and crocheted into pray shawls. Thank you. Donna Smith 905-884-6307

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

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 in their years in high school and sights 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. 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. If you know of any student, please give their name to me and they will be part of this program. Thanks. Donna Smith, Coordinator 905-884-6307

RHUC Quilters

Quilters will resume in September.

Summer 2019 community events in Richmond Hill

Solstice Paddle & Canoe Certification: Saturday, June 22 from 9 – 11 a.m. or 12 – 3:15 p.m. Lake St. George Field Centre

Sunset Paddle: Thursday, July 4 & 18 / 7 – 9 p.m. Lake St. George Field Centre (950 Bethesda Sd., Rd.)

Paddle Lake St. George: Saturday, July 6 from 1 – 3:00 p.m. \$25

Tree Maintenance Event: Thursday, July 9 and 23 / 6 – 8 p.m. Newberry Park (227 Bernard Ave.), Ozark park (70 Old Colony Rd.) Help mulch new trees and pull invasive plants! Youth can gain volunteer hours.

For more information or to register, visit trca.ca/get-involved/events or call 416-661-6611 ext. 5203.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE**Climate Change!**

House of Commons declares a climate emergency (June 17th) for more info...
<https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/climate-emergency-motion-1.5179802>

The House of Commons has passed a non-binding motion to declare a national climate emergency in Canada, kicking off a week that will test the Liberals' promise to balance environmental protection with economic development.

The motion, put forward by Environment and Climate Change Minister Catherine McKenna, calls on the House to recognize that "climate change is a real and urgent crisis, driven by human activity" and to "declare that Canada is in a national climate emergency which requires, as a response, that Canada commit to meeting its national emissions target under the Paris Agreement and to making deeper reductions in line with the Agreement's objective of holding global warming below two degrees Celsius and pursuing efforts to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius."

Congregational Support & Action... Thank you to all of you that signed your agreement with devoting more time (up to 20%) of the Worship Services to CLIMATE CHANGE. Also thank you to those who signed up to be more engaged in working with existing on to be developed groups in RHUC and the Community. If you would like to add your name and email to these two Sign-up" sheets, please contact terry.t.davies@gmail.com

What can we do on a Personal or Church Level

Inform everyone through all sources that we recognize the Climate Crisis as an emergency and that we are instituting the following actions in response:

A. Education: Making available written information on the crisis and access to an in-home visit from a Net Zero member if anyone wants to gather a group of ten or more people. The logo will be shown in the window of all homes that are actively working towards resolving the climate crisis.

B. Actions:

- I. All members will do everything in their power to not drive alone – either cycling, walking, using public transportation, or carpooling.
- II. All members eliminate all excess lighting at homes or church and all power cords or electronic equipment will be turned off or unplugged when not in direct use. New appliances will be efficient.
- III. All member's houses will be kept at temperatures that reduce emissions due to heating and cooling. We should need to wear several layers in winter and loose clothes in summer. Renewable energy sources will be considered for heating and cooling.
- IV. All members will look for ways to buy in bulk and/or reused goods and reduce excess packaging and consumption that is not necessary, including food waste.
- V. Despite the above, all members will not judge others, recognizing that we all have different hindrances to action, and that we will support and encourage each other as we move forward in this crisis.
- VI. The church will use every opportunity to reduce emissions. Gaps in the outer envelope will be closed and lights will be off in all unoccupied rooms and temperatures will be kept so as to reduce emission use without impacting actions. All renewable energy sources will be taken seriously due to the concern over the crisis.

Climate Action

This is the petition in favour of declaring a climate emergency in Canada. More information through the link below. Please share with others to get even more signatures.

<https://campaigns.wedonthavetime.org/love-canada-motion-to-declare-a-climate-emergency-3c138716-0f80-4810-ad00-3883a21f2471>

Net Zero Update**Greening Sacred Spaces Award and Deep Green Certification:**

It was wonderful to actually receive the award from Greening Sacred Spaces (and the \$1000 check!). It was also a wonderful feeling to give that check and award to Jane Wedlock during the service last Sunday. We look forward to spending this money on further greening initiatives in the church. Greening Sacred Spaces has developed a certification system to encourage sacred spaces that are working hard on environmental things - often with little or no human appreciation (the life on the planet always sings back its happiness - in beauty and diversity). There are three levels of achievement to work toward: light, medium, and dark green. We have now reached Dark Green status. You can read about the process here, and download the certification checklist: <https://www.faithcommongood.org/certification>

We need only 10 actions in the Deep Green category to achieve the level, but there are so many more things we need to do - this doesn't mean we will rest on our laurels. The planet we rely on doesn't work that way, and our motivation is not to achieve awards. You can help: keep lights off unless you need them, try turning only a few on to get the light you need, join those of us who take transit or walk or bike or carpool to church, eat less meat or become vegan or vegetarian (we need a vegan party so we can see how delicious vegan food can be!), and post the climate logo in your house window and your car and put it on your letterhead - so everyone around you asks about it and learns that you care about the climate crisis and are doing your part. Remember, there are several of us who would happily come to a meeting of 10 or more people to explain what the crisis is and the way forward. We need you to organize these meetings and help mobilize the community.

Canada Becomes the SECOND Country to Declare a Climate Emergency

The climate crisis is becoming as important as it should be in our lives. On Monday the House of Commons passed a motion to declare a national climate emergency in Canada. The motion declares that "Canada is in a national climate emergency which requires, as a response, that Canada commit to meeting its national emission target under the Paris Agreement and to making deeper reductions in line with the agreement's objective of holding global warming below two degrees Celsius and pursuing efforts to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius." https://globalnews.ca/news/5401586/canada-national-climate-emergency/?fbclid=IwAR26asllennwF_Wy1ozCKi_q-n1dNfwOm7cBV2letC-DFM7yJdUD6_i0gt_w

RHUC and the Climate Crisis

At RHUC we are beginning to recognize that this level of crisis, one that threatens the existence of life on the planet, one that already costs Canada upwards of 10 BILLION dollars a year (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/business/it-s-a-problem-for-society-climate-change-is-making-some-homes-uninsurable-1.5173697>), deserves our attention during all of our actions. Please join us in making it a part of our worship and work and play.

Also, we are working hard towards planning to use geothermal energy to heat AND COOL the sanctuary. Peter DeVita and his team have already visited many Geo-Exchange (GX) installations across the GTA and looked into costs and funding. We are looking forward to a general meeting with the congregation to begin the process of getting committed funding and getting an engineering team in to confirm the feasibility of this project.

Richmond Hill and the Climate Crisis

Richmond Hill, despite delaying a vote to declare a climate emergency in Richmond Hill, has a Sustainability Team which has begun a Community Energy and Emissions Plan (CEEP). Part of this plan has been to create an External Advisory Committee and Esther Collier has been asked to bring two members of the Targeting Climate Change initiative to sit on that committee. The first meeting was held last Tuesday and it was comforting to see a fantastic group of stakeholders, all bending their minds towards resolving this crisis. There is definitely hope going forward and Esther will be sharing insights from that meeting regularly with the RHUC community.

Food Bank Donations

Collection for the Food Bank continues at RHUC. Please put your non-perishable donations in either of the two boxes - one outside the church office and the other in the Narthex. Donna McErlain collects the food from the two bins and brings it to the Food bank. Thank you!

**WANT TO KNOW
MORE ABOUT
AFRICA?**

Hands and Hearts for Africa urge you to mark your calendar and experience one or both of the following events coming soon:

1-- ZIMSCULPT (June 28 to early Sept) is a world-class outdoor art show at Edwards Gardens (corner of Leslie St and St Lawrence Ave East). Featured are hundreds of Zimbabwean stone sculptures set in the beautiful grounds of Toronto's Botanical Gardens. This exhibit is back by popular demand and is free with lots of free parking. Open daily. As a few of us experienced last year, you will be blown away by the beauty, creativity and playfulness expressed in this art form.

Peg Hiscoke and Donna Harrison will be going on Weds July 10th and invite others to join them. Carpooling can be arranged from the church at 10am. Please let us know if you are interested in going on the 10th at handsandhearts@live.ca

2-The 2019 REGIONAL GRANDMOTHER AND FRIENDS GATHERING will be held on Sept 14 at St Bonaventures church on Leslie Street, just south of Edwards Gardens. This event brings together all the Grandmother Groups in the GTA area for a day of renewal and is very open to interested friends and supporters. We will meet the new Interim Executive Director of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and hear news from a frontline worker in Africa.

If interested in joining us, please ask Peg Hiscoke or Donna Harrison for a Registration Form. Early registration by June 30 is \$30 and the later fee is \$35 for the day event including lunch. Parking at the church is described as ample. Please contact us for info at handsandhearts@live.ca

Waste Free Living

What, Why and How to reduce your waste:

When: Saturday, June 22 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

Where: Shiraz 93815 Yonge St.

Guest speaker: Nancy Lotecki-Neely. Nancy is a zero-waster from Caledon and set up Zero Waste Caledon.

Registration fee: \$15 register at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/waste-free-living>

Minutes for Mission

Migration touches all corners of the globe. Some people choose to move in search of jobs, opportunity, or education. Others are forced from their homes by conflict, poverty, inequality, and a lack of sustainable livelihoods. The United Nations reported 258 million migrants in 2017. The safeguards and protections we afford refugees, migrants, and displaced peoples speak to the foundation of human rights. The strangers among us are God's people in need of our hospitality and mercy as much as our advocacy for the justice they seek and human rights they deserve.

Many migrants are victimized by the conditions of forced migration, including human trafficking in all its forms (labour, drugs, human organs, sex, baby-selling, and mail-order brides). Migration today cannot be isolated from concerns for working conditions. Living wages and a safe, secure working environment are denied to many. These rights must be protected. Migrants are not stereotypes. Their value can not be measured by the documents they may or may not have, or their financial contributions to national economies. One migrant leader has said, "Do not talk about us without us. We have answers, and we have been voicing them." Mission & Service partners around the globe—including the National Council of Churches of Kenya, Evangelical Congregational Church in Angola, United Church of Zambia, Church of North India, Methodist Church in Colombia, and Middle East Council of Churches—are working tirelessly to help displaced peoples fleeing violence, political conflict, and persecution as migrants organize to make their dreams come true.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH**Shalom Seekers**

Shalom Seekers will be taking a break for the summer. We will meet again on **Monday, September 9th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel** and resume the Living the Questions DVD study: First Light with Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. We wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer! Peg Hiscoke & Sandra Loughton, Facilitators.

H.A.I.R.

The Monday evening study group continues its viewing and discussion of thought-provoking TED talks. The last session before the summer will be Monday, June 24. All are welcome in the chapel from 7:00-8:30."

Bible Study

Bible study will resume in September.

RHUC Book Club

The RHUC Book Club is on summer hiatus now until Wednesday, September 25 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. The book for discussion at that first meeting in the fall will be: **THE BOAT PEOPLE** by Canadian author Sharon Bala. (Please note that there are at least twelve books at the library with the same title, so take special note of the author's name.)

The Boat People was a finalist for the Canada Reads competition in 2018 and, it was also a finalist for the 2018 Amazon Canada First Novel Award.

"*The Boat People* is a high-stakes novel that offers a deeply compassionate lens through which to view the current refugee crisis. Inspired by real events, with vivid scenes that move between the eerie beauty of northern Sri Lanka and combative refugee hearings in Vancouver, B.C. where life and death decisions are made, Sharon Bala's stunning debut is an unforgettable and necessary story for our times."

New members are always welcome to attend and try out the group. No previous book club experience is required -- just a love of reading and talking about books with others. For more details, please speak to Sandra Loughton, facilitator, or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5. Happy reading this summer!

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.

Skylight Festival

Are you in planning mode for your summer? **Consider coming to the Skylight Festival! Held at Five Oaks Retreat Centre this coming July 26-28**, Skylight is a creative and inclusive gathering where diverse people connect to explore music, art, spirituality and justice. With a pow wow taking place at nearby Six Nations, the plan thus year is to conclude on Sunday morning so people can attend. You can camp, book a room or stay in nearby Paris. Shad is headlining and James and Glen will be leading Forest Church activities. Let's go as an RHUC group! Register at www.skylightfestival.ca.

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