

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 4: Youth Choir Musical

This Sunday, June 4, is the Youth Choir musical, a cherished and much-anticipated annual event at RHUC. This year, it is “Cool in the Furnace”, the inspiring story of Shadrach, Meschach and Abednego’s faith in God. We are so fortunate to have the ongoing commitment of the members of the Youth Choir who have contributed to worship every two weeks throughout the year. In addition to that, they have been working on the musical for months and are eager to present it to you. Please come on June 4, bring your friends, and show your support for our wonderful youth! *Anne Leyton-Brown*

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

June 11: Celebrating Pride Week

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

As we head toward the 9 month mark, I have rhythm such that I can establish some 'office hours', that is times when I know I'll be here rather than out and about at meetings, pastoral visits and the like. While there is always the possibility of emergency calls or the unexpected events, I am generally in the office from noon to 6 p.m. on Mondays and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursdays. So feel free to drop in and have a tea. I'll be here!

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.

UCW June day trip

Date: Wednesday, June 7th, 2017 **Price:** \$60.00 **Leaving:** Barrows Arena (as usual) **Time:** Leaving at 8:30 a.m.

To: Travel to Niagara Parkway with stops along the way to Niagara-on-the Lake

Lunch: Grace United Church put on by their UCW ladies.

Activities:

- Shopping in the lovely historic Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- We will end our trip at Southbrook Winery for a wine tasting of three wines in the Grand Room, including an explanation of each wine, and also information about the excellent work being done in Organic farming and wine making. This is a chance to "catch up" with Bill and the family.
- If not too late in the season, we may see some of the new lambs!
- There will also be an opportunity to shop in the Southbrook Wine Shop.

Tickets will be available after Church or contact Bev Blake 905-780-6019 blakeb@rogers.com

Shalom Seekers

Please join us on **Monday, June 5 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** to discuss Chapter 13: Reflection - Thinking Theologically of Diana Butler Bass' book *Christianity for the Rest of Us*.

The following week, Monday, June 12 we will gather for a short worship service 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.

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.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

This Saturday - June 3 Concert !!

IMAGINE a table filled with delicious baking and a delightful assortment of baskets. This will be part of the Marketplace available to our concert guests on **Saturday June 3 when doors open at 1:15pm.**

COME! ENJOY our Canadian singing sensations **THE FOUR MEN** who will delight you with music of **LOVE, HOPE AND INSPIRATION.** This concert is designed with 'down east' appeal.

Admission \$20 or \$15 for seniors or students. **Tickets also to be sold at the door.**

This special concert will support Stephen Lewis Foundation and Mission and Service work of the United Church of Canada. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Annual 'Stride to Turn the Tide' Walk

Sunday, JUNE 11: A small walking team from our Grandmother Group, Hands and Hearts for Africa, will be joining the Toronto Grannies again this year and will walk 5kms through Earl Bales Park on Sunday morning, June 11th, in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. We are hoping that some of you will support our efforts to make a difference for African AIDs families.

There will be a pledge table at the FOUR MEN concert on Saturday June 3rd and also after the service on Sunday June 4th. Look for our walkers with their bright orange scarves.

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 theological schools like St. Andrew's Theological College in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Let us hear the reflection of Principal Lorne Calvert. "Our United Church of Canada has initiated a new campaign to attract people to ordered ministry under the theme 'God's World Needs Leaders.' As a college whose mission is to offer justice-driven education for Christian leadership, we welcome this undertaking. "Our ministers are responsible for leading, guiding, and supporting the community of faith in the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. They touch people's lives at various points of joy, pain, celebration, and vulnerability in a variety of ways—by leading in worship, by providing pastoral care, by standing with those who suffer, and by working for justice and peace. "With the help of St. Andrew's alumni the college is being equipped with new technology to provide our students with the best possible options for online and distance learning. We are reaching out to establish new partnerships locally and internationally for educational opportunities. Through the work of our faculty beyond the classroom we offer cutting-edge theology and scholarship. "We seek to be the affirming, justice-driven, and welcoming community that we are called to be. All of this we strive for because God's world needs leaders." We sing thanksgiving for the commitment of United Church theological schools that our gifts for Mission & Service support!

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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