

This week at RHUC

Time change: Sunday, March 10, 2019, 2:00:00 am clocks are turned forward 1 hour .

Sunday, March 10

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Healing service - Chapel

Tuesday, March 12

12:00 p.m. RHUC Quilters – Common Room

Wednesday, March 13

12:00 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel
5:30 p.m. Vision Keepers - Chapel
6:30 p.m. Meditation service - Chapel

Thursday, March 14

6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl knitting - Chapel
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, March 15

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Garden Room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

Over the last couple of decades, United Church congregations have embraced the church year with its rhythm of preparatory and celebrational seasons, reflecting on Jesus' birth, his life, and his journey to Jerusalem where not only was he arrested and killed, but his followers experienced the resurrection. This rhythm is intended as an opportunity for us as his disciples to see our lives reflected in his, and to grow in our relationship with him. This aspect of growth is especially important in the Season of Lent. The most readily embraced season by the United Church, we often think of Lent as a time of reflection, study and penitence. As we turn our faces to Jerusalem with Jesus and so prayerfully prepare for the festivity of Easter, there are many of us who take on the practice of giving something up, long associated with Anglicans and Roman Catholics. But what is the point of all of this? Is it prayer and penitence for its own sake? No. The aim is to grow in faith and understanding, to grow in fidelity as a follower of Jesus' Way, to grow in our identity with him. It is ultimately to grow in love. Over the course of the next six Sundays we will reflect on aspects of love, beginning with faithfulness. For this reason, I have reshaped the Prayers of Confession we normally pray during Lent into Prayers for Growth and Healing. We will conclude this prayer with a refrain by John Bell, entitled "Listen, Lord." It is my hope that these next 40 plus days be like a retreat. May they be a time for each of us to grow in love.

Minister's Office Hours: James will be keep office hours from 1:00 until 5:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays each week. Feel free to stop in to see him.

Worship notes

Sunday, March 10: We begin the Season of Lent as we reflect on Jesus' time of testing in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13). Like Jesus who wrestled with what it meant to be God's beloved child, so we take these 40 days to grow in love - with the one we call God, with each other, and with ourselves. At the end of the service there is an opportunity for people who wish to receive ashes. Following worship there will be a brief healing service in the chapel.

Sunday, March 17: We continue to reflect together what it means to grow in love, especially in terms of compassion and protection, pondering the significance of Jesus' prayer for Jerusalem in Luke 13:31-35.

Meditation Service: Come to the Chapel from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays from **March 6th – April 17th** for a time of quiet and contemplation with readings, music, silent reflection and a theme-based ritual

Drivers Needed: If you are able to assist with driving a senior from Oak Ridges to church on Sundays from time to time, please contact Sandra Loughton for more details at 905.773.5189 or e-mail me at bookgirl8@hotmail.com.

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Living In Right Relations Committee

With nature's signs of Spring come thoughts of birth... "Before an Anishinaabe woman gives birth to a child, Elder Sam Achneepineskum tells me, she sings to them. She speaks to them when she is in a good place, and she thanks them for coming into the family's life. The baby is also told stories of their history, so they know who they are when they are born; they are prepared. When they come screaming into being, they are met by a bevy of women, each of whom has a special role to play in the birthing process. Traditionally, when a child is born, the Elders come to give the child the name they will carry for the rest of their days. A naming ceremony can happen at any time. When it does, the child enters into the realm of the tribe. Directly after birth, the placenta is planted firmly in the earth. The umbilical cord is also saved and buried to ensure the child's future connection with the land. For one year, the child is not to touch the ground. A baby is carried in their mother's *tikinagan*, a wooden board outfitted with hides and furs that holds the baby snug until that special day when they are ready to walk on their own. When that day comes, the baby has a "Walking Out" ceremony, wherein they take their first step, feel the ground firmly beneath their feet. And then that child is one with the Earth." *Excerpt from "All Our Relations, Finding The Path Forward" by Tanya Talaga*

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

RHUC Quilters

RHUC Quilters will be meeting this **Tuesday March 12th** in the Garden Room starting at noon. Feel free to bring along your lunch or a snack. All are welcome.

Moving?

Are you planning to move away? Do you know of someone who is?

Problem: the church finds out that someone who attends our church has moved, often well after the fact! We feel badly that their life and contribution to our worship and work has not been recognized and our goodbye and best wishes have not been expressed. Please let me know or the Church Office of any such moving plans. Thanks.

Donna Smith, 905-884-6307

Prayer Shawl knitting for Lent

We will come together again this year during the Christian season of Lent to knit and crochet prayer shawls. Finished shawls are given to people who are unwell, grieving, moving away and also to celebrate a birth, joining our church or other special occasion as a way to show the church cares and hopes the warmth of the shawl will bring them comfort and joy. Anyone who would like to be part of this ministry is invited to come to the **Chapel from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, on Thursdays in March: 7, 14, 21, 28, and April: 4, 11, 18**. Come every week or as often as you are able. Last year we had six gather and another three make shawls at home. Patterns, yarn and needles are available.

Donna Smith, Coordinator, 905-884-6307

RHCPA Speaker Series Spring 2019

March 21 – 10:00 am – 12 p.m. Adam Chapnick: Canadian Multiculturalism in the 21st Century.

April 4 – 10:00 am – 12 p.m. The Fab Four: from Inception to Beatlemania

April 18 – 10:00 am – 12 p.m. Karen King: Civil rights in Canada

April 25 – 10:00 am – 12 p.m. David Newland with Siqiniup Qilautu The Northwest Passage in Story and Song

\$45 for entire series. RHCPA Box office: 905-787-8811 or rhcentre.ca

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Thank you from Dennis Franklin Cromarty HS

'RHUC has been fantastic to the staff and students of DFCHS. This year you have significantly helped alleviate some of the struggles that young indigenous youth face when they come to Thunder Bay for an education. In our busy world we often take for granted how important warm coats, hats, mitts, shampoo, soap, and school supplies can be, to sustaining a healthy lifestyle that generates hope, self-confidence, and the pursuit of success. Thanks to all of you, many of these students no longer have to worry about some of those barriers. As a result of your generosity, teachers and other staff members are able to spend less time trying to figure out how to resolve those barriers, and can focus more on the individual student and their "normal" teenage student needs. Something as simple as a birthday card, wish, and gift has gone a long way in improving the overall morale of the students when they are away from friends and family. The way they light up on their birthday is truly the same way a kid not away from all of their friends and family would react. To elicit that same reaction is a huge win and something that is a feel good moment for everyone here.'

Thanks so much, RHUC friends and allies, *Sean Spenrath, DFC*

Minutes for Mission

Rob Dalgleish, Executive Director of EDGE, says the growth of Embracing the Spirit, a Mission & Service program, demonstrates that there is an appetite across the church to experiment with new forms of worship and ministry. Embracing the Spirit is a Mission & Service program, learning network, and innovation fund. As Dalgleish notes: "People sometimes ask me, 'What do art shows or cooking classes have to do with church?' I tell them it's about loving your neighbour and the neighbourhood. Changing lives for the better, whether economically, socially, environmentally, or through more traditional spiritual practices, is an act of love. It's an expression of the abundant life that was Jesus' purpose. Through our own deepening discipleship, it becomes an opportunity to introduce people to who Jesus is and the way he invites us to walk." The Embracing the Spirit learning network consists of more than 300 people receiving guidance from more than 80 mentors. These mentors include retired professionals who are willing to lend their skills and expertise to help others. Another part of the program is the Social Innovation Challenge, where participants can develop a concept, discover new partners, and compete for start-up funding. There have been 11 Social Innovation Challenges so far, which bring a spiritual bottom line to entrepreneurship.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality will gather **this Saturday the 9th**, starting with refreshments and conversation at 9:45. Joanne Scofield will lead the program as she outlines: Meditations for Lent: As we enter the season of Lent, we will reflect on the meaning of Lent, engage in spiritual practices and end the morning with a short, meditative Taize service.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, March 9th, 2019**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, with breakfast in the gym at 8:30 prepared by our UCW friends. New participants are always welcome. The Men's Breakfasts are a time of fellowship and camaraderie. Feel free to contact us if you're interested in more information. Cost is \$10 / person, with net proceeds to the UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran (harrypersad.ramsaran@gmail.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, March 7th. Thank you! After breakfast you are invited to the Parlor for a presentation Title: Davenport-Perth Community Ministry by Tina Conlon. Tina Conlon started working at Davenport Perth Community Ministry in June 2014. The Davenport Perth Community Ministry (DPCM) is a ministry of presence, walking in solidarity with the culturally diverse, low income community of Davenport Perth. The role of the ministry is to provide community development and community organizing support, offer pastoral care and be engaged in advocacy through coalitions and networks.

Looking ahead: Future dates for 2019: April 13th and May 11th

U.C.W. Spring Luncheon

Hold the date of **Saturday, April 27 at 1:00** for the Annual Spring Luncheon! Tickets: \$20

H.A.I.R.

Please join us - the discussions are open and safe and intelligent and entertaining! **Monday nights, 7:00 pm, Chapel.**

Bible Study

Wednesdays at noon. Please bring your lunch with you.

Faith Exploration Classes

Are you curious about the teachings of Jesus, especially how we live them out within The United Church of Canada? Do you want to translate what you were taught in Sunday School into an adult understanding? Are you wondering about baptism or considering becoming a member of RHUC through confirmation or transfer from another congregation? Or maybe you are just interested in sharing faith with other adults? Then come to James' office and explore faith with others. The sessions run from now until April in 3 week blocks based on themes. Faith Exploration Classes are at noon on Sunday. Everyone welcome.

Section 4: Living in Faith

March 17: Living with Respect in Creation

March 24: Living in Service

March 31: Living for Just Relationships

April 7: Living with difficult ethical questions

April 20: Retreat Day

RHUC Book Club

Please join the RHUC Book Club on **Wednesday, March 27 at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss **The Saturday Night Ghost Club** by Canadian author Craig Davidson. Davidson was born in Toronto and raised in Calgary and St. Catharines. His 2018 novel **The Saturday Night Ghost Club** was a finalist for the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize.

"Reality never changes. Only our recollections of it do. Whenever a moment passes, we pass along with it into the realm of memory. And in that realm, geometries change. Contours shift, shades lighten, objectivities dissolve. Memory becomes what we need it to be." Neurosurgeon Jake Baker recalls a summer spent in Niagara Falls many years ago when along with two of his friends and his eccentric Uncle C, they formed the Saturday Night Ghost Club – a ragtag group of misfits who explored the urban myths of Cataract City. (www.everyreading.com)

For more information, please contact Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, or Deb Fratin in the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5. New members are always welcome.

Shalom Seekers

Shalom Seekers will not be meeting on Monday, March 11th due to March Break. Please join us on Monday, March 18th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel to continue our study of Barbara Brown Taylor's book **Learning to Walk in the Dark**. On March 18th, we'll be looking at Chapter 4: The Dark Emotions. We will look to answer such questions as: 'Do we have a low tolerance for sadness?' 'What are the dark emotions?' and 'Do we agree with this statement -- 'There are no dark emotions, just unskillful ways of coping with emotions we cannot bear.'? It promises to be an interesting discussion.

New members are welcome at any time. Please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton for more details.

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.

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