

## This week at a glance

**Sunday, March 11 – Lent 4 – Daylight savings start!**

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

**Monday, March 12**

7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel

**Tuesday, March 13**

7:00 p.m. Tai Chi – Garden room

**Thursday, March 15**

5:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Knitting – Chapel  
6:15 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

**Saturday, March 17**

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



On Sunday, March 11, 2018, 2:00:00 am clocks are turned forward 1 hour to 3:00:00 am local daylight time.

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

### Worship

**This Sunday, March 11:** Our upcoming worship service will follow a hymn sing format as Barry shares a history of Canadian hymnody.

**Healing Service:** The service will be in the chapel.

**Sunday, March 18:** As we head towards the end of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week, we reflect on John 12:20-33. Once again prospective disciples ask to see Jesus. Like a seed in the ground, this relationship will only be fruitful when we are willing to let go in love.

**Requesting Toaster Ovens:** Do you have a toaster oven we can borrow? On Easter Sunday the children's activity will involve some baking. In order to accommodate this in Centennial Hall we are in need of 3 or 4 toaster ovens. Please contact James if you can help.

### Minister's Message

Upcoming holiday: James will be away on holiday following the AGM until March 13.

### Worship Notes

A Reminder: This will serve as a reminder for those doing announcements on Sunday mornings that we are attempting to keep the announcements to 50 words or less. Thank you to those who have been keeping this new guideline in mind when delivering announcements!

### Forest Church

**This Month's Forest Church:** On Sunday March 18, we will once again be hosting a Three Rivers Forest Church event at Richmond Hill United. Our theme for March focuses on the return of birds as we head into Spring. Beginning at 4:00 pm, we will gather in the chapel where we will make bird feeders and take time to give thanks for the return of our feathered friends.

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

### RHUC Council

Council minutes are posted on the RHUC website monthly under 'Governance'. Council meetings are on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 and are open to anyone to attend. Please note that there will not be a meeting on Wed., March 14.

## HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### Truth and Reconciliation Committees

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 28 (land ownership and legal rights)

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to redress, by means that can include restitution or, when this is not possible, just, fair and equitable compensation, for the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned or otherwise occupied or used, and which have been confiscated, taken, occupied, used or damaged without their free, prior and informed consent.
2. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the peoples concerned, compensation shall take the form of lands, territories and resources equal in quality, size and legal status or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

### Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support congregations in transition or in remote locations. Green Bay South Pastoral Charge is a grateful pastoral charge. In the midst of beautiful Notre Dame Bay in Newfoundland and Labrador, this scenic three-point pastoral charge has been receiving financial support from Mission & Service for a number of years. The small charge is spread over 40 kilometres, with one church accessible only by water. Over the years, a Mission & Service-funded mission support grant has enabled the pastoral charge to adjust to declining numbers and build up its ministry. It anticipates being self-supporting in the near future. The generosity of the United Church has sparked the members' own compassion and kindness. They are generous givers and support Mission & Service. They see first-hand the benefit of being a recipient and feel compelled to grow the wonderful ministries that we support together as a denomination. During each Sunday service, a Blessing Can is distributed among attenders. People can express their gratitude, name a blessing, and offer a donation. These dollars are set aside as additional donations to specific Mission & Service partners through the Gifts with Vision program. Board chair Lloyd Colbourne says that members enjoy this time of thanksgiving and appreciate being able to grow their ministry and mission. He adds, "We want to thank all the congregations of the United Church for supporting us when we have needed it. We appreciate the opportunity we have to share our gifts, in gratitude." Our gifts for Mission & Service accompany churches such as Green Bay.

### Lenten givings

This year's Lenten givings will support two Indigenous groups: one in our community and one in North Western Ontario. As one way of responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action we are asking members of our congregation to ACT by supporting two projects.

1. Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School in Thunder Bay.
2. First Nations Cultural

We will report back to you regularly on how these funds are being used and hope you are as excited by this opportunity as we are.

*Respectfully submitted, RHUC Outreach Committee and the Right Relations Committee.*

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

### Women's Spirituality

Woman's Spirituality will gather this **Saturday March 10<sup>th</sup>** in the garden room at 9:45 a.m. Program: about Mary Magdalene. All women are welcome!

### United Church Women

Please hold the date for **Wednesday, June 13, 2018** for the annual UCW bus trip – heading East this year! Details to follow.

### H.A.I.R.

The Monday evening study group will begin discussion of the book **THE GOD WE NEVER KNEW** by Marcus Borg on **Monday, March 12 from 7:00 - 8:30** in the chapel. Borg famously asked people who said they doubted the existence of God to tell him about the God they did not believe in, because chances are he did not believe in that kind of God either. In this book Borg reviews various understandings of God, and offers his interpretation of a way to reconcile faith in God with science, history, critical thought and reason. On March 12 we will discuss the introduction and chapter 1. All are welcome.

### Bible Study

No need to have been before. Come once. Or every week. Or drop in every so often. We will look at the reading for the upcoming Sunday. See you in the chapel! **Cancelled for Thursday, March 8.**

### Shalom Seekers

Shalom Seekers will not be meeting this Monday due to the March Break holiday. Please join us on Monday, March 19th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. when we begin a new book study: **Days of Awe & Wonder: How to be a Christian in the 21st Century** by Marcus Borg. For the session on March 19th, please read the Foreword written by Marcus Borg's widow, as well as Chapters 1 and 2. For more information about the group, please contact Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton. New members warmly welcomed!

### RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, March 28th at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss Claire Cameron's novel **The Last Neanderthal**.

"From the author of *The Bear*, the enthralling story of two women separated by millennia, but linked by an epic journey that will transform them both." That is a little snippet to whet your appetite!

New members are always welcome. Please speak to facilitator, Sandra Loughton, or call the church office for more details. 905.884-1301 Ext. 5

### Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, March 10, 2018**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, with breakfast in the gym at 8:30 prepared by our UCW friends. After breakfast, all are invited to a presentation by George Moon: "A Little Waltz through Dance/How to Enjoy Having Two Left Feet". George will briefly discuss various smooth and rhythm dances, the benefits of dance, where it has taken Dawn and him, and then finish with some examples. 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 about it. Cost is \$10 / person, with net proceeds to the UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran ([hramsaran@rogers.com](mailto:hramsaran@rogers.com) or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, March 8. Thank you!  
Looking ahead: Future dates for 2018 are April 14, and May 12

### UCW

**UCW Spring Luncheon on Saturday, April 21 at 1:00 p.m.**

Tickets for the UCW Spring Lunch are available from members of the UCW. The cost is \$20.00.



## 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.

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### The United Church Observer – Faith, Justice and Ethical Living

It is renewal and new subscription time! \$25 Please pay for your renewal / start your subscription by April 6, 2018.

‘Founded in 1829, The United Church Observer is the oldest continuously published magazine in North America and the second oldest in the English speaking world. It has won international acclaim for journalistic excellence and garnered more awards for writing than any other Canadian religious publication.’

### Prayer shawl knitting

We will be gathering to knit or crochet prayer shawls again this year during Lent. Finished shawls are given to people who are unwell, grieving, moving away, and also to celebrate a birth or other special occasion as a way of showing that we care and hope the warmth of the shawl will give comfort and joy. Anyone who would like to be part of this ministry is invited to come on **Thursday, March 8, 15, 22 and 29, in the Chapel, 5:00 to 6:00**. If this time does not fit into your schedule, please contact Donna Smith 905-884-6307 to see about arranging another time. Last year we had 8 people gathered and a couple people made them at home. Patterns and some yarn are available.

### Mom to Mom sale

Where: Thornhill UC, 25 Elgin St., Thornhill

Date: Saturday, April 7, 2018

Time: 9 a.m. – 12 noon

\$2 admission donated to yellow Brick House Women’s Shelter

You will find amazing deals on gently used, toys, clothes, books outdoor toys, baby gear, furniture and so much more!

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