

## This week at RHUC

### Sunday, March 17

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary  
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour  
12:00 p.m. Faith Exploration classes – Chapel

### Monday, March 18

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel  
7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Cubs - gym

### Tuesday, March 19

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

### Wednesday, March 20

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

### Thursday, March 21

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

### Saturday, March 23

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

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

## Minister's message

This past Saturday we hosted the second forum bringing together members of the community to dialogue and network in regard to our climate crisis. It was inspiring to see even more people come together than our February forum. Organizers took it up a notch by having everyone sign up for one of three actions - advocating the government, creating climate change action plans with family and friends, participating in a community-based drawdown challenge. It is a privilege to be able to make use of our space for arguably the most pressing issue of our age. We are putting action to our discourse about being good stewards and yet there is much more that we can do, even within our walls. Energy conservation is an important strategy in lowering greenhouse gas emissions. Because a high percentage of Ontario's electricity comes from renewables we forget that electricity use is still a contributor to them. Perhaps that is why lights get left on in vacant rooms all the time at RHUC. There is no need for the lights to be left on in an empty room and yet countless times I am turning off the lights in the kitchenette (which now has a motion sensor to turn on the light), the parlour, the common room, the flower room.... Don't get me wrong - I forget too. But if we are committed to being green we all need to follow through. Besides, Ontario electricity rates are pretty high. That's a good thing if it encourages us to use less but if we leave lights on we are also wasting money. In addition there are plenty of times we don't even need to turn them on. If it's a sunny day and there is lots of light coming in through the windows, why not just leave the lights off? If you need more light to read a paper, why not move over to a window? As we strive to be environmental leaders in our community, let's remember that it's not just big actions that we need to take. Lots of small actions add up.

**Minister's Office Hours:** James will be keep office hours from 1:00 until 4:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays each week. Feel free to stop in to see him.

## Worship notes

**Sunday, March 17:** We celebrate the Second Sunday in Lent as we reflect together on Luke 13:31-35 in which Jesus laments over Jerusalem, comparing himself to a mother hen enfolding her chicks in her wings. This is a powerful image of love, especially when you realize that a mother hen not only draws her brood to herself to keep them warm but to protect them from harm - even with her life.

**Sunday, March 24:** We once again hear from Luke, chapter 13. In verses 1 through 9 Jesus tells a parable about a fig tree that hasn't borne fruit. We are reminded that growth requires patience.

**March Forest Church:** Celebrate the coming of Spring with this month's Forest Church experience. On **March 24**, we will give thanks for the gift of new life as we plant seeds and pray together for the coming season. We will meet at James' and Glen's (19 Church St. S.) from **2:00 - 3:30 pm**. Refreshments to follow. All are welcome.

**Meditation Service:** Come to the Chapel from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays from **March 6<sup>th</sup> – April 17<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:bookgirl8@hotmail.com).

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

### Living In Right Relations Committee

pot-latch /'pät.laCH/noun

"a ceremonial feast held by some Indians of the northwestern coast of North America (as in celebrating a marriage or a new accession) in which the host gives gifts to tribesmen and others to display his superior wealth"

1. From 1884 to 1951, the *Indian Act* declared potlatch and other cultural ceremonies illegal. This event was integral to the culture of coastal Indians so the government felt, if eradicated, the cultural void could be filled with Christianity. Residential school children were told that potlatches were superstitious and led to poverty and advised not to attend them when they were home.

2. Missionaries and the government at the time felt the potlatch was "excessive, wasteful" and a barrier to assimilation. Additionally, the notion that establishing rank by one's ability to share wealth rather than holding it was, literally, foreign to Europeans.

3. This drove the potlatches underground. "One famous example of an underground potlatch took place at Christmas of 1921 in Alert Bay." It was held on an island to avoid being discovered by the Indian Agents or missionaries. The celebration was detected and 45 people were arrested and charged, with an additional 22 people jailed. The crime? Dances, speeches and gift giving.

4. An article in last weekend's Saturday Toronto Star spoke of Jody Wilson-Raybould's paternal grandmother's (Ethel Pearson) influence on her, and her sister's, lives - which included potlatches. "Born in 1914, Pearson attended numerous potlatch ceremonies... While women weren't allowed to hold potlatches, Pearson defied tradition and organized her own, spending thousands of dollars to host an event."

5. <https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2019/03/07/wilson-raybould-wasnt-afraid-to-run-with-the-bulls-and-sure-isnt-afraid-now-says-sister.html>

6. A few determined communities, the government's realization they were not succeeding and the Canadian people (after WWII) becoming aware of the appalling treatment of indigenous peoples, led to the amendment in 1951 to remove this law.

[Sources: <https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/potlatch>, "21 Things You May Not Know About The Indian Act". Joseph, Bob]

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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

### Outreach Committee – Lunch & Learn

Melissa and Sam, two staff members from 360° Kids will be joining us to talk about Nightstop, a program that 360° Kids is piloting to connect families in our community with youth needing temporary overnight accommodation. You will be treated to the usual delicious light lunch (soup, bread and cheese, fruit and cookies) and a chance to hear about this exciting program and put any questions you have to the staff and members of our congregation who have participated. Please mark your calendar, **Sunday March 31 at noon in the Common Room.** Brought to you by the Outreach Committee

### Lenten givings

Engaging youth in environmental initiatives is a federal and municipal priority. Engaging and empowering our youth in an environmental initiative that they will design - they will set the parameters and drive the project. **The seed money we collect on two Sundays in Lent, March 31 and April 7,** will be our way of supporting them - a wonderful way to invest in a sustainable future and harness all the youthful energy and wise counsel that we see around us.

### 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

Our gifts for ministries like River Bend Integrated Community Ministries support programs of healing and reconciliation. The core of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, is home to many Indigenous people. Beyond the core are communities of non-Indigenous people. Each year, River Bend holds a program called the 10 x 10 project. This is an art project where people living in the core are invited to paint on a 10 x 10 canvas that will be displayed in an art show to all the communities in Saskatoon. Last year, 80 canvases were handed out and 73 returned for the show. Minister and Coordinator Jane Jupe says she has grown so much in her interactions with artists. "I have come to realize how important it is in so many ways; it builds community between artists, and helps people heal." Artist Kandis Caplan created a beautiful image from beads of an Indigenous girl without facial features. She explained the importance of sharing her story of sexual assault, saying that it happens to many young Indigenous girls. We are called to love our neighbours! Your gifts for Mission & Service offer moments of healing every day at River Bend Integrated Community Ministry.

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

### 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.

On **Monday March 18, at 7:00 in the chapel**, HAIR will conclude the viewings and discussions of the TV series, First Contact, dealing with issues of reconciliation with indigenous peoples. All are welcome.

### Shalom Seekers

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*. This week 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.

### 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.everyreadthing.com](http://www.everyreadthing.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.

### 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.  
Happy Birthday to **Lynne Saul** as she celebrates her 80th Birthday on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

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.