

This week at a glance

Sunday, March 18 – Lent 5

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Common Room
4:00 p.m. Forest Church – Chapel. We will make bird feeders and take time to give thanks for the return of our feathered friends. Please bring an empty 2 litre milk or juice carton.

Monday, March 19

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

Tuesday, March 20

7:00 p.m. Tai Chi – Garden room
7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, March 21

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

Thursday, March 22

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 24

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

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

Sunday, March 18: As we continue to ponder readings from John's gospel we hear echoes of two earlier passages. In John 12:20-33, new people meet with Jesus as he points to his future death when he will be lifted up to draw all people to himself. The imagery is that of relationships. We are reminded of how we often need to "give it up" if we want to grow in our relationship with others, both to give up our own agendas and to lift up and affirm the needs of those we love. The same is true in our relationship with Jesus. We grow as we continue to "give it up" both for and with Christ.

Sunday, March 25: We begin Holy Week as we celebrate Palm Sunday. As we did last year, we will have a palm parade for people of all ages, avoiding the traffic jam by enlarging our route to include Centennial Hall. We then transition to consider the rest of the story as we prepare for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

March 29th : Maundy Thursday

6:15 p.m. Readings focusing on Jesus' last night with his disciples, and the sharing of communion.

March 30th : Good Friday

10:30 a.m. A service with Youth and Chancel Choirs.

March 31st: Holy Saturday

We may not gather in church but we pause with the disciples as they mourn Jesus' death. Many people fast and pray on this day.

April 1st Easter Sunday

10:30 a.m. "Alleluia!" The story of the resurrection and the celebration of communion.

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

We began Lent with the beginning of John's gospel as two of John the Baptist's disciples follow Jesus and he invites them to "come and see" where he is staying. This homecoming theme was made real for me this past week away but in the opposite way you might think. It was great visiting with family and friends, and Glen and I definitely managed to surprise the hosts of the annual Oscars party. But midpoint I was missing RHUC and as we flew into Pearson we did so knowing we were coming home. One of the gifts of Lent is to give us a new vantage point on our lives, to help us see with new clarity. I am grateful for the time away to rest and relax but I am most grateful for the sense of rootedness I have gained here and my appreciation for what an amazing community RHUC is.

Easter flowers

The congregation is invited to make a donation for the purchase of Easter flowers and include a memorial/celebratory message in the Easter order of service. There will be a table in Centennial Hall after the service today where you will be able to leave your message and donation if you wish. *The Sanctuary Committee*

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.

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 29 (environmental rights)

1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.
2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that no storage or disposal of hazardous materials shall take place in the lands or territories of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent.
3. States shall also take effective measures to ensure, as needed, that programmes for monitoring, maintaining and restoring the health of indigenous peoples, as developed and implemented by the peoples affected by such materials, are duly implemented.

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service are making a difference in communities across Canada. Let us hear the impact one community ministry is having. The Jane Finch neighbourhood has been painted as one of the toughest areas of Toronto. While there are many instances of violence, especially rampant gun violence, there is also a lot of love. The community bands together to make a better place for their children, and at the centre is the Jane Finch Community Ministry. The ministry works with partners to encourage youth to discover that there is a brighter future for them beyond joining a gang. Community Minister Barry Rieder has been at the Jane Finch ministry for over 22 years. He marvels at the privilege of being able to walk with the community, and he shares how he loves being able to see children grow from babies into youth and young adults. The community ministry invests in youth through literacy programs, scholarships, and advocacy with the Toronto Police Service. One program is the Unity Barbecue. Founded by community member Andrea Tabner, it brings together members of rival gangs and the Toronto police as a way to demonstrate unity in the community. With 110 nationalities and over 70 mother tongues spoken in the neighbourhood, coming together as a community is often challenging. Through educational programming, gatherings, and advocacy, the Jane Finch Community Ministry offers hope to youth and community members for a better way of life.

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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

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!

Shalom Seekers

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 upcoming session, 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

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.

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**. 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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