

Saturday, March 7

10:00 a.m. DFC packing party – Lower Centennial Hall

Sunday, March 8 – Time change - one hour forward at 2 am!

10:30 Service – Sanctuary

12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour

12:00 p.m. Sermon Talk-back – Common Room

Monday, March 9

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – chapel

7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Tuesday, March 10

7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

Wednesday, March 11

6:30 p.m. Meditation Group – James' office

Thursday, March 12

6:00 p.m. Prayer shawl making – Chapel

7:00 p.m. Lenten Bible Study - Chapel

7:00 p.m. Scouts – gym

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, March 14

8:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast – gym/Parlour

9:45 a.m. Women's Spirituality - Chapel

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Lower Centennial Hall

Minister's message: "A friend sent me an article entitled "When Saints Fall" by Jesuit priest Thomas Reese. This reflection, published in Religious News Service on February 25, is about Jean Vanier. There are some ideas of Rev. Reese I wanted to share. While he spoke about remembering that our heroes have clay feet and that it is important to apply to our present circumstances how figures in the Bible are as much sinners as they are instruments of grace, and so can appreciate the gifts that someone offers even as we are repelled by their wrongdoings, I was most struck by his comments at the end of his article. Consider these comments: "As a social scientist, I am never surprised by sin, corruption and conflict. I am a firm believer in Original Sin, for which there is lots of empirical evidence, although I don't blame it on Eve and the apple. For me, Original Sin is the reality that sins of the past provide fertile ground for sins in the present (think slavery and racism). And sins in our time will make it difficult for people to be good in the future (think global warming). What surprises me is goodness, kindness and love, which are signs of God's grace in the world. Many people turn away from God because they cannot resolve the problem of evil: How can there be a God when there is such evil in the world? I have the opposite question. Granted that we have been struggling to survive ever since we crawled out of the muck, evil does not surprise me. I am surprised by the problem of good. Why is there good in the world? Given where we came from and the world in which we live, why is there love? Why is there self-sacrifice? These are miracles of grace. These are signs of the Holy Spirit, God's presence in the world. It is the Holy Spirit that pushes us upward in our evolutionary journey beyond selfishness and sin to kindness and love." While I don't completely agree with Rev. Reese, there is much here to ponder. As we face the realities of hurt and harm in the world, may we also keep our eyes open for grace and love.

worship and music

Sunday, March 8: As the "river" on the communion table grows, we reflect together on John 3:1-17, where Nicodemus visits Jesus during the night to speak about his ministry. It contains the famous passage about how much God loves the world. We continue to ponder how coming to know Jesus, including his embrace of the cross, offers a path to a transformed life. There is a "Sermon Talkback" in the Common Room after worship.

Sunday March 15: We eavesdrop on another conversation as Jesus speaks with a Samaritan woman as she comes to the well for water (John 4:5-24). The significance of our expanding "river" deepens as Jesus affirms himself as Living Water. We gather for a Lunch+ to celebrate a belated Pie Day.

Why PIE? PIE = Public, Intentional, Explicit



Affirming PIE Day
2020!



www.pieday.ca

What's that all about? The quick answer is: welcome of and advocacy for 2SLGBTQ+ folks. Come on the 15th and hear more, bringing your donation of a pie, savoury (quiche, shepherds...) or sweet (fruit, custard...) and we'll all eat pie for lunch! Great way to celebrate and have fun! *This Lunch & Learn is sponsored by RHUC Vision Keepers. Contact person: Donna Smith, 905-884-6307*

Worship Notes: An important part of Sunday worship is taking time to connect with each other and nurture relationships. We reconnect with old friends and reach out to newcomers. This was known in the early church as the "kiss of peace" and became a way to show solidarity in the call to be people of love and justice in the wider community. It's ritualized in some Christian denominations, there being a special part of the service when people greet one another. While that is not something we do liturgically, we still regularly shake hands. As important a sign as this is, keeping each other healthy is also critical. Just as we regularly practice good hygiene by coughing or sneezing into our elbow and frequently washing our hands, during this time of a global epidemic we should refrain from handshakes and hugs. You are encouraged to instead greet one another with intentional eye contact and a bow. Signs of love are important in building community and in this time that includes keeping each other safe.

programs for all

Lenten Bible Study: Beginning on Thursday March 5 at 7:00PM, James will lead a bible study entitled "What does the Bible say about....?" Each Thursday of Lent, participants will study what the bible teaches about everything from fair wages to race relations. The first topic is focused on the environment. Other topics will be chosen by those who attend the first session

Shalom Seekers: On Mondays from 9:39am to 11:30am in the chapel, please join us for lively discussion about how faith connects with real life issues. On March 9 we will be continuing our study of the new DVD series called "ProFuture Faith" by Eco- theologian Michael Dowd. We will be looking at Session 2 called "The Purpose of Religion and the Necessity of Science". One quote by Dowd states that "humanity's biggest problems stem from the failure of its dominant religions to ensure that every aspect of society is accountable to the future." If you find this intriguing please join us. We welcome newcomers especially at any time. For more information, please speak to Sandra Loughton or Peg Hiscoke.

H.A.I.R.: Our Monday evening study group (Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels and other Rif-raff), which welcomes and explores questions, doubts and uncertainties about the relevance of our faith at 7:00-8:30 in the chapel. New participants are welcome at any time.

RHUC Book Club: Please join the RHUC Book Club on **Wednesday, March 25th** for their discussion of *THE DIFFERENCE* by award-winning Canadian author Marina Endicott. The meeting will take place in the Chapel at 7 p.m. Here is a short description of the novel: From one of our most critically acclaimed and beloved storytellers comes a sweeping novel set on board the *Morning Light*, a Nova Scotian merchant ship sailing through the south pacific in 1912. Kay and Thea are half-sisters, separated in age by almost twenty years, but deeply attached. When their stern father dies, Thea returns to Nova Scotia for her long-promised marriage to the captain of the *Morning Light*. But she cannot abandon her orphaned young sister, so Kay too embarks on a life-changing voyage to the other side of the world. At the heart of *The Difference* is a crystallizing moment in Micronesia. If this description piques your interest, please feel free to join us for the discussion. New members are always welcome. For more details, please contact Sandra Loughton or Deb Fratin in the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5.

Prayers Shawls: Finished knitted/crocheted 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 with a hope that the warmth of the shawl will bring comfort and joy. Anyone who would like to be part of this ministry is invited to come to the **Chapel from 6:00-7:00 on Thursdays beginning February 27th through April 9th**. Come every week or as often as you are able. Patterns, yarn and needles are available. Donna Smith, Coordinator, 905-884-6306

Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, March 14th, 2020**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, followed by breakfast at 8:30 prepared by our UCW friends. New participants are always welcome. The Men's Breakfasts is 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 (harrypersad.ramsaran@gmail.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, March 12th. Thank you!

After breakfast you are invited to a presentation in the church parlour by Maureen Loweth. Maureen will talk about a fascinating research project she undertook last year when her husband Doug and his sisters inherited a number of family treasures. Of note are two collections of historical letters dating from the Colonial Era through the American Revolutionary War and early 19th century. Some of the most well-known personalities include John Quincy Adams, Major General Lafayette and Jenny Lind. Examples of decorative arts will be showcased including Canton ware, daguerreotypes and a large 1820 map of New York and Philadelphia.

Women's Spirituality: March 14 at 9:45 am in the Chapel.

Dedication of bulletin covers: If you would like to dedicate a bulletin cover please speak to Deb in the office. \$20/Sunday

outreach activities

DFC 'Coats+' Packing Party - this Sat March 7th @ 10am @ RHUC in Lower Centennial Hall ~ All Welcome!

Hands and Hearts for AFRICA would like to thank everyone who supported our Leap Night fundraiser last weekend. On February 29, Centennial Hall was filled with laughter and conversation over a delicious Chili dinner and old-fashioned board games. We were especially pleased to see new faces from the community come through our doors. We are delighted to announce that this event raised a net amount of \$910 for African AIDS Families through the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Special thanks to RHUC Drummers for their wonderful music, to all our helpers and to our supporters who helped us make a difference in African lives. If you are interested in joining our group or helping at an event, please contact Peg Hiscoke or Donna Harrison at handsandhearts@live.ca

Minute for Mission: The chaplains of Michael Garron Hospital in Toronto have to respond to many situations. 'When the day came for this tiny, beautiful baby to leave with her parents, staff said goodbye to her, and many of them were in tears. After she left the hospital, we sat around and shared stories and grieved together. It was a very profound moment in my ministry.' Mission & Service supports chaplaincy in hospitals, universities, and prisons.

Climate Action Planning Instigated at the Church

The RHUC community was asked to participate in climate action planning by creating or joining a small Climate Action Group (three people or family groups recommended). Have you joined one?

Groups will participate in these tasks:

1. Meet virtually or physically once every three months (send a quick email to Esther Collier at targetclimatechange@gmail.com when you have met, including your group name in the subject line).

- a. First meeting - Discuss as openly as you can where you are at now in the sectors below, taking note of questions you would like addressed in the next networking meeting (and share the questions with Esther).
 - i. Home-retrofitting (Consider insulated walls and roof, high efficiency windows and appliances, use of renewable energy)
 - ii. Food Habits (Consider the percentage of food thrown out each week, and reducing or eliminating meat and dairy products)
 - iii. Transportation (Consider buying electric or hybrid vehicles, walking or biking, using public transportation, carpooling)
 - iv. Consumption (Consider trips, reducing or eliminating flying, clothes, home renovations, home and personal products)
 - v. Advocacy at places of work (Consider the difficulties related to this and refer to the ICAP sheet and the PCCAP sheets)
 - vi. Advocacy at the government level (Gather and share contact information to facilitate this)
 - vii. Local Groups (Connect with www.neighboursfortheplanet.ca to see what is happening in the GTA, consider any groups you discover, (Drawdown, Blue Dot, Targeting Climate Change, Extinction Rebellion are all active in Richmond Hill) and help each person choose one, and consider the different ways you can support (financially, attending meetings, helping at events, promoting events)).
 - viii. **Climate Strikes** (Use www.neighboursfortheplanet.ca to learn when there are upcoming protests and consider which you will attend and how you will attend.)
- b. Make a list of what accomplishments you have already made for each sector above and send this list to Esther Collier at targetclimatechange@gmail.com
- c. Set goals for each of the above - SMART goals (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound) that will be easy to check next time.
- d. Arrange a time to meet again after 3 months. Exchange contact information and set-up a plan to check-in with each other as to progress.
- e. Decide whether to attend either the next Lunch Plus on this issue or the next Targeting Climate Change event as your networking event (you don't need to all attend the same event).

2. Second meeting and following meetings (send a quick email to Esther Collier at targetclimatechange@gmail.com each time you meet):

- a. Check-in with each other, focusing on each of the above sectors. Find out what is making progress difficult and brainstorm solutions.
- b. Create a list of accomplishments since the last meeting for each heading and send this list to Esther Collier at targetclimatechange@gmail.com. She will create a visual representation to help the church see progress (without sharing specific details).
- c. Set new goals for each of the sectors - SMART goals (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, time-bound) that will be easy to check next time.
- d. Arrange a time to meet again after 3 months. Exchange contact information and set-up a plan to check-in with each other as to progress.
- e. Decide whether to attend either the next Lunch Plus on this issue or the next Targeting Climate Change event as your networking event (you don't need to all attend the same event).

We will let you know when the first Lunch Plus, addressing the climate issue, will occur. This is the flyer for the next Targeting Climate Change meeting on April 4, 1-3 pm, at St. Matthew's United Church.



church news

A MAP Minute: A key component of being a "centre for community" is creating a space where members of the wider community feel they are truly welcome. With this in mind, as announced at the AGM on Sunday, the CD Building will be rebranded as "The Village Commons". Where appropriate we will use "The Village Commons @ RHUC" as a way to highlight the ongoing church connection.

The **UCW** has decided not to hold their Annual Spring Lunch. As everyone enjoyed the quiches, as a fundraiser, we will be making them in time for Easter. Details to follow.

Hold the date of **Wednesday, June 3** for UCW's bus trip to Thornbury!



**Core Culture
Connections
presents:
A Night of Music
An Intercultural
Concert Series**

A new initiative at RHUC to hold concerts in the Spring of 2020, with 2 types of performers each concert and intermission snacks by a local restaurant/ caterer.

1st concert:

March 27, 2020

7:30 pm – 10:00 pm.

Doors open 7:00 pm

Venue - Richmond Hill United Church Sanctuary

Tickets:

Online - \$15 General Admission, \$12 Students/Seniors + fees. Credit Card payment. Online sale ends March 25th. 9 pm.

At Door - \$18 General Admission, \$15 Students/Seniors. Cash only.

Included in the ticket price – Snacks from *Aneal's Taste of the Islands* & coffee/tea.

Buy Tickets – <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/core-culture-connections-a-night-of-music-tickets-96330251375>

What should you do?

Please share! Tell your friends! Email them or share on social media. Like/Follow our FB / Instagram posts.

Facebook (FB) – www.facebook.com/corecultureconnections

Instagram – www.instagram.com/coreculture.connex/

The more people we get this out to – the greater chance we have of making this concert series a success for RHUC.

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.