

This week at a glance

Sunday, May 13 – Happy Mother’s Day
 10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour

Monday, May 14
 9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Brainstorming opportunity – Lower Garden Room
 7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Cubs - gym

Tuesday, May 15
 7:00 p.m. Tai Chi – Garden room
 7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, May 16
 7:30 p.m. Brainstorming opportunity – Chapel

Thursday, May 17
 6:15 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, May 19
 3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming –Garden Room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

Sunday, May 13: As we mark Christian Family Sunday, we reflect on John 17:6-19. Jesus prays for his disciples' protection and care, aware that he will soon be arrested. Jesus highlights the importance of relationship, not just between himself and God but the relationship we share with God as well.

Sunday, May 20: We celebrate Pentecost Sunday, the 3rd most important day in the Church Year. In Acts 2:1-21, we hear about the gifting of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples. We celebrate the sacrament of communion.

Sunday, May 27: Rev. Kay Cho will lead worship and preach. We will also gather in Centennial Hall after the service for Part 2 of our Consensus Circle.

Sunday, June 3: A joint worship service with New Life Korean Methodist Church. Worship will be at 12 noon rather than 10:30. Potluck following worship.

Sunday, June 10: Our 5th Anniversary of being an Affirming Ministry. Special performances by "Singing Out!" and our chancel choir.

Sunday, June 17: Youth Musical Sunday and Honouring Graduates: As part of this worship service, we will take time to pray for our graduates as they begin a new phase of their lives. If you know someone graduating from university, college, apprenticeship, high school, whatever it may be, please let James know so we can acknowledge them during the service.

Thank you!

We do love the Ministry of Cake at RHUC, but it takes a lot of people to make this happen! Our heartfelt thanks go out to the following people for helping with anniversary cake and refreshments on Anniversary Sunday - May 6th:

Craig & Mary Lee, Lynn Townsend, Jenn Townsend, Janet Centa, Donna Smith, Colleen Steeves, Marg Moon, Donna Byres, Kathleen Crosbie, Marg Gourlay, Diana McBey, Kathy McBey, Justin Hancock,

If there are others who helped who aren't listed here, please know that all efforts were appreciated by the Worship Committee and the congregation. *Sandra Loughton, Worship Committee Chair*

Minister's Message

Thursday May 10 is Ascension Day, at least it is if we follow Luke's gospel. According to his counting, the Risen Christ was with the disciples for forty days, ascending into heaven ten days before Pentecost. We shouldn't be too quick to take this timing literally. The forty days is akin to the Israelites in the wilderness for forty years. Free in body but not in their hearts, the sojourn in the wilderness enabled them to let go of what had been and prepare to live more justly with one another when they entered the Promised Land. Similarly, the disciples had forty days to let go of their assumptions about who Jesus was and embrace a new understanding. Anticipating Jesus had come to bring political liberation from the Romans, they needed to come to terms with his death. Over those days they realized Jesus brought new life spiritually. Only when hearts were changed would they walk the just, compassionate and loving path Jesus had shown them. They would glimpse this possibility through the gift of the Spirit on Pentecost. But in the meantime they waited, like the Israelites mid-Jordan River as they prepared to settle a new land. This time of year reminds us we too are waiting. The world of peace and caring for which we yearn continues to be beyond our reach, even as it is slowly born through successive generations. In the meantime with the Israelites and the disciples we wait, praying for the change of heart needed to bring this dream to life, a change of heart that includes our own.

Worship Notes

Planning has already begun for our summer worship services and the committee continues to meet on a monthly basis to review past services and to look ahead to the future. If you have any celebrations or concerns about worship services at RHUC, please speak to one of the members of the Worship Committee: Rev. James Ravenscroft, Barry Peters, Anne Leyton-Brown, Anne Dunn, Craig Lee, Dawn Moon, Dominick Shelton, Harry Ramsaran, Joan Verner, Linda Clark or Sandra Loughton, or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5 and leave a message with our Office Administrator, Deb Fratin. *Sandra Loughton, Chair ~ Worship Committee*

Chime Players Wanted

This is a follow-up notice about the need for a few more people to join the existing Chime Players team. If you can play a melody line on the piano (i.e. one hand only!) you would be able to play the chimes on our wonderful church organ. Please speak to Barry Peters, Kathleen Crosbie, or Sandra Loughton if you'd be interested in this exciting volunteer opportunity. The commitment would be 10 minutes just before the start of the service once every five or six weeks from September to May. *Sandra Loughton Chair ~ Worship Committee*

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Truth and Reconciliation Committee

Truth and Reconciliation Committee: 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 40: Indigenous peoples have the right to access to and prompt decision through just and fair procedures for the resolution of conflicts and disputes with States or other parties, as well as to effective remedies for all infringements of their individual and collective rights. Such a decision shall give due consideration to the customs, traditions, rules and legal systems of the indigenous peoples concerned and international human rights.

Outreach Forum

When: Wed., May 23
Time: 7 pm
Where: 156 Church St.
For: All are invited but please let Lyn know if you're coming at lynniemay@gmail.com.

Minute for Mission
Called to be the Church

Our gifts for Mission & Service support overseas personnel like Catherine Christie. We give thanks for their calling and for their giving hearts! At a recent worship service where Catherine was preaching, she declared, "Here is your Mission & Service giving in action!" A Bedford, Nova Scotia, native, Catherine recently returned to Canada after many years in Korea serving with the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK) and the National Council of Churches in Korea (NCKK). Among other tasks, she assisted with English-language communication work to facilitate relationships between the PROK and its partner churches around the world. The PROK has a central focus on working for justice for all, particularly for those most vulnerable and those who are marginalized; gender justice; justice for the earth; reconciliation and reunification of the divided Korean people; and peace for the Korean peninsula, the Northeast Asia region, and the wider world. Deeply committed to the international ecumenical movement, Catherine worked within the PROK in active solidarity with some 30 partner churches and organizations. Catherine has a deep passion for the reunification of Korea. She has also been a strong voice for female empowerment in Korea. These two passions led her to participate in a walk in the demilitarized zone between the North and South of Korea with other women activists to illustrate the need for connection between the two regions to bring justice to the entire Korean society. We are thankful that, through Mission & Service, overseas personnel like Catherine have been given the ability to inspire and empower.

Vision Keepers –
York Region Pride Parade

Are you proud of being part of an Affirming congregation? Show it by participating in the York Region Pride Parade on **Saturday June 16th**, being held in Newmarket. The parade starts at 3:00, marching down Main Street, and ending at the Community Fair, where booths will be set up to share information, news, supports and selling wares specifically for the LGBTQ2 community. This year, RHUC will be having a booth to represent faith communities who are a welcoming and safe place to be for worship, work and friendships. If you want to be part of carpooling, meet in the church parking lot at 1:30 - we leave promptly. More information at yorkpridefest.com. *Donna Smith, Vision Keepers Committee, 905-884-6307*

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Brainstorming Opportunities

We are looking for your thoughts to help guide the Intentions and their related projects:

Intention 2: Engage with the Community In Our Neighbourhood	TBD
Intention 3: Ensure Our Facilities Align With Our Values, Identity and Purpose:	Tuesday, May 14, 7 pm Lower Garden Room
Intention 8: Be Good Stewards of our Finances and Our Facilities:	Weds, May 16, 7:30 pm Chapel

Coming to the meetings does not commit you to any further action. However, we hope that some people will feel enough passion and have the time to sign on for work on the projects!! Please bring your Mission Action Plan document to provide more detail.

Intention 2: Engage With the Community in Our Neighbourhood

- Project 2A: Reaching Out To Neighbourhood Partners: Engaging With Community Groups and Organizations to See If There Is Any Interest in Partnering Together In Our Building
- Project 2B: Listening To the Neighbourhood: Engaging In Conversations with Our Neighbours to Discern Needs and Possible Responses
- Project 2C: Being Open to Our Neighbours: Discern Ways We Can Be More Welcoming To People in Our Community

3: Ensure Our Facilities Align With Our Values, Identity and Purpose

Project 3A: Establish a Facilities & Finance Assessment Team to Provide the Information Required For the Congregation at RHUC to Make Decisions Regarding the Future of Our Facilities (**This is linked to project 8 "Facilities and Financial Assessment Team"**)

Project 3B: Space Usage In The Midst Of Transition
Project 3C: Exploring Community Interest In Development Of A 'Centre For Community' Responsive To the Needs of the Community, That Could Include Meeting, Office and Performance Space
Project 3D: Create Clear Internal Signage to Allow For Easy Routing Throughout the Building
Project 3E: Create a Parking Strategy

8: Be Good Stewards Of Our Finances and Our Facilities

Project: Establish a Facilities & Finance Assessment Team to Provide the Information Required For the Congregation at RHUC to Make Decisions Regarding the Future of Our Facilities (see Project 3A) **This is linked to project 3A "Facilities and Financial Assessment Team"**

Project 8A: Develop Ways for People In and Beyond the Church to Contribute to Finances Beyond Sunday Offering and Par

Project 8B: Identify External Funding Sources to Support Additional Staffing, Capital Projects and New Initiatives

Church memorial garden

The spring bulbs, blooms and leaves have been so welcomed this year and the church gardens are being prepared for planting and care during the summer. We have a special section (at the steps on the north side of the Yonge Street CD wing of the church) for a Memory Garden. Each year, those who would like me to plant an annual flower in memory of a loved one can give me \$3 and I will purchase and plant one, in the colour of your choice. This person being remembered does not have to be a member of our church. When completed, a marker will be posted with the names of those being remembered. *Donna Smith 905-884-6307*

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, May 12, 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 we will enjoy a round table talk about our early school years. David Leyton-Brown, James Ravenscroft and Percy Surti will share under the moderation of Wilhelm Bleek memories of the places, the teachers, the friends, the subjects and the long lasting impacts of this first phase of the formal education. All are welcome!

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 or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, May 10. Thank you!

Looking ahead: Future dates for 2018 are September 8, October 13, November 10, and December 8.

Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality will gather this **Saturday May 12th** at 9:45 in the Garden Room. Program: "Dreams".

RHUC Book club

For the second year in a row, the RHUC Book Club will be taking part in the One Book/One Aurora (OBOA) Program offered through the Aurora Public Library. Please join us on **Wednesday, May 30th at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss the OBOA book for 2018: ***Strangers with the Same Dream*** by Toronto author Alison Pick.

A "Meet the Author" event is scheduled for Saturday, November 3rd at the Aurora Library and tickets can be booked on-line through the library starting August 1st. Here is a short synopsis of the book: "This beautifully written, shocking and timely novel whisks us back to 1921, when a band of young Jewish pioneers set out to realize a dream: the founding of a settlement on a patch of land that would, twenty-five years later, become Israel."

For more information about the book club, please speak to Sandra Loughton or call the church office at 905.884.1301 Ext. 5.

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.

United Church Women

UCW Bus Trip is ready for boarding! **Wed. June 13th, 2018 Cost: \$60.00** (including gratuities). Please meet Elgin Barrow Arena Parking Lot **by 8:15 Leaving at 8:30 a.m.** Return: 5:30 - 6:00 p.m
We will visit the **Whetung Ojibwa Centre** at Curve Lake, **Lunch with a UCW group** in Peterborough, a stop at the famous **Peterborough Lift Locks** and visit the **Canadian Canoe Museum and Gift Shop**.

H.A.I.R.

The Monday evening study group is discussing the book **THE GOD WE NEVER KNEW** by Marcus Borg on Mondays 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. Please join us.

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, May 14** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel. This week we will continue the discussion of **DAYS OF AWE AND WONDER: How to be a Christian in the 21st Century** by Marcus Borg. For this week please read **Chapter 8: Taking Jesus Seriously**. This is an excellent way to kick-start your week. [Please remember: if you brought your notes home from last week, please bring them with you this week!]

Please note, there will be no session on May 21st due to the holiday. Our final gathering for the season will take place on Monday, June 4th. More details to follow.

New members are always welcome to try us out at any time! Please speak to facilitators Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton for more information.

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

RHUC Golf Tournament



The 20th annual RHUC golf fun day is **Saturday, May 26** at Bathurst Glen GC with tee times [starting at noon](#). Same scramble format as the last couple of decades and just a fun day! Anyone can win and skill is not a requirement - smile! All participants WILL have fun....

The cost is an astonishing \$55 per person including a BBQ and friendly banter after the golf. We have spots for 24 players so please sign up early.

To sign up, please let George Moon know you are coming at georgecmoon@gmail.com or in person.

Liona Boyd – free concert

Liona Boyd will be back on **Thursday, June 28** to televise an hour concert with the Chancel Choir.

Time: 8:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Where: Sanctuary

Cost: free of charge

Please bring your friends and a winter coat to wear as the concert is a shorter reproduction of the “Winter Fantasy” concert held here in November.

Summer Concert – July 13 @ 7:00 p.m.



The Choir of Christ's College, Cambridge UK Canada Tour! Sponsored by RHUC's Chancel Choir

'Choir members are college students committed to an exciting range of major international tours, recordings, broadcasts and concerts and are selected by audition either before or after beginning study at Cambridge. Each is expected to be of a very high musical standard. The Choir's repertoire embraces sacred and secular music from the 15th century to the present, enjoying a broad concert repertoire and selection of service music. Recent programmes have included Mozart's *Requiem*, Bach's *Mass in B Minor*, Scarlatti's *Stabat Mater* and Handel's *Messiah*, performing with orchestra often. They have also performed Bach and Brahms motets, Mozart and Kodaly, extended works by Howells, Britten, Faure and Parry, and a selection of secular music.'

Date: Friday, July 13, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$25

Tickets available from the Chancel Choir, church office and <https://richmondhill.snapsd.com/events/view/1154576> and at the door!

Skylight Festival

Skylight Festival: **July 27-29** at Five Oaks Retreat and Education Centre in Paris Ontario. Come and listen to a presentation by "Science Mike" McHargue of "The Liturgist Podcast" as he explores the intersection between science and spirituality. Come and explore justice topics like #ChurchToo, racial justice, the intersection of ecology and faith. Come and listen to a variety of musicians, including Matt Epp, Micah Bourne and Diem LaFortune, and spoken word artists like Emily Joy. Come and participate in creative worship experiences like "Courage", worship through the music of The Tragically Hip. Come learn about "Forest Church" (James and Glen will be presenting and co-leading with another Forest Church leader from Kitchener Waterloo). Come and be nurtured in spirit and heart at this amazing retreat centre along the banks of the Grand River. Founded in 2015, Skylight is a celebratory and creative space where diverse communities connect to explore the arts, faith, peace and justice. Register at skylightfestival.ca

Support for fundraiser

I'm taking action in the fight against cancer by fundraising for the Canadian Cancer Society. On May 13th I will be donating my hair along with my cousin. With nearly 1 in 2 Canadians expected to be diagnosed with cancer in their lifetime, I'm determined to make a difference any way that I can. And I hope I can count on your support! By donating to my fundraiser, you will help fund life-saving research, much-needed support services for patients and their families, and other important work that could change lives. Simply click the link below to view my personal fundraising page and make a donation online. Or visit www.cancer.ca/fundraise, click on donate, and search for Ryan Miller. Thank you so much for supporting me in the fight against cancer! *Ryan Miller*

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