

This week at RHUC

Sunday, May 19

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary

Monday, May 20 – Victoria Day

Building closed

6:00 p.m. Youth Choir – Parlour

Tuesday, May 21

12:15 p.m. Quilters – Garden Room

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, May 22

12:00 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel

6:30 p.m. Meditation service – Chapel

7:30 p.m. Cluster meeting - Parlour

Thursday, May 23

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, May 24

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

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

We know it as "May Long Weekend", perhaps cheekily as "May Two-four" but our annual kick-off to summer is officially Victoria Day. It may seem antiquated to celebrate Queen Victoria's birthday. After all she is not our sovereign. Those of us who are more republican in our leanings question why we would celebrate the birthday of any monarch, let alone the one who ruled when we became independent. But this statutory holiday highlights more than our history. To me it acts as a reminder of our shared relationships with others who were also once part of the British Empire. While Commonwealth Day is officially in March, this is a good time for us to honour the connections we have across nations, cultures and languages. At its best, the Commonwealth is a way for all of us with a common link to support each other and to model cooperative rather than competitive relationships. We celebrate diversity and seek to learn from each other. Now there are negatives as well. We know too well that the history of the British Empire is mixed with some significantly dark chapters in Canada and elsewhere in the world. But we have an opportunity to face our history, redressing wrongs and seeking to live more justly and peacefully. So this weekend let's raise a pint and honour our diversity in a spirit of cooperation and respect.

Minister's Office Hours: James' regular office hours are from 1:00 until 4:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays each week.

Worship notes

Sunday, May 19: We reflect together on Acts 11:1-18, a recap by Peter of how his vision on a rooftop helped him to see that God's love and grace extend beyond boundaries we try to set. "The Old Pond" by Basho Matsuo offers an additional layer of insight in this in regard to the natural world.

Sunday, May 26: We welcome Rev. Linda Butler as worship leader while James is away in Barrie at the inaugural meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council.

Forest Church for May: As days warm, trees are bursting into leaf. What a perfect time to spend time outside on a meditative walk in the forest. We will meet at Twickenham Park (the pergola at the Canyon Hill Ave. entrance) on May 26 at 2:00 PM. All welcome.

Celebrating Grads: As part of our Youth Musical Sunday on June 9, we will be honouring youth and young adults who are graduating. Please let James know if a member of your family is graduating this year. Email him at james@rhuc.org.

Meditation Service: Come to the Chapel from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays for a time of quiet and contemplation with readings, music, silent reflection and a theme-based ritual.

Cluster meeting

Upcoming Worship, Music and Spiritual Formation Cluster Meeting: On **May 22 at 7:30 PM**, we are holding our first Cluster Meeting! This is an opportunity for members of committees and groups that facilitate services of worship and educational programs for various ages, as well as anybody who has an interest in sharing ideas about Sunday worship, Discovery Time and Teen Seekers, various adult education groups and other spiritual events. Come talk about the coming year, offer ideas for future programs, give some feedback. This is an opportunity for us to shape the ways we nourish spiritual wellness in our congregation, not just on a Sunday but throughout the week.

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Memory garden at RHUC

The spring bulbs and blossoms are wonderful this year in our church gardens, even though our spring weather has been "strange" this year. We have a special section (at the steps on the north side of the Yonge Street CD wing of the church) named our *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 a colour you choose. When completed, a marker will be posted with the names of those remembered. Donna Smith 905-884-6307

Calling Grant Application Writers!

Do you want to help RHUC access grant money and have a skill in writing grant applications? Then we have an opportunity for you. Over the last few months a couple of our members have been diligently researching grant opportunities that churches can access. Now we are seeking to enlarge that circle with people who can take the next steps in accessing funds by sitting in on application seminars, pulling together needed information and materials, writing applications, and the like. If you or someone you know does this as part of their work, please tell our MAP Pilot Team (Carol Moore, DJ McCready, James Ravenscroft and Jane Wedlock). There is money out there. Help us access it!

Living into Right Relations

If you'd like to learn more about Indigenous peoples of Canada and further, you can tune-in to these television series on APTN.

1. Future History

"Future History celebrates the reclamation and revitalization of Indigenous knowledge. It explores the diverse perspectives and knowledge within the Indigenous community to create a deeper understanding about our shared history, while looking forward to a brighter future. Hosts Kris Nahrgang and Sarain Fox seeks out those who are harnessing Indigenous knowledge to gain a deeper understanding of what it means to have an Indigenous world view. Aired - Tuesdays at 7:30pm & 8:00pm ET Wednesdays at 2:30am & 2:30pm ET Fridays at 2:30pm ET

For more info, go to... <https://aptn.ca/futurehistory/> <https://futurehistorytv.ca/>

2. Native Planet

"Native Planet takes you around the world to experience the passion and connection native peoples have with mother earth – and their will to defend it. Guide and narrative host Simon Baker transports you to the front lines of the most compelling Aboriginal conflicts taking place around the planet today. Whether the fight is for land, water or Indigenous rights, Native Planet takes you deep into fascinating Aboriginal communities and cultures where charismatic leaders are waging a passionate defense of the planet."

To learn more, go to... <https://aptn.ca/nativeplanet/episode-guide-2/>

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

RHUC Quilters

Our dedicated quilter's group meets on Tuesday at 12:15 pm in the Garden Room, every other week and wrap up by about 3 pm. Bring along your lunch if you'd like and tea will be available. No experience is required. For more information, contact Penny Fabbro at pennyfabbro@rogers.com. Our next meeting is **Tuesday, May 21**.

Prayer Shawls

A total of 27 Prayer Shawls were made during this past Lent; they were blessed during worship on May 5th. The knitters and crocheters are: Barb Cooper Jacky Dedlow Sandi Dimma Penny Fabbro Verna Fast Peg Hiscoke Linda Lindberg Lyn May Donna McErlain Ruth Perratt Donna Smith Daphne Woodger and Joan John (Rose Ramsaran's Mom) made 4 at home. Our thanks to these people for sharing their time and skill in making these shawls, which are given to those who are unwell, grieving, moving away and to celebrate a birth, joining our church or other occasion. These shawls bring comfort and joy and caring to many people. If you know of someone who would appreciate a shawl, please speak to me or Deb in the church office. Donna Smith, Coordinator 905-884-6307

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Food Bank Donations

Collection for the Food Bank continues at RHUC. Please put your non-perishable donations in either of the two boxes – one outside the church office and the other in the Narthex. Donna McErlain collects the food from the two bins and brings it to the Food bank. Thank you!

Minutes for Mission

From 2013 to 2015, Rachel Hearn was a camp counsellor at Welcome Friends' Rainbow Camp for LGBTQ Two-Spirit and allied youth ages 12 to 17. To say the least, it was a life-altering experience. Every August there existed a tiny, week-long place of sanctuary that said, "We do see you, and you are welcome here." That is exactly what Rainbow Camp is all about. "Rainbow Camp is a place of radical resistance against the oppressive forces of hetero-normativity and cis-normativity that exist across the world today," says Rachel. It is like other summer camps, but the learning is focused around sexual health, healthy relationships, understanding our identities, and figuring out how to work around a society that is not designed to enable queer people to thrive. Even though there is no marching or petitions, the world is still changed for every camper who finds a friend or feels like themselves for the first time. "At Rainbow Camp, we changed the world for young people by giving them the tools and skills they needed to flourish. If you create a space where people can be open about who they are and accept others doing the same, you will learn what it means to love and to trust." Rainbow Camp's ministry is made possible because of Mission & Service.

Mobilize against Human Trafficking in York Region – event at RHUC

A World Day of Prayer event: When: Sunday, June 2 Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Where: Richmond Hill United Church
For more information and to register: tinyurl.com/PrayerYorkRegion2019
This event is supported by women's Inter-church Council of Canada and The Meeting House Newmarket & Richmond Hill
Learn from experts in the field: Facilitator: Cheryl Nembhard Panelists: Casandra Ciamond, Suzanne Smoke, Grace Van Ankum and Gladys Mok. There will be break-out sessions from which we expect 3 - 5 ideas to be put into action to change our community over the next year. Specifically, we're focused on Raising Awareness. Mobilizing the Community and Identifying More Opportunities for Exit from the Industry. A light meal will be served.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Shalom Seekers

There will be no meeting on Monday May 20th due to the May holiday. We gather again on Monday May 27 in the chapel for part Two of our new DVD Series "First Light" with Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. This chapter is called "The Advent of Christ", a special feature of the DVD series is the inclusion of photos of the Holyland to give us the flavour of the countryside and interesting remains in specific locations. Newcomers are very welcome to drop in. Meetings are from 9:30am to 11:30am on Monday mornings until early June. For more information please speak to Sandra Loughton or Peg Hiscoke.

H.A.I.R.

The Monday evening study group resumes its watching and discussion of thought-provoking TED talks this Monday. All are welcome in the chapel from 7:00-8:30.

U.C.W. bus trip

SAVE THE DATE! UCW Annual Bus Trip will take place on **Wed. June 5th, 2019.**
Elora/Elora Gorge/Fergus Unique Shopping Lunch Museum Tour and More
For more information, please speak with Bev Blake.

Bible Study

Bible study takes place Wednesday at noon in the Chapel.

RHUC Book Club – change in date!

Please join us on Wednesday, **May 29th at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss the novel ***The Great Alone*** by American author Kristin Hannah. (PLEASE NOTE: This meeting is a week later than we originally planned on!)

Alaska, 1974.
Unpredictable. Unforgiving. Untamed.
For a family in crisis, the ultimate test of survival.

For more information about the church book club, please speak to Sandra Loughton, or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5 and speak to our Office Administrator, Deb Fratin. New members from young adults to seniors are always welcome to try out the group!

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.

Skylight Festival

Are you in planning mode for your summer? **Consider coming to the Skylight Festival! Held at Five Oaks Retreat Centre this coming July 26-28**, Skylight is a creative and inclusive gathering where diverse people connect to explore music, art, spirituality and justice. With a pow wow taking place at nearby Six Nations, the plan thus year is to conclude on Sunday morning so people can attend. You can camp, book a room or stay in nearby Paris. Shad is headlining and James and Glen will be leading Forest Church activities. Let's go as an RHUC group! Register at www.skylightfestival.ca.

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.