

Listening Circles

*I felt heard.
There was a sense of community.
It was so non-threatening.
It was good to participate....it feels like we are moving forward.
It is different than anything we have done before.
It felt like we not only dreamed but came up with practical steps.*

These are just a few of the ways people have described their experience at Listening Circles.

We have new dates!

If you have not yet signed up there are still opportunities for you to participate! Join a Listening Circle to help shape the future of RHUC. This is an opportunity to reflect on what we do well as a church and share future possibilities.

To sign up, please check out the dates below, including new dates for June, and email Deb Fratin in the Office (office@rhuc.org). Indicate your #1 and #2 preference.

We could also use your help!

- Would you be willing to host a Listening Circle? We are looking for hosts for June dates.
- We also need 2 more people to attend meetings and take notes.

For more information about Listening Circles please see RHUC online (April 27). Please let us know if you have any questions

Tues May 30	2:30 - 4:30
Wed June 7	2:30 - 4:30
Fri June 9	10:00 – 12:00
Fri June 9	2:30 - 4:30
Fri June 9	7:00 – 9:00
Mon. June 12	7:00 – 9:00
Wed June 14	10:00 – 12:00
Wed June 14	2:30 - 4:30
Fri June 16	10:00 – 12:00
Fri Jun 16	7:00 – 9:00
Sat June 17	2:30 - 4:30

Joanne Scofield & Terry Davies

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

May 21: Alcris Limongi will be leading the service.
Reading: Acts 1:5 and Acts 1:6-11 Message: "Steppingstones"

Upcoming services: We have some special events coming up over the next few weeks.

May 28: An early Pentecost along with the sacrament of communion.

June 4: Youth Musical Sunday

June 11: Celebrating Pride Week

June 18: Confirmation

June 25: Aboriginal Solidarity Sunday

Minister's Message

International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia is observed on May 17. In the relative 'safety' of Canada, it is difficult to fathom how there is so much prejudice in other parts of the world. Yet there is a government backed openness of gay men in Chechnya, blatant prejudice in many part of sub-Sahara Africa and hundreds of transwomen are murdered around the world every year. Even here at home, LGBTQ youth regularly end up on the street due to the intolerance of family. All of this makes our being an Affirming Ministry more important than ever. We need to stand proud – display our pride flag, march in the York Region Pride Parade (in Newmarket this year on June 17), perhaps sponsoring a refugee fleeing their country because of their general orientation or gender identity. Together, we will help end phobias of all kinds.

RHUC Chancel Choir

We would like to thank the Fellowship Committee for doing such a wonderful job in setting up, serving, and clearing up the refreshments after the Spring Concert on May 7th. As always, your help was greatly appreciated.

We'd also like to thank you - the audience - as music is meant to be shared and it wouldn't have been a success without you!

Secret Friends Ministry

This school year's Secret Friends were revealed during worship on May 7th. These 10 volunteers from the congregation have kept in touch with the 8 first year university/college students from RHUC, sending them cards, notes and goodies with our church's best wishes and support during this big change in their lives. Our THANKS to these, now not so secret, Secret Friends (SF)!

- **Irene and son Harry Bazos** was SF to **Eric Chee** who attended Waterloo studying Mechatronic Engineering
- **Julia Ye** was SF to **Alexandra Doak** (Beckwith) who attended York U taking Latin American Studies, studying Spanish & French
- **Rose Blois** was SF to **Kristian Fabbro** who attended Western U studying Computer Engineering
- **Donna DeVita** was SF to **Ashley Russell** who attended McMaster U studying Nursing
- **Lyn May** was SF to **Lauren Russell** who attended Western U studying Nursing
- **DJ and Mary Lynn McCready** were SF to **Taylor Shelton** who attended Western studying Life Sciences
- **Jane Wedlock** was SF to **William Warrick** who attended York U studying Business Administration
- **Lori Canner** was SF to **Elysia Windsor** who attended College Boreal in Sudbury studying Early Childhood Education in French

At this point I do not have any names of our young people who will begin their first year at college/university in September. PLEASE let me know of any students you are aware of so we don't miss anyone for this ministry at RHUC. And if you would like to be a Secret Friend, contact me. *Donna Smith, Coordinator 905-884-6307*

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

UC Explorer's Program – Update from Ian Wilgus

I have now been in Regina for 10 days. That is hard to believe! My days have been very busy, often running between committee meetings. The airport and plane ride were pretty uneventful, despite the bad weather we had been having. When I got to Regina, there were three members of my host committee there, and the Minister and his two daughters. The church community has certainly made me feel welcome during my time here. I have had many offers for dinner, and many tours of Regina and the outskirts. It is quite shocking that right after an endless view of a flat horizon you can see something like the Qu'appelle Valley. I'd love to hear from you all, and you can contact me on my email at ianwilgus@rogers.com.

Camp Canoe Wish List!

The camp would like donations of pencils, paints, elastic bands, embroidery thread, coloured paper, clean used margarine and yogurt containers, plastic 500ml peanut butter jars with screw top lids and paper towel rolls. These items can be left at the Church on **June 18th** **But NOT BEFORE AS WE HAVE NO SPACE TO STORE THEM**. For more information please call June Blanchette 905-780-0048.

UCW June day trip

Date: Wednesday, June 7th, 2017 **Price:** \$60.00 **Leaving:** Barrows Arena (as usual) **Time:** Leaving at 8:30 a.m.

To: Travel to Niagara Parkway with stops along the way to Niagara-on-the Lake

Lunch: Grace United Church put on by their UCW ladies.

Activities:

- Shopping in the lovely historic Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- We will end our trip at Southbrook Winery for a wine tasting of three wines in the Grand Room, including an explanation of each wine, and also information about the excellent work being done in Organic farming and wine making. This is a chance to "catch up" with Bill and the family.
- If not too late in the season, we may see some of the new lambs!
- There will also be an opportunity to shop in the Southbrook Wine Shop.

Tickets will be available after Church or contact Bev Blake 905-780-6019 blakeb@rogers.com

RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, May 31st at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss **Natural Order** by Brian Francis. All are welcome! I have one extra copy of the book if anyone is interested. Please contact the church office at 905.884.1301 or speak to me - Sandra Loughton. This will be our last meeting until September. Please stay tuned for details about our fall meetings.

NOTE: Please keep the afternoon of Saturday, October 21st free to attend a special event at the Aurora Library at 2 p.m. to meet author Brian Francis. This is part of the OneBookOneAurora program.

Bible Study

James will be facilitating a Thursday evening bible study sessions from **6:15 – 7:15 PM** in the chapel. We will begin by looking at the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday, looking at their historical and cultural contexts and the wisdom they can offer us.

Shalom Seekers

Shalom Seekers will not be meeting on Monday, May 22 due to the Victoria Day holiday but please join us on **Monday, May 29th** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel to discuss Chapter 12: 'Worship' of Diana Butler Bass' book "*Christianity for the Rest of Us*". Come and jump-start your week with a lively, challenging discussion. For more details, please speak to one of the facilitators - Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton.

H.A.I.R.

H.A.I.R. On **Monday, April 24**, we begin a new DVD study, "Painting the Stars – science, religion and an evolving faith" – part of the Living the Questions series. This 7 week study will finish on Monday, June 12 (excluding Victoria Day). Come join in the discussion at 7:00 pm in the chapel.

Special Occasions

Writing to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul urged them: "rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep". 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. This column is an effort to rectify that situation. Don't hesitate to add any special occasions you know about.

Thank you to **Jett Ward** for building the beautiful picnic table located at our green space on Yonge St.

Thank you to **Linda Clark** for quilting the two beautiful banners featured at the Chancel Choir "Canadian Choral Celebration" on May 7.

Congratulations to **Alcris Limongi** on her ordination at the 93rd Toronto Conference Annual Meeting. Celebration of Ministries at 6:00 pm at St Paul's United Church in Midland, Ontario, 308 King St, Midland.

All are welcome!

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

June 3 Concert

LOVE, HOPE AND INSPIRATION JUNE 3 CONCERT – featuring **THE FOUR MEN!**

Please mark your calendars for **SATURDAY JUNE 3** for a delightful afternoon of song in our sanctuary by the singing sensations THE FOUR MEN. The concert is from **2pm to 4:30pm** with a Marketplace before the concert from 1:15pm and at intermission.

The Four Men have been entertaining audiences since 2010 and will be on tour in the Maritimes immediately after our concert. This concert is a fundraiser for Stephen Lewis Foundation and the Mission and Service Fund of the United Church of Canada. Tickets are on sale today and throughout May at the church office at 905-884-1301 ext. 5 or on Sundays in Centennial Hall at our ticket table after worship. Ticket cost is \$20 each or \$15 for seniors and students. We encourage you to bring others and enjoy the music. On Mother's Day weekend, a concert brochure will be in the bulletin, please put on your frig or share with a friend. This event is hosted jointly by Hands and Hearts for Africa and GranAurora, Grandmother to Grandmother groups of York Region.

Minute for Mission

Called to be the Church

Our gifts for Mission & Service support community chaplaincy. Let us hear a story about one that is changing lives. Anchored in faith, the staff of London Community Chaplaincy in Ontario walks with the communities of Southdale and Limberlost, building relationships and offering hope, presence, opportunities, and support to people living in poverty. Countless volunteers help with programs that enrich the lives of the many children who are impacted by poverty. London Community Chaplaincy walks with the families in a non-judgmental, loving way. What draws children to the programs? Perhaps it is the wonderful meals or the nutritious snacks. Maybe it is the music and art they can explore. It could be the nurturing relationships they develop with the staff and volunteers. Whatever the reason, staff and volunteers are glad they come! They hope they are planting seeds of hope so children can imagine a future bigger than what they may know living with the daily challenges poverty brings. The London Community Chaplaincy may not be able to take away many of these challenges, but staff and volunteers can listen and share a bus ticket, a food card, or some food to make the day a little easier. Most importantly, the chaplaincy is a presence in the lives of many of the resident families, and through the chaplaincy, you, our supporters, are present as well. We sing thanksgiving for London Community Chaplaincy programs that change lives! If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!

Outreach Forum

Tuesday June 13 at 7 pm at Lyn May's house 156 Church. Everyone is invited. We will be discussing Refugee support, Lenten and Advent givings, the work of the Right Relations Committee (response to the Truth and Reconciliation calls to action) and speakers and Lunch and learns for next year. If you have something you'd like to discuss or find out more about please come. Just RSVP to Lyn May at lynmay@gmail.com or the church office office@rhuc.org so I Have an idea of how many glasses to put out!

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

Tai Chi

We traditionally conclude for the season on the Victoria Day weekend, so **Tuesday May 16 will be the last session of tai chi for this year**. Watch for announcements regarding the resumption in the fall, when continuing and new participants will be welcome.

Annual RHUC Golf Fun Day!

The Saturday after the long weekend, **May 27th at Bathurst Glen Golf Club** with tee times [between noon and 1 p.m.](#) The cost is only \$55 including the BBQ after play. This is a scramble event that allows all levels to play; even those that don't! Please save the date and let George Moon (georgecmoon@gmail.com) know if you want to be part of the exciting day!



Blog post

RHUC Bookclub March 2017 <https://rhucblog.wordpress.com/2017/03/03/rhuc-book-club-under-the-visible-life-march-22-2017/>

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