

## This week at RHUC

### Sunday, May 26

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary  
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir – Parlour  
 2:00 p.m. Forest Church – Twickenham Park

### Monday, May 27

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

### Tuesday, May 28

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

### Wednesday, May 29

12:00 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel  
 6:30 p.m. Meditation service – Parlour  
 7:00 p.m. RHUC Book Club - Chapel

### Saturday, June 1

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

### Sunday, June 2

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary  
 12:00 -3:00 p.m. Youth Choir – Sanctuary  
 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn – Garden Room

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

## Minister's message

This weekend representatives of the communities of faith that comprise Shining Waters Regional Council are gathering for our inaugural meeting. It will be an interesting gathering as we discern together how to live into this new model for us as the United Church, especially discussing together how to keep offering one another support and responding to emerging issues which we used to do as presbyteries. As interesting as moving into a new model can be it can take some getting used to as well. The same can be said for us as RHUC. At our AGM in early March we adopted a new governance model which included a smaller board but gathering committees, teams and other interested people to participate in clusters a couple of times a year. We had our first "Worship, Music and Spiritual Formation Cluster" gathering on Wednesday evening and more than twenty people came out to discuss their hopes and ideas regarding worship, adult study groups, programs with children and youth, and the like. It was a great meeting. And not just because people brought some great nibbles. People shared their thoughts with openness and enthusiasm. When we split into 3 smaller groups the time sped by. We were just getting into the heart of the matter when we had to come back to the wider group. That part of the meeting was so fruitful the group decided to hold a second gathering in the early summer. The meeting will again be open to whoever wants to participate. In addition, we are scheduled to hold our first "**Leadership and Congregational Development Cluster**" meeting on **June 19 at 7:30 pm**. I'm sure that gathering will be just as engaging and generative as Wednesday's. Shifting into a new model can be worrisome but it can also be exciting. Based on my experience in our first Worship, Music and Spiritual Formation cluster meeting, I am looking forward to the possibilities at our Regional Council meeting as well.

**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 26:** We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Linda Butler to lead worship while James is away at the inaugural meeting of Shining Waters Regional Council in Barrie. Linda will be reflecting on Acts 1:1-14 and some words of Mary Oliver in "Living between Ending and New Beginning".

The monthly service at the Long Term Care facility of the hospital will be held this Sunday. Lynne Saul will be conducting the service, Lynn Townsend providing the music as well assistance given by our faithful volunteers.

**Sunday, June 2:** We gather for communion as we celebrate Pentecost. We reflect together on Acts 2:1-13. As we celebrate the gift of the Spirit we give thanks as well for the diversity that the Spirit affirmed as the apostles communicated in many languages.

**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](mailto: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.

## Lunch & Learn

You are invited to a **Lunch and Learn on June 2**. The topic is "Becoming a Centre for Community": As part of our circle process last year, we discerned together that among other ideas and possibilities for us as a congregation that we wish to share our space with others as a Centre for Community. As part of that vision we hosted a very successful roundtable last winter. There was a good deal of positive feedback on our vision and now we need to consider strategies to make this vision a reality. So let's come together and discuss some practical ways for us to move forward on our MAP.

## 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

Over the course of the last few months, this space has been sharing information regarding *The Indian Act of 1867*. The inspiration for its review was two-fold; a neighbour shared, under her breath (not kidding), it should be abolished (what?!) and the journey of education we're on as members of the United Church and Canadian citizens.

An excellent resource was found in Bob Joseph's book "**21 Things You May Not Know about the Indian Act**" (2018) -the book was prominent on the Canadian Non-Fiction list for months. Bob is a 'status' Indian and member of the Gwawaenuk Nation (one of many Kwakwaka'wakw tribes) of Vancouver Island and of mainland British Columbia. He will become a hereditary chief one day in accordance with strict cultural laws - he's the son of a hereditary chief.

Last week found Bob debuting another 'guide'; **Relations: Tips and Suggestions to Make Reconciliation a Reality (2019)**. The publishers 'blurb' states his latest, "is an invaluable tool for anyone who wants to improve their cultural competency and undo the legacy of the Indian Act." Of note, Bob is the founder of Indigenous Corporate Training Inc. providing training all over the world on Indigenous Relations, since 1994. Clients have been at all levels of government, Fortune 500 companies, financial institutions, including the World Bank.

For more info... <https://thetyee.ca/News/2019/05/09/Bob-Joseph-Tips-Reconciliation-Reality/>

*Next Week - more on The Indian Act of 1867*

## 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](mailto:pennyfabbro@rogers.com). Our next meeting is **Tuesday, June 4**.

### 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

### The Pact for a Green New Deal for Canada

**The Pact for a Green New Deal for Canada** is a call from: scientists, youth, unions, faith groups, business organizations, and Indigenous leaders for Canada to meet the demands of the climate, economic, and social crises our communities are facing. We need to develop a shared vision of a Green New Deal that slashes emissions, sees the full implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and invests in green jobs, clean energy, and equal opportunity for everyone. Climate Change is REAL. We have already seen deadly heat waves, forest fires, and now flooding in Ottawa, Quebec and New Brunswick; and it will only get worse. We need to take action now.

#### What can you do?

1. Sign the Pact for a Green New Deal to send a message to all political parties that action is needed to address all these crises <https://greennewdealcanada.ca/>
2. We are holding town halls to get input from people from every walk of life to form a vision for a better life and economy. Join us at one of the following town halls:
  - **Richmond Hill:** Sat May 25, 1:30 pm <https://act.greennewdealcanada.ca/town-halls/richmond-hill2/>
  - **Richmond Hill:** Sun June 2, 2 pm <https://act.greennewdealcanada.ca/town-halls/richmond-hill/>
  - **Newmarket:** Wed May 29, 7pm <https://act.greennewdealcanada.ca/town-halls/newmarket/>

### 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

Our gifts for Mission & Service support displaced people in Canada. Dr. Kathy Yamashita reflects on what it means to be a Japanese Canadian in light of the Japanese Canadian internment camps during World War II, and the support of Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada that works with the small Japanese United Church to grow into the multicultural church it is today. "The relocation camps were in the interior of British Columbia and in southern Alberta, where those in the camps did hard labour sugar beet farming. During this time, The United Church of Canada supported Japanese people through the Board of Home Missions program. We had missionaries who helped us with high school education, as the province only provided elementary education in the relocation camps. They helped us to remain as a Christian community that supported each other through those difficult times. Thankfully, with support from Mission & Service, it has grown into a multicultural United Church. We worship in English. We are now financially stable and value Mission & Service, remembering the help we received in the past."

## Mobilize against Human Trafficking in York Region – event at RHUC

**When: Sunday, June 2 Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. Where: Richmond Hill United Church**

This event facilitated by "The Meeting House" and Women's Inter-church Council of Canada is being held at RHUC. This is an opportunity to learn from experts on this important issue in our time. The evening is facilitated by Cheryl Nembhard, award winning filmmaker and Social Activist who works with at risk youth, former gang members and survivors of sexual assault. One panelist of note is Suzanne Smoke from Biindigen Healing and Art, an Indigenous-run healing and wellness organization. Indigenous women are disproportionately impacted in human trafficking in Canada. For more information and to register: [tinyurl.com/PrayerYorkRegion2019](http://tinyurl.com/PrayerYorkRegion2019)

## "Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong hearts"

The screening of "Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands, Strong hearts" with guest speaker Rev. Ginny Doctor, the writer of the documentary, is being held on **Tuesday June 4, 2019 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 1035 Wayne Drive, Newmarket at 7:00pm.**

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

### Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality will gather **this Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. in the Garden Room.** Joan will lead our program, "Caring For Our Neighbour". All women are welcome!

### Shalom Seekers

Are you looking for something to kick start your week? Are you searching for a safe place to discuss faith issues? Well we have just the thing for you! Please come and join us on Monday Morning in the chapel at 9:30 am for two hours of discussion, laughter and friendship.

On **Monday May 27<sup>th</sup>** we will continue with our new DVD Series called "First Light" with well-known scholars Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. We are looking at Session Two "The Advent of the Messiah" where we learn about the hardships of peasant life in First Century Galilee and how that world shaped Jesus' life and ministry. The DVD for each session shows on location glimpses of the Holy land.

If you would like to drop in for a session or more, please join us in the chapel on Monday from 9:30am to 11:30am. We promise a warm welcome and lively discussion. For more information, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton.

### 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** Please MEET at Elgin Barrow Arena at **8:15 a.m.** as bus departs at 8:30 a.m. Return by 5:30 p.m.

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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 this 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](http://www.skylightfestival.ca).

To unsubscribe, please write to: [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.