

Circles update:

**Sunday May 27 after
service**



BRING YOUR COFFEE OR TEA AND MEET BACK IN THE SANCTUARY

- Have an opportunity to ask questions/seek clarification on the Circles report initially discussed on April 27.
- Hear back from the 3 groups that have met to brainstorm and begin discussions about:
 - Community Partnerships
 - Stewardship
 - Facilities
- Add your name to the list of others who have indicated their interest in learning more/working together on Intentions/projects as outlined in the report

This week at a glance

Sunday, May 27 – Trinity Sunday
 10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary
 11:45 p.m. Circles Update - Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour

Monday, May 28
 9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel
 7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel
 11:30 a.m. Krasman Lunch – lower gym

Wednesday, May 30
 7:00 p.m. RHUC Book Club - Chapel

Thursday, May 31
 6:15 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, June 2
9:00 a.m. Council retreat – Dayspring – L’Arche Daybreak
 3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming –Garden Room

Sunday, June 3
12:00 Joint Service with New Life Korean Methodist Church - Sanctuary

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

Sunday, May 27: Trinity Sunday. We welcome Rev. Kay Cho to lead worship and share the message, "God so loved the world..." as we reflect on Isaiah 6:1-8 and John 3:1-17. After worship we will gather in Centennial Hall for part 2 of our Consensus Circle. We will hear back from the groups who met to discuss Intention 2, 3 and 8 from our Mission Action Plan. There will also be an opportunity to sign up to discuss Intentions 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9.

Sunday, June 3: Special time of 12 Noon for Joint Service with New Life Korean Methodist Church. We will reflect on Mark 2:23-3:6 as we consider what it means to experience healing as the Body of Christ. We will conclude with a potluck lunch with food provided by both RHUC and New Life Church. James will be present to lead a brief, non-choral service at 10:30 am in case of visitors to the church (and anyone who may forget about the special time).

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.

Minister's Message

On the day of Pentecost the disciples of Jesus along with his family were caught up in a whirlwind and inspired for their future. They received gifts of courage, wisdom, understanding, awe. They were enabled to speak and be understood. They heard with their hearts open and responded with love. We have been about much the same over this past year as we have met in circles, discerned together and then met last month for our Consensus Circle. Like the disciples who on day after Pentecost had to move from the experience to put into practice what they had learned in the Spirit, over this last month three groups have met to discuss three of our Mission Action Plan Intentions and will be reporting back. We will also have an opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the rest of the intentions in our plan as people add their names to indicate an interest in learning more or who want to work on the projects named there. This is an exciting time for us as a congregation. We have been moved by the Spirit and are ready to act on her inspiration. As the disciples lived out of the Pentecost experience in practical ways, we are doing the same. And like them we can trust the Spirit will continue to be with us, assisting us in tasks big and small, bringing clarity when we are unsure, encouraging us when we feel overwhelmed, and filling us with transformative love.

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 41: The organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations shall contribute to the full realization of the provisions of this Declaration through the mobilization, inter alia, of financial cooperation and technical assistance. Ways and means of ensuring participation of indigenous peoples on issues affecting them shall be established.

Article 42: The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration.

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support innovation in ministry. As a jazz saxophonist, Peter Woods knows that live music performances are spiritually moving events for both the performer and the audience. As an ordained minister, he has always wanted to connect his performances more overtly to faith communities and spiritual growth. That is now happening, thanks to funding from Embracing the Spirit, a Mission & Service-funded learning network and innovation fund. The program fosters new forms of ministry—including drum circles, outdoor labyrinths, arts festivals, and community cooking classes—along with supporting existing faith communities through connection and collaboration. When Embracing the Spirit was launched at the Skylight Festival in 2016, Woods and his Evensong Ensemble were there to perform. They were later granted an innovation grant, allowing the group to develop professionally, combining the power found in the contemporary jazz-pop concert experience with the progressive theology of the United Church. “Support from Embracing the Spirit is making that possible,” Woods says. “People have never stopped seeking spiritual nourishment in a musical setting. The music is a vessel and is one part of a message about love and acceptance in the world.” He notes that Evensong also hopes to connect with other musicians as the United Church seeks to be a credible presence in the Spiritual but Not Religious world. “We want to be part of the conversation” he says, “and funding from Embracing the Spirit is making that possible.” If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

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

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

Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality will gather **this Saturday May 26th** at 9:45 a.m. in the Garden Room. Program: Indigenous and Animal Spirituality.

RHUC Book club

Please join us on **Wednesday, May 30th at 7 p.m. in the Chapel** for our final book club gathering of the season. We'll be discussing *Strangers with the Same Dream* by Canadian author Alison Pick. This book was chosen as the One Book/One Aurora selection for 2018. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but still have a copy of the book from the Aurora Library, please contact me at bookgirl8@hotmail.com or call me to arrange delivery of the book as they have to be returned as a complete set as soon as possible after our meeting. Thank you. *Sandra Loughton, Book Club Facilitator*

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.

H.A.I.R continues to meet Monday nights from 7:00-8:30 pm in the chapel using video or print resources as the basis for stimulating discussion. 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 28th** in the Chapel from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. to discuss **Chapter 9: Stand with Jesus** from Marcus Borg's book *Days of Awe & Wonder: How to be a Christian in the 21st Century*. We will also be having the staff join us for coffee and goodies this week.

Our final session for the season will be a lunch on Monday, June 4th and the details will be ironed out this week. For more information about the group, please speak to Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton. New members will be warmly welcomed in the fall when we reconvene after the summer. Please stay tuned to RHUC On-line for more details about our start-up date in September.

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

Tai Chi ends for the summer

Victoria Day marks the traditional closing date for tai chi for the summer. Watch for announcements about our resumption in the fall.

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.

Need a ride to the polls?

If you, a family member, a friend or neighbour, live in the town of Richmond Hill and need a ride to and from your polling station on provincial election day, June 7, please contact Bruce at 905-770-4233, bruce@brucerhodes.ca. Would anyone requesting a ride please have available the exact address of the polling station to which they will need to be driven.

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

Christ's College is one of the constituent colleges of the University of Cambridge, and has had a chapel choir since its foundation in 1505. Conducted by Professor David Rowland, director of music at Christ's College, the choir sings a selection of music from English and European choral traditions from the 16th to 20th century.

The choir has a broad concert repertoire. This tour they are singing a wide range of music: Parry's Songs of Farewell, Howell's Requiem, Finzi's Lo, The Full, Final Sacrifice, to name a few, maintaining a variety of music from both religious and secular traditions, ranging from Tallis to Britten. CDs will be on sale at the concert.

Find out more at www.cambridgechoir.co.uk

Date: Friday, July 13, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$25

Tickets available from the Chancel Choir, church office and <https://richmondhill.snapd.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

The Festival of Faith

When: Saturday and Sunday, July 21–22, 2018
Where: 43rd General Council at UOIT Durham in Oshawa, ON
What: A celebration of our work and witness through the arts
Cost: Free!

The Festival of Faith marks the start of GC43. It's a chance to celebrate the hopeful things that are already happening across the country in many communities of faith. This festival will bring together musicians, authors, dancers, storytellers, and craftspeople. Like an old-time country fair, artists and artisans will roll in early in the morning, scrambling to set up their tents before the crowds arrive. Workshops will inform, inspire and share the vitality of our work and witness. There will also be opportunities to explore your faith, connect with others and offer your own voice and artistry in the coffee house, or on the green. Music, spoken word, ideas, movement, workshops and spiritual exploration—all on offer at this GC43 Festival of Faith. See you there! Follow the Festival of Faith on Facebook for details on performances, events and workshops you'll want to participate in—and let us know if you plan to attend this inspiring event. What's happening at the Festival? Music: Experience inspiring performers playing a variety of genres at multiple stages. Enjoy a DJ by the games and artisan market area where there will be a silent dance party as well as a lip-sync competition. Interactive art: Explore amazing art displays, including stories and images of over 80 projects supported by Embracing the Spirit, a new United Church learning network and innovation fund that you can get involved in. Join a Messy Fiesta led by Messy Church Canada and paint a pew! Workshops: Be inspired by 25 Festival of Faith workshops featuring amazing facilitators from across Canada. Spirituality: Discover different ways to express your faith through various prayer stations on the festival grounds. Coffee house: Come to the café and join the open mic experience. Enjoy spoken word, poems, songs and a variety of other artistic expressions. Everyone is welcome to contribute to the onstage experience. Artisan market: Explore the market sprinkled with local artisans and social enterprises displaying their products and services. Learn more about the emerging social economy. The Alvin Dixon Memorial Run/Walk : Start your second day of festival fun on the right foot at 8 am with this 5km run / 1km walk event.

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