

Listening Circles

We need your help! We would like to have more opportunities for people to attend Listening Circles. We need 3 or 4 more Hosts to make this happen on the dates below. Please contact Deb Fratin or Terry Davies for more information.

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

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.

Joanne Scofield & Terry Davies

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

Reading: Acts: 2:1-21 Message: "Call to be One Family" by Rev. James Ravenscroft

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

June 4: Youth Musical Sunday

June 11: Celebrating Pride Week

June 18: Confirmation

June 25: Aboriginal Solidarity Sunday

Minister's Message

As we celebrate Pentecost, I invite you to ponder these words by Annie Dillard. "I cannot cause light; the most I can do is try to put myself in the path of its beam. It is possible, in deep space, to sail on solar wind. Light, be it particle or wave, has force: you rig a giant sail and go. The secret of seeing is to sail on solar wind. Hone and spread your spirit till you yourself are a sail, whetted, translucent, broadside to the merest puff."

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!

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality is this **Saturday May 27th starting at 9:45 p.m.** in the Garden Room.

Program: Let's focus on Canada's sesquicentennial! This is a year to be proud of our heritage and Canadian people both past and present. Jane Urquhart's book, "A Number of Things: Stories of Canada Told Through Fifty Objects" focuses on fifty specific objects in various geographic locations throughout our country.

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 – cancelled on Thursday, May 25

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Shalom Seekers

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.

The Richmond Hill Community Food Bank, which opened in RHUC thirty-one years ago in the summer of 1986, is celebrating the **retirement of their Manager, Brenda Ewart**, after her twenty-five years of service. Brenda has seen and planned many changes during her years of service, including the Food Bank’s move in September 2005 to their present location at 55 Newkirk Road. We continue to support those needing food assistance in Richmond Hill by bringing our donations of non-perishable food to church the first Sunday of each month. Also during these years, many of us have volunteered at the Food Bank.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

June 3 Concert

IMAGINE a table filled with delicious baking and a delightful assortment of baskets. This will be part of the Marketplace available to our concert guests on **Saturday June 3 when doors open at 1:15pm.**

COME! ENJOY our Canadian singing sensations **THE FOUR MEN** who will delight you with music of **LOVE, HOPE AND INSPIRATION.** This concert is designed with ‘down east’ appeal.

Why not buy tickets today? Meet us after the service at our ticket table in Centennial Hall. Admission \$20 or \$15 for seniors or students. Tickets also to be sold at the door.

This special concert will support Stephen Lewis Foundation and Mission and Service work of the United Church of Canada. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

Net Zero Committee

The Net Zero Committee thinks we need to talk seriously and loudly about climate change.

The current calls of warning about climate change have reached a crescendo. Timeframes have dropped significantly so that the serious impacts are now expected within our lifetimes - and also the possibility of reaching the point-of-no-return. This is not fake news nor unsupported news - it is based on hard scientific evidence. Our faith community needs to speak together and to speak up on this issue.

While the news is bleak, there are also many simple solutions that can change the negative course. Each of us is probably attempting some of these and we should be sharing ideas with others and encouraging each other to make the changes necessary. We would love to hear your suggestions!

To learn more, please head to the RHUC blog and look for the post on Climate Change:

<https://rhucblog.wordpress.com>

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support theological schools like St. Andrew’s Theological College in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Let us hear the reflection of Principal Lorne Calvert. “Our United Church of Canada has initiated a new campaign to attract people to ordered ministry under the theme ‘God’s World Needs Leaders.’ As a college whose mission is to offer justice-driven education for Christian leadership, we welcome this undertaking. “Our ministers are responsible for leading, guiding, and supporting the community of faith in the proclamation of the good news of Jesus Christ. They touch people’s lives at various points of joy, pain, celebration, and vulnerability in a variety of ways—by leading in worship, by providing pastoral care, by standing with those who suffer, and by working for justice and peace. “With the help of St. Andrew’s alumni the college is being equipped with new technology to provide our students with the best possible options for online and distance learning. We are reaching out to establish new partnerships locally and internationally for educational opportunities. Through the work of our faculty beyond the classroom we offer cutting-edge theology and scholarship. “We seek to be the affirming, justice-driven, and welcoming community that we are called to be. All of this we strive for because God’s world needs leaders.” We sing thanksgiving for the commitment of United Church theological schools that our gifts for Mission & Service support! 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 lynnimay@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 (georgemoon@gmail.com) know if you want to be part of the exciting day!

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.