

This week at RHUC

Sunday, May 5

10:30 a.m. Service – Sanctuary
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir – Parlour
 12:00 p.m. Hands & Hearts for Africa meeting – Common Room
 7:00 p.m. Spring Concert – ‘Celestial Sounds’

Monday, May 6

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

Tuesday, May 7

12:15 p.m. RHUC Quilters – Garden Room
 7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, May 8

12:00 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel
 6:30 p.m. Meditation service – Chapel

Thursday, May 9

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, May 11

8:15 a.m. Men’s Breakfast - gym
 3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Garden Room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister’s message

Each year at the beginning of May we pause to mark Anniversary Sunday. It's a wonderful time for us to look back over where we have been as well as to ponder where we are going. At this time last year we had just completed our Circle Process. A lot has happened since then. We have been looking at our programs. A group has been researching grant opportunities. We have interviewed community stakeholders and hosted a roundtable with various organizations. We have had discussions about our facilities and how we can best live into what it means to be "a centre for community" - and all while we continue to be a vibrant and justice-seeking community of faith. All you need to do is walk around our halls on a weekday to see that we are buzzing with activity. We are also continuing to reach out to our neighbours. Relationships are being nurtured and we are becoming who we imagined we could be. As I look at this, it strikes me that we are leaning into our 209 year heritage. One of the hallmarks of Methodism is connexion (spelling is intentional). As our first minister rode between the points on his circuit, he was building relationships, joining groups together, sharing God's love. We are still doing the same. As we celebrate our anniversary, may we continue to grow in this legacy and vision.

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 5: As we celebrate Anniversary Sunday, we reflect together on Luke 24:36-48. In his recounting of this resurrection appearance, Luke emphasizes physicality. This interesting detail grounds our experience of Easter in this moment and not just in a future heaven. We embody the resurrection both as individuals and as church. We also bless prayer shawls.

Sunday, May 12: We turn our attention from Luke to the Acts of the Apostles. In Acts 9:36-43, we read how the spirit and work of Jesus continues on through his disciples, especially as Peter raises Dorcas from the dead.

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.

Chancel Choir Spring Concert



‘Celestial Sounds’ – a varied repertoire from Renaissance to Celtic. **Sunday, May 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.** Featuring the Chancel Choir, Emily Belvedere on harp and Stillman Matheson on piano. A concert not to be missed!
 Adults - \$20 Seniors: \$15 Students (13-19): \$15 Child (6-12): \$7.50 Children under 6: Free
 Family: (2 Adults/2 children (6-12)) - \$50
 Tickets: 905-884-1301 ext. 5 / Richmondhill.Snapd.com and at the door.

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

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 McCreedy, James Ravenscroft and Jane Wedlock). There is money out there. Help us access it!

Living into Right Relations

This week, we continue to review *The Indian Act*. From 1927 to 1951, Indians were forbidden from forming political organizations. According to Collins dictionary definition, the word **political** is an adjective meaning, "relating to the way power is [achieved](#) and used in a country or [society](#)."

"Prior to WWI, Indians had few means of connecting with other communities so they had no idea if the conditions and treatment they were subjected to was standard practice or unique." Canadian Indians were not subject to conscription because they were not considered Canadian citizens. Despite that, 4000 Indigenous peoples enlisted in WWI as a way of escaping the bleak living conditions on reserves and to protect their treaty rights. The fear was if the Allies lost the war, treaties made with the Crown would dissolve.

Ironically, it was while being stationed together overseas Indigenous peoples from across Canada had an opportunity to discuss their lives and treatment by the Canadian government. Lieutenant Fredrick Loft, a Mohawk from the Six Nations Band (near Grand River, ON), met with the King of England's Privy Council while stationed abroad. Returning to Canada, he began contacting chiefs inviting them to meet in order to unify and promote their common goals together. His vision was to create the *League of Indians of Canada*. The Canadian government was disturbed by the unified chiefs anticipating this would affect their plans for Indigenous assimilation. In 1927, the *Indian Act* was amended to ban Indians from forming political organizations. This did not stop meetings - they were continued 'underground'.

Available in Print...

"A Mind Spread Out on the Ground", by Alicia Elliott (2019)

"...the Haudensaunee author writes openly about the effects of her mother's fervent Catholicism and bipolar disorder, and her father's abusive behaviour"

Treaty #, by Armand Garnet Ruffo (2019)

"Powerful and whole-hearted, these poems are musing on the poet's individual place in the world and on our communal responsibility as caretakers of the planet."

Moccasin Square Gardens (2019)

"Moccasin Square Gardens is the work of a master storyteller... this collection of short stories moves without a stumble from tragedy to farce to science fiction and horror, then back to tragedy, and then on again to comedy, creating characters and events that will remain with you forever. Even his darkest narratives are illuminated by joy and laughter...Van Camp's stories are gifts to the reader. This book conveys an essential Canadian voice, a serious meditation on themes of life, love, death and band politics, and creates a healing space of laughter and compassion. Highly recommended." - Tom Sandborn, Vancouver Sun, March 2019

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 7**.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Hands & Hearts for Africa meeting

On **Sunday May 5th** there will be a meeting of Hands and Hearts for AFRICA in the Common Room from 12 noon to 1 pm. We will hear the latest news from the Stephen Lewis Foundation and look forward to upcoming events. Part of our meeting will include brainstorming new ideas for future fundraisers. For more information, please speak to Peg Hiscoke and Donna Harrison.

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

We stand on the foundation of a great cloud of witnesses—faithful men and women who answered the call of ministry in an overseas position to preach, teach, and heal in places around the world. We are thankful for the ways they showed us what it means to love your neighbour around the world in loving partnership. This is the story of one of our United Church saints: Lucy Winifred Robinson Bryce, principal, educator, and author, who lived in India from 1915 to 1953. Lucy was married to fellow missionary George Bryce. Together they taught at the Indore Christian College in Malwa. Lucy was the principal of the college from 1952 to 1953. In her time at the college, she introduced social work and sociology programs as part of the curriculum. She had a deep love for India and its people. In her 1945 book *India on the Threshold*, she reflected on what an independent India would be like. Lucy shared these words in her book: "India is not only setting her house in order, but she is taking her place among the nations of the world. Never again can she be designated 'faraway India,' for she is within...flying time from all nations east or west. We who love her, but who, alas, are not of her soil, must be humble in this her great hour... With my hands folded in your own greeting of peace, O India, I bow to you in the threshold of new life."¹ We give thanks for the inspiring foundation of our past!

Concert at RHUC – Tuesday, May 7

Birthdays, Mothers and the Music of Brahms!

A concert with Joanna Grace, on the horn and resident of Richmond Hill, Vivian Kukiel, on violin, and Chris Au on piano at RHUC. This young woman received a Richmond Hill Community and Culture Grant to support this concert on **Tuesday May 7 at 7:30**. Tickets are \$25.00 cash at the door or \$20.00 in advance at <http://joannagraces.eventbrite.ca>

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Shalom Seekers

Please join us on **Monday, May 6 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel**. This week we will be treated to photos and stories of Linda Lindberg's recent trip to Egypt. The following week we will begin a DVD series from *Living the Questions* entitled *First Light -- Jesus and the Kingdom of God* featuring John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg.

For more information about the group, please speak to either Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton or to anyone who attends Shalom Seekers. New members are always welcome. These discussions are a wonderful way to start your week!

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.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, May 11th, 2019**. Coffee and tea will be served at **8:15am**, with breakfast in the gym at 8:30 prepared by our UCW friends. New participants are always welcome. The Men's Breakfasts are a time of fellowship and camaraderie. Feel free to contact us if you're interested in more information. Cost is \$10 / person, with net proceeds to the UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran (harrypersad.ramsaran@gmail.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, May 9th. Thank you!

After breakfast you are invited to the Parlour for a presentation by Rev. Paul Shepherd. Paul was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, but has now lived most of his life in the Toronto area. Growing up he spent 1 year in England and 1 year in Sweden. Paul completed a PhD in atmospheric physics at York University, and worked for over 15 years as an environmental scientist in both the public and private sectors, primarily in the area of resource management, developing mapping applications. He moved from scientific work into ministry in the United Church of Canada in 2006 because he finds people more fascinating than numbers. Paul has held a number of ministry positions, and is currently working as the minister at Martin Grove United Church, in Rexdale. He feels called to Rexdale because it is a place with deep needs, and is therefore a great place to have a church. His main interests in ministry are around emotional/spiritual healing, and social justice. Paul has supported the Presbytery (now the region), being the Chair of the Property and Environment Team of Presbytery for 5 years and is a member of the Shining Waters Regional Executive until the AGM. Paul's hobbies include cycling and scuba diving.

Looking ahead: Future dates for 2019: September 14th, October 19th, November 9th, and December 14th

RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, May 22 at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss **The Great Alone** by Kristin Hannah. In this spellbinding novel, a family of three moves to Alaska to reinvent themselves and to find healing. Life is tough in the wilds of Alaska and the family is tested in ways they could never have imagined. All are welcome to try out the group. Please speak to Sandra Loughton or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301 Ext. 5 for more information.

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.

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.

Daphne Jackson, who is now a resident on the long term care unit in McKenzie Health was excited and pleasantly surprised to see and hear Ian Wilgus lead the worship service on Sunday, April 28th.

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.

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