

This week at RHUC

Sunday, November 11

9:00 a.m. Finance Committee – Garden Room
10:30 a.m. Service
12:00 p.m. Faith Exploration Classes
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Common Room

Monday, November 12

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

Tuesday, November 13

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, November 14

6:00 p.m. Vision Keepers - Chapel
7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee – Chapel
7:30 p.m. Council – Garden Room

Thursday, November 15

6:15 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

Saturday, November 17

8:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

This coming Sunday we mark 100 years since the declaration of armistice which concluded what was then known as the Great War. As we well know this "war to end all wars" ended up not being so. In fact there are many historians who suggest that the aftermath of the war in the various treaties signed and the reparations demanded laid the groundwork for the Second World War. The war also may have been a contributing cause to the Bolshevik Revolution in Russia as well as some of the genocides that took place in the ensuing years. On a more positive note, President Woodrow Wilson's 14 points laid the groundwork for the slow shifting away from colonialism and the eventual establishment of the United Nations following the failure of the League of Nations. So if anything World War I was the war that helped shape the modern world. It is easy in our annual remembrance to feel deep tension. We need to honour veterans, to show gratitude for sacrifices made without falling into the trap of jingoistic rhetoric. The history of the Great War and its aftermath remind us that war is never the solution, nor is it the pathway to a future peace. The peace we yearn for grows out of a commitment to human rights and the ongoing work of social justice. It comes when we see every person as a sibling. It comes when we open our hearts in love. May that continue to be our mantra as we mark this historic Remembrance Day.

Minister's Office Hours: James will be keep office hours from 1:00 until 5:00 pm on Mondays and Wednesdays each week. Feel free to stop in to see him.

Worship notes

This Sunday, November 11: We mark the 100th Anniversary of Armistice as we celebrate Remembrance Sunday. Using poetry, music and scripture, we will take time to remember, to lament and to commit to peace. The scripture reading is Psalm 146. If you have photos of loved ones who served in a past war feel free to bring so they can be placed on the communion table.

Next Sunday, November 18: We reflect together on 1 Samuel 2:1-10, Hannah's prayer of thanksgiving before she dedicated her son Samuel to God and has him raised in the Temple. This prayer is very similar to Mary's song of praise in Luke 1.

Announcements: A reminder that if you would like to make an announcement on a Sunday you need to let James know by the Thursday prior. He is able to make the announcement for you. If you would like to make it yourself, it needs to be brief. Please keep to 50 words or less.

Christian Development

If you are able to help out with the youth on the following dates please let Joan Verner know: November 25 and December 9. 16. joanverner@rogers.com or 905-539-1222.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Hands & Hearts for Africa

Big Thank you!! Hands and Hearts for Africa would like to thank you for your support of our NOV 3 Art Show and Sale. We had a wonderful collection of artists this year including William's birdhouses, three exceptional jewellers, dolls and toys by Julia and Rita, stained glass, unique wooden bowls. Coffee mug bird feeders, knitwear fashion by Maya, wool/silk fashion by Janet, Hand painted and felted scarves by Shiva and fine art photography by Rhonda. Our newest venture was a Baked Goods table that was very popular!

So far we have raised \$1300 for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. This event would not come together without our intrepid team of grannies and friends! Special thanks to our teen helpers, and our musicians: RHUC drummers, Nick Moore and new folk singer, Sean Hully.

PAPER FOLDING WORKSHOP SUNDAY NOV. 18 1:30-3:30pm



On Sunday NOV. 18 in the chapel, artist Andrea Kulesh will be teaching a paper folding workshop for anyone 15 and up. Our project is a Victorian Christmas Decoration to add to your holiday decor. Class limit is 12 and we already have 6 people signed up. Cost to participate in this 2 hour Workshop is \$25 with most of the proceeds going to support Stephen Lewis Foundation. This is an offshoot of the Art Show. No need to bring anything for the workshop but we suggest an apron as we will be using glue and a bag lunch if needed.

Please contact Peg Hiscock at handsandhearts@live.ca if you are interested in joining us.

Hands & Hearts for Africa

2018 VIRTUAL WALK AROUND AFRICA: Virtual Walk around Africa Trek 5: Pointing Out the Stars in Tanzania

The Sukuma people of Tanzania have a saying "I pointed out the stars to you but all you saw was the tip of my finger". As we travel by jeep across the rough terrain of Ruaha National Park, in central Tanzania, we are lucky to see the 'stars' of the African wilderness--elephants, lions, hippos, and giraffes. What a thrill to explore this beautiful park teeming with wildlife.

After a reviving lunch of chai and ugali (porridge), we head further east towards Dar es Salaam on the Indian Ocean. Dar, known as the "Haven of Peace" in Arabic, is nestled around a natural harbour and is both a great port and a thriving city. We plan on visiting the famous Fish Market and the National Museum which houses some of the fossils discovered by Louis Leakey--proof of Tanzania's significance in the evolution of the human species.

We meet briefly with Ndinini Kimesera Sikar, Executive Director of the Maasai Women Development Organization, a community-based programme supported by the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Ndinini reminds us that "we cannot let go of home-based care. If we do, we will lose ground (against the HIV virus). We cannot do less just because we see a few improvements. This is the time to do more." Something to think about as we leave Dar with its ocean views. Next stop is Lilongwe, Malawi!

Miles to go, Spirit strong! We are heading south along the East Coast of Africa. It is a long journey and we have miles to go but our spirit is strong in solidarity with African grandmothers. In South Africa alone, 60% of home-based care is provided by grandmothers. What astounds us is the lack of support and resources in many African countries for these elderly caregivers and yet they demonstrate courage, resilience and a growing self-confidence. We thank you for supporting the Virtual Walk around Africa and for making a difference. Be sure to check out our map and see how far we have walked.

Living In Right Relations Committee

This week, we begin to explore The Indian Act of 1876 and recognize the winner of the Non-Fiction category of the Governor General Literary Awards.

History of the Indian Act (with excerpts from "21 Things you may not know about the Indian Act, Bob Joseph, 2018)

1844 - the *Bagot Report* "recommended that control over Indian matters be centralized, that the children be sent to boarding schools away from the influence of their communities and culture, that the Indians be encouraged to assume the European concept of free enterprise, and that land be individually owned under an Indian land registry system in which they could sell to each other but not to non-Indians."

1867 - the *British North American Act (BNA)* or the *Constitution Act* was issued giving "exclusive jurisdiction over Indians and lands reserved for the Indians" to the federal Government." This put Canada in a position of conflict of interest. "On the one hand it was responsible for Indians and lands reserved for the Indians while on the other hand, it was the responsible party for negotiating treaties and purchasing their land for the Crown."

1876- the *Indian Act* [excerpt from the *Canadian Department of Interior, Annual Report for June 30, 1876*]

"Our Indian legislation generally rests on the principle, that the aborigines are to be kept in a condition of tutelage and treated as wards or children of the State...[T]he true interests of the aborigines and of the State alike require that every effort should be made to aid the Red man in lifting himself out of his condition of tutelage and dependence..."

Today - despite numerous amendments, the *Indian Act* remains in effect with basically the same framework as the 1876 document

2018 Governor General Literary Awards

Winner of the Non-Fiction Category - "Mamascatch" written by Darrel J. McLeod

Darrel J. McLeod is a Cree writer from northern Alberta. Mamascatch is a memoir of Darrel's childhood and his first book. For more information on this and other winners, go to <https://ggbooks.ca/#winners>

Next Week - Herman Merivale and the 'Native Question'

Minute for Mission Called to be the Church

The Lumad are Indigenous peoples of Mindanao in the southern Philippines. Many Lumad communities have established their own schools, looking for help from government, non-governmental organizations, and church groups. Mission & Service partner the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) is collaborating with the Lumad peoples in this work. These people have faced a high level of persecution from the Philippine military, including forced displacement and extrajudicial killings. Lumad schools have been used as temporary military camps, shelters and, in some cases, for weapon storage. Traditional Lumad territory is rich in natural resources, and encroachment on their land has contributed to these people being displaced. In the midst of these challenges, the Lumad peoples continue to support schools through the Save Our Schools Network or SOS. The SOS network works with others, including the UCCP, to support a nondiscriminatory, culturally sensitive approach to education. The schools provide free, high-quality education to Indigenous children. Currently there are 205 Lumad community schools serving almost 6,000 children. More schools are needed! Other communities need new classrooms and support for operating costs, including teachers. Mission & Service supports schools that help lift people and communities out of poverty and build leadership for the future of the Lumad peoples of the Philippines.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Bible Study

We will once again have Bible Study in the chapel from 6:15 to 7:20 pm. We reflect together on the scripture reading for the coming Sunday, exploring context and sharing together how the theme of the reading continues to speak to us in our own day. Each session stands alone so be assured you are welcome even if you can only come once in a while.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, November 17th, 2018**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, followed by breakfast 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 about it. Cost is \$10 / person, with net proceeds to the UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran (hramsaran@rogers.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, November 15th. Thank you!

After breakfast you are invited to a presentation on Men's Health by Dr. Rohan Shahani. Dr. Rohan Shahani is a Urologic Surgeon, specializing in Minimally Invasive and Advanced Laparoscopic surgery. He has a special interest in Urologic Oncology including laparoscopic surgery of the kidney, adrenal and prostate and Stone Disease. He currently practices at Mackenzie Health in Richmond Hill, Ontario. Rohan received his Medical Degree from the University of Toronto in 2004 and then went on to do a 5-year Urology Residency also at the University of Toronto followed by a Fellowship in Advanced Laparoscopic and Endourologic Surgery at the Centre for Minimal Access Surgery at McMaster University. Dr. Shahani currently serves as the President of the Professional Staff Association at Mackenzie Health and sits on the Board of Directors. He is also a member or chair of several hospital based committees. Dr. Shahani also is a medical staff member of the Prostate Cancer Disease Pathway Management Committee of Cancer Care Ontario. **Looking ahead:** Future dates: December 8, 2018 and January 12, 2019.

UCW Christmas Tea and Bake Sale

Save the Date! The UCW will hold their **Christmas Tea and Bake Sale on Saturday December 1st, 2018 at 1:00pm.**

Faith Exploration Classes

Faith Exploration Classes (**Sundays at Noon**): Are you curious about the teachings of Jesus, especially how we live them out within The United Church of Canada? Do you want to translate what you were taught in Sunday School into an adult understanding? Are you wondering about baptism or considering becoming a member of RHUC through confirmation or transfer from another congregation? Or maybe you are just interested in sharing faith with other adults? Then come to James' office at noon each Sunday (except on special holidays like Thanksgiving) and explore faith with others. Everyone welcome.

H.A.I.R.

HAIR, the Monday evening study group, is using TED talks and other videos to trigger discussions about ethical questions, the implications of faith in the modern world, and other important issues of our time, such as when to stand up against discrimination, how to make a difference in helping others (effective altruism), environmental challenges, etc. Since each discussion is self-contained it is possible to join us in the chapel any Monday at 7:00 without having to "catch up". Everyone is welcome to any or all of these fascinating discussions.

Shalom Seekers

Please join us on Monday, November 12th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel for a discussion about religious pluralism and we'll focus on The Pluralism Project at Harvard University. We will also be looking into other world religions to see how they differ from or are similar to Christianity. New members are always welcome. Please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton for more details.

RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, November 28 at 7 p.m.** in the RHUC Chapel to discuss **THE ART OF HEARING HEARTBEATS** by Jan-Philipp Sendker, a German writer. All are welcome! No previous book club experience is required - just a love of reading and talking about books with others. Here is a short synopsis of the novel to whet your appetite:

'A poignant and inspirational love story set in Burma, *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* spans the decades between the 1950s and the present. When a successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears without a trace, neither his wife nor his daughter Julia has any idea where he might be...until they find a love letter he wrote many years ago, to a Burmese woman they have never heard of. Intent on solving the mystery and coming to terms with her father's past, Julia decides to travel to the village where the woman lived. There she uncovers a tale of unimaginable hardship, resilience, and passion that will reaffirm the reader's belief in the power of love to move mountains.'

For more information, please speak to the group's facilitator, Sandra Loughton, or speak to Deb Fratin in the church office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5.

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.

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

Welcome Committee

Welcoming Teams need a couple more volunteers! We have five teams, meaning that each team is on duty every fifth service. Their duty includes arriving 30 minutes before the service starts; welcoming people as they come in our doors; giving out the Order of Service; receiving the offering. The most important thing about this position is that people receive a warm and meaningful greeting that says they are welcome and that we are happy they have joined us. If you would like to volunteer, or have questions, please contact Donna Smith, 905-884-6307; the 2019 schedule is prepared in November. Thank you.

Fellowship

Are you planning to move away? Do you know of someone who is?

Problem: the church finds out that someone who attends our church has moved, often well after the fact! We feel badly that their life and contribution to our worship and work at RHUC has not been recognized and our goodbye and best wishes have not been expressed. Please let the Office know of any such moving plans. Donna Smith, 905-884-6307.

Out of the Cold Program – Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church

Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church will be hosting the Out of the Cold program this coming winter every **Sunday evening from December 9th 2018 to January 13th 2019**. The program will be operated by Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold from 6pm Sunday evenings to 8am Monday mornings. Mosaic Interfaith OOTC provides emergency shelter beds, meals and support services to the homeless in partnership with 16 interfaith communities in York Region. RHPC will be joining this winter service by providing space on Sundays for up to 30 beds for those in need.

Mosaic is looking for volunteers to help with the following duties:

- Registration of clients – 6pm – 9pm
- Serving pizza meal and refreshments – 6 – 9pm
- Cleanup – 6-9pm
- Breakfast Crew – serving cold breakfast and coffee, signing out clients and cleanup – 5:30 – 7:30 am

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lyn May at lynniemay@gmail.com or 905-884-9805.

Moderator's Message: The Rev. Gretta Vosper

News from Toronto Conference: In a brief joint statement yesterday it was announced that Toronto Conference, Rev. Gretta Vosper and West Hill United Church have resolved ongoing differences and that both Rev. Gretta and West Hill can continue to share ministry within our denomination. This has been a difficult time for Gretta and her congregation. It has also been a difficult time for the wider church as we have all wrestled with issues of theology, pastoral oversight, responsibilities of those in ministry, inclusion. Our new moderator has issued a pastoral letter in response to the news. May we all continue to pray for one another as we seek unity in our ministry as a church.

<https://www.united-church.ca/news/moderators-message-rev-gretta-vosper>

Mosaic Interfaith

Dear Mosaic Interfaith:

Thank you to everyone that attended Sabbath services at Temple Har Zion on November 3rd in a show of support as they mourned the massacre of eleven Jews praying at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh on October 27th. Thank you too to all of those who answered the call from The National Council of Canadian Muslim to their members and affiliates asking for volunteers to form Rings of Peace around synagogues including Temple Har Zion. Together we can defeat hate, bigotry and violence.

We hope you will be able to join us for our annual "From Abraham Three Faiths" presentation on **Sunday, November 25th, 2018 from 2-4 pm at [The Mulla Asghar Memorial Library and Islamic Resource Centre](#) located at the Jaffari Islamic Centre, [9000 Bathurst Street Thornhill](#)**. Our esteemed panelists Rabbi Michael Stroh, Rev. John Hill and Dr. Liyakat Takim will discuss "**Can the Violence in our Scriptures Justify Violence in Today's World?**"

This program is co-sponsored by the Organization for Islamic Learning.

Please note participants can keep their shoes on and do not have to wear a headscarf. However, you are requested to dress modestly as the MARC library is a learning centre and is housed in a place of worship.

Please see the flyer for more details. We hope to see you there for what is always a very interesting discussion.

Fran Isaacs & Shabnees Siwjee co-chairs

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Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.