



This week at a glance

Sunday, November 12 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 a.m.
9:15 – 10:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast – Lower gym
12:00 p.m. Training for Lay Leadership – Chapel
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Common room

Monday, November 13

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

Tuesday, November 14

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym
7:00 p.m. Tai Chi – Garden room

Wednesday, November 15

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

Thursday, November 16

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

Friday, November 17

9:15 a.m. Yoga Energetics – Upper gym

Saturday, November 18

4:00 p.m. Djembe drumming – Garden room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

Over the next 3 Sundays we will be exploring this year's Generous Spirit theme - "Generously Moving Forward". This coming Sunday our main reading is Deuteronomy 34:1-12. Looking at the story of Moses being shown the "Promised Land" before he dies, we will explore the importance of having a vision for the future. The following Sunday our main reading is Judges 4:1-7, the story of Deborah as she leads the nation in a time of conflict and crisis.

November 12: Remembering Loved Ones. As part of our worship service on November 12, we will take time to remember loved ones who have died, especially in the last year. If you wish, bring a framed photo of your loved one to place on the communion table prior to the service. We will also take time to light candles in memory of those who are with us in spirit.

Upcoming Lunch and Learn on November 26: Did you know we presently have three streams of ministry in the United Church - ordained ministers, diaconal ministers and designated lay ministers? That could possibly change if Remit 6, a proposal for one order of ministry is approved by presbyteries and congregational boards/councils. On November 26, James will be presenting information regarding this proposal.

Training for Lay Worship Leadership

Training for Lay Worship Leadership: **Sunday, November 5, 12 and 19, 12:00 - 2:30 pm:**

Have you ever wondered why we do what we do in a worship service? Or wanted to learn how to write a Prayer of Approach? Or secretly wanted to preach a sermon? If so then you are invited to a series of workshops this coming November following worship. The workshops will prepare people to assist in preparing and leading worship, including preaching sermons. Those who are simply interested in both the meaning and mechanics of worship are also welcome to attend. For more information, contact James. Workshops will start in the spare office.



Worship Notes

The Worship Committee is already well into planning for Advent and even the New Year! We meet on the first Wednesday of the month. The Chancel Choir has been working on Advent & Christmas music for a few months now. Excitement is building for the Chancel Choir's concert with Liona Boyd on December 2nd and for Carols by Candlelight/Lessons & Carols on the evening of December 10th. You can purchase your tickets for the Liona Boyd concert on December 2nd from a choir member, the church office, <https://richmondhill.snaps.com/events/view/1094582> or after the services on Sunday mornings. This concert is a fundraiser for RHUC so please help to spread the word and bring your friends and family!

A few things have been brought to my attention lately as Chair of the Worship Committee, so I thought I'd take this time for a few reminders:

- Please remember to avoid perfume, cologne, and aftershave while at RHUC. These scented products adversely affect people who suffer from allergies and we want our building to be comfortable and safe for all who attend.
- If you need/want to make an announcement on a Sunday morning, please e-mail or call James Ravenscroft before Saturday of that week. (james@rhuc.org or 905.884.1301) If James is away on holiday or study leave, you can e-mail me as Chair of Worship at bookgirl8@hotmail.com or call me at 905.773.5189

If you have any questions or concerns or positive comments about worship at RHUC, please feel free to speak to any member of the worship committee (James, Barry, Dawn Moon, Anne Leyton-Brown, Anne Dunn, Craig Lee, Harry Ramsaran, Joan Verner, Dominick Shelton, Linda Clark, Sandra Loughton).

Sandra Loughton, Worship Committee (Chair)

Minister's Message

It feels like an unending story. Once again we receive news of a mass shooting in the US and once again we hear impassioned calls for gun control. Yet we also know that the gun lobby will likely scupper any new laws, leaving us on this side of the border scratching our heads as to why this keeps happening. So what should our response be given we have no say in another country's politics as much as we may want to? First I believe is to check our own smugness. We shouldn't forget that gun control does not have equal degrees of support across the country. Despite high support in urban areas and advocacy from police, the previous government scrapped the long gun registry in a play toward its rural base. Second, is remembering we still have gun violence in Canada despite gun control. It is significantly lower than in the US but gun control hasn't eliminated it. With that in mind I feel a third response is to do some soul-searching in regard to the root causes of gun violence. There is a cultural component to the debate that we do not understand, having been formed as a country through peaceful negotiation rather than armed conflict. The reality is that the right to bear arms is rooted in the American psyche, part of a suspicion of big government and a belief that individuals need to take charge of their own lives. But on both sides of the border we need to be cognizant that violence is exacerbated by economic disparity and racial discrimination. In the end we each need to pause and wonder how we may actually contribute to injustice and to violence, and recommit ourselves to peace. This is something to ponder as we approach Remembrance Day and vow to never forget.

**Advent Craft Dinner
– Sunday, Dec. 3rd
for all ages!**



Mark Sunday, Dec. 3rd from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. on your calendar for a wonderful way to start Advent! An event for all ages!

- 4:30 p.m. Craft making
- 5:30 p.m. Potluck dinner
- 6:30 p.m. a reflective worship service for approx. 30 minutes

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Liona Boyd – ‘A Winter Fantasy’ – in Concert with RHUC Chancel Choir at RHUC – a fundraiser for RHUC!

On **December 2 at 7:30 p.m.** the Chancel Choir is privileged and honoured to be presenting a concert, “A Winter Fantasy”, with **Liona Boyd**, one of Canada’s musical icons! Get your tickets early!



Ticket price: \$35
Available from:

- church office
- Chancel Choir member
- after service in Centennial Hall
- <https://richmondhill.snappd.com/events/view/1094582>

It's a magical musical evening you won't want to miss! "A Winter Fantasy", with “The First Lady of Classical Guitar” and 5 time Juno award winner **Liona Boyd** in concert with **Andrew Dolson**.

You will have an opportunity to meet her following the performance and purchase one of her CD’s or her most recent books. What a great Christmas gift for a family member or friend!

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Living in Right Relations - The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Self Determination:

Article 3: Indigenous peoples have the right to self-determination. By virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development.

Article 4: Indigenous peoples, in exercising their right to self-determination, have the right to autonomy or self-government in matters relating to their internal and local affairs, as well as ways and means for financing their autonomous functions.

In the Spirit of Reconciliation

**Minute for Mission
Called to be the Church**

Our gifts for Mission & Service co-funded the first bilingual Social Innovation Challenge in Montreal, Quebec, in May 2016. Let us hear about that event. Le défi : Innovons ensemble brought together more than 80 people excited to share their innovative ideas to make a difference in their communities and the world. Participants spent time with coaches to prepare their one-minute pitches. After 35 ideas were pitched to the assembled crowd, everyone voted for their top three ideas. The following morning 11 projects moved to round two, but in the spirit of community and collaboration, everyone was invited to stay and participate. There were opportunities to network, learn, and help the finalists perfect their next pitch. The second round of pitches allowed the innovators three minutes to present their ideas to the judges. The judges came from a variety of backgrounds. They offered feedback to the presenters and then gathered to select the winning ideas. The United Church was well represented, with five projects initiated by United Church ministries, three of which made the final round. These included Mission & Service–supported Montreal City Mission’s idea, a kindness map; La présence, pitched by Mission & Service–supported United Theological College; and Dans les pas du Sauveur—an initiative with widows and orphans in Ivory Coast—pitched by l’Église Unie St-Marc, which won the People’s Choice Award. We sing thanksgiving for the many ways Mission & Service partners create innovative ministry! 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!



Fall Art Show – many thanks!

Hands and Hearts for Africa would like to thank all of you who generously supported the Art Show for Stephen Lewis Foundation on Nov. 4. This year we raised almost \$1700. We extend special thanks to our talented artists, musicians, cooks, and teen crew whose help and support are crucial to putting the show together. We also celebrate our fashion model team who added some flair to this year's event by modelling Elina Ten's clothing.

Together we continue to make a difference in the lives of African grannies and their AIDS orphaned grandchildren.

Out of the Cold

The Out of the Cold program is opening soon and we are looking for Registered Nurses (RN's), Nurse Practitioners (NP's) and Medical Doctors to volunteer at our shelters! The Out of the Cold program is a dynamic place to volunteer! If you want to help those in need, get to know amazing people, have fun and use your medical skills, this is the opportunity! We are currently looking for medical professionals to volunteer at various locations on:

- Monday evenings (Richmond Hill) – January to March
- Tuesday evenings (Vaughan) – November to January
- Wednesday evenings (Markham) – January to March
- Thursday evenings (Thornhill) – November to January
- Thursday evenings (Vaughan) – February to March

The shift is from 5-8pm. You can volunteer for 1 night a week or for more than 1 night a week. We require our nurses to be registered with the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) or other regulatory body in Ontario.

Our medical professionals provide basic care including general check-ups, wound care, dispensing over the counter medication, foot care and referrals. Please call us at 416 948 6682, send us an email at rsumar@rogers.com or message us if you would like to volunteer or need more information! Visit www.miotc.ca

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Shalom Seekers

Please join us on Monday, November 13 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel. This week we will continue our series on the Protestant Reformation by viewing the DVD "This Changed Everything" from PBS. We will spend two more weeks looking at the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (November 20 & 27) and then celebrate the Advent season with a Christmas Coffee/Tea session on Monday, December 4th at 10 a.m. We will follow that time of fellowship and refreshments with an Advent worship service at 11:30 a.m. before breaking for the holidays. Please note: This will take the place of our usual Christmas Pot Luck Lunch.

New members are welcome to join us at any time! Please speak to Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke, or Sandra Loughton for more details about the group or just show up on a Monday morning.



Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, November 11 2017**. 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 about it. Cost is \$10 / person, with net proceeds to UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran (hramsaran@rogers.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, November 9th. Thank you! After Breakfast Peter Devita will talk about some of the interesting things found out about our facilities going back to 1880. We have the CD building Architectural drawings current and some older. We also have deeds and property surveys. Where the architecture drawings are still current, we will look at photos of today's actual buildings. To broaden the talk a little we will also look at the architect of our older building and similar buildings he designed, one other of which is still standing. The photo shows our building under construction in the early spring of 1880. The Tower is half built. The Bell went into second floor above what has been completed. The beams are likely 8"x8".



RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, November 22 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel** to discuss the novel **COMMONWEALTH** by American writer Ann Patchett.

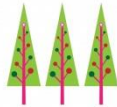
The acclaimed, bestselling author—winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award and the Orange Prize—tells the enthralling story of how an unexpected romantic encounter irrevocably changes two families' lives. Spanning five decades, Commonwealth explores how a chance encounter reverberates through the lives of the four parents and six children involved. Spending summers together in Virginia, the Keating and Cousins children forge a lasting bond that is based on a shared disillusionment with their parents and the strange and genuine affection that grows up between them. Told with equal measures of humor and heartbreak, Commonwealth is a meditation on inspiration, interpretation, and the ownership of stories. It is a brilliant and tender tale of the far-reaching ties of love and responsibility that bind us together.

Please note that the meeting will take place on the 4th Wednesday of the month and there are five Wednesdays in November. New members are always welcome! For more details, please call the Church Office at 905.884.1301 or speak to Sandra Loughton.

Bible Study

In the United Church of Canada the bible is a source of wisdom for us. That being said, we take the bible seriously but not literally. During Bible Study we gather Thursday evenings at 6:16 p.m. in the Chapel to discuss the readings for the coming Sunday – Deuteronomy 34:1-12. You don't need to come every week, although there can be carry over between weeks when one week's readings continue on from the week before. It's not a set program so you can start coming next month, go away for a month or two, and stop by anytime you wish. You don't need to be a bible scholar. So come by and join the discussion.

Christmas Tea – Saturday, Dec. 2



Save the date!! The United Church Women (UCW) will be hosting a **Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Tea: \$10 (sandwiches, scones, squares, cookies, tea & coffee)
Bake table, jams, preserves, knitting and jewellery!

This event is a major fundraiser for our church as the UCW donates to the Mission and Service Fund which supports work locally and around the world. The UCW purchases many items throughout the year, thus helping out the church's operating expenses! This said, we look to the whole congregation to support the Christmas Tea by attending, telling acquaintances of this event and with donations of food. Please contact Donna Smith for suggestions of what food is needed. And THANKS for your support.

Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality gathers **this Saturday, Nov.11th**. Refreshments ready at 9:45. All women are welcome!
Program: "Stones are Witnesses and Ancestors are Roots".

H.A.I.R.

We (Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels, and Riffraff) are eager to start questioning, discussing, and exploring life issues. Please feel free to come and join us, we love to hear a diversity of ideas. Here is our schedule for the fall: We will begin with a two-week series of discussions sparked by short videos collected from the Internet. In Part Two, Brian explores the "kind of Christian" he is. We will choose several of these to explore over the remaining weeks until the Christmas break. Listed here are some tentative choices (the group will finalize these with input from all), just to give a sense of the topics we will be exploring. We will update RHUC Online once we have selected our final topics.

November 13 - Why I Am anabaptist/anglican AND Why I am methodist

November 20 - Why I Am catholic AND Why I am green

November 27 - Why I Am incarnational AND Why I am depressed-yet-hopeful

December 4 - Why I am emergent AND Why I am an unfinished Christian



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.

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Volunteers needed!

Would someone be able to refinish or touch up 2 old flower stands/posts that were found in the "pit". They were originally part of the choir stall which were removed to make room for the communion table. We would like to use them in the sanctuary for the Liona Boyd concert on December 2. All supplies will be provided. Contact Linda Clark 416-230-4806 or email lclark222@sympatico.ca.



Pancake Breakfast – Sunday, Nov. 12!

The Generous Spirit Kickoff Breakfast is being held on **Sunday November 12th**. If you could volunteer to bring items and/or help to serve, it would be appreciated.

We are looking for donations of pancake batter (recipe will be provided), butter, maple syrup, and fruit. (Bacon is being lovingly prepared by Three Coins.) Serving time for breakfast will be from **9:15 to 10:00 am**.

If you have a griddle you could loan for the morning, it would make our cooking time easier.

Drop-off is 3 to 4 pm Saturday November 11th at which time we are also looking for volunteers to help with set-up (although items can be labelled and left in the kitchen during office hours on Friday).

Sign-up sheets will be available in Centennial Hall following the service this coming Sunday. If you won't be at the service this week, just let us know by email. Thanks for your consideration.

Net Zero

This link is to the CBC recent interview with Bob McDonald. It is well done, good science and understandable.

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/thenational/climate-change-what-to-expect-and-are-there-really-two-sides-1.4387638>

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

Welcome Committee

Are you planning to move away? Do you know of someone in our Church who is? Problem: the church finds out that someone has moved, often well after the fact! We then 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 Deb in the office or Donna Smith, 905-884-6307 know, as we continue to show and be a caring community.

Winter Clothing Drive at Crosby Heights Public School (CHPS)

This year CHPS will be hosting a **Winter Clothing Drive on Nov. 21st/17**. The hope is to collect winter gear and then distribute it to those in our community who need it. We would love to collect gear for all ages!

The thought is to have one after school/evening when families can come and select or exchange their winter gear. The expectation is not that they have to exchange, but they are welcome to do so. Families can take what they need.

If you/your family/friends/communities you are a part of have any old winter coats, snow pants, boots, hats, mitts/gloves, scarves, etc. please bring it in and drop it off in the church office.

Any clothes that are not distributed to the families of CHPS will go to Settlement Workers/Inclusive Schools to distribute to other families in need or newly arrived families within our board.

