

**Sunday, November 17**

9:30 a.m. Service at Mackenzie Health – Esther Collier with Harrison Gao as accompanist  
 October: Ian Wilgus with Anne Leyton-Brown as accompanist  
 10:30 a.m. Service  
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour  
 12:00 p.m. UCW Executive - Chapel  
 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn - Common Room

**Monday, November 18**

7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel  
 7:00 p.m. Beavers

**Tuesday, November 19**

7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

**Wednesday, November 20**

6:30 p.m. Meditation Group – Chapel

**Thursday, November 21**

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour  
 7:00 p.m. Scouts – gym

**Saturday, November 23**

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Parlour



**Sunday, November 17:** We welcome as our guest speaker Bijan Rafii from the Canadian Centre for Men and Families - York Region. Bijan is starting a men's peer support program to offer assistance to men facing anxiety, parental alienation, domestic abuse and other concerns. Following worship, we will gather for a Lunch and Learn so we may engage in further conversation with Bijan.

**Sunday, Nov. 24:** We celebrate our second Ember Day of the year, taking time to lament what is happening in our environment because of climate breakdown. In addition, following the service we are having our Generous Spirit Lunch in Centennial Hall during which we will be updated about our financial and property needs, especially in regard to our Mission Action Plan.

**Forest Church:** At 3 PM on Sunday November 24, Three Rivers Forest Church will host a guided meditation walk at Mill Pond. Participants will walk together, stopping from time to time for reflective readings. The walk will conclude with a hot drink and snacks.

## worship and music

**Minister's message:** This week Glen and I have the pleasure of Glen's mom visiting with us. How could she not come to Ontario for Glen's 50th birthday? While Glen was at a training workshop in Toronto on Tuesday, Barb and I went to Kensington Market in search of a new pair of winter boots. We had great fun browsing shops, buying some cheese (plus the boots) and stopping at a Swedish inspired cafe called Fika. Ever curious about the meaning of words, I asked the barista and was told that "fika" is Swedish for drinking coffee. He was quick to tell me that it isn't what we do in Canada where we have a coffee as we work or if it is a coffee break we all still end up working at the same time. In Sweden a coffee break is a real break, a time to relax, to chat with colleagues, to nurture relationships. It is part of the broader lifestyle of lagom, of "just enough". It is all about balance. Not too much. Not too little. Work hard but not so much you ignore your family. Eat well but healthily. Take time to go outdoors. Spend time with others and build community. Fika and lagom sound to me like an antidote to much that plagues North American society where we work hard and play hard but don't seem to have the balance that defines the Swedish approach. Taking time to have a coffee and a cookie and to spend time with friends would go a long way to helping us cope with the stresses and strains of our lives. So as we each head into the coming week, let's aim to live a lagom lifestyle and let's be sure to stop for fika.

## programs for all

**Shalom Seekers:** Please join us on Monday, November 18th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel for a special presentation by Linda Lindberg. Linda will be sharing photos and stories from her recent trip to Petra, Jordan. We will also be discussing ideas for future study.

For more information, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton. New members are always warmly welcomed at any time!

**H.A.I.R.:** (Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels and Other Riffraff) is the Monday evening study group where we gather to explore questions, express doubts, and realize that we are not the only ones who have wondered these things. We meet Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 in the chapel and all are welcome. Please join us any Monday to explore your faith and its applicability to our lives, to ask the questions you may not have felt comfortable raising, and to learn with and from a stimulating group of fellow questioners.

**RHUC Book Club:** Wednesday, November 27th at 7 p.m. in the RHUC Chapel. The book for this month is *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See - set on the Korean island of Jeju, The Island of Sea Women follows Mi-ja and Young-sook, two girls from very different backgrounds, as they begin working in the sea with their village's all-female diving collective. Over many decades—through the Japanese colonialism of the 1930s, 1940s, World War II, the Korean War, and the era of cellphones and wet suits for the women divers—Mi-ja and Young-sook develop the closest of bonds. For more details on group, contact Deb Fratin in the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5. New members welcome to attend.

**Changing the Time for Bible Study:** Beginning the week of November 18-24, the time for Bible Study is shifting from Wednesdays at noon to Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:20 PM. The study is based on the Bible reading for the coming Sunday. Everyone is welcome.

**Faith Exploration:** Are you curious about Christian teaching? Do you want to know more about the beliefs and practices of The United Church of Canada? Are you thinking about being baptized or confirmed? Or perhaps you just want to explore your faith from an adult perspective? Then consider participating in Faith Exploration sessions. They are held on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month, beginning at about 12:15 pm. For more information, email James (james@rhuc.org).

## outreach activities

**Minute for Mission:** Our gifts for Mission & Service provide opportunities for children to explore how they can change the world one step at a time. High Country United Church in Mono, Ontario, became a place of fun and laughter when it hosted the GO Project Adventure Camp for children in Grades 2 to 7. Children explored their faith and justice through unique service projects. One program involved shopping at a local grocery store and then delivering the food and diapers to the Orangeville Food Bank. Participants' eyes were opened to what it means to need a food bank in their community. This program is presented as a day camp experience with trained camp staff facilitating. It offers fun camp experiences, such as games, songs, crafts, small groups, delicious food, and a fun time in a safe, intentional community. It is a great way to engage the children of your congregation in what it means to be called to love our neighbours. Thank you for your gifts for Mission & Service that provide opportunities for children to explore faith in a fun and safe environment.

**MANY THANKS! Hands and Hearts for Africa** would like to thank all those who supported our Jazz Evening last Saturday November 2. Sandra Kirby and Benjamin Stein, both talented performers, gave us a wonderful evening of light jazz and swing music to enjoy. We know that this brought fond memories for some of you in the audience. We are pleased to say that, through your generous support, this event raised over \$1100 for African AIDs families and the Stephen Lewis Foundation. As the African proverb says "If you want to go fast, go alone: **If you want to travel far, Go Together.**"

### Krasman Centre Visitor "new Item" Holiday Donations

Once again at Advent, we are **collecting new backpacks and reusable bags filled with Wellness and Winter Need items for Krasman Centre drop-in Visitors.** The Richmond Hill Krasman Centre is located @ 10121 Yonge St. just 2 blocks south of the church. All donated items to be new. Loose items are welcome too, just put them in a reusable bag.

**On Sunday Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>,** please place these items in the bushel baskets under the trees in the sanctuary. Krasman Centre needs these items by Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>. During the weeks before Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> there will be bushel baskets in the office, if it is more convenient to drop off items there.

Please note that 10% of K.C. visitors are homeless and approx. 2/3 of their visitors are men. There are women too, but not as many.

Many Krasman Centre visitors "drop-in" because: they are interested in the programs offered, able to talk with peers (including staff) about their daily stresses, need an advocate to help with: navigating government assistance paperwork / housing / mental health & addiction issues; or just need a safe, supportive place to meet friends without being labelled or judged. It is a unique place "inspiring peer support one connection at a time". Let's help them feel "special" at this holiday time of year.

Here is a list of **special Wellness Items for K.C. Holiday Gift Bags:** notebooks & pens, word & number puzzle books, playing cards & fidget toys, travel-sized board games, art supplies, adult colouring books, pencil crayons / sharpeners, small change purses, gift cards to Tim Hortons or McDonalds in small denominations.

List of **K.C. Visitor frequently requested Winter Needs** (all new items): gloves, scarves, hats, hygiene items, non-perishable snacks (small, sealed, store bought like hot chocolate, tea, small treats, granola bars), backpacks, warm socks & underwear, sweaters & pants, Thermos & water bottles.

**Targeting Climate Change #5:** Members in your local community are coordinating our fifth **Targeting Climate Change event to mobilize the community to action on the climate crisis.** People are looking for information and leadership on the climate crisis - so please **promote this free and informative event by posting and sharing the information below.** I am also attaching the Targeting Climate Change flyer for the event - feel free to print it and post it in your local community.

**Targeting Climate Change #5 – mobilizing Richmond Hill for action!**

Saturday, December 7th, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

St. Mary's Anglican Church, 10030 Yonge Street

Contact information:

Email: [targetclimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:targetclimatechange@gmail.com)

Facebook Group: Targeting Climate Change - Richmond Hill

(<https://www.facebook.com/events/2118654528427079/?ti=icl>), Register for the event at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/targeting-climate-change-dec-7th-2019-tickets-79082697477>

If you would like to tweet or post on Instagram about the event, please use the #TargetingClimateChangeRH and @TargetClimate.

Further information on the event: The **Targeting Climate Change** meetings are a series of community events designed to provide people with space and time to network with neighbors and experts to generate local solutions to the climate crisis. The meetings are about listening to the community - open microphones allow the public access to political and technological and science expertise. All members of the community are welcome and we hope to hear questions and answers from the floor and to initiate support groups and climate action committees. We will also be contacting vendors in the fields of renewable energy and inviting representatives from climate and environmental organizations. They will be at tables during the second half of the event.

The **climate crisis** is serious, but we do have the solutions! Several community groups have formed and are working with the City of Richmond Hill and with each other to bring about more dialogue. There is much work to be done, but everyone has something they can contribute to solving this crisis. For example, the City of Richmond Hill is working on a Community Energy and Emissions Plan and has gathered an Advisory Committee to help coalesce action on the solutions. We believe that we need a strong call to action within the community to set fair and achievable climate targets in Richmond Hill and do our part to preserve the future of our planet. This event will welcome Dr. Martin J. Bush author of "Climate Change and Renewable Energy – How to end the Climate Crisis." You may find his online blog here:

<https://climatezone.org/about-this-blog/>. After his short talk, people will be invited to ask questions.

There is hope, if we act together and if we act now.

Esther Collier, Targeting Climate Change - Richmond Hill, Management Team

## church news

### Generous Spirit: Luncheon Nov. 24th in Centennial Hall.

Generous Spirit is a time to review our individual time, talent, and treasure commitments to the church. It is important that everyone, not only review their financial givings, but to also assess how your individual talents could contribute to the growth of our church community. Please sign up after church this Sunday to bring sandwiches, cookies, squares, or to help clean up at the event.

**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.

Happy birthday to **Ruth Campbell** as she celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 19<sup>th</sup>!

We are grateful for a contribution for candles in memory of Behzad Faridy and Mehdi Faridy on behalf of Akhtaz Shah Moradi.

Thank you RHUC and friends for **donating 999+** books to Project 99A!!

**A MAP Minute:** In our Mission Action Plan, we named the desire to be a Centre for Community, a hub of sorts where we share space with others. We are living into that vision. Have you wondered who already shares space with us? All year we share space with New Life Korean Methodist Church, Bravo Centre for Dance, Astrum Academy, an immigration services provider, an architectural technician, and ESL classes with York Region District School Board. We also have weekly groups like Connect the Community, 4 different choirs, 2 Russian language senior groups, 3 scouting groups, 2 Zumba classes and many other groups who rent space on a regular basis. We also get regular enquiries for occasional events and activities. Following last year's roundtable, we've been approached by a cultural organization, an arts group and a service agency. The discernment continues for them and us, especially with our building challenges. But we are living into the vision we named, sharing space not just as a source of revenue but as a ministry of hospitality and community building as we help to nurture a more connected Richmond Hill.

**Cash Cards:** Orders for the next cash card are due by **Wed., Nov. 27**. This is a great opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers! A percentage of your purchase, from 2 – 10% goes back to the church in this on-going fundraiser.

## upcoming events

**UCW Christmas Tea: Saturday, Dec. 7 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

**Ticket: \$10**

**Out of the Cold program:** Volunteers needed:

Located at Richmond Hill Presbyterian Church

Sunday evenings: November 24, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29,

January 5, 12, 19

Times: 5:00 - 8:00 for food preparation

6:00 - 9:00 for serving meals and clean-up

Contact Angie Fix: [angie\\_isme@hotmail.com](mailto:angie_isme@hotmail.com)

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