

## This week at RHUC

### Sunday, November 18

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

### Monday, November 19

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

### Tuesday, November 20

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

### Wednesday, November 21

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

### Thursday, November 22

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

### Saturday, November 24

9:45 a.m. Women's Spirituality  
10:00 a.m. LGBTQIA2S+ - Sanctuary, Centennial Hall  
3:30 p.m. Drumming – Garden room

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

## Minister's message

Last week's RHUC Online included reference to the announcement from Toronto Conference that a settlement had been reached between Rev. Gretta Vosper, West Hill United Church and the Conference. Included was the link to our moderator's message in regard to the announcement. Knowing that opinions about Rev. Vosper's theology are varied across the denomination with some people expressing quite strong opinions on either side regarding her ongoing ministry in our denomination, I appreciated the sensitivity of Rt. Rev. Bott as he attempted to find a middle course for us as church, calling us into unity as "we work together to mend the Creator's hurting world". He also invited us "to listen carefully to one another, to ask questions of one another, to support one another's journey of faith and life". For me this is key as we walk together as followers of Jesus. Each of us has a unique experience of life and as an outflow of that a unique experience of who or what God is. We prefer different images and names for God or to not use them at all. We follow various spiritual practices that help us to grow in our faith lives. Rt. Rev. Bott expressed this when he affirmed how the various statements of faith from different time periods of the United Church while forming our official teaching nevertheless express our beliefs differently. What is essential is that we take time with one another in deeper conversations about what we believe and experience, and to do so in a spirit of openness. May we make space for our differences in viewpoint while holding together in the unity of love.

**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 18:** We reflect together on 1 Samuel 2:1-10. Similar to the Magnificat in Luke 1, Hannah's Song of Praise beautifully captures her trust that God's reign of justice and love will win out in the end. We too are called to trust, and in that to do what we can to stand up for what is right in the world.

**Next Sunday, November 25:** As the church year ends and we look to Advent, we celebrate our second Ember Day. We reflect together on Job 38:1-18.

**Forest Church:** On November 25 at 3 pm our Forest Church experience will be one of *Scriptio Divina*. We will take time to walk meditatively and then write a psalm (sacred poetry). Meet in the parking lot of Mill Pond Park.

**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](mailto:joanverner@rogers.com) or 905-539-1222.

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY



Please remember to pick up your Generous Spirit package after church if you have not already done so. We would like to have all pledge cards returned by the end of November. Your pledge cards are an important part in the planning process for next year. P.S. Thanks to those who have already returned their pledges for 2019.

## HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### 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 Hiscoke at [handsandhearts@live.ca](mailto:handsandhearts@live.ca) if you are interested in joining us.



### Hands & Hearts for Africa

#### 2018 VIRTUAL WALK AROUND AFRICA: TREK 6: Malawi: Warm Heart of Africa

We are nearing the eastern border of Malawi, a country less-travelled and yet known for the friendliness of the locals. We practise saying 'Monee' which means 'hello' in Chichewa dialect and 'Zikomo' which means 'Welcome'.

This is the country which David Livingstone explored in the 1850's and about 1/5 of the country is covered by a massive lake called Lake Malawi. Due to the size and depth of the lake it supports the largest diversity of fish species in the world. Livingstone is known to have called the lake 'Lake of Stars' because of the lanterns glowing on the decks of fishing boats at night around the lake. We are eager for a brief stop here to try our hand at snorkelling, fishing or kayaking in this beautiful paradise.

We cannot stop for long as we need to head south and west across the lake to reach the capital Lilongwe. There we hope to meet Ruth who is an experienced programme officer with Consol Homes Orphans Affairs which provides mentoring for vulnerable youth in remote rural areas. Sore feet, pressing Onward. Our walking team has walked more than 4000 kms through rough and dangerous terrain. In spite of sore feet, flies and oppressive heat, what stands out on this journey is the beauty of the land and warmth of the people. We press on to Lilongwe and then Lusaka in Zambia. If you wish to sponsor us at any time, please speak to Donna Harrison or Peg Hiscoke. Cheques are preferable, made out to Stephen Lewis Foundation. Your support makes such a difference in the lives of African AIDS families.

### Net Zero Tackles the Climate Crisis

The latest IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report indicates that the climate crisis is worse than expected with impacts being felt sooner and in greater intensity than scientists had thought. They now feel that we need to keep the average global temperature to under 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels (we are currently nearly 1 degree Celsius above pre-industrial levels) if we want to avoid socio-economic effects that will be catastrophic (civilization collapse is one phrase being used). To do this, fossil fuel use must be reduced by 45% by 2030 (in TWELVE years) and 100% by 2050.

This topic needs to be in all of our conversations and each family needs to develop a climate action plan. As Chair of the Net Zero Committee (or as a friend), Esther Collier is willing to lead or speak at any events organized on this issue. She will be leading the HAIR group on Monday, November 19th.

Please take time to participate in this consultation opportunity (the deadline is this Friday, November 16th) from the Ontario government: <https://www.ontario.ca/form/tell-us-your-ideas-climate-change>

## Living In Right Relations Committee

This week we're going to look back even further...and meet Herman Merivale.

**1620** - 224 years before the *Bagot Report* of 1844, missionary operated schools had been established outside of Quebec City.

**Early 1800's** - Herman Merivale, Professor of Political Economy at Oxford University, was appointed Under -Secretary of State for the Canadian Colonies.

**1830** - administration of "Indian" matters was transferred from the militia (British and French) to civilian governors in Upper and Lower Canada.

**1839** - Mohawk Indian Residential School opened in Brantford, Ontario. It became the longest operated school closing in 1969.

**1841** - Herman Merivale developed and implemented four (4) policy alternatives to be used to solve the "Indian Question";

1. Extermination (by death or enfranchisement),
2. Slavery
3. Insulation (reserves) and/or,
4. Assimilation

[Sources- <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/armed-forces>, <https://www.omfrc.org/2017/03/solving-indian-problem-indian-residential-schools/>]

**Eating Out** - Venturing downtown and would like to try something new? Why not go to one of Toronto's Indigenous eateries;

- Kukum Kitchen, 581 Mt. Pleasant Rd, Toronto, ON <http://www.kukum-kitchen.com/>
- Nish Dish, 1609 Bloor St W., Toronto, ON <https://www.nishdish.com/>
- Tea N Bannock, 1294 Gerrard St. E., Toronto, ON <https://teanannock.ca/>
- Pow Wow, 213 Augusta Ave, Toronto, ON <https://www.blogto.com/restaurants/pow-wow-cafe-toronto/> <https://www.blogto.com/restaurants/pow-wow-cafe-toronto/>

*Next Week - The Nicholas Flood Davin Report on residential schools & Ryan McMahon's Thunder Bay podcasts*

## Gifts with Vision

We have received the new 2018-2019 alternative gift catalogue for the United Church of Canada. It contains the usual assortment of projects you can support through giving a donation in someone's name - a gift from you to help others, given in their name. Gift cards are available to let the person know you thought of them with this gift for others. Those especially hard to buy for or those who have everything might appreciate your desire to alleviate another's hardship here in Canada and around the world. Needs range from an immediate need, like hunger and shelter; to tackling employment by providing education or small business start-up money; to sending a kit to camp or giving help to the world's displaced people.

There are some catalogues on the Welcome Table but you can do everything on the web: [www.giftswithvision.ca](http://www.giftswithvision.ca) *This is the alternative way of giving, and giving something that is really needed!* Contact: Donna Smith 905-884-6307

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

In August 2017, close to 600 youth, young adults, and youth leaders gathered in Montreal to sing, dance, learn, and be inspired to share their voices with a world and a church in desperate need of hearing them. Rendez-vous is a national United Church get-together that happens every three years in different locations around Canada. Rendez-vous 2017 met in Montreal at Concordia University. The theme was "Be the Church." The conversations were passionate as youth and young adults explored their faith on a deep level. There was an inclusivity among participants, as the many who had never been to Rendez-vous were quickly included in groups that had bonded over the years. Each day began with gathering music, often top-40 dance hits that got the group moving, followed by inspiring speakers. These included Paola Márquez from Colombia, who spoke about how supporting Mission & Service is the best way to make a huge difference; Aidan Legault, who talked about using our voices for change; Rodger Nishioka, who shared his wisdom and humour each day; and Moderator Jordan Cantwell, who shared a message of hope for the church. Inspiring music came from Rick Gunn and the band ReGenesis and singer Coco Love Alcorn. All who gathered left at the end of the four days inspired and ready to truly be the church!

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## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

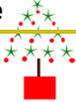
### Bible Study

#### **Bible study cancelled on Thursday, Nov. 15.**

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.

**Advent Bible Study:** This coming Advent (Dec. 2 - 24) James will facilitate two Bible Study sessions each week, one at noon on Wednesdays (bring a bag lunch) and one at 6:20 pm on Thursdays. We will explore what the bible tells us about Jesus through each of the birth narratives, including those in the apocrypha (early Christian books that didn't make it into the Bible).

### UCW Christmas Tea and Bake Sale



The UCW will hold their **Christmas Tea and Bake Sale on Saturday December 1st at 1:00pm**. Tickets are \$10.00 each and includes Sandwiches, Scones, Christmas Cookies, Squares and Tea or Coffee. Volunteers are needed to help with setting the tables, serving food, kitchen plate prep, as well as donations of food. If you are able to help please contact Donna Smith, 905-884-6307. This fundraiser supports the operating costs of the Church and Mission and Service projects locally, nationally and worldwide. This is a "yummy" way to bring in this joyous season.

### Faith Exploration Classes

The sessions run from now until April in 3 week blocks based on themes. Faith Exploration Classes are at noon on Sunday. 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.

#### **Section 1: Who/What is God?**

November 11: Introduction  
November 18: God is One  
December 2: God is Triune  
December 9: God as Connected (Incarnation and Bible)

#### **Section 2: Who is Jesus?**

January 13: Jesus' Life and Ministry  
January 20: Jesus' Teaching  
January 27: Jesus' Death and Resurrection

#### **Section 3: What does it mean to be church?**

February 10: The gift of the Spirit  
February 24: Being Church  
March 3: How do we worship?

#### **Section 4: Living in Faith**

March 17: Living with Respect in Creation  
March 24: Living in Service  
March 31: Living for Just Relationships  
April 7: Living with difficult ethical questions

April 20: Retreat Day

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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 19th** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel for some lively discussion and fellowship. We will continue looking at Religious Pluralism in the U.S. and Canada and why it's more important than ever to reach out to those of other faiths and increase our understanding of other religious traditions. For more details about the group, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton, or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301 Ext. 5 to speak to Deb Fratin, Office Administrator. New members are always welcome.

## RHUC Book Club

Please join us on Wednesday, **November 28th** at 7 p.m. in the RHUC Chapel to discuss the novel *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker. For more information about this group, please speak to Sandra Loughton or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301 Ext. 5. New members are always warmly welcome to attend.

## 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.

**Joanne Scofield** has received the Toronto Conference United Church Women 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Award.

The award goes to a person pursuing a vocation in ministry in The United Church Of Canada at Emmanuel College, with account being taken of need and preference given to a person from Toronto Conference. Joanne would like to express her gratitude to the UCW for the bursary and also for the support that it represents - both from our local UCW and from the Toronto Conference. Congratulations!

## 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.

## 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 9<sup>th</sup> 2018 to January 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lynniemay@gmail.com) or 905-884-9805.

## LGBTQIA2S+ COMMUNITY DAY

At **Richmond Hill United Church from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup>**. A day of community building, worship, conversation, potluck and connection for LGBTQ+ people and allies. All are welcome! Guest speaker: Kathleen Wynne, MPP. Register at: [torontoconference.ca/living-waters-presbytery](http://torontoconference.ca/living-waters-presbytery)

## Like a Prayer

**Sunday, November 25** at Sharon Hope United Church at 7:30 p.m. hosted by Living Presence Ministry. Featuring music by artists such as Madonna, U2, Journey, Alphaville, etc. Free will offering in support of our community ministries within East Gwillimbury. For more information call 289-903-0019 or [hi@livingpresenceministry.org](mailto:hi@livingpresenceministry.org).

## Creating a Circle of Care

**Saturday, December 1 from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.** at Sharon Hope United Church. A pastoral care workshop for congregations that goes beyond tea and cookies. This event is free but registration is required at [www.livingpresenceministry.org](http://www.livingpresenceministry.org).

To unsubscribe, please write to: [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), and put “unsubscribe” in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.