



## This week at a glance

### Sunday, November 19 – 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 a.m. Service  
 12:00 p.m. Training for Lay Leadership – Chapel  
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Common room  
 2018 Pledge forms due

### Monday, November 20

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

### Tuesday, November 21

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

### Wednesday, November 22

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym  
 7:00 p.m. RHUC Book Club - Chapel

### Thursday, November 23

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

### Friday, November 24

9:15 a.m. Yoga Energetics – Upper gym

### Saturday, November 25

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

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

### Worship

**November 19:** This coming Sunday, we will reflect on the story of Deborah (Judges 4:1-7), one of the 'judges' (tribal leaders) of ancient Israel and the only woman in that role. In his message "Deborah Who?", James will discuss the gift women in leadership and explore how the barriers we face is creating a more equal society. Next week, Bri-anne Swann from Living Presence Ministry in East Gwillimbury will share the message.

**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.

The lunch includes homemade soup, rolls, cookies and fruit for a suggested donation of \$5.

### Praying the Lord's Prayer

Worship in the United Church is an interesting mix of creativity and tradition, of spiritual reflection and response to the world around us. We strive to be faithful to our history while at the same time being an instrument of justice in our world. It's with this in mind that in recent weeks we have been using a version of the Lord's Prayer (the Prayer of Jesus) that includes "Mother" along with "Father" in the text. For some, this version has brought comfort as the word Father is experienced as exclusive in terms of gender. For others, adding Mother feels like we are not honouring tradition.

One of the realities of this ancient prayer is that there are many versions and translations in addition to the way we traditionally pray it in church. In fact, the traditional version is not how it is found in the Bible, especially with the addition of a doxology ("For thine is the kingdom..."). There are also available to us several paraphrases of the prayer that we have used over the years at RHUC.

Most recently we have prayed versions that are translations based on Aramaic (the language most similar to what Jesus would have spoken). These versions help us appreciate the deep meaning of this prayer.

Finally, we sometimes sing the Lord's Prayer as this heightens the sense of celebration and we experience it in a different way spiritually. With all of these thoughts in mind, including a desire to balance creativity and tradition, reflection and response, we strive to pray this deeply loved prayer in a variety of ways, generally using a version over a church season so that we can get used to the words and let them sink in to our hearts.



## Scripture readings

Have you ever thought about the power of the language you learned as a child compared to those you learned later in life? They speak at a heart level, something that is so important when it comes to the Bible. With this in mind, beginning in Advent, we plan to begin offering print versions of each week's scripture reading in languages other than English. If this is something you would appreciate, please let Deb or James know what language would be most meaningful for you and, if you know, what version of the Bible you prefer.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl cupboard is almost empty, especially suitable colours for men. We have lots of shawls for babies. If you are able to knit or crochet a shawl for a man, please do so and let Donna Smith 905-884-6307 know. Thanks.

## 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.snapd.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](mailto: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](mailto: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

As the Ontario college strike continues, my heart goes out to all involved, especially the students who are increasingly at risk of losing a semester. This increasingly contentious dispute reminds me just how much our culture functions adversarially, in a "me" versus "you" dynamic rather than an "us". So often we think about our personal needs over and above those of another, seeing them in opposition rather than trying to find a solution that honours everyone.

It brings to mind an article I read recently about a tendency for people in conversations to insert their own story into what someone is sharing. Often framed as an attempt to show empathy, when we compare someone's situation to something we have experienced, we actually end up deflecting the conversation from the feelings the other person is trying to share rather than really listening. Yet what we each desire is to be heard, to be understood, to know that the other person cares about us and what we are going through.

So, to use a mundane example, rather than respond to the statement "I need a new sweater" with "Me too. Mine are all stretched out" we should instead say "Cool. What style were you thinking about?" and so inviting the person to share more rather than deflect. You can imagine how important this is when we are sharing issues of grief or stress or hurt. We may live in an adversarial culture but we can each change the world around us when we start to really listen to each other.



**Advent Craft Dinner  
– Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>  
for all ages!**



**Mark Sunday, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**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! Doors open at 6:30 p.m.



Ticket price: \$35  
Available from:

- church office
- Chancel Choir member
- after service in Centennial Hall
- <https://richmondhill.snapd.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 support the United Church Women Child Well-Being Initiative. Let us hear a story of the ways the Prince Edward Island UCW are working to end child poverty. What important message could a colourful cloth doll give? A powerful one! Just ask the members of the Prince Edward Island Legislative Assembly, who each recently received a handmade doll from the PEI UCW Presbyterial Child Poverty Committee with a message reminding them that all PEI children deserve to have their basic needs met. The members were genuinely interested in the dolls and commented on the uniqueness of each one, some with personal comments such as “I have a sweater just like my doll!” But better yet, the UCW committee was assured that politicians understood the intent of the dolls—to be a concrete reminder that over 22 percent of children in that province live with poverty every day and that the responsibility of government is to do all it can to eradicate poverty. This is only a beginning, as the UCW works continually to monitor progress in this area and hold government to account until child poverty has been eradicated in Prince Edward Island. This initiative is part of a nation-wide UCW strategy to address child poverty. Across Canada, United Church Women continue to be huge supporters of the Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada. We sing thanksgiving for UCW’s work to end child poverty.



## 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](mailto:rsumar@rogers.com) or message us if you would like to volunteer or need more information! Visit [www.miotc.ca](http://www.miotc.ca)

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

## United Church Women

**Living Waters Presbyterial U.C. W. invites you to Our Advent Christmas Meeting** taking place at St Matthew's United, Richmond Hill, 333 Crosby Ave. on **Monday, November 27, 2017 at 10:30 am.** Registration and Refreshments at 9:30 am. Programme: **Bethlehem Re-Visite.** Entertainment from St Matthew's Hand-Bell Choir, Fellowship and a book room display. **Please Remember:** Monetary gifts & gift cards for Massey Centre; Christmas name-tag, your sandwich and \$5 for lunch additions, posters for upcoming events and shopping money. **ALL WOMEN ARE WELCOME!**

## Shalom Seekers

Please join us on **Monday, November 20th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** to continue the DVD series on the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. We will be watching some bonus material including extended interviews with the experts we have seen in the first four sessions. This PBS DVD "This Changed Everything" is informative and very well presented.

New members are welcome to join in any Monday to check out the group. Please speak to one of the facilitators or just show up on Monday morning! (Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke, or Sandra Loughton)

## RHUC Book Club

This is a reminder that the RHUC Book Club will be meeting **THIS WEEK, on Wednesday, November 22nd at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel. We will be discussing the novel **COMMONWEALTH** by Ann Patchett. This will be our last meeting for 2017. New members are welcome to join at any time. Please call the church office at 905.884.1301 or speak to the book club facilitator, Sandra Loughton, for more information.



## 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 – Judges 4:1-7. 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.

## 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 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



## Thank you!

Generous Spirit Committee would like to thank the many contributors and helpers at the Generous Spirit Pancake Breakfast last Sunday, Nov. 12. If you haven't picked up your Generous spirit package yet, it is available after church this Sunday, Nov. 19. We ask that return your 2018 pledge form to the church office by the end of November so that the Finance Committee can prepare the budget for next year.



## 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.

### Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network

The Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network presents: An Act of Repudiation: Doctrine of Discovery and Terra Nullius Today. Naming what Christian denominations have done, are doing and can do. **November 23 from 7 – 9 p.m.** at Toronto School of Theology. 47 Queen's Park Cres., East, Toronto. RSVP at: [actofrepudiation.eventbrite.ca](http://actofrepudiation.eventbrite.ca)

### Living Presence Ministry

"Courage" a Liturgy exploring strength in the face of Fear featuring music by 'The Tragically Hip' on **Sunday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m.** at Sharon Hope United Church. Net proceeds to the Gord Downie Chanie Wenjak Fund. Free will offering. More info at [222.livingpresenceministry.org](http://222.livingpresenceministry.org). 289-903-0019

### Living Presence Ministry

"The Frost is All Over" A Canadiana Folk Liturgy & House Concert for the Advent Season on Sunday, December 17 @ 7:00 p.m. at the Burrow, 1 Mondial Cres., East Gwillimbury. [www.livingpresenceministry.org/frost](http://www.livingpresenceministry.org/frost).

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