

Sunday, November 24

10:30 a.m. Service
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour
 12:00 p.m. Generous Spirit Lunch – Centennial Hall

Monday, November 25

12:00 p.m. Krasman Lunch - gym
 7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel 7:00 p.m. Beavers - gym

Wednesday, November 27

6:30 p.m. Meditation Group – Parlour
 7:00 p.m. Book Club - Chapel

Thursday, November 28

6:30 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel 7:00 p.m. Scouts – gym
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Friday, November 29

7:30 p.m. Pub theology – King Henry's Arms Pub

Saturday, November 30

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Parlour

Minister's message: This past Wednesday was the Transgender Day of Remembrance. This annual event is an opportunity for all of us to pause and remember transwomen and transmen who were killed in the past year simply for being themselves. In this past year 331 trans-identified and gender diverse people were murdered. The statistic is sobering. This is the 20th anniversary of this important day and it is commemorated around the world. The growth in awareness of this day is important but the reality is our trans-identified siblings are being killed. We may think transphobic violence only happens somewhere else but here in Canada 70% of transyouth report experiencing discrimination and 36% report being physically threatened or injured at school. In addition, gay and lesbian people continue to experience bullying and violence. To bring this closer to home, I recently found out that Jacob Gal, director of York Region Pride, was beaten up in a Newmarket McDonald's parking lot. The police acted immediately and the man was arrested within 30 minutes. Thank you York Region Police. I want to emphasize that the assailant was male. It speaks to the ongoing reality of toxic masculinity, an identity that emphasizes dominance, strength and anger, and is often threatened by women and femininity in general. I am grateful to Bijan for speaking about men's issues on Sunday. There are pressures men face. There are impacts on boys when they don't have positive male role models. Men, in both straight and gay relationships, can be victims of domestic violence. The social pressure to be strong takes its toll. But the violence that more often than not is directed by men against others, including those "othered" for being feminine and so seen as weak and exploitable, has to stop. May we cultivate a society where everyone can be themselves, where everyone gets support rather than being threatened, and all genders and identities are celebrated.

worship and music

Sunday, Nov. 24: We mark our Second Ember Day as we take time to lament what is happening with climate breakdown and species loss as well as to consider ways to bring about positive change. The scripture reading is Isaiah 24:3-6. This shortened service is immediately followed by a lunch in Centennial Hall for a presentation from our Generous Spirit (Stewardship) Team.

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

Pub Theology: Friday, November 29 at 7:30 pm. King Henry's Arms Pub (16th and Yonge). Come to this informal gathering to look at life's big questions through the lens of faith, spirituality, and beer (or the beverage of your choice).

Sunday, Dec. 1: We begin the season of Advent with an All Ages Service and the sacrament of communion. This year we begin by looking at Jesus' family tree as recounted in Matthew's Gospel. There are some interesting people in it. The question is why does Matthew include them. Following worship there is a healing service in the chapel.

Kick off Advent with Craft Dinner: Our annual child-friendly craft evening and potluck is on Dec. 1 from 4:00-6:30 pm. We will gather in Centennial Hall for Christmas crafts followed by the meal and then into the sanctuary for a short prayer service in preparation for the coming season.

programs for all

Shalom Seekers: Our Monday Morning NOV. 25, we will focus on the final segment of the First Light DVD series. This chapter is called America As Empire and offers an opportunity to reflect on how the empires of the world affect us. It also challenges us as to how we should be in the midst of empire. We meet in the chapel from 9:30-11:30am and especially welcome newcomers. For more information please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton.

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.

UCW will hold their Christmas Pot Luck Lunch on **Wednesday, December 4th at 10:00 am.** All women are invited.

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 support ministries like Our Place Society in Victoria, British Columbia, which offers programs for those on the margins that make everyone feel like family. One of the proudest moments of the Victoria Pride Parade was when a young pre-op transgender woman said that she never felt brave enough to walk in the parade until the day she marched with the staff and family of Our Place. It says a lot about the unique downtown centre for Victoria's most vulnerable that this woman felt included in Our Place's definition of family. It is one thing to preach hope and belonging, but quite another to live it. Loving our neighbours is at the core of Our Place, as all who come through its doors become family.

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. 8th and 15th, please place these items in the bushel baskets under the trees in the sanctuary. Krasman Centre needs these items by Dec. 16th. During the weeks before Dec. 15th 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.

Gifts With Vision: The United Church of Canada has released this year's gift catalogue, an alternative to the usual catalogues of "stuff"! Looking through, you can choose which project you would like to support in the name of someone on your Christmas shopping list. These projects have been verified and are monitored to ensure they are working towards people's wellbeing. The areas of support included are: Healing & Reconciliation, Leadership, Wellness, Safe Spaces, Education, Poverty and Hunger. Some are in Canada and some are global efforts; they support children and adults; and they range from \$10 to \$200 each. The projects speak to all this with the name **Gifts with Vision** - they offer immediate assistance working towards a vision of justice for all. Talk this over with the family and get children involved in knowing the great work they can help with. Copies of the catalogue are in RHUC office, at the Welcome table or go to www.giftswithvision.ca to see the projects - you can place your order and pay on line, making shopping easy. Give others and yourself the gifts of this Advent season: hope, peace, joy and love. Donna Smith 905-884-6307

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

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.

Sanctuary committee: We will be decorating our beautiful, historic church for Christmas on **Thursday November 28 at 9:30am** and would like your help. Come and help us as we transform the sanctuary for Advent.

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.

Thank you to the **5th Richmond Hill Beavers** (5 to 7 years old) who collected food for our food bank box for the less fortunate in our community on Tuesday, Nov. 5th.

"I want to thank my church family for all their support. I was very much appreciative of the support and concern I felt from many members of the congregation during the 5 months when I was moving around so much. With thanks, **Joan Jensen**"

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

Annual Peace Meal: Sunday, Nov. 24 from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. at The Mulla Asghar Memorial Library & Resource Centre, 9000 Bathurst St., Thornhill.

Topic: "What are our religious obligations to the earth & why?" Bring a vegan dish to share. Questions? Contact Fran Isaacs at thisisfran@yahoo.com.

World AIDS Day 2019: Join us for courageous conversations at **RHUC on Friday, Nov. 29 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

3:-3:30 Meet & greet 3:30 – 4:30 Courageous conversation

4:30 – 5:30 Performances 5:30 Candlelight vigil

6:00 Closing Online registration at <https://tinyurl.com/y3j6bqos>

This is a free event and all are welcome.

UCW Christmas Tea: Saturday, Dec. 7 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$10

Free Holiday High Tea Celebration: for 2SLGBTQ+ and older adults and seniors. **Monday, December 16 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.** in Centennial Hall at RHUC. Please advise of dietary diets. RSVP required: rainbowspace@acvr.org or 416-938-4458

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

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