

## This week at RHUC

### Sunday, November 25

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

### Monday, November 26

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

### Tuesday, November 27

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

### Wednesday, November 28

12:00 pm. Advent Bible Study- Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym  
7:00 p.m. RHUC Book Club – Chapel

### Thursday, November 29

6:20 p.m. Advent Bible Study - Chapel  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

### Saturday, December 1

1:00 p.m. UCW Christmas Tea – Centennial Hall  
3:30 p.m. Drumming – Garden room

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

## Minister's message

As the temperature drops and snow blankets the earth, we start to think about the coming festive season. But not quite yet. Before we get to Advent, we mark the end of the worship year with Reign of Christ Sunday. This year we are also marking "Ember Days" as we transition between seasons, meaning that this year our focus on the Reign of Christ is through a particular lens, that of our connection to and call to look after creation. These two themes actually go well together. When Jesus spoke of God's Reign he often did so using natural images. He understood that we couldn't live justly and at peace with one another while disregarding the needs of our non-human family. Christ is referred to by Paul as the first born of creation and we share that with him. In our relationship in Christ, our fractured connection to nature is healed. Again Paul tells us that all creation is yearning for our redemption, our being liberated, because it means they too will be freed. As we face climate change it is clear the redemption we need is still in process, a reminder that the crisis we face is as much a spiritual one as it is environmental. As we mark this second of our "Ember Days" may we do so hearing the invitation to live into God's Reign with all of creation in mind.

**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

**Sunday, Nov. 25:** We celebrate our second Ember Day, a time to give thanks for creation and to reflect on our responsibilities as co-stewards. We reflect on Job 38:1-18, when God challenges, questioning him about his knowledge of the earth. As part of our reflection and prayer we will take time for one on one conversations about the climate crisis we are facing.

**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.

**Sunday, Dec. 2:** We shift into the Season of Advent. Over the four weeks of the season we will reflect on chapter 1 of Luke. The first Sunday is the story of Gabriel appearing to Zechariah to tell him about the coming birth of John the Baptist. We will share in the sacrament of communion.

**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: December 9. 16. [joanverner@rogers.com](mailto:joanverner@rogers.com) or 905-539-1222.

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

### Mission Action Plan

*This is a summary of the update provided to the congregation on November 3, 2018 after worship as part of the Generous Spirit launch – our annual commitment to intentionally support the life, work and mission of RHUC.*

At the end of April this year, RHUC adopted a **Mission Action Plan** that will take us into the future as a Centre for Community in the heart of the old village of Richmond Hill. Our Circles Core Team that has worked diligently over the past year (Terry Davies, Nancy Hart, Karen Hilfman Millson, James Ravenscroft, Joanne Scofield and Jane Wedlock) providing leadership for this work has transitioned this fall to the MAP Pilot Team. Members are Carol Moore, DJ Macready, James Ravenscroft and Jane Wedlock and we will be adding an additional member. Together we will continue guiding and supporting the work of the congregation as we move forward.

Our overall focus and foundation of our ministry and mission is to:

- Radically Create a Sense of Belonging
- Reach Out to Our Neighbourhood
- Redesign and Upgrade our Buildings, Finances and Structures to Reflect our Vision and Mission

### SHORT TERM PRIORITIES – PROGRESS REPORT

#### **Engage with the Community in Our Neighbourhood (Intention #2)**

We have a very active and engaged group of folks working on connecting with individuals, community groups and organizations in our neighbourhood and the broader community of Richmond Hill.

Kendra Fry has been retained to guide our efforts. Kendra manages Trinity St. Paul's United Church's Community Centre for Faith Justice and the Arts (a self-sustaining centre) on Bloor St. in Toronto, and works with **Regeneration Works and Faith and the Common Good**. (A national, interfaith charitable network dedicated to assisting and inspiring religious congregations and spiritual groups of all backgrounds to take collective action in creating more sustainable communities.)

Activities so far:

- An Advisory group has been convened with representation from the arts community, business, education, social services sector and RHUC.
- A broad range of Key Stakeholder interviews are underway. Survey questions cover exploring connections to the community, knowledge of RHUC, what people think about the building, the church, changes in the community, potential impact on RHUC, thoughts about accessibility to wider community, potential role of building in the community.
- There have been visits of church facilities by Advisory Committee members, Michael Grit from Richmond Hill Centre for Performing Arts and other heads of town departments involved in provision of recreation activities
- We are learning an enormous amount about how the community sees RHUC, community needs in terms of space/potential for partnerships
- This month we are putting together a list of people to be invited to round table conversations in January planned for 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January with 40 or 50 people – facilitated by Kendra Fry. These conversations will build on what we have heard from the advisory group and through stakeholder interviews.

Kendra will produce a report summarizing what we have heard and a suggested potential approach. Kendra is working with a number of congregations on similar projects and feels that we are in a good position to move forward.

## **Ensure our Facilities Align with our Values, Identity and Purpose (Intention #3) and Be Good Stewards of our Finances and Facilities (Intention #8)**

Our focus for this work is to provide the information required for the congregation at RHUC to make decisions regarding the future of our facilities.

A Facilities and Financial Assessment Team has been established. We have recognized the need for external advice/support as we determine the overall condition of our facilities and financial resources/within and beyond the congregation that will be needed to help create Centre for Community and the sustainability of RHUC. This is not straightforward and there is diversity of opinion – often strongly articulated – about the way forward.

Based on previous knowledge of the work of SHS Consulting, a firm that is focused on social purpose development, we connected with Christine Pacini, Principal with SHS and a long time Richmond Hill resident. Initially we sought advice about how to move forward with this somewhat daunting task. After walking through the building and being provided with an overview of what we were trying to accomplish, Christine expressed her willingness to work with us. SHS Consulting was first introduced to the Facilities and Financial Assessment Team. Christine shared the extensive experience/skill sets of her firm and she agreed to put together a proposal for a feasibility study that would help us:

- Understand the current state of our facilities
- Understand desired outcomes/key components for Centre for Community
- Identify challenges and opportunities
- Identify costs and sources of funds
- Moving forward – project timelines, development and construction tasks

The Facilities and Financial Assessment team was impressed with the proposal however, expressed concern about whether we were ready for a full feasibility study due to need for the parallel work on Community Engagement. We decided on a phased approach. SHS staff made a site visit to RHUC and will be working with representatives from property and finance to assist with the overall facilities condition assessment.

In parallel - there is a lot of work underway with our facilities that has been really challenging for our property committee and Dan our custodian. We have sustained water damage and had problems with kitchen involving insurance claims. In addition, significant repairs have been identified for Manse amongst a long list of other issues. We are working to contain expenditure until we have a clearer sense of the whole picture re our facilities and potential approach/scope of RHUC as a Centre for Community.

*In September, the Facilities and Financial Assessment Team made a request to Council for \$20,000 from the Special Gifts fund to support implementation of community engagement/pre-feasibility/feasibility work. This was approved. The MAP Pilot Team will oversee the funds approved by Council.*

### **URGENT NEED**

We have an urgent need for one or two people to help explore Grants that can support our work. Even though we don't have a clear picture of the future yet, there is work that can and must be done. If you have research skills, are interested in pulling together information that will help us understand where there is potential financial support for capital funding, green initiatives as well as project funding related to the arts and other potential projects – from UCC, Town of Richmond Hill, York Region and other funders/foundations we would like to hear from you! It will involve online research, connecting over the phone and pulling a critically needed resource together for us. We also need folks who may have grant writing skills. If you have them or know of someone who does – let us know.

This work is exciting and tiring. It is messy and inspiring ... we are turning outwards and inviting all kinds of folks to be part of this journey and making many friends along the way ...

We are excited about this new direction for RHUC as we look to the future.

Please don't hesitate to connect with us if you have any questions or would like to offer your time, talents and treasure to support this important work.

## **Foster and Value leaders and Volunteers (Intention #9)**

**- which includes reviewing our governance and leadership structure and developing a volunteer management process.**

This topic was the focus for our Council retreat in June. We are facing significant challenges filling leadership positions in our current structure and we are exploring what this means and potential new approaches for how we organize ourselves as a faith community in terms of governance and in relation to our efforts in creating a Centre for Community. A task group has been convened. We are:

- Looking at input from listening circles and menu of options
- Reflecting on our own experiences of working together as a organization
- Looking at other models of governance in United Churches
- Considering what do we need to let go of to do the necessary work

**If you have questions or would like to be part of this group, please contact Brandon Moore at [brandonm@pathcom.com](mailto:brandonm@pathcom.com)**

## **Be a culture of Welcome, Respect and Safety where we Honour One Another (Intention #1)**

- A Task group is being formed and work beginning.

**If you would like to be part of this group, please let us know!**

## **OTHER NEWS!**

We applied to Living Waters Presbytery Inter-Commission Funding Task force for \$30,000 to support our MAP implementation. The projects had to have a strong missional component, an aspect of being new, innovative, and daring and benefit more than our faith community/ program.

While we were unsuccessful in receiving funding to offset consulting fees associated with the development of our Centre for Community, we have just learned we were approved for \$10,000 to develop an interfaith project that will explore collaboration for economic justice through the arts with the intention of kick-starting an interfaith justice network in York Region. This project aligns with MAP Intention #4 *to Develop Intentional Opportunities for people to gather to build relationships, nourish spiritual wellness and engage in Justice* and was endorsed by attendees at the recent RHUC Outreach Forum.

**If you are interested in working on this project, please let us know!**

## **Accountability for the Mission Action Plan**

The Map Pilot Team is separate from, but also accountable to, RHUC Council – and reports in at every meeting and provides regular congregational updates.

Any financial requests to support implementation – go through Council. Any major decisions regarding overall direction/major building activities will come to the congregation

We are aiming for further update on progress at the Annual Meeting early in 2019. The intention is to have clear information needed for the congregation to make decisions on options related to facilities based on our Community Engagement Process, our financial sustainability as a congregation and ability of our current or modified facilities to become a Centre for Community. In the event that all information is not yet available for the AGM we will call a special congregational meeting.

### Opportunities to engage

This update is part of Generous Spirit. Sharing our time talent and treasure as members and friends of RHUC makes living our mission possible. We would like to say thank you to everyone who is currently involved. We recognize that many people indicated interest in different intentions. We want this to be an open process and encourage all gifts/participation. If you feel you have something to offer – please let us know. If you have not been contacted after you expressed interest – please let us know how you would like to contribute. The list of intentions/projects is in your Generous Spirit package.

MAP Pilot Team members

Carol Moore [carol\\_moore@rogers.com](mailto:carol_moore@rogers.com)

DJ McCready [djmcc@rogers.com](mailto:djmcc@rogers.com)

James Ravenscroft [james@rhuc.org](mailto:james@rhuc.org)

Jane Wedlock [jane.wedlock@sympatico.ca](mailto:jane.wedlock@sympatico.ca)



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.

### Cash Cards – easy Christmas shopping!



Avoid the crowds and support RHUC's monthly fundraiser! The last cash card order of 2018 is due by **Wed., Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>**. Earn 1 – 10% for RHUC with every purchase! Many gift cards to choose from. Order forms available online and at the bulletin board across from the church office.

### HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### Advent – Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee has lots of suggestions for helping you with meaningful ways for Advent and Christmas. Our **Advent givings envelopes** this year will available on **December 9 and December 16<sup>th</sup>**. Our support will help 360° Kids buying presents for every one of their clients. The new Hub, on Yonge at Crosby, is serving a huge number of at-risk youth and since many of them are not living at home and have no family support, this is an especially difficult time of year. Our history of friendship and support is very important to them and to us.

As we have done for many years, we are again **collecting back packs for the Krasman Centre**. We will be collecting the back packs at the service on **Sunday, Dec. 16** and you are invited to fill your own (see the Outreach notice board for ideas) or give us loose toiletries, hats and scarves, socks etc., and we will pass them along. As many of the Krasman clients have precarious living arrangements these back packs are always well received. If our collection date doesn't work for you, we will accept back packs anytime under the tree in the sanctuary or in the church office. Cash donations or cheques payable to RHUC re Krasman Centre are also welcome.

Kathy McBey is busy collecting donations for the **Franklin Cromarty District High School** in Thunder Bay. The Indigenous high school has drawn up a wish list of items the students need and Kathy is also heading up a warm winter coat drive. Please see the Outreach notice board for further information and keep our friends in Thunder Bay in your hearts and minds.

There are several opportunities to bake and serve this Advent. On **Fri., Dec. 21<sup>st</sup>**, we are providing a **turkey dinner for the Krasman Centre**. We will cook the turkeys and make the stuffing and gravy. We are asking you to prepare side dishes and desserts. Please contact Wendy Thomas if you can help with this. She will have a sign - up sheet after church on Dec. 9 and 16<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help serve the meal on the 21<sup>st</sup>, please let Wendy or Lyn May know.

Please check out the giving catalog, **Gifts with Vision**, in the office and Welcome table. Put together by the M&S division of the United Church these catalogues contain lots of exciting ways to make part of your Christmas givings stretch all around the world!

We have invited new friends from the Yezidi community in Richmond Hill to join us at the **Advent craft dinner on Sunday, Dec. 2 at 4:00 p.m.** If you are able to attend with a pot-luck contribution, we could give these families a warm welcome to RHUC!

## 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.

## Living In Right Relations Committee

We continue to move along time and are now in 1879. Nicholas Flood Davin has just produced the *Report on Industrial Schools for Indian and Half-Breeds* or The Davin Report. The 1879 the *Report on Industrial Schools for Indian and Half-Breeds* advised the federal government to institute residential schools for native youth. Davin noted "the (residential) school is the principal feature of the policy". That the "aggressive civilization"...Indian Culture is a contradiction of terms...they are uncivilized. The aim of education is to destroy the Indian."

1885 - traditional Indian ceremonies were declared illegal in Canada.

1892 - the Canadian Government and Christian Churches (The Roman Catholic Church, the Methodist (United) Church, the Church of England (Anglican) and the Presbyterian Church) created a legal agreement for religious institutions to run the residential schools. Those who were to attend were; status and non status Indians, Metis and Inuit children.

- children were referred to as 'inmates'.
- it was against the law for "Indians" to attend regular "public" schools until 1945.
- Canadian authorities "strongly encouraged" parents, under the threat of possible prosecution and fines, to send their children to residential schools.
- parents had to sign over the custody of their children to the school superintendent or principal, by law.
- children were forcibly taken from their families by priests, Indian Agents ( Indian agents were the Canadian government's representatives on First Nations reserves from the 1830s to the 1960s - they were not Indigenous) and police; often they were kidnapped without their family's or community's knowledge.
- children were taken long distances from their families and communities to prevent runaways. [eg. from Walpole Island to Shinwauk Residential School in Sault St Marie (1200 kms) ]

It should be noted that while The Davin Report became the *official* justification for residential schools. In 1847, after the Bagot Report, Egerton Ryerson (Ryerson University) was asked by the Department of Indian Affairs for his thoughts on

residential schools for aboriginal Indian Tribes. At the time, Egerton Ryerson was the Chief Superintendent of Education in Upper Canada. Egerton felt the education for White and Aboriginal children should be different. That "Indians could not be civilized" and as a result their education level should be that of a labourer or farmer.

[Sources- <https://www.thecanadianencyclopedia.ca/en/article/armed-forces>, <https://www.omfrc.org/2017/03/solving-indian-problem-indian-residential-schools/>, [https://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/aec/pdfs/egerton%20ryerson\\_fullstatement.pdf](https://www.ryerson.ca/content/dam/aec/pdfs/egerton%20ryerson_fullstatement.pdf), [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education\\_in\\_Ontario](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Ontario)]

Podcast on Thunder Bay - if you enjoy Podcasts and are interested in the situation in Thunder Bay - also the site of Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School (recipient of RHUC donations) - check out <http://www.canadalandshow.com/shows/thunder-bay/>. Find out why locals call it Murder Bay. Host Ryan McMahon delves into what is killing youth in this community.

*Next Week - What was a day at residential school like? Who was Dr Peter Bryce?*

## 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*

Our gifts for Mission & Service provide opportunities for teachers like Melissa Carter to work at Los Quinchos School in Managua, Nicaragua. Here is her reflection: "I have not come here to change their culture; yet I still maintain that school can be a powerful environment to positively affect selfconfidence and to empower these young, bright faces to take on new challenges. One walk around my neighbourhood unveils the fact that they already overcome daily difficulties I can only imagine; they are strong and resilient. "I try to lead by example. My Spanish is not fluent, but I am trying to communicate daily. I am committing many errors, which sometimes elicits teasing responses, but I roll with it and tell them it is part of the learning process.... I challenged a grade 11 English class to tell me about their weekend in five sentences. Let me point out that very rarely are they asked in their English class to produce their own phrases about their own lives, and here was this crazy Canadian asking them to share about their weekend. As I walked around, many of them were able to produce simple sentences. Regardless of errors in syntax, I used lots of positive reinforcement, as well as smiles, high fives, and fist pumps to both encourage them and hopefully make them realize that 'Si, tu puedes' ('Yes, you can'). "I savour the daily interactions with the students, for it is in those interactions that I learn about who they are and what they hope to accomplish. And maybe, I can help them learn some English or make them realize that they, too, can fulfill the dreams they currently hold as well as the dreams they have yet to discover."

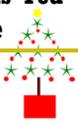
## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

## Bible Study

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). We begin on **Wednesday, Nov. 28<sup>th</sup> and on Thursday, Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:20 p.m.**

## 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

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 and explore faith with others. The sessions run from now until April in 3 week blocks based on themes. Faith Exploration Classes are at noon on Sunday. Everyone welcome.

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

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

## H.A.I.R.

HAIR (the Monday evening study group) will not meet this coming Monday November 26. We will resume on December 3 and have our last meeting on December 10 before stopping for the Christmas break.

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

Come and join us on Monday morning in the chapel at 9:30 am. We will be watching a talk by Harvard professor Diana Eck about Religion in an age of Pluralism. If this intrigues you, feel free to join us. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information, speak to Peg Hiscock or Sandra Loughton.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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).

## Mosaic Interfaith

A reminder that our annual “From Abraham Three Faiths” presentation is this Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 2-4 pm at [The Mulla Asghar Memorial Library and Islamic Resource Centre](#) located at the Jaffari Islamic Centre, [9000 Bathurst Street Thornhill](#). Our esteemed panelists Rabbi Michael Strohm, Rev. John Hill and Dr. Liyakat Takim will discuss “Can the Violence in our Scriptures Justify Violence in Today’s World?” This program is co-sponsored by the Organization for Islamic Learning.

Please note participants can keep their shoes on and do not have to wear a headscarf. However, you are requested to dress modestly as the MARC library is a learning centre and is housed in a place of worship.

Please see the flyer for more details. We hope to see you there for what is always a very interesting discussion.

Fran Isaacs & Shabnees Siwjee co-chairs

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