



## This week at a glance

### Sunday, November 26 – 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 a.m. Service  
 12:00 Lunch and Learn – Garden Room  
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Common room  
 2018 Pledge forms due

### Monday, November 27

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

### Tuesday, November 28

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

### Wednesday, November 29

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

### Thursday, November 30

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

### Friday, December 1

9:15 a.m. Yoga Energetics – Upper gym  
 A perfect way to start your day! By meditation, strengthening muscles and increasing your flow of energy.

### Saturday, December 2

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. UCW Tea  
 3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Lower Garden Room  
 7:30 p.m. Liona Boyd Concert - Sanctuary

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

### Worship

**November 26:** We welcome Bri-anne Swan who leads Living Presence Ministry in the new housing area being developed in East Gwillimbury. Her message entitled "Do Churches Dream of Suburban Sheep", Bri-anne will reflect on Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24. Next week as we begin the Season of Advent we will reflect on Mark 13:24-27.

**Lunch and Learn:** 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.

**Study Leave:** James will be away next week to attend a Learning Cohort on Wednesday and Thursday. As a result there will not be Bible Study on Thursday, November 30.

### Minister's Message

This Sunday as we mark Reign of Christ Sunday the Christian Year prepares to reset as we move once more into Advent next week. So what are we to do with this Sunday, especially since historically this day was created in the early 20th century as a response to the rise of secularism? In the United Church we reframed it from "Christ the King Sunday" which helps shift it from its triumphalist origins. I also find its linguistic resonance with the "Reign of God" helps place the focus less on the next world, even though it comes at the end of a series of gospel readings (if we had been reflecting on them these past weeks rather than the Hebrew Scriptures from the lectionary) that are thematically about the end of days. The teaching of the Reign of God, or God's Kin-dom isn't about the next world but this one lived with original blessing and a spirit of harmony as its foundation. The teaching is really about living in the world as if God really is its ruler and so Love is the law by which we live. Given that along with secularism the last century saw a rise in globalization, laissez faire Capitalism, consumerism, increasing inequality and environmental destruction, perhaps we need a day that stands counter-culturally to remind us there is another way.



## 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.

## 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)

## 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!



Ticket price: \$35  
Available from:

- church office
- Chancel Choir member
- after service in Centennial Hall
- <https://richmondhill.snappd.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 midwives and healthy babies and mothers. Let us hear a story from Tanzania about this important work. Four hundred and ninety-four women from across Tanzania, East Africa, and 16 training sessions in collaboration with the Tanzanian Ministry of Health: these are the latest totals for training traditional birth attendants (midwives) reported by Mission & Service partner the Morogoro Women’s Training Centre. The collaboration, which is made possible with the support of United Church Women, is part of an overall strategy to reduce maternal and infant mortality rates in Tanzania. The women have been named by their community and range in age from early 20s to over 70. Some have worked as traditional birth attendants for decades. Some completed high school, others some grades in elementary school. A few have never attended school. All have developed a wide range of skills on the job and faced many challenges in the course of their career. Some live close to a health clinic or hospital, where they can readily refer high-risk cases. Others live many kilometres from the closest medical centre over difficult and sometimes impassable terrain. Molen Abdul has been delivering babies for 47 years. She welcomes the additional training and says, “This work is very important to me. It is like it keeps the clock of life ticking.” We sing thanksgiving that Mission & Service is helping to improve the health of women and babies in Tanzania. If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing thanksgiving to God!



## Gifts with Vision

We have received the new 2017-2018 alternative gift catalogue from the United Church of Canada. It contains the usual assortment of charities 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 meeting an immediate need, like hunger and shelter; to tackling employment, like providing education or small business start-up money; to sending a kid to camp or buying basic school supplies. There are some catalogues on the welcome table but you can also do everything on the web: [giftswithvision.ca](http://giftswithvision.ca) This is the *alternative way of giving, and giving something that is really needed!* Contact: Donna Smith 905-884-6307

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

### Women's Spirituality

This **Saturday, Nov. 25th**, the program starting at 10:15 a.m. will be: Two women in Jesus' life before his birth - the Innkeeper's wife and the wife of a Shepherd. Coffee and conversation starts at 9:45 a.m. in the Garden room. All women are welcome!

### United Church Women

**Living Waters Presbyterian 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-Visit**. 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 27th** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel for a special session on the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Our guest for the morning will be Dr. Wilhelm Bleek who will speak to us about his considerable knowledge of this topic. We look forward to his visit!

Next week, on **Monday, December 4th**, we'll be celebrating the Advent/Christmas season together with a time for refreshments starting at 10 a.m. to be followed by an Advent Worship service at 11:30. This will take the place of our traditional potluck lunch.

In January, we will be finishing our study of the Reformation, beginning on January 8th. For more information about the group, please speak to one of the facilitators - Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton. New members are welcome at any time. It is a wonderful way to kick-start your week!

### 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 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

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.

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

### Cash card order – last order before Christmas!

If you would like to purchase cash cards for Christmas please **submit your order by Sunday, Dec. 3**. The list can be seen on the website under 'Donate to our Church' which you can print out. There are many stores to choose from such as:

- Loblaws/No Frills/Long's Metro/Sobeys
- Esso, Petro-Canada, Shell
- Boston pizza/East Side Mario's
- Tim Hortons/Starbucks
- Chapters
- Cineplex/Silver City
- The Gap
- Shoppers Drug mart
- Winners/Homesense
- The Bay
- Lowes .... and many more!

Support this monthly RHUC fundraiser. 1-10% of your purchase goes directly to RHUC!



## 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.

Words from George Moon: What drew me to RHUC over 25 years ago was a progressive approach to theology that allowed me to explore my faith in many ways. What keeps me here is continued encouragement to explore my faith and having a safe place where we can challenge tradition, discuss difficult questions, emphasize social justice and participate in environmental stewardship. The quality and depth of music also enhances my faith experience. I can often find myself in a deep contemplative place that has become very important to me during anthems and postludes.

I am optimistic from the Circle process that RHUC will retain much of what is important to me and others I have met during the process. Many people that do not worship with us Sunday mornings also pass through our doors. I look forward to seeing how we transform our space to provide increased inclusion for our wider community. There are many opportunities within these walls that are beginning to solidify from the circle efforts.

There are many reasons to be excited, so I look forward to our future.



## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### 'So What's Going on Around Here?'

We have updated the bulletin board outside of the spare office (across from the Parlour) for various groups at RHUC to advertise themselves. It is called "So What's Going On Around Here?" If you want to invite others to join your group, or just let people know what is happening with your group at RHUC, please send me a PDF version of the notice you want posted and I will print it and post it onto the bulletin board. Please send it in print-ready form, as I don't feel comfortable editing anyone else's work. Send your ready-to-print notice to: Fran Bazos: [fran.bazos@hotmail.com](mailto:fran.bazos@hotmail.com). Please put in the email subject box: RHUC submission, so I see it and don't pass it by. *Thank you, Fran Bazos*

### 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.

### Thank you!

Thank you for your donations to the winter coat drive to Crosby Heights Public School!

### 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. This **Sunday at 7:00 p.m.** come to 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

### Christmas concert

Enjoy beautiful selections of traditional Christmas songs, carols and sacred music. Join soprano Victoria Gydov, pianist Karine Vasserman, violinist Oleksandra Fedyshyn and tenor Charles Di Raimondo to celebrate the upcoming holidays together with inspiring and uplifting music!

When: December 16th, 2017 at 7pm-9pm

Where: Richmond Hill United Church

Tickets: \$25 at [www.maestromusic.org](http://www.maestromusic.org)

Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1959381107657128/>

### Living Presence Ministry

"The Frost is All Over" A Canadian 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).

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