

This week at RHUC

Sunday, November 4

10:00 a.m. Generous Spirit breakfast – C. Hall
10:30 a.m. Service
12:00 p.m. Faith Exploration Classes
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Common Room

Monday, November 5

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

Tuesday, November 6

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, November 7

9:30 a.m. UCW - Parlour
12:00 p.m. Seniors' Luncheon – Centennial Hall
7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym
7:00 p.m. Worship Committee - Chapel

Thursday, November 8

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

Saturday, November 10

9:45 a.m. Women's Spirituality – Garden Room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

How do we respond in the face of such hatred and violence against our Jewish siblings in Pittsburgh last Saturday? As news broke of the shootings at Tree of Life Congregation, my heart broke. How could anyone commit such bloodshed, especially as a community gathered for prayer? Yet they did. And as much as I would like to say this was the one off action of a lone hatemonger I know I can't. Antisemitism is on the rise on both sides of the border. And though we can try to temper what happened with explanations of the shooter's anger about illegal immigration, the reality is Saturday's attack was anti-Semitic violence, and this hatred has a history within the Christian church. Because of this history we must continually affirm that there is no place for antisemitism in our church or our world. In 2003 the 38th General Council approved "Bearing Faithful Witness", our official statement on Jewish-United Church relations. It says: "We believe that our faith issues in action. Jesus commands us to love our neighbours, but all too often Christians have treated Jews, our sisters and brothers, as enemies. We believe that our faith calls us to repent when the church has been unfaithful in its witness by not loving Jews as neighbours." We cannot stay silent in the face of antisemitism, especially given our own history in the United Church. At times we have contributed to the problem, especially interpreting the Christian Scriptures in such a way as to denigrate Judaism and to suggest the covenant with the Jewish people has been abolished in Christ. Rather we need to stand with our siblings and uphold the ongoing gift that Judaism brings to the world as "a religion, a people and a covenant community". God's love is revealed in the Torah and in the Jewish community's ongoing engagement with this sacred text and its unfolding tradition, the same love revealed in the gospel. Our shared belief in that one God of love calls us to solidarity with our Jewish siblings today and always.

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. 4: We mark the Sunday before Remembrance Day by celebrating a Peace Sabbath. We reflect together with a series of readings and anthems.

Next Sunday, Nov., 11: We mark the 100th Anniversary of Armistice with readings, prayers and reflective silence. Those who wish are encouraged to join the community for the special Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph in front of the McConaghy Centre.

Christian Development

If you are able to help out with the youth on the following dates please let Joan Verner know: November 4, 25 and December 9. 16. joanverner@rogers.com or 905-539-1222.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Art Show and Sale! – this Sat. Nov. 3

Date: **SATURDAY NOV 3 Time: from 1-5pm**

THE MAIN FLOOR OF RHUC will be filled with a fabulous display of Art, including jewelry, carved wood, stained glass, delightful dolls. Bird houses, Raku Pottery, mixed media painting, Shiva's silk scarves, fine art photography, unique knitwear, woven baskets and silk/wool fashion creations.

The 2018 Fashion show will feature unique knitwear by Knit4You modelled by our Granny Group and friends. Jewelry by Akemi Designs will be matched to our fashion show collection.

Your \$5 donation at the door will support the work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. This event is hosted by Hands and Hearts for Africa.

Hands & Hearts for Africa

2018 VIRTUAL WALK AROUND AFRICA: Virtual Walk around Africa Trek 5: Pointing Out the Stars in Tanzania

The Sukuma people of Tanzania have a saying "I pointed out the stars to you but all you saw was the tip of my finger". As we travel by jeep across the rough terrain of Ruaha National Park, in central Tanzania, we are lucky to see the 'stars' of the African wilderness--elephants, lions, hippos, and giraffes. What a thrill to explore this beautiful park teeming with wildlife.

After a reviving lunch of chai and ugali (porridge), we head further east towards Dar es Salaam on the Indian Ocean. Dar, known as the "Haven of Peace" in Arabic, is nestled around a natural harbour and is both a great port and a thriving city. We plan on visiting the famous Fish Market and the National Museum which houses some of the fossils discovered by Louis Leakey--proof of Tanzania's significance in the evolution of the human species.

We meet briefly with Ndinini Kimesera Sikar, Executive Director of the Maasai Women Development Organization, a community-based programme supported by the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Ndinini reminds us that "we cannot let go of home-based care. If we do, we will lose ground (against the HIV virus). We cannot do less just because we see a few improvements. This is the time to do more." Something to think about as we leave Dar with its ocean views. Next stop is Lilongwe, Malawi!

Miles to go, Spirit strong! We are heading south along the East Coast of Africa. It is a long journey and we have miles to go but our spirit is strong in solidarity with African grandmothers. In South Africa alone, 60% of home-based care is provided by grandmothers. What astounds us is the lack of support and resources in many African countries for these elderly caregivers and yet they demonstrate courage, resilience and a growing self-confidence. We thank you for supporting the Virtual Walk around Africa and for making a difference. If you wish to make a donation to the Foundation, there will be a sponsorship table after the service on Nov 4. Be sure to check out our map and see how far we have walked.

Living In Right Relations Committee

Last week in this *new* space, we jumped right in to share an article from the youth of the Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation (Grassy Narrows reserve) along with their music video. This week, we're going to take a step back to give you an idea what you may see in the coming weeks (and months) in this space.

First, about our Circle: "The purpose of the Living into Right Relations Circle [Committee] is to nurture relationships of mutual respect and care between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in our local area. We will do this through work in **three** (3) key areas:

1. **Reconciliation** (living out the apologies given by the United Church of Canada to First Nations Peoples and to former students of residential schools, their families and communities; and living out the *Calls to Action* of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, especially those pertaining to churches)
2. **Education** (in areas such as indigenous history, culture, spirituality, values, current affairs)
3. **Advocacy** (where appropriate, to be discerned in partnership with Indigenous communities)"

It is in the spirit of our Circle that we will; share ways in which the United Church of Canada is living out the apologies, educate (as we are educated) in indigenous history, culture, spirituality, values and current affairs and, where appropriate, share ways in which we can be allies with Indigenous communities.

Next Week - we begin to explore The Indian Act of 1876 and recognize 2018's winner in the Non-Fiction category of Governor General Literary Awards.

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support counselling programs like The Counselling Centre in Brandon, Manitoba. The Mission & Service support provided by The United Church of Canada helps to fund Project Hope, a program that provides professional counselling free of charge to those who are economically impoverished, such as non-status Indigenous clients, children, and seniors, who make up roughly 40 percent of the city's population. "These are people who would otherwise fall through the cracks," explains Executive Director Heather Karrouze. She tells the story of a mom and three kids who recently fled an abusive relationship and are living in a hotel. "If it weren't for Project Hope, they wouldn't be getting counselling," she says. "Project Hope provides counselling support to the mom and her boys; to the pensioner who has lost his wife; to the non-status Aboriginal whose family is far away, up north. "A number of years ago, the Brandon Counselling Centre began to explore ways to shift the disturbing trend of domestic violence it was hearing about in its counselling sessions. The centre created Building Bridges, a 12-week program for men to explore what makes for healthy relationships. Since starting the program, the counsellors have seen a small shift in their counselling sessions toward decreased domestic violence. The shift is slow, but there is progress. "It is our vision to help people go from feeling hopeless to being hopeful, from feeling diminished to being empowered," says Heather. "Those [Mission & Service] dollars translate into lives being changed and, in some cases, being saved."

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Faith Exploration Classes

Faith Exploration Classes (**Sundays at Noon**): 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.

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.

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 5th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel for a lively, topical discussion. New members are always welcome! This week we'll be looking at the difference between religious diversity and pluralism and focus on The Pluralism Project being undertaken in the U.S. through Harvard University and Director of the project, Dr. Diana Eck, and others. There is no "homework" or reading for this week. For more information, please speak to either Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton, or call Deb Fratin, Office Administrator, at 905-884-1301, Ext. 5.

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.

RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, November 28 at 7 p.m.** in the RHUC Chapel to discuss **THE ART OF HEARING HEARTBEATS** by Jan-Philipp Sendker, a German writer. All are welcome! No previous book club experience is required - just a love of reading and talking about books with others. Here is a short synopsis of the novel to whet your appetite:

'A poignant and inspirational love story set in Burma, *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* spans the decades between the 1950s and the present. When a successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears without a trace, neither his wife nor his daughter Julia has any idea where he might be...until they find a love letter he wrote many years ago, to a Burmese woman they have never heard of. Intent on solving the mystery and coming to terms with her father's past, Julia decides to travel to the village where the woman lived. There she uncovers a tale of unimaginable hardship, resilience, and passion that will reaffirm the reader's belief in the power of love to move mountains.'

For more information, please speak to the group's facilitator, Sandra Loughton, or speak to Deb Fratin in the church office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5.

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Generous Spirit Breakfast

Sunday, November 4

YOU ARE INVITED !

Generous Spirit Breakfast

Sunday Nov. 4th starting at 10:00 am

'Cold Breakfast – muffins and fruit'

(Hot breakfast has been cancelled due to kitchen renovations.)

Update Presentation re: developing our "Centre of Community"

(continuation of the Circle Process, now named MAP)

Pick up your Generous Spirit Package

SEE YOU THERE !

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY



Seniors' Luncheon

The annual Seniors' Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, Nov. 7th in Centennial Hall at 12 noon**. Come to enjoy the meal with friends and some delightful entertainment. This invitation is extended to "All" seniors in our congregation. If you need a ride call the church office at 905 884 1301.

Fellowship

Are you planning to move away? Do you know of someone who is?

Problem: the church finds out that someone who attends our church has moved, often well after the fact! We 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 the Office know of any such moving plans. Donna Smith, 905-884-6307.

Mosaic Interfaith

Dear Mosaic Interfaith Supporters: This Saturday, November 3, 2018 we will be joining with our friends and neighbours at Temple Har Zion for their Sabbath worship. We will remember the eleven Jews who were murdered on Saturday, October 27th while they attended Sabbath services at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh because they were Jews. We will stand united with [Temple Har Zion](#) in their time of grief, and raise our voices together against hate, bigotry and violence.

Details: Location: Temple Har Zion, 7360 Bayview Avenue, Thornhill, ON L3T 2R7 (fully wheelchair accessible)

Time: 10:30 am

Parking is limited so please consider car-pooling. Please obey parking signs on side streets. We hope you will be able to join us and offer support to our Jewish community. Fran Isaacs & Shabnees Siwjee co-chairs

**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 9th 2018 to January 13th 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 or 905-884-9805.

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.