

This week at RHUC

Sunday, October 14
10:30 a.m. Service - Baptism

Monday, October 15
Office Closed
9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel
7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel
7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

Tuesday, October 16
7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, October 17
7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

Thursday, October 18
6:15 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

Saturday, October 20
3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming –Garden Room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

It feels unprecedented. In the wake of the confirmation hearings for Brett Kavanaugh's appointment to the US Supreme Court, as Dr. Christine Blasey-Ford offers composed and heartfelt testimony to the sexual assault she experienced 30 plus years ago, the sitting US president mocks her testimony while at a political rally. It is unprecedented for a sitting president to sink this low. Tragically it is not unprecedented for a survivor of sexual assault to be mocked. It is clear we live in a world with a stark double standard. Mr. Kavanaugh delivers an angry, conspiracy-theory laden, clearly partisan speech and he is applauded by many. We are told how much he and his family have suffered these past weeks and many express sympathy. He fudges his way through his testimony, recasting his aggressive and sexist behaviour as boyish antics, and he is roundly believed. Dr. Blasey-Ford is composed though emotional and she is mocked. Had she been angry, she would have been lambasted. Not only was she sexually violated thirty years ago but painfully made to relive her trauma before an international audience and the decades long suffering she has carried is made light of and her testimony derided. Dr. Blasey-Ford is one of far too many survivors of assault who is belittled, judged harshly for the act of her aggressor and re-victimized by public opinion. And we wonder why women don't come forward. Fortunately Dr. Blasey-Ford's courage has further galvanized women to step forward to share their experiences of violence. As we mark Women's History Month this October, may we finally turn a corner towards a more equal and just society.

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

This Sunday, Oct. 14: Reflecting on Ruth 1:1-19, James will explore the significance of community and solidarity, especially today as women confront systemic prejudice. We are also celebrating the sacrament of baptism.

Next Sunday, Oct 21: We continue to lift up women's narratives as we look at Esther 7:1-10. We will also take time to celebrate with Dan Plourde as he marks 10 years working at RHUC.

Land Acknowledgments and Affirming Inclusive Welcome: Last year our time of acknowledging the land and offering words of welcome was led by members of our congregation. We plan to follow this practice once again. James can give guidance in wording. If you are interested in assisting in this, you can sign up in Centennial Hall or speak with James or Tracy Wixon.

Christian Development

If you are able to help out with the youth on the following dates please let Joan Verner know: October 21, 28, November 4, 25 and December 9. 16. joanverner@rogers.com or 905-539-1222.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Art Show and Sale!

Coming soon... ART SHOW and SALE with MUSIC, FASHION SHOW, NIBBLES

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 3: Enroute to KAMPALA and KIGALI

We have shaken the dust of Kenya from our feet and are now well on our way across Uganda. We catch glimpses now and then of a huge body of water, the famous Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake. We decide to stop at a place called Jinja which is famous for being the source of the Victoria Nile River; we are amazed at the tourist ads for water rafting, bungee jumping, horseback riding. We opt to spend our rest time fishing for Nile perch --a special Ugandan delicacy. After a refreshing stop, we head to Kampala, a large, modern city, stretching along the lake. And while we are there, we will be in touch with our SLF partners, PEFO who offer psychological and emotional support, grandmother to grandmother, helping each other through their grief. Saying goodbye to our Ugandan hosts, we turn our feet towards the tiny country of Rwanda, known as the "Land of a Thousand Hills". Our walking is slow as we move from the eastern savannah to the higher elevations in the west. When we reach Kigali, we see it sprawled across ridges and valleys with flowering trees and winding boulevards... a sophisticated city and plucky survivor of a tragic past. We head to the Caplaki Crafts Village to see traditional Rwandan crafts of woodcarving and woven baskets.

Long Journey and Many Steps: Our Walking Team for the Virtual walk around Africa covered a distance of over 1200 kms by last Saturday Sept 29th. We should be either in Kampala or heading into Rwanda on Thanksgiving Sunday. For the month of October we will not have a sponsorship table after the service but we will host one on November 4. If you are going to be away and wish to sponsor our Walking Team, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Donna Harrison.

Outreach Forum

There will be an Outreach Forum on **TUESDAY OCTOBER 23 at 7 pm** at 156 Church for lively discussion, wine and cheese. Please let me know if you have any items for the agenda. Lyn May - lynniemay@gmail.com

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service, together with our emergency response for Typhoon Haiyan, support the agricultural program of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP). In 2013, Typhoon Haiyan destroyed large parts of Philippine infrastructure, affecting the economic base of many communities. The Visayas region in Central Philippines, a predominantly agricultural area, was hard hit by Haiyan. Ninety-five percent of fruit trees were uprooted, livestock were killed, and crops were destroyed. Also destroyed were many families' hopes for feeding their families and making a living. As part of the recovery process, Mission & Service partner the UCCP is working with agricultural communities to restore livelihoods. Working with community-based organizations, the UCCP developed a plan that identified the most appropriate livestock to distribute to local families. Basic veterinary skills and training help farmers ensure the health and welfare of the animals they receive. Home solar lighting kits are being distributed to communities. For some, this was the first electrical light their home had ever had. A third component of the plan is helping farmers plant and harvest aerobic rice, which uses less water and requires less labour than traditionally grown rice. Given the right conditions, seed is easily saved from year to year, and a growing season can have two harvests. Our emergency response provided a robust short-term response to start the rehabilitation. Through Mission & Service, our ongoing support ensures that these programs grow and develop to create resilient and sustainable farming communities in the Philippines.



Please keep Chris Foot in your prayers as he has had a sudden cardiac arrest. He is in Sunnybrook Hospital in the Cardio Vascular Intensive Care. Sue's email is chrisorsuefoot@gmail.com

If you have anyone that you would like to add to 'In our Prayers' please send to office@rhuc.org.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Women's Spirituality

Women's Spirituality will gather this **Saturday October 13th** at 9:45 a.m. in the Garden Room for refreshments followed by a Spiritual Pot Luck.

Men's Breakfast



The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, October 13, 2018**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, with breakfast in the gym at 8:30 prepared by our UCW friends. New participants are always welcome. The Men's Breakfasts are a time of fellowship and camaraderie. Feel free to contact us if you're interested in more information about it. Cost is \$10 / person, with net proceeds to the UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran (hramsaran@rogers.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, October 11th. Thank you! After breakfast, all are welcome in the parlour at 9 AM for a slide presentation and talk by Bruce Rhodes about his trip this past June to the Land of the Midnight Sun - the Norwegian archipelago known as Svalbard, halfway between the Arctic Circle and the North Pole, site of the global seed vault deep in the side of a mountain. During his journey to Svalbard, Bruce visited the world's northernmost church and mailed post cards from the world's northernmost post office, and toured two ghost towns which, decades ago, were huge Soviet coal mining centres. Spectacular scenery and rich history come together in this remote location a three-hour flight north of Oslo.

Looking ahead: Future dates for 2018 - November 17th and December 8th.

Faith Exploration Classes

Faith Exploration Classes (**Sundays at Noon in the Chapel**): 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 the chapel at noon each Sunday (except on special holidays like Thanksgiving) and explore faith with others. Everyone welcome.

Bible Study

It's time for Bible Study: Beginning on **Thursday, October 4**, 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

If you need a kick-start to your week on Monday morning, please join us for warm fellowship and lively discussion. We meet in the chapel at 9:30am and this week we will focus on chapter 14 in Marcus Borg's book 'Awe and Wonder.'

We will be discussing what Borg thinks is 'The Heart and Soul of Christianity'. If intrigued, please join us. No prior reading is necessary to share in this discussion. For more information, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton.

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, **October 24th at 7 p.m.** in the RHUC Chapel to discuss *The Lightkeeper's Daughters* by Canadian writer Jean E. Pendziwol. Jean was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario on the shores of Lake Superior which is featured in her first novel for adults that goes from the present to the past telling two spellbinding, intertwined stories.

"Sisters Elizabeth and Emily grow up on an isolated Lake Superior island where their father tends the lighthouse. When tragedy arrives in the midst of a storm, the lightkeeper makes a fateful decision that will echo down through the generations. . ." For more information about the book club, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5. All are welcome. No previous book club experience is necessary!

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Generous Spirit Breakfast

Sunday, November 4

YOU ARE INVITED !

Generous Spirit Breakfast

Sunday Nov. 4th starting at 9:15 am

'Hot Breakfast – pancakes & bacon'

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

Improvapalooza!

Please consider spending your **Saturday night, October 20**, with us at the Aurora Cultural Centre in support of our unique not for profit organization, ImprovAbility! Here is the Eventbrite direct link for tickets - <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/improv-a-palooza-an-evening-to-benefit-improvability-tickets-41845128907> (click here to purchase)

We have a great evening planned of entertainment, light refreshments, a Story Wall, silent auction items and entertainment by Michael McCreary. We're lucky he's able to stop by for us as he is playing venues around North America and is a young comic in demand. Come and hear his story about living and laughing with Autism. You won't be disappointed!

Islamic History Month

Islamic Society of York Region is organizing an exhibition of **Islamic Art and Calligraphy on Saturday October 20**. The exhibition opens at 11 am and will last till 5 pm at 1380 Stouffville Road, Richmond Hill. Refreshments will be served following afternoon prayers. No entrance fee. All welcome!

Mosaic Interfaith

Annual Peace Meal

Sunday, October 21, 2018 from 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. This year's topic is 'Charity and Justice'. Please bring a nut-free began dish to share. Absolutely no alcohol. RSVP to thisisfran@yahoo.com or shabness@yahoo.ca
Temple Har Zion, 7360 Bayview, Ave., Thornhill, ON

Video of Boyan Slat's Ocean Clean- up

Sunday, October 28: 12 – 1:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Anglican Church. Light refreshments and video are free! RSVP or questions: 905-884-6635. Presented by the Green Team: Video of Boyan Slat's Ocean Clean-up – To the Great Pacific garbage patch! Almost 2 trillion pieces of plastic!!

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.

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