



## This week at a glance

**Sunday, October 15 – Conversation Circles at Legion Hall, 233 Centre St E at 9:15 a.m. (no service at RHUC)**

**Monday, October 16**  
 9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel  
 7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel  
 7:00 p.m. Cubs - gym

**Tuesday, October 17**  
 7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym  
 7:00 p.m. Tai Chi – Garden room  
 This low impact exercise, sometimes referred to as "moving meditation", offers such benefits as flexibility, balance and relaxation. New members are always welcome, but the start of the year is a great time to try out a new healthy habit.

**Wednesday, October 18**  
 7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

**Thursday, October 19**  
 6:15 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel  
 7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

**Friday, October 20**  
 9:15 a.m. Yoga Energetics – Upper gym  
 Yoga Energetics is a form of yoga based on Chinese medicine. It includes strengthening muscles, loosening joints, breathing properly allowing energy to travel through particular meridians to particular organs in your body, meditating quietly and relaxing comfortably. Just bring a mat and a pillow. If you have questions please call Donna McErlain at 905 884 5706. Thank you

**Saturday, October 21**  
 4:00 p.m. Djembe drumming – Garden Rm

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

### Worship

**Reflecting on the Word:** Each Sunday in our worship we take time to listen for wisdom. Traditionally, we hear readings from the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and Christian Scripture (New Testament). Some churches will read four readings as offered in the lectionary. At RHUC we have generally read two readings. Recently, we have opted to include non-biblical readings in addition to biblical. We do so, aware that the Holy Spirit speaks with wisdom in many sounds. Sometimes on a Sunday, our bible reading will be from the Christian Scripture and sometimes from Hebrew Scripture.

**Sunday, October 15 – Conversation Circles - worship and discussion that will last from 9.15 to about 2.30, with muffins, coffee and Lunch, at the Legion Hall, 233 Centre St E. By having this event outside of the church, it will be accessible to all, and we will all be able to meet in one room. Also, just as the Listening circles were held off-site at people's homes, we will be able to discern with more objectivity. Reading: Matthew 13:31-33**

**Sunday, October 22 – Hymn sing is rescheduled until 2018. We will sing some Canadian hymns as we reflect together on Exodus 20:1-20.**

**Sunday, October 29 – We mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation as our esteemed Wilhelm Bleek offers us a snapshot of Martin Luther's role in the Reformation and reflects on the hymn "A Mighty Fortress is Our God".**



**Healing Services:** Beginning on **November 5**, we will once again have healing services following worship on the first Sunday of each month. These services are not very long, about twenty minutes, but they are a powerful way for us to pray for each other and the world as we seek healing in our lives and the lives of those who are dear to us. On the occasional very busy first Sunday of the month, there may not be a service. We will keep everyone posted on those occasions in RHUC Online.

**Sunday, November 26**  
Lunch & Learn - topic is Remit #6

### Training for Lay Worship Leadership

Training for Lay Worship Leadership: **Sunday, November 5, 12 and 19, 12:00 - 2:30 pm:**  
Have you ever wondered why we do what we do in a worship service? Or wanted to learn how to write a Prayer of Approach? Or secretly wanted to preach a sermon? If so then you are invited to a series of workshops this coming November following worship. The workshops will prepare people to assist in preparing and leading worship, including preaching sermons. Those who are simply interested in both the meaning and mechanics of worship are also welcome to attend. For more information, contact James. Workshops will start in the spare office.

### Minister's Message

We're starting at 9:15? Boy, that's early!! I'm guessing I'm not the only one who has had this thought regarding our gathering at the Legion for worship and Conversation Circles. So while it may be tempting to sleep in on Sunday, I want to encourage you to come to the Legion just the same. This second step is an important one in our share discernment. Up to now we have listened to each other share a vast number of ideas. We received them all with love. But reading through them makes it clear that we can't implement everything, especially when some are completely opposite. So, this next step is an opportunity to have candid conversations about these ideas and to see which ones are most grabbing our attention, have the best chance of gaining some traction as we move forward as a congregation. Rather than roll over and go back to sleep, come to the Conversation Circles. After all, the coffee will be ready!!



### Liona Boyd –

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! Get your tickets early!

Ticket price: \$35  
Available from:

- church office
- Chancel Choir member
- after service in Centennial Hall
- richmondhill.snapd.com.

### 'A Winter Fantasy' – in Concert with RHUC Chancel Choir at RHUC

### A Minute for Ministry

**A Minute for Ministry...** Beginning on September 10, you may have noticed an addition to the flow of worship each Sunday, namely a "moment" following the Offering Prayer. The plan is for each Sunday there to be "A Minute for" council, or mission, or reconciliation, etc. Included in this is "**A Minute for Ministry**". This spot would be an opportunity for someone in the congregation to share something they are doing in the wider community to make the world a more caring, just and peaceful place. You may be volunteering with Amnesty International, sharing your time at a soup kitchen, driving people to the hospital for treatment, striving to live more sustainably, offering your services pro bono, etc. The list is as varied as people in our congregation. If you would be willing to share what you are doing, please contact James.



## Junior Choir

Junior Choir has started back. They meet from **12:00 – 12:30 in the Chapel**. Junior Choir is for children between the ages of 6 – 10. Please speak with Barry Peters for more information.

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

## Teen Seekers

Teen Seekers is up and running. If you are a youth in grades 7 - 12, please join us for Teen Seekers (during worship on Sundays). We have some fun and interesting activities planned for the fall:

- On October 22 we will be talking about *The Secret Path*, the story of Chenie Wenjack. You may remember that we watched the video *the Secret Path*, by Gord Downie ([www.secretpath.ca](http://www.secretpath.ca)) back in the spring. There is also an opportunity for youth to attend *The Secret Path: Walking towards Reconciliation* at the Richmond Hill Centre for Performing Arts later that evening.
- Youth will have their own discussion group at the Conversation Circles on October 15th.
- Later in the fall we will do some Outreach activities and cooking for the Krasman lunch.
- There will also be a sign-up sheet for youth to read the Call to Worship at the beginning of the Service and light the candles.

Looking forward to seeing everyone!

## RHUC Planning Process...Moving from Listening Circles to Conversation Circles

### Conversation Circles is this Sunday, October 15!

We urge you to look at some of the Listening Circle material in that topic that is most important to you. You will have the opportunity to choose discussion tables on two topics on which you wish to participate...one early in the day and one after a break.

Here are the Topics!

- Growing in Faith
- Justice/Outreach
- Wider Relations
- Leadership AND Pastoral/Spiritual Care
- Belonging/Extra Welcome/Wellness
- Stewardship
- Worship

There will also be a separate Table for Youth.

We will be meeting at **Legion Hall on 233 Centre St E, Richmond Hill on October 15th starting at 9.15** and finishing no later than 2.0 p.m. **There will be no service at RHUC.** The day will include Worship, Planning Groups and Food.

There will be snacks to start the day and Lunch. We are asking that people bring soup, sandwiches, cookies etc.

There will be sign-up sheets on Sunday in Centennial Hall or contact Lyn Wilkinson for info...we will also be glad of some people to help with set-up and clean-up. Arrangements will be made for children as needed.

If you have special transportation needs, beyond those you have in place, please let Deb know and we will take it from there.

For those that do not have access to email, **hard copies of the Listening Circles are available for sign-out at the Welcome Table in Centennial Hall.**



## Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, October 14 2017**. 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 UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran ([hramsaran@rogers.com](mailto:hramsaran@rogers.com) or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, October 12. Thank you!

**Looking ahead:** Future dates for 2017 are November 4, and December 2<sup>nd</sup>

After breakfast, our Wilhelm Bleek will tell us how Martin Luther had to be kidnapped and held in protective custody on a mystical castle to translate the New Testament from Latin into German. This 10 month long episode in Luther's life illustrates the personality, religious beliefs and turbulent times of the man, who started the Protestant Reformation 500 years ago."

## Bible Study

In the United Church of Canada the bible is a source of wisdom for us. That being said, we take the bible seriously but not literally. During Bible Study we gather Thursday evenings at 6:16 p.m. in the Chapel to discuss the readings for the coming Sunday - Matthew 13:31-33.

You don't need to come every week, although there can be carry over between weeks when one week's readings continue on from the week before. It's not a set program so you can start coming next month, go away for a month or two, and stop by anytime you wish. You don't need to be a bible scholar. So come by and join the discussion.

## Shalom Seekers

Please join us on **Monday, October 16th** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel to discuss the Epilogue of Diana Butler Bass' book Christianity for the Rest of Us. We will also spend some time discussing our experiences as part of the conversation circles on Sunday- the previous day. Please speak to one of the group's facilitators for more details: Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke, or Sandra Loughton.

## RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **October 25th at 7 pm** in the Chapel to discuss **SMALL GREAT THINGS** by Jodi Picoult.

"...complete with unflinching insights, richly layered characters, and a page-turning plot with a gripping moral dilemma at its heart- an African American nurse and a white supremacist are at odds in a life and death situation."

New members are always welcome. Please speak to Sandra Loughton for more details or call the church office at 905.884.1301.

## 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.

October 16 - Why I Am Evangelical  
October 23 - Why I Am Post/Protestant  
October 30 - Why I Am Liberal/Conservative  
November 6 - Why I Am Charismatic/Contemplative  
November 13 - Why I Am Fundamentalist/Calvinist  
November 20 - Why I Am Green  
November 27 - Why I Am Depressed-Yet-Hopeful



## Special Occasions

Writing to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul urged them: “rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep”. 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. This column is an effort to rectify that situation. Don’t hesitate to add any special occasions you know about.

## HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

### Outreach Committee – “The Secret Path – a journey of reconciliation”

The Outreach Committee has bought a block of tickets for an evening of hope and reconciliation – a celebration of Indigenous culture and acknowledgement of the need for healing.  
**Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 6:00 p.m.:** The evening will include traditional ceremonies by local First nations elders, a screening of “The Secret Path”, “The Weight of your Heart”, a short documentary by local photographer, Joel Clements, and a panel discussion on residential school survivors. Tickets (\$25) will be available in Centennial Hall after church service for 3 Sundays, Sept, 24, Oct.1 & 8. Teen Seekers are also invited to attend – free tickets. This fall, the Outreach Committee will be working with the Teen Seekers to develop an Advent givings project to support an Indigenous group. This is our kick-off! Please contact Lyn may for information or visit a journal of musicalthings.com.

### Fall Art Show

#### Fall Art Show & Sale! NOV. 4, 1-5PM DONT MISS IT!

This year our Fall Art Show fundraiser for Stephen Lewis Foundation will feature a fashion show as well as a wonderful array of local artists. New this year is a potter and stained glass artist plus a young award-winning harpist. We will be providing a wonderful afternoon of art, live music and delicious refreshments. Ticket entry of \$5 can be purchased after church on Oct. 22 and Oct. 29 or at the door to support SLF. We hope you will come with friends to enjoy this special afternoon.

### Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service offer self-sufficiency and hope. Let us hear a story from the West Bank. Life is a constant struggle for Palestinian Muslims and Christians living in the West Bank. Separated from family living in Israel, Gaza, or further abroad, many also face land confiscation or are unable to reach their land to work it because of Israeli restrictions on travel. Those who want to build new agriculture-related structures rarely receive permits from the Israeli authority; if they build anyway, they are subject to demolitions. In the West Bank, the Near East Council of Churches has developed a food security program focused on families who have lost land and property due to the Israeli occupation and illegal settlements. Through this intervention, a family receives three main components. First is material for a shed for livestock. As part of the project, the family must contribute by building the shed, often with the help of the community. Second, they receive five fruit trees that are about four years old, and third, they receive 12 chickens, two pregnant sheep, and enough feed for 100 days. Training and support are also provided. These supplies give those struggling to feed their families the ability to become self-sufficient, providing milk, eggs, fruit, dairy products, and meat for their own needs while also having enough left over to trade or sell at markets. We sing thanksgiving for global partners who are bringing hope and vitality to Palestinian families in the region. 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!



## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

### Apple pies & crisps for sale! **Sold out!!**

Thank you for your support! All pies and crisps were sold out in 2 weeks!!

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### Seniors' Luncheon



The annual Seniors' Luncheon will be held on **Wed. Nov. 1st in Centennial Hall at 12 noon**. The Fellowship Committee is again preparing pots of delicious soup and a variety of sandwiches. Homemade pies will also be served. After lunch our entertainments is rather unique but certainly will be enjoyable. Come to enjoy the meal with friends and some delightful entertainment. The invitation is extended to "All" seniors in our congregation.

We know that most of you drive but if you would like to come and you need a ride just call the church office at 905 884-1301. *Donna McErlain, Donna Byres*

### Tai Chi

Tai chi will resume on Tuesday evenings in the Garden Room after Thanksgiving. The first session will be **Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup>** from 7:00 - 8:00. This low impact exercise, sometimes referred to as "moving meditation", offers such benefits as flexibility, balance and relaxation. New members are always welcome, but the start of the year is a great time to try out a new healthy habit

### Yoga and meditation

Yoga and meditation is a practice of postures and breathing designed to bring your body and mind to a place of relaxation and stillness for meditation. Join us for the next yoga and meditation class, **Tuesday, Nov. 7, 7 pm** in the Chapel.

To unsubscribe, please write to: [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), and pt "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.