

Sunday, October 20

10:30 a.m. Service

12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour

Monday, October 21

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel

7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel

7:00 p.m. Beavers

Tuesday, October 22

7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

Wednesday, October 23

12:00 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel

6:30 p.m. Meditation Group – Parlour

7:00 p.m. Book group - Chapel

Thursday, October 24

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

7:00 p.m. Scouts – gym

Friday, October 25

7:30 p.m. Pub Theology – King Henry's Arms

Saturday, October 26

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming – Lower Centennial Hall

worship and music

Minister's message: On Monday we go to the polls. And I have to say I am glad the campaign is nearly over. I don't recall an election in recent memory that has been as tight, or as vitriolic. On top of the scandals that have been part of this campaign, false stories are also circulating online, apparently even by political parties. At a recent rally in Mississauga, Justin Trudeau had to wear a bullet proof vest because of a security concern. That is not something I ever expected to happen in Canada. Further to this, we seem to have veered from elections based on party platforms to ones more focused on the personalities of the party leaders. This is to our detriment. The issues we face as a country and as a world need to be addressed. Which means looking further into the future than next year for creating policies to tackle them. We need good and wise leadership but talk to people on the street and many will say they feel they are making a choice based on who they think will do the least poor job. We have lost confidence in our leaders. So, what are we to do? One thing we cannot do is stay home on Monday. As poor as our political situation seems to have become, the only way we can shift the situation is to stay involved. So, read up on the platforms. Take a quiz to help you discern how your views line up with the different parties. Vote according to your heart. Or vote strategically. Whatever you do, be sure to vote. And in the meantime, let us pray for wisdom, collaboration and good leadership in the months and years ahead. p.s. I am looking for a large fuzzy dice to use this Sunday, Oct. 20 during Discovery Time. Please email me at james@rhuc.org if you have one.

Sunday, October 20: We welcome Heather Skoll, wellness practitioner and founder of ResetZone, a community based wellness app. With the emotionally charged parable of the widow and the unjust judge as a backdrop, Heather will speak about our emotions and offer some practical tips about how to reduce the intensity of emotions like fear, anxiety and anger.

Sunday, October 27: We reflect together on another parable, this time the story of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector. Both people go to the Temple to pray but one is puffed up while the other humbly acknowledges where he needs to change.

At 3 pm, join in the "Farewell to the Birds" Meditation Walk at Lake Wilcox. Participants are invited to meet at the benches nearest the turtle sculpture on the Promenade. Hosted by **Three Rivers Forest Church**.

November 3: In this All Saints service, we will reflect together on the story of Zacchaeus and Jesus. Which one is the hero? Perhaps they both are. In this All Ages service, you are invited to consider who your heroes are. Children will remain in the sanctuary while youth continue making connections with adult members of RHUC. We will also take time to remember loved ones who have died.

Pub Theology: On **Friday, October 25 at 7:30 PM**, we are launching a new RHUC "study group". Likened by one prospective participant as "Topsy HAIR", Pub Theology is an opportunity for people to come together to talk about life's big questions through the perspective of faith and spirituality and have a beer or two. In preparation for this event, James is asking prospective participants to contact him with possible questions and themes of conversation. Email: james@rhuc.org. Pub Theology will be at **King Henry's Arms** (Yonge and 16th).

MAP Minute: Amongst the various projects of our Mission Action Plan, two are focused on prayer. Under the category of "Creating Dynamic, Engaging and Meaningful Worship", we committed to provide opportunities for worship and prayer during the week, as well as to create space and opportunities for meditation. With this in mind, each Wednesday we host a meditation time. Participants gather in the chapel for 45 minutes of quiet and reflection with songs, readings, as well as twenty minutes of centring prayer. Meditation begins at 6:30 PM. Those who are new to this type of prayer practice are encouraged to come at 6:15 PM to learn about it before the "service" begins. Those who wish can also stay past 7:15 PM for refreshments and conversation.

Pianist needed: Our church provides a monthly service at our local hospital. We are looking for someone to play the hymns at these services. These are on the third Sunday of every month from 9:30-10:30 AM at Mackenzie Health. If you are able to play the piano for any or all of the monthly services, please call the office at 905-884-1301 x5.



programs for all

Men's Breakfast: On **Saturday, October 19th, 2019** coffee and tea will be served at 8:15 am, followed by breakfast 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 (harrypersad.ramsaran@gmail.com) or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, October 17. Thank you! We will feature a panel of political scientists speaking about the Canadian federal election just two days later. Our own retired political scientists, Wilhelm Bleek and David Leyton-Brown, will be joined by Heather McCrae of York University (who spoke to us last year about Brexit) and Bob Drummond, a retired political scientist from York University who unlike the others is actually a Canadian politics specialist. The panel will deal with the issues, personalities and developments of the campaign, and the likely and possible outcomes of the election. Come to this panel to watch the election returns with a more informed understanding. Looking ahead: Future dates: Nov. 9th and December 14th, 2019.

Shalom Seekers: This coming **Monday, Oct. 21**, Shalom Seekers will be meeting in the chapel from 9:30am to 11:30am. We will continue our study of the DVD series 'First Light' and will focus on Chapter 9 called 'Demonstrations in Jerusalem'. We will hear the current understanding of first century Jerusalem and the interpretation of Jesus' actions, according to our theology experts, Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. We will start the conversation with a brief look at modern 20th and 21st century demonstrations and protests. If you are interested in hearing more, please join us. Newcomers are always welcome! For more information please speak to Peg Hiscoke and Sandra Loughton.

H.A.I.R.: (Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels and Other Riffraff) is the Monday evening study group where we gather to explore questions, express doubts, and realize that we are not the only ones who have wondered these things. We meet Mondays from 7:00 to 8:30 in the chapel and all are welcome. Please join us any Monday to explore your faith and its applicability to our lives, to ask the questions you may not have felt comfortable raising, and to learn with and from a stimulating group of fellow questioners.

RHUC Book Club: Please join the RHUC Book Club on **Wednesday, October 23rd at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss Mark Sakamoto's powerful memoir "Forgiveness". This book won Canada Reads last year. NOTE: This meeting will take place on the 4th of five Wednesdays. New members are always welcome to try the group out. Please speak to Sandra Loughton, facilitator, or Deb Fratin, Office Administrator at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5 for more information.

eco justice

Targeting Climate Change: Climate Change is still an important issue for Canadians...but the noise of the last two weeks has added many, many new issues and positions for each of the parties. Are we heading for a Majority or a Coalition Government? We will be up late into the night on Monday, before the results become clear. See RHUC Website for more detail on these and other Climate Change information.

Net Zero: The Targeting Climate Change event on October 5th ran smoothly and was attended by over 30 community members. We have also received a letter (partially quoted below) from Liz Couture who ran three Climate info sessions at RHUC:

From Liz: First of all, I would like to send a big thank you to Glenn, Lorne, and Martin, who attended all three sessions and helped with questions and presentation! Carrie, thanks for coming to the third one, and Esther, thank you so much for coming by two of the evenings in order to open up everything. The donations that came in were \$147 and I gave it to the Richmond Hill United Church, through Rev. James Ravenscroft, who attended the third session.

Even though we only had about a dozen people each night (and that includes the Drawdown people), what I find is that it is important to think about what seeds are planted. The seeds that were planted this time were, in my opinion, as follows:

1) A woman attended the second session, and is from Mississauga, and wants us to guide her to start up something there. I said yes.

2) We had new people put their names down for the DRAWDOWN volunteer sign up sheet. We need to find tasks for these people, so I think we need a few more projects on the go....

3) Councillor David West came to the third session on policy, and he said thank you, he learned quite a bit. I've asked him to start thinking about having a Richmond Hill wide conference on climate change.

4) The participants were all pleased, saying they had learned a lot. My big question now, is "how do we get more people out" and keep doing more of the same?

outreach activities

Outreach Forum: It's that time of the year - we need to get together to discuss last spring's Lent collection, this year's Advent givings, a request for some help reimagining a new Treasures, action on climate change, a refugee sponsorship update and anything else you'd like to bring to the table. Meeting will be at 156 Church St., S. on **Oct. 22 at 7 p.m.** Lyn May

Minute for Mission: In his letter to the Ephesians, the apostle Paul writes about God empowering church leaders "to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:12). What are the ways that a minister has helped this community of faith to equip the saints for ministry, or to build up the Body of Christ in this place? Today, we offer gratitude for the many ways that our ministers help to build up the Body of Christ through their leadership and ministry. Thank you for the sermons. Thank you for the worship gatherings. Thank you for the educational opportunities for all ages. Thank you for the ways you equip people for discipleship. Thank you for the home and hospital visits. Thank you for your outreach and justice leadership. Thank you for the prayers and care. Thank you for your faithfulness and your call to be a minister in The United Church of Canada. Thanks to our gifts to Mission & Service, we support our ministers through theological education training and continuing education. Mission & Service also provides support to your community of faith through pastoral relations at the regional council and the denominational council. Thank you for your gifts to Mission & Service.

SWING TO THE BEAT at RHUC!!

A COOL JAZZ EVENING SATURDAY NOV 2 AT 7pm

Hands and Hearts for Africa is excited to announce our Fall Fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation and African AIDS families. COME AND JOIN US on Saturday NOV 2 for a wonderful evening of Jazz with Sandra Kirby.

We will be opening the doors at 6:30pm to allow time for you to check out the Baked Goods and Marketplace in Centennial Hall before our Jazz Show starts at 7pm in the Sanctuary. There will be a Jazz Quiz, random prizes, refreshments and more shopping at Intermission to add to the fun.

The Grandmothers in sub-Saharan Africa still need our steadfast support, especially as only half of the infected population has adequate access to healthcare and meds. The latest news from UNAIDS is a stark reminder ----6200 young African women from 15 to 24 are becoming infected with HIV/AIDS every week!

Tickets are available after the service at our Ticket Table in Centennial Hall today, Oct. 20 and Oct 27. Cost per ticket is \$25 for single adult, \$20 for seniors and students. Tickets will also be available at the church office, at the door on Nov 2 and soon available at richmondhill.snapd.com. We are pleased to say that this is an accessible event. For more information, please speak to the hostess at our ticket table.

church news

New name for newsletter: The contest deadline has been extended! You will have noticed a recent formatting change of our weekly newsletter which parallels the categories in the new Communication Hub in Centennial Hall. Along with the new format, we are looking for a **new name** which will be chosen through a **contest**. **Please submit your suggestion to office@rhuc.org by Oct. 31 and the winner will receive a \$25 Indigo gift card.**

Finance Committee: It is time to start figuring out the budget for 2020 so the Finance Committee has been gathering information from the various committees. If you know of expenses that should be added, please let DJ McCreedy (djmcc@rogers.com with subject Finance 2020) know by October 31.

Annual Reviews of All Staff: The Ministry and Personnel Committee is conducting an annual review of each member of the RHUC ministerial and non-ministerial staff. If any member of the RHUC community, or group/committee, wishes to provide input about any staff member they may provide it (in writing and signed) by November 10 to any member of the M&P Committee, or by email to the Chair, David Leyton-Brown at dlbrown@yorku.ca Ministry and Personnel Committee – David Leyton-Brown (chair), Sue Baker, Nancy Hart, Doug Loweth, Jane Ridout

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.

Congratulations to **Sue and Mark Baker** on the birth of their grandson, William Andrew Castonguay, to daughter Jenn and son-in-law James, on Sunday, October 13 in Sudbury.

Collection for the Food Bank continues at RHUC. Please put your non-perishable donations in either of the two boxes – one outside the church office and the other in the Narthex. Donna McErlain collects the food from the two bins and brings it to the Food bank. Thank you!

upcoming events

Project 99A Book drive: A charity that collects used books.

If you have any children and adult books that you would like to donate, please bring to Lower Centennial Hall the week of **Sunday, Oct. 27 – Saturday, Nov. 2**. These books will be used locally and internationally. <https://www.project99a.ca/mission-and-vision>

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