

This week at RHUC

Sunday, October 21

10:30 a.m. Service
12:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn with Susan Dobson from the Krasman Centre – Garden room (bring a bagged lunch)

Monday, October 22

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel
11:30 a.m. Krasman Lunch – lower gym
7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel
7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

Tuesday, October 23

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym
7:00 p.m. Outreach Forum – 156 Church St. S.

Wednesday, October 24

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym
7:00 p.m. RHUC Book Club – Chapel
7:00 p.m. Property/Finance meeting – Garden room

Thursday, October 25

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

Saturday, October 27

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming –Garden Room

James will be on study leave completing the Ministry of Supervision Course from Mon., Oct. 22 – Fri., Oct. 23 at Emmanuel College.

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Property Committee

Please note that a portion of the pews on the north side at the balcony will not be accessible as scaffold will be in place on the main Sanctuary floor to reach the balcony.

Minister's message

I have a colleague who has a blog called "The Day After". In it he posts thoughts that came to him the day after he preached his sermon. It is an interesting concept and one that I want to turn to today. In my sermon on Sunday my focus on the traits that tend to define how women relate to each other in single gender gatherings meant I made some broad generalizations about women and of course by extraction men. In response someone sent me an email, part of which read: "it struck me that characterizing males and females as being so different may be too much a generalization. I know men...who cry and are sensitive to others, encouraging, etc." The writer of the email is right of course. I too know plenty of men who are sensitive. Show me an ad with babies and puppies and I'm welling up by the end. Individuals aside, we live in a North American context in which a type of competitive, "real men don't cry" masculinity is encouraged. We see it in boys being given trucks and toy guns to play with. A podcaster I listen to recounted how his sexuality was questioned because he doesn't play sports. Further, Piers Morgan recently went on a rant about how men shouldn't carry their babies in a sling because it is emasculating. Carol Gilligan in her study about self-silencing by women and girls noted that the self-silencing of emotions by men and boys has been psychologically damaging to many. In the end there aren't women's emotions and men's emotions but just human emotions. If everyone's emotional lives were nurtured we'd all be healthier and happier for it.

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: Reflecting on Esther 7:1-6, James will explore the risk Esther placed herself in when she stood in solidarity with the suffering of her people. The call of empathy means we can't turn a blind eye to the suffering of others. In addition, we will take time to celebrate Dan Plourde's 10th anniversary as our custodian.

Sunday, Oct. 28: Rev. Jane Sullivan will be leading worship for us as James spends time with our youth in Teen Seekers. Rev. Jane will focus on Job 42:1-6, 10-17.

Land Acknowledgments and Affirming Inclusive Welcome: If you are interested in assisting in this, you can sign up in Centennial Hall or speak with James or Tracy Wixon. James can give guidance in wording.

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: TREK 4: ARMED GUARDS IN CONGO AND MAKING TRACKS TO TANZANIA

We have reached the shore of Lake Kivu in Rwanda and take a ferry across this very deep and vast lake with its panoramic mountain views. We are entering a dangerous country, the Congo, still riddled with pockets of armed violence. We choose to arrive in Bukavu on the southwest edge of the lake, probably the safest place to enter. And here we meet our armed guards who will keep us safe. Bukavu is especially proud of its modern cathedral, fittingly called Our Lady of Peace. The surrounding countryside is lush with greenery and flowering plants. From other hikers, we hear stories of magical walks through World Heritage Kahuzi-Beiga National Park, only 31 kms away and known as one of the last refuges for Eastern Lowland Gorillas. We take a well-deserved rest inside the cool walls of Our Lady of Peace and pray for this beautiful but troubled country.

Urged on by our guards, we make tracks for the border, seeking the relative safety of the vast wilderness of Tanzania. We marvel at the teeming wildlife on the plains of the Serengeti National Park, Riding in the back of a safari jeep, we catch glimpses of elephants, giraffes, rhinos, buffalo and one lazy leopard snoozing in a tree. If we look to the northeast, we can see the great shadow of Kilimanjaro looming high above, the highest mountain in Africa. Our journey may slow to take in the view but we cannot stop as we head towards the Indian Ocean, 1250 kms to the east..

Celebrating Women and Resilience!

During Women's History Month it is especially fitting that our Grandmother Group is honouring our sister Grandmothers in Africa with this Virtual Walk Around Africa. Every day our African counterparts walk many miles to find food or water or to care for crops and to seek basic healthcare. What we celebrate are the milestones of recovery seen over the past eleven years.--milestones of renewed confidence, resilience, courage and empowerment to speak truth to power. The grandmothers of Africa are on the move as village counsellors, advisors, activists for justice. Each story of good news adds bounce to our steps as we travel the dusty roads and high hills of Africa. We thank you for your sponsorship and support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation. The next sponsorship table will be on Nov 4th after the service. Look for the pin on our map of Africa in Centennial Hall. That shows where we were last Sunday on our journey.

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 St. S. 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 global partner the Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) works on gender justice, microcredit, sustainable agriculture, and programs to address the extreme hunger caused by drought. Listen to this reflection from a participant in the Mission & Service Global Pilgrimage to Kenya on the visit to an area hardest hit by extreme hunger: "We left the office of William Lokira, Minister of Agriculture, and made our way up a winding mountain road. The minister's words were still fresh on our minds: 'Please help my people.' We saw dry lands, sparse and skinny livestock, and we saw the hardship in people's eyes. After driving through dry riverbeds, we saw a lot of people running toward a large truck. This was a government water truck delivering water each day. "OAIC is working in this arid region to support agriculture and food security, including empowering female small holder farmers to advocate on their behalf to impact legislation. Indicators show that when women are at the centre of projects and decisions there is significant progress toward food security. Dry riverbeds, the plea to 'help my people,' the daily water truck, the hope shared by the farmers—these images stay with us. Our gifts for Mission & Service make this hope of a better tomorrow possible."

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

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

Looking to give your week a jump-start? Please join us to discuss some of life's biggest questions to do with faith, theology, and many other interesting topics. On Monday, October 22nd from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel, we'll be looking at **Chapter 15** of Marcus Borg's book *Days of Awe and Wonder: How to Be a Christian in the 21st Century*. This chapter is entitled "Encountering the Wisdom of Other Faiths" and it is quite a long chapter at 24 pages! Please be assured that you may still take part in the discussion if you haven't read the chapter ahead of time. For more details about the group, please speak to one of the two facilitators: 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 Chapel to discuss the novel **The Lightkeeper's Daughters** by Jean Pendziwol. The last meeting for 2018 will take place on Wednesday, November 28th at 7 p.m. Please check RHUC On-Line next week to see which book we will be discussing next month.

For more information, please call the Church Office at 905.884.1301 Ext. 5 or speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator. Hope to see you at the meetings! (Please note: The October meeting falls on the fourth Wednesday of the month to avoid Hallowe'en so please mark your calendars.)

BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

Cash Cards

The next cash card order will go in **Wed., Oct. 24**. Support our on-going fundraiser by purchasing gift cards that give back to RHUC 1 – 10% of the value of the card. Great for gifts as well as your weekly gas and grocery purchases.

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

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.

A long-time member of RHUC, Elizabeth (Pyburn) Duncan, has moved to Orillia to live closer to her daughter. During her many years with us, Liz was an active member of the UCW, helping wherever needed, looked after sending greeting cards to members, an Executive position as Recording Secretary and we remember her display of used jewelry for sale at the yearly bazaar. And before the advent of computers in the Church Office, Liz looked after the Historic Roll, a required position in each congregation. She would come in to assist in the office each week, with her main job being to make the entries in the Historic Roll, recording those who joined and when removed, with the notation by moving or death; from this register, yearly statistics are sent to the United Church of Canada Head Office. This Historic Roll is one of four official record books a United Church keeps, the others being Baptisms, Weddings and Burials officiated at by our clergy. We send our very best wishes to Liz Duncan and our sincere thanks for her presence and contributions to our church.

Live theatre – "Soldier's Heart"

If you want a good way to commemorate the **100th anniversary of the end of WWI**, you can go see "Soldier's Heart" in Port Perry this Thursday, Oct. 18, Friday, Oct. 19 or Saturday, Oct. 20.

https://insidelookingin60.wixsite.com/mysite/blog-1/review-of-soldier-s-heart-by-david-french-at-town-hall-1873-port-perry?fbclid=IwAR2Kr_Ulwq5IFF5_HszGlag-t_w2631Yb0D8II-vA60X3yeYaldZQM3HWUw%2F

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.

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!!

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