



## This week at a glance

**Sunday, October 22 – Canadian Music Sunday:  
Spanish-Latino Heritage Month**  
10:30 a.m.

**Monday, October 23**  
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 24**  
5:30 p.m. Circle team – Lower Garden room  
7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym  
7:00 p.m. Tai Chi – Garden room  
7:00 p.m. Property Committee - Chapel

**Wednesday, October 25**  
7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym  
7:00 p.m. RHUC Book Club – Chapel

**Thursday, October 26**  
6:15 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

**Friday, October 27**  
9:15 a.m. Yoga Energetics – Upper gym

**Saturday, October 28**  
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 22:** We will reflect together on Exodus 20:1-20, the giving of the Ten Commandments to the community. We often think of this as a list of don'ts but it is really a framework for our shared relationships in community.

**Sunday, October 29** – We look forward to celebrating 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". Scripture readings: Psalm 46 and John 8:31-36.

**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

Let me begin by saying "Job well done!" Last Sunday, 64 people didn't give into the temptation to sleep in and participated in our worship and conversations at the legion. It was a great experience. Lots of good sharing, positive energy as we continued to discern where we are being called as a congregation. A Big thank you to our table facilitators, recorders, group reporters and everyone who contributed to the snacks and the lunch. Thanks especially to our kitchen crew, Lynne Townsend, Jenn Townsend and Donna Byres, to Susan Greene and Joan Verner who facilitated child care, and to our organizing team, Terry Davies, Nancy Hart, Joanne Scofield and Jane Wedlock. As I said, "Job well done!"

Study leave: I will be attending a preaching conference in Toronto from the evening of Sunday, Oct. 22 to the afternoon of Tuesday, Oct. 24.



## 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.snagd.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.

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

## Shalom Seekers

Please join us on **Monday, October 23rd** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel as we begin a new study. We will be viewing the first segment of the DVD "This Changed Everything" about Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation. We are now celebrating the 500th year since the Reformation so the timing is right. For more information, please call the office at 905.884.1301 or speak to one of the group's facilitators: Peg Hiscoke, Dawn Moon or Sandra Loughton. New members are always welcome. It's a great way to start your week!



## 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!

## 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 – Exodus 20:1-20.

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.

## 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.

## Christmas Tea – Saturday, Dec. 2



**Save the date!!** The United Church Women (UCW) will be hosting a **Christmas Tea on Saturday, December 2, 2017 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.**

Tea: \$10 (sandwiches, scones, squares, cookies, tea & coffee)  
Bake table, jams, preserves, knitting and jewellery!

## 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 23 - Why I Am post/protestant AND Why I am liberal/conservative

October 30 - Why I Am mystical/poetic AND Why I am biblical

November 6 - Why I Am charismatic/contemplative AND Why I am fundamentalist/calvinist

November 13 - Why I Am anabaptist/anglican AND Why I am methodist

November 20 - Why I Am catholic AND Why I am green

November 27 - Why I Am incarnational AND Why I am depressed-yet-hopeful

December 4 - Why I am emergent AND Why I am an unfinished Christian



## 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 at the **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 for information or visit a journal of musicalthings.com.

### Fall Art Show

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

Interested in art? Then please join us on **Saturday Nov 4 from 1-5 pm.** This is your opportunity to see what is happening on the art scene and to meet local artists. Or maybe you are looking for a perfect gift for someone special for Christmas?

Come join us on the main floor of RHUC. New this year is a fashion show modelled by grannies and friends of Hands and Hearts for Africa. Our artists this year include several new faces including a potter and stained glass crafts person. Along with the lively music of the RHUC djembes and the Moore family guitar and keyboard, we will be featuring a talented young harpist called Sebastian.

Why not treat yourself and your friends to a fun afternoon of art, food fashion and music? \$5 entry tickets support the programmes of the Stephen Lewis Foundation for African AIDS families and can be purchased after the service on Oct 22 or 29 or at the door. We welcome your support!

### Protect the Lake Simcoe Watershed

Join in solidarity with the Chippewas of Georgina Island. Our friends from Georgina Island are asking for our support to protect Lake Simcoe. A petition is available on the bulletin board in the hallway to Centennial Hall.

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

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the journey toward reconciliation. Let us hear a story of one of our Mission & Service partners in Oshweken, Ontario. In the Six Nations First Nations community in southern Ontario sits a simple white building. For over five years Nations Uniting has offered a place of community and provided educational workshops to the surrounding communities on and off the reserve at various locations up and down the Grand River. Healing Circles and Grandmothers’ Teas are times of quiet sharing, with each person in the circle getting a chance to talk or ask questions and, most importantly, to respectfully listen to one another’s stories of life. As people listen, they learn from one another. Nations Uniting also uses the Blanket Exercise developed by KAIROS Canada to bring to life teachings and reflections of forgotten Canadian history. The number of Sharing Circles is increasing as other churches hear about what Nations Uniting is doing and yearn to know more about their First Nations neighbours. We sing thanksgiving for the programs of healing and reconciliation offered through the Mission & Service–supported ministry of Nations Uniting. 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!



## Out of the Cold

The Out of the Cold program is opening soon and we are looking for Registered Nurses (RN's), Nurse Practitioners (NP's) and Medical Doctors to volunteer at our shelters! The Out of the Cold program is a dynamic place to volunteer! If you want to help those in need, get to know amazing people, have fun and use your medical skills, this is the opportunity! We are currently looking for medical professionals to volunteer at various locations on:

Monday evenings (Richmond Hill) – January to March  
Tuesday evenings (Vaughan) – November to January  
Wednesday evenings (Markham) – January to March  
Thursday evenings (Thornhill) – November to January  
Thursday evenings (Vaughan) – February to March

The shift is from 5-8pm. You can volunteer for 1 night a week or for more than 1 night a week. We require our nurses to be registered with the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario (RNAO) or other regulatory body in Ontario.

Our medical professionals provide basic care including general check-ups, woundcare, dispensing over the counter medication, foot care and referrals. Please call us at 416 948 6682, send us an email at [rsumar@rogers.com](mailto:rsumar@rogers.com) or message us if you would like to volunteer or need more information! Visit [www.miotc.ca](http://www.miotc.ca)

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY



## Pancake Breakfast

**Pancake Breakfast - Save the Date!** The annual Generous Spirit stewardship campaign kick-off pancake breakfast (with yummy bacon) is **Sunday November 12th**. More info to follow.

## Cash Cards earn RHUC support

We need your help...For Free!! This fundraising program has been in progress since 2013 and so far over \$4000 has been raised!

Do you remember those terrible wooden chairs that needed Tennis Balls on their feet to protect their feet and where slivers ripped at your clothes. And then suddenly there were these lovely soft, light, easily stackable chairs and we all went "Aah!" Well they cost RHUC nothing because they were funded from 3%, 4% 5% or more that we earned by people buying Cash Cards. Oh, yes there is a little bit of work...the need to organize which cards you use and put in your order. I have been using this method of "budget control" over the years and love the fact that I know how much I spend on Groceries, Gas, Tim's etc. Yes, really. At no cost to you...just buy Cash Cards through Deb Fratin in the office...next order is **October 29th**. You can start this ordering right away! Here is the link for the more info and an order form... <http://www.rhuc.org/donate.html> Just in time for Christmas! Janet Centa will give you the cards on the next Sunday. *Happy Budgeting, Terry Davies*

## 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 your 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.

## MOSAIC Interfaith

**Annual Peace Meal this Sunday October 22 from 2-5 pm** – In the MARC library at the Jaffari Islamic Centre, 9600 Bathurst Street. We are excited to announce that Paul McKenna will be joining us and giving an opening address on how the famous Golden Rule Poster was created. Following this there will be an interactive presentation by Kathy Murtha, Director of Scarboro Missions Retreat Center. Please see the flyer for more details. We thank the Mulla Asghar Memorial Library and Islamic Resource Centre for hosting us. Please bring a nut-free vegan dish to share. Absolutely no alcohol. Modest attire is requested with shoulders and knees covered. Some areas of the Jaffari Community Centre may require guests to take off their shoes and for women to cover their hair. There is ample parking and the building is wheelchair accessible.

**Don't forget** that Mosaic is invited to a **Friday night Shabbat service at Temple Har Zion on Friday, October 27 at 8 pm.** This is a special service in honour of Daniel Pearl World Music Days. All are welcome. There will be light refreshments served following the service so an RSVP to Fran at [thisisfran@yahoo.com](mailto:thisisfran@yahoo.com) would be helpful. Temple Har Zion is located at 7360 Bayview Avenue, Thornhill.

On **Sunday, November 5th from 2 - 4:30 pm at Temple Har Zion**, we will present our seventh annual **From Abraham 3 Faiths** presentation and discussion. This year's title: **"In the current struggle for the soul of humanity, is religion an asset or an obstacle?"** Our panelists, The Rev. Canon, John Hill, Rabbi Michael Stroh and Dr. Liyakat Takim will be discussing the worldwide turn to right wing extremism in religion, nationalism & politics.

Please feel free to contact us to RSVP for the programs or for more information. We look forward to seeing you at these presentations. Fran Isaacs and Shabnees Siwjee, co-chairs MOSAIC INTERFAITH

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## Honouring the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The United Church is committed to Living in Right Relations with Indigenous Peoples. The Canadian Government is committed to the same goal, (as evidenced by Justin Trudeau's speech to the General Assembly). The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has been adopted. In the course of the next 9 months we at Richmond Hill will embark on a programme of education of the issues, resolutions and potential Actions. We will focus on education in the early stages. There is a great deal to learn and some of you are already familiar with many of the issues. The Living in Right Relations committee working with the Outreach committee will be leading the agenda. Each month we will talk to a main theme and in subsequent weeks highlight some aspects. This material will be in RHUC- On-Line and also spoken during the service on Sunday. Having said that, the committees are leading the agenda...this is not really the case...the agenda is being set every day as new events are in the news. This is a moment when the people of Canada are ready to take action...in fact are demanding a greater sense of urgency.

So...we are starting with the "United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples." "The General Assembly, taking note of the recommendation of the Human Rights Council, Adopts the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as contained in the annex to the present resolution."

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**This week we want to address one Action Item**

**Article 1 (basic rights).**

Indigenous peoples have the right to the full enjoyment, as a collective or as individuals, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as recognized in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights law.

**This is a long item for the Newsletter and you may wish to set the following piece aside for later reading, but it is so beautiful we could not leave it out!**

The following is the **Annex to the Resolution**. We are including this information in the newsletter as the first item in this series. It will be filed on the Web-site for your future reference. There follows 46 specific Action Articles which we will be reviewing over the next 9 months.

**The General Assembly,**

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and good faith in the fulfillment of the obligations assumed by States in accordance with the Charter,

Affirming that indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples, while recognizing the right of all peoples to be different, to consider themselves different, and to be respected as such,

Affirming also that all peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures, which constitute the common heritage of humankind,

Affirming further that all doctrines, policies and practices based on or advocating superiority of peoples or individuals on the basis of national origin or racial, religious, ethnic or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable and socially unjust, Reaffirming that indigenous peoples, in the exercise of their rights, should be free from discrimination of any kind,

Concerned that indigenous peoples have suffered from historic injustices as a result of their colonization and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, thus preventing them from exercising, in particular, their right to development in accordance with their own needs and interests,

Recognizing the urgent need to respect and promote the inherent rights of indigenous peoples which derive from their political, economic and social structures and from their cultures, spiritual traditions, histories and philosophies, especially their rights to their lands, territories and resources,

Recognizing also the urgent need to respect and promote the rights of indigenous peoples affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements with States,

Welcoming the fact that indigenous peoples are organizing themselves for political, economic, social and cultural enhancement and in order to bring to an end all forms of discrimination and oppression wherever they occur,

Convinced that control by indigenous peoples over developments affecting them and their lands, territories and resources will enable them to maintain and strengthen their institutions, cultures and traditions, and to promote their development in accordance with their aspirations and needs,

Recognizing that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment,

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Emphasizing the contribution of the demilitarization of the lands and territories of indigenous peoples to peace, economic and social progress and development, understanding and friendly relations among nations and peoples of the world,

Recognizing in particular the right of indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child,

Considering that the rights affirmed in treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous peoples are, in some situations, matters of international concern, interest, responsibility and character,

Considering also that treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements, and the relationship they represent, are the basis for a strengthened partnership between indigenous peoples and States,

Acknowledging that the Charter of the United Nations, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, affirm the fundamental importance of the right to self-determination of all peoples, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

Bearing in mind that nothing in this Declaration may be used to deny any peoples their right to self-determination, exercised in conformity with international law,

Convinced that the recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples in this Declaration will enhance harmonious and cooperative relations between the State and indigenous peoples, based on principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and good faith,

Encouraging States to comply with and effectively implement all their obligations as they apply to indigenous peoples under international instruments, in particular those related to human rights, in consultation and cooperation with the peoples concerned,

Emphasizing that the United Nations has an important and continuing role to play in promoting and protecting the rights of indigenous peoples,

Believing that this Declaration is a further important step forward for the recognition, promotion and protection of the rights and freedoms of indigenous peoples and in the development of relevant activities of the United Nations system in this field,

Recognizing and reaffirming that indigenous individuals are entitled without discrimination to all human rights recognized in international law, and that indigenous peoples possess collective rights which are indispensable for their existence, well-being and integral development as peoples,

Recognizing that the situation of indigenous peoples varies from region to region and from country to country and that the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical and cultural backgrounds should be taken into consideration,

Solemnly proclaims the following United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a standard of achievement to be pursued in a spirit of partnership and mutual respect:

**Thank you for giving this article your attention. We are all part of dealing with this great challenge in Canada.**