

This week at RHUC

Sunday, October 28

10:30 a.m. Service
4:00 p.m. Forest Church – Wilcox Lake
12:00 p.m. Faith Exploration Classes
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Common Room

Monday, October 29

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

Tuesday, October 30

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, October 31 – Happy Hallowe'en

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

Thursday, November 1

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

Saturday, November 3

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Fall Art Show – main floor

Sunday, November 4

9:15 a.m. Generous Spirit Pancake Breakfast
10:30 a.m. Service

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

Powerlessness: What do you do when you can do nothing at all? That was my quandary when we broke for lunch from the course I am taking and received a voicemail followed by two emails telling me a member of the congregation had collapsed and was taken to the hospital. All I could do was sit waiting for a phone call with an update. I wanted desperately to be able to do something but could not. I could not make what happened somehow happen. I couldn't even rush to the hospital. I felt and still feel completely powerless. That is what happens so much in our lives and though I know it to be true I don't like feeling that way. So the question remains: what can I do when I can do nothing at all? I can only sit in the moment and hold everyone in love. I believe prayer is what enables us to lean into life's unfolding with trust and grace. And so I prayed. And continue to pray, aware that each day brings much over which I am powerless.

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

Sunday, October 28: Rev. Jane Sullivan joins us in a reflection on the end of the book of Job as we begin our Generous Spirit campaign. It is also nearly All Saint's Day so we will begin the service honouring loved ones who have died. Bring a photo to place on the communion table if you wish.

Next Sunday, Nov. 4: We mark a Peace Sabbath on this Sunday before Remembrance Day. We will ponder the call to be peacemakers in a series of readings, hymns and anthems.

Forest Church: At 4:00 pm on Sunday October 28, we will host another Forest Church gathering, this time at Wilcox Lake. Honouring the seasonal transition of this time of year, we will come together for prayerful good byes to the birds, leaves, warmer days, and ready ourselves to welcome the long night of winter. We will meet at the top of the trail adjacent to the splash pad parking lot and then proceed to the lake. Be sure to invite others who enjoy outdoor experiences as a way of connecting with God. Three Rivers Forest Church events are regularly held on the fourth Sunday of the month

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.

Living In Right Relations Committee

This is from the youth of the Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation (Grassy Narrows) community: "The Asubpeeschoseewagong First Nation, also known as Grassy Narrows, is an Indigenous nation in northwestern Ontario, an hour north of Kenora, Ont. It's an Anishinabek community with a rich history of multicultural hunters, trappers, fishers and harvesters of the land. But in recent history, it's been launched into the national spotlight as the [First Nation poisoned by mercury](#)." 'The youth of this community would like everyone to know, they are more than the mercury... '

This is the video for the song *Home to Me* mentioned in the article...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgaYz8YWwO8>

Minute for Mission Called to be the Church

Our gifts for Mission & Service support events like the National Aboriginal Spiritual Gathering, where Indigenous communities can come together in solidarity and faith. For several decades, Indigenous communities of faith have gathered nationally to discuss matters of self-determination, spirituality, and their relationship with The United Church of Canada. These gatherings are a forum for listening to one another and discerning Creator's plan for mission and ministry. The 2017 Gathering took place July 27–30 on the Treaty One Territory (Pinawa, Manitoba). A Sacred Fire burned throughout the Gathering, with four Fire Keepers guarding it at all hours of the day. Participants came from across Canada—including youth, Elders, and ecumenical guests—as well as from the Moderator's Dialogue on Reconciliation. The Very Rev. Dr. Stan McKay offered a Bible study, where participants reflected on biblical passages alongside the seven Sacred Teachings of Love, Respect, Courage, Honesty, Wisdom, Humility, and Truth. Dr. Shauneen Pete, an educator from Saskatchewan, spoke of her experiences working in academic institutions on issues of workplace equity, institutional racism, and cultural competency. Connections were made between these issues and the work of reconciliation. Dr. Pete praised events like the National Aboriginal Spiritual Gathering that dig deeper into the issues and empower participants.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Women's Spirituality

We will gather for Women's Spirituality **this Saturday October 27th** at 9:45 in the Garden Room. Program by Donna Smith titled: "Receiving & Leaving Your Legacy".

Faith Exploration Classes

Faith Exploration Classes (**Sundays at Noon**): 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 James' office at noon each Sunday (except on special holidays like Thanksgiving) and explore faith with others. Everyone welcome.

Bible Study

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 29th** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel, we'll be looking at **Chapter 16** of Marcus Borg's book *Days of Awe and Wonder: How to Be a Christian in the 21st Century* and the Afterword by Barbara Brown Taylor. Please be assured that you may still take part in the discussion if you haven't read the chapter ahead of time. We promise a safe, welcoming space to explore faith questions. For more information, speak to Sandra Loughton or Peg Hiscoke.

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 showed our gratitude to **Dan Plourde** with the Ministry of Cake after worship on Sunday October 21st. Dan has been our Custodian for the past 10 years and we are so fortunate and blessed to have "our Dan" on staff. Dan not only keeps the church clean but he saves us lots of money as he does most of the electrical, plumbing and carpentry work! Always pleasant with people be they members, visitors, renters or contractors, Dan is a caring and willing part of our church family; he responded to our words of recognition with "I love my job". Dan, you are a rare and precious gem! There was one glitch where an explanation was required: a mistake was made in the wording on one of the cakes saying "100 years" and there was great laughter when Dan was told of this mistake during the recognition, with his response being that sometimes it feels like 100 and not 10!!



Congratulations to **Esther Collier**, 2018 Urban Hero winner, Environment category!

RHUC Book Club

Please join us on **Wednesday, November 28 at 7 p.m.** in the RHUC Chapel to discuss **THE ART OF HEARING HEARTBEATS** by Jan-Philipp Sendker, a German writer. All are welcome! No previous book club experience is required - just a love of reading and talking about books with others. Here is a short synopsis of the novel to whet your appetite:

'A poignant and inspirational love story set in Burma, *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* spans the decades between the 1950s and the present. When a successful New York lawyer suddenly disappears without a trace, neither his wife nor his daughter Julia has any idea where he might be...until they find a love letter he wrote many years ago, to a Burmese woman they have never heard of. Intent on solving the mystery and coming to terms with her father's past, Julia decides to travel to the village where the woman lived. There she uncovers a tale of unimaginable hardship, resilience, and passion that will reaffirm the reader's belief in the power of love to move mountains.'

For more information, please speak to the group's facilitator, Sandra Loughton, or speak to Deb Fratin in the church office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5.

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 !

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CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY



The annual Seniors' Luncheon will be held on **Wednesday, Nov. 7th in Centennial Hall at 12 noon**. Come to enjoy the meal with friends and some delightful entertainment. This invitation is extended to "All" seniors in our congregation. If you need a ride call the church office at 905 884 1301.

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

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.