

Sunday, October 6

9:00 a.m. Finance Committee - Chapel
 10:30 a.m. Service – Community Welcome Sunday
 12:15 p.m. Hands & Hearts for Africa – Chapel

Monday, October 7

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel
 7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. - Chapel
 7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym
 Office closed – Deb at Professional Church Secretary's Conference

Tuesday, October 8

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym
 Office closed - Deb at Professional Church Secretary's Conference

Wednesday, October 9

9:30 a.m. UCW meeting – Chapel
 12:00 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel
 6:30 p.m. Meditation – Chapel
 7:30 p.m. Board meeting – Parlour

Thursday, October 10

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour
 7:00 p.m. Scouts - gym

Saturday, October 12

9:45 a.m. Women's Spirituality - Parlour

worship and music

Minister's message: The big day is nearly here. On Sunday we open our doors wide open in broad hospitality for our Community Welcome Sunday. We have done all we could in terms of extending invitations. We have warmly told everyone we think may be interested, and now we are ready to go. So now what? As people join us for worship, some will have been invited by someone they know. Whoever has invited them has taken on the responsibility of helping their friends and colleagues feel welcome. That doesn't let the rest of us off the hook. In the same way we are warm and inviting to our children's friends and not just our own, we are all responsible in creating a welcoming space. But in addition to friends, classmates, colleagues and neighbours, there also may be people who have responded to our mailbox invitations. We need to remember that they will likely be nervous. They are coming solo. Feeling tentative, we need to be balanced between being warm and over the top. Think about how you feel when you go somewhere for the first time. Consider what your needs may be - and then respond to them. People will be wondering where the washrooms are, what are we offering for their children, how do they get around, especially if they have accessibility needs, how on earth do they use a hymnbook. Set them at ease without overdoing it. When we gather in Centennial Hall keep an eye out for people who are not chatting with others. Consider what your needs would be in that situation - and then respond. On Sunday we are doing what we do best - offering a warm and welcoming experience into the spiritual home we know as RHUC. So let's open the doors!

Sunday, October 6: Community Welcome Sunday:

We are planning a special Sunday celebration. We all know what a wonderful congregation RHUC but we tend to keep our light under a bushel. It's a shame that we don't tell more people about this church because studies show time and again that the most effective way to grow as a congregation is for those who attend to invite others to join

them. So let's do just that! Postcard invitations as well as posters are being drawn up. We plan to have an engaging worship service with opportunities afterward for people to mix and mingle, especially with people who are part of the various ministries and programs that make RHUC such a special place. We are seeking people who can be "ambassadors" of our activities, on hand to answer some questions, jot down some contact information, etc. We also plan to have finger food and other refreshments as we take time to get to know one another. This Community Welcome Sunday is a great opportunity for us to invite our friends, neighbours, co-workers, workout buddies to RHUC. Let's put our light on a lampstand and share with others what a great church this is.

Healing service: Service has been cancelled for Sunday, Oct. 6. Next service will be on Sunday, Nov. 3 at 12.

Sunday, October 12: Celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday with World Communion Sunday.

Meditation: Come to the Chapel from 6:30-7:15 p.m. on Wednesdays for a time of quiet and contemplation with readings, music, silent reflection and a theme-based ritual.

Hospital services: 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

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.

Shalom Seekers: Please join us on **Monday, October 7** from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. for some lively discussion and fellowship. This week we will be looking at another video segment in the DVD *First Light* featuring John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. The topic for this week is listed as follows on the DVD: "Substitutionary Atonement?" If this piques your curiosity or if you have strong views on this subject one way or the other, please join us! Please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton, group facilitators, for more details.

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. In the Fall we will watch and discuss a number of TED talks, which will provide the basis for discussion, and which require no background or continuity. Later in the year we will shift to reading and discussing a book, or watching and discussing a video series. 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.

eco justice

Targeting Climate Change: Block Quebecois takes strong position in TVA French Debate on 2nd October. Targeting Climate Change seminar at RHUC on Saturday 5th October from 1.0 p.m. to 3.0 p.m. Federal Leaders Televised debate on 7th October from 7.0 p.m. to 9.0 p.m. See RHUC Web-site for more detail on these and other Climate Change information.

Targeting Climate Change #4 – mobilizing Richmond Hill for action! Hope you can attend this event or help promote it:
Saturday, October 5th, 2019, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
 Richmond Hill United Church, 10201 Yonge Street
 Contact information: Email: targetclimatechange@gmail.com
 Facebook Group: Targeting Climate Change - Richmond Hill (<https://www.facebook.com/events/2118654528427079/?ti=icl>), Register for the event at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/targeting-climate-change-oct-5-2019-tickets-65203588689>

Please take time to attend an informational event on the climate crisis: The courses that **DRAWDOWN Richmond Hill** are offering to the community are as follows:

Climate 101: An introduction to the basics of global warming, with terms explained, and using quality visuals and references, modelled after the presentations by Al Gore trained "Climate Reality" Leaders/Speakers. Participants will have an opportunity for questions as well as networking connections to further information and other climate action groups in the area. 2 hours total.

Climate 201: A more in-depth look at specific solutions to global warming, based on the best-selling book *DRAWDOWN The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, by Paul Hawken et al. Participants will be introduced to the book, and further opportunities for community projects will be offered. 2 hours total.

Climate 301: An introduction to the basics of climate change related policy, based on the work of Hal Harvey, author of "Designing Climate Solutions - A Policy Guide for Low-Carbon Energy". Participants will consider a summary of what to consider when choosing and supporting various options. Discussion will include the pros and cons of subsidizing low-carbon technologies, of regulation for efficiency standards, and of carbon tax and various other carbon pricing mechanisms. 2 hours total.

3. We are also looking for leaders to gather useful information for the community about retrofitting your home or buying electric vehicles. If you would be willing for us to give out your name and contact information as a leader in either of these areas, we will share them with the community.

outreach activities

Minute for Mission: The vision statement of United Church Women (UCW) includes a call to continuous prayer and learning, leading to action—and United Church Women across the church have faithfully answered that call for over 55 years! "As women of faith.... we believe in affirming and strengthening ourselves, both individually and together through creative study, prayer, and action," says the UCW's vision statement. During the UCW's 55th anniversary event in 2017, support for a project at the Morogoro Women's Training Centre in Tanzania was celebrated. The women have supported the training of hundreds of traditional birth attendants, who have saved half a million women and children from dying in childbirth. Our gifts for Mission & Service support the UCW as it learns about our changing world. Imagine the strength of women who have learned about and taken action on gender justice and inclusion, truth and reconciliation, intercultural ministries, students and theological education, climate justice, the work of global partners, inter-faith initiatives, refugee support, and so much more! The United Church's Song of Faith states, "We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world." We are thankful that the UCW has been an example of what it means to truly love our neighbours!

Hands & Hearts for Africa: Please mark your calendar for our fall meeting on **Sunday October 6th**. If you are curious about the Stephen Lewis Foundation, this is your opportunity to learn more. Our meeting will be in the Chapel starting at 12:15pm. Newcomers will be very welcome. For more information, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Donna Harrison.

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*

church news

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.

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

Election Day: Are you available to work on Election Day or the advance polling days? Don't miss your chance - apply now! Visit www.election.ca/jobs to fill out the form or to obtain the official information you need to work during a federal election. If you have any questions regarding the upcoming federal election, please contact **Elections Canada at 1-800-463-6868** or visit their website at www.elections.ca

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>

TORONTO UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL'S 11TH ANNUAL HEART AND VISION CELEBRATION – MONDAY OCTOBER 28, 2019: Support United Church camping programs and enjoy a rousing Gospel Music Review. The 2019 Heart & Vision concert celebrates the outstanding contribution to social justice made by the Honourable Margaret McCain. Ms. McCain's authoring of the Early Years Report and her tireless advocacy on behalf of child health has had a profound and positive impact on our society's preschool and primary education systems. Please join us to hear her perspective on the challenges we face today. Award winning musician and humourist, Mary Lou Fallis will host the event, which will also feature a Gospel Music Review with Jackie Richardson, Alana Bridgewater and Billy Newton Davis. The event will enjoy a new format – dinner and concert will be held at the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse on Trinity St. with a reception starting at 6 pm. Dinner

and concert event begin at 6:45. Tickets include dinner and are \$150. They can be purchased online at <http://tinyurl.com/heartandvision2019> or by phone at 905-771-5124. Proceeds support United Church camps in south central Ontario.

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