

This week at RHUC

Sunday, October 7 - Thanksgiving

10:30 a.m. Service
12:00 p.m. Healing service - Chapel

Monday, October 8 – Thanksgiving Monday Building closed

Tuesday, October 9

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, October 10

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym
7:00 p.m. Council - Parlour

Thursday, October 11

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

Saturday, October 13

8:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast
3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming –Garden Room

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

Here we are again. The air is crisp. The leaves are changing. Crops are being harvested. And we pause to give thanks. As I look back over the year there is much for which I am grateful. As a community of faith we did amazing work in conversation and discernment and have named for ourselves the vision of becoming a centre for community. We are looking forward and outward and several groups are putting the wheels under the bus in a number of projects. On a more personal note Glen and I moved into Richmond Hill and after a health scare my dad moved in with us too. He has settled in and is slowly making friends, especially here in the congregation. This annual time to pause is a gift. In our hustle-bustle world we often do not stop to ponder, to breathe, to say thanks. But we get to do just that this weekend. As part of our worship we will all have a chance to put pen to paper and name examples. It is easy to be generally grateful but I suspect that isn't true gratitude. When we start to name specifics we open our hearts to really feel thankful for a particular gift, and then another and another. May each of us cultivate this habit and truly name our thanks, not just once a year but every day.

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 7: This Sunday as we celebrate Thanksgiving we will reflect upon Joel 2:21-27. Hearing the prophet confirm that a time of abundance is at hand, we pause to give our own thanks but also recognize that gratitude needs an outward focus. We will also celebrate communion together.

Next Sunday: This Sunday and the next we honour that October is Women's History Month as we reflect first on the Book of Ruth and then the Book of Esther. We will also celebrate the sacrament of baptism.

Healing Service on October 7: Now that we are back in the swing of the church year it is time for monthly healing services again. We will gather in the chapel shortly after the conclusion of the worship service for a time of quiet reflection and healing prayer.

Land Acknowledgments and Affirming Inclusive Welcome: Last year our time of acknowledging the land and offering words of welcome was led by members of our congregation. We plan to follow this practice once again. James can give guidance in wording. If you are interested in assisting in this, you can sign up in Centennial Hall or speak with James or Tracy Wixon.

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

Hands & Hearts for Africa

2018 VIRTUAL WALK AROUND AFRICA Virtual Walk Around Africa Trek 3: Enroute to KAMPALA and KIGALI

We have shaken the dust of Kenya from our feet and are now well on our way across Uganda. We catch glimpses now and then of a huge body of water, the famous Lake Victoria, Africa's largest lake. We decide to stop at a place called Jinja which is famous for being the source of the Victoria Nile River; we are amazed at the tourist ads for water rafting, bungee jumping, horseback riding. We opt to spend our rest time fishing for Nile perch --a special Ugandan delicacy. After a refreshing stop, we head to Kampala, a large, modern city, stretching along the lake. And while we are there, we will be in touch with our SLF partners, PEFO who offer psychological and emotional support, grandmother to grandmother, helping each other through their grief. Saying goodbye to our Ugandan hosts, we turn our feet towards the tiny country of Rwanda, known as the "Land of a Thousand Hills". Our walking is slow as we move from the eastern savannah to the higher elevations in the west. When we reach Kigali, we see it sprawled across ridges and valleys with flowering trees and winding boulevards... a sophisticated city and plucky survivor of a tragic past. We head to the Caplaki Crafts Village to see traditional Rwandan crafts of woodcarving and woven baskets.

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 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 gifts for Mission & Service support ministers in their training, continuing education, and pastoral relations and provide resources to engage in ministry. The United Church's 2006 statement of faith, A Song of Faith, notes that "to embody God's love in the world, the work of the church requires the ministry and discipleship of all believers." I invite you to wonder for a moment: What are the ways that a minister has helped this community of faith embody God's love in the world? Today, we offer gratitude for the many ways that our ministers help to embody God's love in the world through their leadership and ministry. Thank you for the creative ways you proclaim God's message of love in worship. Thank you for the sacred moments you facilitate in the celebration of baptism and communion. Thank you for the ways you invite people of all ages to grow and deepen in faith. Thank you for the encouragement to participate in God's mission in the community and the world. Thank you for the loving care and prayers that you offer in times of joy and sorrow. Thank you for the vitality, faithfulness, and passion of your leadership. Our gifts to Mission & Service support our ministers, and we give thanks.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

United Church women

The UCW will be meeting in the parlour on Wednesday October 10th at 9:30 a.m. The topic for the meeting is "Thanks" and "Giving". All are welcome. Please contact Lynn Townsend 905-883-9528 for further information.

Men's Breakfast



The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, October 13, 2018**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, with breakfast in the gym 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 (hramsaran@rogers.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, October 11th. Thank you! After breakfast, all are welcome in the parlour at 9 AM for a slide presentation and talk by Bruce Rhodes about his trip this past June to the Land of the Midnight Sun - the Norwegian archipelago known as Svalbard, halfway between the Arctic Circle and the North Pole, site of the global seed vault deep in the side of a mountain. During his journey to Svalbard, Bruce visited the world's northernmost church and mailed post cards from the world's northernmost post office, and toured two ghost towns which, decades ago, were huge Soviet coal mining centres. Spectacular scenery and rich history come together in this remote location a three-hour flight north of Oslo.

Looking ahead: Future dates for 2018 - November 17th and December 8th.

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

If you want to start your week with some good fellowship and interesting discussion, please join us on Monday mornings in the chapel at 9:30am.

On Monday Oct the 8th, there will be no meeting because of the Thanksgiving holiday. However, we will resume our conversation on **Mon Oct 15**. Our focus will be Chapter 14 when we look at what Marcus Borg calls "The Heart and Soul of Christianity". Newcomers are welcome and prior reading is not necessary. For more info, please speak to 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 RHUC Chapel to discuss *The Lightkeeper's Daughters* by Canadian writer Jean E. Pendziwol. Jean was born in Thunder Bay, Ontario on the shores of Lake Superior which is featured in her first novel for adults that goes from the present to the past telling two spellbinding, intertwined stories.

"Sisters Elizabeth and Emily grow up on an isolated Lake Superior island where their father tends the lighthouse. When tragedy arrives in the midst of a storm, the lightkeeper makes a fateful decision that will echo down through the generations. . ." For more information about the book club, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5. All are welcome. No previous book club experience is necessary!

CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

Rejoice! Linnea Good and David Jonsson

Sunday, Oct. 14 2018 at Thornhill United Church.

Worship service; 10:30 a.m. Experience their music leadership and Linnea's storytelling skills

Worship: 1 – 3 p.m. An interactive, participatory and inspirational workshop for those who love music in worship and those who lead it. Workshop fee: Adults: \$15 / Children: free Phone: 905-889-2131

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!

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.