

## This week at a glance

### Sunday, October 8 – Thanksgiving Sunday

10:30 a.m. Service  
12:00 p.m. Junior Choir – Chapel  
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir – Parlour

### Monday, October 9

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

### Tuesday, October 10

1:30 p.m. Lay Pastoral Visitors' meeting - Chapel  
7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym  
7:00 p.m. Tai Chi – Garden room

### Wednesday, October 11

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

### Thursday, October 12

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

### Friday, October 13

9:15 a.m. Yoga Energetics – Upper gym

### Saturday, October 14

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 8 - Thanksgiving Sunday

Message: "Gratitude in a Divided World" by Rev. James Ravenscroft. This coming week the scripture reading in Deuteronomy 8:7-20. This reading advises the people not to give in to the temptation of becoming self-focused and forgetting how they were led to their new home with divine help. Next week we gather at the Legion for our Worship combined with the Conversation Circle stage of our discernment process.

**Sunday, October 15** – Conversation Circles - worship and discussion that will last from **9.15 to about 2.30**, with muffins, coffee and Lunch, at the **Legion Hall on Centre Street**. By having this event outside of the church, it will be accessible to all, and we will all be able to meet in one room. Also, just as the Listening circles were held off-site at people's homes, we will be able to discern with more objectivity.

**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.

## 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

Each year at this time, we gather with family and friends to celebrate Thanksgiving. Many of us will feast on turkey and dressing, perhaps some yams and round it all off with pumpkin pie. More than a few of us will eat a bit too much, feel sleepy and then blame the tryptophan in turkey (when it's just our bodies working overtime digesting). This annual celebration is best marked not just with a counting of our blessings (which can end up as self-directed as one too many bites of pumpkin pie) but with thoughtful reflection regarding how to pay those blessings forward. Many of us have much for which to be thankful. May we recognize that those blessings are best shared with those who have not been as lucky. Have a blessed and bountiful Turkey Day.

## Liona Boyd – 'A Winter Fantasy' – in Concert with RHUC Chancel Choir

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 from the church office or Chancel Choir member

## 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.

## Junior Choir

Junior Choir has started back. They meet from **12:00 – 12:30 in the Chapel**. Junior Choir is for children between the ages of 6 – 10. Please speak with Barry Peters for more information.

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

## 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:

- Last week we started a unit where we will learn more about Indigenous peoples and the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. 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!

## RHUC Planning Process...Moving from Listening Circles to Conversation Circles

### Only one week until Conversation Circles!

We urge you to look at some of the Listening Circle material in that topic that is most important to you. You will have the opportunity to choose discussion tables on two topics on which you wish to participate...one early in the day and one after a break.

Here are the Topics!

- Growing in Faith
- Justice/Outreach
- Wider Relations
- Leadership AND Pastoral/Spiritual Care
- Belonging/Extra Welcome/Wellness
- Stewardship
- Worship

There will also be a separate Table for Youth.

We will be meeting at **Legion Hall on Centre Street on October 15th starting at 9.15** and finishing no later than 2.0 p.m. **There will be no service at RHUC.** The day will include Worship, Planning Groups and Food.

There will be snacks to start the day and Lunch. We are asking that people bring soup, sandwiches, cookies etc.

There will be sign-up sheets on Sunday in Centennial Hall or contact Lyn Wilkinson for info...we will also be glad of some people to help with set-up and clean-up. Arrangements will be made for children as needed.

If you have special transportation needs, beyond those you have in place, please let Deb know and we will take it from there.

For those that do not have access to email, **hard copies of the Listening Circles are available for sign-out at the Welcome Table in Centennial Hall.**

## Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, October 14 2017**. 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 UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran ([hramsaran@rogers.com](mailto:hramsaran@rogers.com) or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, October 12. Thank you!

**Looking ahead:** Future dates for 2017 are November 4, and December 2<sup>nd</sup>

After breakfast, our Wilhelm Bleek will tell us how Martin Luther had to be kidnapped and held in protective custody on a mystical castle to translate the New Testament from Latin into German. This 10 month long episode in Luther's life illustrates the personality, religious beliefs and turbulent times of the man, who started the Protestant Reformation 500 years ago."

## Bible Study

As the church year ramps up again it's time to start Bible Study once more. 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 to discuss the readings for the coming Sunday. 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.

## Shalom Seekers

There will be **no session on Monday, October 9th** due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

For **Monday, October 16th**, please read the Epilogue of our current book - Christianity for the Rest of Us by Diana Butler Bass. New members are always welcome. For more details, please speak to Dawn Moon, Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton, or call the church office at 905.884.1301.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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.

October 9 – Thanksgiving (no meeting)

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 16 - Why I Am Evangelical

October 23 - Why I Am Post/Protestant

October 30 - Why I Am Liberal/Conservative

November 6 - Why I Am Charismatic/Contemplative

November 13 - Why I Am Fundamentalist/Calvinist

November 20 - Why I Am Green

November 27 - Why I Am Depressed-Yet-Hopeful

## 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.

**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 may for information or visit a journal of musicalthings.com.

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

Our gifts for Mission & Service offer long-term support and solidarity around the world. Let us hear a story about decades of solidarity with Cuba. In May 2016 United Theological College in Montreal, Quebec, presented Dr. Reinerio Arce with an honorary doctorate. Dr. Arce took the opportunity to thank The United Church of Canada for its decades of solidarity. "We will not forget your friendship," he said. "Even as it becomes easier to relate directly with the U.S. churches, we need you to be with us." He recalled shipments of food in the late 1990s through 2001 organized by the United Church through its membership in the Canadian Foodgrains Bank during a time of drought in eastern Cuba. As Cuba renews its relationship with the United States, Cuban church leaders are saying thanks to Canadian churches that have accompanied them through nearly six decades of a U.S. embargo. Reinerio Arce is a past-president of the Cuban Council of Churches and former rector of the Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Matanzas— both Mission & Service partners. We sing thanksgiving for Mission & Service support of the church in Cuba! 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!

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

### Apple pies & crisps for sale!

Delicious hand-made apple pies and apple crisps can be purchased during coffee and conversation in Centennial Hall. Pie: \$13 Large crisp: \$10 Small: \$8  
Your support for this RHUC fundraising event is appreciated!

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### Lay Pastoral Visitors

LPV'S meeting will take place on **Tues. Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:30** in the church parlour.

### 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.

To unsubscribe, please write to: [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), and pt "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.