

Sunday, September 15

10:30 a.m. Service - Sanctuary

Monday, September 16

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel

7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. - Chapel

7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

Tuesday, September 17

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, September 18

12:00 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel

6:30 p.m. Meditation - Chapel

Thursday, September 19

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

7:00 p.m. Scouts - gym

Friday, September 20

6:00 p.m. Take Back the Night

Saturday, September 21

6:00 p.m. Take Back the Night

worship and music

Minister's message: It is official. The writ has been dropped. Even though our fixed election legislation meant everyone knew that we were headed to the polls on October 21, all the parties are now in campaign mode. Even though the election will soon dominate the news and many of us will start to grow weary of the politicking, we need to remember how important it is that we are going to the polls. We live in an age when democracy is under threat. While many of us will take the promises made by party leaders with a pinch of salt, there was a time when we could trust that the news we were getting was accurate. That is no longer the case. Both corporate and foreign government interests are poised to sway our opinions and willing to use fake news to do just that. We all need to be media savvy, able to discern what is fake and what is truthful before we forward it on to others. As you read various posts, be conscious of these tips: always be skeptical of headlines, especially ones that are catchy; look closely at the link because it might be a lookalike; investigate the source of the news and check other sources for the item; check the photos to make sure they aren't manipulated; and doublecheck the date. Do these things to make sure the information you are getting and forwarding is accurate. And above all else, stay informed on the issues before us as we exercise our democratic rights.

Sunday, September 15: As we gather for our first Ember Day of the new church year we reflect on Psalm 104, one of the few "creation psalms" in the Bible. We also hear an excerpt from

Making All Things New by Ilia Delio, a Franciscan sister who is also a trained scientist. In "Cosmic Incarnation" James will reflect on how we need to expand our understanding of "incarnation".

Sunday, September 22: We will reflect together on Luke 16:19-31. This famous parable about poor Lazarus who is ignored by the rich person at whose gate he sat day after day is sober food for thought for all of us in the Global North

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.



Three Rivers Forest Church: at 3:00 pm on **Sunday Sept. 22**, we will gather to celebrate the coming of autumn in a ritual of reflection and thanksgiving. This Forest Church celebration will be in James' backyard (19 Church St. S.)

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.

The **hospital service** held on September 15 for the residents of Long Term Care at Mackenzie Health was conducted by DJ McCready with music being provided by Lynn Townsend.

Youth Choir Welcomes New Members: If you're 11 years or older (grades 6 and up), we need you in the Youth Choir! Practices are Sundays after the worship service in the Parlour and the choir sings in the service every other week. *New members are welcome at any time*, but the beginning of a new season is a great time to join. Our first practice this fall will be Sunday, September 22. If you miss the first practice, you can join on any Sunday. Practices last one hour, beginning about 15 minutes after the worship service (usually noon to 1:00). Anyone interested should just go to the Parlour after the service and sign up, or speak to Anne Leyton-Brown for more information (or phone the church office 905-884-1301).

A MAP Minute: What's in a name? Everything. At our board meeting this week we were discussing the cluster gatherings that were held this past summer and our upcoming Outreach Forum scheduled for next month. Suddenly a light bulb appeared and we realized that though we modeled cluster gatherings after the Outreach Forum we called them something else. As we live into our new model of governance, perhaps thinking of clusters as forums will help. And maybe we even want to use forum as the name.

programs for all

Women's Spiritually: We will meet on **Saturday September 14th** for refreshments at 9:45 and program starts at 10:15. Spiritual Pot Luck - we each bring something to share that causes us to think, reconsider, be enlightened, or maybe something you treasure from your summer.

Men's Breakfast: Saturday, September 14th, 2019. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, followed by breakfast at 8:30 prepared by our UCW friends. New participants are always welcome. This month's Breakfast will be focused on reconnecting after a wonderful summer. 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 (harrypersad.ramsaran@gmail.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, September 12th. Thank you!

Looking ahead: Future dates for 2019 are October 19th, November 9th and December 14th.

Shalom Seekers: On **Monday Sept 16**, Shalom Seekers will be continuing our study of the DVD series "First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God" by Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg. This week we will be focusing on Chapter Six with the intriguing title "The Lake as the World". Please join us in the chapel on Mondays from 9:30-11:30 am for interesting discussion and warm fellowship. Newcomers are especially welcome. For more information, speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton.

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**, beginning on **September 9**, 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.

RHUC Book Club: Wednesday, September 25 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel. *THE BOAT PEOPLE* by Canadian author Sharon Bala. (Please note that there are at least twelve books at the library with the same title, so take special note of the author's name.)

The Boat People was a finalist for the Canada Reads competition in 2018 and, it was also a finalist for the 2018 Amazon Canada First Novel Award.

New members are always welcome to attend and try out the group. No previous book club experience is required -- just a love of reading and talking about books with others. For more details, please speak to Sandra Loughton, facilitator, or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5. Happy reading this summer!

social & eco justice

Targeting Climate Change: The Writ Has Dropped!...the election is underway!! Promises made by the parties! Overview of Party Platforms (Bloomberg)! See full details at www.rhuc.org – Targeting Climate Change

Oct 5, 2019 - Targeting Climate Change meeting in Richmond Hill United Church: "The Targeting Climate Change event is a place for our community to come together whether you know a little or a lot about climate change. You can learn more with our Climate 101 discussion or come to find expertise and advice. Either way you will leave knowing that you are not alone in your concern for this issue."

outreach activities

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 Common Room starting at 12:15pm. Newcomers will be very welcome. For more information, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Donna Harrison.

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Net Zero: Liz Couture is a Richmond Hill resident who is running our Drawdown group (a group looking at ways the City can draw down its emissions). Through our Round Table and the Targeting Climate Events, RHUC is involved in the

exciting things happening around resolving the climate crisis. Here are some excerpts from an email she sent out recently: "Hello Colleagues from Drawdown Richmond Hill, Targeting Climate Change, Neighbours for the Planet, Climate Reality, Blue Dot York Region, Citizens' Climate Lobby, Kids Growing City, and various Faith Groups' Green Teams, and members of our civil service. The following link to information to help climate activists, was created by TEA (Toronto Environmental Alliance) and is a really good summary. https://taf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/TEA_Backgrounder_Climate_Engagement_Principles_2016-03-15.pdf

The week of October 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th will be a busy one and I would ask you all to please put it on your calendars to keep it as free as possible. Here is the schedule:

Oct 5th - TCC event, another Q&A at the Richmond Hill United Church (RHUC)

Oct 7th - Climate Debate Richmond Hill, Moderator: Karen Mortfield of the Richmond Hill Board of Trade, Hosted by Blue Dot York Region

Oct 8th - Climate 101, an introduction to climate change (think Al Gore, or now lately "Kitchen Table Conversations" will be the basis for these talks), evening at RHUC

Oct 9th - Climate 201, a detailed look at solutions to climate change (think DRAWDOWN The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming), evening at RHUC

Oct 10th - Climate 301, a summary of the policy (subsidies, incentives, taxes, research and development, emissions standards, tariffs, etc.) that are available to government)

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.

Minute for Mission: A row of old houses on Rue MacKay in Montreal, Quebec, is part of student life at Concordia University. One is home to the Concordia Multi-Faith and Spirituality Centre. The Rev. Ellie Hummel is the United Church chaplain on staff at the centre, and she works with chaplains from the Baha'i, Muslim, Sikh, Pagan, Buddhist, and Jewish communities as well as various Christian denominations. The centre is a safe space for students to talk one-on-one with chaplains, share meals with fellow students, work together on service projects, and hang out during exam time. It holds a drop-in conversation group called Spirituali-TEA each week. In June 2017, the centre celebrated the completion of a mural by fine arts student Laura Douglas, who explored the relationship between people and the environment. Like the centre itself, the mural is a beautiful expression of that exploration. Concordia Multi-Faith and Spirituality Centre offers students a place to explore and question faith, and a safe space to make a difference and simply be. Its service projects include helping with a community garden in the downtown core of Montreal.

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!

Cash cards: Cash card orders are due **Wed., Sept. 18**. Order forms are in Centennial Hall under Church News.

upcoming events

Take Back the Night: York Region's 21st Annual TBTN march & rally is back! September 20, 2019 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
6:15 p.m. March from Value Village Plaza – coming together, street march
7:00 p.m. Rally at Richmond Hill United Church – candlelight vigil, empowering speakers, live entertainment. Together we raise awareness about sexual and gender-based violence that happens in our community and don our streets each day. For transportation assistance, please call 905-895-3646. www.tbtnyr.ca for more information.

RHCPA Speaker Series: September 12, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. -
Bernie Farber will moderate a panel focusing on the concept of
Indigenous genocide that was historically committed by Canada.
905-787-8811 or rhcentre.ca Ticket: \$20

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