

## This week at RHUC

**Sunday, September 16**

10:30 a.m. Service

**Monday, September 17**

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel

7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel

7:00 p.m. Cubs - gym

**Tuesday, September 18**

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

**Wednesday, September 19**

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

7:00 p.m. RHUC Book Club – Chapel

**Thursday, September 20**

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

**Saturday, September 21**

3:30 p.m. Djembe drumming –Garden Room

## WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

### Minister's message

Seniors escorted out of Queen's Park in handcuffs. Meanwhile two Tory icons, former Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and former Premier Bill Davis have publicly called out our provincial government on their decision to invoke the notwithstanding clause to force through Bill 5. It is shocking to think that we have a government so willing to ride over the rule of law and especially our Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Did the government think we wouldn't care? In a word, "yes". It is relying on non-Torontonians' dislike of the Big Smoke to trump the trampling of our shared charter rights. But we can't. If there is a time for us to make our voices heard, this is it. You may agree that Toronto city council is dysfunctional. You may think a 25 seat council is a great idea. But to invoke the notwithstanding clause on something that could wait until after the election? I'm sure we all agree that is crossing a line. Maybe a lot more of us need to be led out of Queen's Park in handcuffs.

### Worship notes

**Sunday, Sept. 16:** We reflect on Proverbs 1:20-33 and a poem by Yehuda Amichai. In "She Stands at the Crossroads" James will explore how wisdom calls us away from hardline partisanship to embrace a more open stance toward others. We will hear a Minute for Mission.

**Sunday, Sept. 23:** We mark our first Ember Day, honouring creation and praying we may treat her more gently. Esther Collier will share a reflection based on Genesis 2:18-25. We will hear our first Minute for Ministry, as Dominick Shelton shares about some of his work in Jamaica.

**September Forest Church:** On September 23 at 4 PM, we will gather for Forest Church at 19 Church St. S. We will celebrate the coming of autumn and the abundance of harvest with ritual and with refreshments.

**Shouldn't we be celebrating "The Season of Creation"?** For the last few years we have been celebrating the Season of Creation as we move into the fall. This year we have decided instead to experiment with spreading the 4 weeks throughout the year, honouring creation and reflecting on what it means to be good stewards at times that connect to the changing of the seasons (while still honouring church seasons like Advent and Easter). Doing this is inspired by what used to be called Ember Days, days set apart for fasting and prayer during each of the four seasons of the year. Possibly at first connected to agricultural feasts, they were intended as times to give thanks for nature, to reflect on our need to live in moderation, and to assist others. The term Ember has 2 possible origins. In Latin these days were known as Quatuor Tempora and in German as Quartember. In old English the word ymbren referred to the cycle of the year. Either way, we mark these days with thanks for this earth and with a commitment throughout the year to live more gently. The first Ember Day will be September 23.

## Youth Choir

**Youth Choir Welcomes New Members!** If you're in grade 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 is Sunday, Sept. 23 (and we will be getting pizza after the practice). 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).

## Christian Development

We are looking ahead to our children's programming for next year. **We are now searching for one or two people to coordinate Sunday Morning Programs for Youth. Jennifer Townsend has taken on the role of Coordinator for Sunday Morning Programs for Children.** There is an honorarium for these positions. If you are interested or know of someone who might be, please contact Joan Verner at [joanverner@rogers.com](mailto:joanverner@rogers.com) or 905-539-1222.

## HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

## Hands & Hearts for Africa

**2018 VIRTUAL WALK AROUND AFRICA** In Africa there is a saying that "the longest journey starts with a single step." So come step along with us as we journey from Ethiopia to Botswana, a distance of 10254 kms. As you follow our footsteps, please consider sponsoring us or join the walking team in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and African AIDS families. A map of our route will be at our sponsorship table in Centennial Hall.

Our first step onto African soil takes us to Addis Ababa, the highest city in Africa. At an altitude of 8000 feet, we notice it is harder to breathe and we must walk slowly as we make our way through the city. We are honoured to visit Kidist Belete, executive Director of Developing Families Together--one of SLF's programmes that turn around lives among the poorest of the poor. Kidist says: You help one grandmother and you make a difference in the lives of generations.

As we leave Addis behind and follow our guide through the mountains, we keep an eye out for the rarest canid in the world, the Ethiopian Wolf on a hunt for giant mole rats. We hope for a safe and amazing journey, as we head to our next stop--Nairobi, Kenya. Only 1170 kms away! *Peg Hiscoke*

## Krasman lunches – we need volunteers!

Outreach is looking for volunteers for the monthly Krasman lunches, usually the fourth Monday of each month. We offer a full, home-cooked meal to 15 - 20 guests and staff from the Krasman Centre. We need people to come at 10:30 and help set up, help serve the meal and welcome guests, and help with cleanup. We serve the lunch between 11:30 and 12 and are all cleaned up by 1:00. If you think you could help, please contact Wendy Thomson, Lyn May or the church office. It's lots of fun and we could really use your help, especially during the winter months when we are also doing Out of the Cold.

## Breakfast Club – we need volunteers!

Are you a morning person? Would you enjoy helping children enjoy a breakfast before they begin school? Then this may be the perfect opportunity for you. Our Breakfast Club began in January 1998 and now almost 21 years later we continue to serve breakfast each morning to children at two schools Walter Scott Public School and Sixteenth Ave. Public School. As you know, we at Richmond Hill United Church sponsor these programs with funding from Food for Learning. If you can toast bread, bagels or English muffins, then we would love to hear from you. It requires only 90 minutes of your time before school one day a week. We'd love to have you come and see the program and then decide if you are interested in being part of this worthwhile project. For more information, please contact: Janet Centa – coordinator at 16th Avenue Public School 905-884-2169 or [janetcenta@gmail.com](mailto:janetcenta@gmail.com)

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

Our gifts for Mission & Service support the Near East Council of Churches in caring for children in the midst of the shattered infrastructure of the Gaza Strip. Of particular concern are children suffering from malnutrition and anemia, both treatable illnesses. The clinics in Shijaia, Darraj, and Rafah estimate anemia and malnutrition affect about 10,000 children in these areas from newborn infants to age six. If treated in time, 60 percent of the children will fully recover. Parents and children are welcome to come to clinics, and the Near East Council of Churches also runs outreach programs for families who need services and can't get to clinics. In addition to the 10,000 children treated for illness, clinic staff will be able to carry out about 22,000 well baby checks per year. Children with more complicated diagnoses are referred to advanced diagnostic and therapeutic services. The reality of living in the Gaza Strip is harsh. There are shortages of drugs. The Near East Council of Churches reports a shortfall of about 40 percent in essential drugs needed for mother and child health services. The exposure to health risks has increased, including the spread of communicable diseases, food insecurity, and psychosocial issues. The economic impact of the ongoing blockade and other factors means families have much more limited capacity to contribute to medical costs. Mission & Service makes it possible for the Near East Council of Churches to address the challenges of providing medical care to children in the Gaza Strip.

## ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

### Shalom Seekers

Please join us on **Monday, September 17 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** in the Chapel for a stimulating, challenging conversation! We will be discussing Chapter 11 of Marcus Borg's book *Days of Awe and Wonder*. For more details about the group please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton or call the church office at 905.884.1301 Ext. 5.

### Women's Spirituality

For our first gathering on **September 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:45** start with refreshments in the Garden room. 10:15 a.m. program: Spiritual Pot Luck Everyone is to bring along something to share and we will discuss the topic. All women are welcome! Some ideas:

- a special time or learning or place from the summer
- something you've read or a movie
- a current event (but let's not get depressed with Ford or Trump stuff!)
- a hope you have for the future
- something you have been wondering about

### 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

The RHUC Book Club is taking a break over the summer and will reconvene on **Wednesday, September 19th at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel. (Please note that this is the third Wednesday of the month instead of the usual 4th or 5th Wednesday.)

We will be discussing John Steinbeck's novel *East of Eden* which was published in 1952 and is often described as the author's most ambitious novel. The book for discussion for the meeting on October 24th will be *The Lightkeeper's Daughters* by Jean Pendziwol. New members are always welcome to join us and see if a book club is for them! For more details, please speak to Sandra Loughton in person or e-mail Sandra at [bookgirl8@hotmail.com](mailto:bookgirl8@hotmail.com). Happy summer and happy reading!

## BUILDING FOR MINISTRY

### Cash Cards

If you would like to place an order for cash cards, please submit it to the church office by **Monday, September 17**. Thank you for supporting an ongoing RHUC fundraiser!

## CREATING AND NURTURING COMMUNITY

### Living Waters Prebytery Celebration Fair

**INTO THE GREAT WIDE OPEN LIVING WATERS PRESBYTERY CELEBRATION FAIR!**

**September 22, 2018, 11 to 5 at Camp Big Canoe. More info at [Camp Big Canoe website](#).**

If you are interested in going to the fair, please let James know for carpooling arrangements.



My Pop Choir, a group of community based choirs for people who love to sing, is starting its fall session at Richmond Hill United Church beginning this **Monday, September 10 from 7:15 to 8:45pm for 10 weeks** in Centennial Hall!

There are no auditions and no experience, training or ability to read music is required. My Pop Choir is all about the love of singing pop/rock music in harmony with other like-minded adults.

Advance Registration is required – for more info and to register go to: [www.mypopchoir.com](http://www.mypopchoir.com)

### The Indigenous Solidarity Group invites you to two events

The Indigenous Solidarity Group (ISWG), Learning @ Redeemer and Creation Matters @ Redeemer invite you to participate in two key events marking a Season of Creation:

**Sunday, September 23 at 7 pm** – Earth Song: A Service of Music, Word & Prayer with an address: “NOW is the Time!” by the Very Rev’d Dr. Bill Phipps, former Moderator of the United Church of Canada. This service launches our month-long celebration of Creation. Musicians and singers will offer music ranging from hymns to Eric Whitacre to Michael Jackson’s “Earth Song.” Along with selected scripture, the poetry of Richard Wagamese, Wendell Berry and Mary Oliver will be read.

**Monday, September 24 at 7 pm** – a panel discussion on the theme We ARE the Earth! with:  
The Right Rev’d Mark MacDonald, Indigenous Bishop Anglican Church of Canada;  
the Rev’d Dr. Cheri DiNovo, Minister Trinity – St. Paul’s United Church & Former MPP, Parkdale – High Park;  
the Very Rev’d Dr. Bill Phipps, also Co-Founder & Board Member, Faith & The Common Good.  
We look forward to an animated conversation around the profound and challenging theme of the interdependence and interconnection of everything that exists. We hope you will stay afterward for an informal reception and continue the conversation. Both events take place in the worship space, Church of the Redeemer, 162 Bloor St. West, Toronto.  
For directions and more information: [www.theredeemer.ca](http://www.theredeemer.ca).

### 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

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