

**Sunday, September 22**

10:30 a.m. Service - Sanctuary  
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour  
 12:00 Lunch Plus – Common room  
 3:00 p.m. Three Rivers – 19 Church St. S.

**Monday, September 23**

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

**Tuesday, September 24**

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

**Wednesday, September 25**

12:00 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel  
 6:30 p.m. Meditation – Parlour  
 7:00 p.m. RHUC Book Club - Chapel

**Thursday, September 26**

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

## worship and music

Minister's message: Many of us have seen the photo by now. Justin Trudeau in "brownface" while dressed up for a school gala. When I looked at the picture I was of two minds. On one hand I was shocked and disappointed. I hoped that even though it was nearly two decades ago Mr. Trudeau would have thought things through a bit more. On the other hand, I felt it was disingenuous for some politicians to imply people were as aware of the issues around "brownface" in 2001 as they are now. But it is no longer 2001. As we head toward 2020 it is imperative that those of us who are non-racialized come to understand that another person's racial or ethnic identity is not something to be put on and taken off like a costume. "Blackface" has a history. White performers used "blackface" to caricature black peoples. It was, and is, a way to both erase a person's individuality and to reinforce group stereotypes. Laughter and oppression are two parts of the same narrative of power and privilege. The sooner those of us who have both realize it, the sooner we can address the roots of racism that continue to run deep. Given that the news of Mr. Trudeau's photo is still fresh, we have no idea how long the issue of him in "brownface" will be on TV and in other media. But the issue doesn't end when the photo is no longer newsworthy. We need to keep tackling the issue of prejudice and power for as long as it continues to be an issue in society.

**Some time away:** With James' nephew getting married and his sister coming for a visit as part of the celebrations, James will be taking some time off from September 25 to October 2.

**Sunday, Sept. 22:** We reflect together on Luke 16:19-31, Jesus' parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus. In this reversal of fortune story, we are invited to consider who are the Lazaruses we ignore in our world in favour or our own comfort. We will also here selected verses from the Bhagadva Gita, on of the sacred texts of Hinduism.

**Sunday, Sept. 29:** Dominick Shelton will be our guest preacher, reflecting on Jeremiah 8:18-19:1 in which the prophet wonders aloud why there is no balm in Gilead.

**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.

**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.

**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.)



## programs for all

**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.

**Shalom Seekers:** Are you curious to know more about Parables? If so, please join us on **Monday Sept 23**. We will be continuing our study of the DVD Series **FIRST LIGHT** by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. This week we look at Session 6 focussing on 'Parables as Lures'. Come to the chapel on Monday from 9:30 to 11:30am. Newcomers are always welcome! For more information, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton.

**RHUC Book Club: Wednesday, September 25 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel.** Please join us on Wednesday, September 25 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel to discuss *The Boat People* by Sharon Bala. This novel by a Canadian author is so appropriate for our times. It deals with issues of immigration, refugees and family.

New members are always welcome to try out the group. For more information please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, or contact Deb Fratin, Office Administrator, at [905.884.1301 Ext. 5](tel:905.884.1301)

## eco justice

**Targeting Climate Change:** The Writ Has Dropped!...the election is underway!! Overview of Party Platforms (Bloomberg)! ...and Good News from Corporate Knights. See full details at [www.rhuc.org](http://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.

**Minute for Mission:** Our gifts for Mission & Service support programs for children and families living in community housing areas like Ardglan in Brampton, Ontario. The Journey Neighbourhood Centre looks like every other store in the strip mall where it is located, but once you enter, you encounter a different world—one filled with art, laughing children, enthusiastic volunteers, and interns from the Social Work program at Ryerson University. One of these interns is Maria, who came to Toronto as a teen from Colombia to live with her father. "At first, I didn't like it here," says Maria, sitting at the table preparing snacks for the children who would be arriving from school to participate in the KidZone program. "Over time I have come to really love this country, and I wanted to do something to make a difference in the world. That is why I chose social work." Maria and the other interns speak passionately about the centre and the children who come through the door. Your gifts offer children and families in community housing a place to come to share in food and fun.

## 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!

**A MAP Minute:** As part of our Circle Process, we identified the need to look carefully at the costs associated with both repairing and improving our historic church and CD Building. As older buildings they need constant upkeep. There are a number of pressing issues, including ongoing leaks in the CD Building, despite the repair of the roof, as well as boilers reaching the end of their lifespan. On top of this, we should be making improvements to meet the accessibility needs of people who use the space, especially as we get older and more people from the community seek to use our space. With this in mind, over the summer we contracted FCAPX to do a Building Condition Assessment so we know where we stand as we make decisions about our space. We are expecting a report later in the fall which will be shared with the congregation

**A note from the editor:** You will have noticed a recent formatting change of our weekly newsletter which parallels the categories in the new Communication Hub in Centennial Hall. Along with the new format, we are looking for a **new name** which will be chosen through a **contest**. **Please submit your suggestion to [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org) by Sept. 30 and the winner will receive a \$25 Indigo gift card.**

## 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](http://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](http://www.elections.ca)

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