

This week at RHUC

Sunday, September 23

10:30 a.m. Service
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice - Parlour
4:00 p.m. Forest Church – 19 Church St. S.

Monday, September 24

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel
11:30 a.m. Krasman Lunch – lower gym
7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel
7:00 p.m. Cubs - gym

Tuesday, September 25

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, September 26

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

Thursday, September 27

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

Saturday, September 29

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

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

This Sunday we mark the first of four Ember Days, effectively the Season of Creation spread out over the year. Some have asked why we made this change. While I love the focus on nature that four weeks brought, there was always something artificial about the season, timed as it was to conclude with the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron of the environment. While churches come back together in September it also interrupts the flow of the Season of Pentecost. The biggest reason though is that while a concentrated season can be effective, a regular rhythm of creation focused Sunday's helps keep the issues of our environment before us. We need that. Did you know that every minute the equivalent of a garbage truck of plastic ends up in the ocean? It also turns out that despite our efforts only 11% of plastic in Canada is recycled. Despite those stats there is still reluctance to ban plastic bags in Canada. We don't even have consistent recycling standards in the GTA let alone in Ontario or across the country. It may not be much, but perhaps a quarterly focus on creation will remind us how much our world needs us to step up our efforts in being good stewards.

Worship notes

Sunday, September 23: On this Ember Day Esther Collier will reflect on Genesis 2:18-25 and an excerpt from Wendell Berry's "The Contrary Farmer". James will spend time with Teen Seekers. We also will hear a "Minute for Ministry" presented by Dominick Shelton.

From Gratitude to Action: On **September 23 at 4 PM**, come join this **Three Rivers Forest Church** event in honour of the Fall Equinox. Gather at 19 Church St. S. to celebrate the coming of fall, the abundance of harvest, and ponder how we can turn our gratitude into action. Refreshments.

Sunday, September 30: We turn our attention to the prophets as we reflect on Amos 5:6-7, 10-15, a call to shift our ways from a path of oppression to one of caring and justice. We will also reflect on a Minute for Reconciliation.

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: HEADING TO NAIROBI 900 kms on our way!

According to the Kikuyu people of Kenya, ' Travelling is Learning' and we are certainly learning a lot about the geography, wildlife and people of Kenya. As we head south into Kenya, we find ourselves in the Kakamega Forest saved from destruction by Wangari Maathai, a famous Kenyan environmentalist. We are amazed by the abundance of birds, butterflies, primates and orchids here.

As we approach Nairobi, we walk under the shadow of Mt Kenya. The city lies at 5900 feet, high up on the eastern edge of the Great Rift Valley, known for its lakes teeming with wildlife and the volcanoes of Hell's Gate. Farther west we can see the outline of the Ngong hills. Our plan now is to meet with a counsellor with Ripples International. She has offered to tell us about the benefits of the Ripples children's' programmes of group therapy and mutual support . For children with HIV or AIDS who are very ill and feeling isolated, these programmes bring much needed love and care. During our visit, we are offered cups of sweet hot chai and a delicious Kenyan dish of barbecued meat. We hope you are enjoying our travelogue on the way and ask you to remember our walking team over the next few months. Sponsorship donations can be made anytime for Stephen Lewis Foundation and especially today at our Virtual Walk table in Centennial Hall. Come see us and check out our progress!

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.

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries like Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry, which advocates for those on the margins of society in downtown Regina, Saskatchewan. The ministry has been advocating for low-income individuals and families for almost 50 years and is the only community organization in the province to offer welfare advocacy services. Designated lay minister and advocate Bonnie Morton shares her passion for the work of Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry: "The people that we serve at the ministry need more than money; they need services and programs that will help them improve their skills and abilities so they can better compete in the job market. "A young man came to me because he had been cut off welfare. He had told his social worker that he did not have a grade 8 education and couldn't hold down a job. The government worker kept placing him in work positions that he continued to fail at. The last job was in construction. He couldn't read a measuring tape, and his fellow employees made fun of him. He came to us for help, and we appealed the decision to cut him off welfare. We were able to show that no one had listened to him, and we got him and his family back on welfare with retroactive payments. About four years later, this man came back to share with us that he had earned his grade 12 diploma, had gone on to graduate from a technical school with a certificate in engineering, and had just been offered a job. He is still working and hopefully will never have to depend on social assistance again."

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Shalom Seekers

Do you struggle with how to be a Christian in the 21st century? Are you interested in exploring faith questions with others? If so, please join us on Mondays at 9:30 am in the chapel. We promise a warm welcome and safe place for discussion. This coming **Monday, Sept. 24** , we will be discussing what it means to be Living God's Passion, God's Dream for the World. We will focus on chapter 12 of Marcus Borg's book "Days of Awe and Wonder." No prior reading is necessary if you are a newcomer. For more information, 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.

Thank you everyone for the good wishes as we celebrated our golden wedding anniversary.

Anne and Ken Dunn and family.

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

Orange Shirt Day

September 30 is Orange Shirt Day! [Orange Shirt Day](#) is an invitation for everyone to wear an orange shirt to remember and honour all the Indigenous children who went to Residential School and those children who died at school. On Sunday, September 30, wear an orange shirt and attend worship filled with compassion and the spirit of truth and reconciliation.

Living Waters Presbytery 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.

The Indigenous Solidarity Group invites you to two events

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.

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

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