

Sunday, September 29

10:30 a.m. Service – Dominic Shelton is guest preacher
 12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour
 2:00 p.m. Activist & Author David Chernushenko, discusses his book "Burning Souls" on his cross-Canada book tour - Chapel

Monday, September 30

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

Tuesday, October 1

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, October 2

9:30 a.m. UCW meeting – Centennial Hall
 6:30 p.m. Meditation – Chapel

Thursday, October 3

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

Saturday, October 5

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Targeting Climate Change - Sanctuary

worship and music

Minister's message: In a week and a bit we are hosting our **Community Welcome Sunday**. This is our opportunity to invite friends, colleagues, classmates, neighbours, family members, whoever we can think of, to join in the celebration of worship at RHUC. There is no restriction on who we can invite or who can do the inviting. The success of this day hinges on our willingness to invite others to be part of our October 6 gathering. The question is, are we willing? I ask this knowing that our feelings may be mixed. We know how much we love this congregation. We know there is something special about this place. We love music and beautiful liturgy. We have a heart for our community that extends to our neighbourhood streets and beyond to the wider world. We are committed to being an inclusive and welcoming place for the many who have been hurt by the church. We are committed to putting the teachings of Jesus into practice. We take seriously the spiritual needs of every age - seniors and children, adults and youth. And we like to think as much as we feel. We appreciate pushing the envelope and asking tough questions. We know we have something to offer those who are seeking, we just need to tell them. Remember that inviting someone to an event is not the same as imposing your beliefs. We are quick to tell people about places we've been, things we have learned or like to do, the people we love. Telling people about RHUC is the same as that, sharing what you love with openness to them doing the same. Be sure to get some postcards to distribute on Sunday, and if you picked some up last week, grab even more. Let's invite the community to come be a part of the spiritual home we call RHUC, even if it is just for one day.

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. 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.

Hospital services: Our church provides a monthly service at our local hospital. We are looking for someone to play the hymns at these services. These are on the third Sunday of every month from 9:30-10:30 AM at Mackenzie Health. If you are able to play the piano for any or all of the monthly services, please call the office at 905-884-1301 x5.



programs for all

Women's Spirituality: Saturday September 28th with refreshments at 9:15 and the program starting at 10:15. Donna Smith is preparing the program: Autumn: Harvest, Colours and Letting Go.

Shalom Seekers: Please join us in the Chapel on Monday, **September 30th at 9:30 a.m.** for Session 7 of the DVD series First Light: Jesus & the Kingdom of God featuring well-known theologians and Jesus scholars Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan. This week's topic will be "Jesus as Lord". Did you know that the Emperor of Rome was understood to be the "son of God"? How is the title of "Lord" both affirmation and treason? All this and much more will be discussed on Monday. New members are always welcome to try out the group. Please note that you don't need to start at the beginning of a season or even at the start of a new study --any time is fine! Please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton for more details.

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.

RHUC Book Club: You are invited to join the RHUC Book Club on Wednesday, October 23rd in the Chapel at 7 p.m. to discuss the memoir **FORGIVENESS** by Mark Sakamoto. Mark's moving memoir was the winner of Canada Reads in 2018. **Please note:** This meeting will take place on the 4th of five Wednesdays in October. This memoir tells the story of Mark's family history - specifically his Japanese-Canadian grandparents and his maternal grandfather, Ralph, who fought in WWII. Somehow his family survived being on two sides of WWII. The author also explores his complicated relationship with his mother and tries to help the reader understand how forgiveness is possible and why it is so necessary.

For more details, and to obtain a copy of the book, please contact Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, or speak to Deb Fratin, Office Administrator, at 905.884.1301 Ext. 5. New members are always welcome to attend!

eco justice

Targeting Climate Change: Climate Change key points

16 year old Greta Thunberg asked the UN..."How Dare You?"...Why am I here instead of in school? Young people everywhere are becoming more proactive on Climate Change. Indigenous Clean Energy is a way forward. Federal Parties are sharing their initial Climate Change positions. See RHUC Website for more detail on these and other information.

Book reading: Sun., Sept. 29 at 2:00 p.m. Activist & Author David Chernushenko, discusses his book "Burning Souls" on his cross-Canada book tour in the Chapel. Click [HERE](#) to register

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

Minute for Mission: We give thanks for over eight years of giving through the Gifts with Vision catalogue. Every gift is developed by one of our Mission & Service partners and each one truly makes a difference! As we look forward to the new Gifts with Vision catalogue, let us hear some of the amazing things that have been accomplished thanks to your giving through Gifts with Vision. You have made so many good things possible through your gifts: clean water projects in Congo, Nicaragua, and Zambia; summer camp experiences for more than 200 children across Canada; education and safe spaces for children around the world; food for people who are homeless in Canada; grocery gift cards and warm clothing for remote Indigenous communities; food, shelter, and education for displaced persons in Kenya, the Philippines, Colombia, and Jordan; Indigenous cultural renewal here in Canada; a culture of peace in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East; and projects in reconciliation and Indigenous reclaiming of language and traditions--just to name a few! Your generous support for Mission & Service means that Mission & Service partners receive core funding for their programs.

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.

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 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 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 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

Councillor Tom Muench Sick Kids March: 'On September 28, 2019, I am rallying with an army of 5000+ at SickKids GetLoud 2019 - a rally, march and festival. We are fundraising to help build a new SickKids. Join my "RICHMOND HILL MARCHERS" team and let's join the biggest crew ever put together to march, rally and sing along to the heartfelt anthems and big voices of Serena Ryder, Dwayne Gretzky and The Mini Pop Kids. We are aiming to beat last year's fundraising total of over \$2.2 million. Click here to register. <http://bndfr.com/b4kCb> If you have any questions or require assistance, please contact Nikki Sabet at (416) 553-6869.'

Project 99A Book drive: A charity that collects used books. If you have any children and adult books that you would like to donate, please bring to Lower Centennial Hall the week of **Sunday, Oct. 27 – Saturday, Nov. 2**. These books will be used locally and internationally. <https://www.project99a.ca/mission-and-vision>

TORONTO UNITED CHURCH COUNCIL'S 11TH ANNUAL HEART AND VISION CELEBRATION – MONDAY OCTOBER 28, 2019: Support United Church camping programs and enjoy a rousing Gospel Music Review. The 2019 Heart & Vision concert celebrates the outstanding contribution to social justice made by the Honourable Margaret McCain. Ms. McCain's authoring of the Early Years Report and her tireless advocacy on behalf of child health has had a profound and positive impact on our society's preschool and primary education systems. Please join us to hear her perspective on the challenges we face today. Award winning musician and humourist, Mary Lou Fallis will host the event, which will also feature a Gospel Music Review with Jackie Richardson, Alana Bridgewater and Billy Newton Davis. The event will enjoy a new format – dinner and concert will be held at the Enoch Turner Schoolhouse on Trinity St. with a reception starting at 6 pm. Dinner and concert event begin at 6:45. Tickets include dinner and are \$150. They can be purchased online at <http://tinyurl.com/heartandvision2019> or by phone at 905-771-5124. Proceeds support United Church camps in south central Ontario.

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