

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Worship

September 3 - Please join us for a Hymn Sing.

Sunday, September 24 – Ian Wilgus of our congregation will be speaking to us about his experience working at a United Church in Regina in the Explorer Program.

Sunday, October 22 – In honour of “Canada 150”, we will be holding an all-Canadian hymn sing. Barry is already working on this!

Sunday, October 15 – Conversation Circles - worship and discussion that will last from 9.15 to about 2.30, with muffins, coffee and Lunch, at the Legion Hall on Centre Street.

Minister's Message

I will be away visiting Glen's family in Manitoba and Alberta from August 16 to September 6. While I am away, pastoral emergencies will be covered by Rev. Warren Ball from St. Matthew's UC.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

United Church Women

U.C.W. will meet on **Wednesday, September 6 at 9:30 a.m. at 99 Mill St.**, Madeline Johnston's back yard garden. Program: 2017 UCW Conference in Vancouver.

Men's Breakfast

The next **Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, September 9 2017**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, with breakfast in the gym at 8:30 prepared by our UCW friends. The 2017/2018 list of Guest Speakers and Topics will be presented. New participants are always welcome. 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 UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran (hramsaran@rogers.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, September 7. Thank you!

Looking ahead: Future dates for 2017 are October 14, November 4, and December 2nd.

Shalom Seekers

Shalom Seekers will begin again on **Monday, September 11 at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel**. Please read Chapter 14 ~ Beauty: Touching the Divine of *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler Bass. New members welcome!

RHUC Book Club

Members of the RHUC Book Club are taking a break for the summer, but please join us on **Wednesday, September 27 at 7 p.m.** in the Chapel to discuss the non-fiction book, *THE PRISON BOOK CLUB* by Ann Walmsley. New members are welcome at any time! Please speak to Sandra Loughton for more details or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301. Happy summer reading!

Special Occasions

Writing to the church in Rome, the apostle Paul urged them: “rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep”. 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. This column is an effort to rectify that situation. Don't hesitate to add any special occasions you know about.

H.A.I.R.

HAIR Group Starts up again on **September 11**. We Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels, and Riffraff are eager to start questioning, discussing, and exploring life issues. Please feel free to come and join us, we love to hear a diversity of ideas.

Here is our schedule for the fall: We will begin with a two-week series of discussions sparked by short videos collected from the Internet.

September 11 - **Is God Good or Evil? Take the Challenge.**

September 18 - **Morality, Where Does it Come From?**

We will then begin to discuss the book [A Generous Orthodoxy](#) by Brian McLaren. These books are available to buy from the church office. We are asking for \$18 or what you can afford.

September 25 - Introduction and Chapter 0 (A Generous Refund)

October 2 - Part One: Why I Am A Christian

We will mostly discuss Chapter 3 (Would Jesus be a Christian?). People can choose to read only this chapter or the whole of Part One, depending on their time and interest.

October 9 - Thanksgiving

In **Part Two**, Brian explores the "kind of Christian" he is. We will choose several of these to explore over the remaining weeks until the Christmas break. Listed here are some tentative choices (the group will finalize these with input from all), just to give a sense of the topics we will be exploring. We will update RHUC Online once we have selected our final topics.

October 16 - Why I Am Evangelical

October 23 - Why I Am Post/Protestant

October 30 - Why I Am Liberal/Conservative

November 6 - Why I Am Charismatic/Contemplative

November 13 - Why I Am Fundamentalist/Calvinist

November 20 - Why I Am Green

November 27 - Why I Am Depressed-Yet-Hopeful

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Minute for Mission *Called to be the Church*

Our gifts for Mission & Service have supported many overseas personnel. Let us hear the story of Laura H. Hambley, born in Port Perry, Ontario, in 1877. Laura was a member of the Woman's Missionary Society appointed as a teacher to West China in 1904. By all accounts a strong woman, Laura's major contribution was in girls' education. She overcame widespread resistance in a city in China to build a four-storey girls' school. She gathered architectural plans from across Canada, then created the plan for her school. Starting with a handful of students, enrollment grew as more and more parents saw value in their daughters receiving an education. During World War 2, when the school housed 200 girls, Laura and the staff were faced with the threat of being bombed by Japan. To keep them safe, Laura took her girls from the city up into the mountains to an old monastery. Laura spent 40 years educating the girls in the city. She was also a successful advocate for ending the practice of binding girls' feet. When she left in 1943 for the long journey home, the entire city came out to wish her well. They had high esteem for their beloved "Han Jaousa," her Chinese name, which in English means "Hambley Teacher." We sing thanksgiving for missionaries who offered their life in service with global partner churches. Mission & Service is built on the foundation of their vision and witness! If Mission & Service is already a regular part of your giving, thank you so much! If you have not given for Mission & Service, please join me in making Mission & Service a regular part of your life of faith. In all our Mission & Service giving, with a willing heart, we sing

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thanksgiving to God!

Net Zero Committee

Congratulations RHUC! We have upgraded our environmental status to MEDIUM GREEN! This status comes from our following the guidelines posted in the Greening Sacred Spaces website under GSS Certification. <http://greeningsacredspaces.net/gss-certification/>

Since our last certification of LIGHT GREEN status, we have installed and maintained (thanks, Dan and Peter and our installation team) LED lighting in most of our fixtures and increased our use of our grounds for natural and native plants (thanks, Donna!).

We want to head for DARK GREEN status, and we have already made strides in this direction as we have significantly improved the efficiency of our building envelope with the new roof on the CD building and through the installation of a rain barrel.

You can help by helping us source local and environmentally-friendly products for our worship services, undertaking an environmental project in our community, providing some support for our youth to engage in environmental stewardship and education on climate change, starting a community garden, providing vegan choices when serving food, and finding ways to get to church that are carbon free!

Climate change is extremely serious and irrefutable. Acting on this knowledge is the only ethical choice.

To unsubscribe, please write to: office@rhuc.org, and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.