

This week at RHUC

Sunday, September 30

10:30 a.m. Service
12:00 p.m. Youth Choir practice – Parlour
12:00 p.m. Faith Exploration Classes - Chapel

Monday, October 1

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel
7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. – Chapel
7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym
7:00 p.m. Facilities and Financial Assessment Team - Parlour

Tuesday, October 2

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, October 3

7:00 p.m. Scouts/Venturers – gym

Thursday, October 4

6:15 p.m. Bible Study - Chapel
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Common Room

Saturday, October 5

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

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

I often take this spot in RHUC Online to offer some thoughts about what is going on in our church, our community, our world, but today I thought I would offer some additional thoughts on the scripture reading from last Sunday's worship service. I first suggested Genesis 2:18-25 to Esther because of the first part of the reading, that is, how the first person names all of the animals. That part of the story spoke to both of us about our role in the environment, how we share a relationship with animals and plants and other aspects of the natural world, and so shapes how we live on this planet. That is of course the thought process behind Esther's beautiful reflection. However, the second half of the story needs to be deconstructed, namely the creation of Eve and how this story has been used to subjugate rather than affirm women. So, let me offer a couple of observations. First, is the impact of not using inclusive language when translating from Hebrew to English. The word rendered as "man" is *ha'adam*, which means "from the earth". It refers to a non-gendered human being. The first earthling is named this throughout the story until the end. At that point the words shift to *ish* (man) and *ishshah* (woman). Second, the word translated as rib can equally mean wing, like of a house. The story is how the first human was effectively split in two because only another human could be a true partner. Rather than be a story justifying inequality, it actually affirms equality between men and women. This is something that would come through if we translated using inclusive language rather than "man" for both "human" and "male human". There you go. Further food for thought.

Worship notes

Sunday, September 30: The reading for this Sunday, Amos 5:6-7 and 10-15, contrasts justice and oppression, offering the sober reminder that our actions have consequences. The news isn't all bad. We can choose to cooperate with each other rather than to compete, nurturing a more caring society for us all.

Sunday, October 7: We celebrate Thanksgiving as we reflect on Joel 2:21-27. Also Worldwide Communion Sunday, we will share in the Lord's Supper. There is no Discovery Time or Teen Seekers scheduled.

Healing Service on October 7: Now that we are back in the swing of the church year it is time for monthly healing services again. We will gather in the chapel shortly after the conclusion of the worship service for a time of quiet reflection and healing prayer.

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

There will be a meeting on **Sunday, Sept. 30** after church service in the Common Room. Come hear more about the Stephen Lewis Foundation and its community-based programmes in support of African AIDS families. We will be discussing the most recent news from the Foundation plus making plans for our upcoming events. We welcome newcomers anytime and people interested in becoming our helpers for single events. For more information please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Donna Harrison.

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 Back Door Mission in Oshawa, Ontario. Adrian, Sherri, and their young daughter are just three of the people whose lives have been changed by the ministry of the Back Door Mission. When Adrian lost his job due to a work injury in 2015, his disability payments were inadequate to the challenge of providing for his family. After Adrian and Sherri's mortgage foreclosed and they lost their home, they turned to a homeless shelter and then emergency housing before being forced to live in their car. At risk of losing their child for violating the regulations of the Children's Aid Society, the couple agreed that the mother and daughter would move into a local women's shelter. While this family has faced crisis after crisis, with the support of Back Door Mission it is finally finding ways to navigate the social assistance network. For more than 20 years, Back Door Mission has helped to relieve the burdens of poverty and social dislocation experienced by those living in economically depressed circumstances in Oshawa. Over 100 people come to the doors of its downtown facility every day. Its drop-in centre offers a welcoming space three afternoons a week where people can find shelter, companionship, and a snack or light meal. Says Don MacLeod, chair of the board, "The drop-in program provides an opportunity for community within a socially disconnected and often stigmatized population, and a place to find tangible help. This is a place where the poor, generally physically or mentally disabled in some form, can find friends and the experience of belonging."

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Faith Exploration Classes

Faith Exploration Classes (**Sundays at Noon in the Chapel**): Are you curious about the teachings of Jesus, especially how we live them out within The United Church of Canada? Do you want to translate what you were taught in Sunday School into an adult understanding? Are you wondering about baptism or considering becoming a member of RHUC through confirmation or transfer from another congregation? Or maybe you are just interested in sharing faith with other adults? Then come to the chapel at noon each Sunday (except on special holidays like Thanksgiving) and explore faith with others. Everyone welcome.

Bible Study

It's time for Bible Study: Beginning on **Thursday, October 4**, we will once again have Bible Study in the chapel from 6:15 to 7:20 pm. We reflect together on the scripture reading for the coming Sunday, exploring context and sharing together how the theme of the reading continues to speak to us in our own day. Each session stands alone so be assured you are welcome even if you can only come once in a while.

H.A.I.R.

HAIR, the Monday evening study group, is using TED talks and other videos to trigger discussions about ethical questions, the implications of faith in the modern world, and other important issues of our time, such as when to stand up against discrimination, how to make a difference in helping others (effective altruism), environmental challenges, etc. Since each discussion is self-contained it is possible to join us in the chapel any Monday at 7:00 without having to "catch up". Everyone is welcome to any or all of these fascinating discussions.

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, Oct. 1**, 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.

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.

**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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Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.