

This week at RHUC

Sunday, September 8

10:30 a.m. Service - Sanctuary

Monday, September 9

9:30 a.m. Shalom Seekers – Chapel

7:00 p.m. H.A.I.R. - Chapel

7:00 p.m. Cubs – gym

Tuesday, September 10

7:00 p.m. Beavers – gym

Wednesday, September 11

12:00 p.m. Bible Study – Chapel

6:30 p.m. Meditation - Chapel

Thursday, September 12

7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir – Parlour

Saturday, September 14

8:15 a.m. Men's Breakfast – Lower gym

WORSHIPPING TOGETHER

Minister's message

With the crispness of the mornings, it is clear that the lazy days of summer are behind us. That, and children are back at school. As a congregation we also gear back up from a slower pace and our various programs and ministries start back up. A new "church year" often brings some new initiatives and this one is no different. One initiative is our Community Welcome Sunday scheduled for October 6. The team is diligently working on promotional materials to make it easier for everyone to invite friends and neighbours to church. Another is some tweaks to our children's program on Sundays. On Sundays when we have Discovery Time, children will begin in the sanctuary and then go to Centennial Hall for an activity before returning to the sanctuary during the offering hymn (doxology) so that we can all continue to pray and be commissioned together as a family. We also plan to have more "All Ages" worship services. Finally, one new idea is quite familiar. We plan to resume monthly lunches, but not as just lunch and learns but with a variety of purposes beyond education. Our first "Lunch+" is scheduled for September 22. It is always sad to leave behind the relaxing days of summer but it is not exclusively so. There is joy as well as we launch into the fall and this year is shaping up nicely.

Worship notes

Sunday, Sept. 8: As we gear up for a new "church year" we reflect together on Luke 14:25-33 in which Jesus challenges his disciples to consider what it will "cost" them to follow him as well as what they gain. The chancel choir will sing "I Hear a Call" by Arata/Arr. R. Small.

Sunday, September 15: We mark our first Ember Day of the year, taking time to give thanks for the gift of creation. We reflect on Psalm 104.

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.

Youth Choir

Youth Choir Welcomes New Members: If you're 11 years or older (grades 6 and up), we need you in the Youth Choir! Practices are Sundays after the worship service in the Parlour and the choir sings in the service every other week. *New members are welcome at any time*, but the beginning of a new season is a great time to join. Our first practice this fall will be Sunday, September 22. If you miss the first practice, you can join on any Sunday. Practices last one hour, beginning about 15 minutes after the worship service (usually noon to 1:00). Anyone interested should just go to the Parlour after the service and sign up, or speak to Anne Leyton-Brown for more information (or phone the church office 905-884-1301).

Hospital service at Mackenzie Health

The hospital service held on August 25th for the residents of Long Term Care was conducted by Ian Wilgus with music being provided by Craig Lee.

A MAP Minute

In our Mission Action Plan discussions we named a desire to focus on building community with one another, a desire reiterated at the Leadership and Congregational Development Cluster gathering last June. With this in mind there are a couple of opportunities for socializing on the horizon. The first is what we are calling Lunch+. Like our Lunch and Learns, Lunch+ is a simple lunch held after the worship service plus a chance to learn, socialize, hold a focus group, discuss an issue, etc. Those who came together for the cluster felt that we should try and have a monthly lunch but not always with an educational focus. Our first Lunch+ is scheduled for September 22. Also on the horizon are social events for people to get together in an evening and just have fun as a church family. The first of these is a Board Game Night to be held on October 19. Stay tuned for more details.

ENGAGING, CHALLENGING & GROWING OUR FAITH

Shalom Seekers

Please join us on **Monday, September 9 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.** in the Chapel for a morning of lively discussion and fellowship. New members are always welcome to try out the group. We will be continuing the DVD study *First Light* featuring renowned theologians John Dominic Crossan & Marcus Borg.

For further details please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton, group facilitators.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be on **Saturday, September 14th, 2019**. Coffee and tea will be served at 8:15am, followed by breakfast at 8:30 prepared by our UCW friends. 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 the UCW. Please RSVP to Harry Ramsaran (harrypersad.ramsaran@gmail.com or 905 508 4758) by Thursday, September 12th. Thank you!

This month's Breakfast will be focused on reconnecting after a wonderful summer.

Looking ahead: Future dates for 2019 are October 19th, November 9th and December 14th.

H.A.I.R.

HAIR (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**, beginning on **September 9**, 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

The RHUC Book Club is on summer hiatus now until **Wednesday, September 25 at 7 p.m. in the Chapel**. The book for discussion at that first meeting in the fall will be: **THE BOAT PEOPLE** by Canadian author Sharon Bala. (Please note that there are at least twelve books at the library with the same title, so take special note of the author's name.)

The Boat People was a finalist for the Canada Reads competition in 2018 and, it was also a finalist for the 2018 Amazon Canada First Novel Award.

"*The Boat People* is a high-stakes novel that offers a deeply compassionate lens through which to view the current refugee crisis. Inspired by real events, with vivid scenes that move between the eerie beauty of northern Sri Lanka and combative refugee hearings in Vancouver, B.C. where life and death decisions are made, Sharon Bala's stunning debut is an unforgettable and necessary story for our times."

New members are always welcome to attend and try out the group. No previous book club experience is required -- just a love of reading and talking about books with others. For more details, please speak to Sandra Loughton, facilitator, or call the Church Office at 905.884.1301, Ext. 5. Happy reading this summer!

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.

HOSPITALITY & WORKING FOR JUSTICE

Targeting Climate Change

Federal Candidates Update...Carbon Tax viewpoints of the parties. As of 3rd September...

Conservative Party has confirmed 338 candidates for all ridings, including 105 women.

Liberal Party has 276 confirmed candidates or 80%, with 52% women.

NDP has nominated 180 candidates to date. ~14 potential candidates for New Brunswick have declared their intention to run as Green Party members. The Candidate nomination deadline is 30th September.

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."

See full details at www.rhuc.org – Targeting Climate Change

Net Zero Update



Liz Couture is a Richmond Hill resident who is running our Drawdown group (a group looking at ways the City can draw down its emissions). Through our Round Table and the Targeting Climate Events, RHUC is involved in the exciting things happening around resolving the climate crisis. Here are some excerpts from an email she sent out recently: "Hello Colleagues from Drawdown Richmond Hill, Targeting Climate Change, Neighbours for the Planet, Climate Reality, Blue Dot York Region, Citizens' Climate Lobby, Kids Growing City, and various Faith Groups' Green Teams, and members of our civil service. The following link to information to help climate activists, was created by TEA (Toronto Environmental Alliance) and is a really good summary. https://taf.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/TEA_Backgrounder_Climate_Engagement_Principles_2016-03-15.pdf

The week of October 5th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th will be a busy one and I would ask you all to please put it on your calendars to keep it as free as possible. Here is the schedule:

Oct 5th - TCC event, another Q&A at the Richmond Hill United Church (RHUC)

Oct 7th - Climate Debate Richmond Hill, Moderator: Karen Mortfield of the Richmond Hill Board of Trade, Hosted by Blue Dot York Region

Oct 8th - Climate 101, an introduction to climate change (think Al Gore, or now lately "Kitchen Table Conversations" will be the basis for these talks), evening at at RHUC

Oct 9th - Climate 201, a detailed look at solutions to climate change (think DRAWDOWN The Most Comprehensive Plan

Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming), evening at RHUC

Oct 10th - Climate 301, a summary of the policy (subsidies, incentives, taxes, research and development, emissions standards, tariffs, etc.) that are available to government)

Food Bank Donations

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!

Minutes for Mission

Our gifts for Mission & Service support programs at places like Naomi Centre and Emmanuel House, both part of Stella's Circle in St. John's, Newfoundland. For Canada's 150th celebration in 2017, Stella's Circle organized a concert. Stella's Circle Sings for Canada featured the premiere of a song written by the Inclusion Choir with Amelia Curran, and a screening of a film by Roger Maunder about the process. The Inclusion Choir includes many living on the edges of Newfoundland society, blended with staff from Stella's Circle. The concert was due in large part to three student placements. Reflecting on their learnings, the students spoke about the power of the songwriting process and how participants saw the song as "our song." Music student Kristian said it allowed her to focus on how music can have an impact on social situations and lives. For Kristian, the focus was not on getting the job done, but the enjoyment. Justin, a student in social work, commented on the fact that as soon as choir members walked out on stage, they stood taller. He saw singing as a mindfulness act; it focused the mind on the act of singing. Sarah, a student in business management, saw how the work she learned, in human resources could be put into action in terms of diversity, and she enjoyed how everyone collaborated. From the perspective of Stella's Circle, they saw three students embrace something new, fit right in, and add value to what was happening at Stella's Circle. What a great experience for all!

CLIMATE FIRST TOUR

On **Saturday Sept 14, from 7-9 pm**, David Suzuki, Stephen Lewis and Buffy Ste Marie will be speaking about the climate change crisis at University of Toronto, Convocation Hall on King's College Circle. They have come together to get the message out across our country about the current issues facing youth as they inherit the challenges of a drastically changing planet. Their goal is to ask citizens to ensure environmental issues are part of their consideration as they head to the polls in the October federal election.

Tickets are \$10 for students and \$20 for non-students plus tax and can be ordered online at www.climatefirsttour.ca This is an opportunity to become informed and inspired. Doors will open at 6pm.

Take Back the Night

York Region's 21st Annual TBTN march & rally is back! **September 20, 2019 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

6:15 p.m. March from Value Village Plaza – coming together, street march

7:00 p.m. Rally at Richmond Hill United Church – candlelight vigil, empowering speakers, live entertainment

Together we raise awareness about sexual and gender-based violence that happens in our community and don our streets each day. For transportation assistance, please call 905-895-3646. www.tbtnyr.ca for more information

RHCPA Speaker Series

September 12, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. - Bernie Farber will moderate a panel focusing on the concept of Indigenous genocide that was historically committed by Canada. 905-787-8811 or rhcentre.ca Ticket: \$20

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.