



'Jesus the Homeless' by Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz

We are back to in-person worship!! If you would like to attend, please bring **your proof of double vaccination, and wear a mask**. Up to 75 people can be seated with **social distancing**. As well, we will continue to livestream our Sunday service via Zoom. Details regarding how to connect to this platform will be emailed each week to those on our contact list. If you are not on our contact list and would like these details, contact the office at office@rhuc.org. To access the home-based worship resource so you can use to follow along or take time for personal reflection, use the links found on our website and below.

April 10 @ 10:30 a.m. via Zoom: The order of service and hymns are also found on our website under Home and Our Ministry – Spirit pages.

[Order of service](#) [Hymns](#)

worship and music

Message from Karen: Palm Sunday is always happening. Crowds gather in cities around the world, protesting war, shouting for action on the climate emergency, for affordable housing, for an end to racism. We are constantly presented with the possibility and challenge of living differently –

- The way of peace, which does not shrink from conflict but refuses violence
- The way that does not theorize but engages with the real needs of suffering people
- The way that sees people who are overlooked and not counted
- The way of self-offering

As we walk with Jesus through Holy Week let us pray for the courage to face these challenges.

Jesus, you entered the city a poor man, not in style but simply;
yet still you caused uproar and questions.

You drew the expectations of a hungry crowd and brought buried conflicts to light.

We are sometimes swayed by the crowd's approval
and seek to avoid conflict, for fear of its cost.

Help us to hold fast to the gospel of peace and justice,
follow in your way of compassion,
stand in solidarity with those who are poor and excluded,
wherever it may lead us. Amen *Kathy Galloway*

HOLY WEEK

Palm Passion

Sunday April 10th 10.30 am:
Experience the transition from joy-filled shouts of praise to the looming threat of death.



Holy Thursday

Video Thursday April 14th:
Created for families to use when eating supper to promote conversation but it could be used by individuals to reflect upon as they eat.



Good Friday (hybrid service)

Friday April 15th 10.30 am: Imagine the day where betrayal and denial clashed together, bringing accusations, judgement and death.

Sunrise Service

Sunday April 17th 6.30 am: in Amos Wright Park, Church Street, north of Centre St E.

Easter Sunday

Sunday April 17th 10.30 am: Communion Service



Sunday offering: We appreciate those who use Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). For those not on

PAR, please consider making sure you get your weekly envelope money in (mailed in or mail slot on Centre. St. door), e-transfer to office@rhuc.org, Canada Helps, <http://www.rhuc.org/donate.html>, or cheques to the Church, 10201 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, L4C 3B2.

programs for all

Women's Spirituality: will gather this **Saturday April 9th at 10:00 till 12:00** in the church chapel with masks on and social distancing followed. Donna Smith will lead our discussion on the theme: 'The symbols of Holy Week and their meaning for us today'. Come and join our time of being together, learning and calm.

Shalom Seekers: Please join us on **Monday, April 11 at 10 a.m. on Zoom**. We will be discussing the first part of Chapter 1 of **Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi** by Amy-Jill Levine. Please read pages 27 to the second paragraph of page 45 for Monday's session. New members are always welcome to try out the group. Please speak to Sandra Loughton, facilitator, for more information. Note: We will be taking a break on Monday, April 18th due to the Easter holiday.

H.A.I.R.: HAIR (Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels and Other Riffraff), meets every Monday from 7:00 – 8:15 pm. We will continue to meet online, via Zoom, until further notice. These discussions are open to anyone interested, and new members are always welcome. For further information, or to get the zoom link for our next meeting, please contact David Leyton-Brown at dlbrown@yorku.ca

New!! **'Cook's Corner'**! Trying to eat less meat? Watch this corner for new recipes. Send your favourite recipes to either Deb Fratin at office@rhuc.org or Lyn May at lynniemay@gmail.com. Thanks!!



Hot Black Bean and Rice Salad with Pomegranates (from Oxfam Vegetarian Cookbook)

4 oz black beans soaked overnight (1/2 cup dried beans)
8 oz long grain brown rice (1 cup)
2 pomegranates (one is also fine)
1 red pepper
1 green pepper

4 tablespoons olive oil
1 large onion thinly sliced
1 clove garlic chopped
1 tsp paprika
1 tsp ground coriander
juice of 1/2 lemon (must be fresh lemon - not bottled juice)
Cook beans in double the water (about 1 inch above the beans) 10 minutes at a full boil and then lower heat, cover and simmer until tender (an hour or so). Or use canned beans and skip this step but it won't taste as good. Cook rice as per package instructions and rinse in cold water and drain thoroughly. Seed the pomegranate and save as much juice as possible. Slice the peppers into thin strips - no seeds. Stir fry red pepper in oil for 2 min. Set aside and fry green pepper, onion, and garlic in same pan for 2 min. Add spices, then rice, beans and pom seeds and any accumulated juice to green pepper mixture and mix well. Heat slightly. Add lemon juice, stir well and check the seasoning. Serve on warmed salad plate and top with strips of red pepper.

RHUC Book Club: The next meeting of the RHUC Book Club will take place on **Wednesday, April 27th at 4 p.m. on Zoom**. We will be discussing the novel **AMAZING GRACE** by Cape Breton, NS writer Lesley Crewe. Here is a summary of the novel:



Can you really move forward without putting the past to rest? Grace Willingdon has everything she needs. For fifteen years she's lived in a trailer overlooking Bras d'Or Lakes in postcard-perfect Baddeck, Cape Breton, with Fletcher Parsons, a giant teddy bear who's not even her husband. But Grace's blissful life is rudely interrupted when her estranged son calls from New York City, worried about his teenaged daughter. Before she knows it, Grace finds herself the temporary guardian of her self-absorbed, city-slicker granddaughter, Melissa. Trapped between a past she's been struggling to resolve and a present that keeps her on her toes, Grace decides to finally tell her story. Either the truth will absolve her or cost her everything.

Crackling with Lesley Crewe's celebrated wit and humour, *Amazing Grace* is a heartfelt tale of enduring love and forgiveness, and the deep roots of family.

As an exciting bonus for our April meeting, **the author, Lesley Crewe, will be joining us for our discussion!** For more details about the club, please contact Sandra Loughton, Facilitator. New members are always welcome.



church news



Easter flowers: If you would like to donate towards the purchase of flowers for Easter Sunday and include a memorial/celebratory message in the order of service, please email Deb at office@rhuc.org your

message and donation or drop off at the church.

Due by April 8.

The Sanctuary Committee needs help with decorating our beautiful, historic sanctuary. Your help is greatly appreciated! Email Linda Clark at lclark222@sympatico.ca.

Thank You for your Kindness! A sincere thank you to Barry and the RHUC Chancel Choir and other members of the congregation for the donation made to Middle River United Church in Cape Breton, NS in memory of my mother, Anna Nicholson. Your support and generosity are certainly appreciated by my family and the local United Church. Thanks as well to all who sent lovely cards of condolence that were waiting for me when I returned to Richmond Hill. I feel fortunate to be part of such a kind and caring community.
Sandra Loughton, Alec Nicholson, & family

outreach

Lenten Givings

This year's donations are being directed to **The UN Refugee Agency of Canada** : "UNHCR is on the ground delivering aid to families who have been forced to flee their homes because of conflict in the Ukraine. Over 2 million refugees have fled the Ukraine since March 8th to neighbouring countries and the number is continuing to grow exponentially."

What happens to your money when you donate to UNHCR Canada?

We pride ourselves on ensuring resources are used responsibly and efficiently to benefit displaced people around the world. That's why we can send **84% of every donation directly to uprooted families living in dire conditions, giving them hope for a brighter future. In addition, 10% goes to support the implementation of our programs around the world—with only 6% going towards management and administrative costs.**
<https://www.unhcr.ca/our-work/where-your-money-goes/>

Social Justice

Recently, the Liberal government and the NDP party came to an agreement to work together on seven (7) key policy areas; health, affordability, climate change, labour, reconciliation, tax initiatives and democracy. These policies touch all of our lives, uplift those who are marginalized and support those experiencing precarious employment. "What do the two parties want to do? The NDP and the Liberals have identified seven key areas where they say they will work together. Here's what they've agreed to pursue:

Health: A new dental care program that would start with low-income kids under 12 this year before expanding next year to include under-18s, seniors and people living with a disability. The program would be restricted to families earning less than \$90,000 with no co-paying requirements for anyone earning less than \$70,000.

A commitment to work on a "universal national pharmacare program" by passing pharmacare legislation by the end of next year. It would be followed up by tasking the National Drug Agency to recommend essential medicines and a bulk purchasing plan.

A commitment to "additional ongoing investments" to shore up provincial health care systems by hiring more doctors, nurses and mental health supports.

A Safe Long-Term Care Act to address the funding and policy shortcomings exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Affordability: An Early Learning and Child Care Act — to be passed this year — to ensure child care agreements struck between the federal and provincial governments get secure long-term federal funding and are focused on non-profit spaces. More affordable housing, a \$500 top-up to the Canada Housing Benefit this year and a "homebuyer's bill of rights."

Climate change: A commitment to phasing out federal government support for the fossil fuel sector — including funding from Crown corporations — starting in 2022.

A commitment to finding new "ways to further accelerate the trajectory" to a net zero economy by 2050.

A "Clean Jobs Training Centre" to support retraining for energy workers as Canada moves away from fossil fuels.

Labour: A pledge to implement as soon as possible legislation passed by the Liberals to ensure federally regulated workers get 10 days of paid sick leave every year.

The introduction of legislation by the end of next year making it illegal to call in replacement workers when an employer of unionized employees in a federally regulated industry locks out workers.



Reconciliation: A commitment to continued funding to help First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities undertake burial searches at the former sites of residential schools.

A commitment to work with Indigenous peoples to decide how housing investments are delivered and designed.

A commitment to advance policies related to missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls.

Tax initiatives: Changes to taxation for financial institutions that have made robust profits during the pandemic.

Implementation of a publicly accessible beneficial ownership registry by the end of 2023.

Democracy: A commitment to work with Elections Canada to expand voter participation, which could include expanding election day to three days of voting.

A change to elections rules to allow people to vote at any polling place within their electoral district.

Improvements to mail-in ballots so that voters are not disenfranchised.

A commitment to ensuring that the number of seats Quebec has in the House of Commons remains constant."

[Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/trudeau-singh-how-it-will-work-1.6393710>]

Myths about those experiencing Homelessness

Misconception: "It's safer for a person to be sleeping outside vs staying in a bad home situation"

MYTH

Sure, it is sometimes unsafe for a person to be living in a home that is physically unsafe (for example, a foreclosure or structurally sound building), or emotionally unsafe (for example, abuse, neglect, or conflict with housemates or family members). However, experiencing homelessness can result in many other life-threatening outcomes, like a disease. While a person may be "better off" living outside of their unsafe environment, they are never "better off" experiencing homelessness.

This is why it is so important for support services to be in place for people experiencing unsafe living conditions to have access to. In 2020, Blue Door is introducing 5 new second-stage houses! Abode and Forward will provide second-stage housing for seniors, families, and will offer the first second-stage housing program for LGBTQ2S+ youth in York Region.

[Source: <https://bluedoor.ca/be-an-advocate/>]

Book Sale @ RHUC - September 10

If you're at home and find yourself wanting to purge books...**STOP!** We're having a Book Event this year and will happily take your novels (no textbooks or workbooks please).

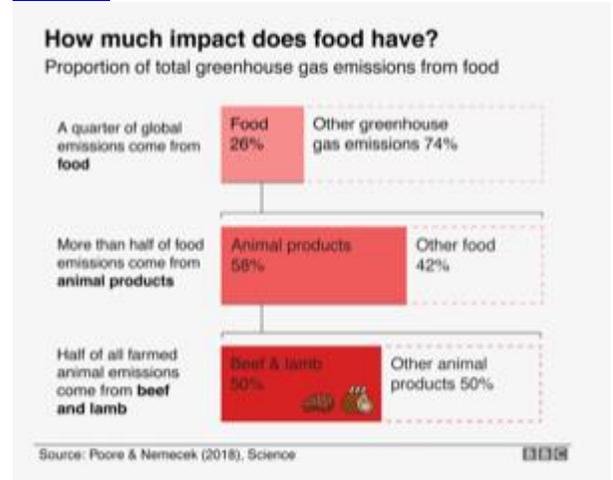


We're collecting them now so we can organize them.

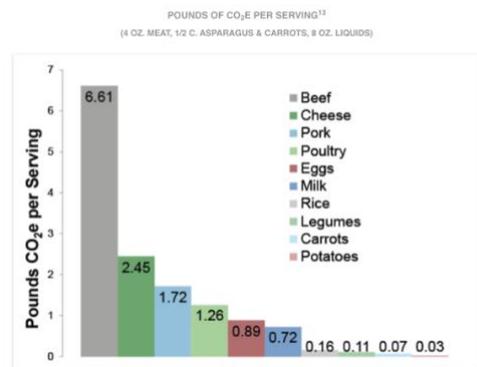
Please contact Tracy Wixon tewixon3@gmail.com for pick up or drop-off of your books. Thank you!

net zero

Beef, from cows, takes 6.61 pounds (yes, American) of CO² emissions per serving as compared to the next highest (sadly) cheese at 2.45 pounds of CO² emissions per serving. Here are some resources to help you find information on the importance of reducing the meat and dairy in your diet in light of the climate crisis: Plant-based diet can fight climate change (**UN via BBC**) - <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-49238749>



Carbon Footprint Factsheet (**University of Michigan**) - <https://css.umich.edu/factsheets/carbon-footprint-factsheet>





So here at RHUC we are trying to find ways to make eating vegan more fun. First, after church [today](#), check in with the people you talk to: any great recipes they have for vegan eating? Any tips on how to make being vegan equally palatable and equally cheap? What are they finding the hardest about eating less meat? What's a vegan Easter dinner alternative to lamb? (By the way, after cheese, it's pork so don't go to ham...). Secondly, find a friend to make changes with you and to check in with you now and then.

Some of my food choice changes are to cook rice, potatoes, carrots and legumes in delicious sauces with spices and coconut milk and flavoured oils. I like to roast peppers for flavour and try foods with meat-like textures like mushrooms and eggplant.

You can find a quick footprint calculator here to help you figure out some different food choices you could make: **Climate change food calculator: What's your diet's carbon footprint?** (BBC) - <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46459714>

On June 5th, come and join our next Climate Lunch and Learn where we will talk about how to reduce emissions if you live in an apartment and share some recipes for vegan cooking. Email me at targetclimatechange@gmail.com to get the zoom link or sign up with this Eventbrite link to get reminder emails and the zoom link. We will make the changes we need, together.

community news

You can help give Richmond Hill a spring cleaning during Clean Up, Green Up Weeks from



Friday, April 22 to Friday, May 6. The city will provide registered groups with gloves, garbage and recycling bags, and arrange for collection of the filled bags. Please register by April 10 at Richmondhill.ca/CleanUpWeeks

The Richmond Hill 2022 Summer Company program is open for applications! If you know a student between 15 and 29 who has a great idea for a business, ask them to get in touch with us today! The Summer Company program provides students with training, mentorship, and a grant of up to \$3,000 to kick-start a summer business. Summer Company applications begin in January and close in May.

[Entrepreneurship Funding Programs - City of Richmond Hill](#)

mission & service

Support those affected by the crisis in Ukraine. The only positive part of all this is knowing that 100% of your donation to the United Church goes to emergency response relief; 85% to Ukraine and 15% to responding to future emergencies. No part of your donation is deducted for administration, advertising, or consultants; all money goes towards emergency relief.

How to donate:

1. online – UCC website united-church.ca
2. call the United Church of Canada 416-231-5931 ext. 2738
3. mailing a cheque to: The United Church of Canada Philanthropy Unit, Emergency Response, 3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200, Toronto, Ontario M8X 2Y4

Richmond Hill Speaker Series: There are so many benefits of lifelong learning. In these tumultuous times we believe it is important to stretch our thinking and be exposed to new ideas. Visit the website [Home | Richmond Hill Speaker Series](#) to find out more about each speaker and what they are speaking about and order your ticket.

This week features 'our own' David Leyton-Brown!
April 7th David Leyton-Brown: *The Embattled Presidency and Beyond*

resources for seniors

National Institute on Ageing - [National Institute on Ageing \(nia-ryerson.ca\)](http://NationalInstituteonAgeing(nia-ryerson.ca))

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