



We will continue to livestream Sunday service using 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 James (james@rhuc.org). Following the online service, a recording of the full service will be posted on our Facebook page. Follow this link: [facebook.com/RichmondHillUnitedChurch/](https://www.facebook.com/RichmondHillUnitedChurch/). In addition, the weekly message will be posted on the [RHUC Blog](#).

If you ever find you're encountering issues using Zoom on Sunday, you can always visit <https://status.zoom.us/> to check the site status. 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.

We understand that this is a strange time, but we will get through it together. We are still one community, committed to care for one another with compassion and love.

Minister's Message: As we return to reflecting on how we have lived into our MAP over the past year, we come to an intention that has definitely been impacted by the pandemic. As part of our circle process, we made a commitment to "Reach out with care to people at all stages of life". This intention had two primary generations in mind - children and youth at one end and seniors at the other.

Fortunately, pre-pandemic, we had a strong team of lay pastoral visitors that continued to reach out to seniors once we went into lockdown. They weren't able to visit face to face anymore, but these volunteers continued to be a strong connecting point between RHUC and some of our most mature members. These calls were part of a broader outreach to all of our members, with personal phone calls from me while we got our phone tree going again, and then ongoing contact via phone tree branch leaders. Knowing that general connections were being made gave me the chance to focus on members with ongoing pastoral concerns as well as to facilitate social meetings on Zoom.

Again, pre-pandemic, we evaluated our programs with children and youth and had just launched a new format for Discovery Time. But then the pandemic came, and everything changed. Following advice not to take a multigenerational approach to online worship, we opted to create Discovery Time materials that parents could lead at home. These outlines were well-received (albeit parents were stretched given the switch to remote learning), but regular contact was missing. So, at Hallowe'en I drove around dropping off gift bags of candy and then come Advent started to record regular children's messages that could be viewed as a supplement to parent-led activities. It is not the same as having all generations together, but it feels like we are more connected in the last half of this year than in the first.

We have tried to keep reaching out "with care to people at all stages of life" throughout these months, but I confess that I wish I had done more as a minister to connect with RHUC youth and young adults. I have said it before, but it bears repeating. I am so grateful to Ian Wilgus and Anne Leyton-Brown for holding space via Zoom each Sunday afternoon for youth to meet virtually. It has become their church. In addition, we have held virtual youth events and had youth-led content in worship on occasion (like this past Good Friday). These events and projects have helped youth and young adults stay connected, but it doesn't compete with face-to-face connection, so important if my recollections of being a teenager are correct.

As I look back over this year, I wish we had been able to do more to reach out with care to all generations in this difficult time. And yet I also recognize that we have been able to do some new and creative things even as we drew on some tried and true things as well. There is much I know we will draw on as we look forward to ministry in a post-pandemic context.

worship and music

[Order of Service](#) [Hymns](#) [Discovery Time at home](#)

James' video for children:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AlBjmozEVDR0gacu20Ymmg-usSTXww>

The Second Sunday of Easter (April 11): This Sunday is known as Holy Humour Sunday and so we take time to celebrate with joy. Beginning with an excerpt from Joyce Rupp's *Out of the Ordinary*, we go on to reflect on John 20:19 -31 (the story of Jesus appearing to Thomas) and 1 John 1:1-4 (the gift of eternal life). Julia Ye will be preaching the sermon.

The Third Sunday of Easter (April 18): We will continue looking at John's Easter accounts as we reflect on John 21:1-14 (an additional resurrection appearance in which Jesus appears on the beach and invites the disciples for breakfast) and 1 John 3:1-3 (we share in God's life).

The Fourth Sunday of Easter (April 25): We shift back in John's gospel to chapter 10, verses 11-18 as we celebrate what has come to be known as "Good Shepherd Sunday". We are lucky to have Rev. Linda Butler offer the sermon for us this week.

Worship Notes: It takes many moving parts to bring a worship service to life. There are people offering leadership up front - readers, choristers, prayer leaders, preachers, musicians, ushers, etc., and there are people behind the scenes - collection counters, AV operators, decorators, cleaners, etc. The same is true when we meet online. In addition to many of the upfront leadership we have behind the scenes camera operators, Zoom hosts, audio editors, video creators, and the like. etc. This is as it should be. Liturgy (the original Christian term for worship) refers to "The work of the people". The church is not one person. We are many members forming one body in Christ. By many different people sharing their gifts and skills in worship, we are living out what it means to be one body. And every person worshipping is part of the body as well. Whether we are together in person or together virtually, all of us - singing, praying, preaching, reflecting or reading, we are sharing the work of the people, expressing what it means to be church.



Sunday offering: RHUC, like other churches, depends on donations and rentals to pay our bills. We appreciate those who use Pre-Authorized

Remittance (PAR). For those not PAR, please consider making sure you get your weekly envelope money in (mailed in or mail slot on Centre. St. door) and we hope as well that you will consider some extra to compensate for the loss in income. You can use e-transfer to office@rhuc.org, Canada Helps, <http://www.rhuc.org/donate.html>, or post-dated cheques to the Church, 10201 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, L4C 3B2.

programs for all

HAIR: HAIR (Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels and Other Riffraff), is on **Monday evenings at 7:00 pm over Zoom**. This group intends to be a place of inquiry and questioning, where doubts are expressed, uncertainties about our faith and its relevance to our daily lives clarified, and the application of the teachings and principles of our Christian faith to major issues of our time are explored, and where we have interesting and stimulating discussions. This year we are using videos of TED talks to launch discussion and have dealt with such topics as environmentalism, racism, social justice, ethics, science, religion, and healthy ageing. These discussions are open to anyone interested, and new members are always welcome. To get the Zoom link please contact David Leyton-Brown at dlbrown@yorku.ca.

Women's Spirituality: We will gather on this **Sat., April 10th at 10 a.m.** Program: "The United Church Crest - the history and meaning". Hope you can join us and enjoy our time together!

Shalom Seekers: We will resume our Zoom meetings on Monday April 12 at 10 am with a time of fellowship. For more information, please contact Sandra Loughton or Peg Hiscoke.

Prayer Shawl knitting and crocheting will meet on Zoom and visit that way while we work on our Prayer Shawl on **Wednesdays to April 28 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.** Yarn, needles and hooks are available. Phone Donna Smith, 905-884-6307 for information, and to get the Zoom link.

Pub Theology: Friday, April 26 at 7:30 PM on Zoom: It is time to come together again to talk about faith, spirituality and life's big questions, all over the beverage of your choice. Let James know if you would like to participate, and he will send you the Zoom link. Feel free to invite a friend.



RHUC Book Club Please join us on **Wednesday, April 28th at 4 p.m.** on Zoom to discuss *CHASING PAINTED HORSES* by Canadian author, Drew Hayden Taylor. This novel was chosen for the One Book ~ One Aurora program

for 2021. Chasing Painted Horses has a magical, fable-like quality. It is the story of four unlikely friends who live in Otter Lake, a reserve north of Toronto.

The author, Drew Hayden Taylor, is a playwright, broadcaster, and writer who was born on July 1, 1962 in Curve Lake First Nation near Peterborough, Ontario. He is one of Canada's leading Indigenous playwrights and humorists.

Please speak to Sandra Loughton for more information about the RHUC Book Club. New members are always welcome.

Centering Prayer: This Zoom-based group will meet **Mondays at 12:30** for a simple format with a 20-minute silent sit. **Wednesdays at 6:30 pm** is a reflective format with readings, Taizé style refrains as well as a discussion time after the 20-minute sit. Contact James (james@rhuc.org) for Zoom links to both prayer time.

church news

SAVE THE DATES

April 11, 2021 Leadership and Congregational Development Forum at 2:00 p.m.

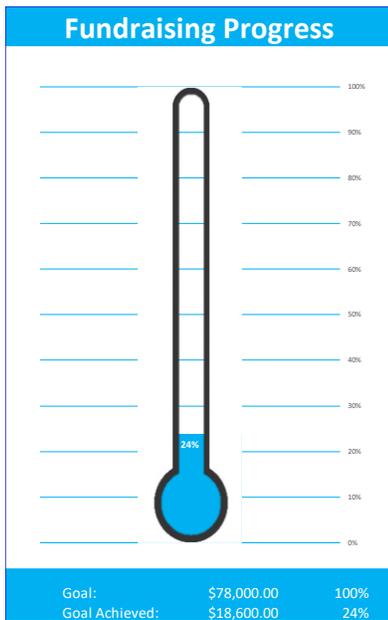
Sunday May 2nd, 2021 - Annual General Meeting (on Zoom)

- time to be confirmed

Nominations Committee: The Nominations Committee is looking to fill the following roles: **Finance Committee Members**

If you have questions about the above positions simply contact one of the following committee members: Kathleen Crosbie (klcrosbie 'at' gmail.com); Donna Harrison (donna115 'at' sympatico.ca) Donna Smith (donnasmith44 'at' rogers.com); and Doug Loweth (loweth 'at' sympatico.ca)

A Request for AV Support: Are you looking for a way to share your gifts in the congregation? Do you like doing things that are hands on? Are you technically minded? If so, then you may be interested in joining our AV - Online Worship Team. We are looking for sound and projection operators along with Zoom hosts. If this interests you, contact James (james@rhuc.org) and he will connect you with either Adam and Dave (for sound and projection) or Brandon (Zoom host).



Boosting Our Signal Campaign: RHUC has embarked on a project to upgrade our AV capabilities. This project, to be implemented in Phases, not only improves the livestream services, but helps us to achieve some of our long-term ministry goals. You can donate via etransfer to office@rhuc.org , cheque or



We are now at **24%** of our goal!!! Thank you!

Outreach

Save The Date: Learn more and register at www.cdngrandmothers.com VIRTUAL CONCERT FUNDRAISER THURSDAY, APRIL 15 'TOGETHER IN CONCERT': IN SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICAN GRANDMOTHERS. A Tapestry of Canadian Talent on April 15, 2021 ~ 7:30 pm EDT. Join us online for a 90-minute concert of music, dance, storytelling and drumming with host Jackie Richardson. Hosted by Canadian Grandmothers. A FREE concert and donations are appreciated ~ all proceeds are raised for the Grandmothers-to-Grandmothers Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

The Sankofa bird - Credit: Logo for the Sankofa Global Project, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons



Mission and Service: Thanks to support through Mission & Service and the United Church Foundation, six young Black adults will begin to collect stories from Black church members about their experiences in the church as well as their knowledge of Black

church history. This fall, they will facilitate online gatherings to share learnings. The project runs through December 2021.

"Hopefully, the young adults will gather prophetic stories that help us understand Black experiences in our churches. The aim isn't so much to identify what we do wrong. It's not about blame. It's about hearing the experiences and asking ourselves 'Where do we go from here?'" says Emo Yango, who works in the United Church's Communities in Mission unit. Yango adds that one of the aspects of the project he finds exciting is building leaders. "We lack resources from Black voices, especially younger ones. We are building leaders. These leaders will help us live into our commitment to become an anti-racist church."

Church members who would like to share their experiences or learn more about the project can contact Emo Yango.

Becoming anti-racist is an ongoing journey of transformation. Your gifts through Mission & Service help us take vital steps forward. Thank you for helping to build stronger Christian communities and a better world.

community news

Richmond Hill BIA: We have an event for you. The *Skillage in the Village* Scavenger Hunt is continuing all of 2021. It is a free to play, virtual Scavenger Hunt that can be played alone, within your family bubble or you can challenge a friend to see who answers the most clues correctly. Great for all ages!

Players register, take their phone, go to Downtown Richmond Hill, select a picture and try and answer the clue. All the clues are found outside and on storefronts on Yonge Street in between Major Mackenzie Drive and Crosby Avenue. New prizes each month! To Register to play:

<https://richmondhillbia.com/event/the-skillage-in-the-village-scamenger-hunt-continues-all-year-long/>

Want to learn about new prizes each month or future events?

Subscribe to the BIA newsletter on the website

www.richmondhillbia

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook @richmondhillbia

We want to work with the members of the community to build a more connected community in Downtown Richmond Hill.

The Village of Richmond Hill Business Improvement Area (BIA)

Richmond Hill Performance Arts Theatre Speaker Series Spring 2021 Subscription: All shows 10am-12pm EDT. A Zoom webinar link will be emailed prior to each lecture.

\$30 for series (4 lectures) \$12 for individual lecture

Click [HERE](#) to order

Emergency Shelter Needed: in a recent RHUC Reflections it was reported that we are seeking accommodations, one for a senior woman, and another for an adult man and his mother. The situation has become critical. The senior woman is living in a shelter in Toronto. If you can take her in or help in any way, please call James (647-705-2754).

INVITATION Centering Prayer Introductory Talk via Zoom

“Be still and know that I am God.” Psalm 46:10

**Do you feel pulled in all directions?
Are you looking for a more intimate relationship with God?
Do you want more from your prayer life?**

..... then Centering Prayer, as taught by Fr. Thomas Keating, may be for you. Centering Prayer is a simple method of Christ-centered silent prayer for those looking for a deeper prayer life while living in the world. It is a modern approach to an ancient contemplative prayer practice. A movement beyond conversation to communion with God, which leads to personal transformation and a more intimate relationship with God.

PART 1 The Introductory Talk lays the foundation which includes both instruction and group practice in the method of Centering Prayer. The 2.5 hour talk is led by Sue Woollard, a presenter trained by Contemplative Outreach.

When: Thursday, April 15, 2021
7:00-9:30 pm

Where: On Zoom. The joining information will be sent to registered participants

Cost: FREE

Registration: To register, please email Sue Woollard at sue.woollard@rogers.com

lifting our spirits

This is a section for poems, reflections, recipes, uplifting news items, anything to help us get through this, and to do it together. Please submit items to help us all "lift our spirits". Email Deb at office@rhuc.org.



We're having fun **folding paper airplanes** on zoom .

The source is:

Amazingpaperairplanes.com

Perhaps you and any potential pilots can have fun with this too!

The site includes very basic to

more intriguing and intricate designs. Make them solo or with parents or grandparents in person or on zoom this weekend!

Materials: 8.5 x 11" paper and scissors



Cucumber/avocado Salad

Dressing

- 1 tablespoon (15 mL) Dijon mustard
- 1 teaspoon (5 mL) mustard seed
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon (5 mL) honey (optional)
- 1 cup (250 mL) Extra Virgin Olive Oil
- Salt to taste

Salad

- 1 English Cucumber, spiralized or sliced ¼ inch thick
- 4 tomatoes, cut into quarters and into half
- 1 ripe firm avocado, diced
- Juice of 1/2 lime
- 1/2 small red onion, diced
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) mint leaves, diced

Directions

1. Add all dressing ingredients to a medium bowl (except the oil) and whisk together.

2. Gradually whisk in the oil, set aside. Add lime juice over diced avocado.

3. Add all ingredients for the salad to a large bowl drizzle with the dressing and toss.

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