



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 near the date of our AGM, we have only three more intentions to consider. Today, I am looking at Intention #7, "Communicate our story both within and beyond the congregation". In the early months it was critical for communication efforts to be focused within the congregation. As previously mentioned, we restarted a phone tree. Like our "web of friends", each group has a facilitator who reached out and checks in with their group on a regular basis, especially to communicate important information. Unlike the web, the various branches were based on geography, either what neighbourhood of Richmond Hill someone lives in, or if they live outside of Richmond Hill, then whether the community they live in is north or south of the city. The phone tree has potential beyond communication. Like the "web of friends", the members of each branch can use their affiliation to offer support and grow in friendship. Once the pandemic is behind us, there is no reason why people in different neighbourhoods or surrounding communities couldn't get together for a BBQ, a Christmas party or other social event. Building community is key to our health as members and to our growth as a congregation.

In addition, to communicating to everyone via the phone tree, I made personal phone calls (especially to seniors), set up coffee meetings on Zoom and Deb send out regular emails in addition to the weekly email with a link to RHUC Reflections. I had forgotten how enjoyable a good phone conversation can be and while making less calls in order to focus on emergent concerns, I've tried to continue reaching out in this way over these months. In addition, beginning in September, one of Julia's ministry tasks was to reach out to everyone and check in, as well as to connect in regard to the "in-house" photo directory we are putting together. (If you haven't submitted a photo yet, please send one to Deb or we'll have to use a photo from previous directories or may need even to search Facebook for one.) Finally, we held a number of virtual open houses to share information and elicit feedback and sent out letters. Emails are an important medium of communication for us so please make sure we have your most current address. That being said, we have a committed group of volunteers who regularly drop off sermons, "Reflections" and other communication to members who don't use email.

As the pandemic continued beyond the summer, it became clear we needed to return to some degree of normal. This meant that we needed to consider communicating beyond RHUC again. We did this in the first months, making sure the building's closure was prominently displayed both on the property and through our website. We also wanted to let neighbours know we're there to help so changed the sign out front to graphically say as much. We are committed to justice and inclusion and so following the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd and Breanna Taylor, we erected signs to affirm that Black lives matter, and during the summer proclaimed in a large rainbow heart that LGBTQ+ lives matter too. But we also knew we would one day be open again, including the Village Commons, so the Communications Committee has been hard at work over the past several months to develop a logo and tagline for this community space and contracted a web designer to work on a new website for us, which will include a page about the Commons. We were fortunate to find a new graduate who needs to build her design portfolio. We have been very pleased with her work this far and know everyone will be as well. In a time of crisis, it's understandable for people to draw inwards, but that's not a long-term strategy. In fact, we need to do the opposite. We need to reach out and help whoever is in need. While tending to one another in this time, we haven't forgotten our responsibility to look beyond ourselves and share the love and compassion of Christ. We have told our story and will continue to do so in the months to come.



worship and music

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

James' video for children:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AlBjmozEVDROgahHFOcedv3z-HGYjQ>

The Third Sunday of Easter (April 18): We continue to look at John's Easter accounts, reflecting on John 21:1-14. In this addendum to John's Gospel, we read about an additional resurrection appearance from in which Jesus appears on the beach and invites the disciples for breakfast. Of note is the reaction of Peter. Having previously gone back to his former occupation, he now "dives in" to what being a follower of Jesus really means. We also read 1 John 3:1-3 and 7, and "Very Early Spring" by Karen Mansfield.

The Fourth Sunday of Easter (April 25): We read together 1 John 3:16-24 (a reflection on what it means to share in God's love by how we live in the world) and Psalm 23 (which begins "The Lord is my Shepherd") as we celebrate what has come to be known as "Good Shepherd Sunday". We are lucky to have Rev. Linda Butler lead worship and offer the sermon this week. Ian Wilgus will assist Rev. Linda as the lay liturgist.

The Fifth Sunday of Easter (May 2): We celebrate our annual "Anniversary Sunday" as well as meet after worship (virtually, of course) for our AGM. We shift from reflecting on resurrection stories to earlier chapters in John's gospel. In John 15:1-8, Jesus compares the faith community to a vine with each of us as branches grafted into him and animated by the Spirit. We also hear 1 John 4:7-21 and an excerpt from Maya Angelou's "On the Pulse of Morning".

Worship Notes: The Easter season is a time each year to celebrate baptism, not just actually celebrating the sacrament, but reflecting on what it means to be baptized. This is why in many churches people renew their baptismal promises as part of Easter celebrations and at RHUC we have included a shared Affirmation of Faith during worship for the last few years. Even though we recite various creeds together, one's faith is still very personal. We don't all necessarily hold to the same beliefs. This is why we use a variety of creeds and other statements of faith during the season. We also need to remember that the word translated as "faith" is actually more like "trust" or "faithfulness" and so we recite a creed not to say we ascribe to each statement but that we trust in God as experienced in our relationship with Christ, and we are faithful to the church, the body of believers across space and time who have tried to express their faith in word as well as in action. We affirm these relationships as we recite a variety of creeds over the weeks of Easter.



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.

Shalom Seekers: Please join us on Monday, April 19th at 10 a.m. on Zoom via video or telephone. This week we will have an extended check-in and social time. The Zoom invitation will be sent out the day before the meeting. For more details about the group, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton.

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 DATE: Sunday May 2nd, 2021 - Annual General Meeting (on Zoom) at 11:45 a.m.

Map Minute: On March 7, 2021 we provided a congregational update regarding our ongoing work with SHS Consulting regarding our future redevelopment project. We are seeking potential development partners to help realize our long-term vision for a Centre for Community and the Arts in a redeveloped former CD building.

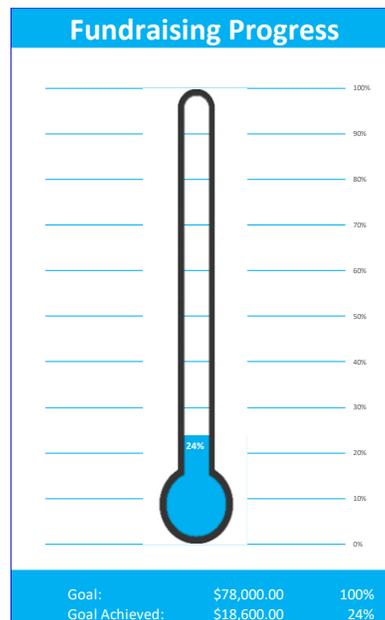
On March 25th, the Mission Action Business Plan team along with SHS Consulting had an on-line introductory meeting with representatives from [United Property Resource Corporation](#) which was developed by the United Church of Canada in 2019 - after we had begun our work with SHS Consulting. The meeting was also attended by the Executive Director of [Toronto United Church Council](#) who work closely with UPRC. The purpose of our meeting was to better understand the mandate of UPRC and whether they could assist our plans to re-develop. A second meeting was held on April 8th to further clarify RHUC's hopes for our project and for UPRC staff to answer a number of questions by RHUC folks and SHS. We are meeting again on April 22nd and hope to get a clearer sense of whether we have potential for partnership.

A presentation on what we have learned will be provided to the congregation at the RHUC AGM on May 2nd.

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 (kltcrosbie '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!

community news

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).

Camping Sunday
April 25th, 2021 2 pm – 3 pm

Zoom Link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/92292081317>

Join Us! April 25th, 2021 is Camping Sunday in the United Church of Canada, and we are inviting you to join the Shining Waters Regional Council camps and Jeffrey Dale, Minister for Faith Formation, Youth and Young Adults for an afternoon of camping fun, connection, and community building.

As many of you are aware, last summer was a difficult time for the camping ministry in Shining Waters. With the uncertainty this year continuing, we thought we'd take some time to celebrate camping ministry and how it has been an integral part of this region's youth and children's ministry.

Come and hear about the various camping ministries in Shining Waters Regional Council and how they continue to connect with the children and youth throughout the region!

There will be games and prizes (and we invite you to bring your own snacks)!

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.

Vegan Lasagna

Ingredients:

For the roast veggies

- 1 full bake tray of mushrooms (about 1 pound, chopped)
- 1 full bake tray of zucchini (about 1 pound, quartered, then chopped)
- Extra virgin olive oil
- ~8 cloves (minced)
- Salt and pepper (to taste)

For the vegan ricotta

- 1 medium cauliflower (coarsely chopped)
- 2.5 c. cashews (try sunflower seeds or tofu if you are allergic — no need to boil the tofu)
- 1/3 c. extra virgin olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- Handful (28g) fresh basil (optional but recommended)
- Small handful spinach (optional)

Everything else

- 4.5 c of your favourite marinara sauce (grab 3 x 473mL jars to be safe)
- 1-2 packages of egg-free no-bake lasagna noodles (# of packs depend on how large your baking dish is)
- Vegan mozzarella (optional — for the top)
- More basil for the garnish on top (optional)

DIRECTIONS

To make the roast veggies:

1. Preheat oven to 450F. Chop your veggies and place on the two bake trays (zucchini on one, mushrooms on the other). Drizzle generously with olive oil, sprinkle with salt and pepper and add the garlic (four cloves for each tray). Roast until they are fragrant, sizzling and golden, about 30 minutes.

To make the vegan ricotta:

1. Coarsely chop your small cauliflower and add to a pot of boiling water along with the cashews. Cook until cauliflower is fork tender, about ten minutes. Drain the contents of the pot and transfer to a blender. Add the olive oil, salt, pepper (and basil / spinach if you're using) and puree until silky smooth. Set aside for later.

To assemble:

1. Preheat oven to 375F. Grease a large casserole dish (anywhere around 13" x 9") and begin to build your lasagna: spread 1 ½ c. marinara sauce in the base of your dish, followed by lasagne noodles (you may have to break some into smaller pieces to fill in the holes). Next, add the vegan ricotta to a pastry piping bag or a small (re-used) ziploc bag with the corner cut off. To create an even cheese layer, squeeze lines of cheese onto the noodles, then spread them out using a spoon. Aim to use just under half of the ricotta (you need two layers of the ricotta and some leftover for the dollops on top, unless you're going with mozza on top instead).

Next layer: spoon on half of the vegetables. Now repeat those layering steps: 1 ½ c. marinara sauce, noodles, cheese, vegetables. Finish with a top layer of noodles, marinara sauce and mozzarella if you prefer.

2. Cover your dish with an upside-down baking sheet (instead of conventional aluminum foil) and cook for 50 minutes. If you didn't add mozza to the top, once it's cooked and slightly cooled, garnish the top of your lasagne with dollops of vegan ricotta (using the piping bag), a sprinkling of chopped basil (if you like) and a drizzle of good olive oil. Enjoy!

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