



**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:** With the AGM rapidly approaching, I want to reflect on the last two of our MAP intentions, especially since my reflection on Intention 3 included what we have been up to regarding our redevelopment project. But there is a bit more to say about the project based on Intention 8, that is to "be good stewards of our Finances and Facilities". If you attended last month's update via Zoom, you would have heard that while the many months of work are bearing fruit, the current Village Commons (CD Building) will still be our home for a few more years. Given that, we took advantage of the lockdown to make some improvements to the space. I am so grateful to Dan for all of the hard work he has done while the building sat idle. The rooms are refreshed and ready for when various groups return. Keeping the space clean and fresh is one way we let our partners know they are valued right now and not just in the future. One part of this freshening up, that I am quite excited about, is using our main hallway to display art from local artists through Richmond Hill Group of Artists, a possible future partner. Like what you see in offices or coffee shops, the art on display can be purchased. It is also changed on a regular basis. A percentage of any sales will go to support local organizations that we want to support such as The Krasman Centre, 360° Kids or Home on the Hill.

With part of Intention 8 focused on financial stewardship, some may argue that the decision to upgrade our AV system to facilitate hybrid worship went against that intention. Yet being good stewards does not mean we don't spend anything. The AV project is both a short-term response to the pandemic and a long-term investment in worship and pastoral care, especially in that it increases access to worship and other events for those of us who have difficulty getting to or around the church or want to stay connected even from far away. To this point, a clarification needs to be made about the phases of equipment installation. Some may have the impression that Phase I was about those who were expected to attend the hybrid service from the sanctuary and Phase II is geared towards those joining in from home. In actual fact, the largest cost associated with Phase I was upgrading the interface of the soundboard so that the improvements to sound and visual quality at home we will experience after Phase II can be achieved. Overall, this is an important project for us and if you haven't had a chance to do so yet, you can still make a special contribution to this campaign through PAR, by cheque or with a contribution through CanadaHelps.

We have also been doing good work in regard to Intention 9, that is to "foster and value leaders and volunteers" by reviewing our governance and leadership structure and developing a volunteer management process. As you may recall, we adopted a new structure two years ago but have not had the chance to see it in action, only having one of three forum facilitators at any one time. That is until now. This year's Nominations Committee is pleased to report that we will have a full slate of forum facilitators, plus incoming vice chair and new secretary of our board, a new chair of the Family Ministry Team (formerly the CD Committee), and new members of Finance (along with a familiar face returning as chair of the committee). It has been difficult to evaluate a structure that is not fully functioning and it has been tempting to throw in the towel. Instead, I pray that we embrace the suggestions the Governance Review Working Group are bringing to the AGM. I am so grateful for the discerning and deliberating this group has done. I'm also grateful for the work of DJ McCreedy, as Leadership and Congregational Forum Facilitator, along with Anne Dunn, Kathleen Crosbie, and Susan Greene as the Volunteer Animation Team, in concert with Nicole Moore and Penny Fabbro and the rest of the phone tree branch leaders. It is not easy to help people discern where to share their gifts when we may feel overwhelmed with the ongoing pandemic and disconnected from our congregation. But they reached out, and will continue to do so, helping each of us to find the best avenues to serve at RHUC in the years to come.

When we approved our Mission Action Plan in 2018, we never could have imagined what we would all be facing two years later. And yet our ability to continue working on our intentions reveals our commitment and adaptive spirit. We may be in a pandemic but we will continue to work toward our shared vision.

## worship and music

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

James' video for children:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AlBimozEVDROgah8YkQounUXwRo9dA>

**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 at 11:45 am (virtually, of course) for our AGM. We shift to earlier chapters in John's gospel, reflecting on John 15:1-8 in which Jesus compares the faith community to a vine, each of us as branches grafted into him and animated by the Spirit. We hear 1 John 4:7-21 in which the author reflects on our call to love others because God first loved us. We also consider an excerpt from Maya Angelou's "On the Pulse of Morning".

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 9):** We take time, on Mother's Day, to reflect on John 15:9-17 in which Jesus reflects on the importance of love as the foundation of our identity, a message reaffirmed in 1 John 5:1-6. On this day, we take time to bless the prayer shawls that were crafted throughout Lent.

**Worship Notes:** The Season of Easter, along with being a time to reflect on baptismal, is a season of joy and celebration. We spend fifty days (seven weeks plus a day) giving thanks for the resurrection, both the resurrection of Christ and sharing in it through baptism. We played with this a little by marking the Second Sunday of Easter as "Holy Humour Sunday". We also do this by maintaining a joyful character to the decorations. Another way we try to uphold the sense of celebration each year is by singing the "Prayer of Jesus". St. Augustine is reputed to have said that "to sing is to pray twice". I don't know if that is actually the case, but singing this well-known Christian prayer enables us to hear ourselves, and so to appreciate the prayer, in a new way. There are a number of settings for the Prayer of Jesus. You may remember a version by Sr. Janet Mead in the 1970s. It even made the charts. The one we have been using is from a previous recording of the worship service. It is by David Haas and is found in *Voices United*.



**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](mailto: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

**Shalom Seekers:** Please join us on **Monday, April 27th at 10 a.m. on Zoom** via video or telephone. 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.

**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](mailto:dlbrown@yorku.ca).

**Pub Theology: Friday, April 23 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.



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

**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.

**United Church Women:** The next meeting will take place on **Wed., May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.** The theme will be “Bearing fruit with service in God”.

**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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

**Broadview subscription** is due and new subscribers can sign up. These are the following articles you will find in the June issue:

**Proud Priest** - When people ask Theo Robinson how he can be both an Anglican minister and trans, he always has the same answer: the church has been there for him.

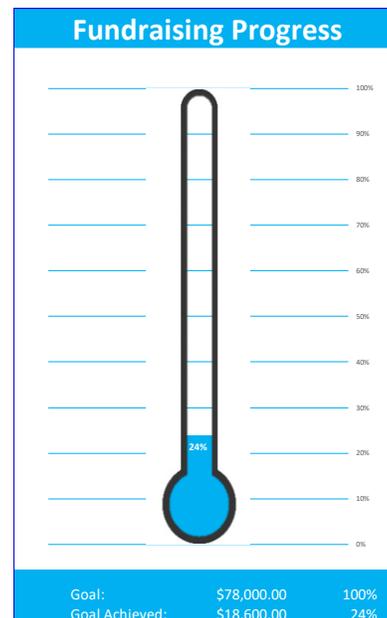
**Letter to a Fellow Prisoner** - Former hostage James Loney writes to a Canadian inmate in Florida about the unfortunate thing they have in common.

**Climate Hope** - Once a logging and mining town, Gibsons, B.C., is now a green pioneer. Its secret? Giving nature a chance to do its thing.

**Under One Roof** - This month's United Church feature explores the vital relationship between churches and non-profits — and how to get it right.

The annual group subscription rate is \$25/year. Please etransfer or send a cheque **to renew or start your subscription by May 14<sup>th</sup>.** Thank you!

**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

### Net Zero: Part 1

I would like to tell you two stories, one is an allegory and one is factual. And both tell truth.

There once was a bottle full of clean water and rich nutrients. Two bacteria landed in this bottle, and being bacteria happily sated with food, they reproduced quickly, doubling the bacteria population each minute. In 59 minutes the warm rich ocean in the bottle was half-filled with bacteria. The adult bacteria smiled at their children and told them not to worry when they mentioned that only half the bottle was left to fill. It took us 59 minutes to fill the first half, they said, we have many generations left to fill the second half. But when the next minute was past, the last resources were consumed and their children's future was no more.

There was also once a young woman of 18, who came from a happy family of 5 children. She enjoyed always being loved and laughed with and longed for a large family of her own. But she liked math and understood it and so her mouth dried and fear curled in her stomach when she noticed a poster, showing a graph of global population growth, rising exponentially over the 18 years of her life. She realized that the world would fill beyond its capacity. When she married she chose to have only one child and when her son was born she stored up the knowledge that in him she still had the potential to be a grandmother. She was surprised that no one around her was in any way concerned about the exponential growth of global population. The world, she was told, was only half-filled, there was plenty left. But when her son studied environmental science, he also understood the math. But for him it told a different story and she was not surprised when he told her that he was not planning on having any children, and neither were many of his classmates. What was the point, when their resources would be consumed and their future be no more?

We need to be smarter than bacteria. *Esther Collier*

## community news

**Camping Sunday** - April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 2 pm – 3 pm

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

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.

A letter dressed to Premier Doug Ford regarding the **urgent need for the province to immediately legislate paid sick days for every working Ontarian** -

[https://d.docs.live.net/e7687e18c8ebd57d/Documents/RHUC%201/RHUC%20Online/2021\\_04\\_21\\_letter\\_to\\_Premier\\_Ford\\_re\\_paid\\_sick\\_days.pdf](https://d.docs.live.net/e7687e18c8ebd57d/Documents/RHUC%201/RHUC%20Online/2021_04_21_letter_to_Premier_Ford_re_paid_sick_days.pdf)

## 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](mailto:office@rhuc.org).

### Black bean burgers

- 1 14-ounce can black beans
- 3 tablespoons olive or vegetable oil, or butter, divided
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1/4 yellow onion, chopped finely
- 1 large carrot, peeled and grated on a course grater
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro, stemmed and chopped finely (optional)
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 1/4 cup panko or breadcrumbs
- Pinch cumin (optional)/Pinch chipotle powder or paprika (optional) and Salt and pepper
- 4 airy burger buns (ideally brioche)
- 1 avocado
- 4 cheese slices, or 4 ounces cheese like cheddar

1. Drain and rinse beans. Transfer beans to a bowl. Reserve.
2. In a sauté pan over medium heat, add 2 tablespoons oil, garlic and onions. Stir for 1 minute. Then add carrot. Sauté until carrots soften and garlic and onions begin to brown.
3. Transfer contents of veggie pan to the bowl of beans. Slightly mash the mixture, mashing roughly half the beans while leaving the remaining ones whole. Add cilantro, egg, panko, cumin, chipotle powder, salt, and pepper. Mix all of the ingredients with a fork to form the mixture into patties. Reserve.
4. In a sauté pan over medium-high heat, add 1 tablespoon oil. When oil is hot, add patties. Cover with a lid and cook for 4 minutes. Flip patties and top each one with cheese. Cover and cook for 4 more minutes, or until cheese has melted and patties are cooked throughout.
5. Top with a slice of avocado and your favorite fixin's

Note: There are lots of ingredients, so feel free to improvise.

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