



**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 mark Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday this weekend, the 72 hours collectively called the Triduum, I thought I would pause my reflections on our MAP and offer a reflection on this most sacred time of the Christian year. I say "offer" quite literally because what I want to share are not my words but those of the Rev. Cameron Trimble, Executive Director of the Center for Progressive Renewal whose mandate is to support the reshaping of churches and church leaders in the shift from being "organized religion" to "organizing religion" which is motivated by "the values of an inclusive, progressive theological vision for a more just world for all". As I was reflecting on what I wanted to share with you, I read Cameron's words and felt she captured what I wanted to say much better than I could. Here are her reflections on Good Friday and Easter Sunday:

"My friend Dana is a sculptor. She creates beautiful bronzed statues, many of which are on display at some of our national museums and public parks. When she isn't working with bronze, she enjoys working with clay. She makes stunning glazed bowls, plates, and cups, each with their own unique shapes and colors.

Her work is breathtaking to behold.

The last time I was in her home, she handed me a bowl that had gold streaks running through what looked to be old cracks. When she saw me looking more closely, she said, "It's called Kintsugi, a Japanese art. This bowl has been through a lot over the years, and it finally broke apart a while ago. But I felt like I could do more with it. So I melted gold and put it back together."

But then she said something that I will never forget. She said reflectively, "You know, I can now see that **it's more beautiful for having been broken.**"

As we head into Good Friday and Easter, we can see brokenness everywhere we look. We see gaping cracks in our institutions, our social order, our treatment of the vulnerable among us. We have cracks in our economies, our healthcare systems, our education systems, and clean water sources. The brokenness can feel overwhelming and hopeless.

This is what I know about God. Our God, the Ultimate Potter, looks upon this broken-down world and, just like my friend Dana, sees how it can be more beautiful because of its brokenness, not in spite of it. God never causes the breaks, mind you. But once there, God uses them to bring forth new and even more beautiful creations.

Easter is a story of how God took the brokenness of crucifixion and transformed it into new life through resurrection. God made something new, something even more beautiful in the Risen Christ. We can trust God to do this with us. This season, where everything is off and you may feel broken to your core, consider that God is creating within you someone more beautiful for having been broken."

I couldn't have said it better. Have a blessed Triduum.

## worship and music

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

James' video for

children: <https://1drv.ms/v/s!AIBjmozEVDROgaZtYeVCUM8cIL4VxQ>

**Holy Week Services:** Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services will all be held via Zoom. We have a limit on Zoom of 100 participants so if you can't log in for one of the services, simply go to our Facebook page and the service will be broadcast there as well.

**Maundy Thursday (April 1) at 6:30 pm** (please note the change in time from what was posted last week). This is a communion service so be sure to have bread and wine (juice) prepared along with the rest of your meal (we are eating together, albeit apart).

We will also take time to share the "maundatum" with family members washing one another's feet or individuals washing their own hands so be sure to have a bowl, a pitcher warm, soapy water, and towels. [Order of service](#) [Hymns](#)



**Good Friday (April 2) at 10:30 am.** Reflecting on chapters 18 and 19 of John, RHUC youth have put together a video to illustrate the connection between Jesus' arrest, trial and death, and what is happening in our local and global context. These scenes will be interspersed with hymns and anthems in this reflective service. We will conclude rather than begin the service with a procession with the cross.

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

**Easter Sunday (April 4) Sunrise Service at 6:45 am.** Remember to log in from an east facing window so we can see the sun rise together as we reflect on the first Easter based on Mark 16:1-8. We'll also eat breakfast "together".

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

**Easter Sunday (April 4) Communion Service at 10:30 am.** Thank you to everyone who took some time to prayerfully walk your neighbourhood or other favourite spot and took a picture of something that spoke to your heart of new life and transformation. There were all sorts of images. We will view these as part of an opening video. Remember that this is a communion service so have bread and wine (juice) prepared ahead of time (and a candle to light).

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

James' video for children:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AlBimozEVDROgaZtYeVCUM8cIL4VxQ>

**The Second Sunday of Easter (April 11):** This Sunday is known as Holy Humour Sunday and so we take time to celebrate with joy. We reflect on John 20:19 -31 (the story of Jesus appearing to Thomas) and 1 John 1:1-2:2 (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 gospel as we reflect on John 21:1-14 (Jesus appears on the beach and invites them for breakfast) and 1 John 3:1-3 (we share in God's life).



**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 note there will be no zoom meeting on Easter Monday April 5th. We will resume on Monday April 12 at 10 am for a social time. Easter Blessings!

**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).

**United Church Women:** Their next meeting will take place on **Wednesday, April 7 at 10:30 a.m.** via Zoom with Sharon Creasor sharing information about 'Intro to Herbs'.

**Prayer Shawl knitting and crocheting** will meet on Zoom and visit that way while we work on our Prayer Shawl on **Wednesdays to May 26 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

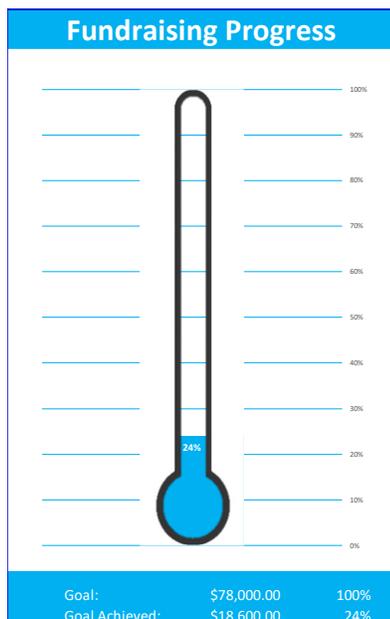
**April 11, 2021 Leadership and Congregational Development Forum** - (on Zoom Time to be confirmed. More details to follow.)

**Sunday May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 (kltcrosbie 'at' gmail.com); Donna Harrison (donna115 'at' sympatico.ca) Donna Smith (donna-smith44 'at' rogers.com); and Doug Loweth (loweth 'at' sympatico.ca)



**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](http://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, an award-winning performer for her theatre and music achievements and featuring Steven Page, National Ballet of Canada, David Myles, Stratford Festival and Sheree Fitch. 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

This year's [Easter message](#) is a unique take on the Easter story after Mary Magdalene's visit to the tomb. Eavesdrop on a conversation between Mary and the disciple Peter on what she saw, or didn't see. (Written by Moderator Richard Bott—and thank you to Alydia Smith for her participation!)

**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](http://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

**Apartments needed:** Does anyone at RHUC have, or know of, a vacant apartment in our area? We have two families from the congregation in need. An elderly woman recently lost her accommodation and is staying in a hotel. Plus, an adult son and his mother are facing eviction because the landlord is planning to sell the house where they are living. Any leads would be greatly appreciated.

## 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).

**ON EASTER DAY THE LILIES BLOOM**

"On Easter Day the lilies bloom,  
Triumphant, risen from their tomb.  
Their bulbs have undergone rebirth,  
Born from the silence of the earth  
Symbolically, to tell all folk  
That Christ, the Saviour, lives again.  
The angels, pure and white as they  
Have come and rolled the stone away  
And with the lifting of the stone  
The shadow of the cross is gone!"

Submitted by Lynne Saul



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