



Sunday worship each week is livestreamed at 10:30 AM 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](mailto: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, follow this link: [Home Prayers](#). For Virtual Sunday School from 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. contact Jeffrey Dale, Youth Ministries at [jdale@united-church.ca](mailto:jdale@united-church.ca).

In this challenging time, it is important that we look after each other. If you are able to pick up groceries and other supplies for those who are homebound, please contact the church. Equally, if you are in need of this support, call the church or email [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org). If you are in need of pastoral care or spiritual support, please contact Rev. James Ravenscroft. Call him at 647-705-2754 or you can reach him by email, [james@rhuc.org](mailto:james@rhuc.org).

May we continue to keep each other and world in prayer, especially those who are most vulnerable, those who are grieving or struggling, and all of those on the frontline putting themselves and their families at risk to keep all of us safe. We will get through this together.

**Minister's Message:** I once again sit at my keyboard both broken-hearted and angry. I was starting to feel hope that the pressing need to deal with anti-Black racism was finally being heard but then we all saw the news report of Jacob Blake being shot seven times in the back by a police officer. It is no surprise that the mostly peaceful protests in Kenosha turned violent. A powder keg of frustration and anger has been sitting beside a lit match of fear. And so not only is a young unarmed Black man left paralyzed, but a white teenager, has been arrested for killing at least one protester. We watch with alarm as an already divided nation to our South becomes even more conflicted. So, what are we to do? One thing is to pray for our American siblings if we are not already doing so. And then to keep doing our own work here in Canada. I say that as I ponder the contrast between the response of NBA players who chose not to play on Wednesday evening and NHL players who continued with their playoff games following a reflection on systemic racism. Athletes from sports as diverse as tennis, baseball and soccer all hit pause as a way to lend their voice to the call for deep and lasting change. I can't help but wonder if the demographics of hockey, both on and off the ice, had a part to play in that decision. I once again say we need to do our work here in Canada. We can't pay lip service to the need for systemic reform here on our rink. Our countries may be different in many ways but the underlying reality of racism is not one of them. We all need to take time for reflection and to grow in our own awareness, but more than that we need to use whatever social, economic and political tools we have to make lasting change. May we take our cue from the Raptors and other NBA teams rather than the stars of our Canadian game. May we do whatever we can to cultivate the just society we need rather than wait for a keg to explode.

## worship and music

**Sunday, August 30:** Rather than look at the word "sacrifice" quite yet, we will turn instead to "blessed" and "blessing". To do this we shift ahead to Matthew 19: 13-15. This reflection is part of a series within our series, as James looks at the three-fold pattern of spiritual growth - from blessing to crisis to renewal.

**Sunday, September 6:** We look at the word "sacrifice" as we continue to look at the three-fold pattern of spiritual growth. As we return to Matthew 16, this time looking at 21-25, Jesus reminds his disciples of the importance of carrying the cross.

**Sunday, September 13:** We look at Matthew 18:21-28 during which Peter asks Jesus how many times we need to forgive another. In this we are reminded of how important forgiveness is in our spiritual maturing.

**Sunday, September 20:** In Matthew 20:1-16, Jesus tells a parable about a landowner hiring workers at various times of the day. James will look at this passage as he concludes his "church words" series.

**Worship Notes:** For the last several months we have been worshipping through Zoom, using this platform so that people can connect while still remaining safe and healthy. As we look toward reopening for in-person worship, we are planning to continue using the Zoom platform as a way for people who wish to continue logging-in from home to do so. Those who choose to gather in-person will do so while abiding by public health protocols such as keeping physical distance of 2m between household groups, wearing masks and other face covering, practicing proper respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene. A firm date for reopening has not yet been set. Stay tuned for more information.

**Sunday offering:** RHUC, like other churches, depends on donations and rentals to pay our bills. Our building continues to cost money even while closed and we continue to keep our employees working, albeit in ways that are different from normal tasks. We appreciate those who use Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). For those not PAR, please consider making sure you get your weekly envelope money in and we hope as well 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.**



## church news



**Saying goodbye: Wendy and Don Thomson** came to RHUC about eleven years ago and have supported our work and worship, specifically in the areas of financial management, visioning and planning and outreach and social action. They have each become involved in the other's interests and

have supported other committees with their attendance at events and encouragement. We are sad that they have moved to Georgetown to be closer to their young grandchildren so they can assist, nurture and enjoy them in their growing years. The following contributors to this acknowledgment have worked closely with Don and Wendy and share these thoughts:

From Jane Wedlock: Don and Wendy have been wonderful and committed members of our Mission Action Business Plan team that has worked diligently for the past couple of years to develop a plan for our facilities. Wendy's spectacular attention to detail and design expertise, and Don's always thoughtful financial questions helped us consider challenging perspectives and were extremely valuable to our collective efforts. We so appreciated having them as part of our team and they will be very much missed.

From Lyn May: Wendy signed up for Outreach shortly after she joined the church - she was catapulted into the position of co-chair - not what she had originally intended but she did it with grace and energy. We have continued to work together on Krasman lunches and Outreach forums - I will miss her fabulous organising skills and her ability to roll with the punches. Wendy, I will miss you at backpack time, Krasman lunch times and all the other times in between.

From Nancy Hart: Don has been the backbone of the Stewardship Committee at RHUC for several years! His financial skills and knowledge of RHUC's finances were great 'bookends' for the committee's work. He led the Time Talent and Treasure work, with professionalism, humour, reflection, while modelling all 3 Ts. His continuous contributions to our successful Stewardship congregational breakfasts benefitted from his 'bacon connection', his strong advocacy for the need to "have butter and real maple syrup", and his attention to detail in creating the Stewardship packages for all congregants and adherents. He worked hard to ensure that the church and its ministries continue. Even though Wendy wasn't officially a member of our Stewardship committee, her support and work were constant and greatly appreciated. Both Wendy and Don's expertise and dedication to RHUC will be greatly missed.

Our thanks Wendy and Don for your commitment and sharing of skills, and for the good times we have shared. We are sad to see you leave and wish you well in your new community and church, when you are led to join another congregation. We will give you very good references so you can be just as busy with them! Peace and Blessings to you. Submitted by Donna Smith



### RHUC PHONE TREE CREATED & GOING LIVE NOW!

We have created a Phone Tree.

Everyone in the church has been assigned to a Phone Tree branch by their postal code, so each

branch is a certain area.

#### Need to change your address or tel # or

Questions on Phone tree: Email/Call Nicole or Penny.

Nicole Moore 905-508-5253 [willowrose@pathcom.com](mailto:willowrose@pathcom.com)

Penny Fabbro 905-508-6594 [pennyfabbro@rogers.com](mailto:pennyfabbro@rogers.com)

**Grocery Home Deliveries:** Do you, or someone you know, need groceries delivered to your home during COVID-19? RHUC has a team of volunteers in place to respond. We can shop on your behalf for food, prescriptions and other basic needs in local stores, and deliver to your doorstep.

**Organizers:** June Blanchette 905-780-0048, Donna Smith 905-884-6307, Doug Loweth, 416-553-8706

**Drivers:** Heather Hartung, Marise Blanchette, Amy Hammer, Gaye Spence, Nancy Coxford, Doug Loweth

## programs for all

**Shalom Seekers:** Shalom Seekers continues to meet on Monday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom to stay connected and keep in touch with each other. E-mail reminders/invitations are sent out each week with the details you'll need to join the call. We are planning to have our first in-person meeting on **Monday, September 14th at 10 a.m. in Amos Wright Park on Church Street** (Dora Lamb's Garden). This gathering will be "weather permitting", of course. It will be B.Y.O.C.&C. (Bring Your Own Chair & Coffee).

We have been listening to a talk by well-known theologian, Barbara Brown Taylor, called "We come from stardust and to stardust we shall Return" If you are interested in hearing what BBT has to say, please contact either Sandra Loughton or Peg Hiscoke, Shalom facilitators.

**For groups at RHUC wishing to hold meetings in RH parks:** No permit is required if you are expecting fewer than 20 people. You would have to request that people bring their own folding chairs and practise physical distancing.

**Zoom Coffee Time:** Thursday Zoom Coffee Time is at 10:30 a.m. weekly. Contact Deb for info.

**RHUC Book Club:** Please join us on Zoom by video or phone on **Wednesday, September 23rd** (the 4th Wednesday) at 4 p.m. to discuss **A Man Called Ove** by Swedish writer Fredrik Backman. We have a book club set of 15 books from the library. Existing members will receive an invitation e-mail prior to the meeting, but new members are always welcome to join the club. Please contact me at bookgirl8@hotmail.com for more information. *Sandra Loughton*

**Weekly Meditation:** Weekly meditation is Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:15 in the Chapel with social distancing and please wear a mask.

**Three Rivers Forest Church:** We are resuming in-person events for Three Rivers Forest Church (with masks and lots of physical distancing). On **Sunday, August 30 at 3:00 PM**, we will gather at Twickenham park for a Conscious Senses Meditation. Come for this meditation in which participants will go off both themselves to consciously engage each of their senses in turn. This exercise honours how each of our senses are a profound way in which we engage the world both physically and spiritually. We will meet at the arbour at the Canyon Hill Avenue entrance to the park. Please bring a mask and own refreshments.

**Pub Theology:** We meet online once again to discuss faith, spirituality and life's big questions. The next online gathering is on **Fri., August 28 at 7:30 PM**.

UCW will have their meeting on **Wed., Sept. 2nd at 9:30am in the garden of Madeline Johnston, 99 Mill Street**. Join us for a morning of fun and laughter as we share stories of what we did during the summer. For more information call June Blanchette 905-780-0048.

## keeping up our spirits

**As we look to the coming days and weeks of "sheltering in place" it is important we keep our spirits up. RHUC Reflections will include some ideas, reflective words, poems, recipes, pictures (send to Deb at office@rhuc.org), etc. to help in this challenging time.**

**Palgrave United's summer camp fosters connections to the local food movement:** Foraging for dandelions. Making sourdough bread and homemade cheese from scratch. Growing backyard veggie gardens. These are just some of the old timey traditions making a comeback in the coronavirus era. But Palgrave United Church's creative brainchild, Dirt 2 Delicious Camp (or D2D for short), started reclaiming some of these vintage skills years ago—long before the pandemic made them trendy. With a focus on harvesting local, sustainable food and honing environmental skills and systems, D2D is a beloved fixture in the Caledon community. "We have campers who return every year and love it. And we love it too. We would all be sad to see the year go by without D2D," says Amy Darrell, a long-time D2D leader. The locavore camp is part of Palgrave United's green culture as a congregation that has long had a reputation for its environmental ethos. "We are known as the environmental church," explains Barb Imrie, a retired outdoor educator and co-leader, who adds that the church has many connections to the local food movement.

"Otherwise" by Jane Kenyon

I got out of bed  
on two strong legs.  
It might have been  
otherwise. I ate  
cereal, sweet  
milk, ripe, flawless  
peach. It might  
have been otherwise.  
I took the dog uphill  
to the birch wood.  
All morning I did  
the work I love.  
At noon I lay down  
with my mate. It might  
have been otherwise.  
We ate dinner together  
at a table with silver  
candlesticks. It might  
have been otherwise.  
I slept in a bed  
in a room with paintings  
on the walls, and  
planned another day  
just like this day.  
But one day, I know,  
it will be otherwise.

## outreach

**Net Zero:** The Net Zero Committee is encouraging our congregation to choose a few friends to connect with about working on the climate crisis. Our world needs to become Net Zero by 2050 and this won't happen without planning and organization. The pandemic is helping us understand how connected our world is and the fires in California and floods in England and end of the Greenland icecap are just a few of the current flags showing a world in a climate crisis.

So here is what some of us have done. I and two friends have formed the Green Bees, a network of mutual encouragement and accountability. We have had several virtual conversations - about eating vegan cheese, converting to LEDs, and retrofitting roofs and HVAC systems. I have found that the conversations and the friendships have motivated me to buy more vegan products and to investigate more home renovation products.

Please make your own group if you haven't already. If you are making a group, please let me (Esther Collier) know ([a.collier@sympatico.ca](mailto:a.collier@sympatico.ca)) so we can keep track of how many groups there are in our community. I would only need to know the name of your group and how many members you have.

Linking with [www.neighboursfortheplanet.ca](http://www.neighboursfortheplanet.ca) is a good place to start if you are wanting to stay engaged with the climate community in the GTA. Targeting Climate Change - RH is currently on a pandemic hiatus but will be considering virtual meetings in the fall. I am currently involved with an attempt to link the Toronto District School Board with the City of Toronto's Climate Emergency Task Force - Transform TO in order to develop community education and networking on the climate crisis around schools. There are some efforts being made to apply this model to York Region municipalities. *Esther Collier*



**Minute for Mission:** What could be more energizing than a room full of 600 young people from the United Church of Canada! Rendez-vous brings them together for worship, service, prayer, community, and learning every three years in a different part of the country. In August 2020 the fourth iteration of Rendez-vous was held at the University of Calgary. Buses, planes, trains, and automobiles filled with youth converged on Calgary for three jam-packed days. Some participants arrive excited to renew relationships made at previous youth events. Some arrive anxious, not knowing what to expect. Some arrive struggling and in need of a safe place to find acceptance. All leave knowing that they are not alone, that The United Church of Canada has a place for them, and that they are beloved children of God. When they return home, they are exhausted and full of stories. Listen to their stories and encourage them in both difficult and joyous times. Tell them that you invested in them through your gifts to Mission & Service.

The Healing Fund, established in 1994, is a grant that supports healing initiatives in Indigenous communities to address the ongoing impacts of the residential school system. Many name a need for mending, restoring, and celebrating—a sense of loss, along with hope for rebuilding identity. Indigenous communities may apply up to \$15,000 to create healing, culture, and/or language projects. Your donations to Mission & Service support the vital work of the Healing Fund.



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