



**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 the office at [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@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.

## worship and music

- [August 8 - Order of service](#)    [Hymns](#)
- [August 15 - Order of service](#)    [Hymns](#)
- [August 22 - Order of service](#)    [Hymns](#)
- [August 29 - Order of service](#)    [Hymns](#)

**Worship for July 18 to August 29:** We welcome Rev. Linda Butler as she teams with Ian Wilgus to lead worship.



**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:** Shalom Seekers is taking a break from regular meetings over the summer. There will be another opportunity in August to gather on Zoom to catch up with one another. Regular programming will resume in September either on Zoom or in person depending on the gathering recommendations at that time. For more information about the group, please contact Sandra Loughton.

**RHUC Book Club:** We will resume our meetings on **Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** to discuss **THE BOOK OF LONGINGS** by Sue Monk Kidd. This book of historical fiction starts with the premise: What if Jesus had been married? His bride is the narrator of this fascinating novel. You will be transported back in time! We will decide before that time if we'll be meeting on Zoom at 4 p.m. or in person at the church and whether we'll return to the 7 p.m. meeting time.

On Wednesday, October 27 to discuss **THE VANISHING HALF** by Brit Bennett. Time: To be determined.

For more details about the book club, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator. New members warmly welcome in the fall!

**Secret Friends:** August has arrived and along with getting children ready to return to school, we at RHUC have five of our youth starting college or university, most living away from home and church. We have a ministry where a volunteer from the congregation is matched with one of the youth and they keep in touch with them during the school year with cards and notes, just to let them know we are thinking of them. All this is kept a secret from parents and the congregation; just the volunteer and I know about this arrangement. **Please consider being a Secret Friend;** I have one who volunteered after the June service when we revealed who the Secret Friends were for last year, but there are five students, so the need is pending. I like to have this all set up by the last week of August, so don't "consider" long, just call me to find out more and let me know of your interest. Thanks. Donna Smith, Coordinator, 905-884-6307



**Women's Spirituality:** We will meet on **Saturday August 14, hopefully for a time outside and a picnic lunch beginning at 10:00.** Contact Donna Smith 905-884-6307, for details - we love to welcome guests and women who just wonder what we're all about!

## church news

**Staff Holidays:** The church office will be closed from August 9 – August 27. Phone messages and emails will be monitored 2-3 times per week. Custodial coverage: Paulette (6:30 am - 9:30 am, 4 - 5 pm). If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please contact Rev. Linda Butler at 905-884-1301 ext. 2 or [revlindamb@gmail.com](mailto:revlindamb@gmail.com).

**Update from the Transition Team:** Transition Team had suggested that we aim for August 8 for in-person worship (socially distanced and wearing masks.) **but that date will be extended to a later start date.** People are reminded that we will not be singing together in the sanctuary but still participating via videos for the time being. Everyone is reminded that people will still be able to join in worship online. There will be a cap of 50 people at the beginning.

**Update from your RHUC Search Committee:** Since being formed in late May 2021, the RHUC Search Committee has met a total of ten times, with an additional meeting involving the two chairs and James Ravenscroft and Jane Wedlock. As mentioned in previous updates, the United Church of Canada has a new system with respect to posting job openings on ChurchHub, the United Church's on-line pastoral relations tool. We have been working on our Community of Faith Profile which includes six different documents. One of the major pieces of writing has been our Living Faith Story and this and all the other documents need to be completed before posting the updated Position Description on ChurchHub. This new system has resulted in considerably more preparation than previous Search Committees have had to complete.

We are pleased to report that the paperwork is almost ready to be sent for approval to the RHUC Board and then to Shining Waters Regional Council. Once the material is approved, we will be ready to post the entire package of information on ChurchHub and we can start to look at possible candidates for the full-time ministerial position.

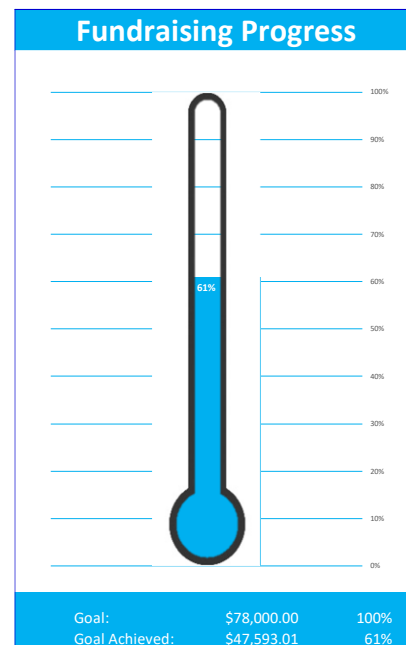
Even if you don't hear from us for a while, please know that we are continuing to work on your behalf.

RHUC Search Committee: Nancy Hart (Co-Chair), Sandra Loughton (Co-Chair), Anne Leyton-Brown, D.J. McCready, Doug Loweth, Howe Foo, Ruth Perratt, Sara Perez, Sharon McNutt, & Henry Poutiainen, Pastoral Relations Liaison, Shining Waters Regional Council ~

**Short-Term Minister:** **Rev. Ruth Noble** will be our short-term minister for six months starting on September 1, while the search for our new full time minister proceeds. She has been a minister at both Thornhill United Church and Aurora United Church, so she knows us, and our area, well. Most recently she has been working in the General Council office, as the Mission and Service Content Manager, where among other things she wrote all the "Minutes for Mission" that we and other churches across Canada have used in our services and newsletters.

Her passion for social justice, for linking faith and action, and for connecting with people, will be evident in her preaching and her pastoral care with us. Welcome Ruth!

**Pulpit Supply and Pastoral Care:** Linda Butler will be providing pulpit supply for July and August and emergency pastoral care in August.



**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](mailto:office@rhuc.org), cheque or [CanadaHelps.org](https://CanadaHelps.org).

We have reached 61% of our goal (**\$47,593.01**)!! Thank you!

**Congratulations to Gord Saul** as he celebrates his 80th birthday on August 20<sup>th</sup>!



## outreach



**\*Update\***  
**Orange Shirt Day is now a Federal Stat Holiday**

On July 20th, the Government of Canada announced they'd passed legislation making **September 30th The National Day for Truth & Reconciliation** - including declaring it a Federal statutory holiday.

Orange Shirt Day was created as an observance in 2013, and is designed to educate people and promote awareness in Canada about the residential school system and the impact it has had on Indigenous communities for over a century—an impact recognized as a cultural genocide, and an impact that continues [today](#). With the recent discoveries of unmarked graves at residential school sites across the country, there has been an increasing awareness and more questions about what actions are appropriate to show support for Indigenous people at this time.

If you'd like to show your support for this day by wearing your own orange shirt, please send \$25 along with the size or shirt you require (child's S, M, L, Adult S, M, L, XL) to the office at Richmond Hill United Church. Richmond Hill United Church is ordering orange shirts from an Indigenous vendor for those of you who are interested. Payment can be sent by e transfer to [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), or a cheque can be dropped off at the church (there is a mail slot on the Centre Street door if the building is closed).

### YOUTH-TO-YOUTH ENGAGEMENT (Y2Y)

This innovative program aims at empowering the next generation of leaders by uniting Indigenous and Non-Indigenous youth and inspiring them to take action towards creating sustainable environmental change. Each event is uniquely developed based on traditional teachings from the host territory. Events often take the form of a seminar, camp, or workshop, generally 1 to 7 days in length.

**Applications must be received prior to August 15, 2021**

- *NOTE: Email reference letters to [info@hipally.com](mailto:info@hipally.com)*

**Canoe for Every Child:** Paige Simon is Anishinaabekwe (Indigenous Woman) and Lue Mahaffey is a zhaagnaashikwe (Canadian Woman). They are a team paddling the nibi (water) shoreline of Lake Huron from the Shingwauk Residential School down to the Spanish Residential School. From the Shingwauk Residential School, south east to Spanish, where they will continue on foot to the Spanish Residential School. Throughout the journey they will be stopping and sharing where they can.

They left on Saturday, July 24th Their desire is to honour those who attended and have been impacted by these Residential Schools and the many others. We recognize the children of the past lived in horrific conditions within these schools. Many precious lives were lost. Our desire is to help Indigenous children [today](#) and those of future generations. Page met Lue Mahaffey when she was eight years old. She was attending the summer day camp at Thessalon First Nation. From the time she met her, she always admired her kindness, wisdom, and selflessness. She is one of Page's biggest role models and dearest friends. Over the past eleven years they have shared a passion for the outdoors. Lue was the person that taught Page how to paddle. Lue met Paige Simon when I was 24 years old. From the moment they met she felt a special connection. Page possesses a deep passion in her heart matched with an incredible strength of spirit. Lue's times with her became some of her favourite moments in Northern Ontario. Lue feels Page is truly a unique young woman who she feels deeply honoured to call my sister and friend. Their friendship reminds us that change is possible and that division does not have to remain when we come together with humility, respect and love. They want to see change in Canada. This is what birthed the idea "Canoe For Every Child".

They are partnering with *Water First* <https://waterfirst.ngo/> an NGO (non-governmental organization that helps indigneous communities access and maintain clean drinking water.

To follow Page & Lue on their journey go to <https://linktr.ee/canoeforeverychild> Donations can be made through *Canada Helps* <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/pages/canoe-for-every-child/>

**The Net Zero Committee** has a mandate to work on reducing the greenhouse gas emissions produced by our church. These can be fit under two categories:



#### 1. Church building

- As we build or fix the building, we strive to decrease losses to heat through the walls and windows. This has been done by fitting plexiglass over church windows to add another physical barrier and to trap a layer of air (which reduces heat loss by conduction). We have also worked on insulating the bell tower and one of the stairwell walls. There is always more to be done, including weather-stripping doors and caulking windows. If this happens to be an area you are interested in, please let me know.
- Renewable energy or more efficient energy use has also been important. We are asking that lights be turned off when rooms are not in use. Sometimes doors need to be kept open and sometimes closed



to allow for efficient heating. Blinds should be lowered at night and raised during the day on cold days and the opposite on hot days. Please obey signs. Dimming switches have been installed so that light can be lowered if not needed. Also, movement-sensor switches ensure that hall lights and bathroom lights only come on when someone needs them. We have also changed many light bulbs to LEDs. Thank you to all of those who have helped with these initiatives in the past. We know that there are still opportunities for accessing the energy in sunlight to either heat water or create electricity and to use the energy in the earth (heat pumps or geothermal installations) to heat the building. These solutions are waiting until plans are consolidated for the future vision of the buildings.

- Reduced consumption: All the products we consume use fossil fuels for transportation and machine use. Any way we can reduce the materials we consume or choose materials that use less energy helps. RHUC tries to reduce waste by using reusable products when we need dishes (thank you to all who wash dishes for us) and eliminating the use of water bottles and disposable materials.

2. **Congregation:** In the occurring climate emergency, we all must make drastic lifestyle changes. At RHUC the Net Zero Committee works to help us make these changes together, supporting each other. We will need to change the way we travel, how we consume goods and heat and cool our homes. To do this we are asking that you:
- find a few friends to meet with regularly and work together to plan the lifestyle changes you will need
  - attend upcoming sessions in the fall to learn about how you will make changes - these will be called Kitchen Table Conversations and are in planning at this point
  - attend Target Climate events to network with resources and learn about funding opportunities for bigger tasks (we hope to have one of these in the fall as well)
  - let local politicians know that you want information and action on the climate crisis

Contact me if you are interested in joining a local organization that is working on this issue or have any questions: Esther Collier at [a.collier@sympatico.ca](mailto:a.collier@sympatico.ca).

For your information: the Earth just passed Earth Overshoot Day on July 29th. This is the day that humans finished consuming the amount of resources the planet can regenerate yearly. This means that, for the rest of the year, we are consuming resources from our children's future. Here are some links to help you understand more about the climate crisis and Earth Overshoot Day:

- Earth Overshoot Day: <https://www.overshootday.org/>
- Project Drawdown - global solutions for the climate crisis: <https://drawdown.org/>
- Information about Tipping Points - recently in the news as having been breached: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Jq23mSDh9U>
  - CBC news report: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/science/climate-change-tipping-points-extreme-weather-1.6122867>
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change: <https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>
  - - fact sheet from most recent report [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2021/06/Fact\\_sheet\\_AR6.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2021/06/Fact_sheet_AR6.pdf)

*Esther Collier*

## Community news



### LOCAL ENHANCEMENT AND APPRECIATION OF FORESTS

LEAF is a non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and enhancement of our urban forest. They offer

programs to help you plant, care and give. LEAF Volunteers worked on York Region's urban forest last week removing 54 bags of invasive plants and mulched over 50 native trees & shrubs!

Looking to get involved? Join their next virtual volunteer orientation on August 23 from 6:30PM to 7:30PM.

Register: <https://www.yourleaf.org/.../august-volunteer-orientation>

Or, Phone 416-413-9244 ext.0

Toll Free 1-888-453-6504 ext.0

Email [info\[at\]yourleaf.org](mailto:info@yourleaf.org)

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