



worship and music

Minister's Message: It is hard to believe that this Sunday is the Third Sunday of Advent. This Sunday we are privileged to have a message from Susan Dobson, who is the Executive Director of the Krasman Centre. The Krasman Centre is one of our partners as we work together to alleviate homelessness in York Region. This year again we are receiving items for backpacks and new backpacks as well. I encourage each of you to give to Krasman or Blue Door as well as to your church, which this Sunday after worship will hear the work of the Search Committee and who they are recommending as your new minister. Recently I have been increasing my awareness of just how white the images of Christmas are, the pale faces of Santa Claus, when St. Nicholas who is the inspiration for Santa Claus was Turkish. The caucasian features of the Nativity scene, when brown faces and dark hair are more accurate.

Today, I share an image from a Christmas card of a few years ago that was commissioned by the United Church of Canada. The artist is Simone McLeod a Cree-Ojibway artist from Saskatchewan. Simone says of this painting: "the gift of life is depicted, and the child is reaching out for learning and guidance as we are all in need of guidance at periods throughout our lives. The tipi top can also be indicative of the stable top, which reaches out to all communities at a time when everyone celebrates new life and enjoys the spirit of Christmas."

Blessings,
Rev. Ruth Noble

We will continue to livestream Sunday service using Zoom as well as returning to in-person services. If you would like to attend, you are required to provide proof of your Covid-19 2nd vaccine at the Yonge St., entrance (either QR code or a paper copy) each Sunday, as well as signing in and the wearing of masks.

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. 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.

Sunday, December 12, 2021 – Advent 3: The order of service and hymns are also found on our website under Home, Events & News and Our Ministry – Spirit pages.

December 12 @ 10:30 a.m. [Order of service](#) [Hymns](#)

Carols by Candlelight: December 12 @ 7:00 p.m.

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

December 19: Advent 4

December 24 – Christmas Eve services:

7 pm: An Intergenerational service with carols and stories about the Christ Child from different cultures. The Young and Young at heart are invited to bring their favourite baby doll to the service.

10 pm: A Quieter Service of communion, Christmas music and the story of the birth narrative from different traditions.

December 26: Christmas 1 with Rev. Linda Butler preaching



Sunday offering: We appreciate those who use Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). For those not on PAR, please consider making sure you get your

weekly envelope money in (mailed in or mail slot on Centre. St. door), e-transfer to office@rhuc.org, Canada Helps, <http://www.rhuc.org/donate.html>, or cheques to the Church, 10201 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, L4C 3B2.



programs for all

Shalom Seekers: Shalom Seekers will be taking a break over the holidays. We will resume our Zoom meetings on Monday, January 3rd, 2022 at 10 am. At that meeting we will continue the book study of **The Other Side of the River: From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge** by Reverend Alf Dumont. Please read Chapters 11 and 12 for that discussion.

New members are warmly welcome. Please contact Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, for more details about the group.

H.A.I.R.: Our Monday evening study group, HAIR (Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels and Other Riffraff), meets every Monday from 7:00 – 8:15 pm. **We will continue to meet online, via Zoom, until further notice.**

These discussions are open to anyone interested, and new members are always welcome. For further information, or to get the zoom link for our next meeting, please contact David Leyton-Brown at dlbrown@yorku.ca

RHUC Book Club: Please join us in the New Year on **Wednesday, January 26th at 4 p.m. on Zoom** to discuss a book of historical fiction entitled **Fast Girls: A Novel of the 1936 Women's Olympic Team** by Elsie Hooper. This is the fascinating story of the first women from the U.S. to compete in Track & Field at the Olympics.

New members are always welcome to join us! Please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, for more information about the club.

church news

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO HEAR THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

On December 12th, 2021, we will be receiving the recommendation from the Search Team regarding a call for a new full-time minister for Richmond Hill United Church. The congregation will be asked to vote on the recommendation. Information will be provided to those who are online and in the sanctuary regarding voting procedure. On behalf of the Board and congregation, I would like to express our most sincere thanks to the Search Team for their diligent work over the last several months. This is not a small undertaking and many hours have been spent discerning who should walk with RHUC through the next phase of our journey as a community of faith.

Members of the Search Team:

Howe Foo	Nancy Hart (Co-Chair)
Anne Leyton-Brown	Sandra Loughton (Co-Chair)
Doug Loweth	DJ McCready
Sharon McNutt	Sara Perez
Ruth Perratt	

Thanks also to Rev. Henry Poutiainen, the representative from Shining Waters Regional Council who has journeyed with our Search Team and provided guidance regarding process.

We are aware that there is a Climate Action event happening after worship and wanted to ensure that there was sufficient time for the congregational meeting. The Climate Action event will now start at 12.30pm rather than noon.

Jane Wedlock, Board Chair

Sunday Morning Custodian: As many of you already know, Paulette Paul is no longer on the church staff. The M&P and Operations Committees have been tasked to find someone new to carry out custodial duties on Sunday mornings, and to revise the job description, especially for technological changes and covid-related safety.

We are delighted to let you know that our very own Christian Skorotko has been hired to take care of things until he returns to university in January. This will give us time to start the search for a permanent replacement. We may need some volunteers to fill a few gaps in the new year as well.

If you know of someone who would enjoy a job like this, please let us know. It's a great opportunity for the right person, looking for a little extra income. We could have one person in the role, or job sharing. Please note that as this is a paid position, it will not be eligible for community service hours.

For more information, contact either of us.
Doug Loweth loweth@sympatico.ca
David Leyton-Brown dlbrown@yorku.ca



Baptism of Jack McBey on December 4, 2021.
Parents: Thomas and Stephanie McBey



outreach

giftswith**vision**

A United Church of Canada's alternate gift giving catalogue, (not a tie or tea towel for someone who has everything). These suggested gifts offer assistance working towards justice for all people, in Canada and around the world.

One story to share: Pay it Forward - Gift # GWV21-42
 While people in Canada are receiving COVID vaccines, people in many other parts of the world have no way to get them. Providing vaccines to these countries is only part of the story - the vaccines also have to get to the people who need them most. Your generosity will go the extra mile by not only providing the vaccine itself but as importantly the training to offer it as well as transportation, cold chain storage, administration, and waste disposal. Support the worldwide effort to protect people from COVID-19, one vaccine at a time. For just \$25, you can save a life by providing a full vaccine to someone in the world who needs one. Vaccine procurement, logistics and delivery are provided through UNICEF. Go to www.giftswithvision.ca to see all the stories and you can place your order and pay on line, making shopping easy! Give others and yourself the gifts of this Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Donna Smith 905-884-6307



This year's Advent Givings Recipient - Blue Door:

Blue Door fits nicely with Richmond Hill's United Church's desire to support the community and those dealing with food, home and job

insecurity. It's exciting to see how Blue Door helps so many in our community and all who will benefit from your generosity.

Advent envelopes are available in the Narthex (for people who come to the sanctuary for worship) on Sunday, Dec 12 and Dec 19. They can be placed in the lock box at the rear of the sanctuary as people depart.

2. People can e-transfer to the church with a notation that indicates it is advent offering
 3. People can mail or drop off a cheque at the church.
- Please put backpacks under the tree if you come on a Sunday.

More about Blue Door...

24,485 NIGHTS OF SAFETY (2020)
 100% CONSTRUCT GRADUATES EMPLOYED (2020)
 73,455 MEALS PROVIDED (2020)

"Founded in 1982 and the largest emergency housing provider in York Region, Blue Door provides lifesaving support to children, youth, men, women, and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

To address the root causes of homelessness and to meet the unique crisis needs of individuals and families, Blue Door offers: Three (3) emergency housing programs:

1. Leeder Place: 15 families nightly
 2. Porter Place: 30 men nightly
 3. Kevin's Place: 12 male youth nightly
- Supportive Counselling and Case Management: Housing Navigators are available 24/7 and Community Housing Workers provide case management to help people achieve their goals and access community support.
 - Housing Retention Program: Offers aftercare support to men, families, and youth moving from Blue Door's emergency housing programs into a home of their own.
 - Housing to Health Program: A Housing First program offering comprehensive housing services for those experiencing chronic and episodic homelessness. Housing to Health is a proud partnership between Blue Door, The Krasman Centre, and LOFT Crosslinks Housing and Support Services.
 - Construct – A Social Enterprise by Blue Door (www.ConstructGTA.ca): An employment social enterprise providing youth and adults the education, skills training, hands-on experience, and wraparound support needed for participants to secure well-paying, in-demand careers in construction trades.
 - Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold – A Program by Blue Door: A coalition of over 50 interfaith communities across York Region who come together and from November to March and provide safe emergency housing, warm hospitality, and wraparound supports such as meals, clothing, shower facilities, medical care, and intensive case management. "

Three (3) supportive housing programs:

1. Abode: Second stage housing for families
2. Forward: Supportive housing for senior men
3. INNclusion: Safe supportive housing for 2SLGBTQ+ youth

This year's Gift-in-Kind Recipient - The Krasman Centre

If you'd like to give a Gift in Kind, we're supporting The Krasman Centre this year. Our gifts of knapsacks and/or items (listed below) are greatly appreciated and go a long way to helping those in our community.





WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE
NOVEMBER 15 TO DECEMBER 15

Help us collect and donate NEW wellness & winter items to adults in York Region and South Simcoe living with mental health, addiction and housing challenges.

WELLNESS ITEMS

- Notebooks and Pens
- Word & Number puzzle books
- Playing Cards & Fidget Toys
- Travel-sized board games
- Art Supplies
- Colouring Books
- Gift Cards to Tim Hortons or McDonalds in small denominations

WINTER NEEDS

- Gloves, scarves, hats
- Hygiene items
- Non-perishable snacks
- Backpacks and Bags
- Hand & foot warmers
- Socks & underwear
- Sweaters & Pants
- Thermos & water bottles

Please feel free to leave your donation on Sunday mornings or contact Deb Fratin in the office, if you wish to drop off during the week. Also, we look forward to hearing Krasman's Executive Director Susan Dobson share during our sermon [Sunday December 12, 2021](#).

net zero

Upcoming events: Virtual **Climate Lunch and Learn # 2**
Time: Dec 12, 2021 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Register on Eventbrite at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-lunch-and-learn-2-tickets-172141438677> (zoom link will be provided after registration).

We have scheduled a third **Climate Lunch and Learn for February 6th, 2022**.

Please ensure that you attend at least one of the virtual Climate Lunch and Learns before next summer. We all need to do our part.

community

THIS DECEMBER,
THE VILLAGE OF RICHMOND HILL BIA
INVITES YOU TO
Holidays in the Village!
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2021

Join us!

- Variety of performances
- Free Outdoor event 1:00pm-4:00pm (Gates open 12:30pm)
- Free Hot Chocolate - Post Event Treats

Where:

- Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts - Courtyard
- Ransom Park (Terry Fox statue)

FACE MASKS REQUIRED AT ALL TIMES
Standing Room Only
All Ages

MORE DETAILS - SEE EVENTS AT
WWW.RICHMONDHILLBIA.COM



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