



We livestream our Sunday service via Zoom. **There will be no in-person attendance** at this time due to the increased numbers of Covid-19.

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. 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

Minister's Message: This Sunday is the fourth and final Sunday of Advent, The Advent 4 theme is love. The Christmas story is a story of love that came down at Christmas in the form of a child. This Sunday we will explore Mary, the fierce mother of Jesus who as a teenager said yes to a life-long commitment of faith.

In 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.

I wanted to share with you another image of the Christ Child, this one comes from Lauren Wright Pittman who works at A Sanctified Art, it is called "center Christ".

On Christmas Eve we will be exploring the images of the nativity in two different ways. At the 7 pm service, I will share a different sort of nativity scene and some alternative dolls for the Baby Jesus. Please bring your favourite baby doll to the service, via zoom, as there will be a time to share and wrap the child in cloth for the cradle. At 10 pm we will explore the birth narratives.

Blessings,
Rev. Ruth Noble

December 19 @ 10:30 a.m. – Advent 4 via Zoom: The order of service and hymns are also found on our website under Home, Events & News and Our Ministry – Spirit pages.

[December 19 order of service](#) [Hymns](#)

December 24 – Christmas Eve services via Zoom:

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 have their favourite baby doll close by for this 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

Women's Spirituality: We will discuss Christmas! Bring along any readings, thoughts, show-and-tell to the program which will be via Zoom on **Saturday, Dec. 18 at 10:00 a.m.**

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

Start Date for New Minister: Rev. Karen Dale will begin her ministry with RHUC on **Monday, February 14, 2022.** Rev. Ruth Noble will continue with us till the end of February, as planned, so their terms will overlap for two weeks. This time of transition was proposed by Karen and agreed to with enthusiasm by Ruth. We look forward to welcoming Karen in the new year. The Search Team will continue to be a resource for Karen, Ruth and the congregation as a few formalities are completed, and we will wind down in February. Thank you all for your participation in the Congregational Meeting last Sunday.

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



Congratulations to **Donna Smith** as the United Church of Canada recognized her leadership on behalf of her work with Mission and Service!

As the sun shines in the sanctuary on Sunday morning, Howe helps Brandon out by blocking the sun and it bathes Ruth in a glow!



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

net zero

Upcoming events: 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.

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outreach

gifts with 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 - Plant an olive tree #GWV21-39. An olive tree can live \$1,000 years in harsh conditions and yields a generous harvest. Over decades of Israeli military occupation, hundreds of trees in Palestine have been systematically destroyed. Many Palestinians rely on olive trees for their livelihood, nutrition and other vital uses. Join YWCA of Palestine and East Jerusalem and YMCA in helping Palestinians plant trees for prosperity and peace. Your gift of \$25. will purchase one olive tree sapling to replace one that has been destroyed.

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

BLUE DOOR

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.

1. People can e-transfer to the church with a notation that indicates it is advent offering
2. People can mail or drop off a cheque at the church.

To see examples of how your Advent Givings help those at Blue Door, check out this link <https://bluedoor.ca/giftguide/>

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 are greatly appreciated and go a long way to helping those in our community. Please contact Deb Fratin in the office, if you wish to drop off your donation during the week.



To unsubscribe, please write to: office@rhuc.org, and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.