



We livestream our Sunday service via Zoom. **There will be no in-person attendance** at this time.

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: February is Black History Month, which is always for me an important and difficult month. It is important, because my Father was a Civil Rights Activist, having marched down University Avenue in Toronto in solidarity with other church leaders to the US Embassy as Martin Luther King Jr. and others marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge for voting rights. Like MLK, my Father protested the Vietnam War and in return we were reported to the RCMP and our phone was tapped in the late 1960's. My family is what Dr. King called "White people of goodwill"

Being White and the inherent privilege is what makes this a difficult month for me. No matter how hard I try and how much work I do to learn, I will never truly understand what it means to be Black in Canadian society, but this does not stop me from marching, from working to end Anti-Black racism in Canada. This month I encourage each of you to learn Black Canadian history, it is a rich and sometimes difficult history as we tend to look at the positives such as the Underground Railroad, rather than remembering that our country was formed by slaves, escaped slaves, slave owners as well as abolitionists.

Blessings, Rev. Ruth Noble

February 13 @ 10:30 a.m. via Zoom: The order of service and hymns are also found on our website under Home, Events & News and Our Ministry – Spirit pages.

February 13, 2022: [Order of service](#) [Hymns](#)



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 will gather on **Saturday February 12th at 10:00 on Zoom**. Donna S is presenting a program: "The Great Commandment ends with yourself". All welcome. Contact donnasmith44@rogers.com for the Zoom link.

Shalom Seekers: Please join us for Shalom Seekers on **Monday, February 14th at 10 a.m. on Zoom**. We will be discussing a CBC Radio "Tapestry" interview again this week. The link to the interview will be sent out on Friday, February 11th via e-mail. New members are always welcome to try out the group. Please contact Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, for more information.

RHUC Book Club: Please join the group on **Wednesday, February 23 at 4 p.m. on Zoom** to discuss **The Kitchen Front** by Jennifer Ryan. This is an uplifting story set in England during WWII. However, this is not a typical war-time tale. This novel focuses on the community, food rationing, and a contest for a BBC Radio cooking show called The Kitchen Front. The show was real, but this is a fictional account by the author of The Chilbury Ladies' Choir.

Looking ahead to March, we'll be meeting on Wednesday the 30th at 4 p.m. on Zoom to discuss a novel set in contemporary England called **The Reading List** by Sara Nisha Adams.

"An unforgettable and heartwarming debut about how a chance encounter with a list of library books helps forge an unlikely friendship between two very different people in a London suburb."

New members are always welcome to join in the fun! Please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, for more details about the book club.

H.A.I.R.: 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



church news

Welcoming Rev. Karen Dale! If you are interested in helping to welcome Rev. Karen Dale to RHUC starting on February 14, here is an idea for you to think about. How about sending a blank greeting card or a "welcome" card to Karen saying you're looking forward to getting to know her/meeting her, etc.? Cards could be dropped off in the mail slot in the door on Centre Street or mailed to:

Rev. Karen Dale
10201 Yonge Street
Richmond Hill, ON L4C 3B2

Submitted by: RHUC Search Committee and M & P Committee

Congregational Update: Friends - it is the time of year when we moving towards our **Annual Meeting** which is going to be held after worship on **Sunday April 3rd** rather than March 6th. In preparation we will be putting our Annual Report together and also undertaking our nominations process for leadership positions.

We are also looking forward to welcoming Rev. Karen Dale on Feb 14th with a two week overlap with Rev, Ruth Noble as we transition to a new pastoral relationship.

Over the past few weeks during our Sunday worship, Ruth has focused on abundance and stewardship. We have been invited to think about our gifts and responding with deep gratitude - financially, but also with our time and talents.

There are many ways to be involved in the life and mission of this congregation. Involvement creates opportunity for building community, learning, service to the life of our community, our neighbourhood and the wider world and ways to deepen our faith.

Over the next few weeks, we will be doing a deeper dive into some of those opportunities to give you a chance to reflect on what is happening and how you might engage in new ways!

Thank you everyone for all the ways that you make RHUC awesome!

Jane Wedlock, Board Chair

Annual Reports are due by February 22nd !

For those writing - please consider again how they fit with our MAP priorities - you only need to pick one, even if your activities address more than one. Please email report to office@rhuc.org.

1. Be A Culture of Welcome, Respect and Safety Where We Honour One Another and Respect Diversity
2. Engage With the Community in our Neighbourhood
3. Ensure our facilities align with our values, identity and purpose
4. Develop Intentional Opportunities for People to Gather to Build Relationships, Nourish Spiritual Wellness and Engage in Justice

5. Create Dynamic, Engaging and Meaningful Worship
6. Reach out with Care to People at All Stages of Life
7. Communicate our story both within and beyond the congregation
8. Be good stewards of our finances and our facilities
9. Foster and Value Leaders and Volunteers

We have a great story to tell - looking forward to all that has been done even in the midst of the pandemic!

Thanks, Jane Wedlock (Board Chair)

Cash Cards: The next order for cash cards will be **April 20**. This is an ongoing fundraiser for RHUC that gives 1 – 10% back to the church on your gas, grocery, restaurant, coffee or gift purchase!

outreach

Ageism - Laws Prohibiting Ageism in Canada

All ten provinces and three territories in Canada have legislation designed to ensure the equality of its population. Canada's provisions prohibiting age discrimination are grounded in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (the "Charter"), [17] which applies to all jurisdictions and governmental entities. Section 15(1) of the Charter contains an equality clause, which provides as follows: Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability (emphasis added). The federal government and all provinces and territories have anti-discriminatory measures against age. Specifically, each jurisdiction has a human rights statute which prohibits discrimination based on age.

Age discrimination is often not taken as seriously as other forms of discrimination. To fight ageism, it is necessary to raise public awareness about its existence and to dispel common stereotypes and misperceptions about ageing. [18]

However..... Perhaps **one of the clearest examples of ageism is observed in the Code itself.** The definition of age in section 10(1) states: The restricted definition of age in human rights law, which allows employers to implement **mandatory retirement at age 65**, demonstrates how deeply ageism is ingrained in our culture.

"age" means an age that is eighteen years or more, except in subsection 5(1) where "age" means an age that is eighteen years or more and less than sixty-five years;

Section 5(1) prohibits discrimination in employment. This means that persons over the age of 65 cannot make a complaint of age discrimination in employment. This also allows employers to implement mandatory retirement at age 65 and prevents anyone from making a complaint that being forced to retire at 65 is discriminatory.



This restricted definition of age in the Code demonstrates how deeply ageism is ingrained in our culture. Some have noted that it also serves to perpetuate ageism as it sends a message that workers over 65 do not have the right to be free from age-based discrimination.

Ageism and its effects extend well beyond the issue of mandatory retirement. The Commission also heard that ageism contributes to elder abuse and plays a prominent role in the barriers to housing, health care, services and institutions. Consultees told the Commission that ageist assumptions can be found in the manner in which health care and service providers approach older persons and the way in which housing options are formulated for older persons in Ontario. In effect, ageism, in its various forms, serves to disempower older persons within these very important aspects of their lives.

Advocacy

One group whose mandate is to educate, support and lobby the provincial and federal governments for those 45+ is **C.A.R.P.** (Canadian Association for Retired Persons) <https://www.carp.ca/>

"**C.A.R.P.**—A New Vision of Aging is Canada's largest advocacy association for older Canadians promoting equitable access to health care, financial security, and freedom from ageism. Backed by more than 320,000 members, C.A.R.P. is a non-partisan association committed to working with all parties in government to advocate for older Canadians. Our mission is to advocate for better healthcare, financial security, and freedom from ageism. C.A.R.P. members engage in polls and petitions, email their elected representatives, connect with local chapters and share stories and opinions on urgent issues."

[Source - <https://welpartners.com/blog/2021/06/ageism-and-the-law-in-canada/>, <https://www.carp.ca/about#about>, <https://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/time-action-advancing-human-rights-older-ontarians/ageism>]

United Nations - Global Report on Aging

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/2021/03/global-report-on-ageism/>

Fundraising - Book Sale: If you're at home and find yourself wanting to de-clutter your books...**STOP!** We're planning on having a Book Sale this year and will happily take your novels (no textbooks or workbooks please). You can contact the church office at office@rhuc.org and/or tewixon3@gmail.com if you need to arrange pick up or to arrange dropping off your books.

The Krasman Centre is looking for Volunteers...

1. An exciting opportunity this year to be trained as a **Dialogue Meeting Moderator** through the Krasman Centre in March is being made available to two family members, two people with lived experience, and two practitioners. The training is free.

A 'Dialogue' group is a neutral, safe space where communities can gather to develop their understanding of mental health issues, the challenges of maintaining mental health and to transform thinking on developing better services and healthy communities. The Dialogue itself is a shared "no hats" dialogue between multiple perspectives on a consensus mental health topic for a couple of hours.

If this is something you get excited about, please send an email to dialoguemoderating@gmail.com with a short letter by February 20th about your community engagement or facilitation experiences, any Dialogues you have attended, the perspective(s) you come with (family, practitioner or lived experience) and the reason(s) why you want to be a Dialogue moderator.

2. Volunteer with Krasman Centre's Warm Line & Chat Support Services

As Krasman Centre volunteers, you will assist with our warm line and peer crisis support services, utilizing principles of wellness, hope, and recovery to help people who are struggling with mental health, substance use challenges, and/or trauma. Our team is currently looking for volunteers who are available on weekends and overnight. Email a letter explaining why you would like to be a Warm Line Volunteer and about your own recovery journey to Amy Thompson, Warm Line & Peer Crisis Support Coordinator: amy.thompson@krasmancentre.com

united church of canada news

Black History Month: My Fault for Having Been Created Black? In this week's blog post, Demanya Kofi Akoussah shares stories of anti-Black racism and prays for a better future. Read his story. <https://united-church.us3.list-anage.com/track/click?u=ff2087d5fde243a770ed893a8&id=e3b07c0863&e=ca4f842b90>



Love the Way God Loves: Over \$500,000 in special emergency donations for COVID-19 relief to M&S partners. 8,360 full vaccinations for those most vulnerable and \$240,000 distributed to every region to support those close to home. Thank you for turning compassion into action.

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