



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: As I write this, I am acutely aware that January 11 is "National Thank You Day" Thank you are two little words that mean a lot. I am sitting at my desk at the church, surrounded by cards from many of you, cards of sympathy and care. I read each card and said a silent "thank you"

The screen savour on my computer says the words "there is always something to be thankful for" even in the midst of a pandemic, we can be thankful for our church community, even in the midst of grief we can be thankful for those we have lost and for those that surround us with love.

For the month of January we have been using the new "Called to be the Church" resource from The United Church of Canada. Called to be the Church is a stewardship resource that is renewed each year, that helps congregations to share inspiring stories of why people give to the church. It is a resource that invites everyone to think about their gifts to the church and it is a resource that shares gratitude for those who have given and those who continue to give.

So, in the next number of weeks think about what it is that makes you continue to come to Richmond Hill United, think about if you had 90 seconds to share with someone why you give to Richmond Hill United Church, what would you say? It is an important reflection of why we are here and why we give our time and treasure to Richmond Hill United Church.
Blessings, Rev. Ruth Noble

January 16 @ 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.

[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 meet on **Saturday January 15 at 10:00 am**. The discussion will centre around "Where is the Light?" Contact Donna Smith, for the Zoom link, as you are welcome to join us!

Shalom Seekers: Please join us on **Monday, January 17 at 10 a.m. on Zoom** to continue our book study. We'll be discussing Chapters 14 & 15 of *The Other Side of the River: From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge* by Reverend Alf Dumont. New members are always welcome. The Zoom invitation will be sent out on Sunday evening. For more details about the group, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator.

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 Elise 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

Friends: Up until just before Christmas we have never closed the sanctuary completely due to the pandemic; however, with the omicron virus circulating so widely and in order to keep people safe, we decided it was necessary.

We will continue facilitating worship remotely with the minister leading services live from home (or recorded) as needed for the immediate future to ensure everyone's safety and we will be using music previously recorded. Our choir is sadly not able to gather for rehearsal to record new music under these circumstances.

As the situation evolves, we will consider what becomes possible in terms of live or recorded music and worship leadership from the sanctuary.

We have never wanted the sanctuary to be closed but in the circumstances it appears unavoidable.

Thank you for your continued support of the mission of RHUC as we navigate this ongoing pandemic. The church doesn't ever close - our mission continues just in a different way. We look forward to the time of being able to worship together again in person.

Jane Wedlock, Board Chair

net zero

Upcoming events: We have scheduled a third **Climate Lunch and Learn for February 6th, 2022**. Registration is at this link: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-lunch-and-learn-3-tickets-218772433237>

The zoom link will be sent out in an email to you about a week before the event - so don't worry if you are not sure how to access it. Contact Esther Collier, Chair, Net Zero Committee at targetclimatechange@gmail.com if you want to chat or want me to send you the zoom link directly.

outreach

January: focus is Winter Survival

Project Winter Survival

Last fall, we applied to Engage & Change <https://engageandchange.org/who-we-are/>, on behalf of RHUC, to receive ten (10) kits and ten (10) sleeping bags - agencies were asked to limit their 'ask' as requests exceed availability. Ten (10) Survival Kits and ten (10) sleeping bags were picked up and are being stored at the church.

A connection has been made with LOFT <https://www.loftcs.org/what-we-do/specialized-services/specialized-community-services/> who run an Outreach Van in York Region providing urgent-care services seven days a week they will be picking up the kits and sleeping bags next week.

Are You Prepared?

Do you have your 72 Hour Kit prepared? "A disaster or emergency situation can arise without notice, and can cause short or long term disruptions to essential services such as health care, police and fire prevention services, the supply of food and water, electricity and natural gas, and transportation and communications. See **How to prepare a 72 hour Emergency Kit** provided by Alectra Utilities:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KQI45K9GjKQ>

Some items to include are:

- Matches
- blanket
- cell phone charger
- tissues & toilet paper
- seasonal clothes
- whistle
- manual can opener
- garbage bags
- battery operated or wind up flashlight

Richmond Hill Climate Change Conversation Toolkit

The City of Richmond Hill is providing residents an information 'toolkit' containing guidance and resources for our Community to discuss issues and possible collaborative solutions toward a greener community, provincially and federally. The Kit is available to download here:

https://www.richmondhill.ca/en/shared-content/resources/documents/Richmond-Hill_Climate-Change-Conversation-Toolkit.pdf

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.