



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](mailto: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:** A Big thank you to the congregation and staff for the beautiful orchid that was delivered to my home. I would also like to thank Ian Wilgus who is leading worship this Sunday as I will be taking it off after my Father's funeral on Saturday at noon. I have attached details about my Dad and the link to livestream the service here:

<https://jamesreidfuneralhome.com/tribute/details/13924/John-Noble/obituary.html#tribute-start>

I look forward to seeing everyone next week, even though it seems it will be virtually for the next little while.

Blessings,  
Rev. Ruth

**January 9 @ 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](mailto: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:** Please join us on **Monday, January 10 at 10 a.m. on Zoom** to continue our study of the book *The Other Side of the River: From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge* by Reverend Alf Dumont. We will be discussing Chapter 12 ~ Return to Pastoral Ministry & Chapter 13 ~ We All Have a Story. New members are always welcome to try the group out. Please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, for more details.

**Women's Spirituality** will meet on Zoom on **January 15th**, one week later for this month than the usual second Saturday of the month. More details will follow.

**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](mailto: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

**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*

**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

## 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](mailto:targetclimatechange@gmail.com) if you want to chat or want me to send you the zoom link directly.

## outreach

### Advent Givings:

#### Blue Door

A HUGE thank you for your generosity during this year's Advent. Your gifts will go a long way to help the largest emergency housing provider in York Region to provide lifesaving support to children, youth, men, women, and families at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

#### The Krasman Centre

Many thanks for all the backpacks and necessities you provided to The Krasman Centre. These gifts help them to provide much needed support and resources for those living with "lived experience, substance use and housing challenges". Krasman Centre held a luncheon prior to Christmas in our basement and passed out all the items to those in need.

### Outreach Calendar - Introduction

Later in 2021, I found myself overwhelmed with all the needs in our Community at large and how Outreach initiatives are so important to Richmond Hill United Church (RHUC), such as the School Breakfast Club, had been stopped due to COVID restrictions.

A brain-storming session in a coffee shop with a long-time member and friend Donna Harrison birthed the idea of a Yearlong Outreach Calendar. We thought we'd try a multi-pronged approach to Outreach Initiatives at Richmond Hill United. There's much to be done and historically RHUC has been an engaged 'boots-on-the-ground' part of our local and global community. Rather than focus on a couple of months in the year, we could have monthly initiatives including opportunities for fundraising.

Further, Jane Wedlock shared the idea of *Two Feet of Social Justice*. She explained, this as follows, "a balance between meeting individual urgent needs and learning more/acting on underlying structural and systemic issues (e.g. as an ally - as you have indicated. Naming the issue (reconciliation, refugees, inclusion, poverty, food insecurity, homelessness, housing, climate action etc.) why it is important in relation to our faith and then how we are engaging might be helpful for folks in understanding the relationship between activities. Many of these issues intersect, but we can identify the issue, community organizations that are currently working on them and how we think we can support them."

A draft Outreach Calendar has been created with each month having at least one, or more, focus group or initiative. Some are tied to the season (see January below) others are connected to local or global initiatives such as World Aids Day or a Community Garden in the Spring. And, like the *Two Feet of Social Justice* we can grow together in our awareness and relate these initiatives to our faith and action. *Tracy Wixon*



A supportive and nurturing environment is the key to our survival.

## January

We're kicking off the Outreach Calendar year with **Project Winter Survival**.

"SINCE 1999, Project Winter Survival and [our] team of volunteers & donors have assembled and distributed close to 45,000 Winter Survival Kits. These kits provide warmth and essential supplies needed for the homeless and less fortunate to survive on the streets. These kits often make the difference between life and death. Project Winter Survival does not directly hand out survival kits to individual homeless people; instead we donate them to the true experts — agencies and outreach people — who often use them as communication tools to start conversations so that they can help the homeless."

To learn more go to: <https://engageandchange.org/who-we-are/>

In the Fall we applied, 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, We were successful! and will be picking these items up January 11. Next steps, where should these kits go in our community and how can we learn and connect with our faith?

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



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