

**We will continue to livestream Sunday service using Zoom.**

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 James (james@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.

We understand that this is a strange time, but we will get through it together. We are still one community, committed to care for one another with compassion and love.

**Minister's Message:** The time has come. I am putting together a final "Minister's Message" and to be honest it is not easy to write. How do I sum up the ministry we've shared for just shy of five years? Should I even try? Instead, what I'd like to do is offer a series of memories that I hold in my heart as I journey to Newfoundland.

The first is sitting in Enid Mann's living room with ten others as we took part in one of the first listening circles for the Circle process we engaged in with Karen Hilfman Milson. The conversation was happy and excited and surprisingly deep as we each shared a vision of the RHUC we yearn for. The circle process was an incredible gift, a rare glimpse into people's hopes and hearts. The close to 18 months of discerning a vision is something that continues to inspire me.

The next is standing in the choir loft as the "angel" toward the end of "Cool in the Furnace", the youth musical for 2017. What a blast that was! And such a talented group of teens. Hats off to "Mrs. L-B" for her dedication to RHUC teens over the years. A similar memory is being locked in an escape room as we tried to sort through the clues to get out. I still recall Julie's look of disappointment when we broke down and asked the front for help. Thanks Paula, Joanne, and Ian for your work with youth. And thanks to the teens. You really rock.

I recall being the only man to have been invited to the Women's Retreat so that I could make a presentation on Forest Church. Donna and I had no idea how it would turn out and I'm still amazed that as the women returned from a time of outdoor meditation in the cold, several asked when we were starting a Forest Church. Over four years the group has gathered for winter solstice, to create a sun mandala in a blizzard at Phyllis Rawlinson Park, to find a tree for a heart to heart. I'm grateful to Paula and Donna for offering leadership into the future.

I smile at the thought of a final Faith Exploration class. It was to be an open session to ask any questions folks still had. Howe gave me more than a dozen in advance. Some were quite challenging and I ended up asking Rev. John Young, the GCO theologian how he'd respond. That session captures the commitment of this congregation to theological exploration, be it in a spirited debate at HAIR, a book study over Zoom, a well-planned Shalom Seekers session, or an engaging lunch and learn. Thanks for being such deep thinkers.

My last memory is walking up Main Street in Newmarket with a great group as part of York Region Pride. With music blaring from a portable speaker in my backpack, folks from RHUC danced and waved to the crowd along the way, and then gathered at our booth for the community festival. That year people wrote words of affirmation to the next generation. It was heartening how engaged everyone was to know there was a church in our region where they truly could belong.



Being part of an Affirming Ministry has been a real joy, not just as we create a truly inclusive space but as we've worked with partners like CAYR and PFLAG to advocate for gender and sexual minorities in our wider community.

These are just a few memories I wanted to share. There are many more. I think of Craft Dinners and Seniors Lunches, the Community Roundtable, visiting the Centre for Social Innovation as a staff, holding the Welcome Sunday worship service, sitting in a crowded sanctuary as the Chancel Choir performed with Liona Boyd. There are so many memories and what unites them is the deep love you have for each other and the commitment you have for others. You all have such a big heart. Thank you for welcoming me, Glen, my dad, and Finley into this family. I realize that our time together has been shorter than even I expected, but I know that we will carry each other in our hearts and memories.

## worship and music

### Order of Service

### Hymns

**Worship for July 11:** On James' last Sunday, we reflect on Ephesians 1:3-14, in which the author offers a word of affirmation to the Christians in Ephesus. We also celebrate communion followed by a time to symbolically conclude the pastoral relationship with involvement from the last Search Committee.

**Worship Notes:** This Sunday we will be celebrating communion. For those who are joining in the worship service via Zoom, **remember to have your bread and wine or juice prepared in advance to be blessed and shared as part of our online service.** We are apart but not really. A virtual gathering is still very real. With this service being the last one with James as the minister at RHUC, there will be a few people in the sanctuary from the Board, the Operations Council, the last Search Committee and Staff. Those coming to worship in person are asked to bring with them a small container with a piece of bread and some wine/juice (plus a way to drink it). Everyone will share communion from their seats at the same time as everyone receives communion at home.

**Worship for July 18 to August 25:** We welcome Rev. Linda Butler as she teams with Ian Wilgus to lead worship until the arrival of a supply minister in September.



**Sunday offering:** RHUC, like other churches, depends on donations and rentals to pay our bills. We appreciate those who use Pre-Authorized

Remittance (PAR). For those not PAR, please consider making sure you get your weekly envelope money in (mailed in or mail slot on Centre. St. door) and we hope as well that you will consider some extra to compensate for the loss in income. You can use e-transfer to [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), Canada Helps, <http://www.rhuc.org/donate.html>, or post-dated cheques to the Church, 10201 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, L4C 3B2.

## programs for all

**Women's Spiritually** will gather on **Saturday July 17th**. We are hoping for good weather so we can be outdoors and have a "bring your own" picnic lunch time together. Firm plans will be in next week's Reflections but do enter this date in your calendar. Guests are always welcome.

**Shalom Seekers:** Shalom Seekers is taking a break in programming until September 13th. We will decide before that time if we'll be meeting on Zoom or in person. For those wishing to touch base over the summer, there will be two opportunities to meet on Zoom - one in July and one in August. Dates to be provided via e-mail a week ahead of time.

When we resume in the fall, new members would be warmly welcomed. We have wonderful, rich discussions about matters of faith, social justice issues, etc. through a study of books, DVDs, or on-line videos. For more information about the group, please contact Sandra Loughton.

**RHUC Book Club:** The RHUC Book Club is taking a break for July and August. We will resume our meetings on Wednesday, September 29th. We will decide before that time if we'll be meeting on Zoom at 4 p.m. or in person at the church and whether we'll return to the 7 p.m. meeting time.

For our first meeting back in the fall, we'll be discussing **THE BOOK OF LONGINGS** by Sue Monk Kidd. This book of historical fiction starts with the premise: What if Jesus had been married? His bride is the narrator of this fascinating novel. You will be transported back in time!

We will meet again on Wednesday, October 27 to discuss **THE VANISHING HALF** by Brit Bennett. Time: To be determined.

For more details about the book club, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator. New members warmly welcome in the fall!



## church news

### Update - Interim plans after James leaves on July 11th - Pulpit Supply and Pastoral Care

After James's last Sunday on July 11th, Rev. Linda Butler will be providing pulpit supply for July and August and emergency pastoral care in August. Rev. David Kim-Cragg from St. Matthews will provide emergency pastoral care for the remainder of July. We have posted a short-term appointment opportunity for RHUC on the United Church of Canada Church Hub website - the central place for positing positions. The RHUC Board has established a small team to oversee the application/interview process. The position would start in September - likely for 6 months but can be terminated earlier or extended if needed. Hopefully we will be in a position to call a new minister in the fall, but it is likely the individual would not start until 2022.

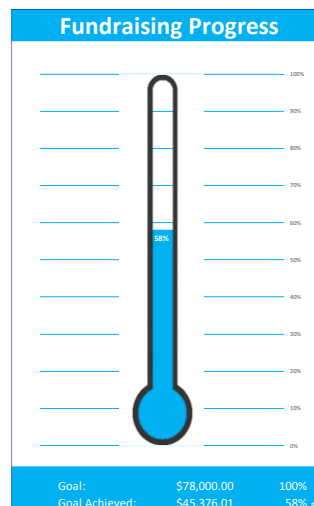
**Thank you!!!** It has been too long since we cleaned out areas in the church and thanks to **Dan and James** for locating the items and the organizing of an online auction sale by **Sharon Creasor**. **\$2,700** was raised and donated to RHUC. Sharon's expertise from similar sales and her donations of personal items led to the successful event. Very few things didn't get sold and as people picked up their items, we knew they were going to homes that were excited about their purchases. Our thanks to these three who worked on this idea and the volunteers who helped on pickup days (**Kathleen Crosbie, Brian Spettigue, Dan Plourde, Donna Smith, Sharon Creasor, Doug Loweth**)! *Donna Smith*

**Update from the Transition Team:** Last week it was announced that we are working toward an August reopening for in-person worship. The Transition Team wish to clarify two points in this regard. First, given that August 1 is a long weekend, they are suggesting that we aim for August 8 for in-person worship (socially distanced and wearing masks.). Second, people are reminded that we will not be singing together in the sanctuary but still participating via videos for the time being. Everyone is reminded that people will still be able to join in worship online. There will be a cap of 50 people at the beginning.

## celebrations



Congratulations to **Caroline Forster** on her achievement of 87% on her Grade 7 Royal Conservatory piano exam!



**Boosting Our Signal Campaign:** RHUC has embarked on a project to upgrade our AV capabilities. This project, to be implemented in Phases, not only improves the livestream services, but helps us to achieve some of our long-term ministry goals. You can donate via etransfer to [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), cheque or [CanadaHelps.org](http://CanadaHelps.org).



We have reached 58% of our goal (**\$45,376**)!! Thank you!

## outreach

### "Every Child Matters" - Orange Shirts

"September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day annually, in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well being, and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters."

[Source - <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story.html> ]

Please let us know if you'd like to join in supporting this day of reflection and grief by purchasing an orange t-shirt. There are a few Indigenous vendors who are selling these shirts and a bulk order may be more cost effective. Please send an email, subject 'Orange T-Shirt' [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org) or leave a message at the church office expressing your interest, quantity and size as soon as possible in order to have them in time.

### YOUTH-TO-YOUTH ENGAGEMENT (Y2Y)

This innovative program aims at empowering the next generation of leaders by uniting Indigenous and Non-Indigenous youth and inspiring them to take action towards creating sustainable environmental change. Each event is uniquely developed based on traditional teachings from the host territory. Events often take the form of a seminar, camp, or workshop, generally 1 to 7 days in length.



## Participants:

- Build friendships with like-minded Indigenous and Non-Indigenous youth.
- Learn Indigenous heritage, culture and treaty relationships.
- Develop hands-on understanding of nature and what it means to be a good steward of the land.

If you are an Indigenous or Non-Indigenous youth (male, female, two-spirit, & disabled) interested in being an agent for change and currently enrolled in grades 9 to 11, this program is for you.

**DATE:** OCTOBER 8, 9 & 10, 2021 (PENDING COVID CONDITIONS)

**LOCATION:** Camp Kawartha, Peterborough, Ontario  
**ORGANIZERS:** Rotary Districts 7070 & 7010, HIP & Tracks Youth Program

**INFORMATION:** This event will host 50 students (25 Indigenous & 25 Non-Indigenous)

*IMPORTANT NOTE: Should COVID prevent us from proceeding in October, we will reschedule for as early as we can in 2022.*

These three day programs will provide participants with traditional Indigenous teachings from Elders and Knowledge Keepers within the Williams Treaty Territory. Youth will learn:

- Understanding treaties
- Harvesting local foods & medicines
- Local Indigenous culture & heritage

Applicants should seek the support of their local Indigenous Community or Rotary Club. Events have limited capacity. You are encouraged to submit your application of interest as early as possible.

In general, all youth applying should demonstrate leadership potential within their communities. Most successful candidates demonstrate the following competencies:

- Leadership experience or potential
- A cooperative nature and willingness to participate in a group
- An awareness of current events and international issues
- Good performance in school or work
- Enthusiasm for sharing newfound skills with others

Preference will be given to youth nominated by an Indigenous Community or Rotary Club and residing within the Rotary Districts of 7010 and 7070.

**NOTE:** Non-Indigenous youth must complete cultural safety education before attending this event.

*HIP is an equal opportunity organization; we do not discriminate based upon race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, status as an individual with a disability, or other applicable legally protected characteristics.*

## Applications must be received prior to August 15, 2021

Please note that the submission of this application does not guarantee acceptance into the program. In the case of an oversubscription, all applications will be reviewed and a final selection made by the organizing committee.

**IMPORTANT:** All youth must commit to participating in cultural safety education on September 26th prior to attending this event.

You will not be able to save this form. Before filling out the application, ensure you have the following information prepared:

- Your nominating organization and sponsor contact information
- If you do not have a sponsor, select “please match me with a sponsor”
- Personal reference contact information ((someone we can contact to find out more about you – a teacher or someone you work with – not a friend or family member).
- *NOTE: Email reference letters to [info@hipally.com](mailto:info@hipally.com)*
- 300 to 500 word essay identifying the treaty lands you live on and what is your relationship and responsibility to the land and People



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