



Sunday worship each week is livestreamed at 10:30 AM 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, follow this link: [Home Prayers](#). For Virtual Sunday School from 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. contact Jeffrey Dale, Youth Ministries at jdale@united-church.ca.

In this challenging time, it is important that we look after each other. If you are able to pick up groceries and other supplies for those who are homebound, please contact the church. Equally, if you are in need of this support, call the church or email office@rhuc.org. If you are in need of pastoral care or spiritual support, please contact Rev. James Ravenscroft. Call him at 647-705-2754 or you can reach him by email, james@rhuc.org.

May we continue to keep each other and world in prayer, especially those who are most vulnerable, those who are grieving or struggling, and all of those on the frontline putting themselves and their families at risk to keep all of us safe. We will get through this together.

worship and music

Sunday, July 26: We are pleased to welcome Rev. Linda Butler who will lead our Zoom-based worship while James is away.

Sunday, August 2: We welcome Rev. Evelyn McLachlan to lead worship.

Upcoming vacation: James will be taking a 3-week vacation beginning on July 16 through to August 5. Rev. Basil Coward from Victoria Square United Church is available for any pastoral emergencies during this time. Please contact Deb for his contact information.

Worship Notes: As the economy slowly reopens, as a congregation we are opting to continue worshipping only via Zoom throughout the summer. While it may be nice to see one another in the flesh, it is also critical that we keep everyone safe. We have a Transition Team looking at how best to implement public health protocols for congregants and renters. It is likely that even when we reopen the sanctuary for worship, we will continue to offer a livestreaming option. The worship services are recorded and available for viewing through our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/RichmondHillUnitedChurch/>. We also have a YouTube channel so you can access the service that way.

Sunday offering: RHUC, like other churches, depends on donations and rentals to pay our bills. Our building continues to cost money even while closed and we continue to keep our employees working, albeit in ways that are different from normal tasks. We appreciate those who use Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). For those not PAR, please consider making sure you get your weekly envelope money in and we hope as well you will consider some extra to compensate for the loss in income. **You can use e-transfer to 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. We are keeping in touch with the United Church of Canada and governments to ensure we get what bridge funds might be available to us during physical distancing.

church news

We Need Your Feedback: As previously reported in RHUC Reflections, we have a Transition Team tasked with helping us transition into our new normal as a faith community. To aid them in this task, a very short, 4 question, survey has been created about returning to Sunday service. Please let us know by July 31. Click on the link below.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GL8CZP5>

Deb (Office Administrator) will be on holidays from July 27 – August 14. Email and phone messages will be picked up during that time. RHUC Reflections will not be sent out during that time.

Remembering Janet Centa: My heart felt a lurch today when I heard the news that our dear friend Janet Centa had passed away. She will be greatly missed by those who knew and remember her.

When some of us think of Janet, there are many decades of good memories. She was known for her generous hospitality at church suppers and coffee hours in Centennial Hall. She was also a very active founding member of Hands and Hearts for Africa, fundraisers for Stephen Lewis Foundation, and was a longtime co'ordinator of the Breakfast Club at Sixteenth Avenue Public School, a 'Pie Princess' of the many apple pie fundraisers and a great help to Deb with cash cards and Curtain Club fundraisers.

Janet was often found with coffee pot in hand welcoming us at every fellowship occasion along with her lifelong friend Joanne Fotheringham. What especially made her fun to be with was her infectious laugh and sense of humour. She also had the gift of rapport with people of all ages which made her a valued teacher and mentor.

When RHUC established our long-term alliance with DFC First Nations High School in Thunder Bay, Janet was one of the first to get involved to help. Ever practical and caring throughout her life, Janet lived out a deep passion for social justice.

We offer our condolences to her husband, Tony, and her sons, Rob and Stephen, while at the same time celebrating the gifts Janet shared and the joy she brought to [living](#).

(By Peg Hiscoke with input from others)

Grocery Home Deliveries: Do you, or someone you know, need groceries delivered to your home during COVID-19? RHUC has a team of volunteers in place to respond. We can shop on your behalf for food, prescriptions and other basic needs in local stores, and deliver to your doorstep.

Organizers: June Blanchette 905-780-0048, Donna Smith 905-884-6307, Doug Loweth, 416-553-8706

Drivers: Heather Hartung, Marise Blanchette, Amy Hammer, Gaye Spence, Nancy Coxford, Doug Loweth.

A Minute from the Board: The Transition Team is looking at public health protocols along with other issues to determine how to eventually proceed with worship, programs and small group gatherings in a way that keeps everyone safe. The team is also looking at how to implement protocols with tenants. What is clear thus far is that we will need to continue with online worship in some capacity in order to keep the most vulnerable members of RHUC safe and healthy. We will also be looking at which rooms are best suited to hold various groups in order to maintain physical distancing. We will be sending out a survey soon to give us the information that is needed to make the best decisions for all concerned.



RHUC PHONE TREE CREATED & GOING LIVE NOW! We have created a Phone Tree.

Everyone in the church has been assigned to a Phone Tree branch by their postal code, so each branch is a certain area.

Need to change your address or tel # or

Questions on Phone tree: Email/Call Nicole or Penny.

Nicole Moore 905-508-5253 willowrose@pathcom.com

Penny Fabbro 905-508-6594 pennyfabbro@rogers.com

A Request for Help: As the self-isolating protocols continue, there is an escalating impact on our economy. Money is going to get tight for some, including friends, neighbours and members of RHUC. To this end, we invite you to help out if you can by donating grocery cards. When you order your grocery card (still a fundraiser for our church, BTW), donate a card to help someone who needs assistance. Contact Deb (office@rhuc.org) for more information.

programs for all

Shalom Seekers: Please join us on Monday, July 27th at 10 a.m. for our weekly Zoom meeting which gives us a chance to check-in and catch up with each other during this time of physical separation. An e-mail invitation will be sent to you on Sunday, July 26th. For more details, please speak to either Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton, Co-Facilitators.

Zoom Coffee Time: The Tuesday Coffee Time will not be scheduled for the next 3 weeks (July 21, July 28, August 4) but will resume on Tuesday, August 11. Thursday Zoom Coffee Time is at 10:30 a.m. weekly. Contact Deb for info.

RHUC Book Club: We decided that we would continue meeting for the summer, so here is the information for anyone who'd like to join the Zoom meeting -- via telephone or video! New members always welcome to join.

- **Wednesday, August 26th at 4 p.m.** to discuss *Five Wives* by Joan Thomas

Her fourth novel, *Five Wives*, is a fictional dive into a real event that astonished the author. It recently won the 2019 Governor General's Award for Fiction. Thomas' previous books have been nominated for the Scotia Bank Giller Prize, the Governor General's Award, and the IMPAC International Dublin Literary Award. Thomas lives in Winnipeg, Manitoba and her website is at www.joanthomas.ca.

New members are always welcome to join us for any of our meetings. We will be meeting on Zoom for the foreseeable future and we hope to get back together in person again when people feel comfortable doing so and when the church opens again. For more information, please contact me at bookgirl8@hotmail.com. Sandra Loughton. For more information, please contact me at bookgirl8@hotmail.com. Please stay safe and keep on reading!

Weekly Meditation: Weekly meditation is on hold while James is on holiday from July 16 through to August 5.

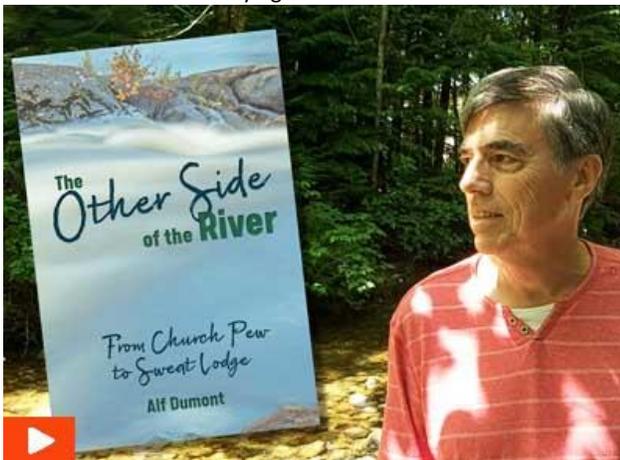
Three Rivers Forest Church: is holding a Meditation Walk at **Lake Wilcox at 3 pm on July 26**. Participants will meet at the benches near the turtle sculpture and then walk together, stopping at various spots to reflect on readings and share together. All participants are to wear a mask and to maintain physical distancing during the walk.

Pub Theology: We meet online once again to discuss faith, spirituality and life's big questions. The next online gathering is on **Fri., July 31 at 7:30 PM**. Contact Deb for the meeting log-in info.

keeping up our spirits

As we look to the coming days and weeks of "sheltering in place" it is important we keep our spirits up. RHUC Reflections will include some ideas, reflective words, poems, recipes, pictures (send to Deb at office@rhuc.org), etc. to help in this challenging time.

Alf Dumont has spent his life as a spiritual leader, serving as a Christian minister and staying connected with his traditional



Indigenous spirituality. He believes sharing stories with each other is the path to build deeper relationships, healing, and reconciliation. In this video, Alf talks about his inspiring memoir "The Other Side of the River: From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge." He is eager to share his story with you—you can pick up the book now in print or as an ebook, from UCRDstore.ca.

outreach

Minute for Mission: The United Church of Christ USA is a full communion partner of The United Church of Canada. Every few years, it organizes a national conference called Widening the Welcome (WtW) jointly hosted by its Disabilities Ministries and Mental Health Network. The conference is one way for the church to become more accessible. The event is packed with speakers, worship, workshops, and networking opportunities. For the WtW conference in November 2018, The United Church of Canada sent a small delegation of people with disabilities, and their allies. They were all committed to the United Church's desire to become a more open, accessible, and barrier-free church where people with disabilities can fully participate in all areas of the church's life. The United Church of Canada offered financial support for people to attend the conference, which was possible through Mission & Service. Some delegates would not have been able to attend without this support. The delegates found the conference an amazing learning experience and came back from it transformed and even more passionate about disability ministries. One of them said, "I came back with strong enthusiasm to share this knowledge with my church and promote accessibility in The United Church of Canada." Moved by the conference, other delegates have created and led worship and offered educational sessions in their own ministry contexts. Through Mission & Service, people of The United Church of Canada have been inspired to make the church even more open, accessible, and barrier-free for all!

Due to the ongoing health crisis, Rendez-vous 2020 is set to be a



Rendez-vous unlike any other..! The event will still be going ahead August 11-14, but through a virtual platform instead of an in-person gathering.

Through real-time online events, recordings, and interactive workshops, we will celebrate bold faith, brave space, and brazen grace. While this is a free event, you

do need to register in order to gain access to the event app. The final day to register is August 7. Register before July 15 to get your commemorative t-shirt or toque in time for the event, available for \$10 each at the time of registration!

Youth and Young Adult Video Project



Calling all United Church youth and young adults—we have an exciting new project for you to take part in!

There's no denying that COVID-19 has changed our day-to-day lives; we want to know what that looks like for you! Perhaps your church moved worship online. Maybe you picked up a new hobby, learned to cook a new meal, or had to change how you get ready for work. To participate, film a video—being as creative as you want—answering the following questions:

- What is one thing you've learned during this time?
- How have you stayed connected with friends and family?
- What do you miss the most?
- How are you participating in church?
- What does a typical day look like?

Send questions and submissions to Jessica (jstevenson@united-church.ca). Happy filming!

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.

THE ARTS AND HUMANITY

What are we missing? If you love theatre, museums, art galleries, live concerts, you are probably missing a lot right now during this time of segregation. The Stratford festival this week sent some photos of the inside of the new Tom Patterson theatre which was to be showcased this season and there are those of us who cannot wait to see it in person! However, the theatres remain closed although some outdoor theatre is making an appearance.

I am also suspecting that if you sing in the church choir or any choir, you are missing the rehearsals and the sheer joy of making music with others. My choir has just had a note from the director that our rehearsal space in a local church will not be available at all this year! Quite disheartening! So what is it about Art that is crucial to us?

I happened to hear an interview at the Chatauqua Institute on July 14 which really blew me away. American Philanthropist and CEO of the Ford Foundation, Darren Walker, was being interviewed about his understanding of the role of Art in our lives. He shared a story of how after the death of a dear friend, it was poetry and painting that comforted him in his grief.

Walker believes that 'Art is intrinsic to our humanity. The Arts help us find the words when there are no words. Art teaches us empathy and we need empathy in order to have social justice.' (This last statement really popped out for me. Hopefully you resonated with this as well.)

Because of the pandemic, Walker is concerned about the impact of closed theatres and limited access to the Arts that he says is "so critical to our very being!" As a result, he has urged other philanthropic foundations and wealthy donors to be more generous right now, especially to non-profits which are struggling to stay alive. For Walker, the Arts are key to developing the empathy and understanding so critical in the lead up to the US elections.

Walker is encouraged by a shift in attitude since the death of George Floyd. After 400 years of denying racism, he believes more Americans are acknowledging that racism exists and are experiencing that heartbreak together. His hope is that this openness will continue in light of the fact that Afro-American workers are demanding that their companies change their racist behaviour.

How do we as individuals engage in the community? Walker states that "we need love, compassion and grace and only if we commit to those values can we truly engage in the community. The Arts can help us do that!"

Darren Walker's words have been said in different ways by others. In fact on Day 1 of Canada Reads this week, one of the book defenders said almost exactly the same thing. "Art can develop empathy in the reader and help bring understanding to an issue such as racism. This is what Canada needs right now to pull us together."

We will be hopeful as Darren Walker is hopeful that increased funding for the Arts and increasing access to the Arts will move us along the path to a more truly inclusive community (both local and global.) (Reflection by Peg Hiscoke)