



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: As I was walking in the Jefferson Forest recently, I paused to look across the ravine. I was struck by how beautiful it is but equally important I was aware of the footfalls of those who walked through this forest in earlier times to hunt and trap. As you look around the church and all of the buildings, it is easy to forget that there was once a Wendat village not far from the intersection of Yonge and Major Mackenzie. This urbanized environment was once the place that fed the people who lived there, both in terms of crops as well as game. This territory in which the church is built is subject to the "Dish with One Spoon Wampum", a treaty between the Haudenosaunee and Anishnabek to share the land with respect and care. When settlers arrived, they too were welcomed into this treaty.

Many of us who identify as the descendants of settlers or as immigrants forget that. We forget as well that Indigenous peoples continue to call this territory home. We forget because there was no thought given to maintain the Indigeneity of this community. Instead, descendants of settlers erased their presence, shaping the environment with roads and buildings, memorializing their heroes with placards and statues, making clear who was in power and who was not. That is the legacy of this and many other communities.

It does not have to remain this way. This past Canada Day, many people spent it more reflectively than in past years, confronted as we are with the discovery of unmarked graves at the sites of several Indian Residential Schools. As difficult as it is to celebrate when you are faced with the true history of our country, we also have an opportunity to begin learning what was glossed over in our schooling, to sit down with indigenous elders and hear their stories, and begin to support Indigenous peoples in reclaiming what Residential Schools tried so hard to erase.

One possibility here is to follow the lead of Edmonton city council. They recently voted to give Indigenous names to the various numbered wards that the city is divided into as a way to both honour sacred places and to preserve Indigenous history. A group of First nations, Inuit and Metis women was given the task and they in turn consulted with elders as well as participated in ceremony as a way to discern the names. The area I used to live in is to be known as "Anirniq". This Inuktitut word means "breath of life" and is given in honour of Inuit who were sent to a TB sanatorium that was once located in the ward's bounds. The downtown is to be called Odaymin, which is Anishnabemowin for strawberry, or heart-berry. My brother-in-law lives in "Pihesiwin", a Nehiyawewin (Cree) word that honours the Thunderbird because the area was used for sacred ceremonies. The various languages being used is a reminder that Amiskwacyi Waskihikan (Beaver Hill House), as the area was once known, was a gathering spot for many Indigenous nations, including Cree, Blackfoot, Saulteaux, Metis and many more. I am proud to have lived in a city with this much vision, and I pray that other communities will follow their lead.

They say that history is written by the victors. That is true in some respects but not exclusively. History is simply how we choose to tell the story of a people, a forest, a community, a nation. As we confront the truth of our nation's history, many we also find ways to nurture reconciliation. Reclaiming the Indigeneity of Richmond Hill, Toronto, Edmonton, etc. is one good way to do just that.

worship and music

Order of Service

Hymns

James' video for children:

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AlBjmozEVDR0ga0TotKyTO7LfqZSoA>

Worship for July 4: On this Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, we ponder Mark 6:1-13 (in which Jesus is rejected by his hometown) and "Praise Song for the Day" by Elizabeth Alexander (recited for President Obama's first Inauguration). In "Expanding the Circle", James reflects on the call of the church to reach out to others. We also welcome the Ross family to celebrate baptism.

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 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, 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

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.

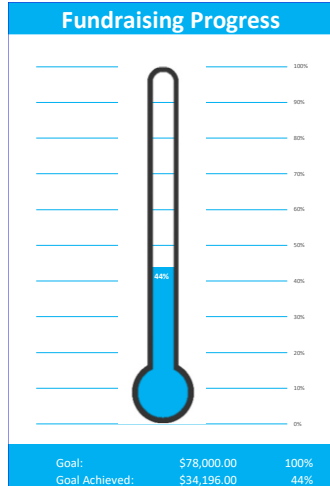
We have posted a short-term appointment opportunity for RHUC on the United Church of Canada Church Hub website - the central place for positing positions. The RHUC Board has established a small team to oversee the application/interview process. The position would start in September - likely for 6 months 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*



Commons logo. The favourite was option A. Thank you to everyone who cast a vote.

The verdict is in: The Communications Working Group is pleased to announce that we have a winner for the Village



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, cheque or CanadaHelps.org.



We are now at 44% of our goal (pre-tax)!! Thank you!

We have been livestreaming our worship services on Zoom for over a year now – far longer than any of us expected. Thank goodness for the technology that has made that possible, and for the people who have made that technology work for us! During that time we have embarked on the Boosting Our Signal project, to improve the visual and sound experience of our worship services for those in the sanctuary, and for those connecting remotely. The initial phase of the project made significant improvements to the in-sanctuary experience, and that will be immediately evident to everyone present when we resume in-person worship. But until then, only the members of the worship production team have experienced it directly. Improvements for those joining the service online will come in Phase 2, and that will be necessary not only for the near future, until we resume in-person worship (probably in September), but also afterwards, as we offer hybrid services, both in-person and online. Even though we have so far raised only 44% of the money needed to cover the entire project, the Board has decided to begin work immediately on Phase 2, to maximize the benefit to everyone.

In the services we have all seen every week, there has been one stationary camera (actually a smartphone!) to provide the picture, and one Bluetooth microphone to pick up voice of the individual speaking (usually James). We have relied on pre-

recorded music (hymns and anthems), and online scripture readings and prayers. Even if we had a choir singing live in the service, or Barry playing the piano or organ, or different people doing readings and prayers in the sanctuary from different microphones, our system currently cannot connect sound inputs from other microphones with the picture being broadcast, so people online would not get the sound that is heard in the sanctuary. That is what Phase 2 will make possible – the ability of those connecting to the worship service online to hear as well as see what people in the sanctuary do.

We have spent about \$45,000 of the total project cost on Phase 1, and the Board has agreed to spend an additional \$25,000 on Phase 2, because it is simply too important to wait. We are confident that the improved results of Phase 2 will be evident to all online viewers, and the \$25,000 will be raised. We will all benefit from Boosting Our Signal for many years to come, whether we attend worship in the sanctuary or connect online, but we have to pay for it now. If you have not yet had the opportunity to make a contribution to the Boosting Our Signal Campaign, or if you are so pleased with the results of Phase 2 that you want to make an additional contribution, I hope you will consider doing so.



Saying Farewell to James and Glen: James’s last Sunday with us is July 11th, 2021. On **Saturday July 10th - 5pm there will be a socially distanced drive or walk-by opportunity to say good-bye in person:** This will take place in front of James and Glen’s home on at 19 Church St. South, Richmond Hill starting at 5pm. You will be notified of your time slot and logistics as we get closer to the date.

Contact Deb at office@rhuc.org if you would like a time slot.

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.

outreach

June is National Aboriginal History Month

Orange Shirt Day: What is Orange Shirt Day?

Orange Shirt Day was created by Phyllis Webstad, a third generation Residential School Survivor. Phyllis is a member of the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (created when Dog Creek & Canoe Creek Band merged) located in the central interior of British Columbia. She was sent to St Mary's Residential School in Mission, B.C. wearing a brand-new orange shirt her grandmother had bought for her first day of school. Upon arrival they stripped Phyllis, took her clothes and they were never returned to her.

St Mary's was opened in 1863 and run by the Roman Catholic Church of Canada until 1961 when children were moved to a government run residential school that operated until 1985. The buildings from the previous school were demolished.

"After 1985, land and buildings of the government-run school were initially leased to the Coqualeetza Training Centre, and in 2005, were returned to the [Stó:lō](#) as reserve lands. The land formally regained its Stó:lō name of [Pekw'Xe:yles](#) and is used by 21 different First Nations governments. There is a newer St. Mary's school just outside of Heritage Park. A native-owned company, Monague Crafts Ltd., uses the newer building as headquarters. Monague makes First Nations dream catchers and themed jewellery that is sold all over the world. Fraser Valley Aboriginal Child and Family Services (Xyolhemeylh) also operates out of the building as well as various community groups such as a daycare and self-defense classes."

[Source

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Mary%27s_Indian_Residential_School]

"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."

- 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)

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.

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.

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.

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