



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: I can't believe that it has happened again. This week's message was going to focus on Pride, especially with this Sunday being our annual worship service not just for us as an Affirming Ministry but a celebration for the Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ community across York Region. But yet again there has been an act of terror directed toward the Muslim community, this time not in a mosque as people prayed, but at a street corner as a family simply waited to cross the road. How could someone have so much hate for people he didn't even know? As many Muslims interviewed these past few days have said, Islamophobia is all too real in Canada, a deep prejudice that needs to be confronted. "We need more than thoughts and prayers," one rightly said. "We need concrete action."

I couldn't agree more, especially given that alongside the many people across various faiths and cultures gathering to show support, there was a video released of someone disparaging a group of Muslim women walking past his home and suggesting we needed "another London" and a second of someone "Zoom-bombing" an online forum of Muslims in order to spout Islamophobic bigotry. The videos were posted to intimidate an already vulnerable community. Many Canadians support their Muslim neighbours, yet Islamophobic incidents have been on the rise. Francois Legault, the Quebec Premier, asserts there is no connection between the attack in London and Bill 21, the Quebec law that bans public employees wearing religious symbols, but studies show that the bill unfairly impacts Muslim Quebecers. Given that in recent polls 69% of Quebecers viewed Islam unfavourably, it is hard not connect Bill 21 with anti-Muslim feeling. And it is allowed to stand despite it being contrary to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. We need to respect provincial sovereignty but not at the expense of people's rights, not when unchecked official bigotry emboldens unofficial action.

One commenter noted that these kinds of violent acts are motivated by fear as well as anger. Ultimately, it is the same fear that motivates anti-Asian attacks, violence against transwomen, a gay couple being spat at just for holding hands. We fear the "other" but they are only such because we make them that way. We stay tightly tied to our own community, rarely interacting with people who don't look like, act like, or worship like "us". The more isolated we become from one another, the more misinformation spreads and both fear and anger escalate. As much as we need to offer "thoughts and prayers" in this time, I hope we will also take concrete action, standing in solidarity with Muslims we know, sending a word of support to a local mosque, and while we are at to do the same for our Two Spirit and LGBTQIA+ neighbours, for Indigenous and other racialized friends, for friends who are disabled, for the women in our lives. Wherever there is a chance that someone is excluded because of some "difference", reach out with a show of solidarity. The way to confront hatred is by amplifying love. It's Pride month. Let's honour the fullest sense of this month by nurturing a community where no one is attacked, abused or excluded, where instead everyone is supported, respected, loved.

worship and music

Order of Service

James' video for children:

<https://1drv.ms/v/s!AIBjmozEVDROgawJOxzlrXkZxKbXkA>

Worship for June 13: We will be marking Pride Sunday with a celebration for all of York Region. We will have a Guest Preacher, the Rev June Joplin, formerly of Lorne Park Baptist Church in Mississauga and now Associate Pastor of Programs and Congregational Care at MCC Toronto. June will reflect on John 1:1-5, 14 as well as a selection from John Boswell's works. Please extend an invite to others and invite them to contact Deb for Zoom info.



Worship for June 20: We mark Indigenous Peoples Sunday as well as Father's Day. We take time to reflect on Mark 4:31-35 in which the disciples are caught in a storm while crossing the Sea of Galilee while Jesus sleeps in the stern.

Summer Solstice with Three Rivers Forest Church: June 20 at 6:30 pm. 19 Church St. S. We mark the longest day of the year with a time of individual meditation followed by celebration around the campfire. Participants are asked to wear a mask and maintain social distance. Maximum of 10 people.

Worship for June 27: The gospel reading for this Sunday is Mark 5:25-34, in which a woman with a chronic illness is healed when she touches Jesus' cloak.

Celebrate Environment Sunday with Some Friendly

Competition: This Sunday, along with being an Ember Day for us, is Environment Sunday. It is designated as such because June 5 is World Environment Day. In honour of this, let us have a friendly competition to clean up our neighbourhoods. Why not carry plastic grocery bags on your walks and pick up litter? Tabulate the number of bags you fill this week and send your results to James by **Sat. June 12**. A special prize goes to the winning household. Let the competition begin!



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: Please join us for "social time" on Monday, June 14 at 10 a.m. New members are always welcome. We gather on Monday mornings to discuss aspects of our faith as well as other world religions. We tackle issues facing humanity and all sorts of topics from a progressive viewpoint. Sometimes our discussions are based on a book we all read together, and other times it's a video or a magazine article. Please speak to Sandra Loughton or Peg Hiscoke for more details about the group.

Women's Spirituality will gather for their regular meeting on **Saturday June 12th at 10:00 am**. All women are invited to join us, by contacting Donna Smith, 905-884-6307. More details to follow but mark your calendar!

HAIR: HAIR will hold its last session of the season on Monday June 14, and then break for the summer. Please watch for an announcement of our resumption in the fall.

Centering Prayer: This Zoom-based group will meet **Mondays at 12:30** for a simple format with a 20-minute silent sit.

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm is a reflective format with readings, Taizé style refrains as well as a discussion time after the 20-minute sit. Contact James (james@rhuc.org) for Zoom links to both prayer time.

RHUC Book Club: Please put the date Wednesday, June 23rd in your calendar! We will be meeting at 4 p.m. on Zoom to discuss *The Unlikely Adventures of the Shergill Sisters* by Balli Kaur Jaswal. The novel is about "three British-born Punjabi sisters embarking on a pilgrimage to their homeland to lay their mother to rest. Powerful, emotionally evocative, and wonderfully atmospheric, [this] is a charming and thoughtful story that illuminates the bonds of family, sisterhood, and heritage that tether us despite our differences. Funny and heartbreaking, it is a reminder of the truly important things we must treasure in our lives." (Source: Chapters.ca)

For more information about the book club, please contact Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, at bookgirl8@hotmail.com. New members are warmly welcomed.

church news

Memory Garden: As in previous years, I will have a section of the church garden set aside in memory of people who have passed away since the previous June. If you would like someone's name on the sign that you are remembering, please let me know. The garden is on Yonge Street, beside the Village Commons stairs (formerly named the Christian Education building). Contact Donna Smith at 905-884-6307. Thanks.

Joanne Scofield's Ordination on Sunday June 13th. (10am Pacific Time - 1:00pm Richmond Hill Time!):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7h5wMhfpU>

Saying Farewell to James and Glen: We are all hoping that restrictions will be lifted, and we will have a chance to say farewell and thank you in person. However, we must be prepared for not being able to do this. James's last Sunday with us is July 11th, 2021.

Secret Friends are revealed for 2020-21: During worship on Sunday June 6th, our four Secret Friends were revealed to this year's first-year college/university students. These Secret Friends have kept in touch with their student over this past school year, with notes of encouragement and gifts of goodies to let our students know that their church community cares about them during this first year of studies; although this year with the pandemic, the students didn't attend school away from home. They spoke of challenges to complete virtual learning, but they were each able to complete the year successfully.

- **Jenny Huang** is studying sciences at the University of British Columbia and Jenny's Secret Friend has been **Dianne McLeod**
- **Isabel McCabe** is studying art at Sheridan College and Isabel's Secret Friend has been **Crystal Magee**
- Matthew Miller is studying engineering at McMaster University and Matthew's Secret Friend has been **Paula Windsor**
- **Sara Perez** (Montoya) has been studying International Affairs at York University and her Secret Friend has been **Bev Blake**

Our thanks to Dianne, Crystal, Paula and Bev for volunteering to be a Secret Friend and from their comments, the students really appreciated your communications and caring. Our congratulations to Jenny, Isabel, Matthew and Sara for completing their first year under very different and difficult conditions. We know you are anxious to get to your school campus and experience the different lifestyle and make new friends. All the best next year! For our next and 19th year of the Secret Friends ministry at RHUC, I know of the following young people who will begin their first year this September: Isobel Cowie, Benjamin Horne, Will Mountain, Christian Skorotko (Whittingham), and Sydney Spence. Do you know of another - please let me know as we don't want to miss anyone. Maybe you would like to be a Secret Friend? We need at least five people to volunteer - just give me a call at 905-884-6307 to find out more. *Donna Smith, Coordinator*

Celebrating Graduates from elementary to high school!

Tyler Fotheringham



Nathan Horne

Ben Ferrari



Congratulations!

Update from the Transition Team: As announced last week, we are preparing for an eventual reopening for in-person plus Zoom-based worship. The Transition Team reviewed the public health protocols that we developed last year and members feel confident that we can gather safely if we continue to mask and to practice social distancing. We will begin small with a maximum of 50 people in the sanctuary. Stay tuned for further updates on our reopening plans.

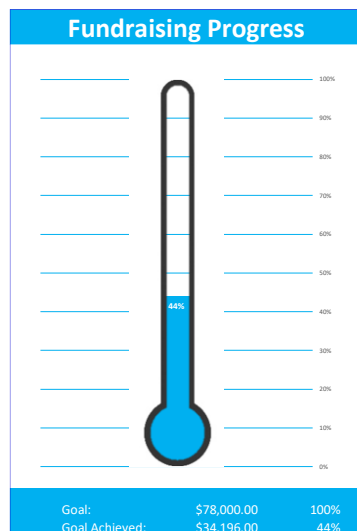
Seeking your input: RHUC's Communications Working Group has been working hard on a few projects, including creating a logo for the Village Commons. Two versions have been created, each with a multi-coloured design to reflect how this centre for community will help bring diverse communities together. They're asking for your input to decide which version to use on promotional materials. **Please email James (james@rhuc.org) by June 16 with your choice, A or B.**



News from your RHUC Search Committee: The Search Committee met on Zoom for the fourth time on Tuesday, June 8th. We feel that we are moving forward at a good pace and getting a clearer picture of the work that needs to be done before we get to the interview and selection phase of the process of hiring a new minister. As mentioned in the previous update, we are all familiarizing ourselves with the pertinent United Church of Canada (UCC) documents and manuals, as well as the UCC on-line pastoral relations tool called Church Hub. This is a website where congregations and communities of faith may post job openings and, in turn, where ministers looking for a new call or appointment may search for current ministerial openings. Church Hub was not in use when the last Search Committee work took place at RHUC. This is why we are taking our time to learn and understand this new technology needed in order to prepare our Living Faith Story, our Community of Faith Profile, and the Position Description for posting. Please be assured that we are working hard on your behalf.

And finally, keep in mind that members of the committee have signed a confidentiality agreement regarding the interviewing and hiring process and are not at liberty to share information about candidates, interviews, etc.

Thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in us. **Howe Foo, Nancy Hart (Co-Chair), Anne Leyton-Brown, Doug Loweth, Sandra Loughton (Co -Chair), D.J. McCreedy, Sharon McNutt, Sara Perez, Ruth Perratt, and Henry Poutiainen, Pastoral Relations Liaison, Shining Waters Regional Council**



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!

outreach

June is National Aboriginal History Month

"It has been six years since the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission* put together 94 Calls to Action, and Indigenous people say not enough of them have been implemented and it's time to pick up the pace. With the current implementation rate, it will take until at least 2062 to complete all 94 Calls to Action put forth by the Commission. According to a [2020 status update](#) on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action conducted by Yellowhead Institute, nine actions had been completed as of 2019, but that dropped down to eight in 2020. "There hasn't been an implementation plan or tool that's been put in place. I think that if we had an oversight body of some kind, led by Indigenous people we might start to see differences," Sheila North, former MKO Grand Chief, told CTV's Your Morning on Friday."

[Source - <https://www.ctvnews.ca/canada/let-s-get-on-with-it-indigenous-advocates-demand-completion-of-trc-calls-to-action-1.5456200>]

Check out more on CTV Your Morning as they have committed to review one Call to Action every day over the next 91 days (they've covered three already) and report on it's status

Activities: Find some interesting things to do all month at this solstice website.

<https://summersolsticefestivals.ca/>

Toronto Museums Unveil Indigenous Programming

With June marking the beginning of Indigenous Peoples Month, Toronto History Museums has partnered with the community to help share Indigenous histories, cuisine, arts.

The month-long online celebration will include tours, a culinary program, a shop experience that includes products from Indigenous artists and authors, and film and dance performances by emerging and established artists.

For more information, and the full list of panels and activities, visit www.toronto.ca/museums.

community news



PinkCars, a volunteer-run organization that helps seniors book vaccine appointments and transport them to and from vaccination clinics, spent all weekend scrambling to

prepare to help residents book their second dose starting Monday, founder Shanta Sundarason says. (CBC)

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/volunteers-help-seniors-get-second-dose-1.6046219>

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