



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.



Minister's Message: You may recall that I am a very big fan of Coronation Street. I have been watching for about 25 years. I'm not sure how you mark the silver anniversary of watching a TV show. The Corrie writers must be prescient because right now they are running a storyline about anti-Black racism. It centres around the Baileys, a family whose heritage is Jamaican and explores how different generations respond to the racist incidents they face. It is a powerful storyline, especially because prior to this, James, the youngest son just came out as gay. His brother and mother have been supportive but Edison, his dad, has been struggling. Recently Aggie (James' mom) confronted her husband, reminding him that they raised their children to hold their heads up high, to not be ashamed of who they are. To paraphrase, she says "I'm proud of how you stood up to that bigot today, but you need to stand up for your son as well. He needs to know you are with him and not against him." The power of this storyline for me is how it explores the intersections of prejudice, of how a dad can stand up against racism and yet still be homophobic, failing to see that his son can no more choose not to be gay than he can choose not to be Black. James needs to know Eddie is proud of all of him - a soccer player whose heritage is Jamaican, who won't take racist guff from anyone, and who had the courage to finally come out to his dad as gay. June is Pride month. It is a time to celebrate who we are without apology, especially those of us who are 2SLGBTQ+, and to know we have allies who will stand by us. As we celebrate with openness regarding our sexual orientation and gender identities, may we also celebrate every part of who we are, proud of all the intersecting aspects of our lives.

worship and music

Sunday, June 14: We celebrate Pride Sunday as we reflect on 1 John 4:11-21, Psalm 139 (one of the anthems) and "Litany for Survival" by Audre Lorde. In "Stonewall for Now" James will explore what the history of the Stonewall riots can teach us in this moment, especially when we recall who it was that first stood up to the police on June 28, 1969.

Sunday, June 21: As we celebrate Indigenous Solidarity Sunday, we welcome (virtually) Jess Swance who will be reflecting on Matthew 10:24-39 as well as on a teaching about sacred medicines. Jess will also share a drum song. As part of the service we will take time to make our environmental commitments.

Sunday, June 28: We reflect on Matthew 10:39-42, as Jesus challenges us to consider what it truly means to be his disciple by offering hospitality to any in need.

Worship Notes: The Prayer of Jesus: Traditionally called "The Lord's Prayer" or "Our Father" if you are Catholic, this prayer taught by Jesus to his disciples is found in both Matthew and Luke. We are most familiar with the version of the prayer that comes from a slightly modernizing of the King James translation. There is comfort in the familiarity of the prayer but it can also become rote. It is good on occasion to pray a different version.

This Sunday, in honour of Pride, we are using an adaptation of "The Lord's Prayer for Transgender Awareness Day". Because Pride celebrates multiple orientations and gender identities, the spirit of the prayer has been kept while broadening it slightly from its transgender focus.



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

A Minute from the Board: We live in challenging and exciting times. As protests against anti-Black racism continue around the world, people are standing up to be counted on the side of justice for all. To do that with sincerity, it is important that institutions as well as individuals consider the ways that they contribute to systemic racism. This includes churches. To this end, the Board has approved the establishment of a Task Group to consider ways that racism is at play in our shared life at RHUC and how we can more intentionally work towards being an intercultural community of faith. Stay tuned for more details.

A Minute for MAP: This past week, a large forum conversation was held over Zoom as people shared concerns and ideas about RHUC eventually opening up the church buildings. While the Ontario government has given permission for church buildings to reopen up to 30% capacity, we are in no way obligated to do so. This squares with how those on the call felt, agreeing that it is more important that we have all of our procedures and protocols in place so that everyone is safe, rather than rushing back in and someone gets sick. To this end, we have called together a Transition Team along with 2 subgroups to look at the particular needs of seniors, and of children and youth. One comment of note is how we need to consider the long-term impact of the lockdown on our Mission Action Plan, especially regarding real estate and space needs of future partners. Very true. As we move forward with redevelopment plans, it is critical that we consider the impacts of our present context, and live into the spirit of what we discerned together, even if our new normal means we might need to change some of the details.

Secret Friend Revealed: On Sunday June 7th the 17th year of the Secret Friends ministry at RHUC was revealed. There has been 69 first year college/university students that have had a Secret Friend who kept in touch with them with cards, messages and encouragement throughout the school year, letting them know their church family is thinking about them. This year we had only one student, Matthew Warrick who completed his first year at York University studying Bio Chemistry. Matthew's SF, a former student in September '11 who had a SF, was Ian Wilgus! We celebrate with Matthew and Ian and their families and wish Matthew well as he continues his studies. Please let me know of any students starting college/university in September so a SF can be found for them; we know of Jenny Huang, Isabel McCabe, Matthew Miller and Sara Perez and don't want to miss anyone! Donna Smith, Coordinator 905-884-6307

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.

We'll get through this by working together!

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.

Thank you for the donations received in May!



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

programs for all

Shalom Seekers: We hope everyone is having a good week. Please join us on **Monday, June 15th at 10 a.m.** for a Zoom chat and a chance to check-in. An invitation e-mail will be sent to you on Sunday, June 14th. You may join the meeting via Zoom video (laptop, smartphone, or tablet) or by telephone.

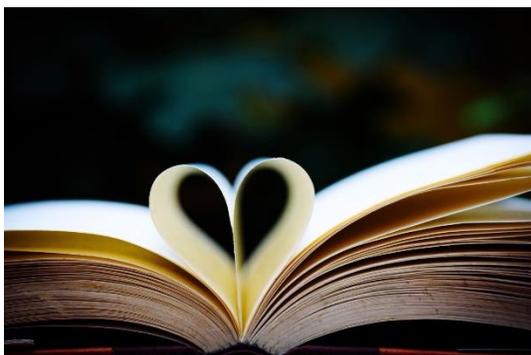
Sandra Loughton & Peg Hiscoke, Co-Facilitators

Weekly Meditation: Each Wednesday at 6:30 pm, James hosts 45 minutes of reflection and meditation via Zoom. If this is something that interests you, please let James (james@rhuc.org) or Deb (office@rhuc.org) know so that they can send you the log-in details.

RHUC Book Club: The RHUC Book Club will be getting together on Zoom (and by telephone) to discuss *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett on **Wednesday, June 17th at 4 p.m.** There are a couple of copies of the book circulating amongst the group. If you need a copy, please let me know. All book club members will get an invitation e-mail for the Zoom meeting the day before. Please stay safe and keep reading!

Sandra Loughton, Facilitator

Pub Theology: We meet online once again to discuss faith, spirituality and life's big questions. The next online gathering is on **Fri., June 26th at 7:30 PM.** Contact James 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. Each week 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.

Learning about Edible Native Plants: Flowers are a highlight of any garden and the same is true of native plants. We don't often think about eating flowers but there are those that we can. When we do think of flowers we can eat, we usually consider nasturtiums and pansies. But did you know you can eat violets? Apparently they are quite nice on a salad. Similarly, the flowers of the redbud shrub are also a tasty salad topping. Flowers, of course, eventually turn into fruits of some kind and there are lots of edible native fruits in our area. We usually think of raspberries and gooseberries but have you considered planting wild strawberries? The berries are smaller than the cultivated variety but so much tastier. There are two types, dependent on your location. They make a great groundcover. If you prefer a shrubby tree, why not plant serviceberry? There are several varieties of this shrub which is also known as shad bush, juneberry, wild plum and saskatoon. The smooth serviceberry is the one adapted to this area.



"What if 2020 isn't canceled" by Leslie Dwight

What if 2020 isn't canceled?
 What if 2020 is the year we have been waiting for?
 A year so uncomfortable, so painful, so scary, so raw -
 that it finally forces us to grow.
 A year that screams so loud, finally awakening us
 from our ignorant slumber.
 A year we finally accept the need for change.
 Declare change. Work for change. Become the change.
 A year we finally band together, instead of
 pushing each other further apart.

2020 isn't canceled, but rather
 it's the most important year of them all.

Thinking about this week. In order to put some perspective on the events of this week, I would like to share some quotes from the writings of Maya Angelou, a very articulate and well-respected Afro-American poet and civil rights activist.

Maya's Words

Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the present and renders the future inaccessible.

You may write me down in history with your bitter, twisted lies. You may tread me in the very dirt, but still, like dust, I'll rise.

Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at hope.

This week is a sad commentary on the present reality but is also hopeful as we are now recognizing 'out loud' that there is racism in our communities. As several high profile athletes have said through their own pain, the test will come if we are willing to address the issue as a society or revert back to old attitudes. This is a forceful reminder for each of us to consider our own role in this.

To celebrate and honour the gifts of black artists I am including some photos of sculptures I have collected by Haitian and African artists which sit in my living room. They speak of joy, love of family, wisdom, beauty, creativity and resilience. They are the expression of all that we share together that is precious in life. I encourage each of you to find your own way to express your solidarity. These words from Paul in I Corinthians 13:4-8 are helpful: Love is patient, Love is kind, Love rejoices in truth, bears all, hopes all. May Love be the light that guides us.

(a reflection by Peg Hiscoke)



outreach

Minute for Mission: Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries like Stella's Circle. People come to Emmanuel House at Stella's Circle for a variety of reasons. Some have experienced mental illness or addiction, and others have suffered emotional stress or trauma or had a conflict with the law. The staff and volunteers at Emmanuel House are dedicated to helping them move forward in their lives. Emmanuel House is a 14-bed, residential counselling centre in St. John's, Newfoundland, where people of all genders live for four months at a time. They participate in group and individual counselling on topics such as addiction, recovery, mindfulness, trauma, and personal effectiveness skills. Residents also participate in therapeutic yoga, recreational activities, and household chores. Emmanuel House was the home of Stella's Circle founder Stella Burry. Many receive help finding safe and supportive housing or obtain employment assistance. The approach at Emmanuel House is a strengths-focused recovery model. Ivy Lundrigan is a social worker at Emmanuel House. She expresses what it means to work with residents: I am always in awe of the strength, resilience, and courage that come through these doors. Sometimes they don't have much hope when they arrive, but with support and guidance, they are able to move forward with their lives. I'm grateful to be part of that process.

York Pride Has Gone Digital: For the last several years, RHUC has participated in the York Region Pride Parade, including hosting a booth in the Community Festival for the last two years. While the in-person parade and festival may have been cancelled because of the community transmission of novel coronavirus, there is a digital version taking place beginning this Friday (June 12). On Wednesdays and Fridays of June, York Pride is teaming up with Market Brewing Company to host live entertainment. Go to www.yorkpridefest.com to view the digital celebration.

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.

