

Happy Father's Day!



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 we prepare to mark Indigenous Heritage Month, my mind goes back to General Council 42 held in Corner Brook. AFN Grand Chief Perry Bellegarde addressed the commissioners about his vision of reconciliation. He shared how in the spirit of reconciliation some people have proposed that rather than speak of two founding nations, we speak of three, adding Indigenous people alongside the French and English. He smiled affirmatively, and then reminded us that since founding nations are honoured with their languages recognized as official, Canada will need to recognize more than 60 official languages.

Grand Chief Bellegarde wasn't saying we shouldn't make Indigenous languages official. He was reminding us that Indigenous peoples are not homogeneous. There were many different nations here on Turtle Island when settlers arrived.

Each had distinct cultures, languages, spiritual beliefs and ceremonies, legal systems, governance structures, ways of educating children, treating illness and preparing food. There were confederations and age-old enmities. Alliances evolved and new ones emerged, including with the newcomers. But those alliances weren't made to benefit the French or British. Rather, leaders saw the advantage of a partnership for their own people, and if it hurt their enemy, all the better. It isn't dissimilar to how the French and Spanish supported the 13 colonies in the War of Independence. It wasn't about the cause of democracy. Those economic and political realities are still how the world works today.

Those of us who are settlers and immigrants can forget this, forget that First Nations, Métis and Inuit are ongoing nations, living cultures that continue to grow and change, learning from each other and willing to share their knowledge with those who will receive it with respect. Unfortunately, settlers and church leaders failed to see diverse cultures and expressions of wisdom, failed to see anything but non-white and "heathen" and so looked for a way to push them aside, despite previous promises and treaties. What saddens me most is what could have been. I wonder what kind of country could have been created if settlers had learned from First Peoples and vice versa, everyone sharing techniques and technologies, gaining new insight as they mastered new languages, wanting to understand each other's ideas and beliefs. I think it would have been amazing and we are lessened for that path not being taken.

Fortunately, all is not lost. Despite the painful history, these many nations are still here. And they are still willing to share their wisdom. Each Indigenous Heritage Month we have a chance to celebrate the cultures, perspectives, languages and ideas of the many nations which call Turtle Island home. May we all honour the diverse gifts of Canada's many Indigenous nations, and may we form new partnerships that will create the Canada that should have been

worship and music

Order of Service

Hymns

James' video for children:

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!AlBjmozEVDR0gaw9qWbo9Stf42urKw>

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 Jesus sleeps in the stern of the boat. We also ponder an excerpt from *The Right to Be Cold* by Sheila Watts-Cloutier as she discusses the Inuit human rights claim against the US on the grounds that their refusal to tackle climate change threatened their culture, health and livelihoods.



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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: We mark the Fifth Sunday after Pentecost as we continue to consider Jesus' ministry of healing. In Mark 5:25-34, we read about a woman with a chronic illness being healed when she touches Jesus' cloak.

Worship for July 4: We ponder Mark 6:1-13 in which Jesus commissions his disciples to go in pairs to proclaim the good news. We also celebrate baptism.



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 on Monday, June 21 at 10 a.m. on Zoom for a time to check-in with each other. New members are always welcome to try out the group. We get together weekly to discuss our faith through books, DVDs, videos, art, etc. The questions are always more important than the answers! A Zoom invitation will be sent out the day before the meeting. For more information about the group, please speak to Sandra Loughton.

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: We hope you can join us on **Wednesday, June 23rd (this coming week) at 4 p.m. on Zoom to discuss *The Unlikely Adventures of the Shergill Sisters*** by Balli Kaur Jaswal. A link for the Zoom meeting will be sent via e-mail the day before the meeting. For more information about the club, please contact Sandra Loughton at bookgirl8@hotmail.com. New members 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.

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: 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 Graduating from Grade 12:

Ben Horne, Christian Skorotko, Isobel Cowie, Will Mountain and Sydney Shelton - Congratulations!!



Update from the Transition Team: As noted previously, the Transition Team is gearing up for a return to in-person worship dependent on the current rates of infection. They are aiming for some time in September. Although we are preparing for in-person gatherings, we also know many people intend to stay home. Worship where some people are in-person while others join online is called hybrid worship. It was in anticipation of ongoing hybrid worship that we have invested as a congregation in improvements to our AV system through the "Boosting Our Signal" campaign.

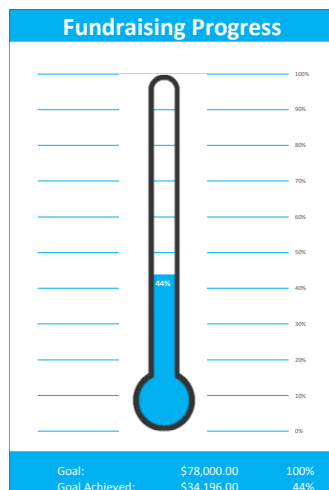
Happy Father's Day!

News from your RHUC Search Committee: The Search Committee met again this past week, but with a twist. In order to maximize our time, we divided into two groups to tackle two different tasks that need to be accomplished and approved by the Board and the Regional Council before we can begin advertising the job opening for a new minister on Church Hub, the United Church's on-line pastoral relations tool.

One group worked on the completion of our Community of Faith Profile and our Living Faith Story, and the other group focussed on the Position Description which needs to be updated and re-written, using the February 2015 version as a template. A lot has changed at RHUC since then!

Please be assured that we are working diligently on your behalf.

~ Anne Leyton-Brown, DJ McCready, Doug Loweth, Howe Foo, Nancy Hart (Co-Chair), Sandra Loughton (Co-Chair), Sara Perez, Sharon McNutt, Ruth Perratt & 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!

June is National Aboriginal History Month

"From the new-age festivities surrounding England's Stonehenge to the Midsummer's Eve celebrations in Scandinavia, people still gather each year to mark the summer solstice, which officially occurs Sunday June 20 (in the Northern Hemisphere).

Summer solstice campfire celebrations are popular in cooler northern countries like Iceland, Poland, Latvia, Denmark, Sweden and Russia. While in Canada, Aboriginal Day coincides with the summer solstice. It was selected in 1996 after the Assembly of First Nations called for a day to unite and celebrate native cultures. The date had meaning because aboriginal societies traditionally marked the summer solstice one way or another.

The Seminole of Oklahoma and New Mexico's Zuni perform corn dances — for rain and the bounty of maize, bean and squash crops. Similarly, Mohawks do Wainodayo, a dance for ripe **strawberries**, a fruit believed to renew the spirit. The Dakota hold annual sun dances in North Dakota around the summer solstice, which has been a long tradition of many First Nations from the central North American plains region. Indigenous peoples such as the Aymara (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aymara_people), in the Southern Hemisphere, hold their summer solstice, on or about, December 21. "

Find some interesting things to do at this solstice website!

<https://summersolsticefestivals.ca/>

[Source - <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/summer-solstice-celebrating-the-longest-day-of-the-year-1.2682538>]

The Strawberry Moon - Thursday June 24, 2021 (after sunset)

"June's full Moon—typically the last full Moon of spring or the first of summer—is traditionally called the **Strawberry Moon**.

This name has been used by Algonquin, Ojibwe, Dakota, and Lakota peoples, among others, to mark the ripening of "June-bearing" strawberries that are ready to be gathered.

The Haida term **Berries Ripen Moon** reflects this as well. As flowers bloom and early fruit ripens, June is a time of great abundance for many."

[Source - <https://www.almanac.com/content/full-moon-june>]

outreach



The Outreach & Social Justice Forum is Back!


Let's Talk


Thursday, June 24 @ 7:00 pm on Zoom

Come and share what speaks to you regarding Outreach,

Missions and Social Justice

 in our local Community, 

our Country, 

our World 

Please contact Tracy Wixon (tewixon3@gmail.com)

for the Zoom link, if you'd like to attend.

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.