

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 Hymns](#). For Virtual Sunday School from 9:30 – 10:00 a.m. contact Jeffrey Dale, Youth Ministries at [jdale@united-church.ca](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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:** This past week I attended two events which were formative. The first was the online emergency meeting of General Council (GC43). The primary task was deciding whether or not to postpone the next sitting of General Council (GC44), but some new business was presented, that is our need as a denomination to address anti-black racism within our church. It has been two years since this issue was named so powerfully when GC43 met in Oshawa. And yet we did not discuss this pressing issue until the very end of the meeting. That was telling. In the end, commissioners voted to refer this proposal to General Council Executive, the way the motion had been presented in the first place. Although this may be the right thing to do, especially given that this work has already been happening through two special task groups, one a special Moderator's committee looking at racism and another examining how white privilege functions in the church. But comments on a UCC Facebook page showed that for many the work is taking too long. We could have acted immediately, but the motion was framed as it was to help ensure that the motion wasn't scuppered completely. That too is telling. While difficult to face, we struggle with systemic racism in the church. It can range from microaggressions to outright hostility. We need to make a change. The desire in the wider community is growing. Take for example my other experience. I attended a virtual rally organized by several groups seeking a just recovery post-pandemic. It was organized as a forum to present a petition to the government. The speakers called out ongoing racism, including against migrant workers. The speakers called out the exploitation of Indigenous Peoples. The speakers called out the need for environmental action. Unlike the GC 43 meeting which left me feeling confused and uncertain, the virtual rally left me feeling empowered to do something. Though some of us may feel paralyzed as a new awareness of systemic oppression comes to the fore, instead we can work for change in our world. A good place to start is to listen more deeply to Black and Indigenous peoples. With this in mind, I include for you two links.

1. Black Clergy Network of the United Church of Canada: <https://www.facebook.com/ModeratorRichardBott/videos/727581141330210/>. I encourage you to listen.
2. Bishops of the United Methodist Church in the US: <https://youtu.be/J7T-x1GAnA>. It is an inspiring call to action and says what I believe the United Church could do as well.

And while we wait for our denomination to do its work, we can do our own work as a congregation. As suggested by the UMC Bishops, may we take the coming year to listen, to learn, to pray, and to change.



## worship and music

**Sunday, June 28:** We reflect together, on Matthew 10: 34 - 42. Listening once again to part of the reading from last Sunday, we hear Jesus challenge his disciples to take up their cross. He also goes on to speak about hospitality as a form of discipleship. James will reflect on the link between these two qualities of discipleship, how hospitality as a form of seeking justice can lead us to the cross.

**Sunday, July 5:** We reflect on Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 in which we hear Jesus challenge us to let go of "adult thinking" in order to truly embrace the reign of God.

**Worship Notes:** To conclude or not to conclude, that is the question. A traditional practice in churches is to conclude a reading from the bible with the words "The Word of the Lord" or a similar phrase to which the congregation responds "Thanks be to God". In some denominations there is a separate phrase and response when it is a gospel reading. To the phrase "The Gospel of the Lord" generally comes the response "Praise be to Christ" or something like that. In the United Church we have tended to use the same phrase for all scripture readings, gospel or not. A few years ago, when we introduced a non-scriptural reading at RHUC, we opted for a different phrase for both readings - "Herein we seek wisdom" with the traditional response "Thanks be to God". The intention was to signal that more than just the bible can be a source of wisdom and inspiration in our lives. Poetry, legends, novels, science texts, the sacred writing of non-Christian religions - all can inspire us, make us think, be a vehicle through which we hear the whisper of the divine. Over the last couple of Sundays, we have not had an ending to the reading. This is an accidental experiment. On Pride Sunday, James forgot to ask Jackie to conclude the poem with "Herein we seek wisdom". Some accidents are fortuitous, especially given the awkwardness of a call response when the reader is offering both. So, for the summer, we are going to try no conclusions to the reading, instead letting the words stand on their own.

**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](mailto: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:** An important part of the Mission Action Plan RHUC adopted a couple of years ago was to be a centre for community, a vision not just for the CD Building (now the Village Commons) but effectively all three of our spaces. While the last few months have put a hold on community groups gathering in the main buildings, work has been proceeding on the Manse so that it can function as a residence run by "Home on the Hill". Once the work is completed, they will begin with day programming. Later on they will also house some young adults in a supportive setting. We wanted to use our buildings in support of others in the community and, thankfully, we are still able to do that.

**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](mailto:office@rhuc.org)) for more information.



### RHUC PHONE TREE CREATED & GOING LIVE NOW!

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](mailto:willowrose@pathcom.com)

Penny Fabbro 905-508-6594 [pennyfabbro@rogers.com](mailto:pennyfabbro@rogers.com)

## programs for all

**Shalom Seekers:** Shalom Seekers meets online on Zoom on Monday mornings. Please join us on **Monday, June 29th at 10 a.m.** by phone or Zoom to catch up and stay connected. You will receive an invitation e-mail on Sunday with the Zoom link and the information you will need to call in. For more details about the group, please contact either facilitator, Peg Hiscoke & Sandra Loughton.

**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:** 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, July 22nd at 4 p.m.** to discuss *The Aviator's Wife* by Melanie Benjamin
- **Wednesday, August 26th at 4 p.m.** to discuss *Five Wives* by Joan Thomas

For more information, please contact me at [bookgirl8@hotmail.com](mailto:bookgirl8@hotmail.com). Please stay safe and keep on reading!  
Sandra Loughton, Book Club 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.**

**It's Pollinator Week:** Did you know that this week was dedicated to pollinators? As we all go outside as a way to stay grounded in this lockdown time, perhaps we can think of butterflies and bees as we garden. If you are replacing plants or extending your planting beds, consider planting native plants and other plants that are beneficial to pollinators. The populations of bees and butterflies are declining as their habitat is compromised and their health is damaged by pesticides and herbicides. Pollinators are essential to a healthy ecosystem and essential to our food security as well, so let's do all that we can to protect them, including providing plants that are essential to their sustainability.

### Strawberries with angel food cake and whipped cream

1. In mason jar or sealable container, combine strawberries soda and/or sparkling wine.
2. Close lid. Shake gently and place into freezer for 30 minutes.
3. Spoon strawberries onto whipped cream and meringue or angel food cake. Serve immediately!

#### Alternate Serving Method

1. In a bowl of stand mixer, combine all ingredients.
2. Slowly increasing speed, whip until stiff peaks. Serve with meringue, angel food cake or with fresh strawberries.

#### INGREDIENTS

- **2 cups** ripe strawberries sliced
- **2 cups** sparkling wine or soda water

#### MOCHA WHIPPED CREAM

- **2 cups 35%** whipping cream
- **½ cup** granulated sugar
- **1 tbs** cocoa powder
- **2 tsp** instant hazelnut *coffee* Or espresso powder



## outreach

In solidarity with Black Lives Matter, Pride Toronto has shifted the time of the virtual parade on Sunday June 28 to 12 PM to allow people to also attend the BLM rally and teach-in at Nathan Phillips Square at 2 PM. Our pre-gathering event, originally planned for 1 PM on Sunday has been moved to Monday, June 29 at 6 PM. Here are the links:

**Virtual Pride:** Join Pride Toronto, Sunday June 28 ONLINE 12PM  
<http://www.pridetoronto.com/virtualpride/>

**Black Lives Matter Rally:** Sunday June 28 2 PM, Nathan Phillips Square No Pride in Policing  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/550708438931536/>

**United Church Toronto Pride Gathering**  
Monday June 29 6PM Join Us by Zoom  
<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/98690687222>

**Talking to children about racism:** It can be a challenge to talk to children about difficult topics, especially about injustices in the world like racism. But difficult as they may be, it is important to talk about them just the same. Perhaps this video from the Tutu Teacher will help get you started: <https://youtu.be/1vHymutysWU>

**Minute for Mission:** Down a long road behind a large fence in Nairobi, Kenya, is a safe house for LGBTQIA and Two-Spirit refugees from Uganda, Somalia, and South Sudan, supported by Mission & Service partner Pembizo Christian Council. The refugees who live here dream of a day they are resettled in Canada or another country where they can live freely without fear of imprisonment. While the group waits to be resettled, they have named themselves Nature Network and spend their time creating art. Whether it is movies, dance, or vlogs to post on Facebook, the group always puts their best foot forward. We are thankful that in The United Church of Canada there are opportunities to sponsor and support LGBTQIA and Two-Spirit refugees. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.



It is important during this time to take care of each other and ourselves. For youth who are struggling with feelings of anxiety, organizations like [Kids Help Phone](#) are working around the clock to help Canadians. For more information on the spread of COVID-19 in Canada, the interactive COVID-19 [Situational Dashboard](#) gives up-to-date information on the situation in Canada.

**Baillie Volunteer Awards 2020: Application Deadline Extended to July 15:** In these difficult times there is still much to celebrate - in particular the work and witness of our youth and young adults. TUCC's Baillie Volunteer Service Awards recognize young people in the United Church who make valuable contributions to our ministries and are of service to our broader communities. Is there a young person (15-35) who has made a difference in your community of faith's operations or who volunteers their time for community service work? If so, it is time to nominate them for the 2020 round of awards. Nominations are due by July 15. More information on award eligibility and selection criteria can be found on the [application form](#).



Join us online this year for a fun and educational line up of programming for your child. We hope to see you there!

Programs include:

- Dipping into the world of drama and exploring their artistic side
- Music fundamentals where we learn the basics of music and spending time together sharing our musical interests
- Moving and shaking and enjoying getting active with fitness programs
- Learn a new language or practice what you already know in French or Spanish

And much, much more! See our website for more detailed program information and to register your little camper for a summer of fun together apart.

[More Camp Awesome Info and Registration](#)

To unsubscribe, please write to: [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), and put "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.



## Celebrating our Graduates!!

This year we are highlighting the achievements of RHUC grads in a special way. We know it does not replace the in-person ceremonies that have been missed this year because of COVID-19, but we hope that showcasing each of you lets you know how proud of you all of us are.



'Kiara Fabbro hopes to become a secondary teacher for the York District School Board. She is also investigating Private Schools in the area.'

'David McBey completed his M.Sc. (Kinesiology) with a focus on Exercise Physiology, at Western University in London last fall.

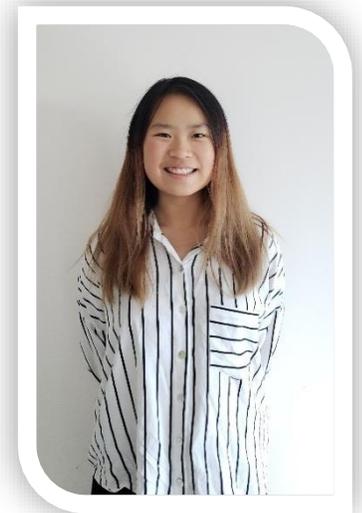


He researched Type 1 Diabetes using targeted exercise therapy as a supplement to insulin treatment, to reduce the amount of insulin required, enhance quality of life, and improve long-term disease outcomes (also relevant in countries where insulin prices are out of control).

David has started his PhD at UWO in Stem Cell research, focusing on the role of these fascinating cells as a treatment for autoimmune disorders.'

'Four years ago, I found this wonderful community of loving people; since then, the experiences I've had at RHUC have made me grow as a person, and I'm so grateful to have walked into those doors seeking guidance that summer day in 2016.

Now, as we trudge through a year of tragedies and revolution, I'll be saying goodbye as I head off to post-secondary education, across the country, but, my roots are here, my heart is here, and they always will be. I will carry with me the memories made within these walls and beyond it as I journey throughout the rest of my life.



Thank you for these last four years; I look forward to what the infinite future holds.' Best, Jenny Huang

'It is a world full of un-certainty but Matthew (Miller) will continue with a positive attitude, persevering through the upcoming



challenges as he has always done. He will enter McMaster Engineering in the fall, remotely for now, but is looking forward to the full experience of on-campus life and being away from home as soon as that is possible.

He hopes to enter into the field of Mechatronic engineering after his first year

and continue pursuing a career as a professional engineer.'



'I am very excited to be attending York University in the fall of 2020 for International Development. Thank you for all the support RHUC.' Sara Perez

