



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: This has been an emotional week. Last week at this time, news broke of the discovery by Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation of the unmarked graves of 215 children at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. As I wrote in an earlier email, the discovery is horrifying but not surprising. Those who attended Indian Residential Schools informed the TRC Commissioners about this. When I was in Alberta, the Living Into Right Relations Circle that I was a part of worked closely with Indigenous groups who were documenting the unmarked graves at the sites of the Red Deer Industrial School and the Edmonton Industrial School. Industrial Schools were the precursors of Residential Schools. It was heartbreaking to hear from witnesses how they would be woken up in the middle of the night by teachers to dig graves. They knew these children were never going to be returned to their parents and the knowledge that they, without choice, were contributing to the unresolved grief of these children's families haunted their memories.

The news this week has brought me back to that experience. The first thing many people are doing, and should be doing, is taking time to grieve. Those of us who are the descendants of settlers, as well as new Canadians, are being called in this moment to sit with the deep sadness that Indigenous peoples have been carrying for generations. We must, because too often the

general public is moved to act for a time but then distracted by another issue. Our politicians know this and take advantage of it to delay. This information was shared in the TRC Report six years ago. We cannot let six more years go by before further investigation is done. And we cannot let six more years go by before the many other injustices faced by Indigenous communities are resolved. One way to help make sure we don't delay any longer is to meet with your MP to discuss your concerns and then commit to meeting with them in a year's time for an update, and again a year later. If we are able, we can also contribute to any number of Indigenous organizations and charities, perhaps donating \$215.00 in memory of each child. And finally, we can advocate for Indigenous peoples who live in this community. Unlike Toronto, Hamilton, or Barrie, York Region has very few support services for Indigenous peoples despite the population. Standing along side our neighbours would go along way toward reconciliation

But before we do these things, let us pause, pray and mourn. Put a stuffed toy on your porch as a sign of your grief. Let the hurt sink deep. And then from a place of compassion, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples can join together to shape the country that Canada could have been.

worship and music

Order of Service Hymns

James' video for children:

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

Worship for June 6: This Sunday is a special service where we acknowledge various grads and reveal who has been the secret friend for each of last year's four Grade 12 graduates. We will begin the service with a prayer of lament for the 215 children at Kamloops Indian Residential School who never went home. We will also reflect on Mark 3:20-35 in which Jesus reflects on the importance of discipleship, saying that all who follow God's will are his family.

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.



Pride Sunday (June 13): We once again host the Pride worship service for 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 Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto. Please extend an invite to others and invite them

to contact Deb for Zoom info.

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 on Monday, June 7th at 10 a.m. on Zoom for our weekly discussion and social time. The topic this week will be **"Everyday Expressions Borrowed from the Bible"**. Do you find this pandemic has you "at your wit's end"? And when we are fully vaccinated and everything has reopened, are you going to be ready to "eat, drink, and be merry"? Find out where these familiar sayings and more originated from in the Bible! The Zoom invitation will be e-mailed to you on Sunday, June 6th. New members are always welcome to join us. Please speak to Sandra Loughton 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 (Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels and Other Riffraff), is on **Monday evenings at 7:00 pm over Zoom**. This group intends to be a place of inquiry and questioning, where doubts are expressed, uncertainties about our faith and its relevance to our daily lives clarified, and the application of the teachings and principles of our Christian faith to major issues of our time are explored, and where we have interesting and stimulating discussions. These discussions are open to anyone interested, and new members are always welcome. To get the Zoom link please contact David Leyton-Brown at dlbrown@yorku.ca.

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 Sherqill 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)

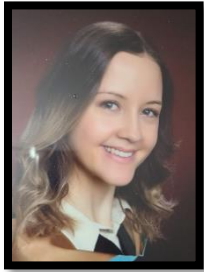
For more information about the book club, please contact Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, at bookgirl8@hotmail.com. New members are warmly welcomed.

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.



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.



Celebrating Graduates of Post-Secondary programs!

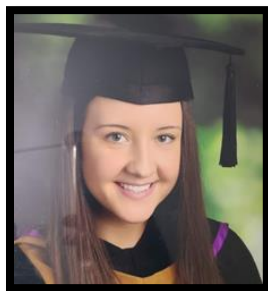
Ashley Russell (completed a Bachelor of Nursing degree at McMaster University last year)



Justin Hancock (completed training as a Canadian Registered Generalist Sonographer following a BSc)



Lauren Russell (completed a Bachelor of Nursing degree at



Diana McBey (received a Doctor Juris from Queen's University and is articling in Toronto)

Western University last year)

Lizzy Chamberlain (completed a Public Affairs & Policy Management degree at Carleton University)



Julia Ye (completed an M.Div. in Pastoral Ministry from Tyndale University)

Congratulations to all!
(Other graduates to follow in the next couple of issues.)

Update from the Transition Team: Last year around this time, a Transition Team was formed to prepare for the eventual reopening of the church to in-person gatherings in a way that is safe, and which follows public health directed protocols. With the third wave of the pandemic ebbing, we again look forward to reopening the church, the Transition group reconvened this week. The members are hopeful that we will be able to reopen in September to some in-person attendance at worship combined with the majority of people joining via Zoom. They will be evaluating the situation over the summer and will update everyone accordingly.

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: Since the names of those on the Search Committee were announced a few weeks ago in Reflections, we wanted to let you know we are already hard at work on our journey to find a new minister. Just as a reminder from Jane Wedlock's initial announcement, your RHUC Search Committee consists of:

Howe Foo, Nancy Hart (Co-Chair), Anne Leyton-Brown, Doug Loweth, Sandra Loughton (Co-Chair), D.J. McCready, Sharon McNutt, Sara Perez, and Ruth Perratt. We are also supported by our Pastoral Relations Liaison, Henry Poutiainen, Shining Waters Regional Council.

We have met three times already as a group on Zoom. The first meeting was an introductory session where we got to know one another, discussed the work ahead of us, and mulled over the manuals and guidelines we were given to start us off on our tasks. The second meeting, which took place last week, was a training session with our Pastoral Relations Liaison support person from Shining Waters Regional Council. At that meeting we discussed such topics as types of bias, Human Rights, and identifying power and privilege. At our meeting this week we elected Co-Chairs and assigned other tasks to those on the committee. We are starting to prepare our Community of Faith Profile and will move towards updating and finalizing the Position Description. We are also familiarizing ourselves with the United Church of Canada's on-line pastoral relations tool, ChurchHub. There is a lot of learning going on!

We want to assure you that we are working diligently to move us forward in our goal to find a minister who is a great fit for our community of faith. Also, we will be communicating with you on a regular basis in Reflections, so please keep an eye out for these updates. As a final thought, please keep in mind that members of the committee have agreed upon an oath of confidentiality 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 each of us.

Our recognition and farewell to Norma Brubacher is written by Lori Canner and expresses our sadness at seeing her move from our community of faith at RHUC. We wish her well and send her with our love and a Prayer Shawl as she moves to a new community with her family. ' It is with mixed feelings that I have been given the honour to say a few words as we bid farewell to someone we all know and love, Norma Brubacher. As many of you know now, Norma has decided to move from her home of over 30 years in Maple to start a new life in Waterloo. It is hard to say goodbye to someone who has donated so much time to RHUC. I have had the pleasure of singing with Norma since 2009 when she, along with her beloved Paul started attending RHUC. She has sat beside me in the choir loft as well as in rehearsals and we have been each other's close support for over 10 years. Not only is Norma a choir member, but some of you may not be aware that she is also a supply organist and pianist for Barry when he is away on holidays. It has been a blessing to have someone so talented that could be called upon, to competently play an organ of this magnitude as well as the piano and conduct the choir. I know Barry will miss your support. It takes even more talent to transpose music, which she did from time to time to suit the vocal range of some of the choir members who sang throughout the summer, I personally benefited from that talent. Whenever Barry was away, especially in the summer, Norma would seek out choir members that she saw in the congregation and ask them to sing in the choir loft to provide guidance for the service.'

Outreach

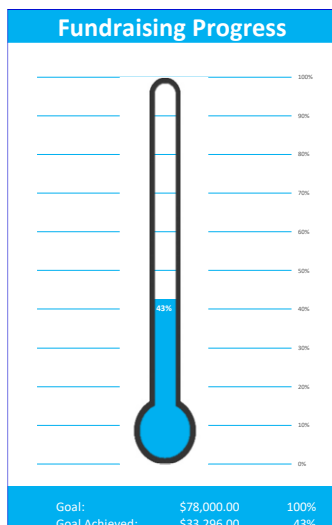
June is National Aboriginal History Month

"In 1763, the British had assumed control of a series of French forts sparsely located across the Great Lakes - and quickly found themselves on the losing side of a full -blown insurrection. First Nations had seized control of several forts in what later became known as Pontiac's War. The resistance ultimately failed to oust the British from what was known then as "The Indian Country" but it did force an abrupt and radical shift in English colonial policy. The Crown immediately issued the Royal Proclamation - and to ratify it - called for a large assembly at Fort Niagara. Here the British extended the Two-Row Wampum and Covenant Chain treaties to some 2,000 delegates representing 24 nations. The Treaty of Niagara, to this day, is not recognized by the Canadian Government."

[Source - <https://www.aptnnews.ca/ourstories/indigenouhistorymonth2021/>]

Week of June 6 - **Mabo Day (Australia)** - June 3, 1992 the Australian High Court overturned the legal concept known as "terra nullius" - that land claimed by settlers belonged to no-one. The man who pushed for this change was Eddie Mabo. This decision acknowledged Indigenous people occupied Australia thousands of years before British contact and had rights of title to land and water.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-06-03/what-is-mabo-day-eddie-high-court-decision-terra-nullius/100180516>



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.



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.

We are now at 43% of our goal (pre-tax)!! Thank you!