



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](mailto: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:** It's been 11 days since George Floyd was killed while in police custody, struggling to breathe while a police officer knelt on his neck and back for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. It's been 9 days since Tony McDade, a trans man was killed in Tallahassee by police. It's been 2 and a half months since Breona Taylor, an EMT, was shot repeatedly by police officers while she was sleeping in her bed, in her own home, the wrong home, while the two suspects the police were looking for were already in custody. It's been 3 and a half months since Ahmaud Arbery was shot and killed by a retired police officer and his son while jogging in a suburban neighbourhood in Georgia. It's been 3 and a half years since Dafonte Miller was beaten up so badly by an off-duty Toronto police officer and his brother that he lost an eye. It's been 6 years since Eric Garner was killed while in the chokehold of a New York police officer. His death along with the death of too many other black men and women helped kick off the Black Lives Matter movement, highlighting the ongoing brutality and violence against people of colour, especially the black community for decades. And yet this isn't a decades long issue. It is a 400-year-old issue, on both sides of the border, brought to this continent by white colonizers, missionaries included, who presumed they were superior, somehow closer to God because of the colour of their skin. That sense of superiority informed the belief that they could defraud Indigenous people of their land, kidnap African men, women and children and force them into chattel slavery, extract resources without compensation, make money through the labour of those they enslaved, use legislation to impose languages, customs and religions on others, and enforce the continued marginalization of people of colour. especially people of African descent and Indigenous peoples, through both legislation and discriminatory policing. I could go on, but you get the picture. This history undergirds our present, and both historic and present injustice breaks my heart. How can it not for anyone. And yet though I am heartbroken, I know change can happen. People are protesting because they believe change can happen. And change begins with self-awareness. As a white man I only know a tiny bit of the history, have been told only a fraction of the lived experience. And so, it is incumbent on me to learn more. As a recent meme says: "I understand that I don't understand. But I stand with you." In order to stand in solidarity, I have more reading and study to do. To that end I conclude with a link to an excellent article by Shree Paradkar about racism and white privilege. It answers often asked questions and suggests articles and books to read: <https://www.thestar.com/opinion/star-columnists/2020/06/03/what-white-privilege-why-cant-you-be-more-civil-some-faqs-about-racism-and-answers-you-may-find-challenging.html>? The world we long to see will only come if we stand together.

## worship and music

**Sunday, June 7:** Each year, the first Sunday of June is when the Youth Choir put on a musical. Given our present circumstances, we are broadcasting last year's offering: "Rescue in the Night", which is about Daniel in the lion's den (Daniel 6). At the beginning of the service, we will take time to acknowledge the ongoing pain and injustice of racism. After the musical, we will take time to recognize those who are graduating this year and reveal who has been this year's "secret friend" for those in their first year after graduating high school.

**Sunday, June 14:** There may not be a Pride Parade but we can still celebrate with our annual Pride Service. As in year's past, we share leadership with other organizations which support the 2SLGBTQ+ community. And we reaffirm our commitment to being a community where truly everyone is welcome. Our celebration is open to the whole community so please let people in the wider community know about it and how to contact Deb so they can connect through Zoom.

**Sunday, June 21:** We mark both Indigenous Solidarity Sunday as well as our Fourth Ember Day, a time to make commitments to fight climate change and protect the environment. Jess Swance, a ministry student who recently graduated from Emmanuel College, will be our guest preacher.

**Worship Notes:** Lament. We don't see prayers of lament very often in worship. More often prayers express praise, speak a word of gratitude, make intercession. And yet Prayers of Lament are well used in the Tanakh (that is the Torah, Prophets and Other Writings that comprise what we often call the Old Testament). There is an entire book titled "Lamentations" as well as several psalms of lament. Psalms 44, 60 and 74 are a few. Biblical lament is more than expressing sorrow and suffering, like Jeremiah in Lamentations saying his situation is "wormwood and gall". After naming the circumstances of suffering, including a sense of being abandoned by others, even God, the prayer shifts toward trust and generally ends with praise, like Jeremiah trusting that God's love is as sure as the daily sunrise. In the face of injustice, a prayer of lament is appropriate, especially right now. In this Sunday's worship, lament is combined with a confessional element, in the knowledge that those of us whose heritage is European, have contributed, albeit for many more passively than actively, to the ongoing reality of systemic racism in our society.



**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

**Notes from the church gardener: Memory Garden** - As in previous years, I will plant an annual plant in memory of a person who has passed away since last June. Usually I ask donors to give me \$3 to purchase a plant but with the restrictions of COVID-19, I will use money in my petty cash fund I have developed over the years... If you would like me to include a special someone, please let me know by May 31st; when planted, their name will appear on a sign in the garden, which is beside The Village Commons building front stairs. Contact Donna Smith at 905-884-6307 or [donnasmith44@rogers.com](mailto:donnasmith44@rogers.com) Thanks!

**Perennials needed:** Someone has taken a group of hens-and-chicks plants I had planted in an old roast pan from the old kitchen before the renovation! I would like to plant more so if you have too many, pls let me know. And actually, I will take any perennials you need to divide. Thanks!

**A Minute for MAP:** The MAB Plan Group met on Tuesday this week to establish next steps in the MAB Plan initiatives. In the meeting approval was granted to begin initial site studies that would inform a Request for Expression of Interest document, including the development of a site and topographic survey and a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment. Both these reports should be received in time for our next meeting in mid-July. SHS will coordinate a meeting with Planning staff at the City of Richmond Hill, to have a better understanding on the status of the secondary plan, and some feedback on the initiatives we are thinking of exploring in the development of our current facilities. We are working diligently to accomplish the goals as set out in the 2020 AGM, which may have modified approaches to certain steps in order to move forward.

**A Minute for the Board:** 27 people gathered online to discuss what will need to be considered when we eventually reopen the church building, and that a Transition Team is being formed. The team will consider how best to apply public health protocols to RHUC. In addition, two smaller teams have been formed in regard to ministry with children and ongoing pastoral care.

**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!



**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](mailto:willowrose@pathcom.com)

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

**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.

**Thank you for the donations received in May!**

## programs for all

**Shalom Seekers:** Shalom Seekers will be getting together again on **Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.** for a Zoom meeting. Everyone in the group will receive an invitation e-mail on Sunday with all of the information you'll need to get on the call.  
*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](mailto:james@rhuc.org)) or Deb ([office@rhuc.org](mailto: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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Deb@rhuc.org)), etc. to help in this challenging time.**

**Learning about Edible Native Plants:** We don't often think of the plants growing in our flower beds as a produce counter but we can. After all, there are a number of native plants that we can plant in our gardens and they will offer us food to eat year after year if we take care of them. Consider planting Ostrich Fern. This is the fern that people pick from each spring for fiddleheads. They are common in the Maritimes but native to this region too. Like most ferns, it likes a semi-shady spot. You can also plant Virginia Waterleaf. This is a shade-loving groundcover that likes to spread. What better way to keep it in check than to pick the leaves and stems. When still young, they taste like spinach. And what about planting False Solomon's Seal. Did you know that the young shoots taste like asparagus? Finally, consider planting Hog Peanuts. This is a twining vine which produces really interesting flowers that become a legume. This sun-loving plant also fixes nitrogen in the soil.

**"Random Acts of Wildness":** Did you know that each June in the UK, the month is dedicated to celebrating nature. People are encouraged to do "random acts of wildness" each day. You can even download a calendar where you can jot down what you did that day. They give you ideas to get going: walk barefoot in the grass, intentionally listen for bird song and then find out what kind of bird it was, identify a wildflower, stay up late in order to look at the stars, watch a wild webcam, lay down in the grass and look for shapes in the clouds, read a wild blog or poem, sit quietly in one spot and pay attention to what you see... You get the idea. What a great way to spend June, and to nurture your spirit in the process.

**From Michael McCartney:** After being asked for copies of several early meditations in this series, here are all of them. Originally started for Covid self isolation during Lent 2020, it grew beyond that. Please feel free to pass this link along to whomever you think might find it helpful. It is free in electronic form. No hard copy is planned at this time.  
<https://books.apple.com/us/book/be-well-be-happy-meditate/id1514937392?ls=1>

"The beauty of this time" by Samantha Reynolds.

I know this time in history  
 will be sifted down into stories  
 of toilet paper hoarding and job losses  
 and photos of people in masks

and while the grief for so many is real  
 let us not be afraid to write the beauty  
 of this time into history too

of the way I got to know why the view  
 from my colleague's window  
 reminds her to be strong

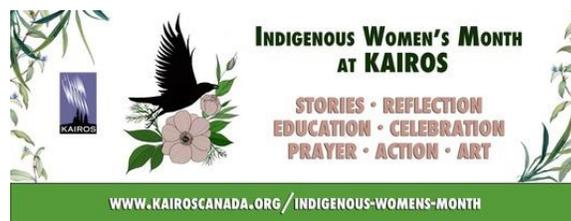
of that tennis match in Italy on the rooftop

of my mom and her neighbours who serenade  
 the seniors outside their care home once a week  
 carrying homemade signs like  
 we are here for you

these are the stories in the margins  
 of the generosity and innovation that happened  
 that spring while the world came undone.

## outreach

**Net Zero:** The June Targeting Climate Change event has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 Virus. It is unlikely the August event will be able to run either, but we are still waiting to see how the situation unfolds. While our events are sadly being postponed, the fight against climate change has not stopped! We encourage you to check out [Neighbors for the Planet](#) as a way to keep in touch with the climate community in Richmond Hill and the GTA. Be sure to sign up for their latest reports if you haven't already done so. And as always, no matter which virtual communities you're a part of, make sure Climate change is being talked about and addressed. Look for ways you can be more climate active during the quarantine, and take the time to talk to your elected officials about important climate matters. Remember, they work for you! Don't let them forget about climate change! And of course, stay home and stay safe. We hope all of you are coping well and staying healthy. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email us. We hope to see you as soon as possible! *Esther Collier*



### This June is Indigenous Women's Month at KAIROS

Throughout June, KAIROS will highlight and celebrate Indigenous women working to make change in Canada and the Global South. Through profiles, spotlights and by sharing inspiration, KAIROS aims to raise up those working to live in a good way, and to improve society for future generations. We've [curated a month of features](#) that will include the launch of the Canadian phase of [Mother Earth Resource Extraction Hub \(MERE Hub\)](#) and [Ravens: Messengers of Change](#), which will ask Canadians to collectively embrace reconciliation education. June is an important month in honour of Indigenous peoples in Canada. It begins with two important occasions: the fifth anniversary of the release of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action on June 2, and the first anniversary of the release of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' final report on June 3. Later in the month, we celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21.

[10 Ways to Be A More Effective Ally for Racial Justice \(+ Indigenous-related, overlapping resources\)](#)

**Minute for Mission:** As a church we continue to work toward reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. M&S supports this work through your gifts for the National Indigenous Church. We are thankful that we have Elders like Alvin Dixon to lead us on the path of reconciliation. Alvin, a residential school survivor, was taken from his community and sent more than 500 kms to the Alberni Residential School. Alberni was a UCC-run school where many children suffered sexual, physical, and psychological abuse. Alvin survived the school, earned a university degree, and later counselled fellow residential school survivors. Alvin became a leader in the path of reconciliation. Alvin died from cancer in 2014 at the age of 77, but his legacy of activism lives on in the work of reconciliation.

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.