



We are back to in-person worship!! If you would like to attend, please bring **your proof of double vaccination and wear a mask**. Up to 75 people can be seated with **social distancing**. As well, we will continue to livestream our Sunday service via 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 the office at [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org).

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.

## worship and music

**Message from Karen:** As we prepare to enter the season of Lent once again, the marker at the start of this journey are ash-smudged lines, cross-like on the page. They remind me of the poem written by Kathy Galloway, entitled "Ashes".

Ashes – powdery grey  
from keeping on trying  
to get a spark from two stones.

Ashes – streaky black  
from relighting a candle  
that keeps going out.

Ashes – soft white  
from a fire that burned down to its heart  
and kept everyone warm  
- these are ashes worth wearing.



As we continue on this Lenten path, the worship theme will be "Wrestling with Angels". On Sunday we will reflect upon the ancient story from which the worship series gets its name, where Jacob wrestles with an angel of God [Genesis 32: 24-28]

**Lent Worship Theme:** "Wrestling with Angels"

As the institutional church dies, are we ready for resurrection?  
March 6,13,20,27, April 3

Resource: "Dying Church, Living God: a call to begin again"  
Chuck Meyer

**March 6 @ 10:30 a.m. via Zoom:** The order of service and hymns are also found on our website under Home, Events & News and Our Ministry – Spirit pages.

[Order of service](#)

[Hymns](#)



<https://united-church.ca/stories/support-canadian-families> **Sunday offering:** We

appreciate those who use Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR). For those not on PAR, please consider making sure you get your weekly envelope money in (mailed in or mail slot on Centre. St. door), e-transfer to [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), Canada Helps, <http://www.rhuc.org/donate.html>, or cheques to the Church, 10201 Yonge St., Richmond Hill, L4C 3B2.

## programs for all

**Women's Spirituality** will gather in the **Chapel** at the church on **Saturday, March 12th at 10:00**. All women invited to join in the program and time together.

**H.A.I.R.:** HAIR (Heretics, Agnostics, Infidels and Other Riffraff), meets every Monday from 7:00 – 8:15 pm. **We will continue to meet online, via Zoom, until further notice.** These discussions are open to anyone interested, and new members are always welcome. For further information, or to get the zoom link for our next meeting, please contact David Leyton-Brown at [dlbrown@yorku.ca](mailto:dlbrown@yorku.ca)

**RHUC Book Club:** We will be meeting again on **Wednesday, March 30th at 4 p.m. on Zoom** to discuss the novel **THE READING LIST** by Sara Nisha Adams.

**The Reading List** is "an unforgettable and heartwarming debut about how a chance encounter with a list of library books helps forge an unlikely friendship between two very different people in a London suburb.



The author lives in London and was born in Hertfordshire to Indian and English parents. Her debut novel is partly inspired by her grandfather, who lived in Wembley, and immediately found a connection with his granddaughter through books." The setting of the book is contemporary as opposed to historical. Please contact Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, for more information about the group. No previous book club experience is necessary. New members are always welcome to join us.

## church news

**Congregational Update:** Friends - it is the time of year when we moving towards our **Annual Meeting** which is going to be held after worship on **Sunday April 3rd** rather than March 6th. In preparation, we will be putting our Annual Report together and also undertaking our nominations process for leadership positions.

*Jane Wedlock, Board Chair*

**In 2013, RHUC became an Affirming Congregation and joined Affirm United.**

Many may think the Vision Statement, that was approved by the Congregation then, refers to our 2SLGBTQ+ Community but I want you to read the Vision Statement now and NOTE that it refers to race, gender, and all people in addition and does not put gender orientation in any special spot. We need to honour all in our Congregation as we continue to share with each other.



### Affirming Ministry Vision

We are proud to declare that Richmond Hill United Church is an affirming ministry, celebrating diversity and committed to the inclusion of, and justice for, all people, regardless of race, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, ability, economic circumstance, or any other difference that has led to exclusion, marginalization, or oppression within the church or society.

In response to God's deep and caring love, as expressed in the teachings of Jesus, we strive to offer that love to others.

*DJ McCready, Forum facilitator for Leadership and Congregational Development*

**Cash Cards:** The next order for cash cards will be **April 20**. This is an ongoing fundraiser for RHUC that gives 1 – 10% back to the church on your gas, grocery, restaurant, coffee or gift purchase!

## outreach

### Right Relations

This thought provoking, 'edgy', multi-media video by Alina Pete finds two people connecting within a 'Canadian' celebration.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMS\\_sWAjxDI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MMS_sWAjxDI)

"Alina Pete (they/them) is a nehiyaw (Cree) artist & writer from Little Pine First Nation in western Saskatchewan. They are best known for their Aurora award-winning webcomic, *Weregeek* ([weregeek.com](http://weregeek.com)), but they also write short stories, poems, and RPG supplements, and have contributed to and edited several comic anthologies."

"True Reconciliation means acknowledging Indigenous Nationhood and working towards creating a healthy relationship between Canada and these Indigenous Nations centered around ideals such as *witaskêwin* - a concept meaning to live together on the land for mutual benefit, and in a way that doesn't harm each other or the land herself." - Alina Petee

### Ukraine - Ways to Support



Unicef Canada <https://www.unicef.ca/en>  
Global

Medic <https://globalmedic.ca/ukraine-conflict-response-2022/>

International Medical

Corps <https://internationalmedicalcorps.org/>

UN Refugee Agency <https://www.unhcr.ca/>

Canada-Ukraine Foundation <https://www.cufoundation.ca/>

Canadian Red Cross <https://www.redcross.ca/>

(Make sure to check organizations to ensure they are credible first)

### From the United Church of Canada

"We invite our communities of faith to continue to hold the people of the region in prayer. We also invite you to explore whether there is a Ukrainian Catholic church, Ukrainian Orthodox church, or Ukrainian community centre close to you to whom you might write a letter of concern and solidarity. We will continue to update this website and our social media channels with any developments."

We offer this prayer ... <https://united-church.ca/prayers/prayer-ukraine-church-scotland>

### Period Pop-Ups Richmond Hill

"McMaster University students Rita Audi and Meghna Varambally received a grant from TakingItGlobal's RisingYouth program to design and launch what they call Period Pop-Ups: a community-run pop-up pantry of feminine hygiene products made available free of charge to Hamilton residents who menstruate and may face financial hardship."



Since the initial launch of Hamilton's Period Pop-Up other communities have reached out to these ladies to start their own, including right here in Richmond Hill @ Richmond Hill United Church! **There is now a small cabinet at the North entrance beside the sidewalk with menstrual products.**

"Period Pop Ups Richmond Hill is a method of exchange between donors and community members struggling to afford basic menstrual products. During times like these, menstrual products have become secondary to other essentials, despite being a hygienic necessity. A public period pantry will give menstruators the ability to obtain the products that they need while feeling safe and comfortable. "

Items needed:

- pads
- tampons
- menstrual cups (<https://divacup.com/> )
- postpartum bleeding briefs
- for additional products see Amazon.ca wishlist [https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/1T84TKHDLCHFD?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/1T84TKHDLCHFD?ref=wl_share)

**THE "HOOSIER" SANITARY BELT**

**Mary Beatrice Davidson Kenner**

SHE ALLOWED WOMEN TO BLEED FREELY BY INVENTING THE SANITARY BELT, THE PRECURSOR OF MODERN-DAY PADS.

SHE WAS REFUSED THE ABILITY TO PATENT THE SANITARY BELT AS SHE WAS A BLACK WOMAN.

IT TOOK NEARLY 30 YEARS FOR THE PATENT TO BE GRANTED AND FOR THE MANUFACTURING PROCESS OF THE SANITARY BELT TO BEGIN.

**PERIOD POP-UPS**

## shining water regional council

Celebrate P.I.E. Day with us this year on **March 14, 2022 at 6:45 pm**. Bring some dessert and share in a short program. Mark this national day to be public, intentional and explicit about the inclusion of people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. [Register to receive the link to the Zoom gathering.](#)

*Celebrate P.I.E. Day with us*

March 14, 2022  
6:45 pm on Zoom

SHINING WATERS REGIONAL COUNCIL  
The United Church of Canada

Bring some dessert + share in a short program

Mark national Affirming Day  
Be public, intentional and explicit about the inclusion of people of all sexual orientations + gender identities

Register at [shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/about/affirming](http://shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca/about/affirming)

## resources for seniors

March is Fraud Prevention Month -  
FRAUD...Recognize...Reject...Report

March is Everyone deserves to feel safe as we age, but currently older adults are reporting higher rates of scams than younger populations. This is an injustice that can be prevented through awareness raising, social supports and reporting mechanisms.

These scams not only impact an individual who has experienced theft, but also impacts the broader community. Assets lost from scams and frauds, can compromise a person's standard of living, especially true of older adults who may be living on a fixed income. The impact of emotional or physical stressors, have even higher costs in the healthcare and social services sectors.

To mark Fraud Prevention Month, EAPO is hosting a series of webinars to educate seniors about measures they can take to protect themselves from frauds and scams. The best way for everyone to avoid becoming a victim is to be alert, aware and informed.

On **March 8<sup>th</sup>**, EAPO in collaboration with the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) and [Ontario Securities Commission](#) is hosting a webinar, **Avoiding the TRAPS of Frauds and Scams**.

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.

