



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, follow this link: [Order of service](#) [Hymns](#)

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 I write the second of my reflections on how we have been doing recently with our MAP intentions, we come up against the impacts of the pandemic. How do we "engage with the community in our neighbourhood" when we have had to isolate from our neighbours as we all have had to do? One of the first casualties of the lockdown was the Intercultural Concert Series, a project focused on bringing together our neighbours, often isolated from each other based on culture, and using music and food to break down the wall and build a bridge instead. The concerts were deferred rather than cancelled and so will be rescheduled once enough people are vaccinated and we can return to larger events. We will need to begin planning again for this series and are looking for some additional people to join the team. If you know of someone with skills in event planning, marketing or talent recruitment, let us

know. But that said, the pandemic also highlighted the importance of community connections. And so, people instinctively started looking out for each other. As many of you did, Glen and I checked in on some of our older neighbours, maintaining social distance, of course. Social media, which sometimes can be divisive, became a vehicle for people to offer support in a safe way. The "Richmond Hill Good Neighbours" Facebook group is one example. We immediately set up supports within our congregation, both through a rebooted phone tree and a volunteer delivery service. But we also knew we needed to offer support to our neighbours if we are to be the community church with a heart that we see ourselves as, and so extended the delivery service beyond our own members. Knowing that many of our neighbours were in financial need, we began to provide gift cards to people reaching out for help. I am so thankful for everyone who donated funds to make that assistance a reality, making real our church sign with a graphic image of one hand offering a heart to another. Some of our neighbours are housing insecure, helped by the Krasman Centre. We have a long history with them and so were pleased to be able to offer our gym as a drop-by space. We may still be in a pandemic but engaging with our neighbours continues to be a priority. As we emerge from this difficult time, I am hopeful that the importance of community connections will continue to motivate us.

worship and music

[Order of service](#) [Hymns](#) [Discovery Time at home](#)

James' video to

children: <https://1drv.ms/v/s!AlBjmozEVDROgaUKb1VLM5MsxhCkRw>

Sunday, March 7: For this Third Sunday in Lent, we reflect on John 3:14-21, known mostly for one verse, "For God so loved the world..." (John 3:16), and Ephesians 2:1-10 (about how we participate in the resurrection of Christ). Of note in both readings is the element of renewal and transformation that take place in large part by our willingness to be truthful about ourselves and to recognize the need for healing and growth. For our reflective reading we take time to ponder the words of Catherine de Hueck Doherty in Sobornost: Experiencing Unity of Mind, Heart and Soul.

Sunday, March 14: On this Fourth Sunday in Lent, we jump ahead in John to chapter 8, verses 21 to 36 as Jesus speaks of the solidarity with God life that he experiences. We also reflect on Romans 4:13-25 in which Paul reflects on the importance of faith.

Sunday, March 21: On this last Sunday before Holy Week, we reflect on John 12:20-33 and Hebrews 5:5-10.

Worship Notes: Last Sunday we launched a new feature for our Zoom-based worship, that is closed captioning so that the words of what is being said can be seen as the person is speaking. We decided to include this based on our commitment to accessibility, in this case helping to make the service more accessible to people with varying degrees of hearing impairment. One of the drawbacks of closed captioning (also known as live transcription) on Zoom is that the words are generated by AI. This means there will be mistakes, sometimes a lot of them. The accuracy of AI transcription is only as good as the data of voices and accents inputted into the system. But it is still an important way of respecting the diverse needs of each other. For those who wish, the feature can be turned off. To do this you can access Closed Captioning" via your Meeting Controls. The location varies based on the type of device being used for Zoom. It is usually found as part of the "More." Zoom's instructions can be found at <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/207279736-Closed-captioning-and-live-transcription>.



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: On Monday March 8th at 10am on Zoom, Shalom Seekers will be continuing their Lenten Study "Lifting Up Scripture Through Art". This week we look at how the Art of Music can bring new understanding to scripture. All Lenten readings are from the Lectionary. Each week a resource is sent by email to those participating for their reflection ahead of the Monday morning meetings. If you would like to join us, please contact Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton. Newcomers very welcome!

Prayer Shawl knitting and crocheting will meet on Zoom and visit that way while we work on our Prayer Shawl on **Wednesday's, February 17 through to March 31 from 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.** We have given out many of those made during Lent last year to those who are grieving the death of a loved one or those who are baptized or join our congregation or to those people who move to another community. They are a way of showing people they are being thought of during a time of sadness or celebration. Yarn, needles and hooks are available. Phone Donna Smith, 905-884-6307 for information, and to get the Zoom link.

Men's Breakfast via Zoom will be held on March 13th, 2021 at 9:30 am: Our guest speaker will be *Jaime Cruz*. Jaime is a Public Education Coordinator for the Alzheimer Society of York Region. For the last 25 years he has worked alongside individuals living with dementia to maintain strengths and abilities. He continues to educate the community about dementia and eliminate the stigma behind it.

Jaime's presentation will be on..... The Aging Brain: What can happen to our brain as we age? Learn about the parts of the brain and what can happen if they are affected by a cognitive impairment, injury or stroke. Learn the differences between Depression, Delirium and Dementia. Think about what medications can do to support us and what to be weary of.

Please confirm your attendance by Thursday March 11th to receive the Zoom Link.



RHUC Book Club

On Wednesday, **March 31st** please join us on Zoom at 4 p.m. to discuss ***Recipe for a Perfect Wife*** by Karma Brown. (Please note the change from March 24th listed last week in Reflections.) Brown's novel is set in two different time periods -- the 1950's and modern day. A new homeowner finds notes left in the basement in cookbooks from a previous owner of the house. A somewhat dark and mysterious, but very readable tale! Karma Brown lives in Oakville, Ontario and has published five books to date.

For more information about the RHUC Book Club, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator. New members are always welcome. The invitation and link to the Zoom meeting will be sent out the day prior to the meeting. We hope you can join us via video or telephone!

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. This year we are using videos of TED talks to launch discussion and have dealt with such topics as environmentalism and climate change, racism and social justice, ethics and values, science and religion, and healthy ageing. 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.

Two opportunities for 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 times

Lenten Book Study: March 11: "the unsettling (july)" and "here for dafonte (august)" in *TSWI*, and Chapter 4, "They Rose Against Us" in *21*

Pub Theology: Friday, March 26 at 7:30 PM on Zoom: It is time to come together again to talk about faith, spirituality and life's big questions, all over the beverage of your choice. Let James know if you would like to participate, and he will send you the Zoom link. Feel free to invite a friend.

World Day of Prayer 2021 – Build on a Strong

Foundation: The World Day of Prayer is a prayer movement that invites us to enrich our faith experience with the experience of Christians from other countries and cultures and to bring hope to women touched by injustice. This year's service was written by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Vanuatu.

This yearly prayer service is also a fundraiser for the WICC. Please consider donating so that the WICC can continue to fund their grant programs. Thank you for your support.

ON-LINE SERVICE: Go to wicc.org & select the button labelled "One Hour Service Video" or follow the link below ... <https://wicc.org/one-hour-world-day-of-prayer-service-available-on-video/>

church news

SAVE THE DATES

March 7, 2021 at 12:00 – Congregational Update (on Zoom with worship service link)

- 2020 Preliminary Financial Statement – see attached
- Progress re work with SHS Consulting re-development of Village Commons (former CD Building)
- AV Project

April 11, 2021 Leadership and Congregational Development Forum (on Zoom Time to be confirmed. More details to follow.)

Sunday May 2nd, 2021 - Annual General Meeting (on Zoom)

- time to be confirmed

MISSION ACTION PLAN Minute

Annual Reports: We are also trying something different with our Annual Reports for an unforgettable 2020 that has pushed us in all sorts of new directions. The Board felt we can take the opportunity to really reflect on how we have adapted our life as a faith community this past year and frame it in the context of our 9 intentions from our Mission Action Plan that was approved by the congregation in April 2018.

This means we are inviting all committees/groups who normally submit reports to consider their collective work this year and pick one or more of the nine intentions to answer the following question:

In 2020, how have we (committee, group etc.) contributed to RHUC meet our commitments to:

1. Be a culture of welcome, respect and safety where we honour one another and respect diversity
2. Engage with the community in our neighbourhood
3. Ensure our facilities align with our values, identity and purpose
4. Develop intentional opportunities for people to gather to build relationships, nourish spiritual wellness and engage in justice
5. Create dynamic, engaging and meaningful worship
6. Reach out with care to people at all stages of life
7. Communicate our story both within and beyond the congregation
8. Be good stewards of our finances and facilities
9. Foster and Value Leaders and Volunteers

The reports do not have to be long. We are trying to get a sense of our collective efforts and how they are contributing to the goals we set for ourselves as part of the Mission Action Plan. The pandemic has changed many things, but also The reports do not have to be long. We are trying to get a sense of our collective efforts and how they are contributing to the goals we set for ourselves as part of the Mission Action Plan. The pandemic has changed many things, but also created opportunities for new ways of being church. We think there is a great story to tell!

NEW OPPORTUNITY: We are also extending an opportunity to anyone in the congregation to reflect on what you or your family has been doing this year that could fit into our MAP intentions. Or, if you have experienced something as a result of people part of this community or been impacted by someone in our congregation. Our faith and being part of RHUC informs our day-to-day lives, not just what we do as part of RHUC. We encourage you to think of a couple of sentences that help tell the story of anything you would like to share that speaks to one of the 9 intentions above.

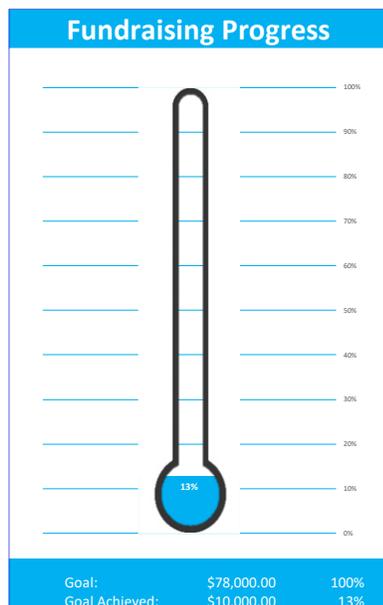
Please forward reports and other contributions to office@rhuc.org by March 19th, 2021. If you have any questions, please contact Jane Wedlock at jane.wedlock2@gmail.com.

Nominations Committee: The Nominations Committee is looking to fill the following roles:

1. **Vice-Chair of the Church Board**
2. **Forum Facilitator for Mission, Outreach & Social Action**
3. **Members of the Finance Committee**

If you have questions about the above positions simply contact one of the following committee members: Kathleen Crosbie (kltcrosbie 'at' gmail.com); Donna Harrison (donna115 'at' sympatico.ca) Donna Smith (donnasmith44 'at' rogers.com); and Doug Loweth (loweth 'at' sympatico.ca)

Finance Committee: We would like to acknowledge with thanks the increased contributions in December. It helped a great deal given the drastic fall in rentals during the year.



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 e-transfer to office@rhuc.org, cheque or



P.I.E. = Public. Intentional. Explicit.

Want some Pie? Sunday, March 14 is National Affirming Day (and Pi Day). As such we are planning a post-Worship gathering of LGBTQI+ folks and allies on Zoom. This is an opportunity to chat, to consider how Public, Intentional and Explicit we are as an Affirming Ministry and to have some pie (virtually, of course). Contact Deb for a Zoom link for this gathering. And Moderator Richard Bott invites everyone to join him in celebrating PIE Day 2021! <https://youtu.be/dX-w46NSfH0>

It is a parallel pandemic: What loneliness does to our mental health - National | Globalnews.ca
<https://globalnews.ca/news/7650743/loneliness-pandemic-mental-health/>

lifting our spirits

This is a section for poems, reflections, recipes, uplifting news items, anything to help us get through this, and to do it together. Please submit items to help us all "lift our spirits". Email Deb at office@rhuc.org.

Black bean chia brownies

INGREDIENTS

- 1-15 oz can no-salt black beans drained and rinsed
- 3 large eggs
- 1/3 cup butter
- 2 tbsp chia seeds
- 1/4 cup cocoa powder
- 1/8 tsp salt
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup cane sugar or dark brown sugar
- 1/2 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/3 cup finely chopped walnuts

METHOD

Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter an 8-inch baking pan. Place the black beans, eggs, butter, chia seeds, cocoa powder, salt, vanilla, and sugar in the bowl of a food processor and blend until smooth. Remove the blade and carefully stir in the chocolate chips and walnuts. Transfer mixture to the prepared pan. Bake the brownies for 30 to 35 minutes, or until just set in the center. Cool before cutting into squares.

outreach

Out of the Cold This year's (virtual) Out of the Cold fundraising walk-a-thon has been a huge success in our area, raising the most money of the 140'ish groups in Canada. We passed the goal of \$80,000 and raised it by 199% to a total of \$159,325 and counting! A wonderful outcome showing our community cares for others and especially during this past year of the pandemic with so many changes having to be made to meet the needs of the homeless. Mosaic Interfaith has not been able to have as many people stay overnight in shelters because of social distancing and all food served, dinner, breakfast and bag lunch for each overnight person, has had to be catered. During the day, the homeless are out in the street for the day, doing the best to survive, till the shelters open again late afternoon. Thanks to all who donated and showed support.

community news

Needing a home: Would you like to have two parakeets live in your home? A young woman in our community is moving and needs to find a home for her feathered friends. Contact Donna Smith for the contact information, 905-884-6307

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.