



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](#).

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](#). You can find an at home "Discovery Time" with children here: [Discovery Time](#)

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. 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.

We are grateful for all those who are able to support the ongoing ministry of Richmond Hill United Church. If you would like to make a contribution, you can do so through CanadaHelps.org. <http://www.rhuc.org/donate.html>

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: I hope many of you have seen a video making the rounds entitled "The Great Realisation" by Tomfoolery. If you haven't seen it yet, here is a link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hw0JDJUu548>. It captures so beautifully both where we were as a world in the lead up to the pandemic and where many of us yearn to go as this experience begins to highlight for so many of us what are priorities need to be. It offers a possible new narrative which is actually quite old. If we are attentive to the main theological arc of the Bible, we see this evolving narrative of community sharing, inclusive justice, environmental care. But we have reshaped that narrative in many ways to fit the actual storyline of our world. I regularly receive emails from the "Center for Progressive Renewal". In a recent offering, Cameron Trimble, the Center's Executive Director, put it this way: "The 'Great Lockdown' is revealing that the old Story we have been using to give meaning to Western life can't handle our new reality. The old story promotes individualism, 'us' vs. 'them' duality, inequality and a relentless consumerism that was driving us and the planet to death. Now, we get to create a new story about a new world that is possible because of this global pandemic. What kind of world shall we create? What do you want to be able to say about yourself? Your life? What values do you hope shape our imagination?" I couldn't have said it better. She went on to share an idea which I thought was brilliant - we should all write new fairy tales a la "The Great Realisation". Stories capture our imagination in a way that theological treatises or political manifestos simply don't. So how about it? Let's get writing and in the fields of our imaginations we just may plant the seeds for the new world we all yearn for.

worship and music

Sunday, May 10: Over the next three weeks we shift to hearing readings from the Acts of the Apostles. In Acts 2:37-47, we hear how the crowd responds to Peter's preaching by being baptized and then as a community sharing what they have in common. The idea of effectively being a family is appropriate to reflect upon as we celebrate Mother's Day. We also hear "Naming the Heartbeats" by Indian-American poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil.

Sunday, May 17: In Acts 7:55-60, we hear about Stephen, an important leader in the early Christian community. Regrettably he was also the first martyr. As we hear his story we are introduced to the main character in the following week - Saul, better known as Paul, the Greek rendering of his name.

Sunday, May 24: We catch up with Paul in Athens as we reflect on Acts 17:22-32. Paul sees an altar to an "Unknown God" and uses what he sees around him as an opportunity to share the good news.

DIY Worship: Each Sunday we have a worship service that is accessed through the Zoom platform. The outline of the worship service (prayers, readings, etc.) is also found on the website. For those who would rather create their own celebration, possible hymns for this coming Sunday include: "Dear Mother God" (Voices United/VU 270), "Loving Spirit" (VU 387) and "Deep in Our Hearts" (More Voices/MV 154). Some possible hymns for May 17 include: "Let Us Build a House" (MV 1), "In Loving Partnership We Come" (VU 603) and "Holy God We Praise Your Name" (VU 894). Finally, on May 24 consider these hymns: "Draw the Circle Wide" (MV 145), "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" (VU 264) and "Praise Our Maker" (VU 316).

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, Canada Helps, (<http://www.rhuc.org/donate.html>, or give 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.



Virtual Sunday School

Sundays from 9:30 am – 10:00 am
Songs. Stories. Discovery.
For Zoom Link, Contact – Jeffrey Dale, Youth Ministries Coordinator jdale@united-church.ca

church news

Grocery Home Deliveries: Do you, or someone you know, need groceries delivered to your home? RHUC has a team 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.

How does it work? Call June, Doug or Donna at the numbers below. One of our Callers will get in touch with you, take down your list, and let you know how it works. One of the Drivers will then shop for you, and deliver to your home. You will have your delivery within a week – most likely just a few days. You pay for the groceries as usual, but the shopping and delivery are free.

Callers: Donna Byres, Donna McErlain, Bill and Joanne Fotheringham, Penny Fabbro, June Blanchette, Sandra Loughton, Nicole Moore. **Drivers:** Heather Hartung, Marise Blanchette, Amy Hammer, Doug Loweth, Rob Spence

Organizers: June Blanchette 905-780-0048 Donna Smith 905-884-6307 Doug Loweth 416-553-8706 We'll get through this together!



RHUC PHONE TREE CREATED & GOING LIVE NOW!

We have created a Phone Tree.

Goal & Objectives:

- Build Ongoing Community at RHUC among its members – during COVID & beyond it.
- Be a system for getting Emergency messages (cancellations/emergencies) out to the RHUC congregation quickly.
- Phone Tree Branch Leaders will call their members on a regular basis to check-in based on need (bi-weekly/ weekly).

Everyone in the church has been assigned to a Phone Tree branch by their postal code, so each branch is a certain area.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO BE PHONE TREE BRANCH LEADERS.

What do you have to do?

- Nothing –except answer the phone.
- Within the next 2 weeks, you will get a call from your phone Tree Branch leader.
- They will introduce themselves & confirm the RHUC services available to you during this time.
- If you need help, they will make sure you have the contact #s so you can get help.

Want to talk? Please chat with your Phone Tree Branch Leader.

Make a new Friend.

Things to talk about:

- Weather, pets, etc.
- Hobbies (reading, crafts, nature walks, travel, books, theatre, music, collecting of things i.e. stamps, buttons, etc., baking, cooking etc. etc. etc.).
- What are doing? What have you tried? What do you want to do?

There are many ways to build community. While we are far apart and things aren't the same, we are not alone. We will find ways to stay connected with each other.

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

Penny Fabbro 905-508-6594 pennyfabbro@rogers.com

HUGE THANKS!!! - to Donna Smith and James for helping Nicole & Penny get the Phone Tree up & running.

A Change in Zoom Coffee Times: Each week there are 2 opportunities to check in with one another via Zoom. This first check in time is Tuesday evening at 7 pm. We have changed the second opportunity to Thursday morning at 10:30 am. Grab a coffee and a cookie or two and check in with your friends on Zoom.

Any graduates this year? Each year as school comes to a close, we look forward to celebrating tweens, teens and young adults who are graduating. This year is no different, albeit our celebration will be. So if you know of someone who is graduating from Grade 8, Grade 12 or from a post-secondary program, let James know (email james@rhuc.org) so that we can be sure to recognize them during worship June 7. Please email him by May 31.

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) for more information.

An order for cash cards will be going in May 21.

programs for all

Women's Spirituality: Please contact Donna Smith at donnasmith44@rogers.com for Zoom password and ID number for **Saturday, May 9 at 10:30 a.m.** We are scheduled to start at 10:30; if you arrive and the screen says "waiting for the meeting to begin", that means that Carolyn is waiting for Men's Breakfast to end their time, and then she can start our time, so just wait. It is Mothers' Day weekend, or as the church calls it, Christian Family Sunday. After initial check in we will share the following - take your Mom's given name and find words beginning with each letter that describe your Mom. Example: my Mom's name is Eleanor so I find a word beginning with E and then I and so on. Hope to see you!

Men's Breakfast: Contact Harry Ramsaran for information at harrypersad.ramsaran@gmail.com to connect via Zoom on **Saturday May 9th from 9:30 to 10:30am.**

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.

Shalom Seekers: Although we are not meeting physically at the church during this COVID-19 crisis, we will continue to check in and visit with each other on Monday mornings at 10 a.m. via video chat on Zoom for those who can join us. You can also call the phone number listed in the e-mail if you don't have the Zoom app on your device. If you can't join us on Zoom, please continue to send your check-in on Sundays or Mondays by email, or just call someone in the group to chat! Please look for an e-mail on Friday or early Monday morning that will include a link to join the call which will be initiated by Peg Hiscoke. We hope you are doing well and can join us with your coffee or tea on **Monday, May 11th.**

Sandra Loughton & Peg Hiscoke, Co-Facilitators

RHUC BOOK CLUB: The RHUC Book Club met for a second time since the lockdown on Wednesday, April 29th. Eight people were able to join us that day by Zoom - we had two people joining via telephone and six on-line/on the screen. We were able to check in with each other and discuss various books we are reading right now. We talked about the possibility of being able to find a book that people could access/share while the libraries continue to be shut down so that we could have a meeting in late May or early June. I will keep looking into it and let people know of any ideas via a group e-mail. If you have any thoughts on this, please e-mail or call me. (bookgirl8@hotmail.com) We will plan to "get together" on Zoom again near the end of the month. Stay well and keep reading! Sandra Loughton, RHUC 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., May 29 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.

10 free things you can do while stuck at home during COVID-19 | CBC News: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/to-do-list-amid-covid19-1.5552691>

Our solidarity with you: Subject: Greetings from Truro

Dear Donna,

I can't begin to express how touching it was to hear from you and RHUC last week, and what a small world we live in! Our congregation was so grateful that you reached out to us; thank you for your words of kindness and support. I've been involved in music ministry in Truro for 15 years now, and in fact it is a full-time position that incorporates community musical outreach, composition of hymns, choral music, and liturgical resources, and so on. I am particularly grateful to Barry Peters for fostering much of my musical education in my youth.

I've had many connections with Richmond Hill United over the years, from my first few years of life, as you mentioned, and as a teenager and young adult working with Barry as my voice and organ teacher. Please give my best to Barry as well; it's been some time since we've connected. Mom mentioned that you were on the worship committee with her back when we were members of the church; she is moving from Sackville NB to Truro, not far from us, next week... not easy during a pandemic but it will be lovely to have her here in town near to me and to her grandchildren!

Thanks again ever so much for reaching out, and I wish you and the fine folks at Richmond Hill United all the best.

Chris Bowman (he/him)

Music Ministry - First United Church, Truro, NS

Watch "BloomCam - High Park Toronto" on YouTube (viewing for the days of blooming ahead): <https://youtu.be/P9R1rWka93Y>

Bread recipe:

- 2 cups warm water 110 degrees F/45 degrees C
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 1/2 tablespoons active dry yeast
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 5-6 cups flour (You can use all-purpose flour OR bread flour!)

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, dissolve the 1 TBSP of the sugar in warm water and then stir in yeast. Allow to proof until yeast resembles a creamy foam, about 5 minutes.
2. Mix remaining sugar, salt and oil into the yeast. Mix in flour one cup at a time. Dough should be tacky and clean the sides of the bowl save for a small part at the bottom. Too much flour added in yields a dry loaf of bread, so if you're worried you added too much, add a bit more hot water, until you get the correct consistency.
3. Knead dough for 7 minutes. Place in a well oiled bowl, and turn dough to coat. Cover with a damp cloth. Allow to rise until doubled in bulk, about 1 hour.
4. Punch dough down. Knead for 1 minute and divide in half. Shape into loaves and place into two greased 9x5 inch loaf pans. Allow to rise for 30 minutes, or until dough has risen 1 inch above pans.
5. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 30-40 minutes. Cool, brush with butter and enjoy!

A poem for Mother's Day

"Your Soul Is a River," Nikita Gill

The water of her womb, your first home.
 The body she pulled apart to welcome you to the world.
 The spirit in you she helped grow with all she knew.
 The heart that she gave you when yours fell apart.
 You are her soft miracle.
 So she gave you her eyes to see the best in the worst.
 You carry your mother in your eyes.
 Make her proud of all she watches you do.

Please keep the ideas and stories coming. It is a lovely way to feel connected.

outreach

York Support Services Network will be running Mental Health Resource Days on the third Tuesday of each month. This program offers one hour case management support for past clients and non-clients. The next session is scheduled for May 19, 2020 and registration is open on the YSSN website. These sessions are normally offered at our Markham office, however due to social distancing requirements, YSSN will offer assistance over the phone. This modification might allow us to reach a larger group of people across York Region and South Simcoe. Who should attend? Anyone 16 years and older, who does not currently have case management support. To register or for more information: Lindsay Cowan 905-898-6455 ext. 2273 lcowan@yssn.c. To register online, visit yssn.ca/Events.

Minute for Mission: Many people who attend summer camp come from a long line of campers, following in the footsteps of their parents and grandparents. That is one of the amazing things about camp—it's loved by generation after generation. Our gifts for Mission & Service make United Church camps possible. United Church camps are like a quilt created from many different pieces of fabric, all different colours and textures. A family quilt tells the story of the family who created it. From a scrap of fabric from a toddler's dress to lace worn at a fancy family gathering, each quilt piece recalls images of fun times together. It is no different for a camp family, where memories are sewn together to become the very fabric of the camp. Sherbrooke Lake Camp in New Ross, Nova Scotia, began in 1964. The children and youth who attended then are now the parents and grandparents of today's campers. The camp also offers a two-night Family Camp. By gathering people to have fun and give thanks for creation and community, camps like this one can transform people for the better! Thank you for making this possible. At Sherbrooke Lake Camp: We believe in kids. We are a safe space to learn. We believe everything is possible. We think big, but simple. We play until we can't. We are the place to explore faith. We inspire and motivate listening to spark understanding.

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