



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.

### Message from RHUC Board Chair:

Friends,

This has been a week of mixed emotions. We received the unexpected news that James has requested a change in pastoral relations and will be moving with Glen to as position in Newfoundland beginning August 1st, 2021.

We also received the news that James' father Alan, passed away. On behalf of the congregation, we extend our deepest sympathies to James and his family at this time.

Over the years this congregation has been through many transitions. We are so thankful to have had James as our minister over these past almost 5 years - he has contributed so much to the development of our new vision and we are determined to continue on this journey.

We extend many thanks too, to Glen - especially over the past year, when he has contributed much to our on-line services with his graphic skills as well as supporting James.

There is much to be done in the months ahead and we will be working with James until he leaves. With the support of a Shining Waters Regional Council Liaison representative and a Search Committee made up of members from our congregation we will be seeking a new minister to travel with us on the next phase of this journey.

Thank you for your support and encouragement as we take the next steps.

Jane Wedlock

## worship and music

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

James' video for children:

[https://1drv.ms/v/s!AIBjmozEVDR0gaIAOV\\_LnxsHYE6PIg](https://1drv.ms/v/s!AIBjmozEVDR0gaIAOV_LnxsHYE6PIg)

**The Fifth Sunday of Easter (May 2):** We celebrate our annual "Anniversary Sunday" as well as meet after worship at 11:45 am (virtually, of course) for our AGM. We shift to earlier chapters in John's gospel, reflecting on John 15:1-8 in which Jesus compares the faith community to a vine, each of us as branches grafted into him and animated by the Spirit. We hear 1 John 4:7-21 in which the author reflects on our call to love others because God first loved us. We also consider an excerpt from Maya Angelou's "On the Pulse of Morning".

**The Sixth Sunday of Easter (May 9):** We take time, on Mother's Day, to reflect on John 15:9-17 in which Jesus reflects on the importance of love as the foundation of our identity, a message reaffirmed in 1 John 5:1-6. On this day, we take time to bless the prayer shawls that were crafted throughout Lent.



**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](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.



## programs for all

**Shalom Seekers:** Please join us on **Monday, May 3 at 10 a.m.** on Zoom to check in with each other and continue our discussion of Progressive Christianity and what it means to you. We will be looking at articles and perhaps some videos on this topic. The Zoom invitation will be sent out on Sunday, May 2nd. For more information about the group, please speak to Peg Hiscoke or Sandra Loughton. New members are always welcome to check out the group.

**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, racism, social justice, ethics, science, 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](mailto:dlbrown@yorku.ca).

**RHUC Book Club:** Please join us on **Wednesday, May 26th at 4 p.m.** on Zoom to discuss the novel **Miller's Valley** by Anna Quindlen. New members are always welcome to join us. Please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, for more details. The Zoom invitation and notes to help in the discussion will be sent out the day before the meeting.

**Pub Theology: Friday, May 28 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.

**Women's Spirituality** will gather via Zoom for our next regular meeting on **Saturday May 8th at 10:00 till 12:00**. The discussion will centre around the "Personal Creed" of John Spanner, an important worker at our church in the late 1950's. What does it say to us today? Guests are always welcome; contact Donna Smith for the Zoom link: [donnasmith44@rogers.com](mailto:donnasmith44@rogers.com)

**United Church Women:** The next meeting will take place on **Wed., May 5th at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom**. The theme will be "Bearing fruit with service in God".

**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](mailto:james@rhuc.org)) for Zoom links to both prayer time.

## church news

**Sunday May 2nd, 2021 - Annual General Meeting (on Zoom) at 11:45 a.m.** Zoom link from worship service will continue into the AGM.

**Broadview subscription** is due and new subscribers can sign up. These are the following articles you will find in the June issue:

**Proud Priest** - When people ask Theo Robinson how he can be both an Anglican minister and trans, he always has the same answer: the church has been there for him.

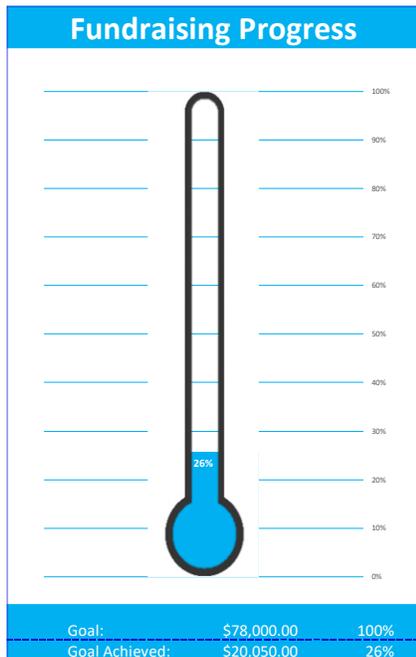
**Letter to a Fellow Prisoner** - Former hostage James Loney writes to a Canadian inmate in Florida about the unfortunate thing they have in common.

**Climate Hope** - Once a logging and mining town, Gibsons, B.C., is now a green pioneer. Its secret? Giving nature a chance to do its thing.

**Under One Roof** - This month's United Church feature explores the vital relationship between churches and non-profits — and how to get it right.

The annual group subscription rate is \$25/year. Please e-transfer or send a cheque to **renew or start your subscription by May 14th**. Thank you!

**A Request for AV Support:** Are you looking for a way to share your gifts in the congregation? Do you like doing things that are hands on? Are you technically minded? If so, then you may be interested in joining our AV - Online Worship Team. We are looking for sound and projection operators along with Zoom hosts. If this interests you, contact James ([james@rhuc.org](mailto:james@rhuc.org)) and he will connect you with either Adam and Dave (for sound and projection) or Brandon (Zoom host).



### 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 CanadaHelps.org.

We are now at 26% of our goal!! Thank you!

## Outreach

**Net Zero** Part 2: I was asked to give my opinion at a recent consultation initiated by the provincial government on expanding the Greenbelt. The people at the consultation were divided into two camps, both fairly sure they understood the numbers. Those who were interested in finding ways to develop while also protecting the environment used the numbers to argue that there was unprecedented growth happening in the Greater Toronto Area. This is true, it is the fastest growing metro area in North America (<https://urbantoronto.ca/news/2020/06/toronto-now-fastest-growing-city-and-metro-area-us-and-canada>). We do have to think ahead and provide housing and business areas for the people who are coming. And, they are right, but they do not understand the real numbers because the growth cannot go on forever. Just less than half the Earth's surface remains relatively intact, and it is not the best or most productive half (<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/361/6407/1051>). It took 40 years for the last doubling to happen in Toronto (<https://www.macrotrends.net/cities/20402/toronto/population>). Do we have 30 years left before the ecosystems fail and the resources are consumed, and our children do not have a future? I told them that scientists were saying that we needed to preserve 30% of the planet by 2030 and 50% by 2050 if it would be able to recycle the resources the growing population

would need

(<https://science.sciencemag.org/content/361/6407/1051>) and that, therefore, they needed to preserve every piece of greenbelt they could. I told them that it would need to be bigger than that - that every home would need to be smaller to leave more wild land, that every lawn and parkland needed to be allowed to be wild. *Esther Collier*

## 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](mailto:office@rhuc.org).

### Rice Pudding - Ingredients

- 2 1/2 cups (600 ml) of whole milk
- 1/3 cup (66 grams) of uncooked short grain white rice
- Pinch of salt
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup (50 grams) dark brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon of vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon of cinnamon
- 1/3 cup (40 grams) raisins

### Method

Cook the rice in milk: In a medium-sized, heavy-bottomed saucepan, bring the milk, rice and salt to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to low and simmer partially covered until the rice is tender, about 20-25 minutes. Stir frequently to prevent the rice from sticking to the bottom of the pan. Mix egg and brown sugar, temper with rice mixture: In a small mixing bowl, whisk together egg and brown sugar until well mixed. Add a half cup of the hot rice mixture to the egg mixture, a tablespoon at a time, vigorously whisking to incorporate. Add tempered egg mixture back to rice mixture: Add egg mixture back into the saucepan of rice and milk and stir, on low heat, for 5 to 10 minutes, until thickened, or about 160°F (71°C). Be careful not to have the mixture come to a boil at this point or it will curdle. Remove from heat and stir in the vanilla, raisins, and cinnamon. Serve warm or cold.

**Helpful Tools:** [How Much Money You Should Spend on Monthly Expenses \(creditcanada.com\)](https://www.creditcanada.com)

[Monthly Budget - How to Create One | Credit Canada Debt Solutions](https://www.creditcanada.com)

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