



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:** Last Sunday I drove up to Richmond Hill with no idea that the area around the church was without power. It was unexpected but many people jumped in to help – thank goodness for cell phones! It also underlined for me how important technology is to help churches connect and worship. So, I hope that you got the video link to my message, if not here it is <https://vimeo.com/712586114>

**Sunday, May 29 is my Covenanting Service**, which will be part of the 10.30 am worship service. There will be a number of people that you know from RHUC sharing in leadership, but I want to introduce you to a couple of people you might not know. Henry Poutiainen, Presider, is representing Shining Waters Region: Debbie Johnson is a long-time friend and colleague and will be preaching.

**Rev. Henry Poutiainen:** "After serving 10 years in called ministry in the GTA, most recently with Thornhill United Church, Henry continues to serve the Church through Supply appointments and enjoys balancing this with cottage and family time."

**Debbie Johnson** is a retired minister in the United Church of Canada. She is currently a VAM (Voluntary Associate Minister) with both her former congregation North Bramalea United Church and Home United in Caledon. Retirement travel plans were changed by the global pandemic and so new plans were made! Debbie is delighted to celebrate this covenanting with Karen and RHUC. As she and you have already learned - new beginnings are always exciting - even as plans change!

### UPCOMING SUNDAYS

**May 29:** Covenanting Service with Karen Dale, the RHUC congregation and Shining Waters Region. Guest preacher Rev. Debbie Johnson.

[Order of service](#) [Hymns](#)

**Sunday June 5, Pentecost Communion Service.:** If you are worshipping via Zoom, please have bread and juice ready or a gluten free alternative. Individual juice and cracker sets will be available for those worshipping in person; with a gluten free option for those who need it.

[Order of service](#) [Hymns](#)

**Sunday June 12, PRIDE Sunday:** Celebrating the rainbow colours of humankind and affirming the worth and goodness of all.



**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

**SHALOM SEEKERS:** Please join us on **Monday, May 30th at 10 a.m.** on Zoom to discuss the second half of Chapter 2 in Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi by Amy-Jill Levine. We will finish our discussion of the parable of The Good Samaritan. Please read from the bottom of page 97 to page 115.

On **Monday, June 6th at 10 a.m. on Zoom** we will be discussing Chapter 3 of Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi by Amy-Jill Levine. Please read pages 117 to 137 (20 pages) of The Kingdom of Heaven is Like Yeast.

For more information about Shalom Seekers, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator. New members are warmly welcome to join us.

**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)



**BOOK CLUB:** Please join us on **Wednesday, June 22nd (NB: This is the 4th of 5 Wednesdays in June.)** at **4 p.m. on Zoom** to discuss the novel **THE LOST APOTHECARY** by Sarah Penner.

The novel takes place in two time periods - 1790's England and the present day. The book follows the lives of three intriguing characters, Nella, Eliza, and Caroline, and they are tied together through these two moments in time.

New members are always welcome to join us for lively and interesting discussions. For more information, please contact Sandra Loughton, Facilitator. The RHUC Book Club will be taking a break for July and August and get together again on September 28th - book to be determined.

**CC 'Cook's Corner'**! Trying to eat less meat? Why not try 'Meatless Monday'! Watch this corner for new recipes. Send your favourite recipes to either Deb Fratin at [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org) or Lyn May at [lynniemay@gmail.com](mailto:lynniemay@gmail.com). Thanks!!

### Brussels sprouts and apple slaw:

#### Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 small shallot, very finely minced
- 2 tablespoons smooth Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 4-5 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- salt
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 750-850 grams Brussels sprouts
- 1 sweet apple, thinly sliced (I like a Gala)
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries
- 1/2 cup toasted pecan pieces
- 130 grams goat cheese, plain or cranberry, crumbled



#### Directions

1. In the bottom of a large bowl, whisk together the cider vinegar, lemon juice, shallot, mustard, and maple syrup. While whisking, slowly drizzle in the olive oil and continue to whisk until the dressing comes together. Season with salt and pepper and set aside.
2. Trim the Brussels sprouts then, using a food processor fitted with a slicing blade, shred the sprouts. Dump the shredded sprouts into the bowl with the dressing and add in the thinly sliced apple, dried cranberries, and toasted pecan pieces.
3. To serve, place the slaw in a large serving bowl and top with the crumbled goat cheese.

## church news

**Staff Holidays:** The church office will be closed from May 27 – June 3. Please note that there won't be an edition of RHUC Reflections for June 5.

**Phone Tree Initiative:** Two years ago, at the beginning of Covid-19 pandemic, leadership at RHUC worked to keep in touch with our members, ensuring they knew we cared about them, especially during those very difficult and unprecedented early months. Phone Trees were developed and phoners volunteered to be Phone Tree Branch Leaders/phoners. This system was very helpful to people, especially those who needed extra support through the delivery of groceries, friendly telephone chats, and other needs which came to our attention.

We have decided to end the Branch Leaders' responsibilities as people's needs now are different and most of us have navigated around the protocols and changes in our lives. But there are several people who have developed a friendly relationship with someone they called and have said that they will continue. Branch Leaders have identified people who would appreciate and benefit from phone calls and others will follow through. And as always, situations do come into our lives where we need to ask our church family for assistance, and those calls to the Church Office Administrator, Deb Fratin, or our minister, Rev. Karen Dale, will always be addressed. Such situations may include illness, bereavement, grieving, relationship issues, whenever your faith is questioned, or you are searching for answers to life changes. Know that your church community cares and is here to listen and help. Even a phone call to let the Office know that you are moving is helpful! All this carried out our vision and goal to be a "Caring Community"

We want to extend a sincere **Thank You to the Phone Tree Branch Leaders** and now relieve them of this responsibility, that two years ago was expected to last about 6 months!

They are: Sue Baker, Bev Blake, Laura Booth, Donna Byers, Barb Cooper, Diana Cowie, Anne Dunn, Sandra Loughton, Donna McErlain, Marg Moon, Ruth Perratt, Rose Ramsaran, Natalie Savoie, Lynne Saul, Colleen Steeves and those who organized this initiative: Penny Fabbro, Nicole Moore, Donna Smith

**Memory Garden:** Each year, annual flowers are planted in a special section of the church garden to remember family members and friends who have died the past year. The Memory Garden is located at the Yonge Street entrance to the Commons (1957 addition); a sign is added listing those we remember. Contact Donna Smith, 905-884-6307, if you would like to participate.



**Help needed:** The Church Gardener started to create and maintain the garden in 2005. Entering her 18th year, she is beginning to realize, because her body is telling her, that digging is hard to do and now must ask for help. Can you give an hour or two? Contact her, 905-884-6307, to respond. *Thanks, Donna Smith, Church Gardener*



**Secret Friends Reveal:** During worship on Sunday May 5th, our Secret Friends were revealed to the 2021-22 first year college/university students. These four Secret Friends have kept in touch with their student over the past school year with notes of encouragement and gifts of goodies to let our student know that their church family cares about them during their first school year away from home.

- Benjamin Horne is studying Aerospace Engineering at Carleton University and Benjamin's Secret Friend has been Elsa Crowley
- Will Mountain is studying Bio-Chemistry at Guelph University and Will's Secret Friend has been Sandi Dimma
- Sydney Shelton is studying Film Production at Concordia University and Sydney's Secret Friend has been Craig Lee
- Christian Skorotko is studying Bio-Resource Management/Environment at Guelph University and Christian's Secret Friend has been Colleen Steeves.

Our congratulations to Benjamin, Will, Sydney and Christian for this past year and we wish you all the best in your coming years. Our sincere thanks to Elsa, Sandi, Craig and Colleen for volunteering to care and support these young people for the RHUC community. In the past 19 years of having this ministry at RHUC, we have had 87 students participate, so that many people have volunteered to help this ministry!

In September, which will be the beginning of our 20th year of this ministry at RHUC. **I need the names of students in the congregation who will be starting college/university so please give their names to me - don't want to miss anyone. And if you would like to be a Secret Friend, please let me know!**  
Donna Smith, Coordinator

## outreach

*Did you know?...*

"On 18 December 2019, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed the period between **2022 and 2032 as the International Decade of Indigenous Languages**, to draw global attention on the critical situation of many Indigenous languages and to mobilize stakeholders and resources for their preservation, revitalization, and promotion.

The proclamation of an International Decade is a key outcome of the 2019 International Year of Indigenous Languages, for which UNESCO lead global efforts. The Organization will continue to serve as lead UN Agency for the implementation of the Decade, in cooperation with UNDESA and other relevant UN Agencies.

The International Decade aims at ensuring Indigenous peoples' right to preserve, revitalize and promote their languages, and mainstreaming linguistic diversity and multilingualism aspects into global sustainable development efforts. It offers a unique opportunity to collaborate in the areas of policy development and stimulate a global dialogue in a true spirit of multi-stakeholder engagement."

[Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-eOxQIfZrVg&list=PLWuYED1WVJIPmYuiWbyeAUsFETUPNnxVs&index=1> ]

### RHUC's Community Garden - this week

The plants are nestled all snug in their beds... It was fun and very rewarding to spend a couple of days over the weekend at the Community Garden. Lots of activity with folks planting their gardens and such a variety of plants and techniques. The plot beside ours has little windmills on sticks for decorations and I suspect to scare some plant eating critters away!



What is planted you ask? Cherry tomatoes, peppers, brussel sprouts, kale, bush beans, zucchini...the cucumbers didn't make it through the 'hardening off' stage.

If we can get at least five (5) volunteers, we can share in the success and care of the garden!

If you have a half-hour one day a week to water & weed,,whatever 'speaks' to you and time allows - all help is appreciated! All produce harvested will be given to **Richmond Hill Community Food Bank**.

Please let me know if you're interested in getting your hands in dirt, experiencing the wonder of growing food and providing for those in our community.

Tracy @ [tewixon3@gmail.com](mailto:tewixon3@gmail.com) Let's grow!



## Book Sale @ RHUC - September 10

Plans are well on their way for this wonderful event. Author readings, children's storytime, music (RHUC's own drumming group), crafts and more!  
 Proceeds of the sale will be going to RHUC in order for us to continue our important work in supporting our wider community's needs.

We're collecting used books now so we can organize them. Please contact Tracy Wixon [tewixon3@gmail.com](mailto:tewixon3@gmail.com) for pick up or drop-off of your books. Thank you!

## net zero

### Upcoming Event #2: Virtual Climate Lunch and Learn #4 on Sunday, June 5, 12-1:30

Topics: Being climate-friendly in an apartment or condo, including adjusting your eating practices. Retrofitting homes to use ground-sourced heat, with guest Kurt Andre.

Register for the event on [Eventbrite](#) or email [targetclimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:targetclimatechange@gmail.com) to get the zoom link for the event. If you register on Eventbrite, the link will be emailed to you near the event (it is also available online to ticket holders but sometimes is tricky to find on the site).

Remember to talk about the climate crisis in your everyday conversations - and invite your connections to the event. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Beef, from cows, takes 6.61 pounds (yes, American) of CO2 emissions per serving as compared to the next highest (sadly) cheese at 2.45 pounds of CO2 emissions per serving. Here are some resources to help you find information on the importance of reducing the meat and dairy in your diet in light of the climate crisis: Plant-based diet can fight climate change (UN via BBC) - <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-49238749> Carbon Footprint Factsheet (University of Michigan) - <https://css.umich.edu/factsheets/carbon-footprint-factsheet>

**You can find a quick footprint calculator here to help you figure out some different food choices you could make: Climate change food calculator:** What's your diet's carbon footprint? (BBC) - <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46459714>

## united church of canada

The United Church of Christ, a full communion partner with The United Church of Canada, has offered a prayer following the horrific racist killings in a Buffalo, New York, grocery store this past weekend. This hate crime in a predominantly Black neighbourhood by a White shooter, that resulted in the deaths of 10 people, has been condemned as an act of terrorism and of White supremacy. The Presbyterian Church USA, a United Church ecumenical partner, mourns these lives, as well as the killings of people at two Presbyterian Churches in Laguna Woods, California. Most of the people killed at the churches were of Taiwanese descent. While it may be tempting to distance these attacks as extreme events taking place solely in the United States, the realities of racism are also ever-present in Canada, and the impacts of these attacks are acutely felt here as well. [Read the full news piece and find more resources for anti-racism work.](#)

## community news



Residents and staff at **Home on the Hill**, who live in our manse, are having a **garage sale** on **Saturday the 28th**. Come and support them!

### 14th Willowdale Scouts Host the 5th Target Climate Willowdale Event!

**When: Tuesday, May 31st 2022, 8 - 9:15 p.m.**

**How: Virtual Event - on Zoom ~ Register for Zoom**

**Event: Register Here <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/14th-willowdale-scouts-host-a-target-climate-event-tickets-331225383037>**

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.