



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.

Minister's Message: This past Tuesday, it was one year since George Floyd was murdered by then Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin while fellow officers looked on. And this past Thursday marks one year since Regis Korchinski-Paquet fell to her death while police were present in her apartment on a mental health call. As we well know, these were but two deaths of Black and Indigenous people on both sides of the border where police were involved. But they sparked a wave of anti-racism protest around the globe that rightly brought the issue of systemic racism against BIPOC people, especially within policing, to the fore.

As these anniversaries go by, many people are rightly asking if anything has changed. On the main, the answer is no. In the past year, there have been as many fatalities of racialized people at the hands of US police as any other year. The situation remains unchanged in Canada as well. The contesting of the US presidential election which resulted in the storming of the Capitol Building on June 6 of this year was seen by many to be fuelled by racism. In Canada, there is a noticeable rise in anti-Asian racism, not to mention all too public examples of anti-Indigenous oppression. So much for a global movement for change.

And yet it also feels like there has been a shift in awareness of the issue, a shift that is most pronounced among the white population. Questions are finally being asked regarding the root causes of racism against Black, Indigenous, Latinx and Asian peoples in North America. While these questions are generally about institutionalized injustice, they need to be more personal, especially when the questioner is white. As a congregation we want to be anti-racist and to this end members of the Racism Awareness Working Group are looking at how racism has been part of their collective experience, including at RHUC. But to truly tackle systemic issues, deeper soul-searching is necessary.

The need for personal examination, especially on the part of non-racialized peoples, can slow down systemic change. It is painful to look at internal biases. It is more painful still to discover how you contribute not just to the oppression of others in general, but have done so to someone you care about. But that is no reason to stand in the way of change. I wonder if that discomfort is what motivated religious leaders to counsel the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to be more gradual in his call for change. He famously responded to them from a jail cell in Birmingham: "For years now I have heard the word "Wait!"... This "Wait" has almost always meant "Never". We must come to see... that 'justice too long delayed is justice denied'." His words are no less true today. May we then, especially as people of faith, continue the work of dismantling systemic racism. Justice cannot be denied any longer.

worship and music

[Order of Service](#) [Hymns](#) [Discovery Time at home](#)
James' video for children:
<https://1drv.ms/v/s!A1BjmozEVDR0gasQRpfXorXbn3y6SA>

Ember Day III (May 30): On this last Ember Day of the year, we take time to honour the Earth and consider ways to protect it. We reflect on Job 12:7-10 in which we are advised to learn what we need to from the birds and animals. We also hear an excerpt from George Monbiot's *Heat: how to Stop the Planet from Burning* in which he reminds us that we may be one of the key obstacles to fighting climate change. We are privileged to be joined by Lyn Adamson of Climate Fast as our guest speaker.

Honouring Grads and Revealing Secret Friends (June 6): On this Second Sunday after Pentecost, we honour anyone graduating this year as well as reveal who has been the secret friends to last year's high school graduates. We will reflect on Mark 3:20-35 in which Jesus reflects on the importance of discipleship, saying that all who follow God's will are his sisters, brothers, mothers.

Celebrating Graduates: Are you graduating, or can you tell us about someone you know who is graduating - children, grandchildren, friends, relatives, youth and adults finishing their programs?



Please send Deb the graduate's name, school and program, any other info, and a photo for next week's RHUC online, by next Wednesday, June 2nd to office@rhuc.org.



Pride Sunday (June 13): We once again host the Pride worship service for York Region. We will have a Guest Preacher, the Rev June Joplin, formerly of Lorne Park Baptist Church in Mississauga and now Associate Pastor of Programs and Congregational Care at Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto. Please extend an invite to others and invite them

to contact Deb for Zoom info.

Celebrate Environment Sunday with Some Friendly Competition:

This Sunday, along with being an Ember Day for us, is Environment Sunday. It is designated as such because June 5 is World Environment Day. In honour of this, let us have a friendly competition to clean up our neighbourhoods. Why not carry plastic grocery bags on your walks and pick up litter? Tabulate the number of bags you fill this week and send your results to James by **Sat. June 8**. A special prize goes to the winning household. Let the competition begin!



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: Please join us on **Monday, May 31 at 10 a.m. on Zoom**. We will be continuing our discussion of the Gospel of Thomas, one of the "hidden" books of the Bible. If you have time, please read through the series of 114 sayings and parables of Jesus sent to you by e-mail last week. A link to a video will also be sent out by the end of the week.

New members are always welcome to join us. Please speak to Sandra Loughton or Peg Hiscoke for more details.

UCW: The UCW will hold their meeting on **Wednesday, June 2nd on zoom at 10:30am**. As we are not able to take our annual bus trip join us and share memories of trips that you have taken. For more information call June at 905-780-0048

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. 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.

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 time.

RHUC Book Club: Please put the date **Wednesday, June 23rd in your calendar! We will be meeting at 4 p.m. on Zoom** (by video or telephone) to discuss *The Unlikely Adventures of the Shergill Sisters* by Balli Kaur Jaswal.

The novel is about "three British-born Punjabi sisters embarking on a pilgrimage to their homeland to lay their mother to rest. Powerful, emotionally evocative, and wonderfully atmospheric, *The Unlikely Adventures of the Shergill Sisters* is a charming and thoughtful story that illuminates the bonds of family, sisterhood, and heritage that tether us despite our differences. Funny and heartbreaking, it is a reminder of the truly important things we must treasure in our lives." (chapters.ca)

For more information about the club, please contact Sandra Loughton, Facilitator at bookgirl8@hotmail.com. New members warmly welcomed.

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.

Forest Church: Time Change for Forest Meditation on Sunday: This Sunday, the Three Rivers Forest Church event is a meditation with trees. **This event is rescheduled to 1:30 pm.** We will still meet at the pergola near the Canyon Hill entrance to Twickenham Park. Please wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

church news

Seeking your input: RHUC's Communications Working Group has been working hard on a few projects, including creating a logo for the Village Commons. Two versions have been created, each with a multi-coloured design to reflect how this centre for community will help bring diverse communities together. They're asking for your input to decide which version to use on promotional materials. **Please email James (james@rhuc.org) by June 16 with your choice, A or B.**



Memory Garden: As in previous years, I will have a section of the church garden set aside in memory of people who have passed away since the previous June. If you would like someone's name on the sign that you are remembering, please let me know. The garden is on Yonge Street, beside the Village Commons stairs (formerly named the Christian Education building). Contact Donna Smith at 905-884-6307. Thanks.

Saying Farewell to James and Glen: We are all hoping that restrictions will be lifted, and we will have a chance to say farewell and thank you in person. However, we must be prepared for not being able to do this. If you would like to be part of a small team of creative thinkers planning a lovely farewell - please contact me at: jane.wedlock2@gmail.com or 416 837 3930. James's last Sunday with us is July 11th, 2021.

MAP Minute:

Friends,

It has been 3 years since we completed a visioning process that resulted in our Mission Action Plan to guide our collective efforts as a congregation. The 9 intentions of that Mission Action Plan framed our annual report for 2020 so that we could see how we have been progressing with our intentions. The visioning process that we undertook may seem far away, but it is important that we keep it front and centre as we move forward - especially in our search for a new minister, and also as a congregation as we reflect on the learnings from COVID and welcome new members into our midst.

While our long-term work on partial property re-development continues as we explore the potential for partnership with the United Property Resource Corporation of the United Church of Canada for our Centre for Community and the Arts, there is much more in our congregational life that we must reflect on that may inform thinking and actions here and now.

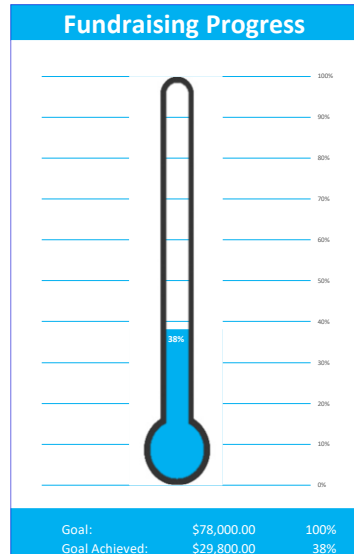
The **Board is planning a retreat on Saturday June 19th** that will be facilitated by Kim Uyede-Kai, Minister for Communities of Faith Support and Right Relations from Shining Waters Regional Council. This will be an important opportunity for RHUC leadership to reflect deeply on where we are in our journey in our Mission Action Plan, our new hybrid reality of in person/online worship, learnings from the pandemic and strategic priorities as we move forward in our search process. While these may feel like uncertain times, we are also in the midst of great opportunity in these times of change, and we must listen carefully to where the Spirit may be leading us.


May we support one another - bring our gifts and extend our arms wide to those who are feeling isolated and those who maybe new to our community and looking for a safe, welcoming and hopeful congregation to be part of. We are being called to a new place - we journey together.

Jane Wedlock, Board Chair

Joanne Scofield's Ordination: Joanne Scofield, a long-time member of our congregation is being ordained in Vancouver on June 13th, 2021, hopefully via zoom. If you would like to contribute to a gift for Joanne - please let me know at jane.wedlock2@gmail.com or 416 837 3930.





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 38% of

our goal (pre-tax)!! Thank you!

Outreach

Mosaic Interfaith & Organization for Islamic Learning special series on Spirituality: Mosaic has partnered with the Organization for Islamic Learning to offer a two-part series on Spirituality. Spread over two coming Sundays, **May 30th and June 6th**. It will offer us an opportunity to learn how each of our faiths approach this subject and use their teachings to help improve ourselves and come closer to a meaningful relationship with God. This series is free and will be recorded so that if you miss part of it you can watch, or re-watch, at a later time. Fran Isaacs & Shabnees Siwjee, Mosaic co-chairs.
May 30th, 2021: Topic: Exploring Spirituality Through Different Pathways
 Time: May 30, 2021 02:00 PM America/Toronto
 Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/5929544287>
 Meeting ID: 592 954 4287
June 6th, 2021: Topic: Exploring Spirituality Through Different Pathways
 Time: Jun 6, 2021 02:00 PM America/Toronto
 Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/5929544287>
 Meeting ID: 592 954 4287

community news

Youth Summer Jobs: There are a number of new and exciting summer job positions with the General Council Office for youth between the ages of 15 to 30. We would love to work with you! Please [take a look](#) at these opportunities.



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.



1 cup course-ground coffee beans (decaf or regular)
 4 cups cold water

Directions

In a large pitcher combine the coffee grounds and water. Let the mixture sit overnight to "brew." The next day, simply filter the grounds either using a coffee filter (slower but more precise) or cheese cloth (quicker but may take a few strains to remove all the grounds). The best thing about cold-brew coffee is that since it doesn't use heat, it produces a nice, smooth flavor.

Serving Suggestion

Fill a cup with ice, 1/2 – 1 cup of cold-brew coffee and 1/2 – 1 cup of vanilla rice/almond/coconut milk.

To discover a kindred spirit is to find your heart in the heart of a friend – Ann D. Parrish

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.