



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](#).

If you haven't already, you will need to update your Zoom Client to Zoom 5.0 before Sunday, May 31st. Visit www.zoom.us to "Update Now". If you ever find you're encountering issues with Zoom on Sunday morning (as we did during our Worship on Sunday May 17th) 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: [Home Prayers Hymns](#). 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.

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: By now, most of us have heard about the reports submitted by the military in regard to issues with long term care homes in both Ontario and Quebec. While the conditions that were named are shocking, seniors advocates were in no way surprised. I know I certainly wasn't. I have been going to long term care homes in three different provinces for over thirty years, both to visit residents, and to lead worship services. And I can attest that this situation has been in the making over that whole period, especially over the last twenty years. Since the nineties we have listened to one politician after another tell us that we need to downsize government, shrink the debt and somehow also lower taxes. The end result has generally been budget cuts that target the sectors that care for our most vulnerable, one of which is seniors' care. One of the issues with long term care is staff shortages and insufficient training. The fault generally lies with the system rather than those working in it. Over the years I have met many fine seniors' care providers, doing their job under increasingly difficult circumstances and with much dedication and love. But we live in a society that is focused on production. Given the cuts that we make, it is clear you are not as valued if you are no longer "productive". We often hear people advocating for the better treatment of seniors because they are the generation that built our nation. As laudable as that sentiment is, it still presumes a production paradigm. We look after them because of what they once did. What we don't speak about is valuing our seniors because of who they are right now. And what they offer is invaluable. When I lived on a reserve, I was impressed by the way the elders were treated. They had the seats of honour, were the ones called on to offer words of wisdom, to offer the blessing before a feast. We need to do the same, to honour who they are, especially because they are essential to who we will become. Carrying the knowledge of where we have been, they are our storytellers and tradition keepers. They offer encouragement, give advice (even if we think we don't need it), pray for all of us. And most importantly they are always ready to share their love. Both levels of government are vowing to fix the issues. I pray they do. And I pray we hold them to their promise. We owe our elders at least that much, not for who they have been, but for who they are, valued members of our community.

worship and music

Sunday, May 31: It's Pentecost! As we conclude the Easter Season we celebrate what it means for all of us to be gifted with the Spirit and send "Out into the Street". We also honour how in the scripture story (Acts 2:1-21) all of the people who hear the apostles and other disciples preaching, understand them even though they all speak different languages (more on that in "Worship Notes"). We will celebrate communion virtually like we did on Easter Sunday so please have with you some bread and wine/juice, or if that isn't handy for you, another staple food and beverage to consume as part of the online celebration.

Sunday, June 1: The first Sunday in June is when the youth choir traditionally puts on a musical. We don't want to break with tradition, even in a lockdown, so we will be broadcasting a recording of last year's musical as well as revealing who the secret friends have been this past year. We plan to honour graduates as well so if there is someone in your family graduating from any level of education, please let James know (james@rhuc.org).

Worship Notes: One of the great themes of Pentecost is how everyone understood what the disciples were saying even though many of them were Galileans and yet there were people in Jerusalem from all over the Roman Empire and even beyond. This unity within our diversity is a profound expression of who and what the church is supposed to be, even when, perhaps especially when, we worship. One of the ways we express this is by involving many different people in leadership. When we do this we express how we are many members but together form one body. We will be illustrating this in our Call to Worship this Sunday. It will be a video so that many different people can be heard. In addition, the anthem will be a traditional Swahili song and the readings (scripture and non-scripture) will be read in Farsi, Chinese, Spanish, Hebrew and French. The text of each reading will be visible in English on your computer screen, or on the page of the "Home Prayers" (posted on the website). For some, perhaps even many, this will seem odd. And yet we experience this kind of thing all the time in the subtitles of a movie, the surtitles at an opera, in closed captions in a variety of settings. Those of us who speak English as a first language do not always realize how dominant it is, never having to consciously tune in to understand what is being said. And yet this is what immigrants experience all the time. Part of our commitment as a denomination to being an intercultural church is to raise cross-cultural awareness, as well as to provide opportunities to appreciate the gifts that each and every culture brings. May this Sunday's experience do just that.

DIY Worship: The outline of the worship service (prayers, readings, etc.) is found on the website. For those who would rather create their own celebration, possible for **Pentecost Sunday (May 31):** "On Pentecost They Gathered" (VU195), "O Holy Spirit, by Whose Breath" (VU200) and "Spirit God, be our Breath" (MV150).



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 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

Notes from the church gardener: Memory Garden - As in previous years, I will plant an annual plant in memory of a person who has passed away since last June. Usually I ask donors to give me \$3 to purchase a plant but with the restrictions of COVID-19, I will use money in my petty cash fund I have developed over the years... If you would like me to include a special someone, please let me know by May 31st; when planted, their name will appear on a sign in the garden, which is beside The Village Commons building front stairs. Contact Donna Smith at 905-884-6307 or donnasmith44@rogers.com Thanks!

Perennials needed: Someone has taken a group of hens-and-chicks plants I had planted in an old roast pan from the old kitchen before the renovation! I would like to plant more so if you have too many, pls let me know. And actually, I will take any perennials you need to divide. Thanks!

A Minute for MAP: One of the key pieces of our MAP is being engaged in our neighbourhood. To this end, we have put up a new sign outside, letting people know we are available if they need support, and inviting them to join us for worship online. Keep an eye out as you go by, or pay attention on Sunday during the video-based Call to Worship. We are called to reach out to our neighbours, even in a lockdown, especially in a lockdown.

Grocery Home Deliveries: Do you, or someone you know, need groceries delivered to your home during COVID-19? RHUC has a team of volunteers 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.

Organizers: June Blanchette 905-780-0048, Donna Smith 905-884-6307, Doug Loweth, 416-553-8706

How does it work? Call one of the Organizers who will get in touch with one of the Drivers. The Driver will contact the person, get the shopping list, shop and deliver to the home. Payment will be arranged between the two parties, but the shopping and delivery are free. Our thanks to the volunteers.

Drivers: Heather Hartung, Marise Blanchette, Amy Hammer, Gaye Spence, Nancy Coxford, Doug Loweth.

We'll get through this by working together!

A Minute for the Board: As provinces slowly give permission for businesses to reopen, it is only a matter of time before churches are allowed to do the same. This will not happen right away and must be done with careful planning and forethought. With this in mind, the board is planning a Zoom conversation on Thursday June 4 at 7:00 PM. Along with members of the Worship Committee, Lay Pastoral Visitors, the Family Ministry Committee (formerly CD), Property Committee, the Operations Team and the Communications Team, a special invite is being offered to medical personnel, teachers, and other frontline workers. Contact James for log-in information and to answer questions and concerns.



RHUC PHONE TREE CREATED & GOING LIVE NOW! We have created a Phone Tree.

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

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

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.

programs for all

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: Shalom Seekers will be getting together again on **Monday, June 1st at 10 a.m.** for a Zoom meeting. This week will be a social time with no programming. We hope to see you on the screen or hear you over the telephone if you can make it. Everyone in the group will receive an invitation e-mail on Sunday with all of the information you'll need to get on the call. *Sandra Loughton & Peg Hiscoke, Co-Facilitators*

RHUC Book Club: The RHUC Book Club will be getting together on Zoom (and by telephone) to discuss *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett on **Wednesday, June 17th at 4 p.m.** There are a couple of copies of the book circulating amongst the group. If you need a copy, please let me know. All book club members will get an invitation e-mail for the Zoom meeting the day before. Please stay safe and keep reading!
Sandra Loughton, 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.

Learning about Edible Native Plants: Just like the fruits and vegetables we buy at the grocery store or farmer's market, we source food from native plants in four ways: from their roots, from their stems and leaves, from their flowers and fruits (including nuts) and as seasoning. This week we will look below ground. There are three interesting native species to highlight. Wild ginger is good ground cover and has an edible root similar in flavour to store bought. Sunchokes are related to sunflowers. The tuber is like a potato. Be sure to replant some of the tubers for next year. Finally, there is groundnut. This part shade plant produces a tuber that is similar to a nutty potato and the flowers are quite unique. It also produces a pea-like seed pod. Try one of these in your garden this summer.

On Wednesday, May 27, **Christina and Drew Miller** celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary. What better way to honour a milestone spent in lockdown than to renew their vows. In order to stay safe and observe physical distancing, the ceremony was held outside, on what happened to be one of the hottest days in May. Many would forego to mark the day with a renewal but if anything it highlights the nature of marriage - sticking by one another in good times and bad, which clearly includes during a pandemic.

Ingenium Canada - Science at Home (Kindergarten to Grade 12)

Find fun, hands-on activities and science experiments to try at home from the Canada Agriculture and Food Museum, the Aviation and Space Museum and the Science and Technology Museum.

Aga Khan Museum (Grades 1 to 8)

Students can explore a virtual museum with at-home activities in the form of puzzles, videos and storytelling.

outreach

Net Zero: As we know, you're surely inundated with emails, so we'll get to the point quickly. The June Targeting Climate Change event has been cancelled due to the Covid-19 Virus. It is unlikely the August event will be able to run either, but we are still waiting to see how the situation unfolds. While our events are sadly being postponed, the fight against climate change has not stopped! We encourage you to check out [Neighbors for the Planet](#) as a way to keep in touch with the climate community in Richmond Hill and the GTA. Be sure to sign up for their latest reports if you haven't already done so. And as always, no matter which virtual communities you're a part of, make sure Climate change is being talked about and addressed. Look for ways you can be more climate active during the quarantine, and take the time to talk to your elected officials about important climate matters. Remember, they work for you! Don't let them forget about climate change! And of course, stay home and stay safe. We hope all of you are coping well and staying healthy. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email us. We hope to see you as soon as possible! *Esther Collier*

RHUC family, I need your help! There's a project in the works at my daycare, for whenever we get back, and I am hoping you can help! We are collecting plastic bottle caps! Pop bottles, juice bottles, water bottles, sauce bottles, milk cartons...you get the idea! And we need a lot of them! I would be ever so thankful if you could collect them for me 😊 Thanks so much! *Paula Windsor*

The Feed: York Region's ONLY news magazine show dedicated to the issues, events and stories that matter to all of us who live and work here. On this weekend's edition of THE FEED, Ontario's Education Minister Stephen Lecce and the province's minister of Economic Development Vic Fedeli join Ann Rohmer to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on the decision to keep schools closed but also begin the reopening of the economy. Also on the show, the federal minister responsible for seniors Deb Schulte with additional details about the one time benefit for seniors in COVID-19 aid. THESE STORIES AND MORE ON THE FEED with Ann Rohmer: Saturday 9am & Sunday 5pm.

To listen live go to www.1059theregion.com

Community Garden: St. Paul's Lutheran Church at Bayview and Major Mackenzie have reopened their community gardens after letting the weeds grow for a few years. They rent out plots to individuals and have about 10 plots left. The cost had been \$70 for the season, but because this year is challenging for many, the cost is only \$29 for the first plot. Plots are 20 x 20 feet. People interested in gardening with them should send an email to stpaulslutheranchurch@bellnet.ca. They have 3 plots maintained by volunteers, where the proceeds go to [360Kids](#). They would welcome other non-profits or groups to take over additional plots to grow food for people in need. There is access to water, but they cannot make tools available this season due to the special situation. Members get a key and can access the garden during daylight.

Minute for Mission: Searching for Peace in the Korean Peninsula - Over 65 years ago, the Korean War ended in an armistice agreement. The agreement created the Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ: a place where the two parts of the country can come together. The two parts of Korea, North and South, have very different political and economic systems and ideologies. Some may think the differences are too great for the two countries to overcome and unite. Mission & Service of The United Church of Canada supports partners like the National Council of Churches in Korea that are working to unite both countries through a path of peace. There have been non-violent gatherings at the DMZ as well as walks for peace. We are thankful to be in partnership with Korean Voices for Peace and the World Council of Churches, which lift up the plight of families who are divided and a region that is still in conflict

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