



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. 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:

How would you describe your family? Is it large or small, connected in one place or spread out around the world? All families are different.

Who we would name as family are not necessarily related to us by blood. Think of those friends who whenever we get together the years just drop away and we pick-up the threads of a relationship as if we have never been apart. How about our church family and the support we have received at different points in our lives?

Families take many shapes and forms; they can be chosen or born into. We know from our experience of family – whatever that may be – that just because we love, doesn't mean we don't get irritated! The wonderful, quirky people that are part of our lives are all unique. Supporting others to "arise" and be their true selves can be challenging. We will explore this a little more on Sunday – I hope you can join us.

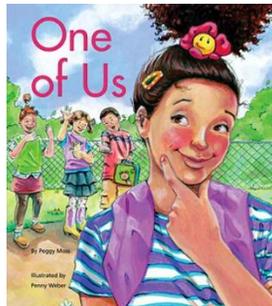
SPECIAL SUNDAYS

May 8 - Family Day [Order of service](#) [Hymns](#)

Sunday May 15: Forest Church at 2:00 at Twickenham Park off Canyon Hill Avenue.

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

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES



"One of Us" by Peggy Moss, illustrated by Penny Weber

To listen to the story click the link -

<https://ne-np.facebook.com/CattTales/videos/one-of-us-by-peggy-moss/386234256197952/>

In a society plagued by the need to fit in at all costs, "One of Us" features a plucky youngster with the courage to be who she is and the charisma to help others also assert their individuality.

Have a conversation about:

- Cliques
- Being "different," and being "the same"
- Who you are vs. what you are

For more activities and ideas, click the link -

https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/cb201d_c32b3529c6dd44db852ec2f30b7ec365.pdf



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, 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 9th at 10 a.m. on Zoom** as we continue the study of SHORT STORIES BY JESUS: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi by Amy-Jill Levine. Professor Levine takes a deep look at the parables in the New Testament through a Jewish lens and makes the reader think differently about these stories many of us grew up hearing and reading. For this week, please read Chapter 2: The Good Samaritan, pages 77 to 97 inclusive. We will do this chapter in two parts.

For more details about Shalom Seekers, please speak to anyone in the group or to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator. New members are always welcome to join us.

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 or Lyn May at lynniemay@gmail.com. Thanks!!

Ricardo's tofu, green pea and white bean patties

- 1 small onion quartered
- 1 garlic clove halved
- 1 small jalapeno halved and seeded
- 3/4 lb. firm tofu cubed
- 1 can white beans rinsed and drained
- 1 1/2 cups frozen peas thawed
- 2 eggs lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup ap flour
- 1/4 cup breadcrumbs
- 1/4 cup parmesan grated
- 1 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp each ground coriander and cumin
- 1/2 cup olive oil

Finely chop onion, garlic, and jalapeno in food processor (or chop finely by hand)

Add green peas, eggs, flour, breadcrumbs, cheese, salt and spices. Pulse a few times or mash with a potato masher - there should still be pieces of peas.

Form into 18 balls and flatten on cookie sheet lined with parchment paper.

In a large non-stick skillet cook 6 patties at a time in 2 tbsp oil over medium high heat. Flip after 5 minutes and cook 5 minutes on other side. Flatten slightly as they cook. Add oil as necessary.

RHUC Book Club: Please join us on **Wednesday, May 25th at 4 p.m. on Zoom** to discuss *Swimming Back to Trout River* by Linda Rui Feng. This novel is the OBOA (One Book ~ One Aurora) selection for 2022 and it was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize in 2021. The Aurora Public Library has provided us with enough copies of the book for everyone in the book club with a few to spare.

A lyrical novel set against the backdrop of China's Cultural Revolution that follows a father's quest to reunite his family before his precocious daughter's momentous birthday, which Garth Greenwell calls "one of the most beautiful debuts I've read in years."

For more information about the RHUC Book Club, please contact Sandra Loughton, Facilitator. New members are warmly welcomed.

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

church news

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*





Refugee Support Committee



Good news! After a long and difficult three years our new friends, Nur and Ahmad Alwani, have arrived in Canada. RHUC has sponsored two Syrian families, and this is our first arrival! Nur and Ahmad fled Syria

and lived temporarily first in Egypt and then in Turkey while they waited for sponsorship. Their uncle and aunt, Ibrahim and Lodi, brought their case to our attention through the United Church of Canada in Toronto. They have taken on the financial support - both for the waiting period with all the expenses of temporary accommodation and the substantial costs of completing all the medical and security checks and for all the settlement costs for their first year in Canada. This is a huge load, but Ibrahim and Lodi have been here for 23 years and are well established in jobs and their new house in King City. They have of course welcomed Nur and Ahmad into their home and are thrilled to be together as a family but recognize that the young couple will be anxious to set up their own place, find jobs and settle into their new life. The King City home is quite far from public transportation and job possibilities.

Nur is an experienced IT technician and Ahmad has experience in the construction and retail industry. Both speak English - Nur's is excellent, written, and oral, and Ahmad is working on his. We hope to be able to help them find work - I will have their resumes soon. If anyone has any leads on one-bedroom apartments in the aurora /Newmarket/Richmond hill area that would mean they are able to find work and transportation and not be too far from family - and friends.

I am thinking of how helpful Men's Breakfast was to Waseem Mckhoul and how important church friends were to the rest of Waeem's growing family. For now, the emphasis is on getting SIN cards, Health cards, bank accounts, drivers' licences - all the things we take for granted!

The Alwanis are happy to receive visitors at their beautiful new home off Jane Street and have lots of outdoor space and a beautiful back garden with forest and streams - perfect for Forest Church. For now, in person get-togethers at church don't seem likely but I am thinking of setting up some smaller outdoor events. If you would like to be part of the Welcome Committee, please give your name to either Deb Fratin at the church office or Lyn May.

Many thanks again to DJ McCready and all the work he has done filling out endless sponsorship forms and setting up arrangements for disbursing financial support - and being the main go-to person over the last three years,

Lyn May, Refugee Support Committee

Broadview renewal time! If you would like to renew your annual Broadview subscription or sign up for the magazine subscription for \$25, please etransfer to office@rhuc.org, mail a cheque or leave in the deposit box in the sanctuary by May 9. Thank you!

outreach

Myths about those experiencing Homelessness (#4)

Misconception: "Homelessness only exists if you can see it."

Just because you do not see a person sleeping outside, does not mean that your community does not have a homeless population!

Many people experiencing homelessness are experiencing HIDDEN HOMELESSNESS.

Hidden homelessness refers to individuals temporarily living with others (friends or strangers) without a guarantee that they will be able to stay long-term and without immediate prospects for acquiring permanent housing. This population is considered 'hidden' because they may not access homeless supports and services, despite their need for them.

Home on the Hill - Did you know?

In December 2021 Kathy Mochanchi was awarded the **Outstanding Canadian Award and Letter of Recognition** for her community work for people and their families affected by serious mental illness.

"Home on the Hill has produced a video which explains their history, describes the impact they have on the community of Richmond Hill and lays out the challenges they faced moving forward. Home on the Hill hears from families everyday, who have lost their loved ones to homelessness, prisons, or death due to the need for a more adequate mental health system. They support those families who are fortunate that their loved ones are still with them, while at the same time fight for more supportive housing so that their loved ones can have the housing which they deserve. The video also describes our recreation program, "Home on the Hill Connection" which reaches out to those made even more isolated by the restrictions of the COVID pandemic by sending them a gift package and creating a nurturing relationship with the hope that they will join our recreational activities."

<https://youtu.be/dUswy8cmAj4>



On the Way Home Podcast: "On the Way Home is a podcast that brings together the voices and issues involved in ending homelessness in Canada. Come back every Thursday to hear a new episode featuring bright voices on important issues on housing and homelessness, co-hosted by the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness and Blue Door."
<https://onthewayhome.ca/>

RHUC's Community Garden - it's official!!

We have a plot & have been given its coordinates at Phyllis Rawlinson Park. At 10' x 10' it's not too big (fingers crossed!) and we take possession this weekend. We've been placed beside two other groups with experience at this location - awesome opportunity to learn. All produce harvested will be given to **Richmond Hill Community Food Bank**.



This year will be a 'test' year to determine interest from RHUC. If we can get **at least five (5) volunteers**, we can share in the success and care of the garden! 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 Let's grow!

community

Our Richmond Hill Community Food Bank has confirmed that



they are short of food and their concern is that with the coming summer months when food donations go way down, they will run out. Recently, they provided food for 1800+ people in one month, the highest number ever. People are

registered with them and can come for help every four weeks and receive food for 2-3 days. People in our community are turning for help because,

as we all know, everything is costing more, like food, gas, and housing. Many have not recovered from job loss at the beginning of the pandemic. **How can we all help?** The Food Bank is located at 55 Newkirk Road and is open Monday to Friday, 9:00 till 11:45 to receive non-perishable food donations. Cash donations can be made as outlined on their website: richmondhillcommunityfoodbank.ca. They can make our money go further with wholesale and bulk purchasing power. We have not received such a direct message of need from them for years; we can respond in gratitude to help our neighbours. Thank you.

united church of Canada

Food and Hygiene Kits for Ukraine

By the end of March, over 4 million refugees had fled Ukraine, 90 percent of them women and children. Gifts with Vision—the United



Church's giving catalogue—has just [its latest gifts](#) to help them. [Photo: At the refugee point in Barabás, a small Hungarian village on the border of Ukraine, ACT Alliance member Hungarian Interchurch Aid offers food, drinks, and hygiene items for people fleeing the Ukraine war. Credit: Antii Yrjönen/FCA]



Bold Discipleship: Climate Crisis

Please join us for an opportunity to engage on the climate crisis with global, ecumenical, and interfaith partners at General Council 44

beyond the formal GC44 sessions. This session will include the following participants:

- Bishop Melzar Labuntog – United Church of Christ in the Philippines
- Ms. Parul Chaudry – Astha Sansthan
- Rev. Canon Emmanuel Chikoya – Council of Churches in Zambia
- Marcelo Leites – General Secretary World Student Christian Federation
- Dr. Masiwa Ragies Gunda – World Council of Churches
- Rev. Terri Hord Owens – Disciples of Christ

The event will be moderated by Tony Snow, Indigenous Minister, Chinook Winds Region, The United Church of Canada. We hope to see you there—[register today!](#)

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.