



**We will continue to livestream Sunday service using Zoom as well as returning to in-person services.** If you would like to attend, you are required to provide proof of your Covid-19 2nd vaccine at the Yonge St., entrance (either QR code or a paper copy) each Sunday, as well as signing in and the wearing of masks.

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)). 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.

## worship and music

**Minister's Message:** It is hard to believe that as I write this, I am still wearing t-shirts and a light jacket, the weather is deceiving, it somehow doesn't feel like mid-November and yet it is, this Sunday is the second last Sunday before we enter the season of Advent, the season of waiting for the coming of the Christ Child at Christmas.

This season will feel different from last year as last Sunday the return of the choir brought with it a feeling of some sort of normalcy, and it was good to be together.

This Sunday, we will once again be together in person and virtually, this Sunday we will live and learn into the new A/V system, this Sunday our scripture is the story of Hannah and her lament for a child. Hannah journeys with her husband and sister wife during the pilgrimage season to Shiloh, a centre of worship for early Israelites, this is before Jerusalem became the city of David.

This story is traditionally read during the season of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. Many of the Jewish holidays centre on lament and atonement. The story of Hannah is a story of lamenting in faith, and the joy that comes from having faith. We have much to be thankful for and yet we still mourn what we have lost over the last two years of the pandemic, we still live in hope for what will come, no matter what it is.

Blessings,  
Rev. Ruth Noble

**Sunday, November 14, 2021:** The order of service and hymns are also found on our website under Home, Events & News and Our Ministry – Spirit pages. [Order of service](#) [Hymns](#)



**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 on PAR, please consider making sure you get your weekly envelope money in (mailed in or mail slot on Centre. St. door). You can use 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

**Women's Spirituality** will gather on **Saturday November 13th at 10:00 till 12:00.** Our program: Receiving & Leaving Your Legacy. Contact Donna Smith, 905-884-6307 for more information.

**Shalom Seekers:** Please join us on **Monday, November 15th at 10 a.m. on Zoom** for our continuing discussion on the memoir *The Other Side of the River: From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge* by Reverend Alf Dumont. This week we will be reading and discussing Chapter 4 - Blame it on Bert! and Chapter 5 - Lessons by the River.

New members are always welcome. The Zoom invitation will be sent out on Sunday evening. For more information about the group, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator.



**H.A.I.R.:** Our Monday evening study group, 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)

**RHUC Book Club:** Interested in reading and talking about books? Please join us on **Wednesday, November 24th at 4 p.m. on Zoom** to discuss the memoir "Lion" by Saroo Brierley. It was initially published as "A Long Way Home". This is the incredible true story of a young boy in India who gets lost on a train one day and how he eventually finds his way home from the other side of the world. For more information about the book club, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator. New members are warmly welcome!

## church news

**RHUC RE-DEVELOPMENT – Congregational Update:** At the Annual meeting of the Congregation in May 2021 we committed to regular updates to take you on our journey and identify if and how the path is intended to shift, as we navigate through sustainable models of development in the future. The purpose of this message is to provide an update to the congregation on our property redevelopment journey.

At the congregational meeting in May 2021, we reported that we were exploring a property development partnership with United Property Resource Corporation (UPRC), the United Church of Canada's subsidiary that was created to help churches develop their real estate for future sustainability – financial, social and environmental. (More information on UPRC is included below.)

Our initial discussions with UPRC focused on the redevelopment of the Village Commons/Christian Education Building (the 1957 addition). However, when UPRC staff and consultants Savira, (Cultural consultants), and KPMB (Architects) visited Richmond Hill United Church they immediately saw the historical sanctuary as being a key part of the project. The development proposal they have put forward is to replace the existing 1957 structure with a two-story event space that would provide a community and cultural centre, joined to the historic sanctuary by a connecting atrium. The renovated sanctuary would be the heart of the redeveloped space, with the adjacent new two-story addition providing space for the congregation and the wider community to gather for events, meetings and performances. No housing is included as part of the proposed development.

When we reported to you at the congregational meeting in May there was an assumption that housing would be a part of the project as this is a major focus for UPRC. However, after site visits and subsequent discussions, UPRC determined that due to a number of factors our site is not suitable for housing. As a result, the development they are proposing no longer includes a housing component, and therefore would no longer include funding from CMHC.

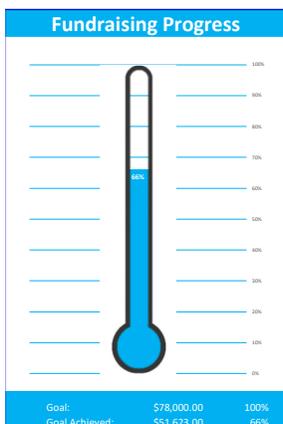
**Next Steps:** RHUC and UPRC are in discussions that would lead to a non-binding letter of intent setting out the parameters that would govern the project should it go forward. At the same time, UPRC is undertaking a more robust analysis in order to develop a business plan for the project, including how the project will be funded. **No final decisions about the proposed development will be made without consultation and approval by the congregation.**

There will be an opportunity for an Open House for questions and answers about the proposed project likely around the time of our Annual Meeting in March 2022. While the final decision about proceeding with the project is likely closer to the middle of 2022.

Up until recently, we have been working with SHS Consulting to help us move our project forward. However, with the understanding that UPRC as a development partner would ensure the property remains with the United Church of Canada and UPRC has access to partnerships and expertise that support the project without cost to the congregation in the immediate term, it made sense to continue with UPRC and express our thanks and gratitude to SHS for their support to this point.

**More about UPRC:** *Founded in 2019 by the United Church of Canada, UPRC brings professional real estate development and management expertise to communities of faith and non-profits to assist them in making astute decisions about their real estate while making lasting contributions to their communities. UPRC was founded to meet the growing need for professional real estate development and management expertise within communities of faith, who are one of the country's largest landowners. Collaborating with both public and private partners, UPRC is a new model that looks at community infrastructure in an inclusive way to unlock value for social purposes, including building lasting affordable housing for all in high-quality, low carbon buildings. (Source: uprc.ca)*

Jane Wedlock, Board Chair / Jane Ridout, Chair of Finance



### 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 have reached **66%** of our goal (**\$51,623.00**)!! Thank you!

## outreach

### Ontario to release Death Registrations of 1800 Indigenous Children:

Ontario is in the process of releasing death records of approximately 1,800 Indigenous children to the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation. Releasing death records was one of the recommendations in the 2015 report from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that documented abuse suffered by Indigenous children at residential schools. Service Ontario has records of deaths that occurred over the past 70 years that were registered with the provincial government, the province said. A National Student Memorial currently names 4,127 children who did not return from residential schools. The centre said death records and coroner's reports are crucial to documenting the stories of other lost children.

"There are potentially thousands more, yet; however, we cannot confirm and honour these lost children without the outstanding records currently still in the hands of the various levels of government," the statement said.

[Source - **By Holly McKenzie-Sutter, The Canadian Press** Posted Nov 2, 2021, 3:25PM EDT. ]

### What is Environmental Racism?

"It was African American civil rights leader Benjamin Chavis who coined the term "environmental racism" in 1982, describing it as "racial discrimination in environmental policy-making, the enforcement of regulations and laws, the deliberate targeting of communities of colour for toxic waste facilities, the official sanctioning of the life-threatening presence of poisons and pollutants in our communities, and the history of excluding people of colour from leadership of the ecology movements". [In Canada] "Pollution in Aamjiwnaang Nation is one example. The ongoing First Nations water crisis is another. And there are more.

In Nova Scotia, the community of Africville, once home to descendants of enslaved peoples, was used as a regional dumping ground for decades, then bulldozed in the 1960s. In Grassy Narrows, decades of court battles and finger-pointing means mercury pollution of the English-Wabigoon river system that happened in the 60s may never be cleaned up. Today, a staggering 90 per cent of residents have mercury poisoning. In Toronto, researchers found soil contamination, waste sites, industrial land use, and more disproportionately hurt areas that are home to racialized communities, recent immigrants, and people with low incomes.

The term for this toxic pattern is environmental racism. It's a direct result of Canada's historic and ongoing colonization. It impacts communities and people from coast to coast to coast. " November 2, 2021 Metrolinx announced it would be expanding the 1.5 km stretch of the new GO Service/Ontario Line through the Riverside Neighbourhood, above ground, increasing train frequency to every 45 seconds - from 150 trains per day to 800 by 2030. Of note, the other 14.1 km of track will be built underground. A quick check of the area it's passing through you can't help but think this is another example of environmental racism.

[Sources: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/07/what-is-environmental-racism-pollution-covid-systemic/> <https://ecojustice.ca/environmental-racism-in-canada/> ]

**On The Way Home (Podcast):** "On the Way Home is a weekly Canadian national podcast produced by York Region's [Blue Door](#) and the [Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness](#). Formerly known as "Out Of The Blue", "On the Way Home" invites guests and experts in the field of housing and homelessness to educate and create awareness around some of the gaps and challenges individuals and organizations face across Canada.

Hosts, Michael Braithwaite (BD) and Stefania Seccia (CAEH) openly speak with diverse guests each week, to discuss innovative programs, stories of hope and hardship and new perspectives on ending homelessness in Canada. Melanie Redman is the co-founder, President & CEO of [A Way Home Canada](#), a national coalition reimagining solutions to youth homelessness through transformations in policy, planning and practice. A Way Home Canada has inspired communities and countries around the world to adopt the A Way Home brand as a way to participate in a growing international movement for change. Melanie also leads the National Learning Community on Youth Homelessness in Canada (**31 mins**). Click [HERE](#) to listen, via YouTube, Apple, Spotify or Google, to this podcast or one of the previous ones."





## net zero

**Textile Drive at RHUC:** Did you know that RHUC hosts Beavers, Cub, Scouts and Venturers 3 nights/week? To support their 'No One Left Behind' initiative, RHUC is doing a drive to collect textiles for Scouts Canada:

The Scouts have 40 youth attending a jamboree in Switzerland this summer:

- from all walks of life, many from underprivileged families.
- to help children to see that there is a great big world out there and to aim for the stars.
- to teach them that they can change their future from their present life, they just need a little help.

**To help: bring items to the outside entrance door (look for signage) to Lower Centennial Hall on Nov. 15, 16, 22, & 23 between 1:30 – 4:30:**

- Electronic waste (cables, cell phones, old TVs, VCRs,...)
- household items, clothing, books, games and
- any textiles (including leather, shoes, handbags)

It's **preferable if everything is clean**. Items and textiles that are **damaged can be labeled and stored separately**.

If you have any questions, please forward them to [targetclimatechange@gmail.com](mailto:targetclimatechange@gmail.com). Thank you!



The Climate Lunch and Learn #1 was successful. While attendees ate their lunches at home, they learned about the current climate situation and about what Richmond Hill is doing about it. Many were surprised to learn that there is a council-approved plan to reach net zero emissions by 2050 - the Community Energy and Emission Plan.

There are two upcoming events: Topic: Virtual **Climate Support Group**

Time: Nov 13, 2021 03:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83833323713?pwd=NEQxWWJzdWtRSE5wdXhBREFuR3RMZz09>

Meeting ID: 838 3332 3713 Passcode: 432526

Dial by your location: +1 647 374 4685 / +1 647 558 0588

Topic: Virtual **Climate Lunch and Learn # 2**

Time: Dec 12, 2021 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89814196496?pwd=M2pCMUxrSVZUbTZkQTdYeEd3YXZSZz09>

Meeting ID: 898 1419 6496 Passcode: 605697

Dial by your location: 1 647 374 4685 / +1 647 558 0588

We have scheduled a third **Climate Lunch and Learn for February 6th, 2022**.

Please ensure that you attend at least one of the virtual Climate Lunch and Learns before next summer. We all need to do our part.

Target Climate is also working out of Willowdale and would like to invite you to an event hosted by a high school's Eco Council student leaders in Willowdale on November 25, 2021, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, to increase our community's involvement in climate action. This event is the fourth event held by students and teachers to mobilize the Willowdale community (the three previous events were hosted by Cummer Valley Middle School).

Event: **Target Climate Willowdale - Earl Haig Secondary School**. Choice of two breakout room discussions on:

- Advocating for Change and
- Creating Climate Action Plans

Date: **November 25, 2021** Time: **6:00-7:30 p.m.**

Register for event (zoom link will be provided after registration): <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/target-climate-earl-haig-secondary-school-tickets-189317552897>

Contact: If you have questions, or would like to receive the zoom link by email rather than through Eventbrite, please contact us at [targetclimatewillowdale@gmail.com](mailto:targetclimatewillowdale@gmail.com)

## other things

**Bark, Branches and Buds: The Three B's of Winter Tree ID Tuesday, November 16 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm**

**Cost:** Free [Registration Required](#) [Online](#)

Located in Roches Point in Georgina, the Arnold C. Matthews Nature Reserve spans 225 acres of forested land and is part of a network of forests that make up the North Gwillimbury Forest. In partnership with the Georgina Environmental Advisory Committee, this event will explore how to identify different tree species throughout the winter using the three B's: bark, branches and buds. Learn about the history and environmental benefits of Arnold C. Matthews Nature Reserve in Georgina through its trees! Join us for a virtual presentation on winter tree identification tips, the strategies trees use to survive the colder months and the benefits they provide for biodiversity. Afterwards, explore the reserve or a local park on your own time using our family-friendly activity sheet. Tour lead: Maiesha Abdelmoula, Education and Stewardship Intern at LEAF.

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