



worship and music

Minister's Message: Happy Thanksgiving! My other part-time position is at Five Oaks Education Centre in Paris Ontario; this week we were reflecting on thanksgiving and the meaning from the colonial perspective as well as from the Indigenous perspective. Our Indigenous Program Coordinator shared that she thought Thanksgiving was valid for everyone to share as gratitude and thanksgiving feasts are common in the Indigenous tribes. Thanksgiving is about gratitude, gratitude for family and friends, and gratitude for the church community. This year many will be having small family gatherings to mark the occasion. We are thankful that thanks due to the vaccines we can begin to gather in some way. It may never be the way it was before the pandemic began, but it will be good because we will be able to continue together in meaningful relationships. I wish each of you well this Thanksgiving weekend. I am thankful for you! Blessings,
Rev. Ruth Noble

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 send in a copy of your vaccination certificate to office@rhuc.org **before** registering for in person worship. Once you have sent in a copy your vaccination certificate, please register at Eventbrite (**by Friday noon**) using this link:
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/worship-service-tickets-118039281669>

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. 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.

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 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

Women's Spirituality will gather Saturday **October 9th at 10:00**. Alas, the weather has decided to rain on our planned walk in nature so Saturday's gathering will be in the chapel at the church. For the program, we'll each bring something for a Spiritual Potluck, meaning something to look at, reading/article, a thought, an experience...something to share that will encourage discussion. Hope to see you on Saturday!
Contact person: Donna Smith 905-884-6307



Shalom Seekers: Please be advised that Shalom Seekers (RHUC's Monday morning study group) will not be meeting this Monday, October 11, due to the Thanksgiving holiday. We will gather again on Zoom on Monday, October 18th at 10 a.m. to discuss our program for the rest of the fall. At that time, we will decide on a new book for study and discussion. A Zoom invitation will be sent out the night before the meeting. New members are welcome at any time. Please speak to Sandra Loughton for more information about the group. Happy Thanksgiving!

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.**

HAIR intends to be a place of inquiry and questioning, where doubts are expressed, uncertainties about our faith and its relevance to our daily lives are 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. In the past year we used videos of TED talks to launch discussion, and dealt with such topics as environmentalism, racism, social justice, ethics, science and religion, and healthy ageing.

In the past we have also watched and discussed DVD series, and read and discussed thought-provoking books and articles, and we keep looking for stimulating new material.

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

RHUC Book Club: Please join us on **Wednesday, October 27th at 4 p.m. on Zoom** to discuss **THE VANISHING HALF** by award-winning American author, Brit Bennett. This novel was chosen by former President Barack Obama as one of his favourite novels of 2020.

The Vanishing Half is a multi-generational family saga set between the 1940s to the 1990s and centres on identical twin sisters, Desiree and Stella Vignes. The two light-skinned black sisters were raised in the fictional town of Mallard, Louisiana. Desiree and Stella take very different paths in life. This is a fascinating, astonishing work of historical fiction. This story is being made into an HBO series.

For more information about the book club, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator, or anyone in the book club. New members are warmly welcomed.

church news

Leadership and Congregational Development Forum: Please note that the event planned for Sunday, Oct. 17 **has been postponed. A future date to be determined.**

Update from your Search Committee: It has been a while since we've updated you on the work of the Search Committee. Several updates have appeared in previous editions of Reflections, and on Tuesday, August 17th we hosted a congregational meeting in the evening for those interested and able to join us.

At that meeting we presented two documents – the Position Description and our Living Faith Story. Those documents were sent to the congregation in an e-mail (and as hard copies for some) prior to the meeting. Both of these documents had to be created before posting them on the United Church of Canada's on-line pastoral tool called ChurchHub. We were so encouraged by the feedback and support felt from the congregation members who joined us that evening. People had an opportunity to ask questions and it was a productive, positive meeting.

To date, we have met approximately twenty times as a committee. Since the congregational meeting, we have continued to meet on Tuesday evenings via Zoom to move forward in our goal to find a suitable candidate for ministry at RHUC. We are happy to report that our profile and job description are now on ChurchHub, available to ministers searching for a new pastoral relationship to access.

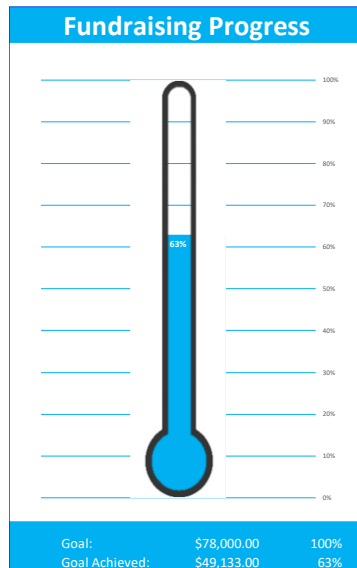
Currently, we are busy preparing for the interview process. We can't say much more at this point, but please be assured that we will keep you updated on our progress once we enter this next phase of the work. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the committee or write to us at our committee's e-mail address: rhuc.searchcommittee@gmail.com Thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in each of us.

RHUC Search Committee: Howe Foo, Nancy Hart (Co-chair), Anne Leyton-Brown, Sandra Loughton (Co-chair), Doug Loweth, DJ McCready, Sharon McNutt, Sara Perez, Ruth Perratt





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 63%



of our goal **(\$49,133.00)!!** Thank you!

TO BE AN ALLY IS TO:

- Actively support the struggle.
- Speak up, even when you feel scared.
- Transfer the benefits of your privilege to those who have less.
- Acknowledge that the conversation is not about you.

REMEMBER:

Being involved in any kind of anti-oppression work is about recognizing that **every person** has a basic right to human dignity, respect, and equal access to resources. At the end of the day, being an ally goes beyond checking actions off a list and it is not a competition. Being an ally is about a way of being and doing. This means self-reflection, “checking in” with one’s motivations and debriefing with community members is a continual process; it is a way of life.

Next week - Step #2 Learning

[Source: Montreal Aboriginal Community Strategy Network]

outreach

Truth & Reconciliation - New this past Week

The Ontario government announced Wednesday September 29th, they’re expanding First Nation, Métis and Inuit content and learning in the elementary school curriculum. Ontario’s Ministry of Education says it’s committed to complete the full spectrum of learning across this elementary curriculum, addressing the current gap in Grades 1 and 3, by September 2023.

Step #1 - How to Be an Ally

BE CRITICAL OF ANY MOTIVATIONS

When getting involved in this kind of work, one should ask themselves:

These movements and struggles do not exist to further one’s own

self-interest, nor are they there as “extra-curricular” activities.

- Does my interest derive from the fact that the issue is currently “buzzing”?
- Does my interest stem from the fact that the issue will meet quotas or increase chances of any funding?
- Does my involvement hijack the message and insert my own opinions or values instead of respecting those of the Indigenous communities?
- Am I doing this to feed my ego?

LAKE ONTARIO EVENING – ALL OUR RELATIONS: WATER BEINGS OF THE GREAT LAKES (WEBINAR)

Join special guest speaker Barbara Mokthwenkwe Wall at the next Lake Ontario Evening hosted by the [Toronto and Region Remedial Action Plan](#).

Barbara is a Bodwewaadmii Anishinaabekwe of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in Shawnee, Oklahoma and a traditional Knowledge Holder. She is a storyteller, educator, professional engineer, writer, and dreamer. Barbara retells Anishinaabe stories to audiences of all ages, weaving together teachings, humour and song.

Barbara’s essay, “Nokmisag: Bemnigying,” is the final piece in the forthcoming **Grandmothers and Grandmothering: Creative and Critical Contemplations in Honour of our Women Elders**. She is a professor teaching in the

Indigenous Environmental Studies in Sciences program within Trent University’s Chanie Wenjack School for Indigenous Studies. **About the talk**

We, and the Great Lakes are at a turning point. Restoring our relationships with the other than human beings that inhabit the land, water, and the cosmos is essential for sustaining the health of the Great Lakes. The protection of ecological integrity is intimately tied to relationship restoration. Through story, prophecy and song, this talk will share Anishinaabe concepts of relationality with, and responsibility for the Great Lakes and the water beings that reside here.



Richmond Hill Community Food Bank

Urgently needed food: Boxed cereal, canned fruit, canned tomatoes, canned beans, dried beans in a bag, tinned stew, canned meat and fish, canned vegetables, peanut butter, jam, instant coffee, tea, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, toilet paper.

Note: Please ensure items are within the best before period, have not expired and have not been opened.

You can drop off these items to Richmond Hill United (box outside the office) or locations listed on the following link...

<https://richmondhillcommunityfoodbank.ca/donate-food>



One of Richmond Hill United Church's neighbours is **360kids**. One of the program's 360kids runs is called Nightstop. 360Kids has been accredited as the first Nightstop provider in Canada. Nightstop provides a safety net for those forced to leave their home by offering emergency accommodation. Nightstop places young people in a safe and warm home for the night, provided by a vetted and approved volunteer. It prevents young people from sleeping on the streets, "couch surfing", or staying in unsuitable accommodations where they would be at risk of abuse. The use of spare rooms in a positive environment makes a huge difference to young people in crisis.

Volunteers /Offer to Host: To be able to offer this invaluable service to young people we need Hosts. Nightstop Host Volunteers will be approved, vetted, and provided with extensive training to ensure they are prepared to host. If this is something you'd like to do, check out their website @ <https://www.360kids.ca/programs-services/housing/nightstop/>

Or, contact them at 905 - 475- 6694 ext 6 for the Nightstop Program

net zero



The climate crisis will require changes in all of us. It is a global emergency, after all.

By holding events where we can gather and share information and expertise, we can activate the hidden energy in a society - the power of community.

Please come with your friends and families to find the up-to-date and evidence-based information you will need to inform the actions necessary to create a sustainable future for the next generations. We can do slow the crisis, but only together. Please attend one of the two Lunch and Learn Sessions:

1. October 24: Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-lunch-and-learn-tickets-172060255857>

2. and/or December 12: Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/climate-lunch-and-learn-2-tickets-172141438677>

At these meetings we will summarize the situation, explain the lifestyle changes you will need to make, discover the resources we already have in our community, and then establish plans for the next few months. These are open for everyone - so feel free to invite friends to the Lunch and Learns. We are informing the City about what we are doing and hope we can be a model for Richmond Hill.

There is also a climate support group if you need one.

We know we will need mental health support through this crisis - and our kids will need support as well. Along with the Lunch and Learns, we are hoping to host a biweekly climate support drop-in. There is also going to be a second **Climate Support group** with Susan Kagan attending (a retired nurse with counseling training). This will be a time where we will gather to grieve and comfort each other as best we can. This event will be on **November 13th, from 3-4 and this is the zoom link for that event:**

Topic: **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



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