



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.



worship and music

Minister's Message: October is one of my favourite months, mainly because it contains my favourite holiday in it: Halloween. For me Halloween is a time to celebrate quirkiness, in costumes and decorations. Halloween is rooted in the pagan festival of the dead. For Christians, Halloween is the eve of All Saints Day. Halloween is the night when the veil between our world and the next world become thin and the spiritual and physical world become one. This is very much like the world of Harry Potter where the non-magic and magical world coexist.

For the next three weeks, we will be exploring the scriptures in light of the Harry Potter world, a world where all can find a place to be celebrated and accepted.

Even if you are not a fan of the Harry Potter books and movies, perhaps you will find some glimmer of inspiration for the week ahead.

Blessings,
Rev. Ruth Noble

Sunday, October 17, 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 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, October 18th at 10 a.m. on Zoom** to discuss several articles to be sent via email this weekend along with the Zoom invitation. We also plan to solidify our book choice for study this fall. New members are welcome to join us at any time to discuss issues of faith and social justice. Please contact Sandra Loughton for further information or speak to a member of Shalom Seekers.



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



Our thanks to **JoAnne and Bill Fotheringham** for adding a Thanksgiving display to the communion table for our Thanksgiving and fall worship. We also received two bushel baskets full of plants, fruit or vegetables from - and that's the mystery!! We didn't receive word that they were being delivered and we have no idea who might have left them.

Interesting to note is that the one with the fruit had been removed when we went to put the fruit in the fridge; we are assuming the donor took it because the fruit was perishable. We will give the root vegetables to the Food Bank.

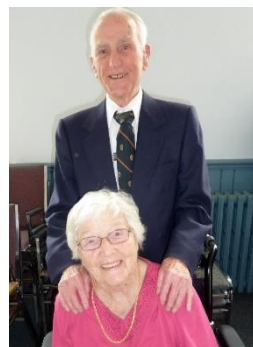
Update from your Search Committee: It has been a while since we've updated you on the work of the Search Committee. Several updates have appeared in previous editions of Reflections, and on Tuesday, August 17th we hosted a congregational meeting in the evening for those interested and able to join us.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

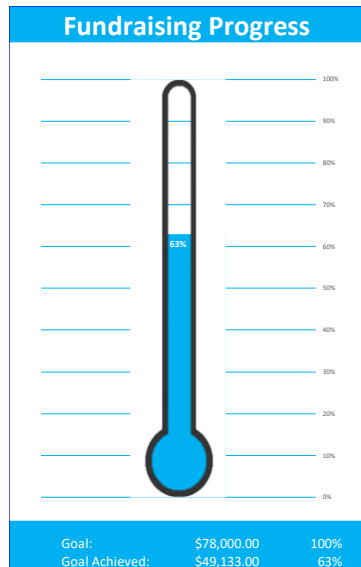
Congratulations to Jennifer Castonguay (Baker) on the birth of Madelyn Rose Castonguay, 7lbs 12 ounces, born on Thanksgiving day and to **Sue and Mark Baker**, grandparents. All are well!



A beautiful photo of Tom Gorman and Viola Butler. They will be dearly missed.



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 etransfer to office@rhuc.org , cheque or CanadaHelps.org. We have reached 63%



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

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 #2 - How to Be an Ally START LEARNING

Here are lists of terms that will help you get started on educating yourself on the history of Indigenous Peoples on Turtle Island. Educating yourself is an ongoing process. Change will not be easy and you will never truly be an expert on Indigenous challenges and realities but you can work in an allyship. A good rule of thumb is to ask yourself:

- How can I use this new information in my everyday life?
- What steps can I personally take to amplify marginalized voices that are too often silenced?
- What do I have and how can that be leveraged?
- How can I use my position & privileges to listen, shift power dynamics and take steps towards reconciliation?

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES ARE THE EXPERTS OF THEIR OWN REALITIES & HISTORIES.

Indigenous people are grandparents, parents, children, & siblings. They are doctors, teachers, social workers, entrepreneurs, & artists – they are human beings. Indigenous people are present and thriving in a country that expected them to die off and that continues to enforce structures of oppression [today](#)

TERMS THAT ARE NOT OKAY FOR YOU TO SAY:

- Indian
- Savage
- Half-breed
- Red skins
- Eskimo
- Squaw

Next week - Definitions

[Source: Montreal Aboriginal Community Strategy Network]

Orange Shirt Day Supplier

Shout out to our Supplier for this year's inaugural Orange Shirt Day (September 30)! James Hodgson (NishTees <https://www.nishtees.ca/>) donated \$13,315 from sales of their Orange Shirts to Nogojiwanong Friendship Centre in Peterborough. Check-out the centre's website <https://www.nogofc.ca/> for all the wonderful services and opportunities the Friendship Centre provides, including rekindling Anishinaabe language and culture.

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.

REGISTER

Next Week - Have you heard about Blue Door in York Region?

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. We know we will need mental health support through this crisis - and our kids will need support as well. We are hoping to host a bimonthly climate support drop-in. Susan Kagan (mental health educator/advocate) will be supporting us. 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)

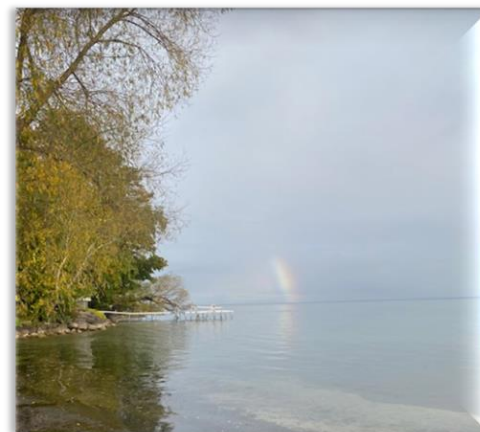
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83833323713?pwd=NEQxWWJZdWtRSE5wdXhBREFuR3RMZz09>

Meeting ID: 838 3332 3713 Passcode: 432526

Good News story: Getting to net zero: How Montreal tech company BrainBox AI radically reduces energy usage in buildings /The Star

<https://www.thestar.com/business/mars/2021/10/05/getting-to-net-zero-how-montreal-tech-company-brainbox-ai-radically-reduces-energy-usage-in-buildings.html>



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