



We will continue to livestream Sunday service 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 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, follow this link: [Order of Service](#) [Hymns](#)

We understand that this is a strange time, but we will get through it together. Whether you are choosing to stay home or to worship in-person, we are still one community, committed to care for one another with compassion and love.



Minister's Message: "Indigenous Lives Matter". Those words need to be repeated as often as "Black Lives Matter". And yet it would seem they aren't. At least that is my impression watching the news as Mi'kmaq fishers delivering their lobster catch to a certified processing plant are surrounded by a large crowd of non-Indigenous fishers. One Mi'kmaq fisher was told that they were ready to set fire to the plant to force him out. He watched from inside as a group of men urinated inside his van, slashed the tires and set the van alight. Adding to the trauma is that this took place while an inadequate number of RCMP were on the scene. Officials say they tried to mediate the situation but were unable to do so. Similar assurances were offered in Alberta after a protest organized by Black and Indigenous Alliance AB became violent when a white supremacist group showed up. While I sympathize with the officers in both incidents, feeling unable to do more than they could at the time, I question why there were not more police present, why more police didn't come to the scene, especially in regard to the incidents in New Edinburgh and Middle West Pubnico. The tensions have been escalating for several weeks now as Mi'kmaq fishers have been exercising their treaty right to fish "for a moderate livelihood" as upheld by the Supreme Court in 1999. The various treaties between settlers and Indigenous peoples all have one main value at their heart - for all of us to share this land and its resources in a spirit of respect. For generations Indigenous peoples have neither been given the means to share the land that has been their home for thousands of years, nor the respect that should be theirs, despite the fact that when settlers arrived in Nova Scotia, the Mi'kmaq and other nations offered them help when it became clear they were ill equipped to survive the harsh winter. They had no trouble in that moment saying "Settler Lives Matter", so why has it been so hard for the descendants of those same settlers to reciprocate? It shouldn't be difficult, especially if we are following the teaching of Jesus, grounded in his way of love, respect and justice for all. As I continue to watch coverage of this unfolding situation, I pray that the spirit of the treaties, rooted as they are in spiritual values of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, will finally be lived out in this country, that we will live in such a way that Indigenous lives truly do matter as much as everyone else's.

worship and music

Sunday, October 18: Though we have decided to remain officially closed for in-person worship this Sunday, we are still celebrating a baptism as well as bidding farewell to long-time member, Madeline Johnston. We will reflect on Matthew 22:15-22, where Jesus once again eludes a "trap" set by religious leaders, this time over the question of paying tax, as well as an excerpt from Paulo Coelho's *Warrior of the Light*. In "Render to Caesar?" James looks at our notions of church-state separation and the challenge of living the gospel in such a challenging time.

Sunday, October 25: We move forward to Matthew 22:34-46, where Jesus echoes the teaching of his Jewish heritage in asserting the importance of loving God and neighbour. Paired with an excerpt from a speech by gay activist Harvey Milk, James explores who we consider to be our neighbour and what it means to really love them.

Sunday, November 1: We celebrate All Saints Day and the beginning of Remembrance Month as we reflect on Matthew 5:1-12, the opening of the Sermon on the Mount commonly called "the Beatitudes". We will pause to remember loved ones who have died, especially those who passed away this year.



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.**

Worship Notes: Who would have thought that we would still be worshipping online in October? There are some advantages to a platform like Zoom. One is that we can share videos, giving us the chance to use some rich images in worship. Another is the ability to interact with each other, especially using the chat feature. For some people this feature really enhances their experience, especially being able to make a comment during the sermon, akin to an "Amen" or "Preach" in the interactive preaching style of some churches. As much as chat can be an aid for some it can be distracting for others. Rather than turn off chat for everyone, perhaps follow these instructions to disable chat notifications when you are viewing at home. You can only do this from a PC or a Mac:

1. Sign in to Zoom.
2. Click on Settings.
3. Select the Chat tab. You will see the chat notification settings.
4. Click the downward arrow next to the group name.
5. Click Notifications and do one of the following. Under "Push Notifications" choose "Nothing" to indicate that you don't want to receive notifications. Or click on "Mute Channel/Mute Chat" to diable this feature during your call.

Faith Exploration: Do you want to deepen your understanding of Christianity? Do you want to learn more about the United Church? Contact James for a link to Faith Exploration sessions on Zoom. The sessions begin on **October 18 at 12:30 pm**.

church news

A Goodbye and Tribute for Madeline Johnston prepared by Donna Smith, October 9, 2020: In these transient days of people moving from one place to another, it is refreshing to write about our friend Madeline who has lived in Richmond Hill for 78 years! And in the same house for 76 years!

Madeline Johnston, an only child, came with her parents to live on Carrville Road in 1942 when her father began working on a large fox farm located between Carrville Road and Major Mackenzie Drive, Yonge and Bathurst Streets. Two years later, the family purchased their home at 99 Mill Street and Madeline has lived there ever since. She married and had a son; he married and had a son who both moved away from Richmond Hill, but Madeline remained in her childhood house. She is moving to Lakefield where her son has a house with an ensuite apartment for her.

Madeline has been an active member of our community all these years. She has been a member of Richmond Hill United since arriving, and has been especially active with the United Church Women's organization. Willing to help wherever needed, Madeline has served on their Executive and for 25+ years has arranged for the food and volunteers for funeral receptions. Her creative skills have been shared making crafts for sales and table centre-pieces for many luncheons. One has to wonder just how many casseroles, cookies, sandwiches, squares, and her famous salmon loaf, she has made and brought to share! And for so many events, she has found her participation willingly washing dishes, saying that being short in stature, she was just the right height for the sinks!

Madeline has been a member of the Richmond Hill Garden & Horticultural Society for many years, attending meetings, bringing food to share and helping where she felt able. Her home is on a large lot and she has filled it with gardens, both floral and vegetables, starting plants from seeds and cuttings and nurturing them to beauty and harvest. About ten years ago, Madeline and two volunteers from the "Hort" went out to judge nominated gardens in their assigned area for recipients of a Front Garden Recognition sign, sponsored by the Hort, Royal LePage Realty and the Town of Richmond Hill. After a long, hot day together that July, both friends commiserated how exhausted they felt on their way home, just wanting to put their feet up and rest but not Madeline, who said as she got out of the car, she still had time that afternoon/evening to cut the grass on her large lot... I hasten to add that the other two ladies were much younger than Madeline!

The Richmond Hill Historical Society has been another interest of Madeline's for many years, attending meetings and helping with food and events. She has been the "go to" person to ask about Richmond Hill's past.

These words are a quick snapshot of the person who is loved by many neighbours and friends in her community. Madeline will be missed, her willingness to help causes and people in need, her very positive attitude and happy disposition which she shows in her smile and sense of humour. Madeline is a role model to many, but it is very hard to keep up with this 97- year-old wonderful person and citizen!

A word of thanks and some volunteer opportunities:

Back in March, very few of us foresaw the pandemic situation shifting from weeks into months. At the time we quickly pivoted to worship online augmented with recordings of music, all made possible with some incredibly dedicated volunteers. Much gratitude to Brandon, Glen, Howe and Paula for their help over these months. Thanks as well to the Transition Team who have been helping shift us to an in-person plus online format.

As we move forward, there are some ongoing tasks where help is needed.



Zoom host: This person launches Zoom each Sunday, lines up videos, makes connections between the various worship leaders, communicates with the camera operator and helps the service run smoothly in terms of Zoom;

Camera operator: This person operates the phone/camera each Sunday, helps cue the various worship leaders in the sanctuary and communicates with the Zoom host to help the service run smoothly from the sanctuary;

Audio Support: This person prepares the audio recordings of hymns, anthems and other music by editing them from previously recorded services, choir rehearsals and other recording sessions. The recordings are used to create the videos that accompany services. (James has been doing this and would be happy to teach someone how to use audio editing software. If he can do it, it is pretty easy to use.)



Updating our database: We need your picture! Please email the church office at office@rhuc.org with a current head shot of you and/or your family (in JPG format) by Oct. 30. Contact Julia Ye at 647-835-2767 if you would like her to come and take your picture.

programs for all

Shalom Seekers: Shalom Seekers will be resuming our meetings on Zoom starting this week on **Monday October 19th at 10am.** Please note that we are no longer meeting in Amos Wright Park. We will begin our study of a new book called **Holy Envy: Finding Faith in the Faith of Others** by Barbara Brown Taylor. In her book, BBT describes how she met a dry patch in her faith journey and how she found her way back to her faith by teaching Religion 101 at a small rural college. For October 19 we will look at the Introduction on pages 1-13.

Meeting reminders for our Zoom meetings will be sent on Sundays and will include links to join the Zoom meeting and phone numbers to attend by phone.

For further information, please contact Peg Hiscoke and Sandra Loughton.

RHUC Book Club: Please join the RHUC Book Club on **Wednesday, October 28th at 4 p.m.** to discuss the novel **FIVE LITTLE INDIANS** by Michelle Good. This new novel is on the Scotiabank Giller Prize longlist for November 2020. "*Five Little Indians is a heartbreaking and uplifting story about the lives of five kids who are taken and placed in a church-run residential school.*" (The Vancouver Sun). This may not be an easy read, but it seems like the perfect time for such a story. New members are always welcome to join us on Zoom. For more information, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Book Club Facilitator. An invitation for the Zoom meeting will be sent out on October 27th.

Weekly Meditation: Weekly meditation is Wednesday evenings from 6:30 - 7:15 in the Chapel with social distancing and please wear a mask.

outreach



Minute for Mission: Our gifts for Mission & Service support community ministries as well as Healing Fund projects like the weekly sharing circle at St. Matthews Maryland. This community ministry offers health and wellness programs to meet basic needs and help families thrive. One of the programs is a weekly sharing circle led by an Indigenous Knowledge Keeper, followed by a simple lunch. I was grateful to them for providing such a safe place for the participants to build relationships, learn about health issues, and support their goals for health and wellness.



WALKING UP MOUNTAINS



A VIRTUAL WALK FOR AFRICAN AIDS Thanksgiving to Dec 1st

Have you ever walked up a mountain?

A small contingent from our Hands and Hearts for Africa Walking Team are setting off to do just that! Please cheer on our team of Barb Cooper, Rose Blois, Linda Clark, Donna Harrison, Marg Hallett, Joanne Fotheringham and Peg Hiscoke. New walkers are still welcome to join us!

Our Challenge?

Starting on Thanksgiving weekend, we will begin our Virtual Walk up Africa's mountains, starting with Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's tallest mountain. Once we have reached the Kibo summit and returned to base, we plan to climb up other mountains. How many summits can we climb before we complete this challenge on December 1st, World AIDS Day?

Why are we doing this?

We are walking to remind you that Africa's grandmothers are facing a double challenge of AIDS plus Covid 19! To ensure a healthier and more resilient Africa, please consider donating in support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation during this Virtual Walk.

Donations can be made directly online at www.stephenlewisfoundation.org or by cheque to The Stephen Lewis Foundation, 260 Spadina Avenue, Suite 100, Toronto, Ontario, M5T2E4. Please include a note on the donation page online or on your cheque that you are supporting the "2020 Hands and Hearts for Africa Virtual Walk."

Our First Mountain

Kilimanjaro is the tallest free-standing mountain in the world at 19,341 feet (5895 m) and is part of the Eastern Rift Mountains in Tanzania. Its name means 'white mountain' but sadly the ice caps and glaciers are melting. This mountain has 3 volcanic cones and Kibo is the highest peak.

50,000 people climb Kilimanjaro every year and 65% make it to the top. The most successful climbs allow for acclimatisation at different altitudes and take 7-9 days. There are 6 routes to the Kibo summit and our team will combine efforts to climb all 6. We chose October to begin as this month offers the best weather for climbing. Total walking distance is 662 kms (410 miles) from base to summit and back again.

For more information about the Stephen Lewis Foundation's work or to join our walking team, please contact Donna Harrison or Peg Hiscoke at handsandhearts@live.ca.

Go, fish! Cheer on the migrating salmon in Toronto this weekend | CBC News

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/go-fish-cheer-on-the-migrating-salmon-in-toronto-this-weekend-1.5763415>

Tips for people living alone

- "This is a time for social approaching," even if it's from a physical distance, said psychology professor Joordens. Get back in touch with family or friends you haven't talked to for a while. Think of new people to contact who might be in the same situation as you and appreciate the connection.
- If video chats have become tiresome or you're not feeling connected, try the "old-fashioned telephone," Joordens said. Phone conversations often require more attention and listening than Zoom chats.
- Make appointments to talk to someone regularly. Make it clear it doesn't matter if you don't have anything in particular to talk about — you can even watch TV and talk about it.
- Music can be a great way to boost your mood — and someone else's. Make a playlist that takes someone back to a fun time in their life or includes tunes they want to belt out.
- If you have a hobby you love, such as cooking or baking, consider posting a video of your activity and build an online community, Joordens said.
- Remember the basics for both physical and mental well-being: keeping a routine, eating well, sleeping well and exercising.
- It's normal not to feel OK sometimes. But if you are in distress, reach out to a friend or family member. [Click here for a list of other places to get help.](#)
- INTERACTIVE [How close are we to a vaccine for COVID-19?](#)

"Now & Then" Podcast: As infection numbers go up, many people are feeling anxious. This is understandable. These words of Henri Nouwen remind us of a love that is stronger than our anxiety, a love that is holding us in these challenging times.

Well-known Christian author and activist Shane Claiborne joins us on "Henri Nouwen, Now & Then," calling us to let love and justice be the signature of our lives in these challenging times.

[Listen to the Podcast](#)

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