



worship and music

Minister's Message: This Sunday is World Communion Sunday. The day that Christians all over the world share in the ancient sacred meal, remembering Jesus' last meal with his disciples. There are many elements that when you first look at the bulletin may wonder how they all come together. How does a Christmas carol fit in with World Communion? It actually fits very well! In the Bleak Midwinter is a song of hope in adversity. The scripture for this week is about finding miracles in adversity. The act of communion is finding hope from the last supper, Jesus last meal on earth before his crucifixion.

I was walking in downtown Toronto when I saw this image of boots laid at the feet of the statue of Jesus and knew I needed to take a picture, because it symbolizes for me the verse from the In the Bleak Midwinter: "What can I give him, poor as I am, if I were a shepherd I bring a lamb, if I were a wise one, I would do my part. Yet what I can I give him, give him my heart.

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 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

Shalom Seekers: Shalom Seekers will gather on Zoom at **10 a.m. on Monday, October 4**. This week we will be focussing on the National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (September 30th) and catch up with one another. A Zoom invitation will be sent out on Sunday evening. New members are welcome to join us to talk about faith in our daily lives, current events, discuss books and DVDs, and much more. Please speak to Sandra Loughton or anyone in Shalom Seekers for more information.



Women's Spirituality will gather **Saturday October 9th at 10:00**. We are hoping to go for a fall walk and enjoy being in nature together, giving thanks for Creation on the Thanksgiving weekend. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will meet at the church; firm plans will be in next week's Reflections. Contact person: Donna Smith 905-884-6307.

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.

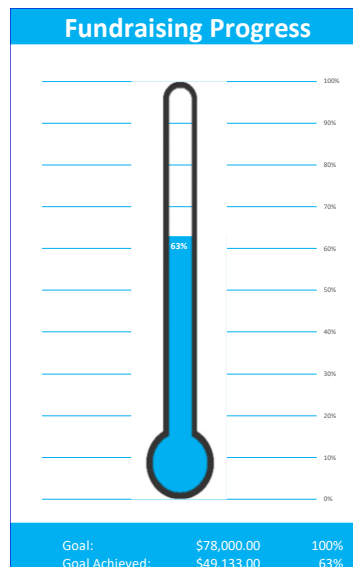
The Vanishing Half is a multi-generational family saga set between the 1940s to the 1990s and centres on identical twin sisters, Desiree and Stella Vignes. The two light-skinned black sisters were raised in the fictional town of Mallard, Louisiana. Desiree and Stella take very different paths in life. 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: Stay tuned for more information coming about this event on **Sunday, Oct. 17 at 1:00 p.m.** via Zoom.

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!

outreach

Landscape of Nations - Queenston Heights

Last Sunday a video was shared of the **Landscape of Nations** recognition, from Queenston Heights, Niagara-On-The-Lake. If you missed it or would like to re-watch it, please click on the following link <https://youtu.be/i4nbgeiornQ> For more information go to... <https://www.niagaraparks.com/things-to-do/landscape-of-nations-virtual-visit>

How to be an Ally

As mentioned in last week's video, there's no time like the present to begin thinking about how you can be an Ally with our Indigenous Peoples. We'll begin this week with...

"SO YOU WANT TO BE AN ALLY."

When it comes to creating a positive & sustainable impact on the lives of Indigenous Peoples it is important to understand the role that an individual occupies and plays within the collective experience. The term ally has been around for some time, and recently many critics say that it has lost its original meaning.

Instead of being used to identify one's role within a collective struggle, it has come to symbolize a token identity – a kind of "badge" that people wear to show they are one of the "good guys".



There are multiple terms a person can use when identifying the role that they actively play within anti-oppressive work. Neither is better than the other and regardless of what you call yourself, each role plays an important part in this kind of work. Many want to be an ally, which is why this pamphlet focuses on that term. However, being an ally is not a self-appointed identity and requires you to show your understanding through actions, relations, and recognition by the community.

What is an _____?

ALLY

Being an ally is about disrupting oppressive spaces by educating others on the realities and histories of marginalized people.

ACCOMPLICE

An accomplice works within a system and “directly challenges institutionalized/systemic racism, colonization, and white supremacy by blocking or impeding racist people, policies, and structures”.

CO-RESISTOR

Being a co-resistor is about standing together, as an ensemble, in resistance against oppressive forces and requires constant learning.

It is combining theory and practice by establishing relationships and being deeply involved within a community that informs how one listens critically, understands an issue and influences the way they go about disrupting oppressive institutions and systemic systems.

Next week - Step #1 How to be an Ally

[Source: Montreal Aboriginal Community Strategy Network]

H.I.P - Honouring Indigenous Peoples (Rotary)

OCTOBER 9, 2021 – Indigenous Fall Land-based Walk

Location: Live Online

Participants: Open to all youth Grades 9 – 11 across Canada

Join us for an authentic cultural experience that connects you to nature. More information will be provided to those who register. Event is sponsored by HIP | Honouring Indigenous Peoples www.RotaryHIP.com

Canadian Registered Charity Number: 885709212RR0001

You can reach out to us at: info@hipally.com or 647.478.8620



net zero

In late August, the IPCC put out the [6th Assessment Report](#) on the climate crisis. We had been told in the [October 2018 report](#) that 1.5°C increase in warming would bring changes with risks humans could accept, but 2°C or higher warming would bring risks that we would deeply regret and that would be long-term climate changes. The new report indicates that we are currently on a trajectory to reach 3°C above normal by 2100.

The Summary for Policy Makers gives the main points in somewhat simpler language. I also find the [IPCC Press Release](#) is easier to understand. In it we find this statement:

The report provides new estimates of the chances of crossing the global warming level of 1.5°C in the next decades, and finds that unless there are immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, limiting warming to close to 1.5°C or even 2°C will be beyond reach.

Richmond Hill United Church is acting on the information in this report by communicating its content to the congregation and by instituting changes in the physical church. We also want to help our congregation make the lifestyle changes necessary. Please contact me (targetclimatechange@gmail.com) if you want to talk about this (I can set up a zoom call if you want to talk).

DO NOT DOUBT THAT THERE IS STILL A WAY TO FOR THE PLANET TO **NOT** PASS THE 1.5°C THRESHOLD. If we can do this, the evidence suggests that some cooling would occur by the end of the century (many changes, such as the loss of our ice sheets, will not be brought back for centuries to millennia unfortunately).

These changes will require organization and willingness on our part. This week we remember the incredible response in a short time by the people of Gander. We can do this as well - but we need that spirit of generosity in all of us.

Please attend one of the two Lunch and Learn Sessions:
October 24

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

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.

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.