

Halloween is the ancient pagan festival of the dead, the night when the veil between this world and the next world becomes thin, the night that those who have gone before us are celebrated. Halloween is also the eve of All Saints Day, when we celebrate those saints of our faith whose example we try to follow.

This Sunday we will be exploring the importance of friendship, Harry Potter realizes how much he needs his friends when he tries to go alone into a challenging situation. Ruth and Naomi rely on each other in the journey to Bethlehem. Friends embody the greatest commandment, to love one another.

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.

worship and music

Minister's Message: Happy Halloween! Some of you may think that Halloween is something that should not be celebrated, that it has no place in the church, but this couldn't be further from the truth! Halloween, like many of our festivals has pagan roots, like Christmas is rooted in the Winter Solstice and the longest night, Easter is the Goddess of creation who appears in the form of a rabbit.

Sunday, October 31, 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, November 1st at 10 a.m. on Zoom** to begin a discussion of the memoir, *The Other Side of the River: From Church Pew to Sweat Lodge* by Rev. Alf Dumont. For this coming week, please Chapters 1 and 2. New members are always welcome. Please speak to anyone who attends Shalom Seekers for more information, or contact Sandra Loughton, Facilitator.

Monday Meditation: There is a Monday meditation between 12:30 and 1:00 p.m. continuing from last winter. Please contact Julia or DJ for more information.



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: 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

Update from your Search Committee: We continue to meet weekly, and sometimes more often than that. Now that our profile is "live" on ChurchHub, we are receiving applications for the full-time ministerial position at RHUC. We have spent time reviewing the skills and gifts of a number of ministry personnel along with our ministry priorities.

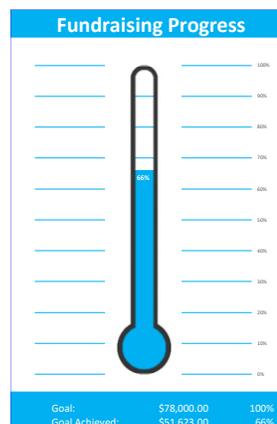
Just this past week, we decided to go ahead with the first round of interviews. Please pray that we will be open to the gifts and passions of each one who responds to our profile.

Due to Covid concerns, we have chosen to go with Zoom interviews at this time rather than in-person gatherings. We are working hard to create a safe and welcoming virtual space for the candidates.

Please keep in mind that, for reasons of confidentiality, committee members can't go into detail about candidates at this time, but we will be in touch as soon as there is more information we can share with you.

The next milestone will occur once all the interviews have been completed and references have been checked. At that point in the process, you will be hearing from the RHUC Board who will call a congregational meeting to consider the recommendation of the Search Committee.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the committee or write to us at the committee's e-mail address: rhuc.searchcommittee@gmail.com. Thank you again for the trust and confidence you have placed in each of us. 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 etransfer to



office@rhuc.org , cheque or CanadaHelps.org.

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

outreach

Step #2 - How to Be an Ally - Things Not to Say
"CANADA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES" or "OUR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES"

The Indigenous Peoples on Turtle Island are not owned by Canada or by any individual, which is the way the language makes it out to sound. Try to say "the Indigenous Peoples of what we now call Canada" instead.

"YOU PEOPLE WERE CONQUERED"

Surviving genocide is a revolutionary act and by saying this you are both condoning and celebrating genocide.

"THE INDIGENOUS CULTURE"

This is too broad considering that hundreds of Indigenous communities, nations, languages and cultures exist within Canada. Instead of singular, try using plural forms instead. Even better, try being specific about the nation to avoid pan-Indigenizing. I.e. "My Kanien'kehá:ka friends from Kahnawà:ke" or "the many Indigenous cultures."



“CAN YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE FORGIVE MY PEOPLE FOR WHAT WE DID?”

Guilt should not be the main reason for why you want to be a part of ally work. On top of that, no one Indigenous person can forgive an entire population, nor are they the spokesperson for the entire Indigenous population. As you educate yourself, you may grapple with these feelings of guilt and that is completely normal but what are more important are the steps and actions that you take afterwards – not being forgiven.

“ DON’T YOU JUST GET OVER IT?”

Inuit were still being forcefully relocated well-into the 1950’s and First Nations were not allowed to vote in federal elections until 1960. The last residential school was closed in 1996. Today, Indigenous children make up over half of all children in child care. These recent acts of colonization did not happen hundreds of years ago and Indigenous people are still healing and dealing with oppressive structures. One does not recover from traumatic events overnight, much less systemic oppression that took place over hundreds of years and that continues to this day.

"YOU'RE INDIGENOUS? YOU MUST BE AN ALCOHOLIC"

This is incorrect, perpetuates false stereotypes, and is a generalizing and discriminatory view to have. Even if you are referencing a joke you heard, just avoid saying this altogether.

Next week - Step #3

[Source: *Montreal Aboriginal Community Strategy Network*]

On-Line Mental Health First Aid Training - 2 day (afternoon) course Thursday, November 18, 2021 - 1:00pm to Friday, November 19, 2021 - 4:30pm

COVID has had a strong impact on the mental health of our entire community. Now, more than ever, there is a strong need for mental health education. [Read More](#)

High Notes Concert for Mental Health - in person at RHCPA Thursday, November 18, 2021 - 8:00pm

This Concert for Mental Health features exceptional artists and personalities sharing their experience with mental illness.

net zero



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.

After looking at Richmond Hill’s Climate targets, attendees created their own climate action plans and discussed gaps in information, skills, resources. Wonderfully, we were able to share our own resources, skills, information to fill at least some of these gaps. Each of our voices was very important in the conversations that ensued. If you could not attend, you were missed as the more voices we have, the more likely we are to be successful in creating a future that is livable for the next generation.

Here is a link to the slide show that was presented (which has links to Richmond Hill programs and resources, IPCC reports, and other informative sites and/or opportunities):

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1zQUqzuOTmDWG7_aLHEW2I6nsVH9hU-PG9a6r2Wk2fa8/edit?usp=sharing

There is also a recording of the event

available: https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/qwyaruSckx_DJEXyow_m4u2K_LtGEU793UR8I9BFFIARlmFjctBbV_BCA7fBKYQ.eu99x07nbVwPbDvU Passcode: &ab%46&c

Lunch and Learns - Personal Climate Action Planning

Choose a reasonable amount of items you want to begin before December. One item may be enough for you or you may want to choose several and rank them in the order you will work on them.

Order To Do	Items	Needs that keep you from achieving your goal. Bring these questions to the next meeting.
Transportation - 40% of Richmond Hill's Planned Emission Reductions		
	Buy a new electric vehicle to replace your older gas-fueled vehicle	
	Learn about Electric Vehicles by exploring Plug-In Drive and begin setting money aside for your next vehicle	
	Look up all the funding available from the city, province, and federal government for buying zero-emission vehicles	
	Take the bus to allow for a week without driving the car	
	Ride a bike or walk for trips under 5 km	

If you would like to begin your own climate action planning, please feel free to use this template to choose some actions you could take:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Pb0Tci4StzrmRt4mvi78y_gur_BS1TnYh5eeynm_J4jA/edit?usp=sharing

If you have questions about information/skills/resources that you need, I have access to experts who can usually answer them quickly. Feel free to send them to targetclimatechange@gmail.com.

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=M2pCMUsvZVUbTzkQTdYeEd3YXZSZz09>

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:

We are the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Eco Council at Earl Haig Secondary School. Like other students in the school, we have concerns about our future beyond the pandemic - and about the climate crisis in particular.

The Eco Council is planning a virtual Target Climate event 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).

Earl Haig Secondary School Eco Council is hosting a **virtual Target Climate** event!

If we do not take action, the current evidence says that the next generation, our generation, will face an unjust future filled with economic and climate extremes.

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-18931752897>

Note: This event will be recorded and the recording will be given to all attendees.

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

This event will be about sharing expertise, information, and encouragement to get **climate actions started here in Willowdale**. We want you to meet your neighbours who have bought electric vehicles, installed solar panels and heat pumps, retrofitted their homes, begun eating vegetarian meals, and advocated for climate action.

We want you to attend our event and we want some help with promoting our event. You can help promote this event by sharing our flyer (attached below) on your websites or social media sites, promoting it in the windows of your businesses, or by sharing the information with friends and family who may be interested.

We are looking forward to seeing you there!

Please feel free to forward this email to other people who may be interested in the event or who can help promote the event.

Thank you very much,
Eco Council Chair, Erica Chu

HAPPY HALLOWE'EN!!



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.