



On Sunday, September 27, we are reopening for in-person worship.

If you plan to attend, please be aware of the following:

1. It is important that you pre-register. To help make sure that everyone who attends is healthy, remember to register on the Thursday before at the earliest. You have until the Saturday before to let us know if you are coming. Please also let us know if you can no longer attend. We have placed a maximum capacity of 50 people in the sanctuary for the first 2-3 month to help us ensure that we are keeping everyone as safe as possible. Please follow this link to Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/worship-service-tickets-118039281669>. You can also call the church and leave a voicemail via extension 3.
2. Before you enter, be sure to maintain 2 m between household groups and read the screening questions. While you are outside, we are making sure the space is clean and ready for you to come in.
3. When you enter, you will be asked if you have read the questions. It is imperative that you answer them honestly. If you think you may have been in contact with someone who is positive for COVID-19 or you are feeling unwell, say so, and better yet, stay home.
4. You must wear a mask or one will be provided for you. Please give a free-will offering for the mask you are given. You will be asked to sanitize your hands.
5. Those who arrive first will be seated at the front. The church will be filled from there to the back. It is very important that household groups all sit 2 m apart (1 parent per 2 children is the maximum). It is also important that we avoid cross-traffic. This means that if you need to get up to use the washroom, you need to follow the arrows and return to your seat following one direction of travel. This also means that those seated last will exit the church first.

6. Because we cannot pass objects between us, collection envelopes are placed in a box upon exiting. If you are not yet giving through pre-authorized remittance (PAR) from your bank, now is a great time to shift over. We also accept donations through CanadaHelps.
7. There is no fellowship time following in-person worship. We are looking at ways to build community with each other while still honouring health protocols. One option we are exploring is hosting family-friendly outdoor activities.
8. We will still be broadcasting the service through Zoom and posting the recorded services (and sermons) on Facebook and YouTube.

We will also 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:

[Home Prayers](#) [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: I am guessing you have probably seen videos of altercations as well as protests over the wearing of masks. I saw a couple recently. One is of a woman in a Calgary fabric store who when pressed to wear a mask suggested that those who wear one are just "sheep" and so giving away their rights. Another is of a group of people walking through a store, yelling at people to take off their masks, almost as if they are freedom fighters. Given that scientific data increasingly suggests wearing a mask is a way to lower the risk of spreading novel coronavirus, many people feel those who don't wear a mask are being irresponsible. For some it is even a visible sign of the care they're showing others. But for those in the videos, wearing a mask is the opposite. They feel they are fighting for all of our rights by their refusal. What are we to do given this growing divisiveness? The altercation in Calgary makes one thing clear - forcefulness can worsen the situation. Experience from the AIDS pandemic of the 1980s is helpful for our situation. The most effective campaigns to help lower HIV transmission were those that educated people about the risks associated with various activities and offered proactive solutions. The least effective were those that moralistically and aggressively called people out for "bad behaviour". Like then, a more gentle response will go a long way. Given the uncertainty many feel because of the pandemic, the choice to not wear a mask is one of the few ways that people can regain some control. It may make many of us scratch our heads, but in the long run calm conversations will be more effective in changing people's minds about following protocols. As aggrieved as we may be at someone not wearing a mask, compassion rather than confrontation seems the better course. This doesn't mean we don't need mandates and fines and the occasional intervention of a manager or even security. But in this unsettling and confusing time for all of us, a dose of love and understanding will go a long way.

worship and music

Sunday, September 20: As we look at our last churchy word, "salvation", we reflect together on Matthew 20:1-16, the parable of the labourers who are hired at various times of the day and all are paid the same amount. Jesus' words flip our world upside down and yet his "the first will be last and the last will be first" teaching is an important lens through which to understand how God restores the world and all of us to wholeness. Three adults and one child are welcomed into the church through the sacrament of baptism.

Sunday, September 27: We reopen the sanctuary for in-person worship as we mark our first "Ember Day" of the program year. We reflect together on Psalm 19 as we take time to give thanks for all of creation. People are free to continue joining in worship via Zoom.

Sunday, October 4: We come together both in-person and online. We celebrate World Communion Sunday. Those coming to worship in-person are reminded to "BYOC" (bring your own bread and "wine" for communion) while those logging in on Zoom are sure to be ready to share communion at home.

A Familiar Face in a New Role: We are pleased to announce that Julia Ye will be joining the ministry team at RHUC from September through to April for her ministry internship. For the last few years Julia has been studying theology and the practice of ministry at Tyndale University. Julia's particular interest is in intercultural ministry. Welcome aboard Julia!

Sunday offering: RHUC, like other churches, depends on donations and rentals to pay our bills. Our building continues to cost money even while closed and we continue to keep our employees working, albeit in ways that are different from normal tasks. 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 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.



church news

Archives: Are you interested in our church history? A volunteer to look after our archives is needed. Contact Deb in church office.

programs for all

Shalom Seekers: Shalom Seekers will be meeting **this Monday, September 21st, at 10 a.m.** at Amos Wright Park on Church Street (formerly Dora Lamb's garden). Please bring your own folding chair and your coffee or tea. If it rains, we will meet on Zoom as before. Sandra or Peg will contact people by e-mail on Sunday evening after checking the weather forecast for Monday morning. If you don't have a folding chair, please let us know and we will bring an extra one for you. Newcomers are always welcome. If interested in joining us, please contact Sandra Loughton or Peg Hiscoke.

RHUC Book Club: Please join us on Zoom by video or phone on **Wednesday, September 23rd** (the 4th Wednesday) at 4 p.m. to discuss **A Man Called Ove** by Swedish writer Fredrik Backman. We have a book club set of 15 books from the library. Existing members will receive an invitation e-mail prior to the meeting, but new members are always welcome to join the club. Please contact me at bookgirl8@hotmail.com for more information. *Sandra Loughton*

Zoom Coffee Time: Thursday Zoom Coffee Time is at 10:30 a.m. weekly. Contact Deb for info.

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

Pub Theology: We meet online once again to discuss faith, spirituality and life's big questions. The next online gathering is on **Fri., Sept. 25 at 7:30 PM.**

Celebrating the Autumnal Equinox: On **Sunday, September 20**, Three Rivers Forest Church will host a meditation walk and celebration of harvest. **Meet at 19 Church St. S. at 3 pm.** Be sure to wear a mask and bring your own refreshments.

Centring Prayer Workshop: Have you been feeling stressed and thought that meditation may be of help? Have you heard James preach about prayer and contemplation, and want to learn more? Are you curious about the tradition of Centring Prayer? Then mark down **Saturday, September 26 from 1 - 5 pm** on your calendar. Sue Woolard and Mary Catherine Doyle from Contemplative Outreach Ontario will be offering a Zoom based workshop on Centring Prayer. Email James (james@rhuc.org) for more information.

outreach

Jubilee: New Hope for our Planet: An online free event on **Sunday September 27th from 3:00-4:30** to celebrate the beauty and wonders of planet earth, to lament the destruction that has become a serious threat, creating Climate Change Emergencies world-wide; and to find New Hope for our Planet. This is our Common Home, let's come together to discuss what we can do individually and collectively to protect and care for our planet. The Covid-19 may have constrained us but it has also awakened in us the need and potential to care for our earth. This event is organized by Richmond Hill United Church, St. Mary's Anglican Church and Neighbours for the Planet. Visit neighboursfortheplanet.ca for more information and to register through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/jubilee-new-hope-for-our-planet-tickets-119333956075>

On **September 30**, people all across Canada will wear orange shirts to remember and honour Indigenous children who attended Residential Schools. Indigenous Ministries and Justice at The United Church of Canada asks you to participate in Orange Shirt Day!

This message is for all music directors, musicians and music enthusiasts throughout Shining Waters Regional Council

We invite you into a time of conversation and contemplation around our shared music ministry. Throughout the region we have seen varying ways in which music is being engaged in our communities of faith. I want to invite each of you to attend conversations that will be happening throughout the region around music in communities of faith. Our first conversations will be focused on: getting to know one another and our needs during this time. Each meeting will only be an hour in length, and we will adhere to that time frame for people's schedules. There will be three dates and times for conversation, if one of these dates or times fit into your schedule it would be great to see you.

The following dates/times are:

1. Wednesday, September 23rd – 1 pm – 2pm

Zoom Link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/94941232590>

2. Tuesday, September 29th – 7 pm – 8 pm

Zoom Link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/92559187895>

3. Wednesday, September 30th – 7 pm – 8 pm

Zoom Link: <https://united-church.zoom.us/j/98135329683>

To register, please contact me, Jeffrey Dale, at jdale@united-church.ca to let us know that you are planning on attending.



Minute for Mission: Mission & Service-funded global partner the Cuban Council of Churches has united two goals in a pilot project: encouraging sustainable farming and creating churches that are more inclusive of people with disabilities. Twenty families in four provinces in Cuba receive farming support and pastoral care. Farmers diversify their skills, gain more autonomy, and improve their families' resilience. Ernesto González, the project coordinator, is an agronomist who lives with partial paralysis. He offers support to farmers who may have visual impairments, intellectual disabilities, damaged hands, or other challenges, explaining that the project meets a need for inclusion while supporting economic improvement. An important part of the project includes participants giving back to their communities and to other people living with disabilities. For example, one man who has an intellectual disability works with his parents to produce a variety of vegetable crops, and then they share some of their produce with a seniors' home. "Our emphasis is to support these people first with what they want to do," says Ernesto. Funds raised are used to provide small grants so families can buy seeds, small animals, or whatever they need to improve their farms.

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.