



**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 the office at [office@rhuc.org](mailto: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.

**Minister's Message:** It is my honour to be sharing this message with you this week. My name is Ruth Noble, and I will be with you for the short-term until you find your full-time minister. It feels a little like coming home. I know some of you and the physical plant of the church as I was one of the ministers at Thornhill United Church from 2008-2015, and had meetings and lunches with your then ministers Linda Butler and Warren McDougall, as well as serving on Paul Shepherd's discernment committee. In that time I served on Presbytery first York and then Living Waters and most recently I was at the General Council Office in Mission & Service. I am looking forward to being with you for awhile.

As we begin a new Fall season, we enter a time of creation; our world is and will be a very different place now and going forward, in some ways through the virtual world we are more connected than ever and in other ways we feel more isolated. This Sunday will be my first with you, and we will reflect on faith in action found in The Letter of James Chapter 2 verses 1-17, that are echoed in the words of Dr. Seuss "A person's a person no matter how small".

In the coming weeks we will reflect on wisdom found in the Book of Proverbs and popular culture, most specifically through the lens of Daniel Levy, and we will also discover tools to equip ourselves to share peace in unexpected ways inspired by the words of the Prophet Micah.

Some days to mark on your calendar are:  
**September 21 - International Day of Peace**, the day that we lift up movements that are working for peace in the world.

**September 30 - Orange Shirt Day**, the day we remember that Every Child Matters. We wear orange to remember Indigenous Children who were sent to Residential School, some of who never came home again. Orange has become the colour of the "Every Child Matters" movement thanks to the story of Phyllis Webstad who as a child was sent to school in a shirt in her favourite colour: orange. When Phyllis arrived at school she was forced to change from the orange shirt to a grey uniform, and she never saw the orange shirt again.

It is my hope that we will all be able to be together in the Sanctuary soon, but until that time, I look forward to seeing you online.

Blessings,  
 Rev. Ruth Noble

## worship and music

[September 5 - order of service](#) [Hymns](#)

**September 5:** We welcome Rev. Ruth Noble.



**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](mailto: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

**Women's Spirituality:** We will gather on **Saturday September 11th at 10:00**. Program and place plans to come next issue. 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 – 8:30 pm. Because of the federal election on Monday, September 20, the first meeting of the fall will be on **Monday September 27. 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 [dbrown@yorku.ca](mailto:dbrown@yorku.ca)

**Shalom Seekers:** Regular programming will resume in September either on Zoom or in person depending on the gathering recommendations at that time. For more information about the group, please contact Sandra Loughton.

**RHUC Book Club:** We will resume our meetings on **Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>** to discuss **THE BOOK OF LONGINGS** by Sue Monk Kidd. This book of historical fiction starts with the premise: What if Jesus had been married? His bride is the narrator of this fascinating novel. You will be transported back in time! We will decide before that time if we'll be meeting on Zoom at 4 p.m. or in person at the church and whether we'll return to the 7 p.m. meeting time.

On Wednesday, October 27 to discuss **THE VANISHING HALF** by Brit Bennett. Time: To be determined.

For more details about the book club, please speak to Sandra Loughton, Facilitator. New members warmly welcome in the fall!

**Secret Friends:** At RHUC, five of our youth starting college or university, most living away from home and church. We have a ministry where a volunteer from the congregation is matched a youth and they keep in touch with them during the school year with cards and notes, just to let them know we are thinking of them. All this is kept a secret from parents and the congregation; just the volunteer and I know about this arrangement. **Please consider being a Secret Friend** and let me know of your interest. Thanks.

Donna Smith, Coordinator, 905-884-6307

## church news

### News from the Board and Transition Team:

The Transition Team and Board have developed a plan to re-start in-person worship in the sanctuary, while we continue to have on-line worship. Our primary consideration in this plan is the health and well-being of the congregation, particularly in light of the Delta variant. While we believe this is the best plan we can make for now, we know it is a compromise in terms of some of our core values. The situation simply does not allow us to be as inclusive and hospitable as we would like. We ask for your patience and understanding, and we remain committed to restoring our usual practices as quickly as possible.

**Our plan for re-opening:** Our first Sunday for in-person worship will be **October 3rd - World Wide Communion Sunday**. There will be a limit of up to 50 people on the main floor and 25 people in the balcony. Entrance to the Sanctuary will be ONLY through the front doors on Yonge St. Masks and social distancing will be mandatory.

### Pre-Registration – Proof of Double-Vaccination:

We need to know that everyone over 12 years who wants to attend in person has been double-vaccinated. No exceptions will be made at this time for those who are unable to receive the Covid vaccination. Those who are not double vaccinated will be invited to join worship on line. The church office will compile a list of all members/friends of the congregation who are double-vaccinated. It will include your name, your telephone and e-mail (for contact tracing if necessary,) and the date of your second vaccination. The purpose of making this list is to reduce the time it takes on Sundays to welcome you when you come to worship. We know it is a bit of a process, but we will walk you through it, and it only needs to be done once.

**Registering for Sunday attendance:** You will need to register online through Eventbrite every week you wish to attend worship in person. You may register at any time up to Friday at 5:00 p.m. for the upcoming Sunday only. This will be an easy process. More information will follow as we get closer to opening.

**Attending on Sunday:** You will be greeted by members of our friendly welcome team and your name will be checked against the list of registrants for that week. If you are not registered, you are not able to attend. No walk-ins are allowed. You will be asked to review some screening questions. If the answer to all questions is “No”, you will be welcomed into the sanctuary and shown to a seat. We will be filling the sanctuary from front to back. Seats are physically distanced.

Thank you everyone, for your continued support.



**Greetings from Newfoundland!** This week marks a month since I began my ministry with the folks of St. James United Church in St. John's and six weeks since all of our belongings arrived from the mainland. It is different to buy a house you



have only seen online. It turns out that the rooms were bigger, the ceilings higher and the backyard smaller than what we thought.

But walls have been painted, furniture placed and boxes unpacked. Thank you so much for your generous gifts as we departed. As you can see in the photos, the paintings have pride of place in the study and we were able to buy a new sofa for the living room. The guest room is ready to go, so let us know when you are coming for a visit.



Glen has been happily working on his podcast and is considering writing a cozy mystery. As for me, I am getting used to a new context, learning new names, meeting the chairs of this committee and the other, and doing some good planning with my new teammate. There are many differences between RHUC and SJUC, not the least of which we are able to have in person worship services here on the Island. It has been interesting getting used to preaching to people rather than a camera again. Of course, there are many similarities as well and so I will put what I learned in my years with you to good use. We achieved much together but equally so you will do much with whomever comes along to walk with you. You are a truly gifted group of people. So friends, be assured of my abiding love and continued prayers.

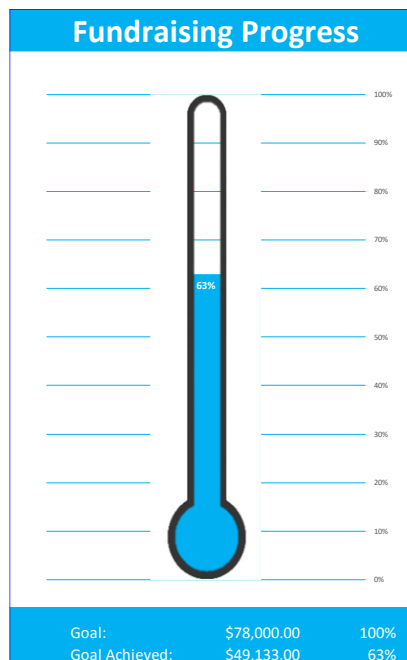
Keep sharing who you are and be well. *James*

**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**



If you have ordered a shirt or would like to purchase a shirt, you can pick it up in the office on **Tues., Sept. 14, 21, 28** between **10 – 12 and 2 – 5.**

**\*Update\* Orange Shirt Day is now a Federal Stat Holiday**

On July 20th, the Government of Canada announced they'd passed legislation making **September 30th The National Day for Truth & Reconciliation** - including declaring it a Federal statutory holiday.

Orange Shirt Day was created as an observance in 2013, and is designed to educate people and promote awareness in Canada about the residential school system and the impact it has had on Indigenous communities for over a century—an impact recognized as a cultural genocide, and an impact that continues today. With the recent discoveries of unmarked graves at residential school sites across the country, there has been an increasing awareness and more questions about what actions are appropriate to show support for Indigenous people at this time.







If you'd like to show your support for this day by wearing your own orange shirt, please send \$25 along with the size or shirt you require (child's S, M, L, Adult S, M, L, XL) to the office at Richmond Hill United Church. Richmond Hill United Church is ordering orange shirts from an Indigenous vendor for those of you who are interested. Payment can be sent by e transfer to [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), or a cheque can be dropped off at the church (there is a mail slot on the Centre Street door if the building is closed).

### Y2Y Engagement event at Camp Kawartha (Update)

HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples) Districts 7070 & 7010. With the recent increase in COVID cases and the uncertainty of the impact on youth going back into classrooms in September, there is potentially considerable risk to youth being placed in camp rooms together overnight. The committee has taken the concerns seriously and is re-engineering and extending the program. Regretfully, the in-person camp planned for October 21, 2021 will be rescheduled for the fall of 2022. We are still seeking your help with sponsorship and youth outreach. Leading up to this date, we will be hosting a number of activities with an updated schedule as follows:

#### SEPTEMBER 28, 2021 – Youth Cultural Safety Education

Location: Live Online

Participants: Open to Youth Grades 9 – 11 across Canada

Attendance: Limited to 450 participants

Both Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Youth are invited to attend this essential culture education. The program is delivered by effective, qualified and professional First Nations, Métis and Inuit presenters. All presenters have significant experience in reconciliation and Indigenous awareness education. The presenters will provide and speak to First Nations, Métis and Inuit heritage and culture.

#### 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](http://www.RotaryHIP.com)  
 Canadian Registered Charity Number: 885709212RR0001  
 You can reach out to us at: [info@hipally.com](mailto:info@hipally.com) or 647.478.8620



In recognition of the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on **September 30, 2021**, the City of Richmond Hill and the Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts are honoured to be hosting this virtual event featuring guest speaker and residential school survivor Dawn Hill. Dawn spent her early childhood living on the Six Nations of the

Grand River, the largest First Nations Reserve in Canada. Dawn was one of the 15,000 students who attended the Mohawk Institute, known as “The Mush Hole” due to the bland porridge served daily as breakfast to the students. She attended the institute from 1957 to 1961 and was known as Number 54. She will share her experiences at the institute including her first night in a dorm and her life in an atmosphere of violence. Today, Ms. Hill is a retired teacher of 28 years and serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the [Mohawk Village Memorial Park](#). This on-line event will follow the format of the other speaker series - an approximately one-hour Zoom webinar presentation, followed by a Q&A session.

This is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the personal impact of the residential school system and hence, to walk the path of gathering truth and seeking reconciliation. Creating this national holiday was one of the [Calls of Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Report](#)

**Tickets:** \$10 (taxes and handling fees included). Click [HERE](#) to order. All proceeds will go to the Mohawk Village Memorial Park.

We would appreciate you spreading the word! For both this talk and the entire series. Here is the [LINK](#) to the series of 6 other talks, starting Thursday September 23, (10 am to noon.)  
 Note: the early bird pricing ends Monday, September 6th.

If you have any questions please contact Marj at [marj@marjandre.com](mailto:marj@marjandre.com) or Mary at [kotmmk@gmail.com](mailto:kotmmk@gmail.com)

## Community news

Don't want to vote in person? Here's how to mail in your ballot - <https://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/voting-by-mail-2021-federal-election-1.6143746>

After Your Vaccine - **How do I get a copy of my vaccination receipt?** If you have a green OHIP card visit <https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca/> to download your vaccination receipts.

If you don't have OHIP, contact your [Public Health Unit \(PHU\)](#).

To unsubscribe, please write to: [office@rhuc.org](mailto:office@rhuc.org), and put “unsubscribe” in the subject line. Published by Deb Fratin. Please submit notices by noon on Wednesday.