The Cornerstone

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
26438 Crenshaw Blvd.
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
310-377-6771

December 2018

*from the pastor*s *Jonathan Chute*

"In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night." These few, simple words bring us right there. From wherever we've been, whatever we've been up to, however busy or preoccupied we find ourselves, we are drawn to the scene. The joyful announcement of the Messiah's birth comes first to the shepherds, out there in the darkness, outside the safety of town and village, out there in the chill of the night.

They bring me back to the Christmas Eve one year when we lived in Julian. Our minister, David Wilkinson, had lost his voice. He called my mother on the phone that morning and asked with a whisper if my brother Richard, my sister Ann and I could read the scripture that night. Christmas Eve is their birthday, and there was often a sense that their special day was overshadowed by everyone else's celebration of Christmas. I think we all felt as though we'd been asked to do something sacred and beautiful and terribly terribly important. They are just a few simple words, but they have the power to transport us to all the other times and places where we have heard them spoken, or seen them acted out.

Over these next four Sundays we are on a journey to Bethlehem. It is an easier trip than the one taken by the young couple expecting their first-born child. But it is still a journey. Now that Thanksgiving is behind us the world moves quickly to Christmas. But the Church takes its time. We know what it means to wait, and wait, for God's decisive action in the world. The people of God have learned that our time and God's are two different things. The psalms ask, over and over, "How long, O Lord, how long?" How long will the suffering of the innocent continue? How long will it be till the reign of peace and justice is established among God's people?

We are on a journey to hope and joy, but we will not rush to get there. As an expectant mother waits for the day of her delivery, so we learn to wait, and watch, to plan and prepare for something which we do not control. It will take some time. Let that time be a gift to us, an opportunity to make room in our minds and our hearts for the new thing that God seeks to do.

The story is simple. It nearly tells itself, if we will let it take us there.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends

I imagine that I am not the only one with a lot on her mind this month. The season of Advent, which leads up to Christmas, is meant to be a time for reflection in anticipation of the birth of Christ. Often, however, it turns out to be a time of too many things on the "to do" list and not enough peace or prayer. It can also be a time when emotions overwhelm us, loneliness looms large, or worry encroaches on our spiritual equilibrium. I've decided to literally get myself off on the right foot in December by walking the labyrinth. I've chosen Tuesday, December 4, at 10:30 a.m., at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center, and I invite you to join me.

The labyrinth is a circular pathway marked on the ground, with a beginning/ending point and a center point. It is *not* like a maze, so there is nothing to "figure out." You simply (and slowly) follow the path, curving as it curves, and turning where it turns. Because the route is planned for you, you are free to open your heart and clear your mind to receive God's peace, blessing, and guidance. Over the centuries, many people have found meditative walking to be a helpful form of prayer. I usually find that walking a labyrinth leads to new insights and happy experiences of community. The labyrinth at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center is outdoors, surrounded by trees, and adjacent to wonderful views. We'll gather in the parking lot at 5300 Crest Road (the entrance is between St John Fisher and the gate into Rolling Hills) at 10:30 a.m. and stroll over to the labyrinth together.

I look forward to starting the month in your good company, at worship when we begin the Trek to the Tree on December 2, at the hilltop labyrinth on the morning of December 4, and at the "Comfort and Courage for the Holidays" gathering at church on the afternoon of December 6. Likewise, I look forward to ending the month in your good company as we celebrate Christmas together and then enjoy a wedding reception fiesta on December 30, at 6:30 p.m. in Wesley Hall. I am grateful to Jan Johnson and the Staff Parish Relations Committee for enhancing the last Sunday of 2018 so that it not only brings us Taco Night, but also "Bob and April" Night. You are all invited to the feast.

Merry Christmas!

April

From the Staff Parish Relations Committee

Pastor April has shared with us the news of her upcoming marriage to Bob Chamberlin in December. The Staff-Parish Relations Committee believes that it would be appropriate to present a piece of framed art for their home from their church family. April and Bob have chosen a John August Swanson Giclee which depicts the great catch gathered by Jesus' disciples when they follow his guidance on where to fish. We know many of you will want to contribute to this gift. Your checks should be made payable to RHUMC with "Wedding Gift" noted on the memo line.

Patty Koester,
SPRC Committee Member

For Your 2019 Calendar: February 23 Women's Retreat

RHUMC women who choose to attend will spend **Saturday, February 23**, at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Rancho Palos Verdes. Our theme will be "Courage to Love." Leadership will be provided by April Herron, Michelle Dexter, Kristen Tyler Franco, Julie Lemke and Joanne Moser. Lunch will be included. Registration will open in early January.

ADVENT LABYRINTH WALK

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018
10:30 AM
LED BY APRIL HERRON

MARY AND JOSEPH RETREAT CENTER
5300 CREST ROAD, RANCHO PALOS VERDES
ENTRANCE BETWEEN ST JOHN FISHER & ROLLING HILLS GATE

Anticipate and prepare for the birth of Christ by engaging with this ancient spiritual practice. A labyrinth is a circular pathway marked on the ground, with a beginning/ending point and a center point. It is not like a maze, so there is nothing to "figure out." You simply (and slowly) follow the path, curving as it curves, and turning where it turns. Because the route is planned for you, you are free to open your heart and clear your mind to receive God's peace, blessing, and guidance. Over the centuries, many people have found meditative walking to be a helpful form of prayer. Walking a labyrinth can lead to new insights and joyful experiences of community. The labyrinth at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center is outdoors, surrounded by trees, and adjacent to wonderful views. We'll gather at the retreat center parking lot at 10:30 am and stroll over to the labyrinth together.

(310) 377-6771
churchoffice@rhumc.org

Save the Date

Charcoal art class - beginners welcome!
Instructor: Curtis Green
Thursday, January 31, 2019, 10:00-12:00 noon
Sanctuary chancel area
All art supplies will be provided.

Altar Flowers

The new flower chart for 2019 has arrived! Sign up early to ensure you get your favorite date to honor, celebrate, or remember that someone special!

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Men & women are invited to our big event of the year on **Saturday, December 15.** We'll meet in the Mission Room for Coffee at 7:30 a.m.; Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and at 8:30 a.m. Jonathan will inspire us with a Christmas tale from his favorite authors.

SAGE HOUSE, an excellent resource

The Salvation Army SAGE House is designed to serve the needs of older adults who can benefit from supervised hours of care outside the home in a safe, caring, stimulating, and loving atmosphere. This includes those who have Alzheimer's disease or cognitive disorders related to Parkinson's disease, stroke, or other conditions. Caregivers for these persons also are provided with information, support, respite, and relief from stress.

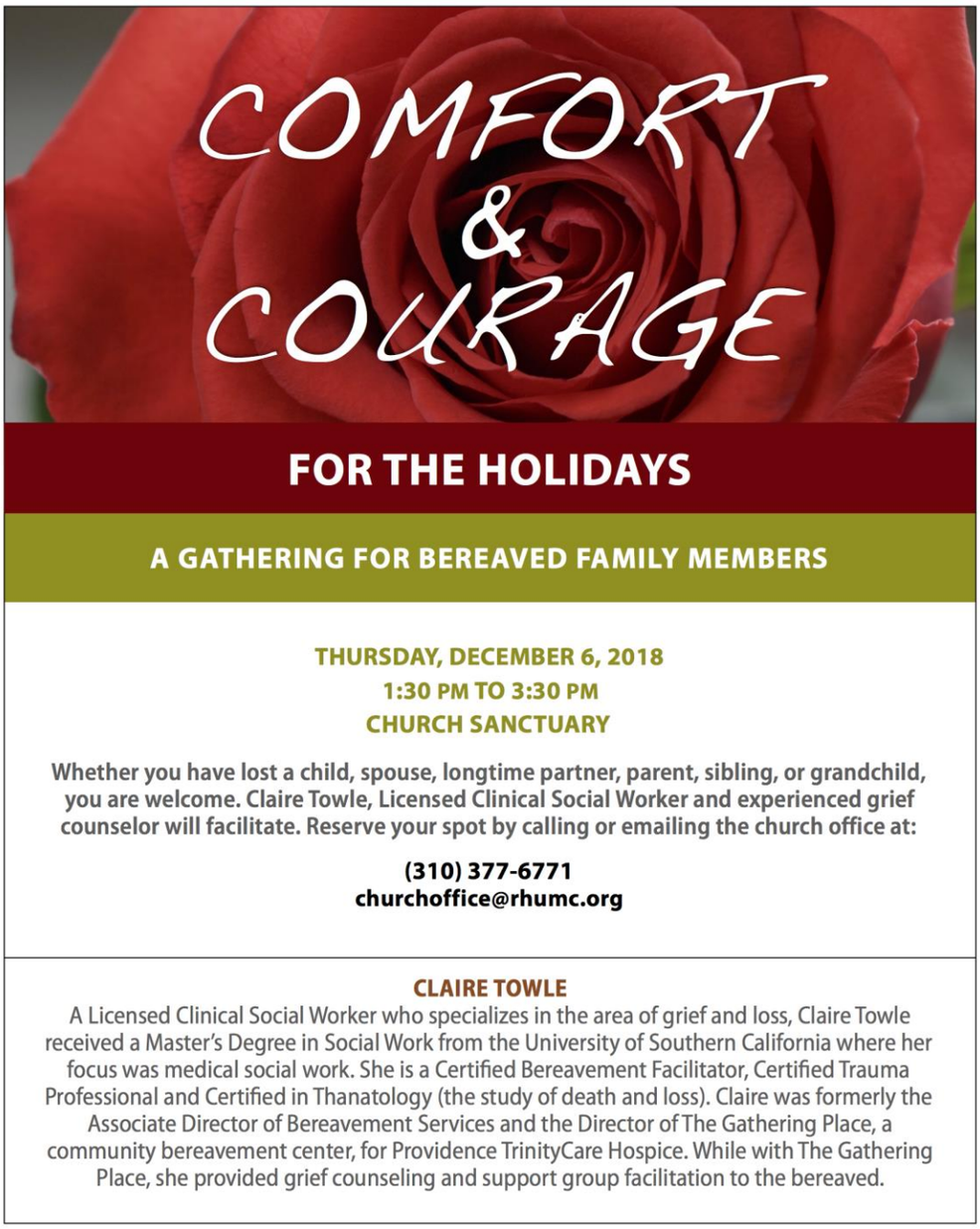
The goals and services of the SAGE House aim to help guests maintain cognitive function, increase socialization, reduce depression, enhance self-esteem, and help relieve loneliness. Services provided are van transportation to/from home, healthy meals, and recreational activities including yoga, karaoke, drawing, art, crafts, and games.

SAGE House Hours: Open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Attendance can be individualized, ranging from 1-5 days and 2 to 8 hours per day with low rates.

SAGE House Location: 138 S. Bandini St., San Pedro, CA. 90731

Contact: Sherrie Similton - (310) 832-6031 or Sherrie.Similton@usw.salvationarmy.org

Note: Kelly Graves, R.N., a nurse instructor from our congregation, has been taking her public health nursing students to SAGE House for the past 10 years, and endorses this facility for their kindness, adherence to legal mandates, cleanliness, and safety. **Kelly will be available to answer questions about Sage House on the patio on Sunday, December 2nd, after both morning services.**



Ripples - Simple Gifts that Support God's Creation *by Susan Deo*

The world is too much with us; late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers;
Little we see in Nature that is ours;
We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!
William Wordsworth, 1807

At RHUMC we have a strong tradition of honoring God's creation through Heifer Plus, Trek to the Tree, handmade gifts and more. Helping our planet is also a way we can give a gift to God. Here are a few "stocking stuffers" that might be fun for the adults on your list.

- Wool dryer balls rather than liquid softener (reduce chemicals in the waste water stream from liquid softener and/or use of petroleum-based softener sheets)
- Steel straws that bend (reduce use of plastic straws, one of the most ubiquitous and dangerous of plastic debris)
- Beeswax-coated cloths, glass storage containers (reduce use of plastic wrap/bags/containers)
- Long-lasting, compressed paper towels which can be tossed in washing machine (reduce individual-use paper towels and less hygienic synthetic sponges)
- A seed packet of your favorite flowers or vegetables - or a tree sapling - for the "budding" gardener on your list (increase oxygen, decrease carbon dioxide, add beauty, peace and food)
- Coupon for a "free" back rub by you (you list the benefits!)

Be creative! And share your ideas with friends!

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church

Jonathan Chute, Senior Pastor
April Herron, Associate Pastor
Charles Dickerson, Director of Music

presents

A Christmas Season Concert

featuring

The Chancel Choir

and

The Inner City Youth Orchestra
of Los Angeles

performing

Antonio Vivaldi's
Gloria

Soprano Jessica Tisdale
Soprano Jinian Austria
Alto Carol Wooten

and

Jesus! The Advent of the Messiah
by Mary McDonald and Rose Aspinall

7:00 p.m.
Saturday, December 15, 2018
26438 Crenshaw Boulevard
Rolling Hills Estates, California 90274
310-377-6771

Trek to the Tree

The annual Trek to the Tree program is scheduled for the first two Sundays in December (the 2nd and 9th). Once again, the congregation will have the opportunity to purchase gifts or buy gift cards for the kids at Toberman Neighborhood Center in San Pedro. A special thank you to Noucha Jasanis for organizing this popular event.

'Tis the Season - RHUMC Rings Bells

For the sixth year, RHUMC will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army at Christmas. We take our ministry to Vons Market in Redondo Beach during December, and have raised over $7000 for the good of our community. The Salvation Army in Redondo Beach uses the funds we raise for their local ministry…all our help stays local! We hope you will consider taking a shift this season. Our volunteers include family members, songsters, or just you and your smile. We have many repeat volunteers who enjoy their shift and say it is a highlight of the season. Come join this cheerful band of bell ringers and know you will make a difference. Contact Roxanne Morse at 310-543-2281 to sign up or for more information.

Poinsettia Sales

It's time to order poinsettias to be given ***In Honor of a Loved One***, ***In Memory of a Loved One*** or ***To the Glory of God***. Just fill out a form and turn it in with payment of $15 a plant, or 2 for $25. You may send it to the office, give it to the Worship Committee volunteer on the patio or place it in the offering plate. December 9th is the last day to place your order!

Help us decorate the Sanctuary with poinsettias for Christmas!

You are invited to purchase one or more poinsettia plants to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. The plants can be dedicated a few different ways.

☐ To the Glory of God

☐ In Honor of: _____

_____

_____

☐ In Memory of: _____

_____

_____

Given by: _____

Number of plants: _____ Amount paid: _____

Cash: _____ Check number: _____

Please make checks payable to RHUMC for $15 per plant, or 2 for $25. Give this order form and payment to the volunteers staffing the table on the patio, place in the offering basket, or send to the office. Thank you!

THE LAST DAY TO ORDER POINSETTIAS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH.

Hanging of the Greens

The Worship Committee invites you to get into the holiday spirit by helping us transform the church on:

Sat., Dec. 1st, 8:30-10:30 AM – Decorating the huge Narthex tree

Sat., Dec. 8th, 8:30-10:30 AM – Decorating the Sanctuary

Fri., Dec. 14th, 8:30-10:30 AM – Decorating with poinsettias

We will enjoy the majestic tree in the narthex throughout the season of advent as it graces our celebration of Christmas. The tree will be taken down on Wednesday, December 26th. If you can help, please arrive at 8:00 AM. And all the rest of the Christmas decorations will be taken down after the 10:00 AM service on Dec. 30th. Please stay and help! Thanks!

Thanksgiving Gratitude

We are most grateful to those who helped with the Thanksgiving Dinner 2018.
From the setting up of Wesley Hall, to the decorating, to the hot cider of the welcoming team, and the cooking. Your participation helped make the event a success.
To the diners who came, thank you. We appreciate your kind words and compliments.
From the youth who helped with the serving and clearing of Wesley Hall - thank you.
From the proceeds of the dinner, we have high hopes of raising more than $2,000.00 to the Sierra Service Project.
From the leftovers, we packed more than 60 quarts of food for Project Needs.
Thank you...thank you...thank you.
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gratefully,
Doug Kemps and Suellen Fung

A Word of Thanks - Heifer Plus Sunday

The Missions Committee hosted Heifer-Plus/Missions Market on Sunday, November 4, in Wesley Hall. Separate booths were set up for Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity and Project Needs with representatives from each organization available to answer questions and disseminate information on current projects. RHUMC's four sponsored missionaries were represented with an introduction to our newest missionary, Claudia Genung. The Art Auction was a success and pickle sales were strong, as usual. Additionally, the United Methodist Women's craft table brought in money which will be donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Thanks to all who helped and contributed.

Campus Construction Update

November 30, 2018

This past Wednesday a smoke test of the methane barrier for the building 2 basement slab on grade was performed. The rebar installation and concrete pouring for the slab are scheduled for next week after which structural steel will be put into place above it. Backfilling of the basement walls is to occur the following week which will involve the use of dump trucks to move dirt from one side of the construction site to the other side. Meanwhile forms for the building 1 footing and slab have been set and the below slab plumbing and electrical are being installed. This slab is to be poured right after Christmas.

Saw cutting of concrete diagonally across our patio in preparation for installing electrical conduit will occur on Friday, December 21. Actual trenching will be done between Christmas and New Years.

Another noticeable activity will be the repainting of our tower cross and pressure washing of the tower stonework beginning early next week. Our Board of Trustees decided this should be done while we have access to the area for the requisite boom hoists. The recent rainfall should not impact our overall schedule as we are somewhat ahead at this time.

Check in for the latest photos and a live video feed by going to the "Construction Cam" link on our website at **rhumc.org** or directly to: **http://rhumc.org/construction-cam/**

Children's Ministry

Attention All Children and Youth!

BE A PART OF THE 4:00 P.M.
CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE!

All children and youth (ages 3 years old thru 12th grade) are invited
to participate in the 4:00 Christmas Eve family service
on Monday, December 24th.

The children and youth will sing, ring chimes,
read scriptures and act out the roles of the Nativity.

This will be a beautiful and meaningful service.
ONE PRACTICE is required to prepare.

The mandatory practice will be on Saturday, December 22nd.
Children 3 years old thru 5th grade: 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Middle & High School: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

If your children would like to participate, please contact
Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org,
Jan Johnson at janaleejoh@aol.com
or call the church office at (310) 377-6771

Youth Ministry

Ignite: Poinsettias and Carols December 5 @ 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Youth will meet at RHUMC and we will drive to homebound and other congregation members to deliver poinsettias and sing Christmas carols. Youth will receive service hours for this event. Dinner will be provided.

Ignite: Christmas Party December 12 @ 6:00-8:00 p.m.

This is the last Ignite of the season. Wear your ugly Christmas sweater and enjoy holiday treats and games. Dinner will be provided.

Service Opportunity: Spread Holiday Cheer

One Voice Project December 21 @ 6:30-10:30 p.m.
We will meet at RHUMC and carpool to an airport hangar in Santa Monica to help load trucks that will deliver gifts and food to families in need for the holidays.

Youth Participation on Christmas Eve

Youth 6-12th grade are invited to participate in the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service on December 24, 2018 by:

- Reading scripture or prayers
- Participating in the advent wreath lighting ceremony
- Ushering or Greeting
- Playing a hand bell piece (The hand bell rehearsals are scheduled on December 2-11:00-11:30 a.m.; Sunday, December 9-11:00-11:30 a.m. and Saturday, December 22-12:00-12:30 p.m.)
- Playing a musical instrument during the prelude (youth will audition ahead of time)

Please contact Kristin Reksc, the Director of Youth Ministries, if you are interested in participating in any of these special activities by emailing her at Kristin@rhumc.org. Thank you!

Kid Zone

We would like to thank all those
who participated in our
food drive in November.
Community's Child is very
grateful for all the donations.

Thank you from all of us at
Kid Zone and RHUMPS.

Senior Pastor	Jonathan Chute	Associate Pastor	April Herron
Senior Pastor Emeritus	Martha Rowlett	Music Director	Chuck Dickerson
Preschool Director	Myra Ghabrial	Organist/Pianist	Althea Waites
Kid Zone Director	Megan Pelc	Music Dir., 3rd Service	Patti MacLeod
Children's Ministry Dir.	Debra DeLuca	Exec. Asst. to Pastor	Roksolana Vecerek
Youth Ministry Dir.	Kristin Reksc	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Youth Ministry Asst.	Ryan Perry	Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Treasurer	Robin La Tourette		
Church Business Mgr.	Nicole Lowery Zakman		

Church Office Phone	310-377-6771	Resident Bishop	Grant J. Hagiya
Fax Line	310-544-4123	District Superintendent	Mark Nakagawa
Web Site	www.rhumc.org		

SUNDAY WORSHIP HOURS
8:30 & 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.
CHURCH OFFICE HOURS
Monday – Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Next Cornerstone deadline is December 27
www.rhumc.org