The Cornerstone

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

Special Concert Performance

Cameron Akioka

Shepherd School of Music, Rice University
Available on the church's YouTube page
Sunday Afternoon, June 21

Toccata in G Major - J.S. Bach
Impromptu No. 3 in B-flat Major - F. Schubert
The Firebird - Igor Stravinsky (arr. Agosti)
Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini - S. Rachmaninoff
with Althea Waites, orchestral piano

Cameron Akioka spent her early years in Palos Verdes where her family were part of our congregation. Later they moved to Palo Alto where she graduated from high school in 2018. Fortunately for us, they recently returned to the South Bay. We were blessed by her performance of Bach's Toccata in G Major as our Mother's Day postlude.

Now at Rice University, Cameron is pursuing a double major in Piano Performance and English Literature. Studying with Jon Kimura Parker, she is a member of the President's Honor Roll and a recipient of the Levi A. Stark Endowed Fund in Piano as well as the Gary Mercer Endowed Scholarship in Piano.

Last year she was awarded Honorable Mention in the Shepherd School of Music's Concerto Competition, the first freshman to place in twenty years. Cameron is also a 2017-2022 inductee of the MTAC Young Artist Guild of California, the highest distinction that the organization has to offer for Californian musicians. As a part of the Guild, she has performed five solo recitals in various cities thus far. In 2018, she opened and closed an episode of NPR's "From the Top." Other notable achievements of hers include silver medalist in the San Jose International Competition, gold medalist in the Pacific Musical Society competition, and full scholarship recipient from the National Chopin Scholarship Foundation. An avid chamber musician, she has also participated in summer music festivals including the Tanglewood Young Artist Institute and Music@Menlo.

Cameron is currently working toward a career in music performance. She plans to continue her studies in music at the graduate level upon completing her B.Mus. We are thrilled to share her sophomore recital program through our congregation's YouTube channel!

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

Many of you have wondered about when we can get back to church for live, in person worship. First, remember when that was the only kind of worship we knew? How quickly and dramatically things have changed.

It will not be a simple process. We continue to learn about life with the coronavirus. Issues we will have to address include masks for all worshipers and minimum 6' separation for unrelated persons (excluding caregivers). This will drastically reduce our seating capacity. We will also not be able to enjoy congregational or choral singing until it is safe to do so. We cannot take such an obvious risk.

But there's more. Air conditioning and heating systems increase the chance of droplet spread. Pew Bibles, hymnals and guestbooks will be removed. We will print all the words of the service, including hymns and scripture, in the bulletins, so that even those who cannot sing along can at least hum to the words before them. Ushers will not be passing offering plates. Joys and Concerns will be shared by email or text.

The state and county have guidelines, and so does the United Methodist Church. Our bishop has set out requirements for the return to live worship. A team is being put together to address those issues so that we may gather safely. Once we have our plan ready it will be reviewed and approved by our District Superintendent. In the meantime, and probably from now on, we will be sharing the services each week on YouTube.

A week ago I thought that was the hardest thing I've had to address in my 35 years as a pastor. But now re-opening the church seems a relatively small thing compared with re-opening our communities. Of course the church was never closed. We continued to reach out in loving service all along.

But the crisis of racism in our nation has been made even more plain by recent events than some of us previously knew. I have learned that more than one thing can be true at the same time. We have made enormous progress on this front over my lifetime. And we have much farther to go before we reach the blessed community for which Christ lived and died.

I am grateful for the witness of peaceful protest against the unjust deaths of Black men and women at the hands of law enforcement or self-appointed citizens. I grieve the loss of their lives and the impact of their deaths on other members of their community. I know from dear friends that being stopped by police without cause happens all too often to persons of color. We have got to do better than this. I also lament that persons with radically different agendas have hijacked peaceful protests for their own purposes. We have got to do better than that as well. May God grant us the spirit of wisdom, of compassion and understanding to lead us through these days.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends:

It is clear that we share a concern for one another's well-being.

Several of you have contacted me to inquire about the welfare of my daughter, son-in-law, and grandson in Brazil. They have been staying "safe at home" since the later part of March. They live in a 19th-floor condo in a newly constructed building in Sao Paulo. Fortunately, it is full of light and fresh air, since they have left the premises only once or twice in ten weeks, for Vinny's regularly scheduled vaccines and doctor appointments. They work, cook, eat, sleep, and exercise right there at home, assisted by their computer interface with friends and the outside world.

The situation in Brazil is concerning, as it is here in Los Angeles and many other places around the world. Events in the Twin Cities are hitting close to home for my younger daughter who lives and works in St. Paul. Horrifying consequences of systemic racism are painful to experience and to witness. As we are, she is eager to contribute to the solution, not add to the problem. Periods of chaos are difficult for all of us to navigate.

I am grateful for the ability to see and talk to my scattered family via the internet, as I know many of you are, since being physically in the same place has not been possible. Trips have already been missed. More cancellations may be ahead. It's too soon to know what will be possible in July or beyond.

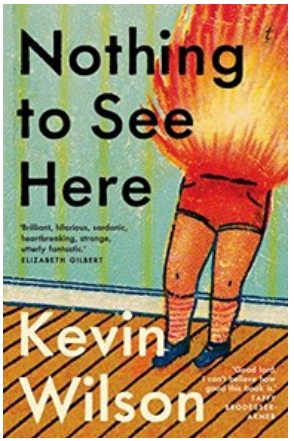
At the moment, reconnecting in small, physically proximate ways is beginning to seem feasible for us, the RHUMC family. I would be glad to know how things are going for you and your loved ones and have begun to visualize how refreshing it might be to sit out in RHUMC's meditation garden in the late afternoon visiting with a handful of friends. If meeting me (and possibly 2 or 3 others) in the meditation garden appeals to you, send me an email (april@rhumc.org) or call the church office indicating the date of a Tuesday or Thursday in June that you would like to come to RHUMC at 4:00 pm to chat in the leafy shade. We would sit on the wooden chairs and benches, spaced at least six feet apart. You could even bring your own tea and cookies, or cheese and crackers, or whatever treat you like. Our only "agenda" would be to share conversation for a little while, and give thanks for God's grace and guidance in our lives.

April

Message from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

“Hello” has been replaced in my vocabulary with “How’s it going?” Goodbye is now, “Stay safe.” Responses to the greeting are changing as time passes. Answers in March and April reported shock, dismay, alarm, fear, anger. That is still here, compounded with grief and despair. But in May, I have been hearing new answers. People are experiencing surprising positive results from an extended time of stay-at-home, social distancing living. Recently people have responded: “I have watched spring come for the first time in my life.” My neighbors and I are getting acquainted after years of superficial relating.” “We have sorted through 3000 pictures and saved in albums some of our happy memories,” “Working at home has been pleasant and efficient and I sure don’t miss that commute.” “I have completed some delayed jobs around the house that have made life better.” “This has been a refreshing break from an overloaded lifestyle.” “The clear air has opened up views we had not enjoyed in years.” When I greet them with the question, these answers are quick and with a smile, eager to have me celebrate with them. Times are still hard. I hear about loneliness and family stress and anxiety about the future that are unavoidable parts of living through a pandemic of huge proportions. But I also see glimmers of hope for a new normal for the future. And I am made keenly aware that we are not alone here. Another phrase for the times, “We are all in this together”, includes God whose love is expressed in a call to us to make maximum use of all history we live in for the ultimate good for all creation. Stay safe!!

Book Discussion for June



April has selected *Nothing to See Here* by Kevin Wilson for RHUMC's next conversation among readers. The book is about two children and their caregiver who have to live in isolation because the kids have an unusual characteristic: when they get upset, they catch on fire. *Nothing to See Here* made several “best of 2019” lists, including those of the *New York Times, People, and Time*. It also won awards for audio narration. The current plan is to gather via zoom on Monday, June 29, at 7:00 pm. Send an email to April@rhumc.org if you would like to take part.

WORSHIP ONLINE SUNDAYS AT 8 AM

Recordings of the service each week are available on YouTube. If you go to the church's web site and click on the green arrow link, you will be taken to the church's YouTube page. If you would like to follow along with the bulletin, it is available by clicking "See More" on the YouTube page and scrolling down the screen. A link to download the bulletin is posted there and on the website as well.

CROP HUNGER WALK 2020

In light of the recommendations from local and state public health officials for reducing the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, the Peninsula Harbor CROP Hunger walk that was planned for May 3, 2020 had to be postponed.

The CROP Hunger walk is an important annual event and a way to show our support for agencies that fight poverty and provide essential hunger and disaster relief. It is apparent that the important work that the walk supports will be needed this year more than ever. Church World Service, Harbor Interfaith Services, Toberman Neighborhood Center and the Redondo Beach UMC Daily Bread project will all see increased demand for their services due to the economic and health impacts of the corona virus.

While another walk may be scheduled later this year or next, we could use you're your help now!

- Keep our local CROP Hunger Walk Organization in your prayers.
- Encourage friends and family members to follow & support this great cause.
- Donate today!

Donate online at www.crophungerwalk.org/peninsulaharborca or make checks payable to RHUMC with CROP Walk in the memo line and send them to the church office. We appreciate your support!

Together, we can help end hunger in our community and around the world.

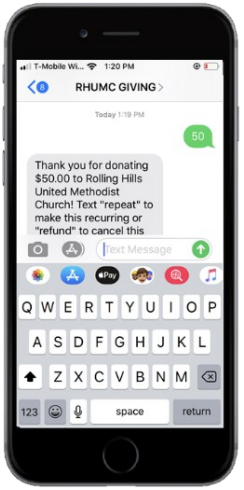
New Giving Options Available by John Fitzgerald, Church Treasurer

A number of our families have asked for additional ways to make gifts to the church and its programs. During the pandemic, supporting the important work we do together has become more challenging. So, I am delighted to report, in those immortal words of Bob the Builder, *"Yes we can!"*

Our online giving was previously limited to ACH transfers from checking or savings accounts. To these we now add both credit and debit cards. All giving options can be found on the church website giving page: https://rhumc.org/giving/

Simply click on the giving icon and you will be taken to our secure Vanco account where a gift amount may be entered. After you complete the needed information, the following page will give you all the payment options, including for the first time, debit and credit cards.

Text-to-Give



You may also choose to contribute using our secure text-to-give option.

1. On your smart phone, create "RHUMC GIVING" as a contact with the phone number: **833-991-2516**.

2. Start a text to "RHUMC GIVING." Enter the amount you wish to donate in the message portion of the text.

3. You will receive a text response. Click the registration link to enter your payment information.

You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically. If you want to see how easy this can be, follow this link for a quick video tutorial: https://vimeo.com/262291796

There is a small cost to the church for these new giving options. For credit and debit cards you can choose to cover that fee, which is roughly 3%. If you wish to do so for Text-to-Give, simply increase the amount of your gift by 3%. Thank you for continuing to support the life and work of the church in the many ways God leads your generosity.

CHURCH WIDE
SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST

TORRANCE MEMORIAL BLOOD DONOR CENTER

To donate blood, please call the Blood Donor Center during weekday business hours at **(310) 517-4647**. A friendly registered nurse will assist you in answering questions, scheduling an appointment, and setting up a reminder for you. Let her know that you are part of the RHUMC Blood Drive. Feel free to invite family members and friends to donate with us!

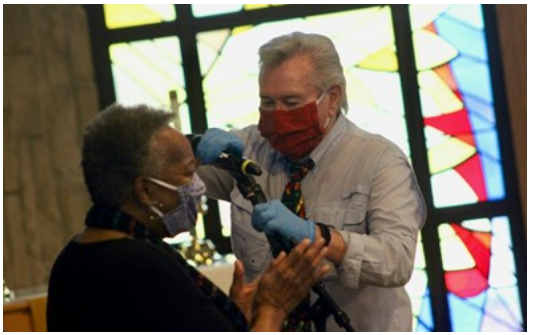
After your appointment, please call a member of the **RHUMC Health & Wellness Team** listed below to receive a fun token of our appreciation!

JUNE DONORS:
If your last name begins with letters A–K, call Patty Kurlak at (310) 316-3410
If your last name begins with letters L–Z, call Susan Markee at (310) 329-9628

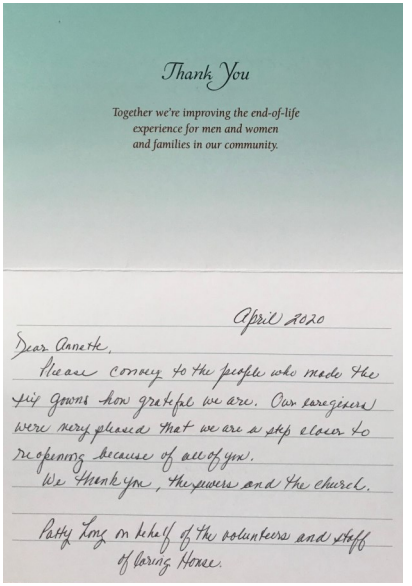
A NOTE FROM ANNETTE MATSUDA, PARISH NURSE:
When recently donating blood, I was thoroughly pleased with the care and to learn that all contact surfaces are thoroughly sanitized between donors. Only two donors give blood at any one time to allow for safe physical distancing. Everyone wore masks, and I also donned my sunglasses to protect my eyes from aerosolized pathogens. I felt good about making a significant contribution to our community during this pandemic.

Worship, Behind the Scenes

Thank you Ron, Mel, and Eric for tending to the technical aspects of our virtual gatherings.



While in Quarantine...



Thank You

Together we're improving the end-of-life experience for men and women and families in our community.

April 2020

Dear Annette,

Please convey to the people who made the PPE gowns how grateful we are. Our caregivers were very pleased that we are a step closer to reopening because of all of you.

We thank you, the gowns and the church.

Patty Long on behalf of the volunteers and staff of Caring House.

Ellen Brim and Chris Larson sewed gowns and donated them to the Caring House.

Gratitude Goes to Our Club Maintenance Helpers:

A big thank you to:

- Bob Chamberlin for painting and freshening up Grandpa Warner's playhouse in the preschool courtyard.

- Steve Boilard for adjusting Wesley Hall's kitchen sink faucet which now turns on and off with ease. Steve also installed the newest camera in the sanctuary (shelf placement and wiring).

- Yasuko Martin who emptied and cleaned the fountain in the meditation garden. Ian helped his mother with the cleaning! (It is now burbling merrily again.)

Youth Ministries

Ignite Youth Mid-Week Ministry

Wednesdays at 6:30pm-7:30pm via Google Meet
Contact Kristin@rhumc.org for the link to join**.**

Graduation Celebration

Wednesday, June 3 at 6:30pm via ZOOM
All youth and their families were invited to attend an end of the year celebration via ZOOM. We welcomed our incoming 6th graders and celebrated our graduating seniors.

New Small Group: DEVO

Tuesdays at 7:00pm via Google Meet
Dive deep into your faith with conversation and fellowship in this small group gathering of high schoolers and college students. Contact Kristin@rhumc.org for the link to join.

Youth Sunday School

Sundays at 10:00am via Google Meet
Contact Kristin@rhumc.org for the link to join**.**

Stay connected on social media:
Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/RHyouth
Instagram: rhumcyouth_

Children's Ministries is currently conducting online Sunday School for children in the congregation. Parents of TK - 5th graders will receive an email each Saturday with our Sunday School lesson, video link, and activity sheets. To be added to our email list or for more information please send your email to Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org.

Children 3rd grade and up can also join our Virtual Sunday School with Ms. Stevie on Sundays at 5:00 pm. It's a Google Classroom where kids participate in lessons, discussions and activities each week. A Google invite is needed if you wish to join. Please email Ms. Stevie at Steviesterling@gmail.com before Sunday to make sure you get the link.

Youth in 6th - 12th grade are invited to join a video chat Sunday School with Kristin on Sundays at 10:00 am. To receive an invitation to the Google Meet up, email Kristin@rhumc.org.

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic and related uncertainty about the future potential for hosting large gatherings, the Knights of North Castle Vacation Bible Camp that was scheduled for August 3rd-7th, 2020 at RHUMC has reluctantly been canceled. We look forward to offering our traditional in-person VBC in the summer of 2021.

In the meantime, our staff is delving into other possible ways of connecting our families and children in a unique way this summer.

We lean on the grace of God in these unusual and difficult times.

Thank you for your continued support, stay safe, and we will keep you informed.

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26438 Crenshaw Blvd.
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Change Service Requested

SAVE OUR PLANET!

Have your Cornerstone sent via email; it's easy, just call the church office at 310-377-6771. You can also view the Cornerstone on the church website at www.rhumc.org

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
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	3rd Service Music	Paula Kuno
Children's Ministry Dir.	Debra DeLuca	Exec. Asst. to Pastor	Roksolana Vecerek
Youth Ministry Director	Kristin Reksc	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Kid Zone Director	Megan Pelc	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Treasurer	John Fitzgerald		
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 June 26
www.rhumc.org