The Cornerstone

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

July 2020

SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE

GIVING THE GIFT OF LIFE

TORRANCE MEMORIAL BLOOD DONOR CENTER

During the pandemic our community faces a critical shortage of blood in our local hospitals. In recent years our congregation has worked with the Blood Donor Center at Torrance Memorial Medical Center for our annual Blood Drive. Their excellent team of registered nurses rigorously follow sanitizing protocols and wear protective masks as they work. It is a safe and effective way for us to support the health of our neighbors. We encourage you to do so if you possibly can.

INSTRUCTIONS

- 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 and scheduling an appointment. Let her know that you are part of the RHUMC Blood Drive.
- After your appointment, even if you are unable to give blood, please call a member of the **Health & Wellness Team** listed below to receive a fun token of our appreciation!

DONORS

If your last name begins with letters A–K, call Chellie Powell at 310-541-9467.
If your last name begins with letters L–Z, call Gina Rembert at 310-413-1201.

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

This may seem like the most independent Independence Day that we can remember. We have been waved off of gatherings with family and friends. The beaches are closed. The only fireworks we hear are anything but community celebrations. We are staying at home this 4th of July, masking and keeping our physical distance when we go out. We're all for independence, but isolation is another matter.

But that's really not really the story of what we are doing. We can see from reports around the country, and developments in our own communities, the impact that our actions have on each other's well being. While it feels terribly frustrating at times not to be able to touch and hold each other, we are doing what we can to keep one another safe and healthy. Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." This is a time for the love the Bible calls *agape*, the love which intends the best for others.

Social distancing may keep us safe, but it's not as effective at warming our hearts. So your pastors (and many other helpful people) are working to provide a weekly worship experience that we hope will help keep us going. We are reaching out by phone, text and email, Zoom calls and careful in-person visits, to keep up with one another and to offer support and care as a family of faith.

We are also celebrating communion for the first time in four months, combining our recorded YouTube service with a live opportunity to receive the Lord's Supper in our own homes. We have confirmed one of our youth, with several more to come. And both our preschool and our Kid Zone Summer Camps are opening this next week, following the health and safety protocols of the CDC and local public health authorities. We hope this will give children and parents an opportunity for something familiar and hopeful through these challenging times.

As we look forward to gathering again for live, in-person worship, our team has been exploring the possibilities and requirements for doing so safely. We are putting together a survey of the congregation which we hope to send out next week. We are eager to hear from you and want to be sure your voices are heard.

I want to say, especially in such a strange, unprecedented time, how much it means for me to be with you as pastor. April and I have been reappointed to serve for another year, and we are joined by Kristin, our newly commissioned Deacon and Director of Youth Ministry. We are fortunate indeed to have her among us, and rejoice with her in this important accomplishment.

We give thanks this weekend for the freedom that is ours as Americans. As we celebrate, let us remember that when we declared our independence from Great Britain, we only succeeded because we worked together. In that light, and in the hope of an even brighter future, I wish us all a happy Interdependence Day.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

July is not going to unfold the way we originally planned it. Instead of parades and parties and picnics at the beach and fireworks shows, we will be continuing with zoom calls and very small in-person gatherings, the enjoyment of simple pleasures, and prayers for the health and strength of communities around the world. The pandemic lifestyle is turning out to be a longer term endeavor than we had hoped.

The book "We Must Be Brave," by Frances Liardet, includes a scene near its ending of a person visiting a churchyard cemetery and reading the tombstones. The person was reminiscing about friends buried there, and noting the scripture quotes chosen to adorn their graves. The quotations were a sampling of essential Biblical messages honed to their most beautiful core. The inscriptions used to summarize various lives reminded me that we could probably all benefit from carrying an encouraging scripture quote around with us, whether we have memorized it or written it down on a notecard or electronic tablet.

Well done, good and trustworthy servant. (Matthew 25)

Rejoice in the Lord always. (Philippians 4)

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. (Psalm 23)

Give thanks in all circumstances. (1 Thessalonians 5)

We walk by faith, not by sight. (2 Corinthians 5)

Nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. (Romans 8)

Passages like these can help us in good times and hard times to keep our hearts and minds on what matters most. They can guide our actions and our attitudes. Holy scripture is a wonderful gift and resource. In her introduction to "Getting Involved with God," Biblical scholar Ellen Davis suggests that we linger over the phrases in the Bible and learn to read slowly. "An unexpected word can jar us into contemplating new possibilities about how things really are," she points out. Contemplating and treasuring the words of scripture can help us become more fully and truly the persons God has made us to be.

This summer, as life continues to involve many restrictions, we may all want to take the opportunity now and then to read a psalm, or a few proverbs, or a story from one of the gospels. It is possible that such reading could shed light on our experience of these strange days.

With you in Spirit,

April

Message from Martha Rowlett
Senior Pastor Emeritus

As we celebrated on New Year's Eve 2019 the coming of a new year, doing all our normal New Year's Eve things, we knew that we were going into a special year. 2020 would be the beginning of a new decade, and an election year. A hint of "something special" anticipation had hung over that date. "We have been talking about 2020, and here it is!" Little did we know! We at least made a few new year's resolutions, or thought about them, and we may have watched the ball drop in Time's Square. Valentine's Day passed normally. But then something happened to "normal." Here we are, halfway through 2020, and there are parts of "normal" that we will never see again. The churches were empty on Easter. Florida beaches were empty on spring weekends. Weddings and funerals were small family events, or postponed. And now Independence Day will be a shadow of its old noisy, flashy self. I enjoy change, but this is outrageous. But, in the midst of the cascade of the startling developments of 2020, I have been aware that God's presence is with us and among us in all of the ancient normal ways. We are still known, and loved and called, and forgiven and cared for, and led and comforted and challenged to find where God is at work in all that is happening. If I look and listen, I can find God's recognizable work going on within us and among us in this challenging year. Everybody ready for Labor Day and the new normal? Whatever comes, God will be there with us and among us, and that makes all the difference.

Crop Walk Update

Due to the Covid crisis it was necessary to cancel the physical 2020 Crop Walk, but the need to end hunger is raging. RHUMC usually contributes around $1000 towards this effort, but has only collected $350 so far. If ending hunger is a cause near to you, please consider donating at https://www.crophungerwalk.org/peninsulaharborca/Team/View/131086/RHUMC.

Changing the Future with Missions

Are you bored with staying at home and having nothing to do? Feel like there is more you could do to make a difference? Your Missions Committee has some ideas to help.

For the next few months, the Missions Committee has decided to focus our energies on a problem in our own backyard: the homeless crisis. The latest information shows that there are almost 70,000 people in Los Angeles County living on the streets - a 13% increase over last year. This problem is likely to only get worse given our current crises.

How can you help and stay safe?

Educate Yourself: Learn more about the causes of and solutions to the homeless problem. Missions will be hosting a Zoom seminar in the next month to help you with this goal.

Give Generously: St. Paul's Project Needs has been on hiatus, but is starting to serve meals again. You can support their efforts by donating at https://stpaulsrb.org/giving/. The San Pedro community has started the Harbor Neighborhood Relief Fund to provide immediate support and relief to the most vulnerable populations in the harbor area. Donations to help can be made at https://www.feedandbefed.org/harbor-relief-fund.

Write a Note/Paint a Picture/Get Crafty: Los Angeles is providing temporary housing for the homeless through its BRIDGE Housing project (learn more at https://www.lamayor.org/ABridgeHome). New arrivals can use all sorts of things to feel welcome and encouragement: a hand written note or painted picture, hygiene kits, a prayer pillowcase or square, a special face mask. There are many opportunities to help - use your imagination!

Fulfill A Wish: Harbor Interfaith Services has a wish list for all sorts of supplies it needs: hygiene items, twin bed linens, towels and washcloths, and every kind of cleaning supply you can imagine.

For more information about any of these efforts, please contact Kathy Platnick (kasandersplatnick@gmail.com/213-479-6950) or Kim Hall (kimhallhomes@gmail.com/310-721-7526). And stay tuned for other ideas about making a difference.

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, July 12, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Pianist **STEVEN VANHAUWAERT**

in a Recital Streamed over the Internet

Check the concert announcement
***at* www.RHUMC.org**

A native of Belgium, **Steven Vanhauwaert** was hailed by the Los Angeles Times for his "impressive clarity, sense of structure and monster technique." His accolades include First Prize at the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition. He has appeared as a soloist in some of the world's leading venues, including Walt Disney Concert Hall, Beijing's National Center of the Performing Arts and Forbidden City Theatre, the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, the *Concertgebouw* in Brugge, the Great Hall of the Budapest Liszt Conservatory, Segerstrom Hall, and the National Philharmonic Hall in Kiev. He has appeared as concerto soloist with the Pacific Symphony, the Lviv Philharmonic, the Sofia Sinfonietta, the Flemish Symphony, and the Kyiv Kamerata, to name just some. Steven is a Steinway Artist.
Steven Vanhauwaert is Artistic Director of *Second Sundays at Two,* and he is returning for his eighth appearance on the series.

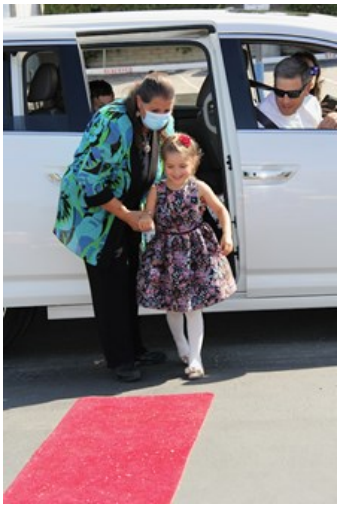
Contribute What You Can ~ 100% for the Artist

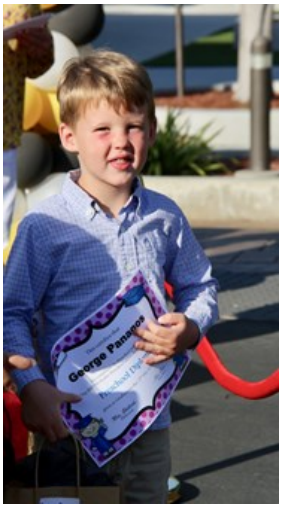
Congratulations Kristin Reksc

Kristin first felt a call to ordained ministry during her time serving as a staff member at Sierra Service Project. In 2013 she moved to Boston, MA to attend Boston University School of Theology with a focus on chaplaincy. In 2017 Kristin graduated with a Master of Divinity and a Master of Social Work. She moved back to California and was soon hired as the Director of Youth Ministries at Rolling Hills UMC! Over the past two years she completed many theological papers and interviewed with multiple boards at varying church levels. On June 20, 2020 she was commissioned as Rev. Kristin Reksc, a Provisional Deacon in the United Methodist Church. As a pastor called to the order of Deacon, Kristin's ministry will continue to serve as a bridge between the church and the community. For the next few years she will continue to serve RHUMC as she works toward becoming a certified chaplain, and a Deacon in Full Connection.

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool
2020 Drive-By Graduation Celebration

Congratulations, Graduates!





Youth Ministries

Presidential Volunteer Service Awards

Applications for **PVSA are due by July 15, 2020.** Community service hours earned between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2020 will count towards this year's award. There will be an award ceremony in the fall to present the youth with their certificates and pins.

Applications and additional information can be found on the church website or you can email Kristin@rhumc.org.

Ignite Youth Ministry

Wednesday Nights at 6:30pm-7:30pm via Zoom
Contact Kristin@rhumc.org for the link to join.

Youth Sunday School

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

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

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool

The preschool is getting ready to open our doors for summer school on July 6th. We are following all of the guidelines as outlined by the CDC, Department of Social Services and the County Health Department. We will practice and maintain social distancing and smaller group gatherings.

We look forward to having the children back zooming around campus live, rather than behind a computer camera!

The RHUMC Children's Ministry will be conducting online Sunday School for children in the congregation. Parents of TK-2nd graders will receive an email each Saturday with a Bible lesson, activity sheets and video links. For more information please email Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org.

Parents of 3rd-5th graders will receive an email each Saturday with a Bible lesson, activity sheets and video links. For more information please email Ms. Stevie at steviesterling@gmail.com.

Our Youth Ministry will be conducting live stream Sunday School lessons for youth (6th – 12th grades) via Google Meetups. Weekly lesson plans will be emailed. For more information please contact Kristin Reksc at Kristin@rhumc.org.

Virtual Vacation Bible School 2020
August 3rd, 5th & 7th
10:00am-11:30am

VBS is NOT canceled, it's just different! During this time of physical distancing, we still want our kids to connect with Jesus. So mark your calendars for the week of August 3rd. Classes will take place Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

We will explore three specific miracles that Jesus performed through Zoom & online worship, arts & crafts, science, video and lively music.

Our staff will provide you with your own goodie bag filled with items needed for all 3 days. Goodie bags will be available for pick up two days prior to VBS.

Our virtual program is open to students who are 3 years old through 5th grade as of the fall 2020. The cost is free and attendance is limited so don't wait!

To sign up and for questions please email:
Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org.

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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 July 24
www.rhumc.org