The Cornerstone

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

November 2020

NOVEMBER 8

RHUMC's annual Mission Fiesta Sunday will take place on Sunday, November 8. This is the time of year when RHUMC celebrates two great organizations – Heifer International and Habitat for Humanity – as well as the church's four supported missionaries. In ordinary times we would be hosting a great party. Due to Covid, we hope that you will enjoy your own party while you consider how you might support these worthy causes. As many have discovered, this is a great opportunity to buy a Christmas gift for someone on your list and help a terrific cause at the same time. Don't know about these organizations or people? You can learn more on the RHUMC website at **rhumc.org**.

Since Covid has made it difficult to meet in person, we are doing a mail/online giving campaign this year. You will receive a letter shortly that makes it easy to mail in a check and let us know how you want us to apply your donation. You can also donate online at **rhumc.org**. In either case, please note on the memo line or the designated giving line that your gift is for Mission Fiesta Sunday. If you need gift cards to let someone know you have purchased a gift for them, let us know and we will mail them to you.

If you need more information or would like to let us know how to apply your gift via email, please contact either Kim Hall at **kimhallhomes@gmail.com** or Kathy Platnick at **kasandersplatnick@gmail.com.**

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." - Philippians 4:6

I want to begin by thanking you all. This has been an extraordinary year in the life of our congregation. If someone had told us a year ago what we would go through together we would never have believed them. It really was unimaginable. Moving from in-person worship to broadcasting on YouTube. Closing our brand new preschool classrooms. Cancelling Good Friday and Christmas concerts. Postponing our annual Thanksgiving Dinner till next year. It still seems impossible. But we've made it. We have not given up. We have seen each other through. Your faithfulness and generosity have sustained our community and strengthened our mission. So I want to say thank you!

Thanksgiving is more than a day or a season. It lives at the center of our lives, and is the beating heart of our faith. Meister Eckhart, the medieval mystic and theologian, once observed, "If the only prayer you said in your life was thank you, that would be enough." Giving thanks is a recognition that we are not the source of our lives. When we express gratitude, we turn outward, away from ourselves, and toward the One who made us. It is a sign of a healthy and appropriate humility.

November and December have historically been our most generous giving months as a congregation. This year our giving will be even more decisive. To date both our giving and our expenses have been slightly below budget. We are about where we need to be. Considering the uncertainty and chaos of this pandemic year that is truly amazing.

But that is not all! Gifts toward our Building Fund have exceeded the amount pledged. That is helpful as we make progress on paying for our wonderful new facilities, our inviting and accessible campus, the excellent programs they house and the people they allow us to serve!

So, thank you! Thank you for all you have done to keep our faith alive and our mission strong. Thank you for your generosity and hope that will lead us into God's future.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends

In my family, an astonishing thing has come to pass! My grandson, Vinicius, and his parents have arrived in Southern California for a lengthy stay. Suddenly, instead of being more than six thousand miles away, they are close enough to permit in-person visiting and shared experiences. Vinny is 15 months old and a whirlwind of energy. It has become my joy to roll in the sand with him at the beach and supervise his experimentation on a backyard slide.

Following the flights from Sao Paulo to Miami and then Miami to LAX, the three travelers sequestered themselves in voluntary quarantine for two weeks. After that, they took up residence with great grandma Mary and great grandpa Ken. Pleasant weather and the spaciousness of my parents' home allow us to spend time together outside and give room for safely distanced accommodations (and work spaces) inside. Ken and Vinicius Ken appreciate the fun of side-by-side walks around the neighborhood; there's not much difference between the stroller and the wheelchair!

My daughter Liz and son-in-law Luciano continue to work remotely. Thanks to RHUMC's adaptation to Zoom, I am able to do the same for part of each week without disrupting the rhythms of worship, Bible studies, book discussions, print and digital communications, and participation in ministry-related meetings. I am extremely grateful for each and every moment of intergenerational family bonding, just as I am extremely grateful for each and every member of RHUMC and the connections we have with one another.

Many of this year's plans have gone by the wayside and we have had to grieve many losses. Yet we have also received surprising gifts and discovered unexpected capacities for which we can be thankful. Day by day we seek to live in God's love. Hour by hour, we learn to trust God for all things.

In the peace of Christ,

April

Joined in Prayer

Colossians 4:2 advises, “Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with thanksgiving.” Our observances of the November holiday may be significantly different this year than other years, but the blessing of giving thanks to God remains unchanged. To help us give visual expression to our gratitude and our prayers this year, RHUMC is making use of prayer ribbons.

We have designated a section of the fence surrounding Imagination Island (in the middle of our campus parking lot) as our place of community prayer. Ribbons are available at the site, or you can bring your own. Wearing masks and keeping respectful distance from members of other households, you are welcome to visit at any time in order to tie colorful ribbons onto the fence while offering your prayers. If you are geographically distant and/or feeling safer at home, you are welcome to send your prayers via email and we will tie the ribbons for you.

Members of RHUMC's youth ministry have been instrumental in preparing the space and cutting a large supply of ribbons. Imagination Island exists as a protected outdoor play space for children and families. Now it will also become a place for imagining a healthy and hopeful future. Thank you for participating with your prayers.

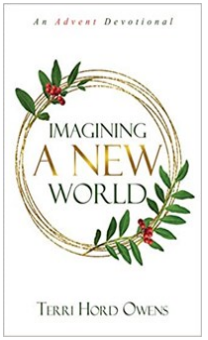
Shawl Ministry: Knitters Needed! by Karen Sakura

One of our loving care ministries, comprised completely of lay members, is our Shawl Ministry. Coordinated by Karen Sakura, these women craft beautiful knitted gifts and bless them individually for those in our church who are suffering from serious medical conditions or bereavement. We need your loving hands to knit for a good cause!

At this time, group members include Lucy Ford, Nina Bradbury, Shirley Fehrman, Ellen Brim, Chellie Powell, Harriet Flick, Beverly Boyle, Nancy Browning, Shelly Browning, and Claire McCurry, in addition to Karen. The group meets twice a month to enjoy friendly in-person fellowship while knitting and visiting. Once the pandemic ends, they look forward to resuming their in-person get-togethers. If you are interested in learning more about this group or joining, please call Karen Sakura at 310-375-1216. If you do not know how to knit, but are interested in learning, we will be happy to teach you!

“Shawls… made for centuries universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles…” quote by Janet Bristow

Advent Bible Study - Order Your Participant Book Now!



Advent, the season of reflection and preparation leading up to Christmas, begins on November 29. Like just about everything else since March, the celebration of Christmas is going to be different this year. Yet we can still gather to read scripture, share our wisdom gained from life experience, and pray together. Zoom will make it possible to see and hear one another from our own homes and offices.

Our gatherings will be at 2:00 pm on Thursdays, December 3, 10 and 17, with an optional "bonus" meeting on December 31. To participate, you will need your own copy of *Imagining A New World* by Terri Hord Owens. It will cost $5 or less. You can order from your preferred source or send an email to churchoffice@rhumc.org (or call us at 310 377 6771) and we will order one for you. Please be sure to let April know that you plan to participate so that she can send you the Zoom link. Her email is April@rhumc.org.

The writer of the Advent devotional is a pastor serving as the General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Her ministry interests include a theology of reconciliation, developing inclusive and multicultural congregations, and the mentoring of youth and young adults. Her view is that Advent's scripture passages call us to imagine a new world, one free from fear, not one based on a "return to normal." She invites us to discover how we might find the courage to imagine, permission to change, and freedom to fear no more.

The Homeless Thank You

RHUMC's homeless collection drive was an enormous success. In addition to receiving hundreds of dollars of goods for our Welcome Home Kits, we collected over $8000 in donations. Your generosity has allowed us to assemble our goal of ten Welcome Home Kits that include most of the items someone establishing a new household would need. You can see a completed set to the right. We also donated bags and bags of new underwear, socks and feminine hygiene products. We are in discussions with several organizations assisting the homeless to determine how best to utilize the remainder of your donations on behalf of the homeless. Thank you again for your amazing generosity.

Help us Decorate the Sanctuary with Poinsettias for Christmas!

Whether our worship is in person or virtual, we will be decorating the church with poinsettias. 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. Please mail or bring this form to the church office. The last day to order plants is December 6th.

Thank you!

Salvation Army Bell-Ringing Season by Roxanne Morse

'Tis the Season…

Nothing is quite the same this year, and the Bell-Ringing Season for our RHUMC volunteers is no exception! The Salvation Army will have workers outdoors this season; we still have our spot at Vons in Redondo Beach and our time, evenings Monday through Saturday. The Army is so appreciative of RHUMC's volunteers, but understands if anyone is not comfortable this season, due to Covid.

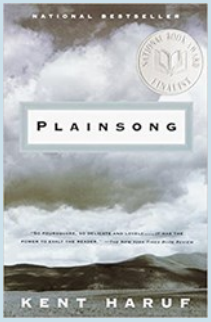
I will notify all past volunteers to see if you want to work this season… look for an email from me! If anyone new would like to volunteer, please contact me at 310-543-2281 or email roxannemor@gmail.com and I will be happy to include you in our ministry. We have been ringing since 2013 and have raised over $10,000 for the work of the Army in Redondo Beach. I know there are some RHUMC members who support the Army separately and I would encourage you to give directly to them: Salvation Army, 125 Beryl Street, Redondo Beach CA 90277.

We thank RHUMC for support in this ministry and as the Salvation Army states at Christmas: Need Knows No Season…

Save the Date for Trek to the Tree

The holidays are almost upon us and that means it is time for our wonderful Trek to the Tree. In normal times we would have ornaments on the narthex Christmas tree that you could select to buy either a new toy or a $25 Target gift card to benefit the population served by Toberman Neighborhood Center. This year we will be doing a virtual giving event starting on November 29. Stay tuned for more information.

Year End Book Discussion



By popular demand, 2020 is going to include one more book discussion for RHUMC readers and friends. On **Monday, December 7**, at 7:00 pm, we'll enjoy a conversation about *Plainsong* by Kent Haruf. Published in 1999, it was a National Book Award Finalist. The setting is a small town in the eastern part of Colorado. The *Miami Herald* called it "generously imagined and precisely rendered." Please remember to send an email to April@rhumc.org letting her know you plan to participate so that she can provide you with the Zoom link.

Second Sundays At Two

Sunday, November 8, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

Streamed over the Internet

~ presents ~

Pianist **MARK ROBSON**

"one of the great techniques," "an inquiring mind,"
and a performer capable of evoking an "exquisite engulfing pastel haze"
~ Los Angeles Times

Mark Robson is a consummate keyboardist equally at home with Early Music played on the harpsichord and organ to the great Romantic repertoire and contemporary piano works. As a collaborative artist with singers and instrumentalists, he commands the respect of his peers in both the recital and chamber settings. Mark is a regular soloist on the acclaimed Piano Spheres and Jacaranda series, as well as numerous other leading Los Angeles concert series.

PROGRAM
Ludwig van Beethoven: Piano Sonata No. 23 in F Minor, Op. 57, *"Appassionata"*
Franz Liszt: *Tre sonetti di Petrarca*

Check the concert announcement at
www.RHUMC.org
for the link to the recital

The Family Christmas Photo - An RHUMC Tradition!

Through the Sundays of Advent and across the array of services on Christmas Eve, families, couples, and individuals within our church are fond of capturing a moment in front of one of our beautiful trees. This year, our observance of the season will be different than usual, but we still want everyone to have an opportunity for a photo in front of the Christmas tree. The Worship Committee is placing a tree in the sanctuary and it will be decorated by Thanksgiving. Beginning on November 25 and continuing for a month, you are welcome to make arrangements to visit the sanctuary during business hours (Monday - Friday, 9:00 am to 4:30 pm) to create your own photo shoot. The steps are: call or email the church office (310 377 6771 or churchoffice@rhumc.org) and schedule your time slot; put on the outfits and gather the camera and the designated photographer; smile and say, "Merry Christmas!"

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Thursday on the Town - November 12

Panera FUNDRAISING™

Panera Bread
from 4:00-8:00 p.m.
2733 Pacific Coast Highway
Torrance, CA 90505
310-517-0324

If ordering online, enter code PRFUND at checkout to ensure RHUMPS gets a portion of the proceeds.

Preschool News

We just had our Open House staggered for four days in a row due to the pandemic to allow for safe social distancing protocols. We are looking forward to our next event, the Halloween Parade, which will also be staggered into four separate days and will include an enjoyable parade of superheroes, monsters, goblins, and some animals from each class.

Youth Ministries

Ignite Youth Ministry

11/4 Faith and Fandom Night
11/11 Handel's Ice Cream Hang Out
11/18 Handbells with Mrs. Johnson
11/24 No Ignite: Happy Thanksgiving!

Youth Sunday School

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

Looking Ahead to December

Wednesday, December 9 is the annual Ignite "Poinsettias and Carols."
Due to COVID19 we will be organizing this event differently this year. Youth will stay in their family units to make the deliveries, so parents are needed to drive and all siblings are welcome to help! If you chose to extend your "bubble" to drive with other youth families, that is up to each family's discretion. Please email Kristin@rhumc.org if your family would like to participate this year!

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

Parents of PK-12th grade, please keep an eye out for upcoming Christmas emails from the Children's and Youth Ministries.
We all know this year is different!
So we are currently envisioning a new way to celebrate our Christmas Eve traditions.
Emails will be sent out to you once we have things in place.
Thank you for your time and patience.
Debra@rhumc.org and Kristin@rhumc.org

Children's Ministry

Do you hear that? I think it's Christmas music. Yes, I know it's only November but Christmas is quickly approaching!

Does your family have Christmas traditions you honor each year? Advent calendars, dances, special meals, caroling, making reindeer food and many more? You may not even know how they started, but these traditions may now be a part of how your family celebrates each year.

The Children's Ministries would love for you to share a few sentences about one or more of your holiday traditions. No matter how big or small the tradition, these are cherished memories that last forever.

Please send along a family photo that we may post with your traditions. They will be put into a slideshow and put on the church web page for our church families to see in the month of December. Sharing these different traditions can inspire others, both in your family and afar.

We look forward to hearing about your unique traditions and wish you a Happy Thanksgiving!

Please send your traditions and photo to debra@rhumc.org by November 25th. Please note that by sending your photo you are allowing RHUMC to use your photo publicly on our webpage.

The RHUMC Children's Ministry is conducting online Sunday School for children in the congregation. Parents of TK-2nd graders 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 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 conducts live stream Sunday School lessons for youth (6th-12th grades) via Google Meetups. Weekly lesson plans are emailed. For more information please contact Kristin Reksc at Kristin@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	Gabby Palacios	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 November 27
www.rhumc.org