# The Cornerstone

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

**April 2021**

# Easter Worship – April 4

Our Easter service will include music by our 3rd service ensemble, adult bell choir and a vocal quartet performing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" – accompanied by organ and brass. You won't want to miss any of it!

You may participate in worship at the RHUMC YouTube Channel. Worship will be posted early Sunday morning and remains available thereafter. The bulletin can be found at rhumc.org.

May the joy of Easter lead us into God's new day!

## *from the pastors* *Jonathan Chute*

This Easter really does feel like a new beginning. As with Jesus' disciples, the full truth of the resurrection does not arrive all at once. When the women discovered the empty tomb, at first they did not know what to think. Their feelings were all mixed up at once. Fear and trembling, joy and hope lived side by side. Mark's gospel reports that "terror and amazement… seized them, and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." Matthew says that they left the tomb "with fear and great joy." In John's gospel, Mary Magdalene actually sees the risen Christ, but she does not recognize him. It took a while for them to live into the truth of what God had done.

So I am hopeful! I am not relaxed or cocky – we've seen how unhelpful that is. But I am hopeful! There are signs of new birth, and the renewal of life, all around. Green grass grows on the hillsides. Flowers fill the air with their scent. More and more of our community are being vaccinated. There is progress. Things are getting better. Infection rates are well down.

You can see the signs on our church campus as well. The number of children here for preschool and Kid Zone is growing again. The sounds of their voices and their lively spirits bring wonder and joy to our classrooms and playgrounds. Our mission with children and families is vital and strong.

Our church staff and leaders are beginning to work on a plan for in-person worship over the coming weeks. The trends here in California, from infection to hospitalization to critical care, are headed in the right direction. That could change, of course. We need to stay safe and behave in ways that protect each other as best we can. But we are on a better course than pretty well any time in the past year.

My goal and hope is that we would be able to be ready to gather again sometime in May. We have work to do, and decisions to make, to make that happen. Today as I write our capacity would be limited to 25%, but if we stay in the Orange zone we would be able to go to 50%. That's about what we had on a typical Sunday before we knew anything about COVID.

Our Re-Gathering Task Force will be working on a plan for our worship shortly after Easter. If all goes well, we plan to continue learning as we go through the Summer and hope to return to a full regular schedule in September.

The full truth of the end of the pandemic is not yet available to us. Some are already more than ready, eager to pick up where we left off. Others are almost ready, but want to see how it goes. Still others will need more time before they are able to believe. In many ways this past year really has felt like an extended Lent. But the joy of Easter cannot be contained. Spring is sprung. New life is ours. As Jesus said to Thomas about a week later, "Do not doubt, but believe." It takes a while for some of us – even longer for others. But God gives us the time to make our peace with ourselves and each other, and to move with joy and hope to where Christ leads.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

# *April Herron*

Dear Friends,

Holy Week, like life, is a roller coaster of events and emotions. A joyful public entry into Jerusalem is followed by a brief look around the city, and then a quiet return to a nearby town to spend the night. Intimate meals with friends, and loving gestures of compassion, are followed by fatigue, loneliness, and betrayal. A confusing and contentious "trial" is overcome by an agitated and angry crowd. A promising mission with a generous purpose leads to an agonizing death. Stillness, sorrow, and fear overtake energy, enthusiasm, and faithful intentions. Emptiness swallows time and space. And then...Easter! Life and hope are reborn.

This year, my experience of Holy Week began with my father in the hospital because a cardiac episode needed to be addressed. Good news ("we can control the heart issue with medication") was followed by discouragement ("he cannot successfully swallow his food"). Long stretches of tedium were interrupted by flurries of activity. Dad's dementia presented itself differently each day. Frustration and fatigue built throughout the multi-day struggle to agree on a discharge plan and find the right place for his care going forward.

I am grateful to have been able to visit my dad several times while he was at UCSD Medical Center receiving good care. I am equally grateful for the glimpses of hope that I glimpsed during the Holy Week days I was on campus at RHUMC: children in our Kid Zone program playing on Imagination Island; masked singers performing a mini-concert in our newly renovated meditation garden; nursery schoolers hunting for Easter eggs (and learning to count six eggs in a basket); Sunday School staff setting up for an opportunity to view the scenes and settings of Jesus' last days; audio and video technicians working patiently with pastors, liturgists, and musicians to craft the online worship experience.

Human grief and Easter joy live side by side. This truth is more evident to me this year than ever. I pray God's grace for all of us as we long for a restoration of the fullness of life. The peace of Christ be with you.

April

**The Missions Committee - Harbor Interfaith Thanks You!**

The RHUMC Missions Committee collected, then delivered more than 100 bags of non-perishable groceries to the Harbor Interfaith pantry between February and March communion Sundays. I guess the habit sticks with us, because the church office had MORE food in their box after we thought we were done. Thank you, thank you…. Not only to the congregation, but also to the many people who picked up food items and delivered them to the pantry: Kim Hall, Chris Campbell, Cheryl Thomas, Carrie Kissell, and possibly others! We have a generous, thoughtful family at RHUMC.

## April Book Discussion: "Transcendent Kingdom"
## Monday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.

"Transcendent Kingdom" is the second novel by Ghanaian American Yaa Gyasi. It tells the story of an immigrant family from Africa trying to find their way in the American South. The narrator is the youngest daughter of the family, Gifty, who adores her older brother, has a fraught relationship with her mother, and struggles with complex feelings about her mostly absent father. As one reviewer observes, the themes of the book "may not make for the lightest read, [yet] there is hope in Gifty's journey. Driven by a desire to uncover a cure for addiction, Gifty finds her calling in neuroscience, balancing her scientific approach with her Christian faith."

The portrayal of Gifty's spiritual journey is especially interesting. She navigates the arenas of science and religion determined to hold on to the best of both even as both her research and church-related experiences give her a lot to sort through, question, and ponder.

The discussion will take place on Monday, April 26, at 7:00 p.m. April Herron will facilitate the conversation. All readers welcome. Please send email to April@rhumc.org so that you can receive the Zoom link.

## Zooming Our Joys and Concerns

*Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints*.
Ephesians 6:18 NRSV

RHUMC has a tradition of living out the guidance of scripture by sharing our joys and concerns and praying for one another. If you would enjoy a time to interact and pray with friends from your church family, you are welcome to join in a Zoom session on Wednesday, April 14, at 10:00 a.m., hosted by April Herron. Each person present will be offered an opportunity to update the group on how we can rejoice with you and support you in prayer. Please send an email to churchoffice@rhumc.org or call Peggy at 310 377 6771 to indicate your plans to participate. You will subsequently receive an email with the Zoom link and phone number.

## *Second Sundays at Two*

***Sunday, April 11, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.***

*~ presents ~*

***Two Acclaimed Cellists join***
***Pianist Steven Vanhauwaert***

*Cellist/Conductor*
**EMILIO COLÓN**

*Cellist*
**CARA ELISE COLÓN**

*Pianist*
**STEVEN VANHAUWAERT**

Named *Artist of the Year* in 2017 by the New York Classical Music Society, internationally renowned cellist **Emilio Colón** is highly sought after as a concerto soloist, chamber musician, and conductor. Emilio is on the faculty of the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University. Cellist **Cara Elise Colón** has performed in chamber music collaborations throughout the world.

Hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* for his *"impressive clarity, sense of structure and monster technique,"* **Steven Vanhauwaert** is a Steinway Artist and the Artistic Director of *Second Sundays at Two.*

## *Streamed over the Internet*

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

# Kid Zone

Summer Camp
**Monday, June 14th – Wednesday, August 18th**

| DATES | THEMES |
|---|---|
| WK #1 Monday, June 14th to June 18th …….. | Carnival |
| WK#2 Monday, June 21st to June 25th …….. | Cooking |
| WK#3 Monday, June 28th to July 2nd …….. | Space/America the Beautiful |
| WK#4 Monday, July 5th to July 9th …….. | Super Heroes |
| WK#5 Monday, July 12th to July 16th …….. | Camping |
| WK#6 Monday, July 19th to July 23rd …….. | Science |
| WK#7 Monday, July 26th to July 30th …….. | Dr. Seuss |
| WK#8 Monday, August 2nd to August 6th …….. | VBC-Kid Zone 12:00-6pm |
| WK#9Monday, August 9th to August 13th …….. | Performing Arts |
| WK#10 Monday, August 16th to Wed., August 18th (8:00-1:00 p.m.)…. | Arts & Crafts |

**Time: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**
One day per week: $90.00
Two days per week: $170.00
Three days per week $240.00
Four days per week $300.00
Five days per week: $350.00

**Weekly Full Day 7:30-6:00 p.m. *$400.00**

*AM Early Care will be available at 7:30 a.m. – $12 a day or $40.00/week

*Extended Care will be available from 4:00-6:00 p.m. – $16 a day or $60.00/week

For more information:
**Kidzone.midzone@rhumc.org**
310-377-7302
Gabby Palacios
323-610-2253

**Registration will begin**
***Wednesday April 28th**
**TK/Kindergarten-8th Grade**

*We will be following recommendations from the CDC and from the Department of Social Services Community Licensing.*

## Youth Ministries

### Ignite Youth Mid-Week Ministry

**Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. (via Zoom)**

April 7- Game Night
April 14 - Interfaith Exploration
April 21 - Earth Day
April 28 - Service: a Way of Life

### Service opportunity

Friday, April 9 the youth group will prepare 150 sack lunches for St. Luke's homeless outreach program. Volunteers are needed to help bake cookies and to assemble the lunches. Contact Kristin@rhumc.org for more information.

### Youth Sunday School

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom.
Contact Kristin for the link to join**.**

Kristin Reksc, Director of Youth Ministries
Cell phone: 562-234-0161 Email: Kristin@rhumc.org
**Facebook page**: facebook.com/groups/RHyouth **Instagram**: rhumcyouth_

Clara & Maggie
Youth Sunday

Youth Group
Botanic Garden Walk

## Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

### Thursday on the Town - April 8

**MOD Pizza**
from 10:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
3 Peninsula Center A
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
310-265-0100
Fundraiser Code: GR183488R

20% of your bill will be donated to RHUMPS

Please bring this flyer so credit will be given to RHUMPS.

# Children's Ministry

In this continued time of physical distancing, our Children's Ministries wants to make sure your children have all the resources they need to continuing learning about the Bible from home.

We continue to have our video posted on the church website each Sunday morning for you to see. Along with the video posting, we are emailing our church families (at their request) activity pages to go along with the video.

The option to pick up a monthly folder including activity pages and crafts is also available at the end of each month. If you wish to have this available to you please email debra@rhumc.org.

## Welcoming children PK – 2nd grade who prefer a more visual approach to Sunday School!

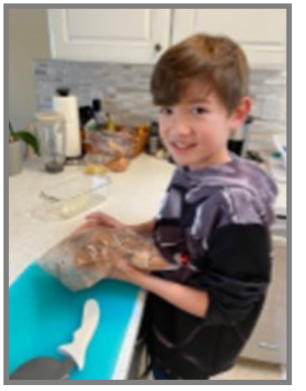
Join our ZOOM classes
every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

For more information and to get the access link, please email Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org.

## CALLING ALL 3rd, 4th and 5th GRADERS!

FUN and FELLOWSHIP is our mission for all the 3rd, 4th and 5th graders in Ms. Stevie's class. Every Sunday morning her Google Class receives an email with a short summary of the Bible story, something fun to do and a video link for our virtual class that meets at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome to join us! Simply register in our Google Classroom by adding your name and email to the link below and YOU'RE IN!

https://classroom.google.com/c/NTY3ODI1NzQ0NDNa?cjc=ijbkxfh



# All Are Welcome on the Easter Journey

On **Saturday, April 3**, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., RHUMC invites you on an **Easter Journey**. A one-way walking path for all ages will start at the lower parking lot, circle the patio, offer a visit to the sanctuary and finish with a Walk Through Holy Week in Wesley Hall.

Children can bring their Easter baskets and collect items along the way such as Easter crafts that they can complete at home, an at home cookie decorating kit, and candy filled Easter Eggs. You are welcome to see the beautiful flowers that adorn the sanctuary and have a family Easter photo taken in the narthex. Then onward to Wesley Hall where you will encounter "A Walk Through Holy Week," before you step back outside to collect your communion supplies for Easter Sunday worship.

The one-way path will help participants to keep safely distanced and will allow for shortcuts for those who wish to skip the visit to the sanctuary or Wesley Hall, or simply pick up communion and/or craft supplies.

We look forward to celebrating Holy Week and the joy of Easter with you in a new way this year. And remember wearing a face mask is an "Act of Love."

## VBC 2021 SAVE THE DATES

If God is willing and Covid restrictions allow,
we would like you to SAVE THE DATES
for Vacation Bible Camp at
Rolling Hills United Methodist Church!

Knights of North Castle – Quest for the King's Armor
August 2nd – August 6th

VBC might look different this year, and we are planning VBC with various scenarios in mind.
More details to come as we move forward.

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
26438 Crenshaw Blvd.
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

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 April 23**
www.rhumc.org