The Cornerstone

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

July 2021

The Missions Committee will be partnering this summer with a new organization named Hungry to Help. This non-profit organization was started by Ana Ahmad. Ana was an active youth member in Logos and with Sierra Service Project when she was younger. Her experience with Sierra Service Project ignited her passion to help those in need. Her organization provides support of the homeless communities of the South Bay by providing nutritious meals, hygiene supplies, and health screenings on a monthly basis. For more information about this organization, you can visit hungrytohelpca.org.

Our congregation can help by donating hygiene supplies (shampoo, conditioner, soap, feminine products, razors, etc.) and tarps (sized 12' by 16' or larger). We will be collecting supplies through the end of July. You can either drop supplies off on Sundays in the Narthex during church hours or at the church office during the week. Our church youth will organize the hygiene kits after we are done with our collection. Thank you for your continued support of the Missions Committee and our efforts.

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

Ummm…. so far, so good? It feels that way to me right now, and I hope for you and others as we find our way back into each other's good company. It has been wonderful to see many good friends over these past several weeks, and to catch up with one another in what seem like more familiar ways.

I know it is frustrating for many not to be singing together yet. We've traveled such a long way already, so just when it seems that we're nearly home it's actually harder to keep following the practices that have kept us safe. The recent news of the increase of the Delta variant in LA County should and does concern us. We are asking the congregation to remain masked when worshiping indoors. As I have said (maybe too often?), there are members of our church family who haven't yet had access to one of the vaccines or who are not able to receive it. Even though we may not know anyone in that situation we want to do our best by each other.

After this Sunday, Thyra and I will be heading to Canada. We have not seen her parents since late 2019. For most of that time the border was simply closed. Both nations had hands more than full in dealing with the pandemic. In more recent weeks it began to look as if we could hope to visit. We have been approved on compassionate grounds to enter, though it's not yet clear what our quarantine status will be. As a Canadian citizen, fully vaccinated, Thyra is not required to quarantine. We have all the necessary paperwork and approvals for admission to Canada, and if all goes well we will cross the border to celebrate her father's 88th birthday in a couple of weeks. It has been too long for many of us to be separated from loving family.

While I'm gone, Diane will join April in preaching, leading worship, and offering pastoral support and care. For those who don't know Diane, she was on our staff as Family Ministries Director for a number of years before serving the Atascadero UMC. She retired last year and, fortunately for us, loves to visit her daughter Julie and family who are part of our congregation. Kathy Platnick will be sharing our congregational prayers on July 11. We are fortunate to have such caring and capable friends to lead us.

July will be a rich, full and generous month in our church's life. We begin with singing and ringing to celebrate the 4th of July. Our youth will take part in a Week of Service under Kristin's excellent care, helping to build a prayer and meditation labyrinth on our campus with the help of Dale Gehr, Bill Bails, and Gene Koester. By the time August gets here we'll be diving into Vacation Bible Camp.

We're not all the way back yet, but we're definitely on the way. As we go, let us hold one another in continued prayer, for wisdom, grace and hope sufficient to the day.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

One of the many things I appreciate about the meditation garden at RHUMC is the memorial wall. The design of the wall and color of the stone enhances the peace and beauty of the restful outdoor space. Reading the names which have been engraved on the wall calls to mind all the devoted saints who have contributed to the mission and ministry of the church.

Many families have found it meaningful to have the names of dear ones inscribed on the wall. I cannot speak for others who decide upon this gesture, but I can tell you why I am looking forward to seeing my father's name carved into the smooth granite. My dad, Ken Herron, was actively supportive of my aspirations to respond to God's call and serve God's church. He paid for my seminary education. When my second assignment as a pastor brought me back to San Diego, he became a member of the congregation and served as an usher every Sunday for two decades. Sometimes he knew more about what was happening in the lives of the worshippers than I did! He was always interested in people and they felt his care. Putting his name on the wall is a way for me to honor his generosity and express gratitude for his encouragement.

The process for adding a name to the wall is simple. Peggy Roulette, who serves as receptionist, facility use coordinator, and secretary at RHUMC, coordinates each step. I told her of my wishes; she generated a proof copy of the name and dates for engraving; I approved and wrote my check to the church to cover the cost of the professional engraver. Peggy usually waits until we have three or four names of persons to be added to the wall before scheduling the work because this strategy helps to reduce the cost. Once my dad's name has been added, I will be able to enjoy a tangible remembrance of his remarkable life.

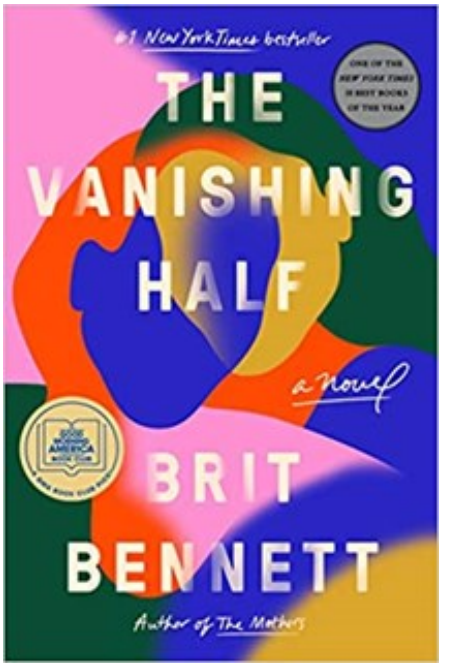
Your creativity in celebrating the lives of your family members has taught me that there are many ways to memorialize a loved one. I am grateful for the option provided right on our church campus, where we all have easy access to a tranquil and significant reminder of those who have gone before us.

May the days of summer awaken good memories of the past and generate happy memories for the future. God's peace to one and all.

April

Life of the Church - Photos by Bob Chamberlin

Summer Reading: *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett



"During a recent vacation, I picked up *The Vanishing Half* and started reading. I couldn't put the book down." So writes Katara Patton in her review for *The Christian Century*. The novel is the engrossing story of twin sisters raised in a small town in Louisiana, and follows their divergent pathways. As young adults in search of a fulfilling future, the two part company for a reason that echoes through the generations of their family. Gradations of skin color turn out to have a multitude of implications. From more than one angle, the plot raises questions about appearances and identity.

The Vanishing Half was named a "best book" of 2020 by several news organizations and was on best-seller lists for several months. Brit Bennett grew up in Southern California and a section of the book is set in Los Angeles.

Readers will gather on **Monday, August 30, at 7:00 p.m.** in the choir room for a conversation guided by April Herron. This will be our first in person book discussion in 18 months! If in person and/or evening discussions do not work for you, please email April@rhumc.org to let her know. She is amenable to considering a Zoom discussion at an alternate time for those unable to gather on the evening of the 30th.

Sunday Morning Bible Study - by Larry Kittiver

We have been continuing our studies all during the pandemic at our usual time on **Sundays at 10:30 a.m.** But on Zoom not in church. That has given us the opportunity to bring new faces and different faiths into our community along with people who couldn't attend because of geography or other commitments.

At present we are studying scripture passages which are sometimes found difficult or upsetting to interpret. We strive to understand the context of the passages, as well different viewpoints on their meaning and significance.

The book we are using is from John Shelby Spong, the retired Episcopal Bishop from Newark, New Jersey who has written 25 all dedicated to inviting the church to assess its ministry and remain open and generous in sharing the gospel. It is with devoted, thoughtful, and open minds that we approach such a subject. The book is dramatically called "The Sins of Scripture."

For Zoom information and schedule for returning to in church sessions, contact Larry Kittiver at larry8933@gmail.com.

Invitation to all RHUMC Women

Martha Circle would love to have you join us for a No Host lunch at the Red Onion on **July 12 at 12:00 p.m.** on their outside patio. After a Covid pause we are starting up our group again and would love to have some new members. This would be a great opportunity for you to meet us, learn more about our group, decide if we are a good fit for you, and help us format a new beginning with fresh ideas.

On August 9 at 12:00 p.m. we will have a bring your own picnic lunch at a shady location TBA and September will start our regular meetings which are on the second Monday of the month at 12:45 p.m. in the Aldersgate Room. In general, we have a short business meeting followed by interesting and varied programs, but we are open to new ideas and suggestions. Please call or email Barbara Addleman or Phyllis Goetz to make a reservation or to ask any questions you might have.

Hope to see you there!

Barbara Addleman – 310-541-6472 – baddleman@cox.net
Phyllis Goetz – 310-377-5405 – goetzrk1@cox.net

Appreciation from Toberman Neighborhood Center - by Patty Koester

On behalf of myself and my fellow Board Members we want to thank RHUMC for your support of Hope in the Harbor, our virtual fundraiser. We are close to reaching our goal of $20,000. Your continued support is appreciated.

Want to Have Fun Fixing Things?

Club Maintenance has started up again and we look forward to participation from folks who would like to know more about how the church functions from a maintenance perspective. Plus, we enjoy good camaraderie over a tasty lunch. Our last session was on June 12 and we had 10 folks out working on a variety of projects.

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **July 10 at 8:30 a.m.** Please think about coming by for whatever time you might have and join in the fun.

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

TK/Kindergarten - 8th Grade

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

Youth Ministries

July Youth Events

Tuesday, July 6 @ 9:00-10:30 a.m. **Group Hike at Abalone Cove**
We will meet in the parking lot for a mild hike at Abalone Cove. Please wear closed toed shoes, bring water to drink, and wear a hat and sunscreen. RSVP to Kristin@rhumc.org by Monday, July 5.

July 12-16 1:00-6:00 p.m. **Week of Service at RHUMC**
Registration is due ASAP if you would like to participate.

Tuesday, July 27 @ 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. **Land Conservation Service Project**
Join us at White Point Nature Preserve (1600 W. Paseo del Mar, San Pedro, CA 90731) to help with gardening and removing invasive plants from the coast. Please RSVP to Kristin@rhumc.org by July 16.

President's Volunteer Service Award

Applications for **PVSA are due by July 15, 2021.** Community service hours earned between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 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. Please contact Cassie Walke at Cassie@rhumc.org with any questions.

Youth Sunday School

We are now offering a hybrid class, with in-person and Zoom participation options on Sundays during the 10:00 a.m. worship service. We are also gathering during the 5:30 p.m. service for in-person Sunday School. 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_

Children's Ministry

Hello church families!

Summer is here and that means we are starting our summer Sunday School rotations at our 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. services.

Children ages 3 years through 5th grade will leave the church with their Sunday School teachers after the children's sermon. They will go over to Wesley Hall and spend equal time in the following areas:

Mission Room – story and/or skit related to that week's Bible lesson
Kitchen – cooking and/or snack related to that week's Bible lesson
Wesley Hall – craft and/or game related to that week's Bible lesson

Please remember to go onto the church web page at rhumc.org to sign up for the church service (and Sunday School) that you and your children will be attending! We are looking forward to spending time with you. ☺

Ms. Debra, Ms. Stevie & Ms. Natalie

Shirley's Shades

Many thanks to Bill Bails and friends for the four new, beautiful, shade structures gracing our playgrounds. They will provide shelter and comfort for children for years to come, and were given in loving memory of Bill's wife, Shirley.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP NEEDS YOU!

Help Us Get Ready for our
Knights of North Castle VBC.

Sunday, August 1, 6:45 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Decorating the Sanctuary
immediately after the 3rd service
for our week-long VBC.

Friday, August 6, 12:15 p.m. - ?
Taking down decorations in the
Sanctuary, Narthex and
Wesley Hall.

SMILING FACES WANTED FOR VBC

Registration (2 helpers): August 2

Meet and greet our adventurous campers as they arrive Monday morning for their exciting week of Vacation Bible Camp.

Greeters (2 helpers): August 2-4

Meet and greet all our VBC participants and assist them with locating their Castle Crew Leaders in the Sanctuary. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday!

If interested, please contact Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org or (310) 377-6771.

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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 July 23
www.rhumc.org