The Cornerstone

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

September 2021

BIBLE STUDY

EARS TO HEAR

A Bible study inspired by AdamMcHugh's book, *The Listening Life*

SEPTEMBER THEMES:

THE URGENCY OF LISTENING

GOD LISTENS

GOD'S PEOPLE LISTEN

CHOOSE SESSIONS:

TUESDAYS / SEPTEMBER 14, 21, 28
7:00 PM

or

WEDNESDAYS / SEPTEMBER 15, 22, 29
10:30 AM

Please email april@rhumc.org to register. She will be leading the class and will send instructions each on where to gather (Zoom or in person).

from the pastor *Jonathan Chute*

The early Church didn't exactly have it easy. They were at odds with the Jewish community in Judea. They were hounded by the authorities across the Roman Empire. There was no central organization to settle the disagreements that inevitably come up in communities of faith. As the movement grew, especially among Greeks and Romans around the Mediterranean, these new people brought their own questions and ideas into the conversation. Differences of language, culture, tradition and diet threatened to divide the early Christians from each other.

Paul's first letter to the Corinthians offers pastoral advice for a congregation he loved very much, and who were struggling with each other. One pressing issue was food. In the markets of the Empire, meat was sacrificed to Roman gods before being offered for sale. Some Christians objected to eating meat for that reason. Others did not see it as a problem.

Paul encouraged them that the idols in the marketplace were no threat to their faith, since they aren't real. He suggested that they not worry about avoiding meat for the sake of their own conscience. But, if our actions cause someone else to stumble, that's another matter. Don't let your own freedom be the source of someone else's injury. He concludes, "whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God."

That's definitely a different (and higher!) standard than any claim of individual freedom. "All things are lawful," he says to the Christians in Corinth, "but not all things are beneficial." I've been thinking of that whole discussion recently, as some of us have been gathering to worship in person, while others have stayed away. Both are honorable options for faithful Christians. I am glad to see people in the sanctuary each week, and glad for those who are with us on line as well. When I see about half of our usual number in attendance, I have to say that I think that's probably about right for us at the moment.

I want everyone to worship as we are comfortable, and no one to feel left out. Each of us should do as we see best. But I want to remember Paul's standard for what "best" means. He didn't suggest that we judge our behavior by ourselves only, but by the impact we have on others. And he was in good company. Jesus said something about loving our neighbors as ourselves. "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." We've heard this before, I think.

It is taking us longer to return to some of the things we love to do than I had hoped. Infection rates are higher than we expected. People are still getting sick. And some of us are sick and tired of the whole thing. But when I look back at the challenges faced by the first Christians, I am encouraged by the grace and wisdom of their example. Let us do whatever we do for the glory of God.

Peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

A labyrinth is a meandering path, compacted within a defined space, which leads to a center. The path never splits or diverges; it is not a maze. You begin a labyrinth walk at its entrance and proceed along the path. Lines define the path and maintain a consistent width, even around the turns. When you reach the center you have travelled half the distance. It is the usual practice to pause and reflect at the center before turning around and walking back out again.

Labyrinths have existed for hundreds of years in Christian history, and thousands of years in human history. Labyrinths are tools for personal, psychological and spiritual transformation. Christians use them symbolically as a walking meditation or prayer. Labyrinths evoke metaphor, sacred geometry, spiritual pilgrimage, religious practice, mindfulness, environmental art, and community building. They can be found at retreat centers, cathedrals, and churches, either as permanent or temporary installations.

Thanks to the inspired work of our youth and their adult supporters, RHUMC now has a permanent on-site labyrinth. It is located behind the sanctuary, at the far end of the office building. It is open and available to be walked at any time of day. It can take a few minutes or longer, depending on your pace and the amount of time you spend resting at the center. More than one person can walk at the same time as long as simple courtesy is observed when passing others going or coming on the path. Adults and youth on the path generally maintain silence. Young children may want a more conversational experience.

I encourage you to give the labyrinth a try as a way of connecting with God's peace or God's guidance. It may require more than one visit to begin to appreciate the benefits of walking the path. Feel free to contact me or Kristin Reksc (our Youth Ministry Director) if you have questions or would like further introduction about how to use the labyrinth in support of your spiritual journey.

God be with you along the way,

April

Missions Committee Shares the Bounty with Those in Need

by Chris Campbell & Debra Shrader

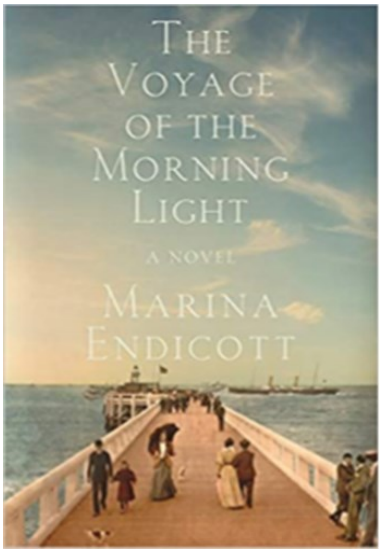
This month, and really all summer, we've focused our local efforts on helping those who are homeless. Our projects for the missions committee included assembling toiletry bags to be distributed by "HungryToHelp" and a continuation of last year's project to create "welcome to your new home" kits for recently-housed members of the community.

On one hot afternoon, members of the church youth group created an assembly line to safely pack 160 bags of toiletries and 30 bags of feminine products. As they added shampoo, soap, razors, masks, toothpaste and brushes, and lotions to the bags, we thought about how people on the street, houseless, have challenges beyond our imagination. Bless the contributors and Ana Ahmed's group that will be distributing them at their "HungryToHelp" events in San Pedro. Thank you and our youth for your dedication to community service!

With remaining funds from the project for homeless kits, Kim Hall and Kathy Platnick shopped and brought materials to the church to pack. Kathy, Bill and Barb Leone, Chris Campbell, and Debra Shrader organized the kits and packed them in two SUVs. The kits were delivered to a storage facility at the San Pedro United Methodist Church. Very soon, those kits will be handed to people who've recently been given apartments. They'll need those cleaning supplies, pots and pans, dishes, towels, sheets, etc. for making their new quarters a pleasant home. What a joy it was to see those kits ready for use!

This fall, the Missions Committee will gather face to face for a socially distant meeting to make plans for how we continue our work under different conditions. We zoom-meet monthly to keep our goals in mind, but we're always looking for fresh ideas. If you're interested in being a part of our committee, please contact Debra Shrader (424) 242-4438.

Join the Discussion of *The Voyage of the Morning Light* Monday, September 27, 2021



Marina Endicott's 2020 novel (published in Canada as *The Difference)* is set primarily on board a sailing ship that traverses great distances in the years before and after the First World War. It focuses on the experiences of two children brought together from different backgrounds as they grow and mature while trying to come to terms with families and forces that have influenced their lives in some painful ways.

The New York Times described *The Voyage of the Morning Light* as exhilarating, in part because of its "celebration of life on the open sea." Moral dilemmas are also in evidence as commerce and migration bring people of different cultures and religions into contact with one another. The book invites us to think about the sources of our identity and consider our responsibilities to one another.

Our discussion is open to readers of all ages and genders. April Herron will facilitate. Please send an email to April@rhumc.org so she can keep you informed of the meeting location (if in person) or Zoom link (if necessary). The gathering will take place on Monday evening, **September 27, at 7:00 p.m.**

Newcomer Gathering and Opportunity for Membership

RHUMC is eager for you to feel at home! If you would like to learn more about our ministries and meet others who are getting acquainted with our community of faith, please come to a "welcome session" on Sunday, September 26, at 11:15 a.m. You'll get a chance to visit with one another and the pastors, a tour, and (yes, really) an actual free lunch. Please make a reservation by calling 310 377 6771 or sending an email to churchoffice@rhumc.org. Those who then wish to become members of the church will have an opportunity to do so on Sunday, October 10, at any of the three worship services - but this is not a requirement for participation. We are glad you are here.

Martha's Circle News - by Barbara Addleman

Happy fall to all our members and prospective new members! Our first official meeting for the year will be on Monday, September 13 at 12:30 p.m. We are looking forward to having everyone present as we will be finalizing our plans for the upcoming year and want to be sure to have everyone's input.

Due to the Delta variant, we have had to make a couple of changes. Instead of meeting in the Aldersgate Room, we will be meeting outside of the church entrance under a blue pop up that the church will put up for us to provide shade. In lieu of shared refreshments, please bring a brown bag lunch. During the social time, we will enjoy our lunches. After that we will firm up our plans for the coming year.

We are excited to get our group back together and are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you. We welcome all new members so please call if you have any questions or to let us know you are coming or just show up. Looking forward to seeing all of you on September 13!

Barbara Addleman - baddleman@cox.net - 310-541-6472
Phyllis Goetz - goetzk1@cox.net - 310-377-5405

Hospitality Committee - by Maureen Banasky

As we gradually return to our usual schedule of church services activities, our Hospitality Team is getting ready to host receptions for memorial receptions, concerts and other events where we can be of service. We have a great team already and are looking to add to it. We have been a solid group for over 20 years who find it rewarding to be able to help families who have experienced a loss.

We need about 5-6 people for each event and we often split the time between setting up with one group and closing up with another. Both men and women are welcome – and youth who may want to accumulate service hours.

Maybe you've been looking for an opportunity to make a difference in people's lives and this could be it. Please contact Maureen Banasky at chomo2@cox.net or 310-378-4646 for more information.

Second Sundays At Two

Sunday, September 12, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents pianist ~

ALTHEA WAITES

Hailed by the Los Angeles Times for her
"Superb Technique and Profound Musicality"

Acclaimed pianist **Althea Waites** has concertized extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Asia, and South Africa as a brilliant soloist, chamber musician and collaborative artist. She has participated in numerous festivals and has appeared on National Public Radio's *Performance Today* and at Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles, the Geneva Conservatory of Music in Switzerland, Merkin Hall in New York City, the Phillips Gallery in Washington, D.C., and on *Sundays Live* numerous times at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, to name a few.

Ms. Waites' recording credits include her acclaimed *Black Diamonds* CD, a landmark of selections by African-American composers: Florence Price, the first African-American woman to achieve national recognition; Margaret Bonds, a protégée of Price; William Grant Still, the dean of African-American composers; and Ed Bland, highly original and cutting edge. A Yamaha Artist, Ms. Waites holds degrees from Xavier University of Louisiana and the Master of Music degree in Piano from the Yale School of Music.

STREAMED OVER THE INTERNET

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

Club Maintenance - by Bill Bails

Club Maintenance met Saturday, August 14 to work thru a list of tasks. These tasks included: attached two missing straps to the banners in the parking lot, patched drywall chipping by the sacristy door, started office attic clean out, trimmed low tree branches over walkway, worked on classroom and office doors, cleaned bird droppings on window and wall near labyrinth, and fixed classroom faucet. The hardy workers included: Bill Bails, Bob Chamberlin, Clarence Fung, Keith Levan, Don McCurry, Oren Sheldon, and Jim Showalter. After the work, a Subway lunch was enjoyed.

Your next chance to join the crew will be on **Saturday, September 11**, at 8:30 a.m.

Come join us this school year!

Kid Zone and Mid Zone After School Program is now open!
For School Year 2021-2022

For more information call 310-377-7302 or
email kidzone.midzone@rhumc.org
Hope to see you this school year!

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool

The preschool is resuming on **Tuesday, September 7th** for the 2021-2022 school year. We look forward to seeing the children and their families back for school!

Youth Ministries

Youth Service Opportunities

"Wild West" Ignite Kick Off
Wednesday, 9/8/21 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Youth, in 6th-12th grade, are invited to join us for "get to know you games" and celebrate the resuming of our weekly youth gathering, in-person, at RHUMC. Youth are encouraged to wear cowboy themed outfits to this event.

September Ignite is a series on Ecology and Faith
Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 p.m. at RHUMC
9/15/21 Wolves and a River
9/22/21 Up-cycle Contest
9/29/21 What can YOU do?

Youth Service Projects

PVP Land Conservancy service project
Sunday, September 19 from 12:30-3:00 p.m.
Youth, and their families, are invited to help restore a local nature reserve by removing invasive plants. Please contact Kristin for more information.

Save the Date: Relay for Life

Saturday, October 16, 2021 at South High School 9:00 a.m-.9:00 p.m.
To join our Relay Team visit: http://main.acsevents.org/goto/rhumc

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 service for in-person Sunday School. Contact Kristin for more information.

Rev. 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

"Knights of North Castle" Vacation Bible Camp
wrapped up on Friday, August 6th.
Our week was joyful and full of learning
and friendship while we went on our "Quest,"
and found more than we were looking for!

Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power.
- Ephesians 6:10

Thank you for your help and for making a difference
in the lives of so many children.

Your caring heart, support, compassion and positivity
was truly a blessing to all who attended our
"Knights of North Castle VBC."

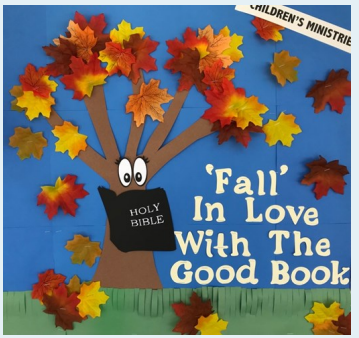
Thank you to our children, parents and volunteers for helping us fulfill our **Vacation Bible Camp Mission Project** this year.

With your generous donations, both monetary and physical, we were able to collect a total of 51 pairs of pajamas. These pajamas will be donated to Toberman Settlement House as part of their Christmas Breakfast with Santa event in December.

Thank you for your kindness and God bless you.

Ms. Debra & Ms. Natalie

Sunday School



Safe-In-Person **Sunday School** is waiting for YOU! Bring your mask and an open heart! We will provide the rest!

With summer over and children getting back to school we are excited to welcome everyone back on campus here at Rolling Hills United Methodist Church.

Children ages 3 (potty trained) through 5th grade are invited to join us at any of our three services (8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.) Nursery care is not yet available at this time for children under 3 years of age. However, the Comfort Room, at the back of the sanctuary, offers a place for parents to care for infants, toddlers or restless preschoolers while still participating in worship.

Our Children's Ministry team is helping children build a solid foundation with Jesus during Sunday School classes each week. Through our Bible stories, video, crafts, music and games, we are leading your children on a life-long journey of faith.

Can't wait to see you in person soon! If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at debra@rhumc.org.

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 Pastor	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 September 24
www.rhumc.org