The Cornerstone

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

October 2021

RHUMC Children's Ministries invites you to join us for some Fall Family Fun @ The South Coast Botanic Garden Sunday, October 17th 11:30 a.m.

Come on along and celebrate the autumn season with an outdoor activity for families of all ages and abilities at the South Coast Botanic Garden.

Search the 87 acres and find an assortment of haunted birdhouses, doll houses and other ghostly areas of the Garden. Don't worry if you can't find them all as the Garden will have a map to give you a little bit of help on your quest. Enjoy the sunshine and fresh air with family and friends but don't forget sunscreen, water bottles, comfy shoes and clothes!

We will meet in front of the South Coast Botanic Garden entrance at 11:30 a.m. After entering the Garden, we will find a nice area for a picnic lunch on the grass while still distancing (please bring your own blanket for your family). A simple lunch consisting of sandwiches, chips, dessert, and water will be provided. RSVPs are a must to Debra at debra@rhumc.org or 310-507-4496 by Friday, October 15th so we can be sure to have enough food for all our families.

General admission price for the Garden is:
$15.00/adult (13 and up), $11.00/seniors, $5.00 children (5-12) and kids 4 and under are free. If you have a membership to the Garden your admission is free.

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

Thank you for your encouragement and care, your love and prayers over these past few weeks. Thyra's parents have now moved into a lovely and excellent assisted living setting, where they can be together as her father continues his recovery from a recent stroke. Their children and grandchildren have mostly had a chance to see them recently and each day seems a bit more hopeful than the last. Thyra and I are grateful for the support you have shown.

We will be seeing them again soon, combining a visit to Toronto with the closing up of our cottage a couple of hours north of there. We are also looking forward to a weekend with Hannah and Daniel, who will join us near the end of the week.

It has been a reminder for me of how precious and valuable is the time we are given. None of us holds a claim on anything but the present. We are blessed and fortunate as the sun rises on us each new day. Even more, we are blessed in and with each other.

That continues to be one of the ongoing areas of learning in my life. Over the past almost two years we have experienced disappointment and devastation, right alongside astonishment, wonder and joy. The miracles we have seen, the creativity and initiative, the care and compassion of our congregation has been amazing. If someone had told us two years ago what lay ahead we couldn't have believed them. But you have been an ongoing, continuing, even relentless source of encouragement.

This month we are privileged to receive a number of new persons into our church family. Some have known us in different ways for some time. Others discovered RHUMC when we were all in full lockdown, through the miracle of YouTube and virtual worship. How unlikely and incredible it seems that people should find a sense of welcome and home in such a strange time. On the other hand, maybe that is exactly when the need for community and connection is most vital.

Pastoral ministry has its ups and downs. There are difficult weeks and tedious days. But those are more than made up for by the examples of resilience and compassion we pastors get to see being lived out in your lives each day. Even from my own limited perspective on all of it, the view is pretty amazing. I can only imagine how it appears from where God sits.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

The Annunciation. The Shepherds. The Nativity. Epiphany. These are the serigraphs by John August Swanson which we pass by as we enter the sanctuary at Rolling Hills United Methodist Church.

Take Away The Stone. Washing of the Feet. These are detailed depictions by Swanson of key revelations in the ministry of Jesus. (Christ came to bring life. He came to serve.). We can spend time with them in the Aldersgate Room.

Entry into the City. The River. We are met by motion and color and an invitation to receive the blessing of water when we come into the reception area of the church office and encounter two more of Swanson's works.

The Presentation in the Temple. The Procession. If we spend time in the conference room we can gaze at the rich color and vivid detail which Swanson used to depict important moments in scripture and in the life of the church.

I never get tired of looking at the work of the wonderful artist, sensitive soul, and humble human being that was and is John August Swanson. I am not the only person at RHUMC who is blessed to have his art hanging in my home. Thanks to a generous wedding gift from the congregation, Bob and I continually enjoy a lively rendition of Jesus' disciples in a fishing boat under a sunny sky. Their nets are full, as is my heart when I think about all that John shared with the world and all the times and ways I have been encouraged on my faith journey by his vision.

On the treasured occasions when we here at RHUMC were able to spend time with John, he brought before us the value of welcoming refugees, caring for the poor, and celebrating God's love. We observed that he was so eager to engage with people that it was hard to convince him to eat or take a breath. He pursued his calling with passion to the end of his days.

John August Swanson joined the saints in light on September 23, 2021. He was 83 years old. His home was the City of Angels. His art resides in churches, educational institutions, and museums in various parts of the world. He gave generously of himself at all times and in all seasons. We are blessed to have known him, and I am grateful to the members and friends of RHUMC who purchased and then loaned or donated his serigraphs so that we all may benefit from their presence among us.

April

Finance Update

As we move from summer to fall there is good news to share on the financial health of our congregation. Despite the pandemic your generosity has remained strong throughout the year. Thank you!

Giving to the Operating Fund is within a few percent of our goal to date. Expenses are lower as well, by nearly the same amount. Out of a total operating budget of $1,382,700, we had projected a deficit of about $83,500 through August. Instead we are ahead of our projection by $37,000, leaving us with a current deficit of about $46,500. Our congregation has a history of remarkable generosity toward the end of the year. We expect to finish healthy and strong as we look to the coming year.

A year ago our preschool and after school programs were facing a threat to their very existence. When the local schools went virtual our enrollments plummeted. We were facing the loss of tens of thousands of dollars each month of operation. But our program staff, our church treasurer and members of the Finance Committee successfully addressed the shortfall. We applied for and received funds from the PPP/CARES Act, loans which have now been entirely forgiven. We were able to keep staff in place, serving children and families who needed us more than ever.

We are happy to report that both programs are now solidly in the black. The preschool is near full capacity once more. Kid Zone is perhaps even more of a success story. Gabby Palacios took over as director pretty well exactly as our most difficult days had begun. We honestly did not know how long we could continue. Under her leadership the program has grown in strength and number, and is showing signs of great promise to come.

Thank you for the support you have given and the love and trust you have shown through the year.

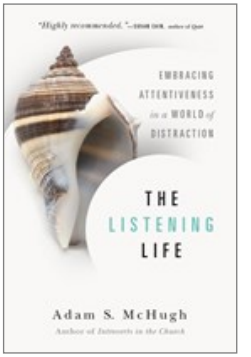
Dawn Unity

October 19, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Four clergy members, all participants in the very first panel in 2001, will reflect on Dawn's history and then delve into the evening's topic: "The Imperfect Families of Genesis." Two of the clergy remain in the same pulpits, Msgr. David Sork at St. John Fisher and Rev. Jonathan Chute at Rolling Hills UMC, and two have changed - Rabbi Ron Shulman to Congregation Beth El in La Jolla and Rev. Reinhard Krauss now the Executive Director of the Academy for Jewish, Christian and Islamic Studies. The panel will convene at the site of the inaugural 2001 panel: St. John Fisher Catholic Church, 5448 Crest Road, Rancho Palos Verdes. Bob Rothman will be moderator for this free, ninety-minute program. For further information, call 310-833-7008.

All Saints' Sunday – November 7

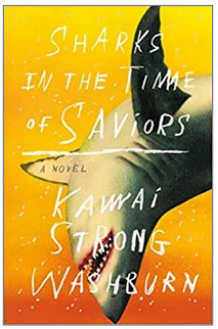
Each year, on the first Sunday of November, we celebrate All Saints' Day with a special prayer of thanksgiving for members, friends and relatives of our church family who have died in the past year. If you would like to include someone in the service who has died since November 1, 2020, please call the church office or email churchoffice@rhumc.org with their name, and the date of their death. All of us have been blessed by people who have gone before us, and this is an opportunity to remember their contributions to our lives.

Bible Study Continues In October



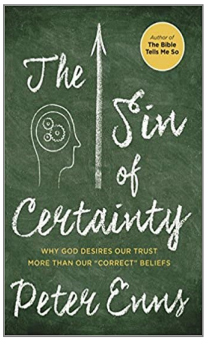
The "Ears to Hear" Bible study will continue for two additional weeks, with the Tuesday evening class meeting on October 5 and 12 at 7:00 p.m. and the Wednesday morning section meeting on October 6 and 13 at 10:30 a.m. April Herron is guiding the study based on *The Listening Life* by Adam McHugh. We meet for an hour via Zoom. If you would like to join in the learning, send an email to April@RHUMC.org and she will provide the link. (If you are already participating you will be included in the reminder emails.)

Next Book Discussion: "Sharks in the Time of Saviors"



This is a debut novel with its roots in the mystical days of ancient times and its characters struggling with painful contemporary social/economic obstacles. Author Kawai Strong Washburn is described in a New York Times book review as a, "passionate writer [who] cries out for us to see Hawaii in its totality: as a place of proud ancestors and gods and spirits, but also of crumbling families and hopelessness and poverty; a place of mystery and beauty at every corner." Readers are invited to consider the relationship between personal and community well-being, as well as to evaluate possible sources of healing and hope. Our discussion will take place **Monday, November 15**, at 7:00 p.m. Please email April@RHUMC.org so she can confirm location (online or in person) and send you the Zoom link if necessary.

Sunday Bible Study on Zoom - by Larry Kittiver



We are now reading Peter Enns' light hearted discussion on *The Sin of Certainty*: *Why God Desires Our Trust More Than Our "Correct" Beliefs*. Join us on Zoom every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. Contact Larry Kittiver at larry8933@gmail.com.

Martha Circle News - by Edith Utterberg

Due to continued concerns over the Delta variant, Martha Circle will be meeting on **Monday, October 11**, at 12:00 noon 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 open with our devotional followed by announcements and the program. Edith Utterberg will share stories about a few favorite hymns and their composers. We hope to see you there. To RSVP and for further information call Edith Utterberg at 310-265-2209 or Phyllis Goetz at 310-377-5405. Or you can email Edith at eutterberg@aol.com or Phyllis at goetzrk1@cox.net.

Compassion, Community & Hope
Supporting our Mission in 2021

Our Worship Life – $428,637 *(31% of our budget)*

Worship lifts our hearts, stirs our spirits and stretches our minds. We discover grace and hope for our lives. God gathers us as a community, and speaks to us through the stories of our faith. Each week a team of volunteer and staff leaders works to bring us together for worship and praise.

This past year, worship has made it possible for us to connect even when we are apart. We have discovered new relationships over YouTube, and reconnected with friends who now live elsewhere. We are reaching out to our community and world in ways we never imagined!

Worship is the life and breath of our congregation. Your giving helps bring encouragement and hope to many.

Caring for Our Community – $290,367 *(21% of our budget)*

We support each other through the many seasons of grace in our lives. Whether in joy or in sorrow, we know we are stronger and better together. In prayer we lift up the needs and hopes of our church family. Our pastors and parish nurse visit in times of illness or loss. This past year we have served families in our congregation and community with memorial or funeral services, giving thanks for the lives of loved ones near and far.

Your gifts help us reach out to others with the same healing and hope that Jesus offered. Caring for persons in everyday life is one of the ways we live out God's love for the world.

Local and World Outreach – $221,232 *(16% of our budget)*

Much of God's work takes place where we cannot see. When fires are burning or a flood leaves devastation behind, we look to provide help as people rebuild their homes and lives. We support mission efforts around the world, as well as here in the South Bay. We partner with other churches, agencies and faith communities. We know that God can accomplish far more when we work together than on our own.

Our congregation supports the work of a worldwide church. We work alongside Toberman Neighborhood Center and other local partners, as they provide food, shelter and transitional support to hundreds of families each year. We seek to follow Jesus' invitation to love our neighbors as ourselves, wherever they may be.

Children and Families – $442,460 *(32% of our budget)*

The needs and hopes of growing families are near to our hearts, and the center of our life as a congregation. Our preschool and after school programs are known throughout the community. Through them, children learn about the world around them. They grow to understand themselves and each other. Throughout the year, our youth give of themselves in hands-on mission, from preparing meals for people in need in our local area to helping repair homes in rural communities across the West. In the midst of the pandemic we offer an amazing range of spiritual growth and faith development through on-line Bible studies and book groups. We look forward to the coming year when in-person ministry, including retreats, seminars and workshops can again be open to the whole community. Your generosity helps make that possible.

Missions Committee - by Chris Campbell and Debra Shrader

Thank you, congregation, for your amazing outreach and support of local projects. In August, Ana Ahmad and her **"HungryToHelp"** group distributed care packages to people in San Pedro. She reported that some of the women given feminine products were emotionally thankful. I would be, too!

We have ended our collection of toiletries for now but may collect again.

November 14th is the date chosen for our annual **Missions Fiesta**. Alas, there will be no "fiesta" in person, but look for the letter from missions so you can participate in this vital outreach to help people in our community and around the world. Heifer International, Habitat4Humanity, and our missionaries will benefit.

Health and Wellness Opportunity - by Annette Matsuda

Join members of our Health and Wellness Team and Parish Nurse for an outdoor walk, featuring highlights of our spectacular peninsula! Get some exercise, connect with new and old friends, and enjoy God's beautiful creation!

South Coast Botanic Garden
Tuesday, October 19th, 9:45 a.m.
We will begin our walk at 10:00 a.m.

Free admission - Annette Matsuda has 20 tickets reserved for us. Please email her at annettematsuda@gmail.com or call the church office to reserve your ticket(s). **Masks**: If you are fully vaccinated, facial coverings are optional. The CDC advises individuals who are not fully vaccinated to continue wearing facial coverings.

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
Psalm 133:1

Toberman Neighborhood Center Presents Parade of Trees Holiday Luncheon

Thursday, November 11 – 11:00-2:00 p.m.
at Michael's Tuscany Room, 470 W. 7th Street, San Pedro
~ Tickets $75~ www.toberman.org/paradeoftrees or call 310-832-1145

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents pianist ~

ROBERT THIES

Hailed by the Los Angeles Times for his
"unerring, warm-toned refinement, revealing judicious glimmers of power"

Robert Thies's recitals are highly regarded by aficionados not only for his consummate musicianship and his sensitive artistic interpretations, but for his illuminating observations about the composers and the selections. In this recital, Robert will reprise his centennial-celebration of Claude Debussy (1862–1918) in a recital titled *The Painter of Sound*. Robert will comment on the paintings that inspired Debussy, and images of the paintings will be integrated in the video.

Streamed over the Internet

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

RHUMC Thanksgiving Dinner - Still on Hiatus

- by Suellen Fung and Doug Kemps

Just a few months ago, gears shifted as plans were made for the 2021 Thanksgiving Dinner. Volunteers were given the heads-up on dates...others made their reservations for dinner...Then, Delta made its appearance!

The RHUMC 2021 Thanksgiving Dinner has had to be called off. We appreciate and are thankful for all who offered to volunteer. And for those who made reservations, you'll be on the list for the next Thanksgiving Dinner. And to all, much thanks for your support.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Club Maintenance - by Bill Bails

Club Maintenance met Saturday, September 11, and accomplished the following tasks: installed door stop on preschool office door, removed damaged sneeze plates from choir room, weeded labyrinth area and cut back ivy at berm, trimmed dead and fallen branches from trees at far corner of the campus, cleaned up litter along back fence, changed filters in three classrooms, replaced broken ceiling tile in office hallway, reglued side strip on counter in sacristy, and replaced bulbs in the entrance sign. CM concluded with a hardy pizza lunch. Attending were: Bill Bails, Bob Chamberlin, Clarence Fung, Gene Koester, Keith Levan Don McCurry, and Jim Showalter.

Your next opportunity to join this group will be **Saturday, October 9** at 8:00 a.m.

Youth Ministries

Ignite Youth Ministry

October Ignite is themed: "Who are you?"
Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 p.m. at RHUMC
10/6/21 Game Night - Imposters!
10/13/21 Social Media
10/20/21 Masks
10/27/21 Halloween Movie Night
There will be a prize for the best Halloween costumes

Relay for Life

Saturday, October 16, 2021 at South High School 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Please contact Kristin@rhumc.org if you can help with our team tent or walking along the track. **To join our Relay Team visit: http://main.acsevents.org/goto/rhumc**
Help raise funds for the American Cancer Society by participating in an **online silent auction** through 10/15. **https://rfltorrancesilentauction.ggo.bid**

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_

Kid Zone After-School Program

RHUMC Kid Zone is an after-school program for elementary and middle school students offering a fun and safe environment while supervising the completion of daily homework. Student pickup from many local schools is provided.
For more information call 310-377-7302 or email **kidzone.midzone@rhumc.org**.

Children's Ministry

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 and Martha's Room, at the back of the sanctuary, offer places 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.

Please remember to sign up for the church service (and Sunday School) that you and your children will be attending at: rhumc.org/service-reservation. We are looking forward to spending time with you.

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Monday, October 11 - Available All Day

GOOD STUFF RESTAURANTS

20% of your transaction will be donated to RHUMPS

Indicate RUMPS when ordering so credit will be given.

Good Stuff Palos Verdes
550 Deep Valley Drive Suite 151
Rolling Hills Estates

Dine-in or take-out
(curbside pickup available)

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 October 29
www.rhumc.org