ROLLING HILLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Cornerstone

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

November 2021

MISSION FIESTA SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 14, 2021

RHUMC's annual Mission Fiesta Sunday will take place on Sunday, November 14th. 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.

Like last year, the Missions Committee has chosen to have another 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 via **rhumc.org**. Missions Committee representatives will have a table on the patio after the two morning services on November 14th in case you'd like to make a donation in person. However you choose to donate, please note on the memo line or the designated giving line that your gift is for Mission Fiesta Sunday. If you would like 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 contact either Chris Campbell at **campbellchris123@msn.com** or Debra Shrader at **teach2play@gmail.com.** Many thanks!

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

As Yogi Berra once observed, “The future ain’t what it used to be.” That’s a lesson we’ve all been learning for nearly a while now, if we didn’t know it before. So many things we once knew for sure have turned out otherwise. In one week we moved from almost 60 years of in-person worship to gathering on-line only. Fifteen months later we began a journey toward gathering again in the sanctuary, and I have to say that I remain encouraged and hopeful about how we are doing. Thanks to everyone for your patience, your generosity, and your encouragement. It has made all the difference.

As things have been stable and improving in the wider community, new developments and possibilities have emerged. This Sunday, April and I will again be offering communion bread from a common loaf, for those who are comfortable receiving that way. There will still be an option of individual bread servings in a cup for anyone who feels better with that approach. Grape juice will still be in individual cups for everyone.

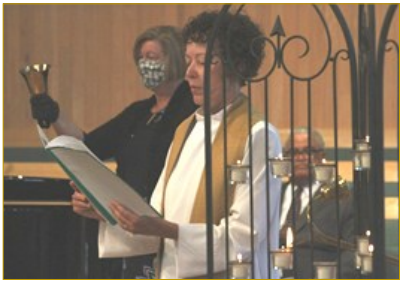
Another hopeful development in our worship life includes our choir, who will be meeting this month to plan for their return to regular singing in December. We are also looking at encouraging congregational singing, with all still wearing masks, around the same time.

We have also been encouraged by the generous response to our Celebration Sunday giving campaign. On Sunday, October 31, we received 90 Giving Cards, either on line or in person, totaling $383,354 to support our life and work next year. We are reaching out to members and friends who have not yet responded, inviting as many as possible to be part of our mission and ministry in 2022. While we cannot see exactly what God’s future will hold for us, it is truly amazing to see how hopeful and generous you are as we look forward together.

For ages, God’s people have looked to the future with hope in our hearts, from Abraham and Sarah, promised descendants more numerous than the stars, to the prophets who trusted that God had not given up on the people in a time much harder than our own. Our faith is grounded in a sense of hope and trust in the God who made us, and who keeps us and all Creation still in love. Yogi Berra was right when he said, “It’s tough to make predictions, especially about the future.” But even when we don’t know the details, we know who will be with us.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

As we approach our observation of All Saints Sunday, I have appreciated the opportunity to read some of your emails which enumerate the hard losses of friends and family members in the past year. Your descriptions of the nature and history of your relationships reveal how rich our lives are because of the people with whom we share our thoughts and hours, and how painful it is to have to bid farewell to those whose companionship we treasure. The month of November brings together emotions of both sorrow and gratitude.

The wisdom in this linkage might be that our sorrow is the measure of our gratitude. We would not be sad over who and what we currently miss if we had not first enjoyed deep connections, wonderful experiences, tender moments, and times of laughter. It seems that a full life requires us to learn to navigate our losses as well as our joys.

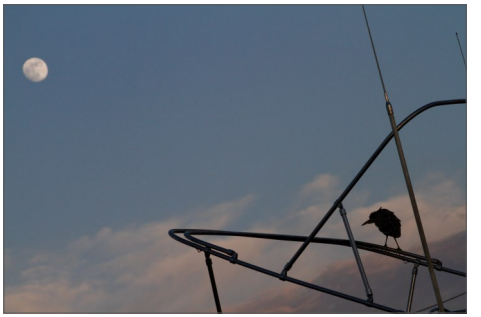
Thankfully, God is with us in all things. “Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God,” reports Isaiah (40:1). Isaiah then follows with the invitation, “In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,” (40:3) and the reminder that though “the grass withers” and “the flower fades,” the word of God will stand forever (40:8). God is present to console us. God joins us, even in the parts of our lives that feel like uncharted wilderness. God’s activity in the world is continuing, though our human lives seem ephemeral. God does not faint or grow weary, and therefore is able to strengthen us for difficult days.

I am glad for all of us who have known goodness in the form of dear friends and precious family members. I invite you to take part in this month’s Grief Support Roundtable and Gratitude Labyrinth Walk. And I pray that the unfailing love of God will be a support, sustenance, and source of gratitude for us all.

In the peace of Christ,

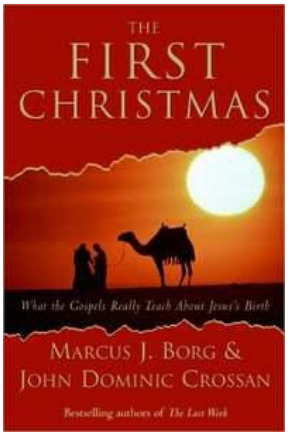
April

Book Discussion: *Sharks in the Time of Saviors*



The third and final fall book discussion will take place on **Monday, November 15,** at 7:00 p.m. Our selection is *Sharks in the Time of Saviors* by Kawai Strong Washburn. Among the questions we ponder as we read and converse are: How do others see us? How do we see ourselves? What events and understandings shape our lives? When goals and aspirations emerge, where do they come from? Please email April@RHUMC.org to let her know you plan to participate. She can verify location and/or provide a Zoom link.

Sunday Bible Study for Advent by Larry Kittiver



On Zoom we are starting a nine week Advent study on October 31. We are using a fascinating book called *The First Christmas* by Marcus Borg and John Crossan. There is so much material to cover as we go behind the Bible story to see how this event was celebrated, responded to and received by people of the day. This pair of authors also wrote *The Last Week* for a Lenten study which we used last spring.

As one critic wrote, "this book enriches our understanding as the authors have much to say in profound and convincing insights into the meaning of Jesus's birth for the early church and will be a challenge to discern their meaning for the world today." This is not your childhood version of this astonishing holiday. Contact Larry Kittiver at larry8933@gmail.com to sign up.

Looking Ahead: An Advent Bible Study

Looking Ahead: An Advent Bible Study about sacred vulnerability and holy surprises will be led by April Herron on Mondays at 2:00 p.m. on December 6, 13 and 20. A Wednesday Zoom option for Wednesday evenings on December 1, 8 and 15 at 7:00 p.m. could also be available. Please send an email to April@RHUMC.org if you would like to participate.

Grief Support Roundtable

Many of us have bid farewell to loved ones in the past twelve (and more) months. Furthermore, the constraints of the COVID pandemic have, in many cases, compounded our grief. Anyone who is living with sorrow over the loss of a parent, sibling, spouse, son or daughter, dear friend, or colleague is welcome to join a Grief Support Zoom conversation on Wednesday evening, November 10, at 7:00 p.m. We will share resources for understanding our grief and potential strategies for navigating the approaching holidays in helpful ways. Please email April@RHUMC.org so you can receive the Zoom link and relevant materials.

Gratitude Walk

Saturday, November 13, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
Walk the labyrinth at RHUMC as an expression of gratitude to God.

It is the season for thanksgiving. Schedule or stop by for your walk for any time during the stated window. April Herron will be on hand to offer some guidance and supplemental materials for your prayerful walking experience. Her email is April@RHUMC.org. Wear comfortable shoes with flat soles!

O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God's steadfast love endures forever.
-1 Chronicles 16:34

Martha Circle Gathering by Barbara Addleman

We invite all church women to our Martha Circle meeting on **Monday, November 8,** at 12:00 p.m. We have a great speaker, Cynthia Cohen, who will tell us about the Jewish Religion concentrating on the holidays of Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, and Hanukah. She is a most friendly and delightful woman who will also be joining us for lunch as she wants to get to know us as well as us getting to know her. She speaks in a very informal and witty manner and I know you will really enjoy the presentation. Depending on the weather, we will either meet under the canopy by the entrance to the church or in the Aldersgate Room - most likely in the Aldersgate Room since November tends to be cool. If you don't see the canopy set up just go inside. Bring your own brown bag lunch to enjoy before the presentation. Hope to see you on the 8th! If you have any questions please call Barbara Addleman - 310-541-6472.

New Health and Wellness Opportunity - by Annette Matsuda

Join members of our Health and Wellness Team and Parish Nurse for an outdoor walk, featuring spectacular ocean views! Get some exercise, connect with new and old friends, possibly sight dolphins, and enjoy God's creation!

Point Vicente Interpretive Center and trails
31501 Palos Verdes Dr. W, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
Wednesday, November 17, 9:45 a.m.
Meet in front of the Interpretive Center entrance.
We will begin our walk at 10:00.
Free parking

Masks: If you are fully vaccinated, facial coverings are optional. The CDC advises individuals who are not fully vaccinated to continue wearing facial coverings.

Please email Annette Matsuda at annettematsuda@gmail.com
or call the church office at 310-377-6771 if you plan to attend.

God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good.
Genesis 1:10 NRSV

RHUMC Thanksgiving Dinner - Still on Hiatus

The Annual RHUMC Thanksgiving Dinner for 2021 has been cancelled. We hope we can resume this festive tradition again next year. Happy Thanksgiving!

Riviera United Methodist Church – Community Blood Drive

Riviera United Methodist Church will host an American Red Cross Blood Drive for the greater community on **Tuesday, November 9**, from 10:00-4:00 p.m. in their Fellowship Hall. To schedule an appointment or for more information go to RedCrossBlood.org and use Sponsor Code: FellowshipHall.

Riviera UMC
375 Palos Verdes Blvd.
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
310-378-9273

American Red Cross

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, November 14 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

The Collaboration of Two Stellar Artists

Canadian Pianist
BERNADENE BLAHA

Originally from Canada, **Bernadene Blaha** came to international attention as a top prizewinner of four international piano competitions. Currently residing in Los Angeles, Professor Blaha has been a member of the Keyboard Faculty at USC's Thornton School of Music, since 1993.

Swiss Violinist
Laurence Kayaleh

Swiss violinist **Laurence Kayaleh** is an artist of deep musical insight, possessing a rich, singing tone and a natural feeling for style. She has been a concerto soloist with such leading orchestras as Zurich's Tonhalle Orchestra, Geneva's *Orchestre de la Suisse Romande,* the RTBF Symphony Orchestra (Belgium), and the Basel Symphony Orchestra.

Streamed over the Internet

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

Club Maintenance - by Dave Larson

Want to Have Fun Fixing Things?

Club Maintenance is active now and we look forward to participation from folks who would like to know more about how the church functions from a maintenance perspective. Our last session was on October 9th and we had 5 folks out working on a variety of projects. Plus, we enjoyed good camaraderie over a tasty lunch.

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, November 13**, at 8:30 a.m. Please think about coming by for whatever time you might have and join in the fun.

Hanging of the Greens

We will be decorating all 4 trees this year! The Worship Committee invites you to get into the holiday spirit by helping us transform the church. We invite you to put on your mask and join us on:

Sat., Nov. 27th, 8:30-10:30 a.m. – Decorating the huge Narthex tree
Sat., Dec. 4th, 8:30-10:30 a.m. – Decorating the Sanctuary

Come share the spirit!

Poinsettia Sales

It's easy for you to order poinsettias to be given ***In Honor of a Loved One***, ***In Memory of a Loved One*** or ***To the Glory of God***. Just fill out a form and turn it in with payment of $15 a plant, or 2 for $25. You may send it to the office or place it in the offering plate. December 6th is the last day to place your order!

Altar Flowers

The new flower chart for 2021 has arrived! Sign up early to ensure you get your favorite date to honor, celebrate, or remember that someone special!

Salvation Army - Ringing of the Bells by Roxanne Morse

The Salvation Army is once again bringing the sound of bells to a shopping area near you! I will be on the patio at RHUMC on Sunday, November 14 to touch base with anyone interested in volunteering this season. The total commitment is 1.5 hours for an evening that works best for you (after Thanksgiving through Christmas). We have had many volunteers over the years and the Salvation Army is very grateful for our commitment to making our community a better place for everyone.

I look forward to connecting with volunteers who are new or seasoned……and thank you for considering this wonderful way to keep much needed resources/services here. I will supply the tools like aprons and kettles, and you can provide the Christmas smiles and cheer. For more information, contact Roxanne at 310-543-2281.

Help us Decorate the Sanctuary with Poinsettias for Christmas!

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: _____

Email: _____

Number of plants:_____ Amount paid: _____

Cash: _____ Check number: _____

Please make checks payable to RHUMC for $15 per plant, or 2 for $25. Please place in the offering plate or bring or mail this form to the church office. The last day to order plants is December 6th.

Thank you!

Toberman Neighborhood Center Presents

PARADE OF TREES HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Thursday, November 11, 2021

11:00am-2:00pm

Michael's Tuscany Room

470 W 7th St. San Pedro, CA 90731

You're invited for an afternoon of holiday cheer supporting Toberman Neighborhood Center programs. Featuring a 3-course luncheon, silent auction, and an opportunity to bid on festive trees to bring home to kick-off your holiday season.

- Tickets $75 -

www.toberman.org/paradeoftrees

Please contact our team at development@toberman.org or 310-832-1145 for more information & sponsorship opportunities

2020 California Nonprofit of the Year

Rolling Hills UMC's
Children and Youth Ministries invites
your family to participate in
an Advent study this season

Tuesday Evenings
11/30, 12/7, 12/14, & 12/21
@ 6:30-7:30pm

All ages are encouraged to join the small groups as we explore how the Grinch's heart grew three sizes, and how our hearts can be prepared for the celebration of the birth of Christ. Participants will be sorted into small group pods that will stay constant over the four weeks.

Please register to attend by Nov. 22.

Contact Ms. Debra DeLuca at
debra@rhumc.org or
310-377-6771 ext. 306

Arts & Crafts,
Sports/Games and
Science

For more information:

kidzone.midzone@rhumc.org
310-377-7302

Gabby Palacios
323-610-2253

Kid Zone presents…

Fall Camp!
November 22-23

Tk-Kindergarten – 8th Grade
*We will be following recommendations from the CDC and from the Department of Social Services Community Care Licensing.

Daily Rate 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. - $90
Early Care 7:30-8:30 a.m. - $10/day

KID ZONE MEMBER
Daily Rate 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. - $85

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Friday, November 12 - Available from 11:00-9:00 p.m.

Top Tenders

20% of your transaction will be donated to RHUMPS

Indicate RUMPS when ordering so credit will be given.

Top Tenders
3901 Pacific Coast Highway
Torrance, CA 90505
424-257-8126

Dine-in or take-out

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHILDREN AND FAMILY WORSHIP SERVICE

With the months passing by so quickly, the magical time of Christmas will soon be upon us. Our Children and Youth Ministries will be coordinating a children's Christmas Eve worship service in-person this year! It is our goal to gather safely and have the children and youth bring to you the wondrous story of Jesus' birth. The service will begin at 4:00pm. Those who wish to attend the service must reserve a seat through "Pastor's Toolbox" ahead of time and will wear a facemask throughout the service.

Children are invited to portray the holy family, animals, shepherds, angels, and the royal wise ones who come bearing gifts and children in 2nd-5th grade are invited to ring chimes. Costumes will be distributed ahead of time so that children can arrive dressed for their part in the nativity. Youth are invited to participate in the bell choir, read scripture, light the advent wreath, or perform an instrumental solo. (Attendance at rehearsals is required for those playing in the handbell and chime choirs.)

If your child or youth would like to participate in the service please contact either Debra DeLuca (debra@rhumc.org) the Director of Children's Ministries or Kristin Reksc (kristin@rhumc.org) the Director of Youth Ministries.

Youth Ministries

Ignite youth Ministry

November Ignite is themed: "Creativity"
Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 p.m. at RHUMC
11/3/21 Cake Decoration Contest
11/10/21 Paint Night
11/17/21 Game Night
11/24/21 NO IGNITE- Happy Thanksgiving

Toberman Tree Decorating

Our youth group has volunteered to decorate a Christmas tree for Toberman Neighborhood Center's "Parade of Trees" fundraiser. Come to RHUMC on **Sunday, November 7, from 4:30-5:30 p.m.** to help create ornaments and garland.

"Loving thy Neighbor" Service Project

November 21-23 youth are invited to participate in a collaboration of local South Bay youth groups who are joining together to serve their community and grow deeper in faith. Youth will gather at San Pedro UMC for service projects, fellowship, and faith development. For more information contact Kristin@rhumc.org. Registration is $50 and due by Nov. 13.

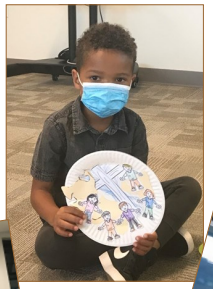
Youth Sunday School

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.

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

Jesus Loves the Little Children of The World!
Join us for Sunday School
Sundays @ 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.
Ages: 3 years old to 5th grade



A big thank you to all who came out and joined us at the South Coast Botanic Garden on October 17th.

From our picnic to our quest to find the "Halloween Haunts," a festive time was had by all!

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 November 26
www.rhumc.org