The Cornerstone

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

January 2022

Epiphany Bible Study:

The Practice of Prayer

Four Tuesdays - Choose:

2:00 pm (We hope to meet in person.)
or
7:00 pm (We will meet on Zoom.)

January 25: Praying As a Blessing
February 1: Praying For the World
February 8: Praying Together When Feeling Apart
February 15: Praying With Hands and Feet

Epiphany is a season for new realizations and insights. Join RHUMC friends in learning about and trying various forms of prayer, as informed by scripture. April Herron will guide the class. Register by sending an email to April@rhumc.org or calling the church office 310-377-6771 so that you can receive communications about the meeting location and/or Zoom link. Short readings will be supplied in advance of each gathering.

"The Lord willing and the creeks don't rise." That's how some of us used to account for uncertainty in our plans. It meant we were good to go, unless unforeseen circumstances interfered. This past week we've watched as creeks actually did rise, and interrupted all sorts of well-laid plans. For others it was unexpected feet of snow that fell in the way. For some it was a positive result on a COVID test.

This past week Thyra and I have spent time with her parents in Toronto, where they live. We made our plans weeks ago, when we thought we knew what we were doing. Of course, things were changing almost every day. Friends at home tested positive. Family here tested positive. And tests were harder and harder to come by. Results were delayed. We were lucky to be joined by Hannah and Daniel, whose negative tests came back with less than an hour to spare before they crossed the border. We are so glad to have time with them. But others have had their plans turned completely upside down. This is a frustrating time for many. We resent the uncertainty we face over our immediate futures.

In the midst of our own unsettled plans, it occurred to me that the current pandemic has only made more obvious the tentative nature of all our plans. Someone once observed, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." I wouldn't go that far. We do need to make plans. We can't help but look ahead. We plant seeds in the spring in the hope of a full harvest. I think it was Martin Luther who said that everything we do in this life is done on the basis of hope.

So there we are. We can't help but look to the future with hope. But we want to keep a sense of humility about what lies within our control, and that which remains beyond our reach. The creeks will settle down again soon. We will continue to find our way through the latest COVID variant. It hasn't been easy. And the details are still unclear. But we are not the first to walk this road. God's people have been through this and worse. As we look to the year to come, let us keep faith with those who have gone before us, and shown us the way.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends -

The gospel reading for the first Sunday of 2022 is from Matthew 2, a chapter about travelers going to unfamiliar places by unknown routes according to uncertain timeframes.

The magi from the east set out to worship a newborn king and discover they misjudged their destination. A dream eventually warns them that they may have endangered themselves or others with their visit. They are overjoyed to be able to deliver their gifts to the child but realize they have to find a new route home.

Joseph and Mary, with Jesus in their care, also departed from Bethlehem in secret. They must have carried only limited provisions and wondered how they would feed and shelter themselves along the way. Thanks to Joseph's dream, they, like the visitors from afar, knew they were not necessarily safe on the road. They stayed for a time in a land not their own, possibly learning new customs and habits. When they returned to their own country, they felt it necessary to take up residence in a town remote from their previous home.

What kept these travelers going as they faced threats to their lives and could not guess how long they would have to endure their unsettled circumstances? Perhaps it was the delight they experienced in one another's presence. Perhaps it was the vivid memories from dreamtime or waking hours of an angel sent from God to offer clear guidance. Perhaps it was trust in God cultivated over a lifetime of prayerful habits. Perhaps it was dedication to a purpose that inspired hope and confidence. Perhaps it was love...for a baby, for the night sky, or for the perpetual astonishment of being alive.

As we journey into a new year, we likewise face unanticipated demands and big questions. Like those who traveled toward and with the child Jesus, we also might find ourselves reaching for faith, hope, and love to keep us moving forward. God, of course, is the source of those good gifts. Through the church, by means of the worship, Bible study, service, friendship and learning, outdoor exercise, or prayer and meditation activities we pursue together, I believe God means to shape us into encouraging companions for one another. God knows our difficulties. In 2022, may we grow in appreciation for how eager God is to help all of us find our way to a joyful homecoming.

In the peace of Christ,

April

New Health and Wellness Opportunity - by Annette Matsuda

Join members of our Health and Wellness Team and Parish Nurse for a guided outdoor walk, featuring spectacular ocean views on paved paths! Get some exercise, visit with new and old friends, possibly sight dolphins and gray whales, and enjoy God's creation!

Thursday, January 20, 9:45 a.m.

Trump National Golf Club walking trails
One Trump National Drive
Rancho Palos Verdes 90275

Free parking is available in the lot to the left of the clubhouse as you arrive. Meet in the same parking lot by the blue sign, "Park Rules." We will begin our walk at 10:00. Dogs on leashes are allowed. **Masks**: If you are fully vaccinated, facial coverings are generally optional outdoors. Please email Annette Matsuda at annettematsuda@gmail.com or call her at (424) 399-3175 if you have any questions.

The sea is only the embodiment of a supernatural and wonderful existence.
- Jules Verne

Dawn Unity Group – "Rites of Passage"

The Dawn Unity Group will next gather on **Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 7:30 p.m.** at the Congregation Ner Tamid, 5721 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes. The panel will include Rev. Dr. April Herron, Rolling Hills UMC; Rabbi Joel Rembaum, Congregation Ner Tamid; and Fr. Alexei Smith, Archdiocese of Los Angeles and will discuss their religions' rites for life cycle events. How is a birth celebrated? When does childhood end and adult responsibility begin? When is someone recognized as a member of the faith? Who can be married and what commitments are made in the marriage ceremony? What is required to be lay and clergy leaders? Masks will be required. The discussion will also be live streamed with access via facebook.com/dawnunitygroup/live, and will later be available on YouTube. Bob Rothman will be moderator for this free, ninety-minute program. For further information, call 310-833-7008.

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, January 16**, at 11:15 a.m. You'll get a chance to visit with one another and the pastors, take a tour, and enjoy lunch. Boxed lunches may be taken home or served on campus. 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, January 30, at any of the three worship services - but this is not a requirement for participation. We are glad you are here.

A BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES

SEEING WITH NEW EYES

ONE MEMOIR. TWO NOVELS.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 7 PM
SITTING PRETTY
by REBEKAH TAUSSIG

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 7 PM
BEHOLD THE DREAMERS
by IMBOLO MBUE

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 7 PM
EVERYTHING SAD IS UNTRUE
by DANIEL NAYERI

Geography. History. Culture. Story. Life Experience. A change of perspective on various elements that play a role in our lives can reveal new insights and provoke deeper understandings.

April Herron will lead the discussions.

Please register by emailing:
april@rhumc.org.

All readers are welcome!

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, January 9 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

The Collaboration of Two Stellar Artists

Cellist
CLIVE GREENSMITH

From 1999 until its final season in 2013, Clive Greensmith was the cellist of the world-renowned Tokyo String Quartet, giving over one hundred performances each year in the world's most prestigious venues, including New York's Carnegie Hall, the Sydney Opera House, London's South Bank, the Paris's *Théâtre du Châtelet,* the *Berliner Philharmonie,* Vienna's *Musikverein,* and Tokyo's Suntory Hall. Formerly the principal cellist of London's Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Mr. Greensmith is currently on the faculty of The Colburn School.

Hailed by the *Los Angeles Times* for his "impressive clarity, sense of structure and monster technique," Steven Vanhauwaert has garnered a wide array of accolades, including the First Prize at the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition. A Steinway Artist, Mr. Vanhauwaert is Artistic Director of Classical Crossroads' *Second Sundays at Two* series at Rolling Hills United Methodist Church.

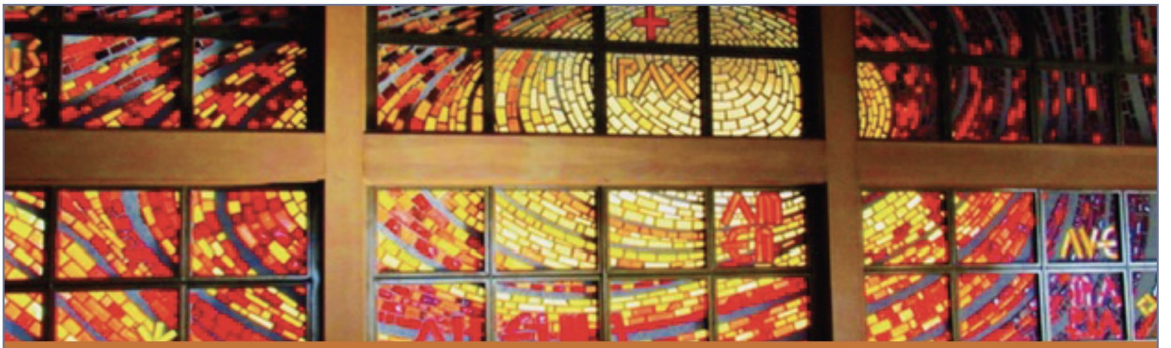
Pianist
Steven Vanhauwaert

Streamed over the Internet

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

3rd Service CD Recordings Available

CD recordings of our 3rd service are available in the church office. If you would like to hear our 3rd service in its entirety including the 3rd service ensemble, we encourage you to stop by the office weekdays between 9:00-5:00 p.m. to check out a CD for your date of interest.



Women's Retreat

WALKING IN THE LIGHT OF GOD

FEBRUARY 25 – 27, 2022
LED BY APRIL HERRON

MUSICAL GUEST:
THERESA JAMES

LOCATION:
Prince of Peace Abbey
Retreat House
650 Benetton Hill Road,
Oceanside

COST:
$220 Double Occupancy
$350 Single Occupancy
Includes 2 nights lodging and 6 meals, Friday afternoon through Sunday Lunch.

REGISTRATION:
Begins Sunday January 2nd and closes on Monday February 7th
$220 is due at registration.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

A limited number of single rooms are available.
Please indicate your preference:

❒ Single ❒ Double* ❒ No preference

*Roomate: _____

Please include a payment of $220 with your registration. Make your check payable to "RHUMC" with "Women's Retreat" in the memo section and mail or drop off to the church office. We will not deposit the check until your space has been guaranteed. The deposit is non-refundable unless another person can take your place. Single balance to be paid once room is confirmed.

NOTE:
28 spots available. ***All participants must be fully vaccinated.***

Sister & Naomi Circles are Grateful

In the spirit of the Christmas season, our women's Sister Circle & Naomi Circle took on the project of supporting Toberman's "Kid Gifts for Parents." With contributions of cash and requested items, they were able to complete 11 bags each containing a blanket, a candle and a container of cookies or candy. The women are thankful for your generosity and support. If you would like information regarding the Sister Circle, contact Jean Kinney at jean.e.kinney@earthlink.net. For Naomi Circle, contact Judith Hill at judithleehill@sbcglobal.net.

Missions Committee and Toberman Thanks You!

Thank you all for making this year's Trek to the Tree an outstanding success! Between the gifts that were donated and the money collected for gift cards, we were able to help almost 300 children at Toberman have a happy Christmas. We couldn't have done it without your generosity and support.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing by Roxanne Morse

Here is Eric in a traditional eye-catching Christmas outfit as he rings the bell for the Salvation Army! We were assigned this grassy knoll near Trader Joes this year and missed our protected spot at Vons. It was a season that saw much generosity as well as some rainy evenings, but we were able to do 15 shifts of 1.5 hours. We made more than $700 and I thank all the volunteers from RHUMC who contributed to the effort… yes, 15 people ringing a bell for 1.5 hours can make a difference! The Salvation Army is happy that we can do this volunteer stint in the evenings as it certainly will benefit their local programs.

My thanks to all of you….you know who you are…..for a season well celebrated as we spread good wishes during this Christmas season.

Club Maintenance

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, January 8**, at 8:30 a.m. Please mark this date on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair. Your participation will be greatly appreciated no matter what your skill level is. In December, several Club Maintenance folks helped with Christmas decorations in the sanctuary, both putting up and taking down the trees, garlands and wreaths.

Merry Christmas

and

Happy New Year

from our Sunday School Teaching Team

"Sights and Sounds of Christmas"

Youth Ministries

Ignite Spring Kick Off

February 2, 2022 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at RHUMC
RHUMC's mid-week youth ministry resumes for the spring semester. For more information, please contact Kristin.

Confirmation 2022

Youth 9th grade through 12th grade are invited to attend an informational meeting, Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 11:15 a.m. at RHUMC. Please contact Kristin if you are interested in participating in the confirmation classes this spring.

Sierra Service Project 2022

Registration is now open for SSP this summer. Our middle school team will be going to San Diego, CA July 24-July 29 and our high school team will be going to Smith River, CA July 30-August 7. Deposits of $200 are due now to reserve a spot! Please contact Kristin for the information packet.

Rev. Kristin Reksc, Director of Youth Ministries
Cell phone: 562-234-0161
Kristin@rhumc.org

Stay connected on social media
Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/RHyouth
Instagram: rhumcyouth_
Text Reminders: send keyword "RHUMCyouth" to 33222

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool

Snow is in the forecast for the preschool come Tuesday and Wednesday, January 11th and 12th. The children will enjoy a few days sledding down the famous ramp and keeping Frosty the Snowman chilly with packing on fresh snow. A true winter's event we all look forward to year after year!

Children's Ministry

There's a place for you here at
Rolling Hills United Methodist Church.

Join us as we learn and build a solid foundation with Jesus during Sunday School classes each week. Through our Bible stories, videos, crafts, music, and games, we will lead your children on a life-long journey of faith.

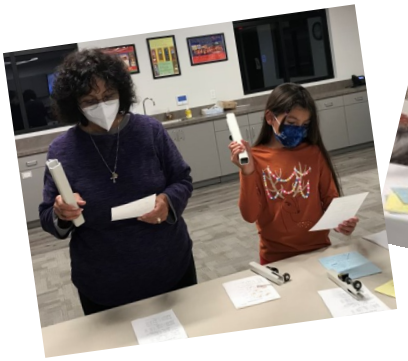
Our services are at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.

PreK - Kindergarten (potty trained) with Ms. Debra in room #201
1st - 2nd grade with Ms. Natalie in room #205
3rd - 5th grade with Ms. Stevie in room #204

We can't wait to see you in person! If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact me at debra@rhumc.org.

Thank you to our friends who attended our Advent series "The Heart That Grew 3 Sizes." Through reading, discussions, games and singing, we learned about redemption and salvation offered to us in Jesus. That the birth of God's son brings hope, peace, joy, and love to all.

Additionally, we learned just as our friend the Grinch did…
Maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Christmas, perhaps…means a little bit more!



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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 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 January 28
www.rhumc.org