The Cornerstone

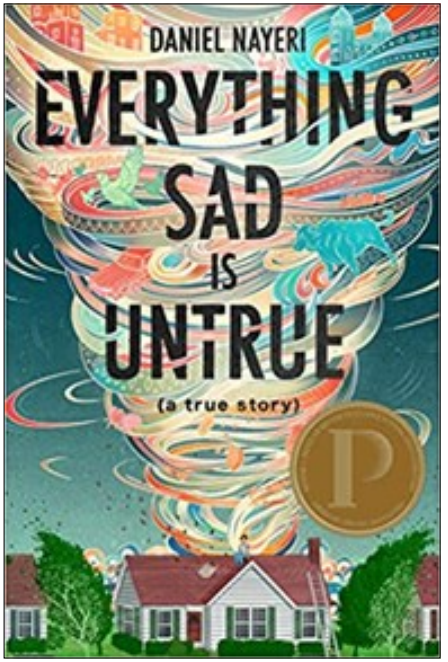
Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
26438 Crenshaw Blvd.
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
310-377-6771

March 2022

March 28 Book Discussion:

"Everything Sad Is Untrue" by Daniel Nayeri

New York Times book reviewer Arvin Ahmadi called *"Everything Sad Is Untrue"* a love letter to storytelling and offered the following introduction:



In this epic tale, our hero is Khosrou, a 12-year-old boy named after a real king. His battle? Fifth grade. Khosrou lives in Oklahoma, having fled Iran with his sister and his mother, whom the secret police threatened for practicing Christianity. Khosrou's father stayed behind. In Oklahoma, things aren't great for Khosrou. But in Mrs. Miller's class, Khosrou is a storyteller. Khosrou spins these tales like a modern-day Scheherazade.

The boy's perspectives are eye-opening and range from poignant to enchanting, with a dose of hilarity thrown in. We will find much to discuss when we gather at the end of March. As the reviewer put it, "Nayeri pours an ocean of humanity onto these pages." Email April@rhumc.org to let her know of your interest so that she can provide details of the gathering. All readers are welcome!

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

Our fig tree is sprouting and our pomegranate is just about exploding with new growth. You may remember that Jesus said when the fig puts forth its leaves you know that summer is near. We understand that carpentry, rather than horticulture, was his background. So we can overlook what appears to be a bit of over-eagerness about the change of seasons.

Of course they are always changing. That is the way of the world God made. Hardly anything stays the same. As the saying goes, "No one steps in the same river twice." That seems especially timely as we continue our return to in-person worship. Each week, our numbers seem to be growing. But who we are today is not the same as who we were two years ago. How could we be? We have gained and lost dear friends. We have discovered new ways to be the Church. And we have kept faith with values and practices we have long held close to our hearts.

The LA County Health Department has removed the mask requirement for indoor gatherings. From early on we have followed their guidance and plan to continue to do so. That means that as of this Sunday masks will no longer be required for in-person worship. I know that will make some of us very happy and be a source of anxiety for others. I expect it will take some time for everyone to be comfortable with that change. Some may prefer to keep them for even longer. And that is perfectly appropriate and understandable.

I expect that we will continue to offer a range of options, both in-person and virtual, for different kinds of gatherings, from Bible study and book groups, to youth ministry, Sunday worship and special events (such as our Good Friday concert). We plan to continue to offer worship on YouTube as a permanent part of our life together. It has allowed us to maintain our connection as a family of faith these past two years as well as to meet a whole host of new friends, near to home, across the country, and around the world.

Other changes are afoot. Over the next couple of months we will see a new roof and solar panels installed on Wesley Hall. They will save us thousands of dollars in electricity each month and contribute to a greener energy profile for years to come. We hope to make further improvements there as well over the next year or so, beginning with the kitchen and moving on to renew the rest of the facilities. As it becomes more comfortable to be together again we look forward to community meals like Taco Night and the Thanksgiving Dinner. We want our campus to be a place of welcome and hospitality for all kinds of activities and events that serve our community.

We also look forward to strengthening our mission by making significant progress on the loans that made possible our new education facilities. We are grateful for the generosity of those who have been contributing to our Building Fund for many years. And we count on that same spirit to be alive and well among us going forward.

May God bless our mission and ministry in this coming season of grace.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

Have donut holes and banana bread ever tasted so good? How great was our delight when, on a recent Sunday, we gathered after worship around beautifully decorated tables to partake of a small snack and a big helping of conversation with one another! After a nearly two year absence, coffee was once again available on the patio. Did I hear someone say, “alleluia!”?

We are grateful to Kristin and Akshay, whose wedding occasioned the need for a bit of celebration, and for the diminishment of COVID cases which made it possible for so many of us to gather, and for the generosity of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the hospitality team in organizing the event. No one has lost sight of their gifts and talents, and it was good to see a wider spectrum of them in evidence again.

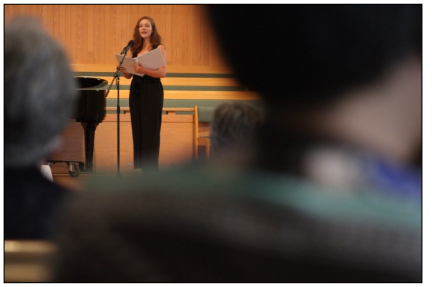
We acquired new abilities and survival strategies during the pandemic. In some surprising ways our ministry was diversified and expanded. These days, we are having the fun of rediscovering some of our core in-person strengths. We like each other! We like to see each other, encourage one another, and get caught up on what’s been happening in each of our lives.

I have started offering one in-person and one Zoom option (different times with different groups of people) for the Bible Study classes and book discussions I host. Anette Jacquette is eager to resume a Monday morning gathering of those who would like to pray together in person for the needs of the congregation and others who request prayer support. Annette Matsuda is continuing to organize outdoor walks for fellowship and exercise. You can read about all of these opportunities in this newsletter. Gradually, and each at their own pace, people are moving out into the world and back into the sanctuary with more sense of safety and confidence.

Thanks be to God for always being with us in sickness and in health, in joy and in sorrow, in fearful times and in happy ones. Thanks to all of you for keeping the faith while enduring much that has been difficult to bear.

April

Save the Date - Good Friday Concert



The Chancel Choir will present *Wondrous Love*, by Benjamin Harlan in a Good Friday Concert at 7:00 p.m. on **Friday, April 15, 2022**. This one-hour Easter Season cantata will be the first concert presented by the choir since Christmas 2019, and we hope that you will come and enjoy the music. To continue our efforts to be safe and approach all of our activities with caution, we will limit the number of persons to 200 people in the sanctuary for this program. A link to the Pastor's Toolbox for reservations will be available starting April 1. For those not able to attend, it will be livestreamed and available on YouTube.

United Methodists Raise Over $56,000 for Hunger Relief through the Good Competition: Super Bowl Challenge in California and Ohio

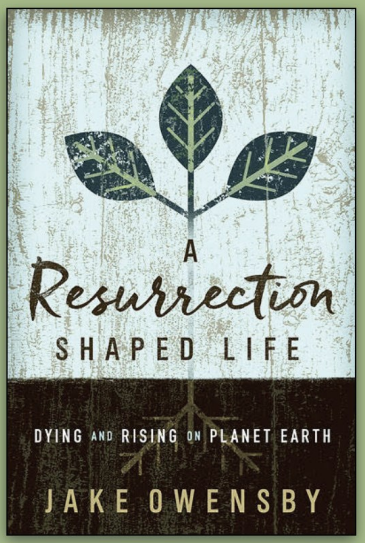
Even as the noise of our LA Rams victory celebrations have died down, we have one more reason to celebrate – United Methodists in Cincinnati and Los Angeles together raised over $56,000 for efforts to alleviate hunger in our communities – fitting for Super Bowl 56. Our Los Angeles United Methodists raised a total of $17,458.59 for hunger relief. The grand total raised was $56,037.97–this means that even though the Bengals lost the football contest, they outdid Los Angeles in this effort to feed hungry people.

As we acknowledge and honor that Cincinnati technically "won" this Good Competition, we also celebrate that the real "winners" are the recipients of food and monetary donations, who will experience a respite from the constant stress of food insecurity. "The real Super Bowl competition is to outdo one another in doing all the good we can for those who struggle to put adequate, healthy food on their table," says Pastor David Meredith, Director of Urban Ministries in the West Ohio River Valley District.

Dawn Unity - March 8

The Dawn Unity Group will present a discussion of "Interfaith Accomplishments Past and Present" on Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 p.m. at Rolling Hills UMC, 26438 Crenshaw Blvd. The panelists will be Rev. Jonathan Chute, Rolling Hills UMC; Chancellor Michael Engh, Loyola Marymount University; Dean Jihad Turk, Bayan Claremont; and Rabbi Zachary Zysman, Loyola Marymount University with Bob Rothman as moderator. The subject will give us a chance to look back at the progress that has been made in our community, the nation, and the world. Are people developing sincere respect for others, or is political correctness the driving force? Who has benefited, and what were the contributions of community, religious, and political leadership. Has the modern digital age of instantaneous worldwide communication been a positive or negative factor? The panel will be live streamed as well on Facebook.com via the link dawnunitygroup/live. Masks will be required. For further information call (310) 833-7008.

2022 Lent & Easter Study



The class is facilitated by April Herron. Participants will need a copy of *A Resurrection Shaped Life* by Jake Owensby. Copies are available in the church office for $10. The book could be easily ordered online for home delivery.

A Resurrection Shaped Life

WEDNESDAYS:
2 pm – In Person
7 pm – Via Zoom

MARCH 23:
Growing Beyond Our Past

MARCH 30:
The Meaning of Suffering

APRIL 6:
Recovering from Shame and Blame

BREAK FOR HOLY WEEK

APRIL 20:
Mending Loss and Sorrow

APRIL 27:
Forgiveness, Passion, and Justice

MAY 4:
Just Us

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.

Health and Wellness: Peak of Season Whale Watch Walk II

- by Annette Matsuda

Join members of our Health and Wellness Team and Parish Nurse for an outdoor walk along safe cliff trails and look for whales and their calves during the peak of their migration back to Alaska's waters! Get some exercise, visit with new and old friends, and enjoy God's creation!

Monday, March 21, 9:45 a.m.

Point Vicente Interpretive Center trails
31501 Palos Verdes Drive West
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Free parking. Meet at the concrete amphitheater facing the ocean. We will plan to begin our walk at 10:00. Dogs on leashes are allowed. **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 her at (424) 399-3175 if you have any questions.

So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.
- Genesis 1:21 NIV

Prayer Partners

RHUMC Prayer Partners consist of volunteer parishioners who meet weekly in person and offer prayers of concern and support for members and friends of the church. Prayers are offered as requested through the Prayer Request cards, emails or phone calls to the church office. In-person gatherings will resume shortly on Monday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Aldersgate room. If you would like to join our Prayer Partners or want more information, contact Anette Jaquette at 424-533-8980 or ahjaquette@gmail.com.

Missions Committee

CROP Hunger Walk
Save the Date – May 15-22
South Coast Botanic Garden

RHUMC will take part in the 2022 CROP Hunger Walk, a community-led interfaith event to raise funds to end hunger locally and around the world. More details on how you can participate will be forthcoming.

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Berlin-based, Israeli Pianist Einav Yarden

"...imagination and exceptionally vivid playing ... Sense of immense majesty, tempered by gentleness and quiet grace," *~ Washington Post*
"glistening rapture ... ingenious humor," *~Tagesspiegel, Germany*

Award-winning pianist **Einav Yarden** performs internationally as concerto soloist with leading orchestras such as the Israel Philharmonic, Jerusalem Symphony, Minnesota Symphony, Beethoven Orchester Bonn, Bucharest Philharmonic, and Calgary Philharmonic, to name just some. Noteworthy stages she performs on as a recitalist include the *Berlin Philharmonie,* the *Beethoven-Haus Bonn,* Berlin Konzerthaus, Rose Theater at Lincoln Center, The Phillips Collection Concerts in Washington, DC, *Schumannsaal* in Düsseldorf, and Paris's *Salle Cortot* and the Auditorium of the *Musée d'Orsay* in France. She was the 3rd Prize Winner at the 2009 International Beethoven Piano Competition in Bonn, a Finalist at the 2003 Honens International Piano Competition in Calgary, and First Prize Winner at the 2001 Aviv Competitions, the most distinguished national competition in Israel. In 2005, Einav completed four years of study with renowned pianist Leon Fleisher at the Peabody Conservatory of Johns Hopkins University, earning with high honors a Masters of Music and a Graduate Performance Diploma. Her prior studies were at the Rubin Academy in Tel Aviv, where she earned her Bachelor's degree.

Streamed over the Internet - No Live Audience

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

UMCOR Sunday - March 27

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) lives out a mission to alleviate human suffering. UMCOR provides humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries when war, conflict or natural disaster strikes. On **Sunday, March 27**, we will have a special offering to help underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." Funds raised will help UMCOR keep their promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. Donations may be made via a check made payable to RHUMC with a notation of "UMCOR Sunday" on the memo line or online at https://secure.myvanco.com/YQG0/campaign/C-Z97E. Checks may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your generosity.

RHUMC Staff Position Opening

After several years of terrific work with the church, Roksolana Vecerek has notified us that she will be leaving by the end of March to focus on planning her daughter's upcoming wedding. We will miss her greatly.

As a result, we are looking for a new Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor. This full-time position involves serving as a liaison to members of the church congregation on behalf of the Senior Pastor and providing confidential administrative and clerical support. In addition, the Executive Assistant spearheads external communication efforts on behalf of the church and has responsibility for certain personnel matters. This position requires someone with excellent interpersonal skills who has the ability to deal with people with sensitivity and compassion, while also maintaining pastoral confidentiality and boundaries. Applicants should be at ease with website management and digital and social media as well as competent with both Apple and Microsoft Office applications. A college degree and previous work with nonprofits is preferred. Salary will be commensurate with experience. If you are interested in applying, please send your resume to rhumcapplications@gmail.com. You can also obtain a more detailed job description by contacting the church at the same email address.

Staff Parish Extends Wedding Congratulations

Kristin Reksc, our Youth Ministries Pastor, and Akshay Sutrave were married last month. The Staff Parish Relations Committee invites anyone who is interested to contribute to a gift from the church family. One of the activities Kristin and Akshay enjoy as a couple is stand up paddle boarding, so we would like to give them a paddle board. Checks should be made payable to RHUMC with "Wedding Gift" noted on the memo line and can be placed in the offering plate or sent to or dropped off at the church office.

Club Maintenance - by Dave Larson

On February 12 eight Club Maintenance participants replaced eight badly corroded sections of metal fencing behind Wesley Hall. We also replaced several A/C filters, repaired a white board stand, and got started on replacing the white safety tape on step ledges in the front of the Sanctuary. Several other smaller projects were also completed.

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, March 12** at 8:30 a.m. The principal effort this time will be to add wood chips to the four tree basins in the patio, and also spreading mulch amongst the agapanthus around the pine tree near the patio. Please mark this date on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair.

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**.

KID ZONE Counselors & Jr Counselors 2022

If you are interested in working this summer or volunteering at KID ZONE, please contact Gabby Palacios at Kidzone.midzone@rhumc.org. Hiring will begin Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

SUMMER CAMP DATES: June 20 - August 16

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Wednesday, March 9 - Available from 1:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Fish Bonz
2599 Airport Drive
Torrance, CA 90505
310-325-2669

Dine-in & take-out
Sandwiches, Salads,
Tacos & Bowls

15% of your transaction will be donated to RHUMPS

Indicate RUMPS when ordering so credit will be given.

Youth Ministries

Ignite Youth Mid-Week Ministry

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at RHUMC

March 2- Ash Wednesday Service
March 9- "Communication"
March 16- Youth Sunday Rehearsal
March 23- Death and Life
March 30- Labyrinth Walk (Please dress warm)

Youth Sunday, March 20

All youth are invited to participate in leading worship on Sunday, March 20. Youth can read scripture, present a mini-sermon, usher, greet or pray! Contact Kristin ASAP if you would like to be involved.

Sierra Service Project 2022

Spots are filling fast; submit a $200 deposit as soon as possible to reserve a space on our service team! Youth entering 7th grade or 8th grade in fall of 2023 will attend the Junior High SSP, July 24-July 29 in San Diego, CA. Youth entering 9th grade through graduating seniors will attend the Senior High SSP, July 30 through August 7 in Smith River, CA. We are also looking for adult counselor volunteers that would like to chaperone with our team. Please contact Kristin to sign up.

Kristin Sutrave, Director of Youth Ministries
Kristin@rhumc.org
Stay connected on social media
Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/RHyouth
Instagram: rhumcyouth_
Text Reminders: send keyword "RHUMCyouth" to 33222

Lazy W Ranch
faith grows here

Save the Date
Memorial Day Weekend
May 27-30
Family Camp
at Lazy W Ranch
in San Juan Capistrano

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.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2022
SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 1 - 5

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 Sutrave	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 March 25
www.rhumc.org