The Cornerstone

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

January 2023

"Sights and Sounds from our Children's Christmas Eve Service"

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

It would be impossible to capture it all. The number of things that go on behind the scenes to keep our mission and ministry moving are beyond counting. When we show up on a given Sunday morning, we expect to find things in order. Church looks like church. It pretty well always does. You would never know that the night before a local high school choir performed their Winter Concert in our sanctuary. Members of the Worship Committee, the Altar Guild, our Sunday morning team of Sextons and Ushers work to make sure that everything is in order when the rest of us get there.

But that's not all it takes to keep things moving. This past year we undertook a huge change in our financial operations. Members of the congregation stepped up to make sure that our bills would be paid, and our staff would be compensated, during the several months of that transition (which is still unfolding at this writing!).

Each week a team of counters and our Financial Secretary account for the generosity you share. Sound and video are set up, taken down, and set up again so that our services are accessible to folks here in person or at home via YouTube. Our Church Office Administrator keeps the calendar for all the activities that take place on our campus, from worship and Sunday School, to Kid Zone and preschool events, to Bible studies and book groups, youth activities, outside groups, pickup basketball, weddings, funerals and memorials, concerts and receptions, Dawn Unity panels and lectures, Eagle Scout ceremonies, new member luncheons – the list goes on and on.

Supplies are ordered, and Hospitality Committee volunteers appear as needed to help in times of grief. Tables and chairs are set up, taken down, and set up again to make our facilities available to our community. Volunteers replace old light fixtures with energy-saving LEDs. Our Staff-Parish Relations Committee develops policies to protect our children and youth, keeping up with current law. Even something as simple as the power going out requires us to re-set light timers all over the campus, so that our patio and parking lot are safe at night.

The story of our faith moves forward in much the same way. It is easy to focus on Jesus, and other central characters in the Bible. But many times things get done by others, often out of sight. What would the Apostle Paul have done without the welcome provided by Lydia in Philippi? How would the feeding of the multitude have happened without the boy who brought five barley loaves and two fish? Everyday ordinary deeds are essential to the mission and ministry we offer. Thanks to all of you, everywhere, who make it possible as we head into the new year!

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

Throughout the approach to (and continuation of) Christmas, I have been encouraged by your appreciation for so many of the details of our lives together. From the blue stoles of Advent to the cuddly nativity scene used to speak to the children about Joseph, you have been taking in the hopefulness of guiding stars and brave people of faith. Through song and prayer you have been expressing your gratitude for God's presence and God's word. You have been glad to gather for various worship services, Bible studies, musical presentations, and service opportunities. What a joy to be part of such a loving and loyal community!

I have also been grateful for the many glimpses into the fullness of your lives when I read through the Christmas cards that have been shared with me and Bob, or with the church pastors and staff. I see multiple generations, glowing faces, and much evidence of happy adventure and fun gatherings. At the same time, I am honored to be trusted with notes of concern about personal challenges and difficulties. And, I am impressed by the artistic talents that become evident in your Christmas greetings.

Finally, I know I have in common with all of you a deep appreciation for Jonathan, who leads the congregation and the staff with such generous collegiality, wisdom, compassion, grace, and good humor. His helpfulness is known not only to those of us in the church, but also to neighbors throughout the community who appreciate his hospital visits, his guidance of memorial services in our sanctuary and elsewhere, his willingness to be on educational panels and classroom guest speaker lists, and the efforts he makes on behalf of the church's ability to host groups and activities that have missions consistent with ours. The photo above is a reminder to me that Jonathan "has our backs." We are truly blessed.

May God's goodness go with us into 2023!

April

Dawn Unity Group - “Noah and the Flood”

Dawn Unity Group’s next panel will be the yearly scripture discussion with “Noah and the Flood” as the topic on Tuesday, January 10, 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Ner Tamid, 5721 Crestridge Rd. The panel will be Rev. April Herron, Rolling Hills United Methodist Church; Prof. Amir Hussain, Loyola Marymount University; Rabbi Mark Hyman, Congregation Ner Tamid; and Fr. Alexei Smith, Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Bob Rothman will be the moderator. Why are two different stories interwoven? Why was the rainbow given as a promise to never do it again without condition? The story of a great flood is an important part of many cultures…how do the various legends compare? It will be live streamed at Facebook.com/dawnunitygroup/live. For any questions call (310) 833-7008.

A Huge Thank you from the Missions Committee

The Missions Committee would like to thank our congregation again for supporting the Missions Committee in our efforts to help those in need, both locally and around the world. In November, we hosted Missions Fiesta Sunday. From your generous donations, we raised over $23,000 which will be distributed approximately as follows:

Heifer International - $7,000 (an ark plus)
Habitat - $6,000
Lajmar Family - $5,000
Reasoner missionary - $300
Genung missionary - $300
Parker missionary - $350
Red Bird Mission - $1000
Miscellaneous, undesignated - $3000

For Trek to the Tree, we were able to donate 190 Target gift cards ($25 each) and a van load of gifts to Toberman for their Breakfast with Santa. It fills us with such joy to know that we were able to bring smiles and joy to some children this Christmas season. Thank you Noucha Jasanis for again coordinating our Trek to the Tree!

At the end of this year, we would like to thank the members of the Missions Committee for all of their dedication and hard work during the year. We couldn’t do it without you. We also couldn’t do it without our wonderful congregation. We are always so amazed and thankful to have such a kind-hearted and generous congregation. We wish you all a very Happy New Year in 2023!

A BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES

THE STRUGGLE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT

MONDAY, JANUARY 30
SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE
BY CLAIRE KEEGAN

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27
SHADOWS ON THE ROCK
BY WILLA CATHER

MONDAY, MARCH 27
THE FIVE WOUNDS
BY KIRSTIN VALDEZ QUADE

CHOOSE
2 PM - CHOIR ROOM
or
7 PM - ZOOM

What is the source of our desire to make things right? What is required of us? How do we decide to act? What stymies our intentions or foils our efforts? Where do we find our courage and hope?

All readers are invited to join the conversation. April Herron will facilitate.

Please indicate your plans to attend by calling or emailing:
310-377-6771
april@rhumc.org

ROLLING HILLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

26438 Crenshaw Blvd.
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
rhumc.org

Dear RHUMC Family,

Thank you for your comfort, advice and help especially in the past few months. We are grateful to the leadership of this church and the many pastoral visits to the hospital and hospice. Clarence looked forward to the visits and was greatly comforted by them.

We are thankful for Stevie and her "MealTrain" initiative, which provided meals for us. It allowed us to concentrate on spending more time with Clarence and his needs. The dinners were so gratefully welcomed.

Thanks also to Martha Circle, the Hospitality Committee, the choir and the many individuals of the congregation who supported us with cards, meals, donations, hugs, compassion and love. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

From the Family of the Late Clarence Fung

FREE **SUPPORT GROUP** for those caring for a loved one with

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesdays
January 11 & 25
10:00-11:00am
in the Aldersgate Room

Lauren Mahakian

Certified Dementia Practitioner, Speaker
Facilitator/Educator
Certified Validation Therapy
HCO#194700543

The discovery of memory loss can be daunting, yet in our experience, professional guidance and learning from others with similar experiences can be very helpful. Join PV News columnist, certified dementia practitioner, and founder/CEO of Family Connect Memory Care Lauren Mahakian at this community-based gathering of people that share support, tips, and authenticity. Our groups are designed for those caring for a loved one with dementia, Alzheimer's or cognitive decline. All groups are led by Lauren Mahakian and are free of charge. Please contact the church office to RSVP at churchoffice@rhumc.org or call at 310-377-6771.

RHUMC Charge Conference

Our next Charge Conference will meet on **Wednesday, February 1**, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. All are welcome to attend.

Women's Retreat

Walking In the Light of God

FEBRUARY 3-5, 2023

LED BY APRIL HERRON

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, October 9th. $100 is due at time of registration. Final Payment due January 8, 2023.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

☐ Single ☐ Double ☐ No Preference

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.

The Letter to the Ephesians will inspire our learning and sharing. Retreat time will include worship, rest, group activities and personal reflection.

MU PHI EPSILON
PALOS VERDES/SOUTH BAY ALUMNI CHAPTER
PRESENTS

A MUSICAL MOSAIC

LIVE AND LIVE-STREAMED SHOWCASE OF OUTSTANDING, AWARD-WINNING PERFORMERS PRESENTING A COLLAGE OF DIVERSE STYLES AND GENRES

SAT, FEB 4, 2023 AT 4:00 PM PST

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
26438 Crenshaw Blvd., Rolling Hills Estates

ADULTS $30 / JR-SR HIGH $10 / CHILDREN FREE
TICKETS FOR VIRTUAL ATTENDANCE AVAILABLE THROUGH PAYPAL

CLICK HERE TO BUY A TICKET OR MAKE A DONATION

Blood Pressure Sundays

January 8: following both morning services

January 15: following 3rd service

January 22: following both morning services

Taco Night

Join us for Taco Night after 3rd service on **Sunday, January 29**. You'll have a choice of chicken, beef or pork tacos served with rice, beans, and chips. The requested meal donation is $5 per person, $15 per family. 3rd service takes place every Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Club Maintenance - by Dave Larson

The next opportunity for Club Maintenance work is on **Saturday, January 14**, at 8:30 a.m. We invite folks to come on out to share in fun remediation projects. We are a friendly bunch.

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, January 8 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Canadian Violinist

COREY CEROVSEK

"From the outset, Corey Cerovsek's unforced tone yields elegant and refined playing, created by smooth legato bowing and gentle vibrato." *~ The Strad*

Violinist **COREY CEROVSEK** graduated at age 12 from the University of Toronto's Royal Conservatory of Music. That same year, he was accepted as a student by renowned violinist & teacher Josef Gingold at Indiana University, where he received Bachelor's degrees in mathematics and music at age 15, Master's degrees in both at 16, and completed his doctoral course work in mathematics and music at age 18. Working with Zubin Mehta, Charles Dutoit, Michael Tilson Thomas, among numerous other notable conductors, Corey Cerovsek has performed with leading orchestras worldwide.

Advance reservations required to attend in person ~ Simultaneously livestreamed
To attend, contact **ClassicalCrossroads@Earthlink.net**
N95-level masks (provided) & vaccination + booster required

Watch the livestream at **https://vimeo.com/event/2721288**
Reprises at 8:00 p.m. ~ No other on-demand streaming
Watch the reprise at **https://vimeo.com/showcase/classicalcrossroads**

Youth Ministries

Ignite Spring Kick Off

Ignite is currently on winter break. February 1, 2023, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m., RHUMC's mid-week youth ministry resumes for the spring semester. For more information, please contact Kristin.

Confirmation 2023

Youth 9th grade through 12th grade are invited to attend an informational meeting, Sunday, January 29, 2023 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 2023

Registration is now open for SSP this summer. Our high school team will be going to Del Norte County in northern CA July 29 -August 6, 2023. Deposits of $200 are due now to reserve a spot! Please contact Kristin for the information packet.

Youth Council Meeting

All youth are invited to attend our winter Youth Council meeting on Monday, January 9, 2023 from 7:00 -8:00 p.m. We will be planning the spring calendar and future service projects.

Rev. Kristin Sutrave, Director of Youth Ministries
Cell phone: 562-234-0161 email: 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

Happy New Year! A chill is in the air with snow flurries expected on Tuesday and Wednesday, January 10th and 11th. Frosty is expected for a visit along with our annual sledding hill for the preschoolers and brave parents to swoosh on down. We'll warm up with our Family Night Out to be held for the first time at Lampost Pizza in Torrance (15-20%) on January 11th. They are located just down the way on 2955 Rolling Hills Rd, Torrance, CA 90505, (310) 325-4864.

Children's Ministry

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
Our nursery is open for children 3 years of age and younger in room #110 with our wonderful caregivers Ms. Michelle and Ms. Clara during our 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services.

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.

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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	Church Office Admin	Peggy Roulette
Youth Ministry Pastor	Kristin Sutrave	Lori Brunn	Admin. Asst.
Kid Zone Director	Gabby Palacios	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Exec. Asst. to Pastor	Catherine Dingman		

Church Office Phone	310-377-6771	Resident Bishop	Dottie Escobedo-Frank
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 27
www.rhumc.org