# The Cornerstone

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

**January 2024**

A special word of thanks to all of our volunteers who helped decorate the church as well as those who served preparing and assisting with all of our Advent and Christmas Season services.

# *from the pastors* *Jonathan Chute*

"A new year… a fresh clean start!" So says Calvin to his tiger pal, Hobbes. "It's like having a big white sheet of paper to draw on!" replies his trusty companion. "A day full of possibilities!"

I'm not much for New Year's resolutions, but I love looking forward, and discovering what comes next. Of course some of that happens as we go, with or without our input. But one of the privileges we have as a community of faith is the opportunity to look with hope to the future God gives us and to decide how best to meet it together.

Just over a month from now we will engage in an exercise to do just that. On Friday and Saturday, February 2nd and 3rd, you are invited to take part in a long range planning retreat. It will take place on Friday evening and Saturday morning, under the leadership of two excellent colleagues and friends, the Revs. Matt and Cammy Gaston. I'll share more about them as we get closer to our time together.

Long range planning is not a matter of putting dates on calendars. It is about making the best use of the gifts and strengths with which God has blessed our church family. Previous long range planning efforts led to the building of our sanctuary in 1994, the development of full day preschool and after school care, the renovation of Wesley Hall, the launch of 3rd service worship on Sunday evenings, enlarging the choir room, adding needed parking, and most recently replacing our aging classroom buildings with a safe and loving home for our mission with children and youth.

Our last long range planning work took place in 2010. It's safe to say we are in a different place from then. So it is a good and helpful time to ask two decisive questions once again, "Where are we headed? What kind of future are we building?" We will look at what we have going for us in this new day. We will ask how God is leading us to carry out a generous and hopeful mission in our community and world. We will sketch out possibilities for developing our strengths, as well as for adding new dimensions to our life as a family of faith.

On Saturday, January 13, I will lead a bit of an overview of the resource we'll be using. Some of us are already familiar with *12 Keys to an Effective Church*, and its author, Dr. Kennon Callahan. We have worked with this material over the past 35 years or so and found it most helpful. For some this will be an introduction – for others more of a review. I believe it will help us to make the best use of our time in February. I hope that many of you will want to be part of this important process.

As Calvin says to his friend, "It's a magical world, Hobbes, old buddy…. Let's go exploring!" Yes. Let's do exactly that, knowing whose world it is, and in whose hands that future is held. Happy New Year!

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

*April Herron*

Dear Friends,

The person who has most influenced Jonathan's and my understanding and practice of ministry is Kennon Callahan. Through his books and seminars, Ken has shared a gracious and informed way of caring for people and leading churches. The process that RHUMC will be using in early 2024 to assess and fine tune our mission will be guided by Ken even though he personally cannot be present. His process for focusing on the strengths we want to grow and add will help our long range planning retreat to be productive.

Having enjoyed Ken's "12 Keys" Bible Study in September, which introduced participants to the important factors in creating and pursuing a healthy missional endeavor, I am looking forward to revisiting some of Ken's favorite personal stories of ministry through his book, "Living in Peace." Dr. Callahan was a pastor before he became a consultant. He has helped many individuals and a wide range of congregations. One of his favorite teaching strategies is recounting specific interactions with people who have shaped his awareness of God's grace in human life. Many of these inspiring tales are gathered in Ken's 20th book, only 85 pages long but full of love and wisdom.

My plan for the season of Epiphany is to gather, with all of you who are interested, to consider the discoveries and revelations contained within the theme "Living in Peace," as conveyed by Ken Callahan. Participants are invited to meet on January 9, January 23, and February 6. These are Tuesdays, two weeks apart, and you can choose in-person at 10:30 am or online via Zoom at 7:00 pm. Copies of the book are available in the church office for $10, or you can order from your favorite book seller.

May God increase our ability to live in peace as we worship, study, and serve in Christ's name.

April

## Short-Term Closure of Upper Parking Lot Entrance

**The upper parking lot entrance will be closed from December 26 to the first week in January. Please use the lower entrance for parking on our campus.**

As many of you know, we share our upper parking lot on weekdays with Rolling Hills Country Day School. Sewer maintenance for the school has been scheduled over their winter break requiring digging up an area in the parking lot by the upper entrance. The upper entrance will be closed and will not be accessible starting on Tuesday, December 26, with the completion date expected by Friday, January 5. **PLEASE USE THE LOWER ENTRANCE TO PARK IN OUR LOT.** The exit driveway and access to the lot by the choir room will not be affected by the maintenance work.

## New Bereavement Support Group Begins Thursday, February 15

TAKING TIME
NAVIGATING . THROUGH . LOSS

Rolling Hills UMC is hosting and sponsoring a new group for adults who have experienced the death of a family member or close friend within the last two years. The group will meet eight times, here at the church, with a different theme or topic each time. Leadership and materials will be provided by Claire Towle, LCSW, and her team from Taking Time, a not-for-profit organization that helps people navigate through loss. Claire is a member of our church who leads with gentleness and grace.

The group of persons who participated this past fall expressed appreciation for the experience, highlighting in particular that the facilitation was knowledgeable and compassionate, the weekly topics for discussion gave a helpful focus, the sharing of feelings was met with warmth and receptivity, and the company of others who were also grieving was helpful as all were somewhere along the journey of grief. Group members were grateful to have found comfort in the group setting.

Advance registration is required in order to join. To learn more, or to communicate your interest in participating, please contact Claire by phone (310 686 6714) or email (ctowle@takingtime.org). You may also visit the Taking Time website (https://www.takingtime.org) or contact April@RHUMC.org for further information.

The group is open to participants from the church and from the community at large. If you have a friend or neighbor who is grieving, feel free to tell them about this opportunity.

A Study for the Season of Epiphany

# LIVING *in* PEACE

**TUESDAYS:**

**10:30 am - In Person**

**7:00 pm - Via Zoom**

Our text for this study will be **"Living in Peace" by Kennon Callahan**, which can be purchased from the church office or your favorite bookseller. We will gather three times:

**Tuesday, January 9**

**Tuesday, January 23**

**Tuesday, February 6**

Email April@rhumc.org to let her know of your plans to participate.

Peace is nourishing but it can be elusive. We can be encouraged by learning true stories that help us discover genuine possibilities for living in peace.

Dr. Callahan was a pastor before he became a consultant. He has helped many individuals and a wide range of congregations. One of his favorite teaching strategies is recounting specific interactions with people who have shaped his awareness of God's grace in human life. Many of these inspiring tales are gathered in Ken's 20th book, "Living in Peace," only 85 pages long but full of love and wisdom.

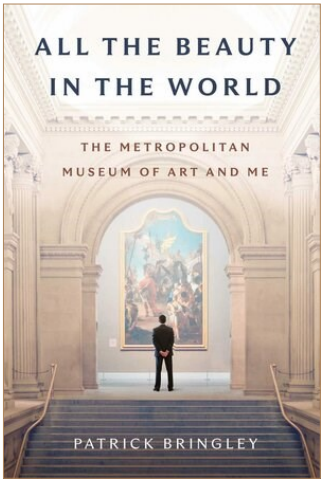
## Dawn Unity

"The Garden of Eden" will be addressed on **Tuesday, January 16**, at 7:30 p.m. at the Congregation Ner Tamid, 5721 Crestridge Road, RPV. The panel will be Rev. David Brown, Wayfarers Chapel; Rabbi Tzvi Graetz, Congregation Ner Tamid; Rev. April Herron, RHUMC; and Fr. Alexei Smith, Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Under consideration will be the question of why the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil was forbidden to Adam and Eve, as well as the issue of responsibility and punishment for the act of eating the fruit. How today's environmental issues relate to the text might be another rich topic for reflection.

## Missions Committee and Toberman Thank You!

Thank you all for making this year's Trek to the Tree an outstanding success! We were able to donate 195 gift cards of $25 each along with a van full of toys. Your donations helped over 300 children at Toberman have a happy Christmas. We couldn't have done it without your generosity and support.

## First Book Discussion of the Year on January 29




"All the Beauty in the World" is a memoir by a young man who turned to New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art for solace when his brother died from cancer at the age of 27. In the aftermath of this terrible loss, Patrick Bringley decided he needed to stand still for a while. So he got a job as a security guard at the Met. In this book, Bringley shares what he learned about the inner workings of the museum, what he thinks about when he contemplates art, and how he gradually incorporated ongoing change into his understanding of life.

RHUMC's book discussions are open to all readers. Those participating in person will come to the choir room at 2:00 pm on Monday, January 29. Those who prefer an evening gathering will meet at 7:00 pm via Zoom. In either case, it is helpful to alert April Herron that you plan to take part. That way, the meeting space can be set up accordingly and the Zoom link can be circulated. Please email April@RHUMC.org to let her know that you are reading and will be joining in the conversation.

## Do YOU Love to Bake?

RHUMC is thrilled 2023 was the year of getting back on track with the treasured tradition of gifting new friends among us with a homemade loaf of bread. We greatly appreciate our volunteers (Marian, Irene & Delia, Daniel, Mary Ann, Trudy, and Debi) each of whom have been baking and donating one or more loaves of bread per month to the church. The pastors, and sometimes Congregational Care Ministers, then personally deliver the loaves to the homes of individuals and families who have recently shared in worship with us. Because our volunteers sometimes need to step back due to health considerations or busy schedules or vacations, we are in need of additional volunteers. If you have been looking for the perfect excuse to do more baking, this opportunity is for you! Please email April@rhumc.org to alert the 2024 bread ministry team of your interest.

## Altar Flowers

The new flower chart for 2024 has arrived and is posted in the narthex! Sign up early to ensure you get your favorite date to honor, celebrate, or remember that someone special! The cost is $50 per arrangement. Checks may be made payable to RHUMC with a notation on the memo line of "altar flowers." Payment may also be made online via our website at RHUMC.org under "Giving."

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

## *Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's*

**Wednesday**
**January 10 & 24**
**10:00-11:00 a.m.**
**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.

## Club Maintenance - by Dave Larson

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, January 13**, at 8:30 a.m. We haven't identified the work list yet, but as we took two months to help with Christmas decorating and the like there should be plenty to do. Please mark this date on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair.

## Blood Pressure Sundays

Blood pressure screenings are offered on the last Sunday of every month after each service. The morning screenings will be held in the church office conference room and after 3rd service in the Aldersgate room.

## Taco Night

Join us for Taco Night after 3rd service on **Sunday, January 28**. You'll have a choice of chicken, pork or veggie 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.

# *Second Sundays at Two*

***Sunday, January 14, at 2:00 p.m.***

*~ presents ~*

## *A Favorite Pianist Who Grew Up in Palos Verdes*
## *Joined by Renowned English Violinist*

*Violinist*
**KERENZA PEACOCK**

*Pianist*
**ROBERT THIES**

*A pianist of "unerring, warm-toned refinement,*
*revealing judicious glimmers of power" ~ Los Angeles Times*

Pianist **Robert Thies**'s recitals are highly regarded by aficionados for his consummate musicianship and his sensitive artistic interpretations.

*"What's wonderful about watching Kerenza Peacock is that she's*
*so enthusiastic in everything she plays." ~ Classic FM*

English violinist **Kerenza Peacock** is a musical wanderer — equally at home performing classical selections as playing with the world's most famous pop stars.

Watch the livestream at
***https://vimeo.com/event/3975880***

***Advance Reservations Requested to Attend in Person***

Email: ClassicalCrossroads@Earthlink.net by a day ahead and request to be included on the check-in list *with the names of your guests*.

# Youth Ministries

## Ignite Spring Kick Off

Ignite is currently on winter break.
January 31, 2024 at 6:30pm-8:00pm, RHUMC's mid-week youth ministry resumes for the spring semester.
For more information, please contact Kristin.

## Confirmation 2024

Youth 9th grade through 12th grade are invited to attend an informational meeting, Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 11:15am at RHUMC. Please contact Kristin if you are interested in participating in the confirmation classes this spring.

## Sierra Service Project 2024

Registration is now open for SSP this summer. Our high school team will be going to Tsaile, AZ July 27 - August 4, 2024. A deposit and registration form are due now to reserve a spot! Please contact Kristin for the information packet.

## Youth Sunday School

We offer a youth Sunday school class on Sundays during the 10:00am and 5:30pm worship services.

Kristin Sutrave, Youth Ministries Pastor
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

## Children's Ministry

## Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

**Thursday, January 11 - Available from 10:30 a.m.-10:00 p.m.**

**MOD Pizza**
**3A Peninsula Center**
**Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274**
**(310) 265-0100**

20% of the proceeds will be donated to RHUMPS.

Indicate RUMPS when ordering so credit will be given.

**Online Orders:**
orders.modpizza.com

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 |
| Youth Ministry Pastor | Kristin Sutrave | Senior Pastor Emeritus | Martha Rowlett |
| Music Director | Chuck Dickerson | Organist/Pianist | Althea Waites |
| 3rd Service Music | Paula Kuno | Children's Ministry Dir. | Debra DeLuca |
| Preschool Director | Myra Ghabrial | Kid Zone Director | Gabby Palacios |
| Church Office Admin. | Peggy Roulette | Executive Assistant | Catherine Dingman |
| Treasurer | Wade Welch | & Finance Manager | |
| | | Custodian | Miguel Portillo |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Church Office Phone | 310-377-6771 | Resident Bishop | Dottie Escobedo-Frank |
| Fax Line | 310-544-4123 | District Superintendent | Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi |
| 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 26**
www.rhumc.org