



The Cornerstone

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

May 2016

Mental Health and Hope in our Church



May is Mental Health Awareness Month. About 1 in 4 adults experiences a mental health condition every year. One in 17 lives with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression, or bipolar disorder. About 20% of youth experience a mental disorder. Of course these events affect family, friends, and communities (including church!).

Those experiencing a mental health condition and their families often feel shame and tend to keep their burden a secret. Shedding stigma and learning about treatment and resources is an important part of caring for one another.

On **Sunday, May 22**, the Health and Wellness Team is sponsoring an event to help us learn better how to support one another in the area of mental health. After a light lunch there will be a presentation by Paul Stansbury and Sandy Villano, local leaders of NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Signups will begin on Sunday, May 8. Or you may email Parish Nurse Annette Matsuda at: annetmatsuda@gmail.com

“Sing for joy, O heavens and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! For the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.”

Isaiah 49:13

from the pastors

Jonathan Chute



So we move from the season of grace known as Easter and toward other celebrations in our lives. May is a time for honoring mothers, a time of graduation for some, of confirmation for youth from our congregation. There are babies to welcome, couples to rejoice over, lives to bless.

For several years we have been working toward the renewal of our campus, with a focus on facilities for children and youth. Our sanctuary is among the most encouraging spaces for worship I have ever known. Its beauty and flexibility make our services warm, welcoming and hopeful each Sunday. The members and friends of the congregation who built our “new” home back in 1994 gave a remarkable gift to all of us who share it today.

In 2001 we renovated Wesley Hall, adapting it to serve as the multi-purpose space it was always intended to be. It serves as a gymnasium for children, youth and adults, as well as the home for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner, and countless memorial and concert receptions. It serves our mission well.

We completed Phase One of our campus plan in 2014, expanding the choir room and adding much needed parking. It was completed with the generous support of the congregation and is fully paid for.

Now it is time for us to begin Phase Two. Our classrooms for children were constructed in the mid-1960s, when a couple of hours of Sunday School was all anyone had in mind. With the launch of our preschool in 1972, and its remarkable growth since, they are nearing the end of their life span. The preschool serves about 115 children each day and throughout the year. Kid Zone and Mid Zone reach about 80 children and youth during the school year, and up to 200 per week during Summer Camp. We simply cannot keep these vital programs going without facilities designed to serve our mission.

During May and early June we will hold a series of congregational gatherings in the homes of some of our church family (see below). We will review the plans, outline our progress to date, and invite your generous support. You may sign up at church at either of the next two Sundays, or by calling or emailing the church office. Some of the gatherings will include lunch or dinner, others appetizers or dessert. There will also be two events at the church after morning worship.

I look forward to sharing with all of you as we move into the next encouraging chapter of our life. Our congregation is blessed with an amazing team of people, leaders and staff working together to make a difference. Just as he did with the disciples in the days after Easter, Christ invites us back out into the world, to join with him in a generous mission of hope. Shall we?

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron



God is like a seed present in the soil, not visible to the eye, but containing great power for life. God's desire to care for us cannot be overstated. Abiding in Jesus is how we grow and persevere. Passing on the gifts we have received brings joy and satisfaction.

Gathering with our family in faith is a form of Sabbath rest. The love of God can be powerfully demonstrated to us by the generous actions of friends. These insights, recently shared in worship by young people of our congregation, are lingering in my mind and heart. I find it exceptionally hopeful and inspiring to experience such strong and helpful leadership emerging from the family life, and the faith development ministries, of our church. I remain thankful for the ushers, readers, and speakers who

stepped capably and generously into their roles on Youth Sunday, and for the parents and other adults who supported and made their presence possible.

A similar source of joy for me has been the opportunity to spend time with eight high school students who are preparing to confirm their gratitude for God's love, mercy, faithfulness, and peace. These are young people who were baptized as infants or small children, have shared in the life of the church through their growing years (again thanks to parents and other adults), and now look forward to celebrating their sense of being at home in God's community of grace. They have met with me, with Kimmie, and with Jonathan to share scripture and stories of compelling encounters with Christ Jesus. They have participated in service projects, learning groups, and fellowship gatherings at the church. They have made new connections with members of the congregation. They have built on their earlier worship, Sunday School, and youth group experiences to reach this moment in time.

Confirmation will take place during worship on May 15, Pentecost Sunday. Pentecost commemorates the day that the Holy Spirit filled believers with new hope and confidence and enabled them to share good news of the gospel across cultures, amidst a multi-lingual gathering of people. Thus it is a good day for saying, "Yes, I am glad for my early baptism. I am glad for my place in this family and this church. I am glad for God's many blessings, and I look forward to my future within God's grace."

I invite you to join these youth in saying "yes!" once more to the love of God, the peace of Christ, and the exuberant hope of the Holy Spirit.

See you in worship!

April

First Quarter Finance Update

We develop our budget each year based on the generosity of our members and friends. Many of us fill out a Giving Card on Celebration Sunday or soon after. Others choose not to fill out a card and still give generously. We use past giving as a basis for projecting the coming year's contributions.

At the end of March, total giving for the work of our congregation was \$248,914. That is about \$27,000 less than we had projected. Total expenses for the first quarter were also below budget. This helped reduce our operating deficit to \$16,600 for the first three months.

From month to month there are always ups and downs in our giving and expenditures. With a budget of over \$1 million, our congregation's giving usually comes within 1-2% of what we had hoped. Two years ago we came in well ahead of our estimates. Last year we were behind. With so many good and important things taking place in our life together we want to continue the momentum and spirit that has brought us this far. Your gifts really do help!

We are grateful for all that you do to make our mission successful and strong. Thank you for your generosity and giving through the coming months.

Phase Two Gatherings

- 1) **Friday, May 6 - 6:30 p.m.**
Jan & Steve Johnson
5048 Silver Arrow, RPV
Dinner
- 2) **Wednesday, May 11 - 7:00 p.m.**
Thyra Endicott & Jonathan Chute
3621 Via la Selva, PVE
Dinner
- 3) **Thursday, May 12 - 12:00 Noon**
Linda & Dale Gehr
5602 Scotwood Drive, RPV
Lunch
- 4) **Saturday, May 14 - 6:00 p.m.**
Susan & Wade Welch
4216 Via Pinzon, PVE
Dinner
- 5) **Tuesday, May 17 - 7:30 p.m.**
Logan & Tony Tootell
8 Rawhide Lane, RHE
Dessert & Coffee
- 6) **Wednesday, May 18 - 6:30 p.m.**
Merrietta Fong
5 Crestwind Drive, RPV
Dinner
- 7) **Friday, May 20 - 6:30 p.m.**
Terry Hunt & Peter Heinsimer
1705 Chelsea Road, PVE
Dinner
- 8) **Sunday, May 22 - 11:30 a.m.**
Linda & Dale Gehr
5602 Scotwood Drive, RPV
Brunch
- 9) **Wednesday, May 25 - 7:30 p.m.**
Mary Harris & Doug Kendle
1825 Via Arriba, PVE
Dessert & Coffee
- 10) **Sunday, May 29 - 11:00 a.m.**
Wesley Hall
RHUMC
Lunch
- 11) **Wednesday, June 1 - 11:30 a.m.**
Jim Slay
27516 Sunnyridge Road, PVP
Lunch
- 12) **Friday, June 3 - 5:30 p.m.**
Linda & Jot Hollenbeck
29503 Quailwood Drive, RPV
Appetizers
- 13) **Saturday, June 4 - 5:00 p.m.**
Hazel & Jim Lord
2401 Via Sonoma, PVE
Appetizers
- 14) **Sunday, June 5 - 11:00 a.m.**
Wesley Hall
RHUMC
Lunch
- 15) **Monday, June 6 - 6:00 p.m.**
Thyra Endicott & Jonathan Chute
3621 Via la Selva, PVE
Appetizers
- 16) **Saturday, June 11 - 6:30 p.m.**
Kim Hall & Jim Vandever
515 Paseo Del Mar, PVE 90274
Dinner



RHUMC Concert Committee

presents

Metropolitan Opera Tenor

Aaron Blake

Vivian I-Miao Liu, Piano

Friday, May 13th

7:30 p.m.

We are so excited to announce our upcoming concert of Metropolitan Opera tenor, **Aaron Blake**, a Palos Verdes native. Lauded as “a vocal powerhouse” by the Los Angeles Times, Blake has performed major roles at leading opera houses all over the United States and Europe. This season he is performing at the New York Metropolitan Opera, as well as Opera Orchestra of New York, the Reno Philharmonic and the Cincinnati Opera. Previously he has appeared at Carnegie Hall, The Lexington Philharmonic, The Dallas Opera, and the Berlin Komische Opera.

Free-Will Offering

You are cordially invited
to attend our
Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 8th
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.
Wesley Hall



Enjoy a breakfast of quiche, pastries, muffins, fruit,
juice and coffee to celebrate that special Mom in your life.



SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT

Come support our youth fundraisers
and pick up a sweet treat!

Mother's Day See's Candy Sale
Sunday, May 8th
8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Bake Sale
Sunday, May 22nd
8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Dawn Unity Group



DAWN UNITY GROUP

The Dawn Unity Group's Interfaith Discovery Series will conclude its 15th season on **Tuesday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.** at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5845 Crestridge Road, RPV with "Respect for Other Traditions." The panel will discuss how religions address interfaith relations at the congregation and higher levels as well as examine how this affects their core beliefs and teachings both past and present. We live in a time and place of interfaith brotherhood, but from an historical perspective this is a recent and well-welcomed development. The panel consists of our very own Jonathan Chute; President Mike Gazdik of our host congregation; Reverend Reinhard Krauss, UCLA; and Father Thomas Rausch S.J., Loyola Marymount University. Bob Rothman will be the moderator. The ninety-minute event is free to all and will conclude with cookies and a chance to socialize, so please join us and bring a friend. For further questions call 310-833-7008.

Crop Walk

The 36th Annual Peninsula-Harbor CROP Walk was held on Sunday, April 17 at Point Fermin Park in San Pedro. This is a fundraiser to support local, national and international programs which help alleviate hunger. A festive picnic lunch was served by the Missions Committee for all RHUMC participants. The number of church walkers was more than double that of last year and the dollar amount raised was higher than in recent years as well. A special thank-you goes out to Missions Committee member Bill Graves, who led the charge in revamping the CROP Walk this year.



Who are the Graduates? Class of 2016



If you have someone you are proud of who is graduating from any level of education from preschool to post-graduate, please let the church office know so we can celebrate their accomplishments in the June Cornerstone. Send us an email at churchoffice@rhumc.org or call the church office at 310-377-6771. Let us know their name, degree (if any), school, future plans (if known), and their relationship to you.

Thank You for Your Prayers - Maureen Banasky

Some of you are aware that my 12 year old granddaughter's father died recently after three months in ICU at Torrance Memorial Medical Center. Ben Weyand was 42 years old and an incredible father to Kady. Ben and my daughter Annie divorced when Kady was 5 years old but he and Annie could have written the book on how to raise a happy child under those circumstances.

His health started its decline two and a half years ago when a surgery went wrong. Jonathan came to the hospital immediately and, as always, lent his encouragement and hope for Ben's recovery. And he did recover for a while. During the past three months Jonathan continued to visit as did our Parish Nurse, Annette. April put him on the prayer list that is recited each Sunday. Prayer Partners and others within the church constantly offered kind words and more prayers. After Ben's death, Kimmie presented Kady with a blanket that the Shawl Ministry folks knitted for her. Our family is blessed to have your love and support. Ben was not a member of this church, yet you treated him as though he were. In my 21 years of being a part of this church, that fact has held true. Member or not a member, people are treated equally with the love, grace and forgiveness that all humans deserve. You could write the book on how to be an effective church.

Second Sundays at Two May 8th at 2:00 p.m.



Two Stellar Concerto Soloists & Good Friends Return after Their Sensational 2014 Debut Together on the "Second Sundays at Two" Series

Since her solo debut with the New York Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta at the age of nine, Juilliard- and USC-trained violinist **Linda Wang** has performed concertos with leading orchestras worldwide. Linda's numerous solo recitals have taken her across Europe, Asia, and the U.S. in such renowned venues as New York City's Carnegie Hall, Amsterdam's *Beurs van Berlage* and the Berlin *Schauspielhaus*. Ms. Wang is Associate Professor of Violin at University of Denver's Lamont School of Music. A favorite on the Sundays At Two series, this will be Linda's third appearance.



Pianist **Robert Thies** won the Gold Medal at the International Prokofiev Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia in 1995. Since then he has been highly sought after as a concerto soloist by leading orchestras worldwide. Mr. Thies was recently appointed Director of Chamber Music for the European American Musical Alliance, in Paris, France, and he serves on the faculty of the Colburn School. Robert is once again returning to the Palos Verdes Peninsula where he grew up for his seventh appearance on the Second Sundays At Two series.

Free-Will Offering

May Youth Group Activities

May 4th from 6:00-8:15 p.m.: Youth Group - Amazing Race

May 9th from 7:00-8:00 p.m.: Youth Council Meeting

May 11th from 6:00-8:15 p.m.: Youth Group - Battle of the Sexes

May 14th from 10:00-11:30 a.m.: Confirmation - Sharing Faith Event

May 15th: Confirmation Sunday

May 15th from 11:30-1:00 p.m.: Chill with Miss Nicole @ Mimi's Cafe

May 18th from 6:00-8:15 p.m.: Youth Group - Pitch Perfect; Night of Music

May 25th from 6:00-8:15 p.m.: Last Youth Group - You Are Loved



Jr. High Sierra Service Project

Dates: July 24th-29th

Location: San Diego, California

Cost: \$400

Now is the time to sign up. Space is limited.

Sr. High Sierra Service Project

Dates: July 31st- August 6th

Location: San Diego, California and Spokane, Washington

Cost: \$450

Now is the time to sign up. Space is limited

Family Camp



Family Camp is just around the corner! Join us for Family Camp on **Memorial Day Weekend, May 27 - 30**, at the Lazy W Ranch in San Juan Capistrano. Accommodations include heated cabins, bathrooms with hot showers, and delicious meals from Saturday breakfast to Monday lunch. In addition to wonderful fellowship with family and friends, there will be traditional camp activities such as hiking, swimming, volleyball, archery, horseshoes, crafts, ping pong and campfires. You can come up Friday night and stay until Monday afternoon for just \$160.00 per person. If you can't stay for the whole weekend, join us for a day or two at a reduced price. Children aged 3-9 are half price and children under 3 are free! Everyone is welcome! For more information, stop by the Family Ministries table on May 1 & May 8, contact Cathy Stark at Cathy@bblsurflaw.com or call the church office at 310-377-6771, ext. 105.

Attention Young Adults

Are you a young adult, recently out of college, and wondering where you fit-in with our church community? Come join us for a social event on **Sunday, May 29th** at 6:30 p.m. for **tacos and fellowship**. We will be meeting during Taco Night and encourage you to bring a friend. Look for the table with the red table cloth!

ICYOLA Concert

The Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles (ICYOLA) and Chorus will present *Elijah*, by Felix Mendelssohn on **Sunday, May 15**, 3:00 p.m. at Holman United Methodist Church, 3320 West Adams Blvd, Los Angeles. This benefit concert will support the ICYOLA after-school music & literacy programs. **Charles Dickerson** will conduct and a few members of our choir will be participating as well. This is a ticketed event and tickets are \$20. Free and ample parking is available. For tickets or for more information, contact Charles Dickerson at cedickersoniii@sbcglobal.net.

RHUMC Preschool Fundraiser

Join us on **Tuesday, May 10th**, from 5:00-9:00 p.m. at Rock & Brews and our preschool will receive 20% of sales generated on dine in or take out.

Rock & Brews is located at:
6300 South Pacific Coast Highway
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
310-378-4970



Present this page to your server in order for us to receive credit for the fundraiser.

Club Maintenance



A group of ten dedicated volunteers showed up for Club Maintenance on a damp Saturday, April 9: Bill Bails, Bob Chamberlin, Clarence Fung, Bruce Harkins, Gene Koester, Keith Levan, Rich Prihode, Eric Rasmussen, Oren Sheldon and Jim Showalter. In addition, five Boy Scouts from our Troop 783 and two parents came to clean the backs and arms of our pews as well as filling some potholes in the entrance driveway. The guys painted doors of our nursery/preschool building, cleaned-up and rearranged a furnace room, installed cabinet door latches, replaced lamps in various areas, cleaned debris from light fixtures in the narthex and cleaned preschool rain gutters. Afterwards we gathered for lunchtime fellowship enjoying pizza and our traditional Oreos. The next Club Maintenance gathering will be **Saturday, May 14**, at 8:30 a.m. with Jim Showalter coordinating. All able-bodied folks are invited to join in with helping to maintain our church facilities. Everyone's help is much appreciated.

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|--|--|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| Senior Pastor | Jonathan Chute | Music Director | Chuck Dickerson |
| Assoc. Pastor | April Herron | Organist/Pianist | Althea Waites |
| Preschool Director | Myra Ghabrial | 3 rd Service Ensemble | Patti MacLeod |
| Family Ministries Dir. | Rachel Stam | Adm. Assist. to Pastor | Michele Nelson |
| KidZone Director | Angie Gunter | Church Office Admin. | Peggy Roulette |
| Director of Children & Youth Ministries | Kimmie Stradling | Admin. Assistant | Ana Ysabel Lopez |
| Junior High Youth | Nicole Benson | Treasurer | Robin La Tourette |
| Parish Nurse | Annette Matsuda | Bookkeeper | Nicole Lowery Zakman |
| | | Facilities Manager | Rick Mitchell |
| | | Custodian | Miguel Portillo |
| Church Office Phone | 310-377-6771 | | |
| Fax Line | 310-544-4123 | Resident Bishop | Minerva Carcaño |
| Web Site | www.rhumc.org | District Superintendent | Kathey Wilborn |

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 May 23rd
www.rhumc.org