



ROLLING HILLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Cornerstone

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

January 2018



Memory Impairment Signs and How You Can Help Your Loved One Brown Bag Lunch and Lecture

with

**Lauren Spiglanin, Care Manager and Elder Care Specialist
Founder of Family Connect Care, LLC**

Wednesday, January 17

12:00-12:30 pm Lunch (Bring Your Own) in the Aldersgate

12:30-1:30 pm Lauren's presentation and Q & A in the Sanctuary

Lauren Spiglanin has a love for older people and describes herself as a care manager to the "chronologically gifted." She and her team take a holistic approach to diseases of memory loss. She advocates for care services best suited to each family's unique situation. She will address coordination of services, medication management, emotional health, and communication between family members and the loved one who has memory impairment. Lauren holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of LaVerne and is certified in gerontology validation therapy and mediation. She has also recently opened her own memory care home.



Sponsored by the Health and Wellness Team. Please join us on January 17!

from the pastors

Jonathan Chute



I thought we had a lovely Christmas. From early morning to the stroke of midnight, it all went beautifully. Two pastors sharing the preaching across five services was a gift for everyone, I think. Christmas Eve doesn't often fall on a Sunday. But it gave us the chance to see how closely connected the angel's announcement is to the birth itself. Mary's life is turned upside down by Gabriel's news. Then the world is turned upside down when God's promise is fulfilled.

That afternoon the children led us from the hills outside Bethlehem to the manger in the stable with that mixture of excitement and wonder which comes most naturally to them. We already know the story, and we already know the songs, but somehow it brings it home to watch it unfold, and to sing and hear it all together. We had a full house, and were honored to have our Senior Pastor Emeritus, Martha Rowlett, with us for nearly the whole day.

At 8:00 and 11:00 we had even more wonderful music, and still more friends to share it with. We had friends from out of town and across the country. Some were new to us and others long ago moved away but still find a sense of home here. There were kids home from college, families reunited and even visitors from faraway lands. There was a line-up at the front of the sanctuary and in the entryway, where dozens of family photos were taken in front of the two lovely trees. As one of the pastors of this warm and loving congregation, it was great fun to see.

But it was also terribly painful! I had thought I was all better after an earlier cold, and I was unprepared when it came back just before Christmas. I stayed home for a couple of days, hoping and praying that my voice would be back in time for such a big Sunday.

I almost made it. As some of you know, it seized up most of the way through the 11:00 p.m. sermon. I barely croaked out what passed for the ending. That was frustrating enough. But what made it worse was seeing so many people here that night, knowing that I shouldn't visit, couldn't catch up, and dared not give hugs to unsuspecting friends. I felt cheated, even or especially in the midst of such joy.

We've had a hard few weeks around here, with lots of good friends down for one reason or another. Colds and flu have hit harder than usual. Others have spent time in the hospital for needed surgery, or for testing and diagnosis. Life has felt upside down for many this year.

My hope is that 2018 will be better for all kinds of reasons. We are moving ahead with new and needed staff for our children's and youth ministry. See below for news and introductions on both fronts! And we are moving ahead with plans for our new educational facilities. We plan to have temporary classrooms on site late this Spring, so that the demolition and grading can begin. We have about \$1.5 million in hand. Loan approvals are in place or in process for the remainder of what we will need. We look forward to breaking ground in May or June. We'll be providing updates on the church web site and by email for those interested in following our progress.

Thank you for all that you do to help our congregation provide encouragement, help and hope to many. As we look to the new year ahead, I am glad to share with you in living out the truth of the story we have so recently heard and celebrated.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your generosity, expressed at year-end both by your gifts to the pastors and staff (much appreciated!) as well as by the time you took to interact with RHUMC's survey on Children and Youth Ministry. It is fun to read about your special memories drawn from being part of the Sunday School teaching team or the Wednesday night (Logos) youth program support crew. Clearly you value the presence, participation, and leadership of children and youth in worship. You are enthusiastic about our Vacation Bible Camp and appreciative of Parents' Night Out opportunities. You have seen first-hand how young people have grown and developed through the Sierra Service Project and other service-oriented experiences. You enjoy how holidays are enhanced by kid-oriented fun and festivities. Your families have been strengthened and encouraged by time in the preschool and with the Kidzone/Midzone after-school programs.

It is an additional joy to learn about your anticipation of how your children will grow in their relationship with God and be supported in their spiritual growth in the future. Collectively, you indicated that the highest priority purpose of Children and Youth Ministry is to support young people emotionally and spiritually with practical guidance as they grow and develop. A number of you are eager to help in specific ways and you emphatically communicated your willingness to be involved. Your gracious responses give me high hopes for what will be happening among us in the year now getting underway.

Your specific suggestions about how to help new Children and Youth Ministry staff become acquainted with the congregation and community are especially timely. You will read elsewhere in this issue of the Cornerstone about leadership decisions that have been made and/or are in process. Introduction, invitation, and involvement are three words that might summarize a wide array of proposals for welcoming events and activities that would be helpful as selected leaders make new beginnings among us. I am especially grateful and inspired by your recognition that we are all potential mentors and models to youth and we can all play some role in nurturing the faith of children and youth in our midst.

I am grateful to Dr. Michelle Dexter for her help with the survey design. I highly recommend the parenting seminar she will offer at RHUMC at the end of this month (January 28). I look forward to seeing how the survey results continue to inform our next steps in the development of our ministry with children and youth (and also, in fact, with people at all stages of life!) I pray that in the year 2018 God will continue to strengthen families of all shapes and sizes through the various facets of our ministry. And again, I honor you for being people of such generous spirit!

Trusting that Christ will light our way,

April

Expressions of Joy from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

It was a once –in-a-lifetime experience for me: four unique, beautiful, heartwarming, Christmas Eve celebrations in one day. The nativity story was read from Luke’s gospel four times. The Advent candles symbolizing hope, peace, joy and love were lighted four times. The Christ candle was added to their number four times symbolizing the long anticipated birth of Jesus. The story was portrayed by enthusiastic children dressed as animals, shepherds, wise men, angels and the Holy Family singing with their soft voices and ringing chimes. Nearly 20 traditional Christmas carols were sung, each with its own artistic take on the story. Chimes, bells, guitars, drums, organ, piano, mandolin, solo voices, duets, trios, choirs of children and adults joyfully shared the nativity message that so naturally expresses itself in music. The day ended with communion that felt so right, and a passing of the flame from the freshly lit Christ candle to the individually held candles of the congregation, spreading the light from the Christ candle through the entire darkened sanctuary. The day ended at midnight as the worshippers processed out into the night carrying the light with their candles symbolically into the world. I was so delighted to be in town to join the congregation for this day. It was a once-in-a-lifetime for me because I had done just three of these services for years as your pastor. But Christmas Eve comes rarely on a Sunday to add a fourth service in the morning, enriching the experience by giving both pastors a chance to add the dimension of a Christmas sermon. I came out of this incredible day feeling a palpable sense of hope, peace, joy and love. My friends at RHUMC, I thought, really get the Christmas story and they know how to share it with the world.

Healthy, Hopeful Parenting A Workshop for Parents of Young Children (preschool through early elementary)

Sunday, January 28, 11:00-1:00 p.m. at RHUMC
childcare and light lunch provided with pre-registration



This workshop will help parents set and enforce family rules while accepting the struggles that accompany raising young children. Participants will review effective strategies that can help parents navigate one of life’s most challenging and rewarding jobs. Topics include how to communicate with your children effectively, help them feel understood, and promote desirable behaviors. Ways to stay grounded and nurture yourself during this stage of your family’s development will also be discussed.

The workshop leader is Dr. Michelle Dexter (PSY27382) who is a licensed clinical psychologist with expertise providing assessments, psychotherapy, and educational programming to various populations in Los Angeles. She has extensive experience working with children, young adults, adults and families in both academic and private settings. Dr. Dexter is an active member of RHUMC and has much wisdom and compassion to share with us.



To register, please call 310-377-6771 or email churchoffice@rhumc.org. The workshop is open to friends in the community as well as to the congregation.

Dawn Unity Group



“Joseph” will be the subject of Dawn’s Interfaith Discovery Series panel discussion on **Tuesday, January 9, 7:30 pm** at Congregation Ner Tamid, 5721 Crestridge Rd., RPV. Joseph’s life is full of ups and downs as he grows in stature and importance. Was he arrogant in telling his brothers they would bow to him or simply demonstrating his power to see the future? Was he the savior of the Egyptian people or a crafty bureaucrat and administrator enriching the Pharaoh? The panel will consist of our very own Jonathan Chute; Prof. Amir Hussain, LMU; Reverend Reinhard Krauss, UCLA; and Rabbi Brian Schuldenfrei, Congregation Ner Tamid who will analyze a very interesting life. Bob Rothman is the Moderator. The program is free to the community. For further information call 310-833-7008.

Altar Guild Opportunity



Thanks to 24 dedicated Altar Guild members, our sanctuary is prepared each Saturday for Sunday services. They set up for Communion Sunday, place Paraments on the altar, mark the liturgist's Bible, fill the pew boxes, sharpen pencils, date the welcome pads, position the Bibles and Hymnals, and place the flowers on stands. Altar Guild members are trained and always work with another member, and are responsible for set-up one month a year. Set up typically takes about an hour and a half. If a conflict arises during your month, trades are easily made. The Altar Guild committee currently has openings for the months of August and September, and January 2019. If you would like to be a member of this exceptional committee, please contact Rita Guiton at 310-378-9661 or Sally Whitney at 310-377-2710.

SAVE THE DATE!



Got a shiny new 2018 calendar for Christmas? Just aching to put something on it?

It's time to save **Saturday, March 24**, as the date for RHUMC's build day with Habitat for Humanity. We'll need volunteers to work at a local Habitat work site as well as a support staff to help with food and materials.

Materials?!? Yes, this is the opportunity you've been waiting for to clear out your garage and closets! In February, the Missions Committee will identify the materials most needed by Habitat – not only at our build site but also to help stock Restore (the Habitat nonprofit home improvement store and donation center). More information will follow.

See you there!

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, January 14, 2018

~ presents ~

Pianist **ROBERT THIES**

Gold-Medal Winner of the International Prokofiev Competition

Called a pianist of “unerring, warm-toned refinement, revealing judicious glimmers of power” by *The Los Angeles Times*, **Robert Thies** is an artist renowned for his consummate musicianship and poetic temperament. He first captured worldwide attention in 1995 when he won the Gold Medal at the Second International Prokofiev Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia. With this victory, Thies became the only American pianist to win a Russian piano competition since Van Cliburn's triumph in Moscow in 1958. He has already performed over 40 different concerti with leading orchestras worldwide. A graduate of USC, his teachers have included Robert Turner and Daniel Pollack, both protégés of the legendary Russian teacher and pianist Madame Rosina Lhevinne and the great pianist Josef Lhevinne. Robert has a huge and avid Southern California following. He is returning to the Palos Verdes Peninsula where he grew up for his eleventh appearance on the *Second Sundays at Two* series.



Free-Will Offering

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped brighten our Christmas Season!



Thank you!



Through the generosity of this congregation, Toberman Neighborhood Center was able to distribute gifts to more than 500 boys & girls. I experienced the true meaning of Christmas as I escorted parents through the process of choosing a present for each of their children. On behalf of the Staff and the Board of Trustees of Toberman, I would like to thank you for once again making our annual Trek to the Tree such a success.

Blessings to all of you,
Patty Koester

Welcome to Kristin Reksc, Our New Director of Youth Ministry



The Staff Parish Relations Committee and those who interviewed Kristin are glad to have discovered someone who is "self-aware, authentic, thoughtful and attentive, a good listener, and able to articulate her faith." These are the very qualities that members of the congregation most often prioritized in our recent survey about Children and Youth Ministry at RHUMC.

Kristin's home church is Los Altos UMC in Long Beach. She has experienced the ministry there as a youth, a young adult volunteer, and a part-time staff member. She is a veteran of four summers as a site staff member of the Sierra Service Project. She has a dual Master's Degree from Boston University in Theology and Social Work. Kristin describes herself as, "most passionate and effective when able to work with individuals on a personal level while also developing programs that nurture and collaborate with the individual to become their best self physically, mentally, and spiritually."

As the Director of Youth Ministry at RHUMC, Kristin looks forward to working, in conjunction with the congregation, to facilitate programming that is "grounded in God's love, welcoming of all, and integrated into the overall life and mission of the church."

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

We hope you can join us on **Tuesday, January 9**, at the Riviera Mexican Grill between 4:00-9:00 p.m. and 15% of your food bill will be donated back to our preschool. Hope to see you there!

RIVIERA MEXICAN GRILL

1615 S. Pacific Coast Hwy., Redondo Beach, CA 90277

(310) 540-2501

rivmex.com



Get to Know Our New Director of Children's Ministry



The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce that Debra DeLuca has been selected to fill the role of Children's Ministry Director. We celebrate the energy, creativity, and strong organizational skills she contributes to the life of our church. Debra shares the following information about her background and interests.

"I grew up in Michigan and came to Southern California over thirty years ago with the intention of visiting my older brother for a week or two. After two weeks I returned to Michigan gathered up my belongings and moved here permanently. I met my wonderful husband, Steve, shortly after and we have been happily married now for 29 years this past May. We have 3 kids, 2 boys (23 & 25) and my daughter Natalie (18) who is a Sunday school teacher here at the church and who also attends Cal State Dominguez Hills. Some of my favorite things to do are baking, crafting, playing board games and reading."

"I've enjoyed spending a lot of time volunteering at the schools (Elementary, Middle, and High School) while my children were attending them. After that I started volunteering here at RHUMC as a Sunday school teacher and then became assistant to Lisa Williams and then assistant to Kimmie Stradling. I love spending time with children and can't wait to continue working with all of the wonderful families here at RHUMC."



Parents Night Out
Saturday, January 13th
4:30-8:30pm

Take an evening off while we take care of your kids! Drop off your kids for a fun night of crafts, games, dinner, and a movie. Space is limited, so be sure to sign-up early!

Who: Infants to Fifth Graders

Costs: \$25 per child/\$10 for each additional sibling

Registration: Email debra@rhumc.org or call the church office at (310) 377-6771, ext. 105 with your child's name and age.



**Come help us celebrate Groundhog Day
and find out if there will be six more
weeks of winter or an early spring!**

Friday, February 2nd

4:00-5:30pm

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church

Story time, crafts, games, songs,
food and special treat!

Pre-k through 5th Grade
(Parents encouraged to stay)



RSVP & Questions: debra@rhumc.org

Second Sunday Suppers

We hope you can join us for dinner on **Sunday, January 14**, after 3rd service. The menu will include chicken, rice, beans and salad from El Pollo Loco. The requested meal donation is \$5 per person, \$15 per family. 3rd service takes place every Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Club Maintenance



We look forward to meeting again on **Saturday, January 13**, at 8:30 a.m. Our team took the month of December off from Club Maintenance activity to share in Christmas preparation in the sanctuary.

We enjoyed a wonderful lunch at our November work party provided by Dale Gehr; stunning food and excellent companionship was enjoyed by all. We did complete painting of the iron fence around the back of Wesley Hall, along with a variety of other tasks.

We have many tasks backlogged for our January meeting and expect to have a good turnout.

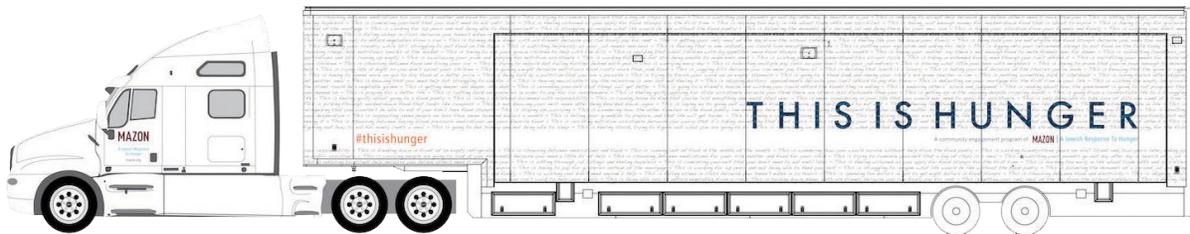
This is Hunger

This is Hunger is a community engagement program that illuminates the profound prevalence of hunger in America. They bring awareness of the 42.2 million Americans who struggle with hunger every day and ignite a commitment to end hunger by providing a 45-minute interactive experience on wheels. Sunday, January 28-Tuesday, January 30, This is Hunger will have a 53-foot-long double expandable trailer with almost 1,000 square feet of interior space parked at the Congregation Ner Tamid, 5721 Crestridge Road, RPV, to take participants on a multi-media voyage of awareness and activism.

Participants enter the truck and are invited to sit at a communal table to meet, *virtually*, real people struggling with hunger. Portraits are projected at each end of the table, one by one, as they share their stories in their own voices and in their own words.

This is Hunger project is a compelling experience that combines community outreach, civic engagement, education and advocacy. The experience promises to be deeply impactful and can hopefully shape our perceptions and discourse on food insecurity in America.

To order complimentary tickets to the exhibit, please visit <https://thisishunger.org/the-tour>. Contact Ambir Elliott with questions at clergyadmin@nertamid.com or call 310-377-6986, X222.



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	Music Dir., 3 rd Service	Patti MacLeod
Children's Ministry Dir.	Debra DeLuca	Exec. Asst. to Pastor	Roksolana Vecerek
Kid Zone Director	Megan Pelc	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Treasurer	Robin La Tourette	Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Church Business Mgr.	Nicole Lowery Zakman	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Junior High Youth	Nicole Benson		
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 22
www.rhumc.org