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 21st
www.rhumc.org

The Cornerstone

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

March 2014

A Time to Begin

On Sunday, March 9 we break ground on Phase One of our new facility project. The real work begins the next day and will go forward over the next four months. In the end we will have a wonderful new room for choir rehearsal, exercise groups, children's dance and music classes. We will also have a much improved parking area with easier access for all. This will help advance our mission. It will allow us to serve the needs of our congregation and community even more generously.

Many people have contributed to make this possible, and we want to include our whole church family in the groundbreaking. We hope you can join us that morning at 11:30 as we give thanks for the mission of God. We'll put on hardhats, pose for pictures and celebrate God's grace through a season of building and blessing. It begins on March 9.

from the pastor

With Ash Wednesday upon us we will enter the season of Lent. We will join with Christians around the world and over the centuries to walk with Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem. We will watch for signs of grace and listen for notes of encouragement as we go. The observance of Lent recalls the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, undergoing temptation. It reminds us of the forty years the people of Israel wandered in the Sinai, before they were ready to enter the Promised Land. In the early years of the Church it was a time of learning and growing, of study, prayer and reflection for new believers as they prepared for their baptism on Easter Sunday. Over the centuries it became a season for all Christians to engage in those same spiritual exercises.

This year, our experience of Lent and Easter will be colored by the beginning of work on the first phase of construction here at the Church. Lent is a wilderness journey, and it may seem even more so for us this year. There will be construction fencing around the side of the sanctuary closest to Crenshaw. There will be noise, dust and disruption through the week, and occasionally on Saturdays. I am sure that we will experience challenges and frustrations along the way.

So what are we getting for all the trouble? Our current choir room is about 640 square feet. The new room will be more than double that size, including an accessible restroom, separate robing area and space for a small desk. It will be more useful not only for choir rehearsal but for other programs and classes through the week.

We are also going to have 21 new parking spaces closest to the sanctuary, and a new and more useful access ramp adjacent to the main steps. The parking lot will be somewhat larger than we intended. The County Fire Department requires that a fire truck be able to turn around in that area without backing up. That was one of the discoveries we made along the way, and it led to additional costs for paving, heavier duty retaining walls, drainage and lighting. We also upgraded the landscaping significantly to maintain a garden view out the left side of the sanctuary.

These changes will be helpful to us in the short and long term. They also make it possible for us to develop new education facilities we need to serve our mission. We are well along in the design process for that project and have begun the application process with the city. We expect it to take a couple of years as we work through Planning Commission, hold public hearings and revise our plans along the way. When the current education buildings are ready for demolition the new parking area will provide a home for portable classrooms.

Lent is a journey to be sure. Life is a journey. As we move through the coming season together, my prayer is that our time in the "wilderness" will also lead us to new hope and generous sharing in the grace of our God.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

Missions Committee News

Missionary Ut Van To
Our church is pleased and proud to be able to support missions work around the globe. Most recently added to our beneficiaries is the Reverend Ut To, a missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. He is assigned to Vietnam as country director and mission superintendent, and trains Christian leaders in developing new congregations and nurturing Christians in Vietnam. If you would like to read more about Reverent To or his work, please visit: http://www.umcmission.org/Explore-Our-Work/Missionaries-in-Service/Missionary-Profiles/To-Ut.

Habitat for Humanity
We are excited to be supporting the Habitat for Humanity 500th Home Build scheduled for **Saturday, April 26th.** Striving to provide decent, sustainable, and affordable homes for hardworking, low-income families of Los Angeles is an opportunity to help restore the cities, instill hope in our communities, and serve families in a way that impacts generations to come! We need builders, helpers, "lunch providers", and more . . . look for sign-up sheets at church services on 3/30, 4/6 and 4/13.

Expressed Gratitude

Your generosity is appreciated! Here are excerpts from recently received letters:
St. Paul's United Methodist Church wrote, "We wanted to express our deepest appreciation for your recent donation to Project: NEEDS. We are very grateful to have you and your congregation as St. Paul's partner in mission, and there are not words to fully express our gratitude for your continued support and generosity!"

Toberman Neighborhood Center wrote, "We would like to extend a warm thank you for your generous gifts of $14,797.00 as well as the assortment of toys and clothes. Your gifts help to support Toberman's invaluable programs that help fulfill over 24,500 requests annually for services from the working poor, families and individuals in our community."

One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing enables the **United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)** to live out its mission to alleviate human suffering. UMCOR responds to natural or human-made disasters. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing lay the foundation for UMCOR to share God's love with communities everywhere and helps underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." This helps UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not for home office costs. RHUMC has designated **Sunday, March 30th**, to donate to this very worthy outreach to communities near and far that have experienced devastation. Special envelopes will be inserted in the March 30th Sunday Worship bulletin.

Dawn Unity Group

The Dawn Unity Group will next meet on **Tuesday, March 11th**, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the Authority of Scripture in Modern Life. On the panel will be Prof. Amir Hussain, Theological Studies, Loyola Marymount University; President Maurice Lam, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Fr. Thomas Rausch, S.J., Theological Studies, Loyola Marymount University; and Rabbi Brian Schuldenfrei, Congregation Ner Tamid; with moderator, Bob Rothman. The session will be held at the Congregation Ner Tamid located at 5721 Crestridge, Rancho Palos Verdes.

Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil

Our congregation's observance of Lent officially begins with our Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on **March 5th**. If you are able to come and spend half an hour in prayer, I am sure you will find it a rewarding experience. There will be resources available to help lead you through some of that time. At 7:30 p.m., there will be a simple service in the Sanctuary with music and singing, prayer and scripture. It has been an Ash Wednesday tradition over the centuries to receive, on our foreheads, a mark of ash in the shape of the cross. Ashes are a sign of our mortality, as well as of repentance. The cross is the sign of God's saving love in Jesus Christ. As the two are linked, we are reminded both of who we are and whose we are. That is something worth remembering anytime, but especially as we begin our Lenten journey together. To sign up for the Prayer Vigil, stop by the patio on Sunday, March 2nd, or call the church office at 310-377-6771.

Coping with Grief and Loss
Six-Week Bereavement Support Group

March 20, 27 and April 3, 10, 17, 24
10:00 to 11:30 A.M.
Facilitated by Dr. Susan Brown, Ph.D.

Losing a spouse or a loved one is a major life event that touches every part of our lives. In a safe, caring, and confidential environment, we are offering a 6-week bereavement support group for those who are experiencing this journey. The participants will meet others who have suffered similar loss, explore their individual grief process, and gain knowledge of useful coping skills to help them begin to heal.

Dr. Susan Brown, who has an MA in Theology and a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Fuller Seminary, will facilitate the sessions. Susan has a private practice specializing in grief and trauma and leads bereavement support groups at the Gathering Place, a center for bereavement in Redondo Beach.

To register or for more information, please call Rachel Stam at 310-377-6771, ext. 105 or email ryostam@gmail.com. There is no charge for the group, but PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED, as group size is limited to 12 participants.

Save the Date – Good Friday Requiem

The Chancel Choir will present A German Requiem by Johannes Brahms at 7:30 p.m. on **Good Friday, April 18th**. The work calls for chorus, orchestra and soprano and bass soloists. The Requiem is one of Brahms' finest works. We hope you will plan now for this evening of music to be part of your upcoming Holy Week celebrations. You won't want to miss this!

New Member Gathering

If you are interested in learning more about Rolling Hills United Methodist Church and becoming a member, plan to join us on **Sunday, March 2nd**, at 11:30 a.m. for the next New Member Gathering. It's a relaxed and informal time where you'll meet others who are new to the church, hear about the life and work of the congregation, take a tour of the facility, share a light meal and learn a bit about the United Methodist Church. It's a helpful introduction for people who would like to know more than just what happens on Sunday mornings. Many of the people who attend one of these gatherings decide to join the church, but there is no expectation that anyone do so. For those who do wish to join, we will be welcoming new members into the church on Sunday, March 9th, at all three services. Please call the church office at 310-377-6771 if you would like to attend. Childcare is available with reservation.

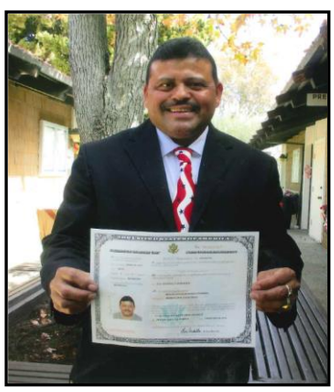
We are excited to announce the **Friday, March 7th**, concert in the sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. featuring ArteMusica choir and orchestra performing Vivaldi'l "Gloria" and Handel's "Dixit Dominus" with Maestro Ermanno Zotti directing. Merrietta & Paula Fong and Sally Brown are members of our church who will be participating in this special concert. ArteMusica was founded in 2011 as a group of non-professional singers under the direction of Maestro Ermanno Zotti. It now counts 30 talented members and is a true melting pot of nationalities, ethnicities and cultures. Maestro Zotti, a native of northern Italy, is an accomplished pianist, organist and choir director. He founded the Associazione Culturale Setticlavio in 1987 and performed at prestigious musical events in Italy and elsewhere in Europe. We are looking forward to this evening and want to be sure you mark your calendars! All are welcome to this free concert and we know you will want to support this dynamic group with your donations.

Club Maintenance

The work done by Club Maintenance included waterproofing the high stones of the steeple, sealing around broken roof tiles, applying a seal coat to the stairs, assembling a book case, replacing a Sanctuary light bulb, securing a loose bird barrier, tightening loose door handles, checking a noisy Kitchen fan for proper operation, repairing an uneven sidewalk in the Preschool, cleaning the patio fountain sump, cleaning up spilled debris around the trash bin, cleaning the exterior of a storage shed, and trimming low growth from two trees. Those helping out included Peter Williams, Bill Szieff, Jim Showalter, Oren Sheldon, Yasuko Martin, Bob Chamberlain, Bill Bails, and Boy Scouts Spencer Nichols and Nathaniel Coleman. The next work party begins at 8:30 a.m. on **Saturday, March 8th**. Please join in this effort to keep our facilities in good working order.

Save the Date…

'HOP ON OVER' TO OUR SPRING MINI-MARKET on **Sunday, April 6th**, before and after all church services sponsored by the **United Methodist Women**. Help us continue to support our local Missions which include the Sierra Service Project. We welcome all Circle members and anyone who likes to bake to donate their specialties for sale such as baked breads, cookies, fudge, pies, canned jams etc. and bring them when you come to church on April 6th. The Craft Group has been working to surprise us with their homemade crafts and decorated Easter baskets (ready to be filled) by the Easter Bunny. Don't miss this opportunity to pick up a gift or two for the special persons in your life. Call or text Mary Larson at 310-613-8169 if you have questions.



Congratulations Miguel Portillo!

A warm-hearted congratulations goes out to Miguel Portillo, our custodian, on receiving his U.S. citizenship. Miguel is looking forward to the opportunity to vote and to take part in the decision making process of this country. Way to go Miguel!

Sunday, March 9, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

Sundays At Two

LUCINDA CARVER

The celebrated conductor, pianist, and harpsichordist performs Franz Schubert's sublime masterpiece: Piano Sonata in G Major, Op.78, described by Robert Schumann as the "most perfect in form and conception" of any of Schubert's sonatas.

As a Fulbright Fellow to Austria, **Lucinda Carver** concertized throughout Europe and has performed as soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, Pacific Symphony, Musica Angelica Baroque Orchestra, *Capella Salisburgensis*, Santa Barbara Chamber Orchestra, and Manhattan Philharmonic, among others. Ms. Carver is Professor of Piano, Harpsichord, and Conducting at the USC Thornton School of Music.

Free Will Offering

Children's Ministries

A Great Place to Grow

Lisa Williams
Director of Children's Ministries

RHUMC Gets Messy

Not only will our church begin Phase 1 construction of the parking lot on March 10th, an excellent team of church members have been trained on how to "Get Messy." Earlier this month, our "Messy" team met with conference representative, Nicole Reilly, to learn what it takes to start a Messy Church. Our "Messy" team is Brooke & Kevin Borg, Cindy Boger, Cheri Bailiff, Chris Larson, Sara Platnick, and Rachel Stam.

What is Messy Church?

Messy Church is a multi-generational gathering that meets once a month in the evening and brings families, grandparents, and friends together through crafts, games, worship, and a meal. The first Messy Church started in the UK in 2004. The concept has spread over denominations and countries.

How can you help?

Over the next few months, please pray for our team as we work toward launching Messy Church in September. If you would like to be a part of this "Messy" fun, or would just like to know more about it, please see me on the patio, send me an e-mail, or give me a call. There are lots of ways to be a part of this exciting new adventure.

Tuesday on the Town Fundraiser

Dine Out with Daphne's

Present this FUNRAISER flyer during the event and 20% of your purchase will be donated to

RHUMC Preschool
03/11/2014
4pm-Close

Rolling Hill Plaza
25420 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90505
(310) 257-1861

daphne's california greek

Hope you can join us on **Tuesday, March 11th,**
and enjoy a dinner of Greek cuisine between 4:00-9:00 p.m. at
Daphne's California Greek
25420 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90505
310-257-1861
20% of your purchase will be donated to the
Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool.

A fundraiser flyer is required. Bring a copy of this page, pick up a flyer in the church office, or contact the church office at churchoffice@rhumc.org to receive an email copy of the flyer.

Children's Ministries

Join us for Spring Break Vacation Bible Camp 2014 "Workshop of Wonders"

March 24-28, 2014
April 7-11, 2014

½ day 9:00-Noon…Ages 3-5th grade
Full day 9:00-4:00…Kinder-5th grade
Early and Extended Care available

For Registration
Visit Kid Zone
Kidzone.midzone@gmail.com
310-377-7302

Now accepting applications!

If you or someone you know would like to apply for a summer job at Kid Zone, applications are now available.

Contact Lisa Nagy
Kidzone.midzone@gmail.com
310-377-7302

Valentine Cookie Bake
Thanks for a Great Response!

The children created 42 boxes of hand-decorated Valentine treats for people near and far to remind them that our thoughts and love are with them this holiday season. This includes college students, the recently bereaved and the homebound in our congregation and friends and family thereof. Thanks to our Sunday School Staff for their help in making the cookies and cards.

Family Ministries

Rachel Stam
Director of Family Ministries

I am still amazed by this beautiful place we call home. Moving from the Midwest, winters in South Bay seems to be paradise. Whenever I start feeling wistful about the beauty of thick, white, fluffy snow falling from the sky, I remind myself about the misery of shoveling the driveway in sub-zero temperatures, scraping ice off the windshield, dressing my kids in layers upon layers of winter clothing...we are lucky to be here. Since November, Annette Matsuda and I have been leading a **hiking group** that meets on the **third Tuesday of every month**. We've roamed the South Coast Botanical garden and hiked trails of Malaga Cove and Trump Golf Course. It's a wonderful time of exercise and fellowship, so drop by when you can!

On **Sunday, March 16th,** we are going on a **whale watching trip** on the Redondo Beach Voyager. The cost is $10 per ticket which also includes "Dock Talk" by Dave Whitman, our very own whale naturalist. I hear that it has been a bumper year for whale sightings, so please join us! To register, email me at familyministries@rhumc.org or stop by the church office.

Drop off the kids while you enjoy a night out! On **Saturday, March 8th**, from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., we are offering a safe and fun-filled night for your kids, ages infant to 5th grade. The cost is $20 per child/$5 per each additional child. To register, stop by the sign-up table after the morning services; email familyministries@rhumc.org; or call the church office at 310-377-6771, ext. 105. Be sure to include your child's name(s) and age(s). Space is limited, so be sure to register early!

Health & Wellness

Annette Matsuda, RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

Health and Wellness Opportunities

Brown Bag Lunch and Speaker

Join us on **Tuesday, March 18th,** for lunch and listen to Mandy Hillstrom speak about "What to Eat to Optimize Your Health - The Myths, The Mysteries, and the Take-Home Message."

Dr. Mandy Hillstrom is an Assistant Professor of Nutrition at California State University, Los Angeles. She is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator who has specialized for the past 18 years in diabetes care, childhood obesity, and eating for optimal health. She is the mother of 3 children and is excited to share her enthusiasm for healthy eating.

Mandy is a popular speaker here at RHUMC, well-respected for her excellent presentations.

Bring your lunch and join us in the Aldersgate Room at 11:30 a.m. The program will follow at 12:15 p.m.

Hike

Join us for our pre-spring excursion through the South Coast Botanic Garden on **Tuesday, March 18th**. View the brilliant cherry blossoms! Meet at the Garden entrance at 10:00 a.m., and we will walk in together. The 3rd Tuesdays of the month are free to the public. Mothers, you can bring your young babies and toddlers in strollers, if you like.

"Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, just as it is well with your soul."

3 John 1:2 New Revised Standard Version

Senior Pastor	Jonathan Chute	Music Director	Chuck Dickerson
Assoc. Pastor	John Kwan	Organist/Pianist	Althea Waites
Children's Min. & Kid/Mid Zone Dir.	Lisa Williams	3rd Service Ensemble	Patti MacLeod
Preschool Director	Myra Ghabrial	Admin Asst. to Pastor	Michele Nelson
Family Ministries Dir.	Rachel Stam	Church Office Admin	Peggy Roulette
Jr. High Youth	John Kwan	Treasurer	Robin La Tourette
Senior High Youth	Evan Griffiths	Bookkeeper	Nicole Lowery Zakman
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	Facilities Manager	Rick Mitchell
		Custodian	Miguel Portillo

Church Office Phone	310-377-6771	Resident Bishop	Minerva Carcaño
Fax Line	310-544-4123	District Superintendent	Kathey Wilborn
Web Site	www.rhumc.org		