The Cornerstone

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

February 2015

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

It is time again to celebrate with those in our Church family who have been or were married for 50 or more years. We would love to post the stories of how you met as well as display your wedding photos. If you'd like to tell your story, please send a short description of how you met via email to Rachel Stam at familyministries@rhumc.org. Also, we have the anniversary list from last year, but if you are new to the congregation, or have now been married for 50 years, please email Rachel Stam with your name and wedding date, or contact the church office at 310-377-6771. In addition to sending us your stories, please consider bringing a wedding photo to the church office during the week of February 9th identified with your name. Photos may be retrieved in the office the following week. Thanks for your help and participation! And congratulations!

from the pastor

The year is barely begun, but already new seasons lie before us. We haven't even adopted this year's budget yet, though we meet next Wednesday night to do so (7:30 p.m. in the Choir Room). That's the date of our Charge Conference, the annual meeting of a congregation in the United Methodist Church. It is a time to review the year that we've just been through and look with hope to the time ahead.

2014 was a good year for our congregation in many ways. We moved forward with the renewal of our campus, creating a more open and welcoming "front door" to the church. You can actually see our facilities from Crenshaw now! And the added indoor space will be helpful to many. We saw changes in our staff, welcoming Doug Dickson as a leader in worship and with our youth. We saw each other through times of change as well, with the loss of dear friends and the discovery of new. God's grace was with us in and through each of these. We have seen and felt it.

It was also a healthy year for us financially. For the first time since 2008 we finished the year solidly in the black. In recent years we have always been just a little ahead, or just a little behind, the budget we adopted. Though it was tough at times, we never panicked. We did not lay off, or even cut back, key staff positions. We believed that the mission of God was being served effectively. We kept moving forward, sharing generosity and hope. We continued support for partners in the South Bay who serve hungry and homeless families, giving away thousands of dollars to feeding programs at St. Paul's UMC, Toberman Neighborhood Center, Circle of Life (families with HIV/AIDS), 1736 House, and the Senior Nutrition Program at the Torrance/South Bay YMCA. We also prepare meals in our own kitchen to serve our neighbors. The grace of God has been the source and the center of everything we have sought to accomplish.

This month we give thanks for God's grace in the lives of couples in our congregation, and for their examples of loving faithfulness. We will celebrate with those who have been married for 50 years and more on Sunday, February 15 – the day after Valentine's Day.

That same week we will enter another season of grace, with the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday comes a little early this year, on February 18. You may sign up for the prayer vigil which will take place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. that day, and look forward to the Ash Wednesday service that evening at 7:30. For those who've not been, the service includes readings, prayers, music, many candles, and the imposition of ashes for those who wish to come forward. It is an encouraging and hopeful way to begin the 40 days of Lent.

The seasons of grace in our lives are gifts of God. I am grateful to share them with you, to move through these coming days with a sense of anticipation, of wonder, of joy and hope. May God bless you, and bless others through you.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

Missions

Love, love, love. It's that month again – when thoughts turn to sweethearts, roses, and chocolate.

Speaking of love . . . if you'd love to join a fun group, planning and working on creative ways to support our church's mission efforts, we'd love to have you! Our projects for the year will have us involved with Habitat for Humanity, missionaries around the globe, Heifer International, CROP Walk, Imagine No Malaria, and more. Email Kim Hall at kimhallhomes@gmail.com, or Susie Lines at lines1@cox.net for more info.

Next month, we'll be collecting new and "gently used" sweatshirts to support St. Paul's "Project Needs" Tuesday night dinners. Clean out your closet, and keep someone warm.

Faith in Action Thanks You

Thank you to our amazing RHUMC church family who contributed mountains of toiletries, blankets and other supplies to facilitate our Faith in Action outreach to the homeless served by St. Paul's UMC. We also raised over $1,000 to assist with buying blankets, socks, candy and other toiletries. After a massive team assembled the bags on December 21, five of our senior high youth delivered 125 fully stocked bags directly to the homeless at a Christmas dinner on December 23. Thanks also to the stalwart grocery stores who support this project each year by donating reusable grocery bags to hold our goodies: Trader Joe's at Rolling Hills Plaza and Golden Cove and Ralph's at Rolling Hills Road. Special thanks also to Debra DeLuca for overseeing the bag assembly.

Shown in the picture are Sara Platnick and Zoe Petersen with some of the gift bags delivered to St. Paul's.

SSP-ing We Will Go…

March 1st is the date you need to remember! That's the Sunday afternoon that we will be receiving registrations for SSP and going over the dates and activities that are a part of the adventure. Junior High SSP is from July12-17 and will be heading for Stockton, CA one of the poorer urban communities in the state where Senior High had a tremendous experience last year. Senior High will be splitting up into two sites: Chiloquin, OR and Walker River, NV during the same week, August 1-9th. Registration will include a $200 deposit, due on March 1st. Seats are limited so be sure to come on March 1st at 3:47 p.m. and place your reservation for one of the most life-changing weeks you will ever experience!

Dawn Unity

The Dawn Unity Group is sponsoring an annual Biblical lecture on a subject of interfaith interest. The topic will be "Isaiah: What Can Christians and Jews Agree On?" given by Professor Daniel Smith-Christopher of the Theological Studies Department of LMU on **Sunday, February 8th**, at 7:30 p.m. at the Congregation Ner Tamid. Daniel is a noted Hebrew Bible scholar and a teacher who excels at bringing the Bible to life by merging text and history. The Prophet Isaiah is very important to both faiths, even to being called the fifth gospel. The lecture is free to all, so join us and bring a friend. For any questions, call 310-833-7008.

Althea and Friends at the Organ

The Long Beach chapter of the AGO (American Guild of Organists) will present a concert of music for organ and piano in the sanctuary on **Tuesday, February 3rd**, at 7:30 p.m. A reception will follow the concert in the Aldersgate Room. Admission is free.

Sunday, February 8th
11:30 - 2:00 p.m. in the Choir Room

Join us for lunch and an informative presentation on estate planning and charitable giving. Rev. Greg Batson, President/CEO of the CA-Pacific United Methodist Foundation, will share techniques to structure your annual giving that best benefits the charity AND your personal financial situation. His presentation will cover wills/bequests and other charitable strategies.

This program is sponsored by the Planned Giving Committee.

To signup up, please contact:

Mary Harris (310) 791-3226, mary@harrisfinancial.net OR
Dale Gehr (310) 377-6548, d.gehr@verizon.net

Ash Wednesday -- February 18th

Lent is one of those seasons of the church that seems to be both highly anticipated *and* a little bit anxiety-producing. We look forward to the thoughtful time leading to Easter, while knowing that sacrifices are expected – but what sacrifices and what is good enough to prepare us for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ?

> "Ash Wednesday is a kind of baptismal branding. We are marked on our foreheads with the cross of Christ, which is a tree of life to beckon us back to the garden. . . coming back to baptism is hard work, like pruning vines, like plowing the earth, like the discipline of training for a contest. Of course, neither the hard work nor the training do the job. All of us will learn this once again, when Lent is over and we have failed but God has not." (*A Lent Source Book)*

Our Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil will start at 7:00 a.m. and continue to 7:00 p.m. There will be signups on the patio on Sunday, February 8th and 15th for specific times during the day - more than one person is welcome at any time. We just want to make sure that someone is in the sanctuary at all times on that day.

The service will start at 7:30 p.m. with readings, music, prayer, and the imposition of ashes. All are invited to bring one of the votive candles (provided) to the altar.

"Remember, human, that you are dust,
And to dust you will return."

Genesis 3:39

Prepare for a Musical Remembrance of the Lent Season

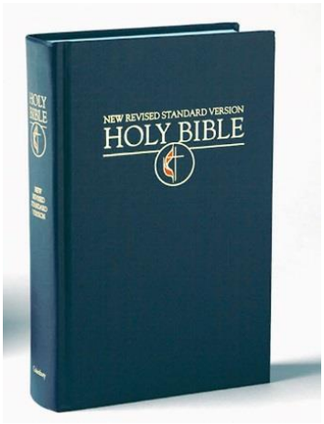
The Chancel Choir will celebrate the conclusion of the Lent Season with a Service of Music to be presented on the evening of **Good Friday, April 3rd**, at 7:30 p.m. The program will consist of the *Requiem* by Karl Jenkins, and will also feature other music that recognizes the Passion of Christ. Jenkins is a composer from Wales who began his music career as a jazz artist who later became well known in the United Kingdom for writing music for commercials. He published his *Requiem* in 2004, and our Good Friday presentation will be a first for our church, and perhaps the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Plan now to attend.

We'll Miss You Ruth Fuller!

On Sunday, January, 25th, we celebrated Ruth Fuller for her many years of dedication with our church choir. She has been part of our congregation for over 50 years. Ruth is moving to Walnut Creek and we wish her well with her new endeavors. Thank you Ruth!

Thanks also goes out to our hospitality team for hosting a fine celebration.

Buy a Bible for Lent



As many of you may have noticed, some of our pew Bibles have seen better days. The Worship Committee has looked at replacing them, but our edition is no longer available, and the page numbers in the new edition don't match with our current edition. Rather than have you guess where the Scripture passage is found, we are going to replace all of the pew Bibles.

During the 1st three Sundays in Lent, the committee will be taking orders for new Bibles. We will have them in the Sanctuary for Easter morning! You are invited to purchase one or more Bibles at a cost of $15 each. The Bibles may be dedicated in honor or in memory of a loved one.

In Honor of: _____

_____

In Memory of: _____

_____

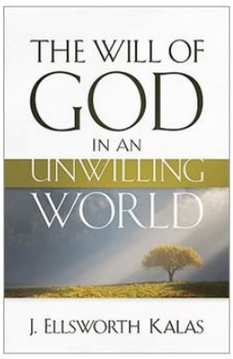
Given by: _____

Number of Bibles:_____Amount paid: _____

Cash: _____Check number: _____

Please make checks payable to RHUMC for $15 per Bible. Give this order form and payment to the volunteers staffing the table on the patio, place in the offering basket, or send to the office. Thank you!

Sunday Bible Study



The Christmas Season and Advent have come to a close and now our Sunday Bible Study is beginning a new study of GOD'S WILL. We will be using J. Ellsworth Kalas Book, *"The Will of God in an Unwilling World."* This is how the author begins the book:

"God's will for the planet is good. Always. Of course we do not always see it that way, because from where we sit God's will is rarely simple." Join us Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Aldersgate room as we explore the book, our feelings, experiences, concerns, questions, and opinions. We always engage in exciting interchange of ideas as we explore our relationship with God, and we all don't see everything the same way. Come learn, engage and be enriched as we learn from one another.

United Methodist Men (UMM)

The men of this church meet on the 3rd Saturday of every month (September-June) for a wonderful cooked breakfast and to hear speakers on an extremely diverse set of topics. We have heard from members of this congregation about racing horses, local real estate, preparing taxes, collecting coins, planned giving, creativity, Boy Scouts, book publishing, mission work around the world, Goodwill Industries, Toberman Neighborhood Center, church youth activities, prison ministries, Palos Verdes Land Conservancy, digging wells in Kenya for clean water, and many more. If you like wide-ranging discussions, we hope you'll come!

UMM also donates about $400 a year to causes like youth at our Church (Sierra Service Project), Toberman, missionaries and the Church Building Fund. We hope you can join us and be part of this wonderful, warm, congenial, and friendly group. It will expand your horizons and add to your spiritual, social and community life. Enjoy the food, camaraderie and enhance your church experience. We will next meet on **Saturday, February 21st**, from 8:00 – 9:00 a.m. in the Mission Room.

NEWS FLASH FROM UNITED METHODIST WOMEN (UMW)!!

Looking for a women's fellowship group? Look no further! The choices are many and we welcome all women of the church.

AGAPE CIRCLE is mostly a fun group of empty nesters who've built friendships and are always adding another sister to the group. Contact Stevie Lorentzen at 310-375-4899 or Susan Duncan 310-316-8278.

MARTHA CIRCLE is a fellowship group looking to enrich spiritual growth, learn about themselves, the church and mission work. Contact Rebecca Dyer 310-530-7878.

NAOMI CIRCLE provides fellowship and nurture to single women while being supportive of UMW and its missions. Contact Marcia Sollee 310-542-7985.

SISTER CIRCLE provides nurture, support and encouragement to women through Bible study, crafts, social activities and fund raisers. Contact Chris Larson at 310-328-3909 or Jean Kinney at 310-214-2128.

EVENING MOM'S CIRCLE meets monthly at the Red Onion at 7:30 p.m. for dinner, sharing, and supporting one another. Contact Kathy Platnick at 310-377-7856 or Lisa Williams at 310-326-8144.

ARE YOU CRAFTY AND LIKE TO CREATE?? Do you enjoy fellowship and sharing with other women? Come and be a part of making and producing items to sell and help raise money for our many mission projects!! Join our Craft Group gathering every Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at Lucy Ford's home at 5009 Danderhill Rd. in Torrance. Contact Lucy Ford at 310-791-0038.

A GOLDEN AWARD TO ALL OF YOU WHO HELPED MAKE OUR LAST TWO MISSION MARKETS A SUCCESS AND ENABLED US TO GIVE TO THESE MISSION PROJECTS AT THE END OF 2014:

UMCOR No More Malaria, $1,000; Long Beach District UMW, $1,000; Forensic Nurses to help Rape Victims, $250; Toberman, $500; Rainbow Services, $250; Community Helpline, $250; SHAWL Ministries, $250; Harbour Halfway House, $250; and RHUMC Kid Zone, $500.

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR GREETING CARDS FOR SPECIAL OCCASSIONS? Look no further!! Mooncloud is selling her handmade cards after church services on the third Sunday of each month. Proceeds will benefit the UMW mission projects.

For more information, pick up a UMW booklet in the office or Welcome Center.

Second Sundays At Two

Sunday, February 8th at 2:00 p.m.

***New York-based* ALLANT TRIO**

"I would defy even the most exhausted and jaded listener to experience even a moment of boredom in this group's high-voltage evening."

~ Rorianne Schrade on Allant Trio's Carnegie Hall debut in
The New York Concert Review

The **Allant Trio** is one of the most exciting young ensembles today. The Trio was formed in 2010 at The Juilliard School in New York, where all three graduates, pianist **Beth Nam**, violinist **Anna Park**, and cellist **Alina Lim** — each with numerous awards and achievements as soloists — received as a trio the coveted Madrigano Entrepreneurship Grant. The Trio gave an acclaimed debut recital at Carnegie's Weill Recital Hall and has participated in prestigious festivals such as the *Yehudi Menuhin Chamber Music Festival* in San Francisco, the *Banff Centre* in Canada, and the *Norfolk Chamber Music Festival* in Connecticut. Most recently, the Allant Trio won *The Beverly Hills National Auditions* and recorded their debut CD *Ignition* on the Sony Classical label.

Free-Will Offering

Rolling Hill United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Plan to have a meal at the Lazy Dog Restaurant & Bar on **Tuesday, February 10th**, between 11:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m. and 15% of your total bill will be donated back to our preschool. The restaurant is located at 3525 West Carson Street in Torrance. Hope to see you there!

Club Maintenance

Club Maintenance volunteers completed the following repair items recently: replaced hinges for all kitchen cabinet doors and planed edges for proper closure, tightened loose drawer faces and cabinet door hinges in the Sacristy, caulked leaking rain gutter ends on the preschool buildings, power washed the Meditation Garden furniture in preparation for refinishing, scraped and sanded part of the remaining perimeter wood fence in preparation for repainting, removed a portion of the wood perimeter fence to provide material for replacing rotted fence rails, cleaned out swales that carry off excess rain water, and secured a loose sheet metal molding for a Sanctuary side window.

Those who participated include three Boy Scouts, Bob Apoian, Jack Apoian and Joey Black, Bill Bails, Clarence Fung, Dave Larson, Rich Prihode, Oren Sheldon and Jim Showalter. The next repair session will take place from 8:30 a.m. to noon on **Saturday, February 14th**. Please help in keeping our facilities in good condition. No special skills are required.

Doug Dickson
Associate Pastor

Bridging the Gap:
Science and Faith @Logos

We're going to be tackling some of history's greatest dilemmas as we take a new look at our understanding of God and Science. In "Bridging the Gap" we'll take a look at the two foremost theories in scientific history through the eyes of Genesis 1. You'll be amazed at what we find when we compare and contrast science with our understanding of God and God's creation. Sr. High Logos will be bridging the gap February 4th & 11th.

Confirmation is Here!!!

Confirmation is a long-standing tradition of the church where youth affirm their own faith alongside that of the Church throughout the ages. This confirmation class is for youth who are sure of their beliefs as well as those who aren't so sure this faith thing is for them. It's an opportunity to dive deeply into Christian understandings of the past and present and to decide what we believe in our heart of hearts.

Confirmation is available to all persons who are in High School regardless of whether they participate in other church-sponsored activities such as Logos or the Youth ministry. The journey to confirmation will include: a retreat February 20-22nd, a few trips to some other places of worship, an opportunity to serve our community, and some times of deep discussion and reflection.

To sign-up or to get more information, call Pastor Doug Dickson at 951-587-7554. More information is also available through the youth website: www.RHYouth.org.

Snowboard/Ski Retreat

February 13-15th we're headed to Big Bear for a weekend of fun, fellowship and snow. There are only 30 spots available so register now. Registration deadline is February 4th. The cost is $60 and includes Sat/Sun food and lodging. Go to www.RHYouth.org for more information.

Save the Date for Youth Sunday!

Youth Sunday is coming up and we want you to be sure and save the date and plan to be there to be a part of the service and support the youth that are leading us in worship that day. Oh! By the way…the date is March 22nd.

Children's Ministries

Lisa Williams
Director of Children's Ministries
A Great Place to Grow

RHUMC Children

The Mission Next Door

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool @ Walteria

On January 5, 2015, RHUMPS @ Walteria opened its doors to some 20 children and their families. Many of us drive down Hawthorne Boulevard every day and may not know of this new hidden gem on Newton Street! Over the past few months our team has spent a lot of time helping to prepare for the opening of a new preschool at Walteria UMC. It is under the leadership of our church staff and follows the program and spirit that has been successful here. Less than 2 miles from our church home, we have an opportunity to make a difference in the lives of children and families we've never met before. Recently I thought about a Saturday morning in Wesley Hall, during a long range-planning meeting, where our church family renewed promise to serve children and families in this community. That was about 14 years ago. I am humbled and proud of the progress we have made in serving God's community.

However, we know from listening to Jonathan's sermons that our call does not stop with one or two successes. God opens the doors for us to continue to serve in new and exciting ways. As a church family, we are being called to provide families in the Walteria neighborhood with excellent childcare. The need is great; parents are working hard to provide for their families.

In just a few weeks, Myra and her team have begun to make this program excellent. Mrs. Jackman started music with the kids and I have the privilege of leading chapel with them once a week. Feel free to stop by Walteria UMC any Wednesday at 9:15 to watch chapel.

Each week since we opened we have registered at least one family. This is amazing!

It is fun to watch God working through this project. I am reminded daily how fortunate we are to serve a God who loves us so much.

Stay tuned for updates on the The Mission Next Door

Looking Ahead…

February 23 through 27- Preschool registration for fall 2015 begins for church members

March 1- Kid Zone and Mid Zone Summer Camp registration begins

Sunday, March 8- Family Picnic after 2nd service

PV Schools March 30-April 3 & Torrance Schools April 6-10-Kid Zone Spring Break Camp
Nature's Plaground, Kindergarten through 5th Grade

Saturday, April 4- Easter Egg Hunt

New Year, New Piano Lessons! Lois Roberts will begin offering individual lessons on Monday afternoons starting in February. Contact the Kid Zone office for details- kidzone.midzone@gmail.com

Counselor and Junior Counselor applications for Kid Zone Summer Camp 2015 are now available. Visit rhumc.org or kidzone.midzone@gmail.com.

Mini 3-Day Vacation Bible Camp
Wednesday March 11, 18 & 25 3:30 – 5:15
Ages 3-5th grade

Walking in the Footsteps of Jesus
Children will learn as followers of Jesus we
…belong to God.
…encourage and help others.
…do beautiful deeds.
…know Jesus is with them
…love everyone.
…worship him.
…know Jesus is alive!

To register, please contact Lisa Williams at 310-377-6771 or
e-mail rhumc.children@gmail.

Rachel Stam
Director of Family Ministries

Dinner for Eight is off to a fantastic start! We have over 50 couples and singles who have signed up to participate. In February, the lead hosts for each group will be contacting you to set up the first gathering. I hope this experience will help you connect with new and old friends at church. If you have any questions during the course of the year, please feel free to contact me. Happy eating!

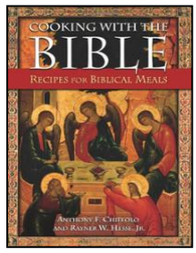
3rd Tuesday Walking Group

Our next walk will be on **Tuesday, February 17th**, at Terranea Trails, located on 1 Terranea Way, Rancho Palos Verdes (right off of PV Drive South). We will meet in front of the resort at 10:00 a.m. to start our walk. Afterwards, we can eat lunch and enjoy the gorgeous view from Nelson's restaurant. This trail is relatively flat, so walkers of all ages and abilities are welcome. Hope to see you there!

Family Movie Night

Mark your calendars for a Family Movie Night on **Saturday, February 28th**, from 4:00-6:00 p.m.! We will be showing *How to Train Your Dragon 2* in our brand new choir room. Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Wear your PJs and bring a friend or two (and sleeping bags and pillows). Reservations are helpful but not required. Email familyministries@rhumc.org. All are welcome!

New Bible Study Opportunity



Cook, with the Bible! Join us as we prepare recipes inspired by biblical passages and food lore. We will be using *Cooking with the Bible*, by Anthony Chiffolo and Rayner W. Hesse, Jr. as our guide. This 3-session study will begin on **Thursday, March 5th**, from 10:30- to noon. Email familyministries@rhumc.org or call 310-377-6771 to register or for more information.

Health & Wellness

Annette Matsuda, RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

Laughter Yoga Class X2

Our popular Laughter Yoga Class is now being offered twice weekly. In 50 minutes, our instructor, Nina Bradbury, a retired Nurse Practitioner and Certified Laughter Yoga instructor guides the class in flexibility and balance exercises and in the sharing of humor and laughter, all in a warm, friendly, and supportive group.

The groups now meet weekly on:
Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the Mission Room *and*
Friday afternoon at 1:00 p.m. in the Aldersgate Room
You can participate on either or both days!

When I visited and participated in one of Nina's classes, I learned the following:

> The average child in the USA laughs 400-500 times a day, versus the average adult who only laughs around five times daily?

Laughter:

- increases endorphins, the good-feeling neurotransmitters in the brain
- decreases harmful adrenaline and cortisol levels by dissipating stress
- increases cardiovascular health and blood circulation to the brain
- implements our abdominal muscles to massage our internal organs

So come join us soon for an uplifting hour well spent. For questions, call Nina at 310-780-9131.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh."
Luke 6:21b (NRSV)"

Mark your calendar! On **March 17th**, our wonderful Mandy Hillstrom will be giving a presentation on nutrition at our bag-lunch venue. Mandy plans to make something ***green*** for us to sample! More info to follow in the March *Cornerstone.*

Senior Pastor	Jonathan Chute	Music Director	Chuck Dickerson
Assoc. Pastor	Doug Dickson	Organist/Pianist	Althea Waites
Children's Min. &		3rd Service Ensemble	Patti MacLeod
Kid/Mid Zone Dir.	Lisa Williams	Admin. Asst. to Pastor	Michele Nelson
Preschool Director	Myra Ghabrial	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Family Ministries Dir.	Rachel Stam	Asst. Secretary	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Senior High Youth	Evan Griffiths	Treasurer	Robin La Tourette
Junior High Youth	Nicole Benson	Bookkeeper	Nicole Lowery Zakman
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	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 February 20th
www.rhumc.org