The Cornerstone

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

March 2015

Holy Week

March 29 – Palm Sunday
Children's palm procession into the church.

April 2 – Maundy Thursday – 7:30 p.m.
Tenebrae service with readings and candles.
Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

April 3 – Good Friday Concert – 7:30 p.m.
Featuring *Requiem* by Karl Jenkins
and other music that recognizes the Passion of Christ
Presented by the Chancel Choir,
the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles and Guests.

April 4 – Easter Egg Hunt - 9:00 a.m. on the church campus.
Please bring a dozen plastic eggs to the church office
by Friday, April 3rd filled with toys or candy.

April 5 – Easter Worship – 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
with Chancel Choir.
Sunday evening worship at **5:30 p.m.**
with the third service ensemble.

from the pastor

Lent is hope. When most people think of Lent, we think of something else. Lent is seen as a time of sacrifice, or possibly service. For many centuries, the practice was to "give something up for Lent." Christians looked to the life of Jesus as the example for us to follow. We might not spend forty days fasting in the wilderness, but we can deny ourselves just a little. Giving up chocolate is one of the standards. Some deprive ourselves of a favorite drink, or even a tv show. We know that this is far from the level of deprivation that Christ endured, but it can remind us of just how much we take for granted.

In more recent years we have rediscovered the thought of "taking something on" for Lent. Reading our way through one of the gospels is an excellent way to go. Setting aside a time for daily prayer works well for some. Others offer a gift of time – to a community grouping, a friend (or even a stranger) in need. The life of Jesus was informed by the reading of scripture, prayer and reflection, compassion and service. When we take any of these on we may find our lives and our faith deepened as a result.

Whether you are drawn to any of these practices, or have discovered one of your own, it's helpful to remember that the purpose of Lent is not to feel bad. For Christians in the early centuries, the forty days of Lent were a time of preparation for baptism which would take place on Easter Sunday. It was a time of learning and growth, of encouragement and struggle, all for the purpose of receiving the gift of new life and hope. It was headed to joy and celebration.

So Lent is hope. Lent has actually always been about hope. And it is where the whole story has been pointed right from the beginning. It is a story of compassion and care, from the first moment of creation. It is the story of the birth of a people, their journey through the disasters and the triumphs of slavery and liberation, kingdom and captivity, restoration and renewal. Through all of this God was at work, sharing grace and leading us in hope. In the life of Jesus Christ we see even more clearly the character, the depth of God's love for this crazy family of ours.

As we move through Lent this year, I invite us to do so in a spirit of hope. God is still leading us, in the midst of the disasters and triumphs of our time, the struggles and the joys of our lives. We are followers of the One whose life, death and resurrection, is the most hopeful gift we have ever received. With you, I look forward to where he leads us next.

Grace and peace,

John Elmore Update, Mission Volunteer Coordinator in Chile

John Elmore, a native of Richmond Virginia, was a self-employed carpenter until 1995, when he began his work as a missionary. He says of this time, "When I felt God calling me to serve, it was definitely the most exciting time in my spiritual life – I could hardly catch my breath! . . . God loved me so much, he knew that I was seeking him, he knew that I was ready."

John worked two years in the Dominican Republic helping to construct a hospital and clinic He then served 12 years in Northern Chile. He and his wife Maria Cristina Hurtado have served over 10 years in Angol in Southern Chile where they are currently based. There they teach Sunday school and are part of the music ministry at the Villa Emmaus Methodist Church. John is the mission volunteer coordinator at the Methodist Agricultural School for Mapuche Indians, which has over 200 students receiving training in agriculture and animal husbandry as well as studying the standard high school curriculum. John welcomes mission volunteers from outside Chile and coordinates work projects for the volunteers who work along with the students – often doing construction!

A recent email from John says in part, "Hello. I hope this letter finds you in good health and thanking God for all he has done for you. God tells us to pray constantly, which is hard to do. In order for me to keep God present, not just on Sunday or in a church activity or meeting, we pray every time we sit down to receive food. It does not matter if we are at home or in a restaurant, we pray and thank God. I don't know why I wrote this to you – I just felt a need to do so. Anyway, the reason I am writing is to share with you a need for hot water heaters for the boys' and girls' dormitories . . . the cost is about $1000. Thank you for all your support and prayers."

Money raised for John Elmore at Heifer Plus has been sent to him to help buy the water heaters. Of course this man of prayer will appreciate not only the money but also our prayers for him and the volunteers and students in his care.

Mission Gifts – Your contributions make a difference!

The Missions Committee thanks the RHUMC family for their compassion and great generosity. Here are a few excerpts from correspondence recently received from our mission partnerships:

Amigos Sin Barreras – Raised $1,400 and provided 4 tables and 40 chairs with the balance sent to Amigos for lunches. "The tables and chairs that you gave to Amigos are such a blessing. Thank you kind souls."

Toberman Neighborhood Center – Raised $12,836 for their 2014 Winter Appeal. "Thank you for your dear contributions to our programs, families and kids! It is because of your generous gift that Toberman continues to be a great success."

The YMCA – Gift of $2,000. "Heartfelt appreciation for your gift to the Torrance-South Bay YMCA's Senior Nutrition & Socialization Program. The impact of your generosity is felt every day. We thank you for making a true difference."

Project: Needs – Gift of $2,000. "We are so blessed to have your congregation as partners in our ministry. Thank you so much for being a vital part of our hunger outreach ministry of St. Paul's United Methodist Church."

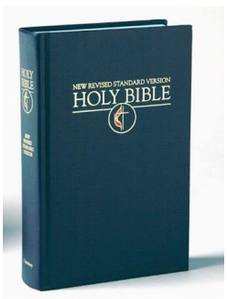
Dawn Unity Group

The Dawn Unity Group will hold its third Interfaith Discovery Series panel of its 14th year on **Tuesday, March 3rd**, at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5845 Crestridge Road. "What Inspires Me" will be the topic as inspiration could come from varied sources depending on the individual. Inspiration might arise from a person, a writing, a view of nature, or perhaps something completely different since reactions are a very personal matter. The panel will consist of our very own Reverend Jonathan Chute; Reverend Clayton Cobb, Presbyterian Church USA; Father Alexei Smith, Archdiocese of Los Angeles and President Mike Gazdik of the host congregation. Bob Rothman will be the moderator. This free event will be followed by interfaith cookies. For further information, call 310-833-7008.

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.

Buy a Bible for Lent



Bible sales are underway! The Worship Committee looked at the new editions of the Bibles that were available to us, and found the font had been shrunk & crowded so as to become almost unreadable! We decided to order the large print editions, which are much more useful. Hence, we have raised the donation we are asking for to $20. We will be taking orders for the Bibles through March 8th and you are invited to donate one or more in honor or in memory of a loved one.

So what happens to the current pew Bibles? We will place the Bibles in the narthex in April so that members may find that special Bible that they dedicated or was dedicated in their name or has some other special significance to them. Remaining Bibles will be donated to the conference to help with start-up churches. Watch for details in the April Cornerstone!

In Honor of: _____

_____

In Memory of: _____

_____

Given by: _____

Number of Bibles: _____ Amount paid: _____

Cash: _____ Check number: _____

Please make checks payable to RHUMC for $20 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!

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 15th**, to donate to this very worthy outreach to communities near and far that have experienced devastation. Special envelopes will be inserted in the March 15th Sunday Worship bulletin. Thank you for your generosity.

Help us decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

You are invited to donate one or more Easter plants to decorate the sanctuary for Easter services. The plants can be dedicated a few different ways.

In Honor of: _____

_____

In Memory of: _____

_____

To the Glory of God: _____

Given by: _____

Number of plants: _____ Amount paid: _____

Cash: _____ Check number: _____

Please make checks payable to RHUMC for $12 per plant. 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!

We also invite you to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter with these flowers! We will meet on Saturday morning, April 4th, at 8:30am. One crew will decorate the large narthex cross outside. The other crew will decorate the inside of the sanctuary. This is a wonderful opportunity to start your Easter with beautiful flowers!

Second Sundays At Two

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

Ukrainian-born Pianist
INNA FALIKS

"Adventurous and passionate" *— The New Yorker*
"A concert pianist of the highest order" *— Chicago WTTW*
"courage to take risks, expressive intensity & technical perfection" *— General Anzeiger, Bonn*
"remarkable insight" *— Audiophile audition*
"poetry and panoramic vision" *— Washington Post*
"riveting passion, playfulness" *— Baltimore Sun*

Pianist **INNA FALIKS** made her debut with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She has since performed on many of the world's great stages, with numerous orchestras and conductors such as Leonard Slatkin and Keith Lockhart, and in solo appearances in Carnegie Hall's Weill Concert Hall, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Paris' *Salle Cortot*, Chicago's Orchestra Hall, and Moscow's Tchaikovsky Hall, to name some. She is a frequent recitalist on Los Angeles County Museum of Art concert series. Previously based in New York City, Inna was recently appointed to UCLA's Piano Faculty.

Free-Will Offering

New Member Welcome

If you are interested in learning more about Rolling Hills UMC and becoming a member, plan to join us **Sunday, March 8th**, at 11:30 a.m. for the next New Member Welcome. 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 15th, at all three services.

Please call the church office at 310-377-6771 if you would like to attend. Childcare is available with reservation.

Spring Mission Market

The Spring Mini-Market sponsored by the United Methodist Women is on **Sunday, March 22nd**, before and after all services. We hope you can stop by and help support the many mission projects in our communities. Don't miss this opportunity to do a little spring holiday shopping and pick up some delightful homemade gifts for friends, family and teachers. You'll be supporting our Youth Group as well! It is Youth Sunday and 20% of all proceeds will be donated to our youth group.

Donations of any of your Arts, Crafts, and Homemade food are always welcome to help make our Spring Mini-Market a huge success. Items can be dropped off at the church kitchen on Saturday, March 21st, between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. or bring them when you come on Sunday.

Rolling Hill United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Craving for pizza? On **Tuesday, March 10th**, The California Pizza Kitchen located in the Rolling Hills Plaza, 25304 Crenshaw Blvd. (off Crenshaw and Airport Drive) will donate 20% of your check to our preschool. Be sure to pick up a flyer from the narthex, church office or download one from our website at RHUMC.org.

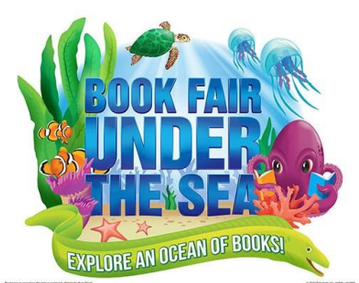
Book Fair Coming Soon!

Please join us for the 1st Annual Scholastic Book Fair at our very own preschool! We will have a great selection of books available for purchase on Tuesday, March 10th and Wednesday, March 11th during preschool hours (located in the church narthex) as well as after all three services on **Sunday, March 15th** (on the patio-weather permitting). The books will include a wide range of infant board books, lots of preschool titles, some early chapter books (K-3rd grade), older chapter books (4th-6th grade), cookbooks, as well as Christian titles!

If you can't make it to the book fair in person or are looking for a wider selection of books,
please visit our Online Book fair at the following address:

http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/rollinghillsumps

Our school will get credit for every purchase you make! Put together those shopping lists....as you know books make excellent gifts for people of all ages. Thank you for your support!



Toberman Neighborhood Center Gala

Toberman Neighborhood Center is having its 8th Annual Gala on **Saturday, April 4th**,
at 6:00 p.m. at the Terranea Resort in Palos Verdes, honoring MVP Kobe and Vanessa Bryant with the Bill Sharman Humanitarian Awards, themed "Dedicated to a Lifetime of Excellence." Tickets are $350 and can be purchased at Toberman.org. For more information, call 310-832-1145.

Hidden Talents

On a recent Sunday, the third service ensemble performed a poem that was written by our very own Merrietta Fong and put to music by Paula Fong. It was such a lovely collaboration that we wanted to share it with all of you.

"Chestnut Mare"

Climbing up the mountain on my uncle's chestnut mare
When the rockslide blocked the road
I was worried for the load
But she didn't miss a hoof beat and she brought us safely round
We were sheltered from the storm
She was keeping us from harm

As I walked the stubbled hayfield at the darkening of dusk
The cottonmouth lay low
We were just away a row
When the rabbit ran around us and became his supper fare
I ran faster than the light
As she held my hand so tight

Guiding spirit, treading softly
Light my pathway, bring me round
Hover gently, hear us clearly
Keep us sweetly, make us found

Wandering the city cold, I passed an open door
When they called me in to stay
I was almost on the way
Still the warmth and sweet surrender weren't hold enough
I was pushed to move along
To keep searching for the song

Even now I walk and smell the fragrance of the woods
Though it's alleyways I roam
Still I'm heading for my home
I hear it in the darkness 'neath the silence on the stair
The apple orchard calls
Through these worn and broken walls.

Club Maintenance

The work that Club Maintenance completed included cleaning, treating and filling the patio fountain, replacing a vent cover on the Sanctuary roof, adjusting a preschool door seal, securing loose silk trees in their planter boxes, additional prepping and painting of perimeter and parking lot fencing, cleaning a ceiling vent, repairing a leaking nozzle in the kitchen, installing a whiteboard and painting electrical panels in the Choir Room and trimming dead branches from trees. Those participating included Boy Scouts Bob and Jack Apoian, Bill Bails, Gene Koester, Dave Larson, Don Pedersen, Oren Sheldon and Jim Showalter.

The next opportunity to help with church repairs and upkeep will start at 8:30 a.m. on **Saturday, March 14th**. Please help us to accomplish these jobs and keep our facilities in good working order.

Children's Ministries

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

RHUMC Children

What is Lent?

Lent is the season of preparation for Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Sunday. Lent lasts 40 days (not including Sundays). Lent is a time for spiritual discipline. Many people fast or give up something they love as a way to understand sacrifice. Others may take on something meaningful to help someone else.

As a mother and full-time worker, I know it is hard to add another teaching exercise into your already busy lives. However, here is a fun way to help kids understand the meaning of lent.

As a family, you could adopt the word "Kindness." Each time your child does something helpful, uses a kind word or displays a kind act, put a bean in the jar. On Easter morning, before the kids wake up remove the beans and replace them with jellybeans.

The beans in the jar can also be used to help show your children how a small act of kindness can help others. After Lent count how many beans were in your jar. Once you have counted your acts of kindness consider supporting "Imagine No Malaria" or another charity with a donation.

What is "Imagine No Malaria"?

Imagine No Malaria is the United Methodist church-wide effort joined by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the United Nations Foundation to overcome malaria in Africa and eliminate deaths caused by the preventable disease. Imagine how just one net can save a child's life. The cost of a net is approximately $10.

During the season of Lent imagine how many lives we can help by placing a bean in a jar for every kind act, filling that jar with beautiful jellybeans on Easter morning and making a donation to "Imagine No Malaria."

Look forward to seeing you in chapel and on the patio!

Kid Zone Spring Break Camp

Nature's Playground

Kindergarten through 5th grade
PV Schools March 30 - April 3
Torrance Schools April 6-10

For more information and to register
310-377-7302
Kidzone.Midzone@gmail.com

Kid Zone and Mid Zone
Summer Camp 2015

Mark your calendars…
June 15th-August 7th

Registration will be available online starting March 10th

For more information, www.rhumc.org/kidzone

Mini 3-Day Vacation Bible Camp
Wednesday March 11, 18 & 25, 3:30 – 5:15 p.m.
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.

Doug Dickson
Associate Pastor

Sierra Service Project 2015

"When did we help you?" the disciples asked Jesus. "When you helped the least of these, my brothers and sisters in need," he answered. SSP invites us to help others and to do God's work. Come and see how you can experience the joy of helping others and changing lives.

Come and See What It's About… March 1st

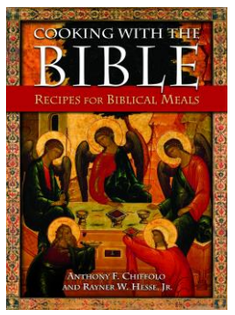
Sunday, March 1st, 3:47 pm: A team of seasoned campers and counselors will share with you about this year's great SSP adventures. We will have paperwork ready for you to fill out, dates of activities, and don't forget a checkbook for your registration!

Jr. High SSP Date & Location:
Saturday, July 12-18: Stockton, CA
(This is where Sr. High went last year and had a blast!)

Sr. High Group 1 Date & Location:
Chiloquin, OR: August 1-9
(This is where *Jr. High* went and *they* had a blast!)

Sr. High Group 2, Date & Location:
Walker River, NV: August 1-9
(Evan says it's a cool place to be.)

Rachel Stam
Director of Family Ministries



It's not too late to sign up! Join us on Tuesdays, March 10th, 17th, and 24th from 10:30-Noon as we prepare dishes inspired by biblical passages and food lore. We will be using the book, *Cooking with the Bible*, as our guide. Some of the recipes include Jacob's Green Bean Salad and Zaatar bread. Intrigued? Contact Family Ministries at familyministries@rhumc.org or 310-377-6771 to sign up or for more info. Childcare available upon request.

pno
parents' night out

Enjoy a kid-free evening out! Drop off your kids for a night of games, crafts, movie and a pizza dinner. Space is limited, so be sure to register early!

When:	**Saturday, March 21st**, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Who:	Infants to 5th graders Cost: $20/child, $5/each additional child per family.
Registration:	Email familyministries@rhumc.org with your child's name and age or call 310-377-6771, ext. 105.

‘3rd Tuesday Walking Group

Join us for our pre-spring excursion through the South Coast Botanic Garden on **Tuesday, March 17th.** 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. Hope to see you there!

Health & Wellness

Annette Matsuda, RN, BSN
Parish Nurse

Health and Wellness Opportunities

Dr. Mandy Hillstrom to Speak at Brown Bag Lunch Event

"Keeping Your Brain Sharp Through Nutrition"

Tuesday, March 17th

Bag Lunch at 12:00 Noon

Program at 12:30 p.m.

In the Aldersgate Room

Dr. Mandy Hillstrom will address scientific-based nutrition strategies aimed to ward off Alzheimer’s and dementia. Mandy also plans to share samples of delicious GREEN smoothies and other green foods in recognition of St. Patrick’s Day!

Mandy is an Assistant Professor of Nutrition at California State University, Los Angeles. She is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator who, for the past 19 years, has specialized in diabetes care, childhood obesity, and eating for optimal health. She is the mother of three children and is excited to share her enthusiasm for healthy eating once again with us.

Mandy is a popular and beloved speaker here at RHUMC, well-respected for her relevant and fun presentations.

Hosted by your Health and Wellness Team.

In His hand is the life of every living thing
and the breath of every human being.
Job 12:10 (NRSV)

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 March 23rd
www.rhumc.org