The Cornerstone

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

March 2016

Holy Week

March 20 – Palm Sunday
Children's palm procession into the church.

March 24 – Maundy Thursday – 7:30 p.m.
Tenebrae service with readings and candles.
Celebration of the Lord's Supper.

March 25 – Good Friday Concert – 7:30 p.m.
Featuring *As the Hart Pants* by Felix Mendelssohn,
Requiem by Mark Hayes and other reflective pieces
Presented by the Chancel Choir,
and the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles.

March 26 – Easter Egg Hunt – 10:00 a.m. on the church campus.
Please bring a dozen plastic eggs to the church office
by Friday, March 25 filled with toys or candy.

March 27 – Easter Worship – 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.
with Chancel Choir.
Sunrise Service in Meditation Garden – **6:30 a.m.**
Sunday evening worship – **5:30 p.m.**
with 3rd service ensemble and special guest Doug MacLeod

from the pastors — *Jonathan Chute*

These are strange days. The promised El Niño rains have yet to appear, though my own hopes are still high. After a brief blast of winter cold it seemed that summer returned about six months ahead of schedule. I went to Georgia for a week of study leave and spent it in bed with the flu, instead. That's not exactly the kind of reflection and renewal time I was looking for, but it's the one my body insisted on. Good friends have gone through trying times recently, dealing with family concerns, health challenges, life transitions. There have been more interruptions lately in the rhythms and seasons – the flow of our lives – than I would prefer.

As we move through these days of Lent, on our journey toward Holy Week and Easter, it occurs to me that a great deal of Jesus' life and ministry was also characterized by frustration and interruption. His work began relatively simply and well, as he preached and taught and healed and fed across Galilee. But as he continued his efforts, he faced a quiet but growing resistance. Even among his own disciples he was often misunderstood. But those in authority seemed threatened by his care for people who did not fit within existing social norms. As his popularity grew, so did the opposition. That was not the plan when he started out.

One day he was interrupted by a leader of the synagogue whose daughter had just died. The schedule was already full when the man came and knelt before him, begging Jesus to lay his hands on her. Jesus got up and followed. Even on the way to the man's house he was interrupted once again, by the touch of a woman who'd been hemorrhaging for the past twelve years. She had no appointment either, but her need for healing was urgent and clear, and Jesus said to her "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well."

When he arrived at the synagogue leader's home, the grieving crowd laughed at him, not believing that the girl's life could be restored. It isn't always easy to bring a word of genuine hope into moments of chaos and tumult. As he left two blind men followed him, begging for the return of their sight. Another healing followed right after that. And some of the religious leaders said that Jesus must be working with demons. Some days you can't do anything right.

Those were strange days. People you thought you could count on let everyone down. Others stepped up unexpectedly. Good friends were going through trying times. No one was quite sure what it meant, or where it all was headed. That's how it was in the days leading up to Jesus' last week in Jerusalem. There was misunderstanding, resistance, opposition, interruption.

Which is to say that it was a time like our own. And even then, despite everything working against it, there was still grace – the quiet, persistent, and ever-surprising love of God. When the days seem difficult, or hard to understand, we can remember that it was into just such a world that the hope of resurrection was brought.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

Last summer, in my first days at Rolling Hills United Methodist Church, I was enchanted to discover the Meditation Garden. Surrounded by trees, filled with the aroma of flowers and the sound of burbling water, and offering benches for quiet and restful repose, the garden struck me as a place of enchantment. Almost immediately, I started dreaming of the Meditation Garden as a perfect spot for an Easter Sunrise service.

According to John's gospel (20:14-15), the first person who saw Jesus after his resurrection thought he was the gardener. I therefore surmise that the place Mary was searching must have been a tranquil and lovely spot. So what better way to celebrate Christ's resurrection than to meet the day as Mary did? Mary set out from home, early in the morning, while it was still dark, to go be with her Lord. What she found in the dim light of the garden at that hour was surprising and wonderful beyond imagining. It is the story that shapes our faith.

The Easter Sunrise Service will be held on Sunday, March 27, at 6:30 a.m. Thankfully, I have discovered a few folks willing to support the concept by sharing musical and organizational talent, so we can look forward to a meaningful and happy gathering. If you have never been to the meditation garden, you will find it at the far edge of the church parking lot along the property lines we share with horse trails and the Botanic Garden (our down-the-hill neighbor). It will be a casual gathering. Feel free to dress comfortably and, if necessary, warmly.

And to prepare for Easter, remember that on Thursday, March 17 the theme of the Lenten Bible Study will be "Resurrection Life." The class meets in the Aldersgate room. You can choose to come at either 10:30 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. Even if you have not been able to attend the previous classes, you are welcome to take part.

Joy to you this Easter,

April

Methodist Missionary from Chile

Please join us in the Aldersgate room on **Wednesday, March 9** at 7:00 p.m. as we welcome John Elmore to RHUMC. Originally from Virginia, John was a self-employed carpenter before entering the mission field in 1995. As an individual volunteer, he spent time in the Dominican Republic constructing a hospital/clinic, then spent a dozen years in northern Chile both as an individual volunteer and as a commissioned missionary. He and his wife currently work with the Methodist Agricultural School for Mapuche Indians in southern Chile, where they teach Sunday school and are involved in music ministry. John is the mission volunteer coordinator for the Methodist Church of Chile, organizing the activities of volunteer teams who come to work with over 200 students. This is a rare opportunity to hear from one of the four missionaries whose work we regularly support. His talk will include photos and dessert will be served. We hope you can join us!

Friendly Folks Wanted

The Mission Committee is looking for friendly people who would like to join our group. We usually meet on the second Tuesday of each month in the health office at 6:30 p.m. The meetings last just one hour. In March, our regular meeting date has been changed to Wednesday, March 9, at 6:30 in the Aldersgate room. This will be brief since we all want to hear John Elmore at 7:00 p.m. Contact Kathy Prihode (kprihode@yahoo.com) or Bill or Barbara Leone (wcleone@aol.com).

Save the date for the Crop Walk

Join us for the Crop Walk on **Sunday, April 17** from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Point Fermin Park in San Pedro. An information and sign up table will be on the patio between services on March 20, April 3, and April 10. This is an excellent time for exercise, giving, and fellowship. Plans are underway for a delicious barbeque on the lawn before the walk. More details will be coming.

Blood Drive

For the past two decades the spring blood drive at RHUMC has become an important part of our church's service to the community. Again this year, the Health & Wellness Team of RHUMC is sponsoring 2 blood donation days (reserved just for us) at Torrance Memorial Blood Donor Center. This center provides a comfortable environment with recliner chairs, great outdoor view to enjoy, and friendly experienced R.N.s overseeing your welfare as you give blood.

Did you know that you can help save up to 3 lives by donating just one unit of blood in less than an hour of your time? The need for all types of blood is constant and is always in short supply. Patients at Torrance Memorial Medical Center use an average of 1200 units of blood and components per month. We hope that you will take this opportunity to schedule your "gift of life" appointment, support our church, and help your community. The H&W Team will have donor sign-ups on the patio between church services.

Dates and times of our "blood drive" at Torrance Memorial Blood Center will be:

Friday, March 11 – 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Monday, March 14 – 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The blood donation center is located inside the west Torrance Memorial entrance (3333 Lomita Blvd., Torrance) on the second floor above Outpatient Day Surgery. Parking is conveniently located in the west parking garage on Medical Center Drive, across from the original hospital.

RHUMC Concert Series

Help us transform the Sanctuary for Easter!

You are invited to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter with beautiful flowers! We will meet on **Saturday morning**, **March 26**, at 8:30 a.m. 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!

And then what goes up, must come down. Please help us take down the Easter flowers after the 10:00 a.m. service on April 3. Even 15 or 20 minutes of help can make a HUGE difference! We will be completely finished in 45 minutes! Thank you!

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.

☐ To the Glory of God

☐ In Honor of: _____

_____

☐ In Memory of: _____

_____

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!

Chancel Choir to Present Good Friday Program

The Chancel Choir will present its Easter Season Program at 7:30 p.m. on **Good Friday, March 25**. The program will feature *"As the Hart Pants"* by Felix Mendelssohn, *"Requiem"* by Mark Hayes, and other reflective pieces that are particularly appropriate for the close of Holy Week, including a brand new setting of *"Were You There"* by our own Charles Dickerson.

"As the Hart Pants" is a setting of Martin Luther's German translation of Psalm 42 composed by Mendelssohn in 1837-38 for soprano soloist, mixed choir and orchestra. Our own Jessica Tisdale will be featured as soprano soloist for our performance of this work.

"Requiem" by Mark Hayes is a six-movement work of about 35 minutes that elegantly employs both Latin and English in the setting of the traditional Requiem text. Hayes is a contemporary composer whose works are frequently featured in our churches. His "*Requiem"* was premiered at New York City's Lincoln Center in 2013 with Hayes conducting.

"Were You There" is a setting of the traditional spiritual text and new text to a new tune by our own Director of Music Charles Dickerson. Our presentation will be the world premiere.

March 26th
10:00 am-12:00 pm
Easter Egg Hunt, crafts and games for all ages.
Please help us make this event extra special by donating a dozen stuffed plastic eggs.

Youth Group March Activities

March 2nd @ 4:30-6:00 PM: Confirmation- What is a Christian?

March 2nd @ 6:00-8:15 PM: Youth Group- Foot Washing

March 6th @ 11:30-3:00 PM: Movies- RISEN

March 9th @ 6:00-8:15 PM: Youth Group- Last Supper

March 13th @ 11:30-1:00 PM: Chill with Miss Nicole @Pho Sho

March 14th @ 7:00-8:00 PM: Youth Ministry Council Meeting

March 16th @ 6:00-8:15 PM: Youth Group- I Wasn't Sure

March 20th @ 11:30-1:00 PM: Confirmation- What is a Christian?

March 23rd @ 7:00-8:00 PM: Stations of the Cross

March 24th @ 7:30-8:30 PM: Maundy Thursday Service

March 25th @ 7:30-8:30 PM: Good Friday Service

March 27th: Easter Sunday

March 30th @ 6:00-8:15 PM: Youth Group- *"This Love…"*

If you are waiting for a nudge from God, **HERE IT IS**!!! We are looking for chaperones for **Sierra Service Project.** Youth and adults will laugh together, serve together, cry together, worship together, play together and pray together during a life changing week. Be the person that plants seeds in these youths' lives for God to shape. The dates are **July 31st-August 6th**. Contact Kimmie at kimmie@rhumc.org for more information.

Second Sundays At Two
Sunday, March 13 at 2:00 p.m.

Trio Céleste plays Beethoven's Archduke!

Cellist	*Pianist*	*Violinist*
Ross Gasworth	***Kevin Kwan Loucks***	***Iryna Krechkovsky***

"A first-class ensemble. These players mesh well and easily as a group, thinking, breathing and moving as one. The performance was patient, perfectly paced and seamless." *~ Timothy Mangan, Orange County Register*

Winners of the prestigious Beverly Hills National Auditions, **Trio Céleste** is currently Ensemble-in-Residence at the Claire Trevor School of the Arts at the University of California, Irvine, where they recently presented the complete piano trios of Ludwig van Beethoven and the Triple Concerto with the UC Irvine Symphony Orchestra. They are returning to Rolling Hills United Methodist Church to play one of the most beloved masterpieces of the chamber music repertoire.

Free-Will Offering

Book Fair is Here!

Easter is coming so hippity hop on over to the book fair..... Please join us for the Spring Scholastic Book Fair on **Sunday, March 6** (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 (March 3 through March 11) at the following address: http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/rhumps. Our preschool will get credit for every purchase you make! Thank you for your support!

RHUM PRESCHOOL FUNDRAISER

RHUMPS Tuesday Night on the Town Fundraiser is next scheduled for **Tuesday, March 8**, at Corazon Mexican Kitchen located at 767 Deep Valley Drive, Rolling Hills Estates. Stop by anytime between 11:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. and our preschool will receive 20% of the cost of your full-priced items. You must present the flyer to your server in order for our preschool to receive credit.

CORAZON
MEXICAN KITCHEN

767 Deep Valley Drive
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
(310) 377-0580
www.corazonmexicankitchen.com

RHUMPS - Fundraiser
Night On The Town

Tuesday March 8th
All Day from: 11 A.M. - 9 P.M.

Save the Date – Family Camp

Lazy W Ranch
faith grows here

Family Camp is just around the corner! Join us for our All-Church Camp on **Memorial Day Weekend**, **May 27-30**, at the Lazy W Ranch in San Juan Capistrano. More details will be forthcoming.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

We meet for breakfast on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 8:00 a.m. in the Mission Room. We usually have an interesting speaker concerning our church's mission to our community and to the world as well as hearing about some activities of our members. Next month on **Saturday, March 19** our own Dick Moe, who was extremely involved with the founding of the Norris Theatre for the Performing Arts, will tell us about the latest happenings at the Norris. And thanks to Dick, you'll also have an opportunity to participate in a drawing and win 2 tickets to the Norris Theatre. This is a wonderful way to start your weekend. We hope you can join us and enjoy the delightful food and companionship of your fellow RHUMC comrades.

Club Maintenance

On February 13th a hard working group took care of a number of items on our maintenance work list, including painting in the kitchen, cleaning the kitchen light fixtures, fixing some problems in preschool rooms, removing some problem trees, etc. The following personnel helped out in this Club Maintenance session:

Jim Showalter, Keith Levan, Oren Sheldon, Bill Bails, Dave Larson, Bruce Harkins, Steve Boilard, and scout Michael Valeri. Our thanks to all of these individuals.

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, March 12** at 8:30 a.m. Please mark this date on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair. And also note that lunch is served.

Senior Pastor	Jonathan Chute	Music Director	Chuck Dickerson
Assoc. Pastor	April Herron	Organist/Pianist	Althea Waites
		3rd Service Ensemble	Patti MacLeod
Preschool Director	Myra Ghabrial	Adm. Assist. to Pastor	Michele Nelson
Family Ministries Dir.	Rachel Stam	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
KidZone Director	Angie Gunter	Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Director of Children & Youth Ministries	Kimmie Stradling	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 25th
www.rhumc.org