The Cornerstone

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

September 2016

September 11 is Rally Sunday!

Rally DAY Festivities

We celebrate the beginning of a new Sunday School year and enjoy an opportunity to learn about how we, at Rolling Hills UMC, share in the mission of Jesus Christ.

Games and a bounce house for kids;
invitations to get involved in our ministry; food for all!

After 8:30 & 10:00 a.m. services
Cinnamon rolls, donuts and fruit

After 3rd Service
Grilled cheese sandwiches, tomato soup and salad

from the pastors — *Jonathan Chute*

The second Sunday of September marks the end of summer and the launch of a new season of grace for many churches. On Rally Sunday the choir are robed and back in their usual spots. The Sunday School teachers have their rooms all ready and the children look forward to seeing old and new friends. It's a great time to come back together after our various comings and goings over the past weeks.

It's a time when people who aren't currently part of a church family sometimes feel a longing to connect. Sometimes they come early, to check things out ahead of time. Sometimes they come late, not exactly knowing the schedule the way some of us do.

Often people discover a sense of home with a new congregation, at least in part, by the welcome they experience from a church's ushers. According to a recent Pew Research study the second most important factor in choosing a church home was the sense of welcome provided by its leaders. April and I seek to provide a warm and encouraging presence on Sundays. But we often can't make contact with everyone who comes through the doors. The ushers share a spirit of helpfulness and caring well before people ever see either of your pastors.

So ushering is much more than passing out bulletins or assisting with the offering. It is a powerful expression of hospitality and welcome. It is a ministry. I was recently reminded that the New Testament's word for hospitality (in Greek, "philoxenia") literally means "love of strangers." How could I have forgotten that? This is important work!

When someone worships with us for the first time, it may be five, fifteen, or even twenty-five years since they last came to church. They didn't just show up accidentally. They may be looking, searching, hoping for something. And they might not even know what that is, or exactly why they came. But how we receive them, and how we treat them, will say a lot about whether we get to see them again.

All of us can help to make that first impression. But if you would like to know more about how to be part of the usher welcoming team, we are holding a thank you brunch and orientation session on Sunday, September 25, at 11:30 a.m. There will be a table out on the patio with information and sign up sheets on Rally Sunday. One or more of our current ushers will be there, and I know they'll make you feel welcome if you stop by to visit!

Thank you to our ushers – past, present and future – for the grace, warmth and hospitality you share!

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

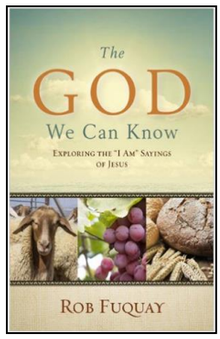
April Herron

Dear Friends:

My trip to Rio was wonderful, and my return home was also wonderful. Last August, I was just starting to get acquainted with all of you. A year later, I have been welcomed back from vacation as a friend. I so appreciate your warmth and encouragement.

As we embark into the autumn season of learning and growth, I am looking forward to being part of two different Bible study/spiritual growth endeavors with those of you who choose to take part. Each has unique characteristics, and each has the potential to draw us closer to one another and to God. Details are below.

"The God We Can Know: Exploring the I AM Sayings of Jesus"
Men and women welcome.

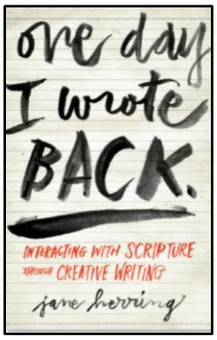


Choose either Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm or Thursday mornings at 10:30 am.
Start date September 7 for Wednesday evenings and September 8 for Thursday mornings.
Continuing once per week through mid-October. Come to every session OR come when able.

Using print and video resources by United Methodist pastor Rob Fuquay, and applying our own insights and experiences, we will study the things Jesus said about himself in John's gospel.

Meet in the Aldersgate Room. Books are available at $10 each from the church office.

“One Day I Wrote Back: Interacting with Scripture through Creative Writing”
A workshop for women.



Tuesdays from 10:30 am to noon, for six weeks, from September 20 to October 25.

Community member and writing teacher Lorrie Tom will guide us in writing exercises that help us pursue the questions and ponder the possibilities of our faith. Writing experience is not required, only the willingness to take up pen or tablet and give it a try.

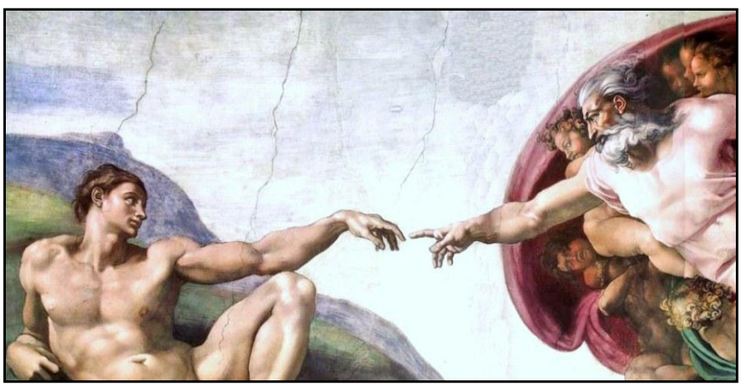
Meet in the Aldersgate Room. Books are available for $10 each from the church office.

May God bless and enrich our lives through our encounters with God's word.

April

Coming in October: Sunday Afternoon Bible Study Class

led by Larry Kittiver



GENESIS EXPLORED. First meeting Sunday, October 2 at 4:00 p.m., finishing by 5:30 p.m., **every Sunday from October 2 to October 30**.

Let's explore the first book of the Bible, Genesis, in a way that will help us to answer and discuss the following fascinating questions. Why and what is God's creation and what is humanity's role in its completion? What does it mean to be human created in God's image? Are science and religion compatible and what is their relationship?

Meet in Aldersgate room before the 3rd Service with an open mind willing to uncover new territory in our spiritual journey. I promise you will emerge with a better understanding of your relationship with God. This is an ongoing timeless and magical story with many lessons for all generations.

Welcome Gathering to Meet
New Western District Cal-Pac Bishop Grant Hagiya

Bishop Grant Hagiya
California Pacific
Conference

RHUMC is honored to be chosen as one of the sites to introduce Bishop Hagiya during his inaugural year. You'll also have the opportunity to meet our newly appointed West District Superintendent, the Rev. Mark Nakagawa. The welcome gathering will take place on Saturday, September 10, at 1:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. After worship, refreshments will be served on the patio and in Wesley Hall. The event will conclude at approximately 3:00 p.m. All are welcome!

All 100 West District churches have been invited to participate and we expect a large turnout. If you would like to be a part of the hospitality team, please contact Suellen Fung (310-541-8191) or Maureen Banasky (310-378-4646). Help is welcome!

Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa
District Superintendent
of the Western District

Thank You for a Successful Food Drive

A special thank you to all who contributed to our "Summer Loving" Food Drive! We'll all miss the bright red shopping cart and the colorful sign as the summer comes to an end. We are grateful that over 600 lbs. of non-perishable food items were collected for The Toberman Neighborhood Center in San Pedro during a time when their needs are the greatest. Toberman serves about 3000 individuals-in-need each year and your contributions were a significant help in the effort.

Invitation from the Missions Committee

The Missions Committee invites you to visit our table at Rally Sunday on September 11. As part of the fall kick-off, committee members will be available to answer your questions about our goals and the activities we participate in. You are welcome to be part of the fun in planning for upcoming events such as Heifer Plus Sunday or the Christmas Festival of the Nativities and Trek to the Tree. Plan to stop by and see us!

New Member Welcome

If you are interested in learning more about Rolling Hills UMC, plan to join us **Sunday, September 18**, 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, September 25, at all three services.

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

Parents' Night Out is Back for the School Year!

Do you need a break from summer vacation? Moms and dads can enjoy some grown-up time while the children have a blast! We will be making crafts, playing games, and watching a movie. Pizza dinner will be provided.

When:	Saturday, September 17th, 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.

Tour the newest and the hottest museum in downtown LA! The Broad, a contemporary art museum founded by philanthropists Eli and Edythe Broad, is home to 2,000 works of art, many of which are among the most prominent examples of postwar and contemporary art worldwide.

Our own Charlie Banasky, who trained as a docent at the museum, will give an informative 45-minute talk on the highlights of the Broad collection prior to our departure.

When:	**Saturday, September 17**. Charlie's "Art Talk" will be at 9:30 a.m. in Aldersgate. Group entry to the museum is at 11:30 a.m.
Cost:	$5/person; $12 for parking with validation
Getting there:	Meet at church parking lot at 10:30 a.m. if you wish to drive together. We will arrange for rides for those who prefer not to drive. If you plan to drive to the museum directly, meet in front of the museum at 11:30 a.m.

To purchase your tickets, email Rachel at rachel@rhumc.org or call or stop by the church office. You may also sign up on the patio on Rally Sunday on September 11. **Please indicate if you will be attending Charlie's art talk and/or will be needing a ride.**

Grief Support Group Coming in October

Losing a loved one is a major life event that touches every part of our lives. In a safe, caring, and confidential environment, we are planning to offer a 6-week bereavement support group in mid-October for those who are experiencing this journey.

If you are interested in joining this group, call Rachel Stam at 310-377-6771, ext. 105 or email rachel@rhumc.org. The date and time for the group will be announced in October.

From Your Parish Nurse

Periodically, I am met with surprise from individuals here when they learn that I visit church family members in the hospital, home, or skilled nursing facility. "I did not know that you visit people," one may exclaim. Another may say, "So-and-so told me that you have resources that might help me find a caregiver," or "I knew that you offered blood pressure screenings, but was not sure what else you do." Here is a clarification of my role here and how I aim to support you:

My purpose, common to many parish nurses in other churches, is to serve as a nursing resource person and advocate for the church family and to minister to those with physical, mental, and spiritual health needs as needed. To achieve this goal, I serve in the following ways:

* Collaborate with the pastors in extending care and spiritual support by visiting homebound or hospitalized individuals with acute and/or chronic health conditions. I offer assistance with the coordination of care with some individuals, as needed, which may involve collaborating with family members, friends, and health care providers and providing referrals and resources
* Provide blood pressure screenings and individual health consultations and referrals three times monthly following worship services and as needed
* Promote optimal health and wellness in the church community by collaborating with the Health and Wellness Team and chairperson and with local health and wellness leaders to provide relevant educational events and host a blood drive regularly
* Participate in staff meetings
* Coordinate the delivery of care gifts with the Shawl Ministry team
* Coordinate arrangements for CPR update classes for our church preschool staff
* Support, monitor, and encourage exercise groups on our campus
* Receive and loan out health care equipment, such as walkers and wheelchairs
* Order, stock, and maintain our first aid supplies, AED heart defibrillator equipment, and health informational booklets and notices

It is a great joy for me to serve as your parish nurse and to work together with many of you to help foster wellness in our congregation!

Annette

"The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth."
Psalm 145:18 NRSV

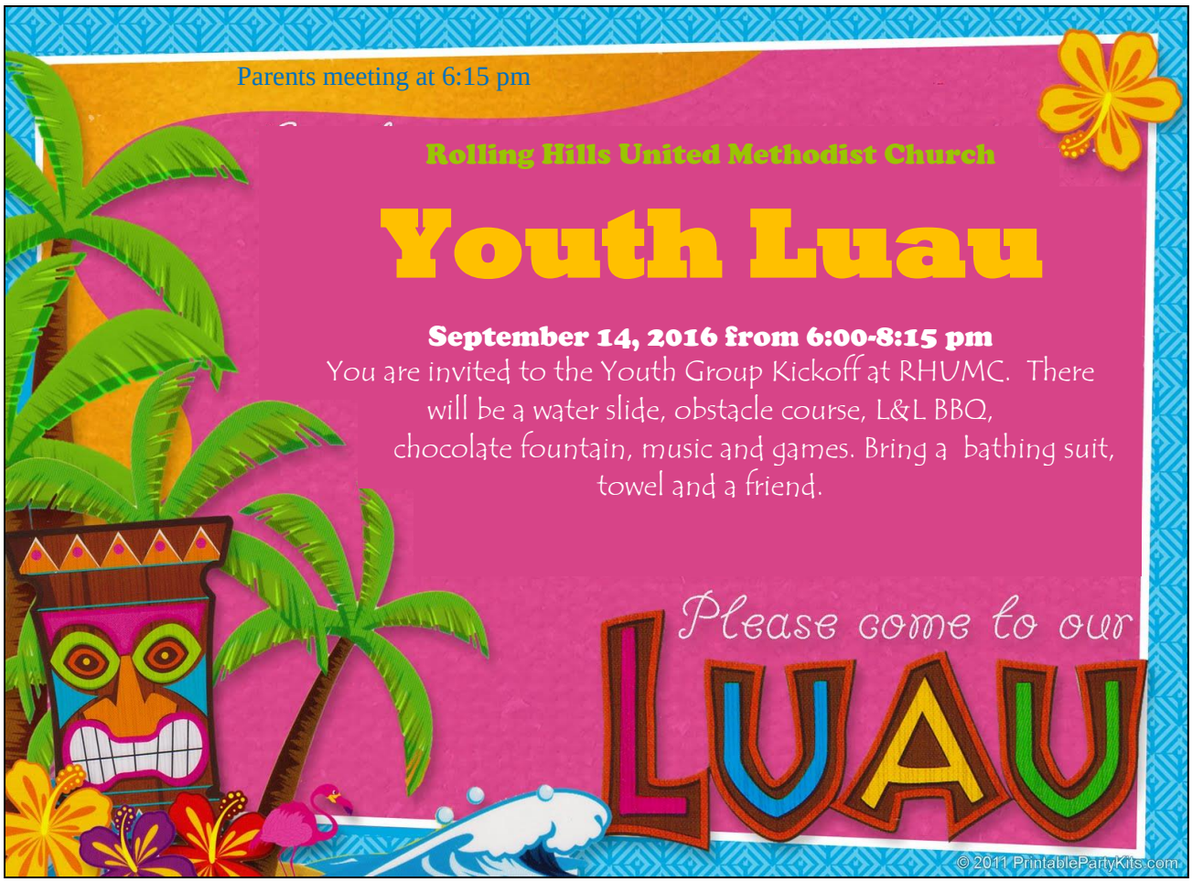
Sierra Service Project

Jr. High San Diego

Sr. High San Diego

Sr. High Spokane, WA

Thank you for supporting our youth on this amazing service opportunity. All your prayers were felt and these trips would not be possible without the generosity and commitment from the congregation. 50 youth and 14 adults had an amazing time serving the communities of San Diego and Spokane. This was truly a life changing opportunity for all involved.



Second Sundays At Two

September 11 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Los Angeles Philharmonic Principal Cellist **ROBERT DEMAINE**

~ with ~

Trio Céleste Pianist **KEVIN KWAN LOUCKS**

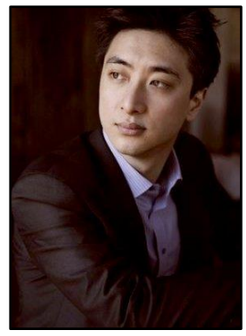
"... an artist who makes one hang on every note."
— *The New York Times*

"... with rapture and a winning way of making the moment matter."
— *The Los Angeles Times*

"... deMaine's art: a beautiful singing tone ... and a persuasive identification with the idiom of the music at hand ... marvelous."
— *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

"... deMaine plays with an intensity so fierce and lyricism so delirious that it sounds as if his life depends on it ..."
— *Detroit Free Press*

Distinguished American virtuoso **Robert deMaine** was invited to join the Los Angeles Philharmonic as Principal Cellist in 2012. As soloist, he has performed nearly all the major cello concertos with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, where he served as Principal Cellist for over a decade. Robert deMaine's frequent chamber music collaborators include violinists Hilary Hahn and Ani & Ida Kavafian, and pianists Emanuel Ax and Yefim Bronfman.



Pianist **Kevin Kwan Loucks** has been described as "impeccable" by *La Presse*, Montreal, "a shining talent" by *Völser Zeitung*, Italy, and "a pianist of exhilarating polish, unity and engagement" by *The Orange County Register*. He has earned ovations from Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, to Prösels Castle in Italy, the Kennedy Center, Kumho Art Hall in South Korea, Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, and Lichtenstein Palace in Prague.

Contribute What You Can ~ 100% for the Artists
All Are Welcome!

Club Maintenance

August was a popular month for people to take vacations but we were thankful to have 12 workers supporting Club Maintenance on the 13th. Activities included painting of hand rails and a wall in the Comfort Room, cleaning of patio seats, pruning trees, planting gazanias, replacing patio boards with Trex, fixing a broken lock, and power-washing Westley Hall patio. Workers included Bob Bails, Bob Chamberlin, Clarence Fung, Keith Levan, Yasuko Martin, Don Petersen, Rich Prihode, Eric Rasmussen, Oren Sheldon, Jim Showalter, and Neil & Pat Stolz. Club Maintenance will next meet on **Saturday, September 17**, at 8:30 a.m. Hope to see you there!

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	Curt Wuestenhagen
Director of Children & Youth Ministries	Kimmie Stradling	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
		Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Family Ministries Dir.	Rachel Stam	Treasurer	Robin La Tourette
KidZone Director	Angie Gunter	Bookkeeper	Nicole Lowery Zakman
Junior High Youth	Nicole Benson	Facilities Manager	Rick Mitchell
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Church Office Phone	310-377-6771		
Fax Line	310-544-4123	Resident Bishop	Grant Hagiya
Web Site	www.rhumc.org	District Superintendent	Mark Nakagawa

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 September 19th
www.rhumc.org