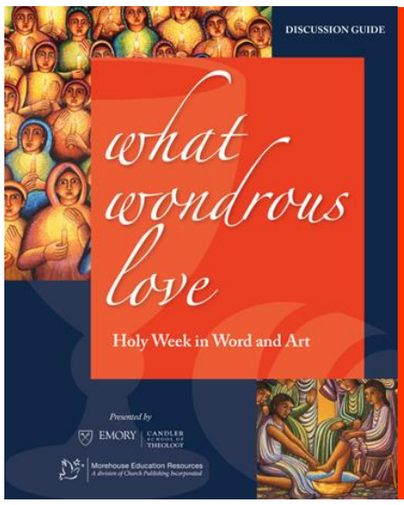
The Cornerstone

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

March 2017



Rolling Hills UMC
Lenten Bible Study

choose
Mondays 7 pm
March 6, 13, 20, 27
or
Tuesdays 10:30 am
March 7, 14, 21, 28

John August Swanson is a Los Angeles artist noted for his finely detailed, brilliantly colored paintings and original prints. The son of a Mexican mother and a Swedish father, Swanson is influenced by the folk art traditions of both countries. He is also interested in the way Byzantine and medieval works of art, such as mosaics and stained glass windows, communicated the stories of the Bible to people of different times and places. Our study will be built around specific artwork by Swanson and informed by input by professors from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia (our largest United Methodist seminary). Associate Pastor April Herron will guide our reflections and discussion. **To indicate your plans to participate, please email april@rhumc.org. All learners welcome!**

from the pastor — *Jonathan Chute*

I need my reading glasses more and more these days. And I don't like it. Of course I get no sympathy from my family, most of whom have worn glasses for years. You see, when I was little I had no idea that my eyesight was good. I figured we all saw the same. But then I learned otherwise. I got used to seeing things that others couldn't. I could call out freeway exit signs way ahead of time. I could tell not only what make and model of plane was flying overhead, but what airline was flying it. From what I hear I acted annoying and superior, as though my eyesight made me a better person.

I have a theory that much of what we think of as wrong in this world is the result of a failure of vision more than of ethics or morality. It isn't eyesight, exactly, but something like it, that leads us into trouble. Often we don't see the same things as someone else. So our solution to the problem we see is entirely different from their solution to the problem they see. We think it's the same problem, but it's really not. One person sees a promiscuous teenager, whose pregnancy is the obvious result of their actions. Another sees a child neglected by parents, marginalized by peers, seeking connection in a series of unhealthy relationships. How we see the issue in the first place shapes everything that comes after. I remember being mad at some idiot who was driving too slowly in the wrong lane. When I got past them I recognized a dear friend in the mirror. It changed everything. When my vision improved, so did my attitude, and my actions.

So Lent is with us, an opportunity to look at ourselves and others with new lenses. I want to see more clearly, more graciously and generously, the lives of those who bless my life. I want my vision to improve, not so I can hold it over others, but so I can understand and appreciate the world as it actually is. I don't want to miss the grace at work all around me. In the midst of busyness, distraction, anxiety (or worse!), Lent invites us to see the mystery of self-giving love as it unfolds, right before our very eyes. Thank you to those in our congregation and community who help each other to see God's grace more clearly. You offer encouragement beyond what you would ever know.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

Mission Rebuild Trip to Weed, CA – April 23-29

by Nancy Rasmussen

YOU can help! After a disaster, Methodists get to work. They bring comfort to those who have lost their belongings and their houses – to fire, to flood, or to other natural disasters. United Methodists Volunteers in Mission organizes the sites to be helped. RHUMC will send a team to Weed, CA which is not far and we can be of comfort and help to some residents who are still out of their homes from a fire two years ago.

Serving on a disaster mission can be a life-changing experience. You will be exposed to the miracle of the human spirit and the miracle of the Holy Spirit in action. You will never regret it.

Weed is near Mt. Shasta in Northern California. It is a 10-hour drive or a flight can be taken to Redding, followed by an hour and a half drive. Accommodation will be in a motel and house with kitchen facilities. We will do our own cooking, and Jan Johnson has already volunteered to be the Food Manager, so we can be assured that we will eat well.

Requirements are a willing spirit, flexible attitude, and a willingness to learn and to serve. We will be doing a variety of tasks that will be specified as we near to the time to go. We will provide to the organizers a skills inventory to determine the jobs that we will be assigned. There will probably be painting to be done, as well as sweeping, perhaps hammering nails, and such. I have gone on 3 trips and my skills go no further than hammering nails so do not worry if you are not a skilled carpenter.

Don't miss this chance to prepare yourself to really make a difference in the world and live out your Christian faith. Please contact Nancy Rasmussen at nancy.rasmussen12@gmail.com or Jan Johnson at janaleejoh@aol.com if you are interested in serving. We will provide a needed service in the magnificent environment near Mt. Shasta. Please join us!

Mission News

During the month of March, the Mission Committee is collecting items for Harbor Interfaith Services to help them serve people who are homeless. They need diapers, new socks, peanut butter and jelly, and gently used men's clothing. Look for a friendly mission committee member on the patio or find the box labeled "Harbor Interfaith" in the Narthex and drop your donations off. To make it easy, we also welcome checks made payable to "RHUMC" with "Harbor Interfaith" in the subject line and we'll take care of the shopping for you. Thanks for your generous help!

UMCOR Sunday – March 26

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) lives out a mission to alleviate human suffering. UMCOR provides humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries when war, conflict or natural disaster disrupts life to such an extent that communities cannot recover on their own. On **Sunday, March 26**, we will have a special offering to help underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." Funds raised will help UMCOR keep their promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. Special envelopes will be inserted in the Sunday Worship bulletin. Thank you for your generosity.

New Facility Update

Work continues with our general contractor, Del Amo Construction, as they advance the plans for our new educational facility and campus renewal. Engineering work on structural, electrical and plumbing elements of our Phase 2 development is progressing well. We look forward to sharing more detailed drawings and site plans as they become available, and we'll let you know as soon as they are ready!

Sunday Morning Bible Study for Lent

On **Sunday, March 6**, we will begin our Bile Study for the six-week Lenten period. We have selected *"Wind in the Wilderness"* study based on the Old Testament prophets. We can't see the wind, but we know it exists and we can witness its results. The same is true with the Hebrew prophets; we know they communicated God's vision of justice and faithfulness and we can see the result of their prophecies in Jesus. This book calls our attention to the issues of justice in today's world. You'll explore the continuity between prophetic emphasis and Jesus' proclamation of the kingdom of God. See Larry Kittiver for more information. We hope you can join us Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Aldersgate room.

Dawn Unity Group

Dawn Interfaith Group will present its third panel of Year XVI of the Interfaith Discovery Series "How Has My Religion Changed?" on **Tuesday, March 7**, at 7:30 p.m. at St. John Fisher Catholic Church, 5448 Crest Road, RPV. Our very own Jonathan Chute; Rabbi Charles Briskin, Temple Beth El; Msgr. David Sork, St. John Fisher Catholic Church; and Dean Jihad Turk, Bayan Claremont represent four different faiths each of which reacts to calls for change from their constituent members in differing ways. How these have been addressed and the stresses and strains that have resulted will be discussed and compared. Each religion further contains national and cultural differences with varying voices both for modernization and for continuation of past traditions. Bob Rothman will moderate the free 90-minute discussion. For further information call 310-833-7008.

Save the Date -

RHUMC Choir to Present *"Kyrie"* on Good Friday

The Chancel Choir will be joined by the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles in a presentation of a concert entitled "Kyrie" on **Friday, April 14**, at 7:30 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. The program will feature the Kyrie movements from several well-known works – including the *B Minor Mass* by J.S. Bach, Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*, various requiems by Mozart, Verdi, Durufle and others, and the *Gospel Mass* by Robert Ray. Admission to the concert is without charge. But all are encouraged to arrive early to get a good seat; a full house is anticipated.

Hearing Help for Sunday Worship

We maintain a number of portable hearing systems for use by worshipers on Sunday. These consist of a small rechargeable receiver, along with an earbud. This works well for some, but not as well for those with in-ear hearing aids. It is not always possible, or comfortable, to fit the earbud and the hearing aid at the same time.

But we have good news! Many hearing aids today have what is called a "T" coil. This allows the wearer to hear the telephone, for example, with much greater clarity. We have purchased a couple of "T" coil personal loops, so that worshipers will be able to hear the sound coming directly to their hearing aids, electronically. These plug into the existing receivers, just like the current earbuds. We have purchased two such loops as a test, and will be glad to purchase as many as we need. If your hearing aid does not have a "T" coil, it is not compatible with the new loops. But for those who do, it looks very promising. People who use these systems rave about them.

Please check with Ron McCoy to try out one of the new loops. He's around most Sunday mornings and is glad to be helpful!

Our Concert Committee Chair Gives Thanks

On **Friday, February 10**, we were treated to a most enjoyable program by "Café Musique" featuring Brynn Albanese, violinist and graduate of Rolling Hills High Class of '86 and her gypsy ensemble. The group was well received and the audience enjoyed the student participation that followed the concert. It was a night to remember. Thanks to the Concert Committee Jan Bunker, Doug Kemps, Gail Mellert, Cindy Skale, Jo Sheldon, Phyllis Sherwood, Kathy Nesheim and Suellen Fung for their continued efforts with the concert and reception. We appreciate Gordon Goldberg for creating our flyer and poster. We are fortunate to have such wonderful staff assistance from Peggy Roulette and Mel Harker, sound technician. This is truly a team of dedicated members. Our eclectic programming gives everyone an opportunity to listen to a variety of musical offerings.

Gratefully,
Shirley Farley, Concert Chair

Please Note:

Our new AED
(Automated External Defibrillator)
is located in the narthex
between the restrooms

Second Sundays At Two

Sunday, March 12, at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

TRIO ONDINE

Boglárka Kiss *flute*
Alison Bjorkedal *harp*
Alma Fernandez *viola*

~ performing ~

Claude Debussy's great late Impressionist masterpiece
Sonata for Flute, Viola, and Harp
and other selections

*Formed in 2005 as **Duo Ondine** by flutist **Boglárka Kiss** and harpist **Alison Bjorkedal**, the duo invited their good friend and violist **Alma Fernandez** to join them to explore the unique repertoire for flute, viola, and harp that Debussy first used in his ethereal masterpiece.*

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

Preschool Book Fair is Here!

Our RHUM Preschool invites you to visit their Spring Scholastic Book Fair on **Thursday, March 9**, and **Friday, March 10**, from 8:30-5:30 p.m. in the narthex. 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 5 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!

Parents Night Out – March 18

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, March 18, 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.

Kid Zone Spring Break Camp

Upcoming Youth Events

3/5 from 6:30-8:00 pm: Jr. and Sr. High Retreat Reflection Dinner

3/8 from 7:00-8:15 pm: Ignite
Theme: Three Days That Changed the World Part 1: The Death

3/12 from 6:30-8:30 pm: Sunday Funday
6:30-7:15: Second Sunday Suppers (recommended $5 donation)
7:15-8:30: Are You Hungry Service Project
We will be preparing meals for people in need.

3/15 from 7:00-8:15 pm: Ignite
Theme: Three Days That Changed the World Part 2: Empty

3/18 from 9:00 am-2:00 pm: Day of Service

3/19 at All Services: SSP Bake Sale and Donation Board

3/22 from 7:00-8:15 pm: Ignite
Theme: Three Days That Changed the World Part 3: Resurrection

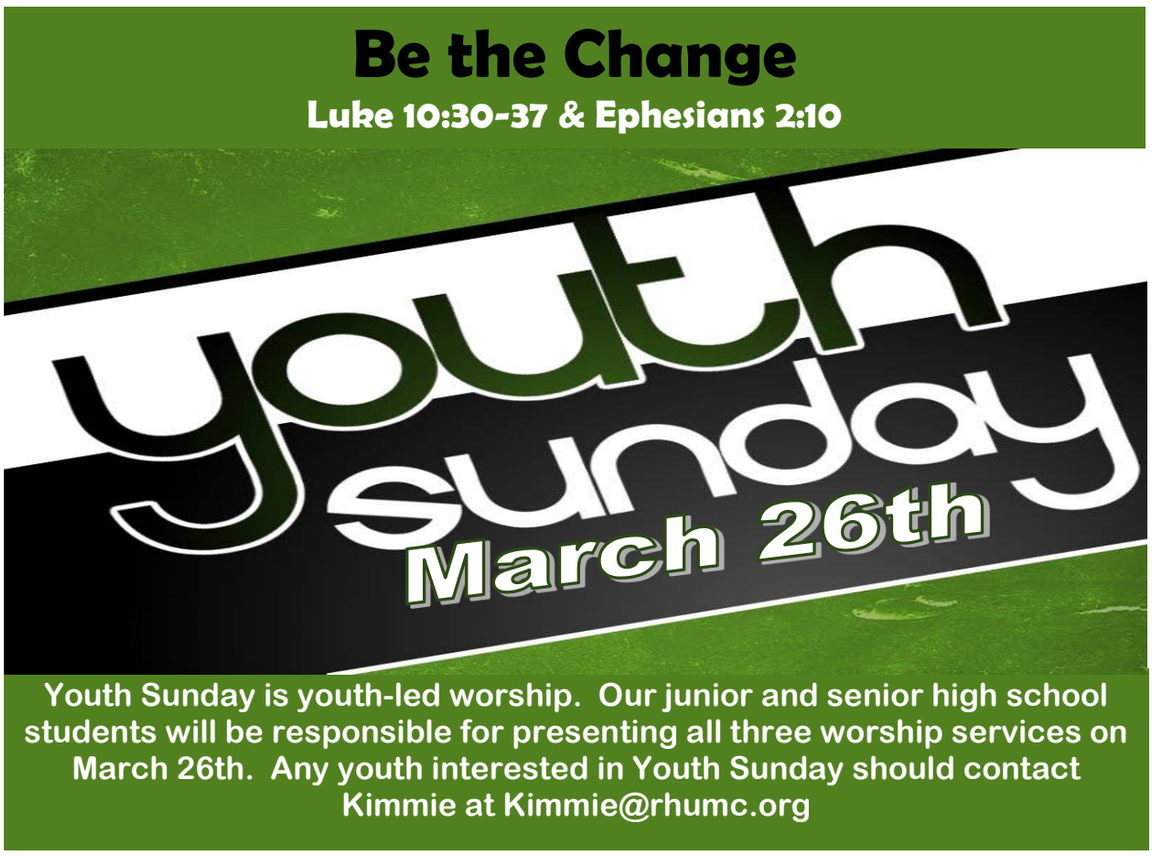
3/26 8:30 am, 10:00 am and 5:30 am: Youth Sunday
Youth Lead Worship!

3/26 at All Services: SSP Donation Board

3/26 from 7:30-8:30 pm: Taco Night
(recommended $5 donation)

3/29 from 7:00-8:15 pm: Ignite
Theme: Doubt- I still haven't found what I am looking for

Youth Group
Service Opportunities
Sierra Service Project
Confirmation
Off-Campus Youth Activities
Church Services/Events



Daylight Saving Time Begins – Sunday, March 12

Second Sunday Supper

Join us for dinner on **Sunday, March 12**, after 3rd service in Wesley Hall. The menu will include BBQ chicken from L&L Hawaiian Restaurant, macaroni salad, tossed green salad and dessert. The requested donation for each meal is $5 per person, $15 per family.

Save the Date – Family Camp

Lazy W Ranch
faith grows here

Family Camp is just around the corner! Join us for **Memorial Day Weekend**, **May 26-29**, at the Lazy W Ranch in San Juan Capistrano. More details will be forthcoming.

Club Maintenance

Club Maintenance met Saturday, February 11, to give the RHUMC campus some early spring cleaning and maintenance. Tasks accomplished included changing light bulbs high on the sanctuary ceiling, installing safer electrical outlets in Wesley Hall, repairing round wood tables, cleaning out obsolete and broken parts and materials, trimming trees, and cleaning and filling the patio fountain. Those participating this month were Bill Bails, Steve Bollard, Bob Chamberlin, Gene Koester, Dave Larson, Keith Levan, Don Pedersen, Eric Rasmussen, Oren Sheldon, Jim Showalter, and Neil Stolz. They ended their morning enjoying lunch together.

Next Club Maintenance meeting is **Saturday, March 11,** starting at 8:30 a.m. and ending at approximately noon. New members welcome! Contact Gene Koester at 310-530-5185 for further information.

Senior Pastor	Jonathan Chute	Associate Pastor	April Herron
Senior Pastor Emeritus	Martha Rowlett	Music Director	Chuck Dickerson
Preschool Director	Myra Ghabrial	Organist/Pianist	Althea Waites
Family Ministries Dir.	Rachel Stam	Music Dir., 3rd Service	Patti MacLeod
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	Junior High Youth	Nicole Benson
Children/Youth Director	Kimmie Stradling	Admin. to Pastor	Curt Wuestenhagen
Kid Zone Director	Megan Pelc	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Treasurer	Robin La Tourette	Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Bookkeeper	Nicole Lowery Zakman	Facility Manager	Rick Mitchell
		Custodian	Miguel Portillo

Church Office Phone	310-377-6771	Resident Bishop	Grant J. Hagiya
Fax Line	310-544-4123	District Superintendent	Mark Nakagawa
Web Site	www.rhumc.org		

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 24th
www.rhumc.org