The Cornerstone

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

June 2017

June 18th
8:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.

Join us for breakfast on Father's Day to recognize all the positive male figures in our lives. There will be donuts, muffins, parfait station, cereal and fruit for the whole family.

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

The spring of 2017 has been busy, hopeful and full. We shared a remarkable week of music, worship and celebration leading up to Easter. We also celebrated the lives of Jacques Naviaux, Barbara Rauch and Bill Biddle, lifting up their memories in the light of God's grace. We give thanks for their spirits and examples among us.

Some of us journeyed to Weed, CA, to lay the foundation for a family's new home, three years after a devastating fire in that community. We welcomed John August Swanson, who spoke about his experience of creativity and discovery in visual arts. Speaking of discovery, nine of our youth have taken part in the process of Confirmation over the past three months. They will be received as full members of the Church on Pentecost Sunday (June 4!). But a lifetime of learning and growing awaits them.

Of course there's more to come! Our junior and senior high youth can hardly wait for their turn to make a difference, giving a week of their summer to help people they've never met. Through the Sierra Service Project they will learn about themselves, their faith, and the wider world, all at the same time. Our junior high will travel to Chiloquin, OR and our senior high to Tsaile, AZ, to work in Native American communities far from the South Bay. Here at home, Kid Zone Summer Camp is about to begin, serving around a hundred K-8th grade students and finishing with a joyful week of Vacation Bible Camp!

And if that weren't enough, I also want you to know that we expect to begin construction on Phase Two of our new education facilities before the end of the summer. There is still much to do, but we plan to break ground around Labor Day. We expect the project to take about a year and I know it will turn our lives upside-down in the meantime. We have been working toward this for many years now. Our original classroom buildings are nearly worn out, and our new facilities will strengthen our mission for the next fifty years. It is exciting (and slightly terrifying!) finally to be getting started. We'll let you know more as we get closer!

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

June begins with the day of Pentecost, when we celebrate the gift of God's Spirit moving among us to encourage our ministry and make it possible for us to communicate clearly with one another. It promises to be an extra-special day at RHUMC because nine high school students will be confirming their faith and celebrating their membership in Christ's body, the church. Each of our three worship services on June 4 will include the ritual of confirmation. Everyone is invited to wear red, or some other fiery color, in honor of the occasion.

As the month continues, we will enjoy some excellent opportunities for learning and growing together in grace and faith. The day with the most hours of daylight all year falls in June, so it's the perfect time to consider the gift of light as we, God's people, experience it. Bob Chamberlin, photographer and photo editor for the LA Times from 1979 to 2015, has agreed to join me in offering a three-session study of scripture and photography. We'll put some texts from the Bible side by side with the practice of photography to see how the life of faith can be informed by each. On June 22, we'll talk about morning light. On June 29, we will focus on midday light. On July 6, the topic will be evening light. Each kind of light has its joys and its challenges. We'll discuss how to capture and savor the beauty, as well as how to work with or overcome the challenges. The class will take place on Thursday evenings at 7 pm in the Aldersgate Room. The class will be of interest and benefit whether or not you like to take pictures, because it's really about noticing the world, and the word of God, all around us.

Another way to gain new perspective on our human experience arrives in June by way of the first of our summer book discussions. This month's book is *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren. It is the memoir of a soil scientist and botanist who faced both personal and professional challenges and yet learned to "think like a plant," be a good friend, and build both a successful career and a caring family. Among the themes for reflection is the role of faith In the life of a scientist. I'd be glad for any and all readers to join the discussion on Monday, June 26, at 7 pm in the Choir Room.

Summer is upon us! May we enjoy it in the grace of God, the peace of Christ, and the hope of the Holy Spirit.

April

CROP WALK

The 37th Annual Peninsula/Harbor CROP Walk was held on May 13 at the South Coast Botanic Garden. More than 20 South Bay congregations participated with nearly twenty-five walkers and forty-five sponsors from RHUMC. The church hospitality table was busy prior to the walk as participants shared fruit, snacks and fellowship and the taco truck was popular as lunch time approached. The Botanic Garden was very well received as the new venue this year and sunny blue skies provided the perfect backdrop. RHUMC contributors raised well over $3,000 which will benefit Church World Services in their efforts to fight hunger both in our community and around the world. Thanks to Bill Graves for heading up this event again this year.

Bring us your unwanted backpacks!

Our Mission Committee, in partnership with San Pedro Faith Consortium, is asking church members to donate gently used, empty backpacks, which will subsequently be filled with toiletries, water, new socks, and non-perishable food, to be given out to people in need who are being served by the Consortium. Backpacks may be placed in the bin located in the narthex that says "Backpack Donation." Also, please save your small hotel toiletries as you travel this summer. There will be a separate drive later in the summer to collect donations for the filler items! Thank you for your contributions!

Nicaragua Mission Trip

This summer RHUMC will be sending a team of 10 youth and adults to Nicaragua for a study and serve mission trip with Seeds of Learning (SOL). The program is specifically designed to promote solidarity and cross-cultural understanding between people in Northern and Central America. The group will be building classroom facilities for local children in the morning and then participating in educational and cultural exchanges in the afternoons. Many people in Nicaragua live in extreme poverty. It has a Human Development Index (which measures education, health and standard of living) of 124 as compared to the US HDI of 6. By comparison, Mexico's HDI is 77. SOL has asked that we bring educational resources to contribute to the local community we will be serving.

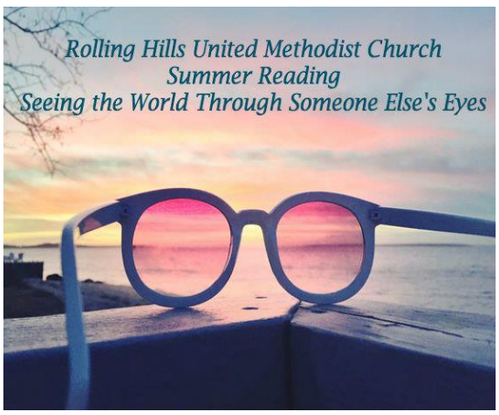
During June we will be seeking donations of computers, cell phone/smartphones and tablets, as well as cash that we can use to purchase these items. In Nicaragua, consumer electronics are very expensive and SOL has a very limited budget for acquiring these items. Many brands of smartphones (Samsung, Apple, HTC, LG, Motorola) purchased within the last 4-5 years through T-Mobile, AT&T, Verizon and Sprint will work with the local phone network in Nicaragua. So, if you were wondering what to do with your old phone, we will take it.

Please look for our teams on the church patio for more information about how you can help or contact Kathy Platnick at ksanders@omm.com or at 213-479-6950.

A Generous Spring!

Thank you for your generosity this year. Your gifts make our congregation's mission possible. You help us share God's grace with the world around us. Our worship is encouraging, dynamic and hopeful. We care for each other. We offer support in times of natural or personal disaster, close to home and around the world. We help children and families through the many stages of life and seasons of grace. None of this would be possible without your giving.

Through April, you contributed $340,097 toward our giving goal of $347,600. Also through April our expenses were a bit lower than projected. So we ended the month slightly ahead of our expectations. Our May giving and expense numbers are not final. As we move into a summer of encouraging and hopeful mission, we count on our members and friends for your continued generous support. Thank you!



Lab Girl by **Hope Jahren**
A soil scientist and botanist recounts personal and professional challenges and learnings.
Monday, June 26 at 7 pm in the Choir Room

Between the World and Me by **Ta-Nehisi Coates**
A father reflects on his experience of the social construct of race in America.
Monday, July 24 at 7 pm in the Choir Room

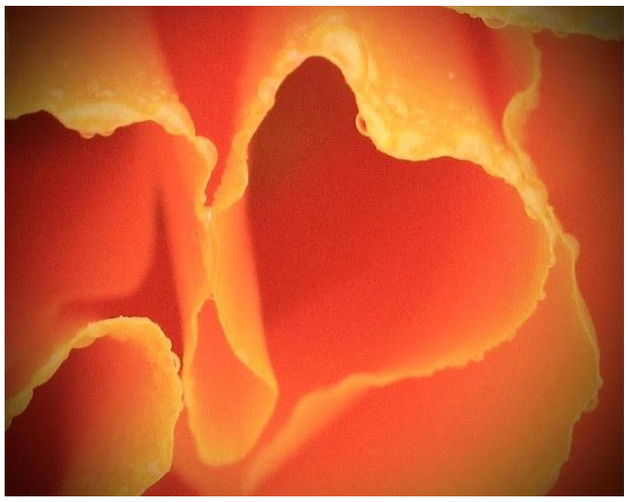
Hillbilly Elegy by **JD Vance**
A first-in-his-family college graduate with deep roots in Appalachia honors the strengths of his heritage and mourns the pain and problems of devastated communities.
Monday, August 28 at 7 pm in the Choir Room

Come and join the conversation. April Herron moderates with attention to the role of faith for individuals, cultures, and societies. All readers welcome!

"The first thing a writer ought to write is his memoirs, when he can still remember everything."
- Gabriel Garcia Marquez

God said, "Let there be light,' and there was light... And God saw that the light was good."

Genesis 1:3-4



The Gift of Light
in Photography and Scripture

Led by April Herron
and Bob Chamberlin, photographer
and photo editor for the LA Times from 1979 to 2015

Three Sessions
June 22, 29 & July 6
Thursdays, 7pm in Aldersgate Room

Bringing Bible Study and Photographic study together may illuminate our lives and faith in new ways!
Please let us know you are coming by emailing churchoffice@rhumc.org or by calling the church office at (310)377-6771.

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, June 11, at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Pianist **ROBERT THIES**

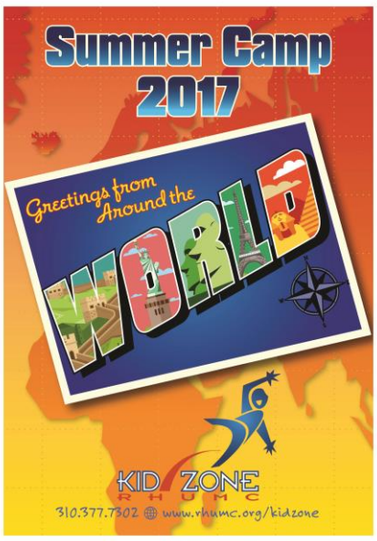
Gold-Medal Winner of the International Prokofiev Competition

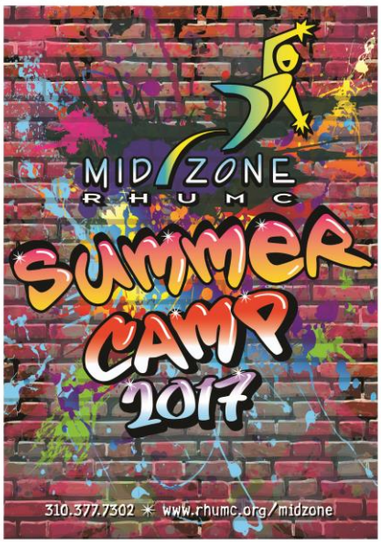
Called a pianist of "unerring, warm-toned refinement, revealing judicious glimmers of power" by *The Los Angeles Times*, **Robert Thies** is an artist renowned for his consummate musicianship and poetic temperament. He first captured worldwide attention in 1995 when he won the Gold Medal at the Second International Prokofiev Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia. He has performed over 40 different concertos with leading orchestras worldwide. A graduate of USC, his teachers have included Robert Turner and Daniel Pollack, both protégés of the legendary Russian teacher and pianist Madame Rosina Lhevinne and the great pianist Josef Lhevinne. Robert has an avid Southern California following. He is returning to the Palos Verdes Peninsula where he grew up for his tenth appearance on the *Second Sundays at Two* series.

Free Admission

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

Kid Zone and Mid Zone Summer Camp





There are still spots available. Have you signed up for summer camp yet?

June 12 to August 4th

To register, you can either stop by the office to pick up a brochure or go online (rhumc.org/2017-kid-zone-summer-camps) to fill out the forms.

For more information call **310-377-7302** or email **kidzone.midzone@gmail.com**.

Kid Zone and Mid Zone are looking for gently used games, toys, puzzles, and common household products like paper towel rolls and toilet paper rolls. If you have any questions please contact the Kid Zone Office at 310-377-7302.

Thank you for all your generous support you give to our program!

Youth Group
Summer Schedule
Incoming 6th thru 12th grade students

Friday, June 9th from 3:30-7:30 pm

Dinner and a Movie
We will be watching Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie. Meet at AMC Rolling Hills and bring $25 for movie ticket and dinner.

Monday, June 26th at 5:00pm

Take me out to the ball game! Families are invited to the Dodgers vs. Angeles Baseball Game. Meet at RHUMC at 5:00 pm to catch the Dodger Bus at 5:45 pm. Tickets are $30 and you must *RSVP by June 4th.*

Friday, June 23rd from 12:00-3:30 pm

End of School Year Beach Party
Celebrate school being out by soaking up the sun at the beach. Meet in the church parking lot at 12:00 pm. Bring your beach gear!

Service Opportunities

Saturday, June 17th from 9:00 am–12:00 pm: Beach clean-up with South Coast Interfaith Council. Pick-up and drop off at the church. *Please RSVP by June 14th.*

Sunday, August 13th from 6:30-8:30 pm: Feeding the Masses. Come help prepare meals for our homeless neighbors, delivered through the Long Beach Mission. We will enjoy dinner at RHUMC prior to cooking in our church's kitchen.

Club Maintenance

Club Maintenance will be held on **Saturday, June 10,** at 8:30 a.m. Cleaning of the wooden patio seats, painting the down-spout for the new eave and pruning the overhead branches in the north driveway will be done. Lunch will be Costco sandwiches served at 11:30 a.m.; please come and join us.

Please Note…

Laughter Yoga Class is taking a break for the summer.

New Online Church Directory is Here!

Online Church Directory (www.onlinechurchdirectory.com) is a custom-designed online photo directory that allows us to easily connect and engage with one another. You are able to access the directory via the web and mobile app. SSL is used to secure communication so your data is password protected, encrypted and safe. The best part is that you are able to update your own personal info, including photos! If you need assistance with updating your info or uploading your photos, please contact the church office or email churchdirectory@rhumc.org.

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
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	Music Dir., 3rd Service	Patti MacLeod
Children/Youth Director	Kimmie Stradling	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Kid Zone Director	Megan Pelc	Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Treasurer	Robin La Tourette	Facility Manager	Rick Mitchell
Bookkeeper	Nicole Lowery Zakman	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Junior High Youth	Nicole Benson		

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 June 23
www.rhumc.org