The Cornerstone

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

October 2017

We Rallied for Fun & Friendship!

Summer vacations are over, school is once again in session and our choir is back on Sunday mornings! What better way to spend the end of the summer than with friends on Rally Sunday.

Photos by Bob Chamberlin

*from the pastor*s — *Jonathan Chute*

This October promises to be a special month. We begin by joining with Christians in every part of the earth to celebrate the Lord's Supper. World Communion Sunday gathers us around God's table to join in the meal that unites us with the family of faith across the globe. We know that we are members of the one body of Christ, and on the first Sunday of October we share in the meal that he invited his followers to share "in remembrance of me." A variety of breads from different cultures and traditions will remind us of the many different expressions of our faith found all over the world.

Two weeks later is Laity Sunday, when our Lay Leader Dale Gehr will be joined by a team of leaders from the congregation to lead us in worship. Laity Sunday helps remind us that God's call is to all who seek to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ – not only, or even primarily, to clergy or paid leaders. Our congregation is blessed with generous, capable and loving leaders in every area of our life.

That weekend will also be special for both of your pastors' families. April's daughter Elizabeth will be getting married that Saturday in San Diego. And while that celebration is under way, Thyra and I will be making our way toward Rochester, NY, where our daughter Hannah will be married the following weekend! She has made her home there in Rochester since going away to university and music school and the wedding will take place at Asbury-1st UMC, which she has made her church home for the last couple of years. It's a lively and lovely congregation, which (nearly) lives up to the expectations she had for a church. Her experience over twenty years with RHUMC set the bar very high, but we are glad she has found such a good home. The wedding will be on Sunday evening, October 22. After a birthday brunch for her mother the next day, we'll be back late Monday night!

The last Sunday of October is Celebration Sunday, when we look forward to the year to come and express our support for the mission of God as it is carried out by our congregation. Please look over the Mission Budget on pages (4-8?), which describes how we carry out God's work with your generous support. We look forward to our Celebration Sunday brunch after each of the morning services, and to a special Taco Night after 3rd service.

This year, October 31st is not only Halloween, but the 500th anniversary of what turned out to be the birth of Protestant Christianity. On that date Martin Luther posted his "95 Theses" on the door of the cathedral in Wittenburg, Germany, listing issues for the attention of the Church. It is almost impossible to understand the impact of that gesture, not only on the Christian Church but on the whole of human history. We take for granted that God's grace comes equally to all persons. That was a new idea in Luther's time, and one which we cherish today.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the Spirit we were all baptized into one body." – 1 Corinthians 12:12

Recently I spent time with a group of adult learners reading and considering Paul's metaphor, from 1 Corinthians 12, of how we all belong to the body of Christ. We were encouraged by the guidance of Rowan Williams, that being a disciple of Jesus means remembering and acting on the following two important principles:

1. We are each of equal value to God.
2. We are dependent on each other.

Living out these principles we discover that worshiping together, serving together, and being together as we each share our unique gifts for the good of the whole is rewarding and joyful. RHUMC is a helpful, happy place because so many people are contributing their energies in leadership and support of the ministries we share. We honor each person as important to the community.

Among the valued functions taken up by some members of the body are those who serve in worship leadership. Greeters, ushers, technicians, singers, and those who guide us through the order of service (liturgists) all help to create a reverent and hospitable environment in which we are helped to turn our hearts and minds toward God. Coming up in early November a training opportunity will be available for any of you who might like, three or four times a year, to dedicate a Sunday morning to serving as a liturgist. Some of you might like to consider taking part; details are elsewhere in this issue of the Cornerstone.

Another way to heighten your awareness of belonging to the body of Christ could be to read and discuss the same book that others in the congregation are reading and discussing. We were engaged and challenged by the memoirs we read over the course of the summer. This fall we return to fiction. I'll be leading a discussion of "Do Not Say We Have Nothing" by Madeleine Thien on the last Monday of November. (I'm telling you now because it's a long book!)

As members of the same body, we also pray for one another through the highlights, sorrows, and ordinary days of life. I pray that each of you would experience the nearness of God in these autumn days, and I would be glad for your prayers for my family as we gather in mid-October to celebrate my oldest daughter's wedding.

I am thankful to be joined to you in the Spirit of grace and love!

April

Sharing Compassion, Building Community, Offering Hope

Thanks to you we are investing $1,329,808 in God's mission this year.

Our Worship Life – $398, 942 (30% of our budget)

In worship we discover God's grace for our lives. Worship stirs our hearts, enlivens our spirits and stretches our minds. We gather to hear God speak to us in the words of scripture and prayer, in the joy and spirit of music. It leads us into the week ahead with confidence and hope.

A wonderful team of capable leaders works together each Sunday. Many contribute behind the scenes – others out front. The altar guild prepares the sanctuary with care. Ushers offer warmth and welcome as the service begins.

Our chancel choir shares music that inspires and encourages us with grace and hope. Our 3rd service ensemble offers a distinctive musical take on the message of the day. We are blessed with some of the most varied and beautiful music anywhere.

Your gifts help make possible sermons that deal with the humor, struggle and drama of everyday life. Our pastors and worship leaders bring the resources of faith to bear on the questions and hopes of our time.

Worship truly is the life and breath of our congregation. It is here that new friends discover a sense of welcome in God's family. In worship that we are strengthened and encouraged in our faith. Over a thousand persons count on us as their church home and gather with us through the year. Your gifts make possible generous, hopeful and helpful worship. Thank you!

Caring for Our Community – $279,260 (21% of our budget)

The ages and stages of our lives bring both joys and challenges. From the birth of a baby to times of illness or grief, we count on God's grace to see us through. We offer support and care through an extensive team of individuals and groups. Our prayer partners gather each week to lift up the needs and hopes of our church family, as expressed in the prayer cards on Sunday. The prayer chain responds immediately to health or other crises. Our pastors and parish nurse visit regularly throughout the congregation, but especially around times of illness or hospitalization. These visits number in the hundreds each year.

Our congregation serves a wide range of people in the community around us. Over the year our pastors lead dozens of funeral or memorial services, often for persons who had little or no previous church connection. Our hospitality committee supports members and friends alike by offering receptions after those same services. Our church staff works hard to make sure that these families feel genuinely welcomed and cared for in the midst of their loss.

We also celebrate the gifts of new life and new relationships! We help encourage parents in the midst of the joys and the challenges children bring. We offer counseling for couples seeking to be married, working to keep their relationships healthy, or who are facing the end of a marriage.

Your gifts support the work of healing and hope that Jesus carried out during his lifetime. We want to respond in the same spirit he shows us.

Local and World Outreach – $226,067 (17% of our budget)

Some of our most important work takes place where we cannot see. Our gifts touch people we will never know.

When a hurricane strikes a vulnerable community, whether here at home or across the globe, your gifts help provide immediate relief and ongoing support to rebuild homes and lives. Whether those needs are the result of natural or human disasters we reach out with care and compassion to those in need.

We support missionary work and educational efforts around the world, as well efforts to relieve hunger and hopelessness here at home. We partner with other Christian churches, other faith communities, with hospitals, relief agencies and universities. We know that we can accomplish far more by working together than by ourselves, alone.

Our church is found in 58 countries, from the U.S. to Europe, across much of Africa and into southeast Asia. Your gifts support theological study and higher education through United Methodist and other universities and seminaries. We provide scholarships for students from our own congregation and others as they look to find a place and make a difference in the world.

We contribute to the work of bishops, district superintendents, church boards and agencies, as they encourage the mission and ministry of local churches in our diverse communities. We support Toberman Neighborhood Center and other local partners, who provide food, shelter and transitional support to hundreds of families each year. Around the corner or across the world, we seek to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Children and Families – $425,539 (32% of our budget)

The needs and hopes of families are at the heart of our mission. From our youngest and smallest to middle and older adults, we know that all of us are precious in God's eyes.

Each week we help growing children learn lessons of faith and love they will carry all through their lives. Our Vacation Bible Camp reaches over 200 children each summer, and requires almost another 100 youth and adult volunteers to make it happen.

Our junior and senior high youth participate in the Sierra Service Project, learning about themselves, each other and the world as they take part in hands-on mission. They meet to learn, to grow, and to have fun during the rest of the year as well.

We offer opportunities for spiritual growth and faith development with Bible study, book groups, topical studies and retreats led by pastoral and other staff. Seminars on caregiving, health & wellness, and grief support are open to the whole community. Two concert series bring beautiful music into our sanctuary throughout the year.

Our Children's Christmas Eve service and Easter Egg Hunt bring children, parents, grand and even great-grandparents together in joy and hope.

Your generosity makes it possible for thousands of people experience God's grace through our mission with families in more ways than ever before. Thank you!

News from Martha Rowlett

I am now Great, Great Aunt Martha. Twin girls, born on August 20th gave me the title. I visited them when they were two days old, and held the smaller one at five pounds wrapped in a blanket looking up at me. I was immediately reminded of seeing Niki Lorentzen when she was just hours old. Randy had called to breathlessly announce that Stevie was in labor and asked us to come to the hospital. Bob and I immediately hopped in the car thrilled at the prospect of sharing this birth with this family. By the time we arrived, mother and baby were available for visiting. I have a treasured picture of the two of us beaming with delight at the wonder of new life before us. It is amazing to look at this wholly formed little person and say "Nine months ago this was a nothing but a sperm and an egg." But here is a brand new human being with all of its complexity and rich possibility. The parents of my little great greats are both elementary school counselors, and they are aware of the challenges of parenting. They witness daily damage done to little people by adults in their lives. They talked with me about this awareness over lunch on Sunday. I thought again about all the Rolling Hills church does day after day and year after year and decade after decade to support parents and nurture children into the full development of their God-given potential as part of God's creation. That led me into a fresh appreciation of what this congregation is doing to create new facilities so that this incredibly valuable ministry will have a solid future that can bless the lives of tomorrow's wondrous newborns. I am proud to be part of your team.
Martha

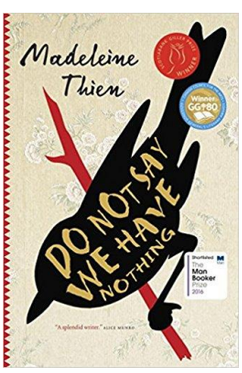
Celebration Sunday – October 29

Celebration Sunday for our annual giving campaign is October 29. Two events will take place that day which we hope all of you will attend. The first is worship, which will help us to focus on the values of compassion and community that we share as God's family. The second is the special Celebration meal which follows in Wesley Hall after each of our Sunday services (brunch in the morning and dinner after 3rd Service). We will have plenty for visitors, guests and friends to join with us, but we also ask everyone who plans to come to make a reservation so that we can have an accurate count. Reservation cards will be distributed at the services on Sunday, October 22. As we give thanks for the blessing of life which God gives us, please plan to gather and celebrate with other members of our church family. Thank you!

All Saints' Sunday – November 5

Each year, on the first Sunday of November, we celebrate All Saints' Day with a special prayer of thanksgiving for members and friends of our church family who have died in the past year. We are also invited to share names of persons who have been a part of our own lives over the years, whether they were members of this church or not. This year the Sunday of All Saints falls on November 5, and again we want to extend the invitation to share with us people who have helped you to live and grow in grace, or have touched your life in a significant way. If you would like to include someone in the service who has died since November 1, 2016, please call the church office with their name, and the date of their death if you know it. All of us have been blessed by people who have gone before us, and this is an opportunity to remember their contributions to our lives.

Fall Book Discussion



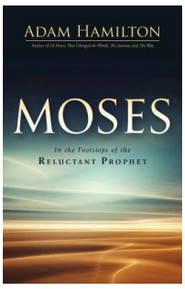
Early warning! "Do Not Say We Have Nothing" is a fascinating and lengthy book, so you might want to get started sooner rather than later on your reading. The book tells the story of three musicians and their families in China, before, during and after the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989. Readers will encounter historical context, stories of personal survival strategies, and potential sources of hope in times of suffering and disorientation. The novel was published in 2016 and is available in both hardcover and paperback.

Author Madeleine Thien was born in Vancouver and is the first in her family to be a native English speaker. She now lives in Montreal. "Do Not Say We Have Nothing" won the Scotiabank Giller Prize, widely considered the most prestigious in Canadian literature, the Governor-General's Literary Award and was also a finalist for the Man Booker Prize. This book will be the first of three novels to be discussed at RHUMC between now and next spring under the theme of "Doors Between Worlds." April Herron will facilitate our conversation.

Althea Waites' Travel Photos

Some of you have asked Althea to share her photos from her recent trip to South Africa. Feel free to check them out at http://altheawaites.com/bio/africa2017.mp4.

Sunday Morning Bible Study Class



Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet who is the defining Prophet for the Jewish people and whose life, for the Christian people, serves for a backdrop for much of what is in the Gospels. We have been following much of the Old Testament story from Genesis to Exodus in the weekly sermons. Let us now dig deeper into this story, which speaks to every generation. The story of Moses tells us much about God, ourselves, and God's will for our lives.

Our study starts **Sunday, October 15**, in the Aldersgate's Room and meet every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. We will use Adam Hamilton's latest book for this 6 week study, which will be interrupted for Advent preparation. Join this exciting and dedicated group of 10 people as we deepen our faith by these explorations of what is in the Bible and the stories it tells.

Do You Feel the Call to Be a Liturgist?

RHUMC is blessed to have a number of volunteers who participate in leading our Sunday services, but we could use some more! Qualifications for the job include: a calm, attentive presence; a clear speaking and reading voice; a willingness to be at church from 8:15 am to 11:30 am one Sunday every three or four months. If you enjoy public speaking and want a unique volunteer opportunity, this could be ideal for you. Liturgists read the Prayer of Confession and Renewal, the offering prayer and the scripture. We will be hosting a liturgist training on **Saturday, November 4** from 2 to 4 pm. If you are interested in becoming a liturgist or want to learn more about the job, please contact Kathy Platnick at ksanders@omm.com or at 213-479-6950.

Health and Wellness Opportunity

Written by Susan Deo

Back by popular demand, RHUMC Health and Wellness Team presents:

Denise Klatte, Physical Therapist
Providence Little Company of Mary Home Health

Leading a series of four exercise classes focused on balance and strength.

The program Denise presented for us in May 2017, Moves for Life, was so popular we invited her back to lead a series of four exercise classes on the same topic – balance and functional strength – this fall. Join us for one, two, three, or all four classes! (Please note the change of dates from the September Cornerstone)

Thursdays, 9:30 – 10:30 am, in the RHUMC Sanctuary

Oct 5, Oct 12, (no class Oct 19), Oct 26 and Nov 2

Wear comfortable clothes and sturdy, comfortable shoes.
No fees, but donations will be accepted for the Providence Foundation.

Join us for as many days as you wish!

Denise's passion and expertise is in equipping individuals – regardless of their age, health status, or physical abilities – with knowledge and skills to improve their posture, balance, and functional strength. She earned her bachelor's degree in Exercise Science and master's degrees in Biokinesiology and Physical Therapy from the University of Southern California. Since 2001, she has worked as a Home Health Physical Therapist for Providence Little Company of Mary. Denise also teaches fitness classes for The Bay Club, has written and published fitness and health related articles, presented workshops throughout the US and abroad, and been a consultant and trainer for online fitness classes, exercise programming, and product development.

Second Sundays at Two
Sunday, October 8, at 2:00 p.m.

Portugal's Foremost Pianist Performs
Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition

FILIPE PINTO-RIBEIRO

A Steinway Artist, **Filipe Pinto-Ribeiro** is considered a *"poet of the piano."* Born in Porto, Portugal, he earned a Doctorate in Musical Performance at the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow. Filipe Pinto-Ribeiro has premiered works by Dmitri Shostakovich, Marcelo Nisinman, Eurico Carrapatoso, and Sofia Gubaidulina. As a concerto soloist, he is frequently invited by leading European orchestras.

Free-Will Offering

Second Sunday Supper

We hope you can join us for dinner on **Sunday, October 8**, after 3rd service. The menu will include chicken, rice, beans and salad from El Pollo Loco. The requested meal donation is $5 per person, $15 per family. 3rd service takes place every Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

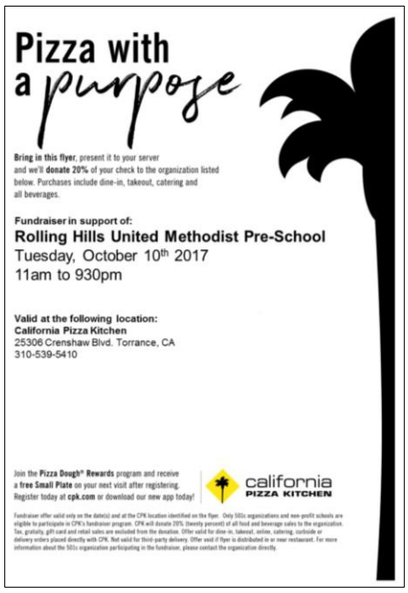
RHUMC Thanksgiving Dinner – *SAVE THE DATE*

Thanksgiving is coming and our Thanksgiving dinner will be held on **Saturday, November 18,** at 6:30 p.m. You won't want to miss the best turkey dinner you will ever eat! See you there!

Preschool – Out on the Town Fundraiser

Come help support our preschool by dining at California Pizza Kitchen on **Tuesday, October 10**, between 11:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m. and our preschool will receive 20% of the cost of your meal. Don't forget to bring a flyer!

California Pizza Kitchen at Rolling Hills
25304 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90505
310-539-5410



Club Maintenance

Club Maintenance met Saturday, September 9. Our major project was preparing the Wesley Hall patio/playground steel fence for painting next month. The fence was cleaned, spot sanded and primed after the vegetation was cleared. Also lock bars were installed on four file cabinets for our finance people. A fellowship lunch consisted of pizza, fresh fruit and cookies. Participating were: Bill Bales, Bob Chamberlin, Clarence Fung, Dave Larson, Keith Levan, Jim Showalter and coordinator Gene Koester. Coordinator for our October 14 gathering will be Bill Bales and all are invited. If you are interested in joining this group for service, fun, food and fellowship, mark your calendar for **Saturday, October 14**, at 8:30 a.m.

Wesley Hall Lighting Project

A new LED high bay lighting system has been installed in Wesley Hall. These light fixtures replace 15-year-old compact fluorescent lamp (CFL) fixtures which could no longer be maintained. The new brighter LED fixtures use half the power of the CFL fixtures, saving 2,600 watts, and are dimmable like the CFLs. The long life (>68,000 hours) LED fixtures should require no maintenance over many years.

SAVE THE DATE

The Chancel Choir will perform the *Christmas Oratorio* by Camille Saint-Saëns on **Saturday, December 16**, at 7:00 p.m. Among the soloists will be Soprano Jessie Tisdale and Tenor DeForest Kirkwood.

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT

INFORMATIONAL MEETING
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH AT 11:30 AM

Time to Plan for Summer 2018!

Sierra Service Project is a life changing week of service, worship and fellowship. Youth and leaders from different churches, all over the United States, come together with a shared mission. Our work involves enhancing the safety and livability of the homes of elderly, poor and marginalized persons in urban and rural communities. The success of our projects and fundraising require early planning and organization. That is why we are building excitement now!

Jr. High SSP:
Date: July 21-29
Location: Smith River

Sr. High SSP:
Date: July 28-August 5
Location: Smith River

VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2.0

October 13th
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm
$5 a child

Volunteers Needed!

We had so much fun at Vacation Bible Camp that we are excited about Round 2! Your family is invited to join us at Rolling Hills United Methodist Church for Maker Fest; a one night event highlighting our favorite activities from VBC. Please RSVP to Kimmie by **October 11th** to ensure we have enough supplies for all our eager builders.

Ignite

Theme: Built for a Purpose

September 27th– God Made You

October 4th– Christian or Disciple

October 11th– What is My Purpose?

6:00-6:30 pm– Dinner
6:30-8:00 pm– Small Groups

5 Star Dinner

October 18th from 6:00–8:00 pm

Join us for a delicious 5 course dinner. Your taste buds do not want to miss! *RSVP to Kimmie by October 16th.*

Music and Theater Night!

Service Opportunities

Sunday, October 8th from 7:00–8:30 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.
(2 service hours)

Sunday, October 22nd at 10:00 am: Manna Bags for San Pedro Homeless. Come help fill backpacks with toiletries and non-perishable food products to aid the homeless population in San Pedro. *(2 service hours)*

Winter Retreat Dates

Forest Homes Christian Camp

Jr. High– January 26th-28th
Sr. High– February 16th-19th

Registration Due October 15th

Youth Band Performance

October 22nd at 5:30 pm Service

Rehearsals 10/11 at 5:00 pm,
10/18 at 5:00 pm & 10/22 at 4:00pm.

Palos Verdes Peninsula Village Presents
Our 2nd Annual Upside of Aging Event

featuring
Dr. Pinchas Cohen
and
Helen Dennis

Tuesday • October 17, 2017
2:00-4:00 pm
at the Palos Verdes Golf Club

Dr. Cohen, a visionary leader in science and higher education, is the Dean of USC's Davis School of Gerontology, holds the William and Sylvia Kugel Dean's Chair in Gerontology and serves as the executive director of the Ethel Percy Andrus Gerontology Center. He has advanced the concept of personalized aging to ensure that extended lifespans are spent in good health

Helen Dennis, a nationally recognized leader on issues of aging, employment and retirement, is well known to the South Bay community for her weekly syndicated column, Successful Aging, with a readership of over 1.6 million. PBS recently named her one of the top 50 Influencers in Aging.

The PVP Village has been in operation for 17 months with 100 members and 58 volunteers and is changing the way we experience aging. Through its programs and services we are reducing social isolation and providing the needed support for Village members to remain in their own communities and homes as they get older.

RSVP is Required
call: 310-265-0644 or
email: pvpvillageoffice@gmail.com

Palos Verdes Peninsula Village
- stay settled
- stay connected
- stay engaged

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	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Church Business Mgr.	Nicole Lowery Zakman		
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 October 27
www.rhumc.org