The Cornerstone

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

November 2017

RHUMC REQUESTS THE HONOR OF YOUR PRESENCE AT OUR THANKSGIVING FEAST TO CELEBRATE OUR MANY BLESSINGS WITH FRIENDS AND FAMILY

Saturday, November 18, 2017 at 6:30 PM in Wesley Hall

Hot apple cider will welcome you in the Aldersgate Room at 6:oo p.m.,
before doors open in Wesley Hall at 6:30 p.m.

The traditional menu, catered by our own culinary chefs and volunteers includes:
roasted turkey with cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn casserole,
green beans, cranberry relish, cranberry "fluff", pecan, apple, pumpkin pies,
and sugar-free pumpkin pie.

We will be well and joyfully entertained by the choral music of an ensemble
of RHUMC men in a beautiful, festive, fall setting.

RSVP on the patio before and after Sunday services on November 5 & 12, or in the office.
Your donation of $30 for adults and $15 for children twelve and under will help support
the youth mission through Sierra Service Project.
You may also wish to request special seating assignments and request child care
when you make your reservation.

If you would be willing to help in the kitchen or to help decorate the hall,
please call the church office at (310) 377-6771
or contact Suellen Fung or Doug Kemps

from the pastors — *Jonathan Chute*

Well, we made it! Both pastors not only survived, but maybe even delighted in the marriages of their respective daughters. I know in our case tears were shed, laughter overflowed, and gratitude and joy abounded. It could not have been any lovelier than it was. We were surrounded by dear friends, as well as by family gathered from far and wide. The weather was unexpectedly warm and pleasant – especially for Rochester in late October! There were no great disasters, and only a couple of tiny wrinkles, now serving as the source of amusing memories. We are still basking in the glow of it all.

As fun as it would be just to stay right there in the middle of all that joy, life doesn't work that way. We celebrated Thyra's birthday the next morning, drove back to Toronto and flew home late that night. Since then we've shared a memorial service for a beloved friend and member, Jack Bryant, gathered for Celebration Sunday, handed out candy for Halloween, had our hopes raised and our hearts broken by the World Series, and gathered for a special Charge Conference. Despite the poor timing of the last two items our attendance at the Charge Conference was solid and the support for the loan applications to complete our new educational facilities was unanimous. I have nothing but gratitude for the spirit and boldness of this congregation.

As we move forward together there are many good things coming right up. This Sunday we will give thanks for all the saints, those who have gone before us in this life and provided examples of grace, courage and compassion for others. On Tuesday, November 7 we are hosting the Dawn Unity Interfaith Discovery Series, which will focus on the history of interfaith relations in the Los Angeles area. I am honored to be on the panel, which includes well-known leaders from the Roman Catholic, Jewish and Muslim communities.

The following Sunday is Heifer Plus, our wonderful alternative Christmas market, this year even more lovely with the addition of works from local artists to help raise funds for hurricane recovery efforts. The Thanksgiving Dinner is a feast of delicious food and warm community, a reminder of the goodness of God in all the seasons of our lives. Our youth will help serve the meal, but are also preparing meals to be shared on Thanksgiving Eve with persons who are hungry or homeless, in partnership with the members of Walteria UMC.

For those who find the coming holiday season a source of stress as well as of joy, I am excited that Michelle Dexter, a church member and gifted clinical psychologist, is offering a "Holiday Survival Kit" at the end of the month. I know you'll enjoy her energy and spirit.

Thank you for all that you do to share the mission of God in such a generous, hopeful and loving way. I am glad to be among you, and to be a part of so many good and important endeavors.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends:

Reading and writing are habits that help me negotiate life. Reading calms me, teaches me, diverts me, inspires me, reveals truth to me. Writing helps me clarify my thoughts, communicate with others, keep myself organized, and retain my emotional balance. Even surrounding the marriage of my daughter this past month, I noticed myself relying on familiar strategies.

During the week leading up to Liz's wedding, there wasn't much time for reading...but I did finish a book she had passed on to me from her personal library. It had been an assignment for one of her college courses. "Friend, What is This?" might be a loose translation (from Portuguese) of the title, as well as a loose translation of the happy chaos surrounding the comings and goings of so many friends arrived from Brazil to join the celebration. Reading in my daughter's adopted language, and thus learning about Brazilian culture and history, is something that helps me feel connected to her. Finishing that book just before the wedding reinforced the sense of a previous stage of life coming to conclusion and giving way to a new era.

Likewise, there wasn't much time for writing...but in an effort to keep track of some of the last minute challenges to be met and overcome, I did find myself keeping a list of questions that puzzled various members of the wedding party, including me. The list may not mean much to anybody else, but to me the inquiries, "How come I can't reach Liz?"; "Who is Julianna?"; "Where is my sweater/shoe/thumb drive/wireless speaker?" "Do you have military ID?' "May I see your passports?"; "Why has a car seat been delivered here?"; and "Is the bathroom doorknob broken *again?"* trigger specific memories. At some point I also created a chart on the back of an envelope in which I tried to capture the special events and undertakings I shared with various people throughout the week. Those words, scribbled down in barely legible writing, also evoke much more than their minimalistic appearance might suggest. "With Christina, zipping Liz into her dress," recalls a moment that brought fleeting tears of wonder to my eyes. I want to keep that memory always.

Because books, paper, and pens are such good companions to me, I look forward to sharing a couple of upcoming one-time gatherings with you! On Wednesday evening, November 15, Lorrie Tom and I will co-teach a workshop called, "Write Like a Psalmist." We'll learn about and practice some of the ways that writers of long ago shared their feelings, struggles, and joys with God. On Monday, November 27, at 7 pm, I'll convene one of RHUMC periodic book discussions to talk about Madeleine Thien's book, "Do Not Say We Have Nothing." Please know that you are welcome to take part.

In gratitude for your partnership in life and ministry,

April

Workshop: Write Like a Psalmist! – November 15

"The Lord is my shepherd…"; "As a deer longs for flowing streams…"; "Create in me a clean heart, O God…"; "How lovely is your dwelling place…"; "I lift up my eyes to the hills…"; "O Lord, you have searched me and known me…"

Some of the most beloved and well-known words of scripture come from the book of the Bible known as *Psalms*. The 150 poetic prayers express a range of feelings, questions, pleas, and affirmations. They are songs for which we no longer have the original music. And the writers of the psalms used some identifiable literary strategies when crafting their lyrics.

To learn how the psalm-writers gave form and emphasis to their sentiments, and to have fun writing one or two psalms of your own, come to the workshop co-taught by April Herron and Lorrie Tom on **Wednesday, November 15**, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldersgate Room as RHUMC. The season of thanksgiving is a good time to learn new ways to pray!

If possible, please email churchoffice@rhumc.org to let us know that you are coming.

News from Martha Rowlett

Are you mad at God? If you are, the Chaplain at my retirement community knows a lot of people like you. As he passed my table in the dining room recently, he stopped to tell me: "So many people are mad at God, that I am thinking about just going home to hide." Hard day at the office! We both chuckled a bit. But at the same time we were feeling sad that people about whom we care are alienated from the resources of their faith by belief that if God is powerful, God should prevent – or at least fix promptly – things like devastating hurricanes and wild fires and mass murders and opioid epidemics, and…and…and.

So is this a time to get mad at God? Not by a long country mile, as we say in N.C. We have known forever that God does not keep us from making bad decisions or getting into messes. The ancient Adam and Eve story expresses that faith of our ancestors. History is full of human encounters with snakes that mess up God's best ideas. Bad things happen to good people. But our faith is that God's love for the creation is constant and that God's will is for the best possibilities for who we are and where we are at every moment.

Could it be that it is time for us rather than turning our backs on God to turn our faces and our hearts toward God? Times like this are times to trust in God's loving presence with us, to listen very carefully for God's will for us in every moment, and to respond with gratitude.

One of the joys of being in a congregation like RHUMC is that we can share with other people of faith in trusting, listening and responding.

Missions Market, Heifer, Habitat for Humanity, Missionaries, Art Auction for Disaster Relief, and Pickles!

On **Sunday, November 12**, after both morning services we will once again, in Wesley Hall, have a variety of opportunities for shopping and giving. In addition to craft articles from UMW and Fletcher Larson's delicious pickles, there will be displays for Habitat for Humanity (our church build day is Saturday, March 24, please note this on your next year's calendar!), Heifer International and our Missionaries. New this year, Curtis Green has organized a silent auction of works of several local artists and also for auction, we have a selection of oriental rugs – with the proceeds going to UMCOR (The United Methodist Committee on Relief). After the initial giving for disaster relief, the need still remains great to help many who were displaced by the hurricanes, earthquakes and fires. Any of these would make thoughtful Christmas gifts and benefit very worthy causes. Join us in the fun and bless someone's life!

RHUMC Rings Bells

We are ringing bells again this Christmas season for the good work of the Salvation Army in our community. RHUMC volunteers have raised over $5700 over the last 4 holiday seasons for the Army's work locally. With the help of the Christmas kettles, the Salvation Army exists to meet human need wherever, whenever, and however they can….and we would love to have your help.

Roxanne Morse will be on the patio on Sunday, November 12, to answer questions and share how the program works…it is only a 1.5 hour shift. A smile is all you need bring…unless you would like to bring friends, children or music! It is a wonderful way to share time in the true spirit of giving…see you at church!

Backpack Project

We have about 60 backpacks that were filled by the youth in October. The backpacks will be distributed by the San Pedro Consortium to folks in need. Thank you Emily Howard for organizing this worthwhile event, and thank you to all who donated backpacks and toiletries.

Red Bird Mission - Labels and Box Tops for Education

We received a newsletter from Red Bird Mission recently. One of the articles was about the Labels for Education program. Using only labels, the school has received its 29th (and final) full sized van, from Campbell's! The Labels for Education program is coming to a close at the end of the year. In order to get the last labels to Red Bird in time, we need them put in the new polka dot box on the table in the Narthex by the beginning of December; the old large donation box has been replaced by its smaller, prettier cousin. RHUMC as part of our mission work with the United Methodist Church, supports The Red Bird Mission School in Beverly, Kentucky. This is a remote, impoverished area in the Appalachian Mountains. Opportunity for employment is scarce. By providing Christian education for 85 years, the Red Bird Mission School helps children learn, dream and hope for a bright future. Additional information is available through rbmission.org.

The Box Tops for Education program is still going strong, so keep clipping those and we'll keep sending them. Thank you to all who have supported and continue to support these programs.

Hurricane Harvey Relief

We have a generous congregation. From Sallie Krause, who spearheaded the effort to send relief supplies to hurricane victims, to Linda Fester who tracked down supplies and arranged for shipping, to many others who helped in various ways, and to those who generously donated money to help those in need. So far over $15,916 has been given to UMCOR and there is more to come. Thank you!

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.

Dawn Unity Group Interfaith Discovery Series

Year XVII of the Dawn Unity Group's Interfaith Discovery Series will begin on **Tuesday, November 7**, at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary with a discussion of "Interfaith Relations in Los Angeles" by a panel of major citywide interfaith leaders. Each panelist has been a force in developing interfaith relations for many years and will include our very own Jonathan Chute, a student of comparative religion and leader in local interfaith work including his role in founding the Dawn Unity Group; Rabbi Mark Diamond, now at Loyola Marymount University, has been the head of the Southern California board of Rabbis and Executive Director of the American Jewish Committee; Fr. Alexei Smith, the official representative of the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles to the many religious traditions in the area; Dean Jihad Turk, Bayan Claremont, heads the only Muslim graduate seminary in this country and is internationally respected as a spokesman for Islam. Bob Rothman, Chair of the Dawn Unity Group, will be moderator. This topic is important to all of Los Angeles, so please join us for the free symposium. For further information, call 310-833-7008.

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. We hope you can join us!

RHUMC Family Ministries Team is Pleased to Offer:

Holiday Survival Kit
A Seminar Presented by Dr. Michelle Dexter

Wednesday, November 29, 2017 at 7pm
Wesley Hall

The holiday season is typically described as a busy time with competing demands. In addition, we bring our own imperatives, expectations, and habits to each interaction. Furthermore, the holidays may be a reminder of those who are not present to celebrate with us. All of these factors can lead to difficulty staying connected to both what and whom we intend to celebrate.

In November we set out to celebrate God, connect with family members, and enjoy time with friends. Yet come January, we may often find ourselves disappointed with the absence of these occurrences. So many things may contribute: school performances, work parties, social conflicts, new responsibilities, grief, role transitions, lack of support and more!

This presentation will focus on helping participants identify important, individualized intentions and barriers to achieving desired outcomes for this holiday season. Dr. Dexter will also present various skills and effective coping strategies to help participants increase the ability to not only survive, but thrive, during the holidays.

Please join with others in our exceptional community as we support each other in exploring, sharing, and learning together.

Dr. Michelle Dexter (PSY27382) is a licensed clinical psychologist with expertise providing assessments, psychotherapy, and educational programming to various populations in Los Angeles. She has extensive experience working with children, young adults, adults and families in both academic and private settings. Dr. Dexter is an active member of RHUMC and has much wisdom and compassion to share with us.

Special Offer from South Coast Botanic Garden

Hello wonderful neighbors! We would like to extend to the RHUMC congregation a special 18-month membership for the price of a 12-month membership!!

There has never been a more exciting time to be a member of South Coast Botanic Garden, with the highly anticipated arrival of our newly reimaged Rose Garden this fall and a new suite of FREE programming designed with members mind:

- **New Picnic Policy –** the ants are rejoicing, and so are the members, as we have eased our picnic policy to invite you to picnic on *any* day! Pack your basket and stop by after church for a picnic on one of our meadows.
- **The Great Pumpkin Hunt –** Now through November 30, The birds of South Coast Botanic Garden have teamed up to ensure this season's pumpkin will be spared from the hungry bunnies by hiding the patch in a secret location. Can you help us find the missing pumpkins? Enjoy an adventurous afternoon trekking through our trails to find the clues that will lead you to the hidden treasure.
- **Kid's Club –** Create a mandala from leaves and petals, build an igloo from recycled milk jugs, or take a listening hike through our trails. Each month will offer four different adventures to complete. Up next, Thanks-digging 11/17, 1-4pm!

These are just a few of the exciting new changes to our membership program. Depending on your level of support, you may receive Members Express Entry, free Tram Rides, an invitation to a Deluxe Safari Adventure, and even a Farm to Table dinner.

Check-out all the details at southcoastbotanicgardens.com or call Kristy Day at 310-544-1948 for more information.

Join today or renew your membership and mention you are a member of RHUMC to receive this special offer!

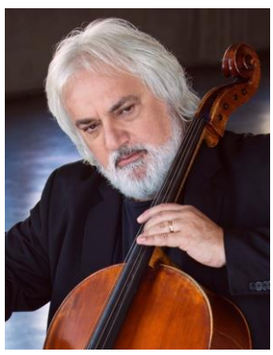
Daylight Savings Time ends November 5th – Time to set your clocks back!

Second Sundays At Two

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

Internationally Renowned Italian Pianist joins
Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra Principal Cellist

FABIO BIDINI



ANDREW SHULMAN

Italian pianist **Fabio Bidini** is among the world's leading pianists. He has appeared as concerto soloist with the London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra of London, San Francisco Symphony, Philharmonia Orchestra Prague, and Hungarian National Philharmonic Orchestra at Liszt Academy Hall, among many others. A Steinway artist, he is the Piano Chair at the Colburn Conservatory.

Andrew Shulman is Principal Cellist of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra, a position he has held with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, The Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, and London's Philharmonia Orchestra. He is Professor of Cello at the USC Thornton School of Music. A favorite on *Second Sundays at Two,* this will be Andrew's third appearance on the series.

Free-Will Offering

Second Sunday Suppers

We hope you can join us for dinner on **Sunday, November 12,** 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.

Welcome Roksolana Vecerek

We are pleased to welcome Jonathan's new Executive Assistant, Roksolana Vecerek, to our office staff. Here's a brief intro from Roksolana –

My parents immigrated to the United States from Ukraine, which is the origin of my unusual name. There is a legend of Roksolana who married the Turkish emperor Sulieman and became one of the most influential women of the Ottoman Empire. My life has been much more ordinary.

I am a native of New York and studied Visual Communications at the Institute of Design in Chicago. I have always enjoyed various sports and met my husband while playing competitive volleyball during college. We moved to Palos Verdes 20 years ago when my husband worked in the Aerospace industry, and raised our daughter here. One of my favorite activities is hiking around this beautiful peninsula with family and friends.

My career has been in the graphic design industry specializing in visual communication for corporate clients and non-profit organizations. I am excited to be taking on this new position at RHUMC and am thrilled at the opportunity to work in this lovely community.

Club Maintenance

Club Maintenance met Saturday, October 14 and completed a number of tasks around the church campus. Faulty hinges in the kitchen were replaced, the frame on the site map was replaced, a leg on the table in the Welcome Center was repaired, the light standards in the front parking lot were cleaned, lighting was adjusted for buildings E and F, toilet seats were tightened in the Wesley Hall restrooms, lamps in the sanctuary were replaced with new LED lamps, and the fence behind Wesley Hall was partially painted (to be completed next month – it's a big job). Joining in the festivities were Bill Bails, Steve Boilard, Clarence Fung, Keith Levan, Dave Larson, Oren Sheldon, and Jim Showalter. Join us **Saturday, November 11**, at 8:30 a.m. for the next Club Maintenance get together. All are invited.

Altar Flowers

The new flower chart for 2018 has arrived! Sign up early to ensure you get your favorite date to honor, celebrate, or remember that someone special!

Parents Night Out
Saturday, December 2nd
4:30 pm to 8:30 pm

Take an evening out while we take care of your kids! Drop off your kids for a fun night of crafts, games, dinner, and a movie. Space is limited, so be sure to sign-up early!

Who:	Infants to Fifth Graders
Cost:	$20 per child/$5 for each additional sibling
Registration:	Email debkd3@icloud.com or call the church office at 310-377-6771, ext. 105 with your child's name and age.

From the Spooky to the Spectacular!
Kid Zone's Trunk or Treat brought smiles all around.

photos by Debra DeLuca

Winter Retreat

Rolling Hills United Methodist

Jr High: TBD
Sr. High: February 16-19

Worship ~ Praise Band ~ Games ~
rock wall ~ Zip-line ~ Ropes Course ~ Sledding ~ Paint Ball

Registration is due ASAP! Contact Kimmie at Kimmie@rhumc.org for more information. Scholarships are available!

November 18th from 5:00-9:30 pm: All Church Thanksgiving Dinner.

Help serve at the church's Thanksgiving Dinner and earn money for Sierra Service Project. Includes a delicious FREE home

November 22nd from 4:00–10:00 pm: Almost a Thanksgiving Lock-In.

Join us for a night of fun, fellowship and service as we prepare a yummy Thanksgiving Dinner for the homeless. *(6 service hours)*

MASTER CHEF

November 15th from 6:00–8:00 pm

Learn to cook like a Pro and make a meal that will impress the hardest of food critics! Youth will divide into teams and compete to see who can recreate the best meal from our Master Chefs!

Calling All Shepherds, Angels, Kings and Animals of the Manger!

Parents: put Saturday**, December 16**, 9:00 a.m. on your calendar. That's the date for the rehearsal of the Christmas Eve family worship service. At the rehearsal, which runs from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., children will be fitted for their costumes and practice their part. December 16 is the one required rehearsal for all participants who plan to be part of the December 24 Christmas Eve (4:00 p.m.) worship service.

Calling All Youth!

Your leadership opportunities for the Family Christmas Eve service include reading scripture, litany parts and prayers; lighting candles; ringing hand bells; greeting and ushering. Your **Saturday, December 16**, rehearsal time is 11:30-12:30 p.m. You can also earn service hours by assisting with the younger kids' rehearsal. For information and to sign up, contact Kimmie Stradling at kimmie@rhumc.org, Jan Johnson at janaleejoh@aol.com or call the church office at 310-377-6771.

Hanging of the Greens

The Worship Committee invites you to get into the holiday spirit by helping us transform the church. We will be working the first 2 Saturdays in December:

1. Saturday, Dec. 2nd, 8:30-10:30 AM – Decorating the huge Narthex tree
2. Saturday, Dec. 9th, 8:30-10:.30 AM – Decorating the Sanctuary

Come share the spirit!

Poinsettia Sales

We try to make it easy for you to order poinsettias to be given ***In Honor of a Loved One***, ***In Memory of a Loved One*** or ***To the Glory of God***. Just fill out a form and turn it in with payment of $15 a plant, or 2 for $25. You may send it to the office, give it to the Worship Committee volunteer at the poinsettia table on the patio Sundays, November 26th, December 3rd or 10th or place it in the offering plate. Orders must be received by December 10th.

Help us decorate the Sanctuary with Poinsettias for Christmas!

You are invited to purchase one or more poinsettia plants to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. 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 $15 per plant, or 2 for $25. 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. The last day to order plants is December 10th. Thank you.

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	Exec. Asst. to Pastor	Roksolana Vecerek
Kid Zone Director	Megan Pelc	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Treasurer	Robin La Tourette	Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Church Business Mgr.	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 November 20
www.rhumc.org