The Cornerstone

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

February 2018

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

It is time to celebrate on **Sunday, February 18**, with those in our Church family who have been or were married for 50 years or more. We would love to post the stories of how you met as well as display your wedding photos. If you'd like to tell your story, please send us an email with a short description of how you met. We still have the anniversary list from last year, but if you are new to the congregation, or have now been married for 50 years, please let us know your name and wedding date. Contact us by email at churchoffice@rhumc.org or call the church office at 310-377-6771. In addition to sending in your stories, please consider bringing a wedding photo to the church office during the week of February 12th identified with your name. Photos may be retrieved in the office the following week. Thanks for your help! And congratulations!

*from the pastor*s *Jonathan Chute*

The year is barely begun, but already a new season is about to begin. We haven't even adopted this year's budget yet, though we meet next Wednesday night to do so (7 p.m. in the Choir Room). That's the date of our Charge Conference, the annual meeting of a congregation in the United Methodist Church. It is a time to review the year that we've just been through and look with hope to the time ahead.

2017 was a good year for our congregation in many ways. April led a one-day Women's Retreat locally, for some who couldn't take a whole weekend away from home. Opportunities for learning and growth are available almost every month it seems. Our choir presented stirring and memorable music for Good Friday and Christmas, as well as on Sundays. Vacation Bible Camp brought together about 200 children and even more youth and adult helpers for a week of exploration and learning. Kid Zone, our after school program, is in good hands again, serving dozens of children each week and hundreds over the summer. Our preschool brings us into relationship with about a hundred families in our community every year. We saw each other through times of change as well, with the loss of dear friends and the discovery of new. God's grace was with us in and through each of these. We have seen and felt it.

We continue to work with the City of Rolling Hills Estates to break ground on our new educational facilities. The process has been slower and more complicated than we could have imagined. But we look forward to getting started on this important work late this Spring. Once we are ready to begin we will be sharing regular updates by email and on the church web site.

It was a healthy year for us financially. I'm happy to share that we finished the year solidly in the black. In recent years we have always been just a little ahead, or just a little behind, the budget we adopted. Our finances are never entirely certain. But then again, whose are? We seek, as best we can, to carry out a generous, hopeful and effective mission. We kept moving forward, sharing generosity and hope. We helped partners in the South Bay who serve hungry and homeless families, giving away thousands of dollars to feeding programs at St. Paul's UMC, Toberman Neighborhood Center, Circle of Life, and the Senior Nutrition Program at the Torrance/South Bay YMCA. We also prepared meals in our own kitchen to help feed our neighbors. Throughout the year the grace of God has been the source and the center of everything we have sought to accomplish. Your generosity has seen that mission through.

This month we will give thanks for the work of Scouting, welcoming the families of Troop 783 to celebrate Scout Sunday, February 11. The next Sunday we will give thanks for God's grace in the lives of couples in our congregation who have been married for 50 years and more.

By then we will have entered another season of grace, with the beginning of Lent. This year Ash Wednesday falls on February 14. It's not often that Ash Wednesday is also Valentine's Day! But God's timing isn't necessarily our timing, either. I think those who want to celebrate loving, and being loved, will find a way to do so. It's actually at the heart of the Christian story.

You can sign up for the prayer vigil which will take place that day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and look forward to the Ash Wednesday service that evening at 7:30. For those who've not been, the service includes readings, prayers, music, many candles, and the imposition of ashes for those who choose to come forward. It is an encouraging and hopeful way to begin the 40 days of Lent.

The seasons of grace in our lives are gifts of God. I am grateful to share them with you, to move through these coming days with a sense of anticipation, of wonder, of joy and hope. May God bless you, and bless others through you.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends -

A multitude of opportunities for learning, growth, new life, and sharing in community will characterize the upcoming Lent and Easter seasons. Below are some of the things I am glad to be preparing. I am hopeful that you will want to join in the fun of one or more of these possibilities.

40 Days of Praying with Your Pen, a Lenten Journey for anyone who is seeking to enrich their communication with God. Participants will support one another in creative ways to pray with Tuesday morning meetings on February 13 and 20 as well as March 13 and 20. Lorrie Tom will join me in guiding the 10:30 am gatherings.

Right Here, Right Now, a study on the practice of Christian mindfulness. Jesus proclaimed that the Kingdom of God is at hand for those with eyes to see and ears to hear. In other words, by paying attention you can experience the reality that God is with us here and now! A book by Amy Oden will share theological foundations of mindfulness in the Christian tradition, as well as suggestions for our practice of mindfulness. Four consecutive Wednesday evening meetings, from 6:30 to 8 pm in the Aldersgate Room, from February 21 to March 14, will give us a good beginning.

The "Doors Between Worlds" book discussion, which will meet on Monday, February 26, at 7 pm in the Aldersgate Room to talk about *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid. Nominated for the Man Booker Prize and National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, the story is about two particular refugees fleeing a place of violence and looking for a place where they can belong. The author was born in Lahore and has also lived in London, New York, and California. All readers are welcome!

Confirmation, an opportunity for senior high youth to explore understandings of Christianity and the Bible and to celebrate their place in the family of faith. This has been a highlight of the past two spring seasons at RHUMC and I expect it to be so again this year. An information packet can be obtained from Kristin Reksc, or families can talk with me to learn more.

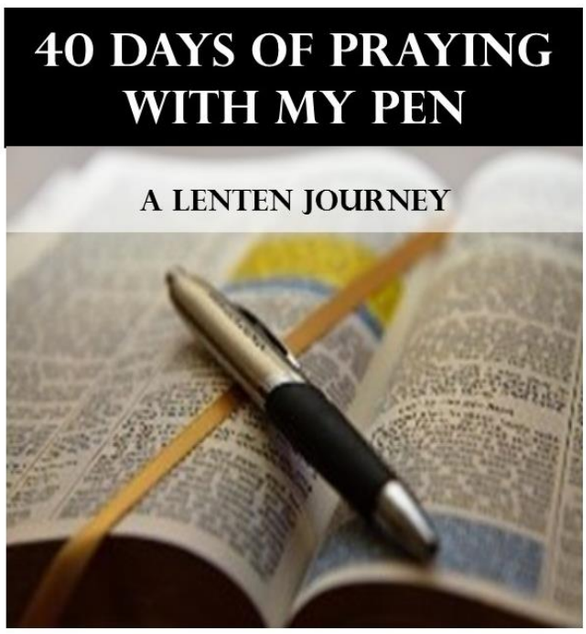
These are only a few of the ways available to you through RHUMC for expanding and deepening your experience of the grace of God. Keep reading your Cornerstone to discover more options!

The peace of Christ to you,

April

Gratitude from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

Not long ago, people were greeting me with "Merry Christmas." Then it became "Happy New Year." Now they are nodding and smiling and saying "Stay Warm." I am one of the fortunate ones who can do just that. Yesterday, I sat in church near a window around which some cold air was seeping. I spent the first half of the day on the verge of shivering. So in the afternoon, I put on a coat with a quilted lining, a hat and gloves and went for a walk around the neighborhood feeling wonderfully cozy and warm. The sun was out by then, and neighbors were walking their dogs. They looked at me quizzically. Finally, one said bluntly, "Martha, you are overdressed." I explained that I was happily thawing out from the morning. But I was quite aware of the fact that our recent cold weather has chilled a lot of folk in our town who can't take refuge in the contents of a closet at home. A friend who had recently lost her husband asked me last week to go with her to a local clothes closet center that services homeless people. They do it with style. They have dressing rooms for trying on clothes, and a well-organized system for easy "shopping." She wanted to take some of her husband's winter clothes. I did a closet search at home and we went. Volunteers greeted us and welcomed our gifts. Rolling Hills doesn't see the cold weather we see here. But I remembered your robust relationship with Toberman and felt a pang of gratefulness that the example of Christ moves you to share generously and regularly with folks in your community who get chilly and hungry there.

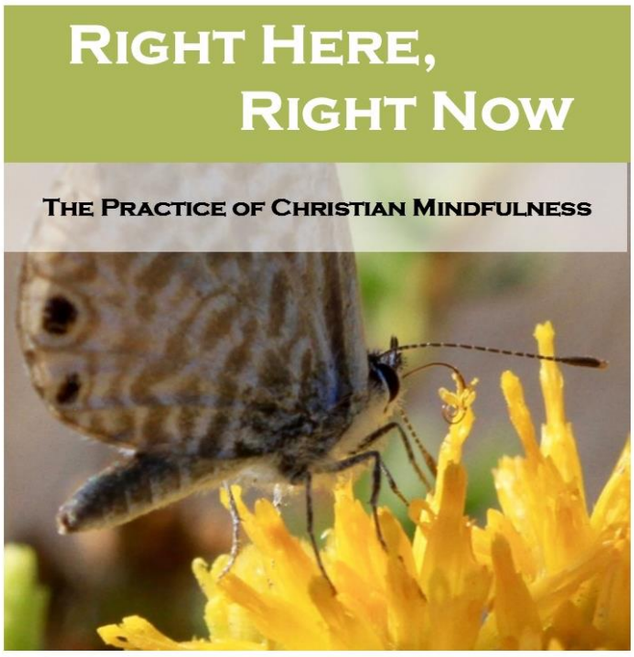


Facilitated by
April Herron and Lorrie Tom
Tuesdays, 10:30 am to noon
February 13 and 20, March 13 and 20
Aldersgate Room

Class sessions will support participants in establishing a daily practice of writing and/or drawing a message to God. Open to all who want to grow in faith and understanding.

The book which will provide guidance, "Writing to God" by Rachel Hackenberg, is available in the church office for $15 per copy.

Please indicate your plans to attend by calling or emailing:
(310) 377-6771
churchoffice@rhumc.org



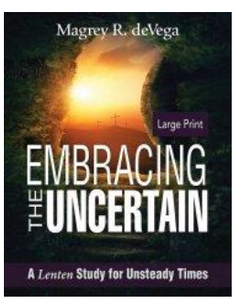
2018 Lenten Study
Guided by April Herron
Wednesdays, 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
February 21 & 28, March 7 & 14
Aldersgate Room

Learn helpful ways to be intentionally aware of God's life and mission in the world. Abide in Christ using time-tested practices of the Christian tradition. The cost of the book by Amy Oden is $10. Copies are available in the church office.

Please indicate your plans to attend by calling or emailing:
(310) 377-6771
churchoffice@rhumc.org

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

An Invitation from Larry Kittiver



Lent is approaching. On February 18 the 10 a.m. Adult Bible Study Class will begin a book called, "Embracing the Uncertain" by Magrey R. deVega. In our fast changing, unpredictable world, there are few guarantees. Those who are willing to embrace uncertainty and follow Jesus despite the many "unknowns" will reap the greatest rewards. This study will help participants engage and wrestle with life's uncertainties. Along with a wonderful group of people of all ages, learn to follow Jesus with hope, courage, and trust. Gather in the Aldersgate Room.

Church Council/Charge Conference

Our Charge Conference will take place on **Wednesday, February 7**, at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room. We will see and hear about our ministry over the past year, as well as elect officers and leaders for 2018. We will also be approving our 2018 ministry budget. Members of the Administrative Board are especially encouraged to be there, and all are welcome.

Ash Wednesday – February 14

Lent is one of those seasons of the church that seems to be both highly anticipated *and* a little bit anxiety-producing. We look forward to the thoughtful time leading to Easter, while knowing that sacrifices are expected – but what sacrifices? What is good enough to prepare us for the celebration of the resurrection of Christ?

> "Ash Wednesday is a kind of baptismal branding. We are marked on our foreheads with the cross of Christ, which is a tree of life to beckon us back to the garden. . . coming back to baptism is hard work, like pruning vines, like plowing the earth, like the discipline of training for a contest. Of course, neither the hard work nor the training do the job. All of us will learn this once again, when Lent is over and we have failed but God has not." (*A Lent Source Book)*

Our Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil will start at 7:00 a.m. and continue to 7:00 p.m. Sign up in the church office on **Sunday, February 4 & 11,** for specific times during the day – more than one person is welcome at any time. We just want to make sure that someone is in the sanctuary at all times on that day.

The service will start at 7:30 p.m. with readings, music, prayer, and the imposition of ashes.

Good Friday Service

The Chancel Choir will present *Requiem* by Michael Haydn and *Hallelujah! What a Savior!* by Lloyd Larson and other composers on **Friday, March 30** (Good Friday) at 7:30 p.m. as part of Holy Week Celebrations at RHUMC. A chamber group from the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles will accompany.

We hope you'll save the date and join us!

Dawn Unity

"Moses and Jesus in Dialogue" is the topic of Dawn Unity's Interfaith Bible Lecture on **Sunday, February 11**, at 7:30 p.m. here at Rolling Hills United Methodist Church. It will be a very informative evening as two respected Biblical scholars and teachers will discuss Jewish and Christian views of the words of Torah or Five Books of Moses and the New Testament. Are there rules of what is important and how to live a good life in conflict or not, and if so, how? Guest speakers are Professor Daniel Smith-Christopher, Loyola Marymount University and Professor Marvin Sweeney, Claremont School of Theology, both widely published and will make this a memorable evening of Biblical insight. Bob Rothman is moderator. We hope you can join us for this free 90-minute program. For questions, please call 310-833-7008.

Youth Ministries Update

Ignite starts Wednesday, February 7th at 6:00 p.m. with a family meal followed by a kick-off meeting for parents and activities with the youth. Ignite will continue weekly on Wednesday nights, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

In addition to Ignite there will be monthly service opportunities and fellowship events. **Sunday School** for youth 6th-12th grade is now being offered in the Youth Lounge during the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday mornings.

Finally, **Sierra Service Project** fundraising has begun! If you are participating at SSP this year, keep your eye out for email updates and future events.

If you are interested in becoming involved, whether as an adult volunteer or youth participant, feel free to contact Kristin Reksc, the new Director of Youth Ministries, at Kristin@rhumc.org.

Confirmation 2018 is beginning!

Confirmation is a process by which youth have an opportunity to explore and affirm their faith and to celebrate their membership in the body of Christ and Rolling Hills United Methodist Church. Confirmation is open to high school youth. For more information, contact Kristin Reksc at kristin@rhumc.org or call the church office at 310-377-6771.

New Member Gathering

If you are interested in learning more about Rolling Hills UMC, plan to join us **Sunday, February 11**, 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, February 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.

FREE WEEKLY SUPPORT GROUP

Are you caring for someone with dementia? Are you burning out from chronic high levels of stress and strain on the family? Do you deal with common symptoms of dementia, from agitation and combatitiveness to financial carelessness? If so, these support groups can help.

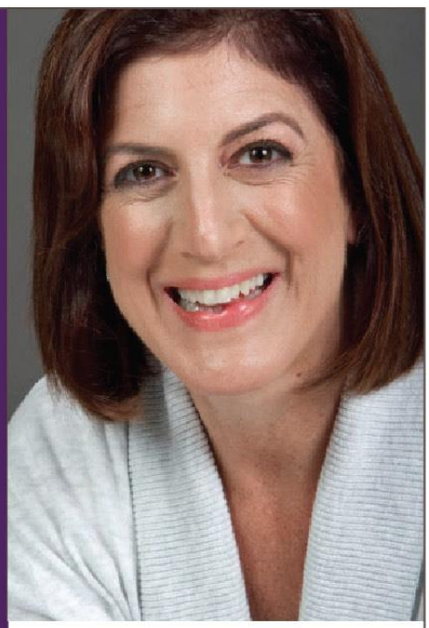
Memory, Coffee and Compassion Support Group™

Every Wednesday in February
10:00 - 11:30 AM
February 7, 14, 21, 28

10:00 - 11:30 am

Rolling Hills Methodist Church
26438 Crenshaw Blvd.
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

Complimentary light breakfast will be served.



Led by Lauren Spiglanin, Care Manager, and facilitator / educator for the Alzheimer's Association. Lauren has been helping South Bay families negoatiate the many dimensions of dementia for more than ten years. Join Lauren to learn how to survive and thrive through the stress.

Visit www.familyconnectcare.com for more information
For FREE registration, please phone (310) 383-1877 today

alzheimer's association

Yoga Class is Back!

Come try out our gentle yoga class led by Joe Usiewicz on Thursday mornings from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Mission Room. No previous experience necessary! This class will put a smile on your face and joy in your heart. We hope you can join us!

Save the Date

Health and Wellness Service Opportunity

RHUMC Blood Drive
Friday, March 9 and Monday, March 12

Located in the beautiful Blood Donor Center at Torrance Memorial Medical Center
Donor sign-ups will begin Sunday, February 18 after all 3 services on the patio or in the narthex.

A See's Candy or Starbuck's gift card will be offered to each donor!

We are excited to have Teresa James and the Rhythm Tramps perform for us in our sanctuary on **Friday, February 16**, at 7:30 p.m. She is an acclaimed singer/pianist/songwriter of Texas-style rhythm and blues and has been playing at our 3rd service Sunday evening services. The group will perform well-known songs as well as original tunes by Teresa and her husband, Terry. Come join the fun!

Women's Retreat

27 of us traveled to Old Mission San Luis Rey, Oceanside to share a weekend filled with, grace, love and learning to "Breathe Deeply and Live Freely." Led by April we experienced great sharing, good food, and meeting new friends in a simple beautiful setting. We were all blessed!

RHUMC Habitat Build Day

Saturday, March 24, will be our day to help Habitat build a home for a deserving family at 1950 Henderson Avenue in Long Beach.

There are several ways you can help: 1) Work at the site that day, 2) Provide and/or help make lunch for the workers, 3) Call Habitat Restore for a truck to pick up items you'd like to donate for resale, 4) Donate items for the job site, 5) Pray for a successful day for our church members and for the family who will occupy the home.

The lists below will give you an idea of what items the Habitat Restore wants and what items are needed on site.

The ReStore accepts (but is not limited to) the following materials: Appliances, cabinets, doors, furniture, hardware, lumber, tile and more.

The following items are needed on the job site:

- Tools (powered and hand held)-saws, drills, nail guns, wrenches, screwdrivers, utility knives, tape measures, wide blue tape
- Gardening tools-rakes, brooms, trash cans/bags, shovels etc.
- Misc. work items-saw horses, buckets, toolboxes, workbenches, gloves, etc.
- Power cords-heavy duty preferred
- Paint supplies-paint brushes (in good condition), trays, buckets, gloves, etc.
- Misc.-sunscreen, pop up shade, exterior chairs or benches, folding tables, ice chests

For the three Sundays before the Build Day, the Missions Committee will have a table on the patio with sign-up sheets and more information.

Second Sundays at Two

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

~ presents ~

Stars of Tomorrow

from the

USC Thornton

School of Music

SO-MANG JEAGAL *piano,* **JUSTIN WOO** *violin,*
KEVIN HSU *viola,* **BEN LASH** *cello,*
KAELAN DECMAN *bass*

Performing Franz Schubert's Great Masterpiece

The Trout Quintet

Free-Will Offering

2018-2019 Fall Registration
Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool
310-377-0742

Registration Dates

Friday, February 16 to Friday, February 23

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church Members and Preschool Committee Members

Monday, February 26 through Friday, March 2

CURRENTLY ENROLLED and RETURNING FAMILIES

All registration cards MUST BE RETURNED by Friday, March 2.

Monday, March 12 through Friday, March 16

WAITING LIST FAMILIES

The waiting list families will be contacted by phone to come and register based on available spaces left after the above registration. Boy/girl ratio is also taken into consideration.

Wednesday, March 21 – NEW FAMILIES, OPEN ENROLLMENT

After all the above registration, if we have an available space, the child will be enrolled based on boy/girl ratio in class and age. If not, the child will be put on the waiting list and will be contacted as soon as a space becomes available.

FALL CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Currently enrolled families will receive fall class assignments on Monday, March 26 and Tuesday, March 27.

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

We hope you can join us on **Tuesday, February 13**,
for dine in or take out purchases at
King's Hawaiian
2808 W. Sepulveda Blvd
Torrance
(310) 530-0050
between 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

and/or

King's Hawaiian-The Local Place Bakery & Café
18605 S. Western Avenue
Torrance
(310) 523-3233
between 7:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

15% of your food bill will be donated back to our preschool.
Hope to see you there!

HUKILAU
Fundraiser

Come show your support for
Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool (RHUMPS)
Organization Name
Scheduled on
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
Date of Event

Hukilau Fundraiser Details
15% of proceeds* will be donated to the above organization.
Please present this flyer to your service provider or cashier to show your support!

KING'S HAWAIIAN
Restaurant Hours
Sunday – Thursday 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
Friday – Saturday 7:00 AM – 11:00 PM
Bakery Hours
Open Daily 6:00 AM
Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner | Dine In or Take Out
2808 W. Sepulveda Blvd. Torrance, CA. (310) 530-0050

The Local Place
Restaurant & Bakery
Sunday – Thursday 7:00 AM – 9:00 PM
Friday – Saturday 7:00 AM – 10:00 PM
Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner | Dine In or Take Out
18605 S. Western Ave. Torrance, CA. (310) 523-3233

This flyer must be presented at the time of purchase.

Redeemable at both King's Hawaiian® locations in Torrance on the date and hours listed above.
Fundraiser may not be combined with any other offers, discounts or special promotions.

*Proceeds are calculated on pre-tax Restaurant & Bakery dine-in or take out purchases, only on the date of fundraiser.
Non-Qualifying purchases include: Gift Cards, Merchandise, Restaurant & Bakery Catering orders, Alcoholic Beverages, Bakery pre-orders, Wedding cake orders, Previous orders & purchases.

For more information or inquiries on our Hukilau Fundraiser,
Please contact a Manager at our Sepulveda Location at (310) 530-0050

Parents Night Out
Saturday, February 24th
4:30-8:30 pm

Take an evening off 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*
Costs:	*$25 per child/$10 for each additional sibling (new rates)*
Registration:	*Email Debra@rhumc.org or call the church office at (310) 377-6771, ext. 106 with your child's name and age.*

We have begun hiring for Summer Camp Counselors and Jr. Counselors. We are looking for fun, energetic youth interested in becoming a part of our summer family. You must be 16 years old to apply for a paid Counselor position. Graduating 8th graders and older may apply for our Jr. Counselor/Volunteer Program to earn volunteer hours.

Applications are due by **MARCH 16, 2018**

Here is how to apply:

1. Email Megan: kidzone.midzone@gmail.com
2. Fill out the Application that can be found on the website – rhumc.org/ministries/childrens-ministries/kid-zone-camps

Save the date
July 30 – August 3
Vacation Bible Camp

Love kids and God? We have the job for you!

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church is seeking to hire a Sunday School teacher for our 2nd/3rd grade children. The class is every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Duties would include: Compose and teach Bible lessons (scripture text and lesson plan possibilities are provided); greet children by name and assist with welcome cart; help establish a caring, safe and loving environment for our children.

If interested please contact Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org.

Second Sundays Supper

We hope you can join us for dinner on **Sunday, February 11,** 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.

Club Maintenance

On January 13th a group of 8 fellows and one scout took care of many items on our maintenance work list. Completed tasks included repair of part of the deteriorating fence around our air conditioning yard, mouse hole sealing in three locations, tree trimming and other miscellaneous tasks.

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be at 8:30 a.m. on **Saturday, February 10**. Please mark this date on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair. And note that a lunch is served. Also note that Bob Chamberlin will be the coordinator for this work day.

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
Kid Zone Director	Megan Pelc	Exec. Asst. to Pastor	Roksolana Vecerek
Children's Ministry Dir.	Debra DeLuca	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Youth Ministry Dir.	Kristin Reksc	Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Junior High Youth	Nicole Benson	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Treasurer	Robin La Tourette		
Church Business Mgr.	Nicole Lowery Zakman		

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 February 23
www.rhumc.org