The Cornerstone

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

March 2018

*from the pastor*s *Jonathan Chute*

"…Now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."
- Song of Solomon 2:11-12

Well, these words from scripture may seem a bit premature. In fact, the rain has only recently come, and it followed a surprising stretch of cool and windy days. But the days *are* getting longer, and soon we will experience the blessing of Daylight Saving Time. I have seen buds opening up in our garden at home, and the promise of the earth's renewal is all around us.

One of the central themes of the Christian life is the opportunity to make a new beginning. That's behind Jesus' invitation to "repent, and believe in the gospel." To repent is to turn in a new direction, to start over. The story of God's people is the story of new beginning after new beginning. When we find ourselves headed in a direction that no longer makes any sense, we stop, turn around, and try a new path. In the Bible, even God gets stuck at times, and has to do the same. Genesis, Exodus and Jonah all use the term "repent" to describe what people saw as a change in God's mind.

The journey from Lent, into Holy Week and finally to Easter, is a dramatic expression of the lengths and depths to which God will go to offer us this new beginning. In these coming weeks, I invite you to be open to the possibility that this gift remains available to you, and to others. Not everyone will take up that opportunity, but it remains open to all. Whether we have given up on someone – even if that someone is ourselves – God has not, and is working even now to bring healing and hope to those who are broken. That is the word of grace that comes to us in and through these days.

I also want to let you know that progress continues toward the start of work on our new educational facilities, scheduled to break ground later this Spring. We have most of the approvals in hand for the permanent structures. Next is the completion of permits and approvals for the portable temporary classrooms to be installed in the new parking lot, alongside Crenshaw Blvd. This will allow us to continue our excellent children's programs, from Preschool and Kid Zone to Sunday School and Vacation Bible Camp while we are under construction. If all goes as planned, the portables will be in place by the end of May, so that demolition can go forward in June. Our goal is for that to take place after Preschool Graduation and before the start of Summer School.

As we move closer to groundbreaking, we will be putting together a regular email construction update, outlining progress and sharing pictures of the work. When that's ready, we'll provide an easy sign-up so that anyone who's interested can do so.

The original classroom buildings served us for fifty years, but as the One who was seated on the throne says in Revelation 21:5, "Behold, I am making all things new."

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends -

On the last day of last month, I went to LAX to pick up my daughter. Two airplanes had carried her across miles and time zones to bring her from Brazil for a visit to Southern California. In anticipation of her arrival I laundered sheets and towels, purchased her favorite food, and set aside time to enjoy her company. Happy occasions provoke us to anticipation and preparation.

So it is now in the season of Lent. Happy occasions are ahead of us in the form of various opportunities for learning, service, and spiritual growth; family gatherings; concerts and special worship services; time for contemplation and renewal; and then the thrill of Easter Sunday on April 1. Arrangements to plan, promote, and support these events are even now being made. I am looking forward to all of it, and in particular our "Focus on Youth" Sunday, which will be observed on March 18.

Focusing on youth means we will welcome the leadership of young people in worship *and* we will offer parents a chance to strengthen their skills and abilities for navigating the older elementary and middle school years with their sons and daughters. Kristin Rekc is helping the youth prepare their contributions. Michelle Dexter will share her wisdom and expertise by leading the parenting workshop. Debra DeLuca is making plans for the children to have good experiences in Sunday School, as well as arranging for a fun program for the kids whose parents stay for the after-worship workshop. Each is receiving great support from an array of church staff members and volunteers. We are encouraged by the knowledge that the whole church recognizes the value of the mission.

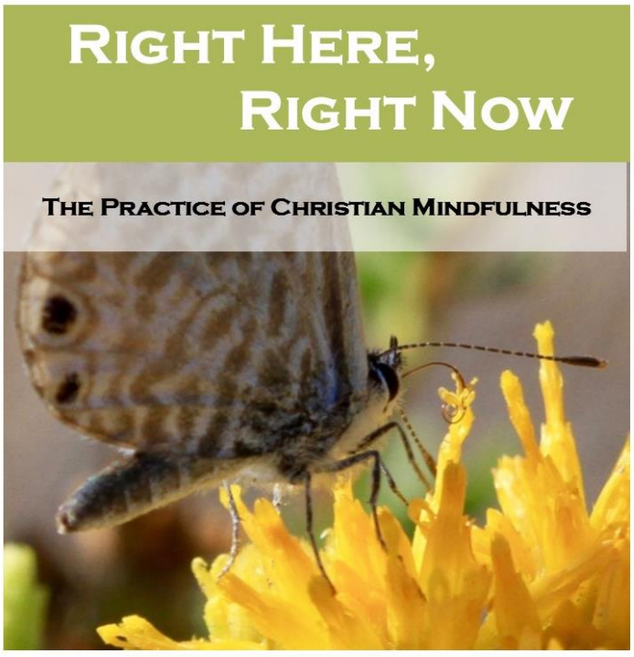
I am grateful that our entire community of faith can join in the anticipation of being touched and inspired by the grace of God at various points throughout the month to come. Happiness shared is happiness multiplied, especially when the sharing is with people that we treasure. You all are special to me. Thanks for being such wonderful companions for the journey to Easter!

God's peace to you,

April

Lenten Message from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

"Hang out with God." This was my pastor's suggestion to the congregation on the first Sunday in Lent about how to spend this season. Since God is present everywhere all of the time, beyond us and within us, he was not suggesting that we go somewhere to spend time with God in God's favorite hanging out place. He meant just paying attention to God's eternal presence with you and within you. One good Lenten exercise is to pay attention to your inner body. Feel the life energy that is in you giving life to every organ and cell. Feel the life energy that is at the same time in every part of your body, in your hands, arms, legs and feet – in your abdomen and chest. Focus on the feeling of life in your inner body without thinking about it. Just feel it. The more attention you give it, the stronger the feeling of life will be. You are connected with God through this awareness of life within you. If you "hang out with God" as a practice in your life, you can feel anchored in your whole body and will find new depth in life. You can withstand troubles and challenges with stability. If you have spent time hanging out with God, you can go within and focus on the inner energy field of your body where God is present. You are like a tree with deep roots, or a building with a solid foundation. The church has used the season of Lent across the centuries to remind us that an important part of our faith journey is time spent hanging out with God.



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

Presented by Dr. Michelle Dexter
Sunday, March 18, 2018, 11:30 am
Mission Room

Parenting is both challenging and rewarding. Each unique age and stage brings new milestones for children and adolescents. Parents need to adjust (and readjust) in order to meet the needs of their children and help them develop resilience and self-compassion needed to become successful adults. This workshop will discuss helpful information and skills that can be used to both nurture your child and allow them to make their own mistakes.

Lunch & childcare/youth activities provided with reservation.
Please indicate your plans to attend by calling or emailing:
(310) 377-6771
churchoffice@rhumc.org

UMCOR Sunday-March 11

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) lives out a mission to alleviate human suffering. UMCOR provides humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries when war, conflict or natural disaster strikes. On **Sunday, March 11**, we will have a special offering to help underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." Funds raised will help UMCOR keep their promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. Special envelopes will be inserted in the Sunday Worship bulletin. Thank you for your generosity.

Daylight Saving Time
Sunday, March 11

Dawn Unity

The Dawn Unity Group's Interfaith Discovery Series will present "The Responsibilities of a Religious Leader" on **Tuesday, March 6**, 7:30 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5845 Crestridge, RPV. How do clergy provide moral leadership in the world today? The panelists discussing how they manage these issues will be Rabbi Charles Briskin, Temple Beth El; Reverend Jon Gathje, St. Paul's Lutheran Church; President Mike Gazdik of our host congregation; and Reverend Paula Vukmanic, St. Francis Episcopal Church. Bob Rothman will be the moderator for this free, ninety-minute program. For further information call (310) 833-7008.

Dinner For Eight

Make new RHUMC friends and renew old friendships in a casual and relaxed atmosphere!

Sign up for a **Dinner For Eight** group so that you can get to know people over a shared meal.

- Groups will include approximately eight adults.
- They are encouraged to meet 3-4 times in the next year.
- Groups choose their own dates, times and locations to meet. Meals can be potlucks, picnics, or enjoyed at a restaurant. It's up to you!

To sign up, complete the form on the reverse side and return it to the church office or fill out the online form at http://rhumc.org/dinner-eight-2018/.

Contact Kathy Christie at KMarieChristie@gmail.com or (818) 383-9283 if you have questions.

Dinner For Eight

Sign Up Form

Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Age group: __ 18-29 __ 30-39 __ 40-55 __ 55 & up

If joining as a couple, the name of your spouse or partner:
_____

__ Check here if you would like a kid-friendly dinner group
With enough interest, we can put families with children of similar ages in touch with one another.

Would you be willing to serve as lead host for your group?
__ yes __ no

Please list any food/pet allergies or dietary restrictions your group should be aware of:
_____
_____

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

You can still sign up to donate blood one of two ways:

1) After the March 4th worship services with a member from the Health and Wellness team or

2) Email Annette Matsuda, Parish Nurse at **annettematsuda@gmail.com**

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

Good Friday Service

The Chancel Choir will present *Requiem* by Michael Haydn and *Hallelujah! What a Savior!* by Lloyd Larson and other composers at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 30 (Good Friday) as part of Holy Week Celebrations at RHUMC. A chamber group from the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles will accompany. Michael Haydn is the lesser known brother of Franz Joseph Haydn (who is considered the father of symphonic music - he composed 106 symphonies!), and his *Requiem* is neither well known nor frequently performed. But it is very much from the Classical Era - composed in 1771, and is a forerunner to the Mozart *Requiem* - composed in 1791, and is a beautiful setting of the Latin text (please see http://www.requiemsurvey.org/latintext.php.). *Hallelujah! What a Savior!* is a contemporary cantata that celebrates the Crucified and Risen Christ that includes readings from relevant Biblical texts. Please plan now to attend this free concert.

Saturday, March 31st
10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt, crafts, and games for all ages.
Please help us make this event extra special by donating a dozen stuffed plastic eggs.

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers are invited to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter! We will meet on Saturday morning, March 31, at 8:30 AM. One crew will decorate the large narthex cross outside. The other crew will decorate the inside of the sanctuary. This is a wonderful opportunity to start your Easter with beautiful flowers!

Help us decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

You are invited to donate one or more Easter plants to decorate the sanctuary for Easter services. 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 March 25th. Thank you!

Missions News

RHUMC Habitat Build Day – Saturday, March 24th, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.,
1950 Henderson Ave., Long Beach

Have you ever wanted a short-term commitment to help Habitat for Humanity? Last April, a group of RHUMC members traveled to Weed, California and spent a week helping build a house. Not many people can commit to a whole week in a distant location, but this next month we have a chance to help a local family in Long Beach! Watch for our signup tables the first Sundays of March. Come pick up a packet of information to participate. We need willing volunteers for these activities: work at the site (onsite training!) or prepare lunches for the workers. Not physically able to participate? You may support Habitat with your donations to ReStore (they'll come pick them up).

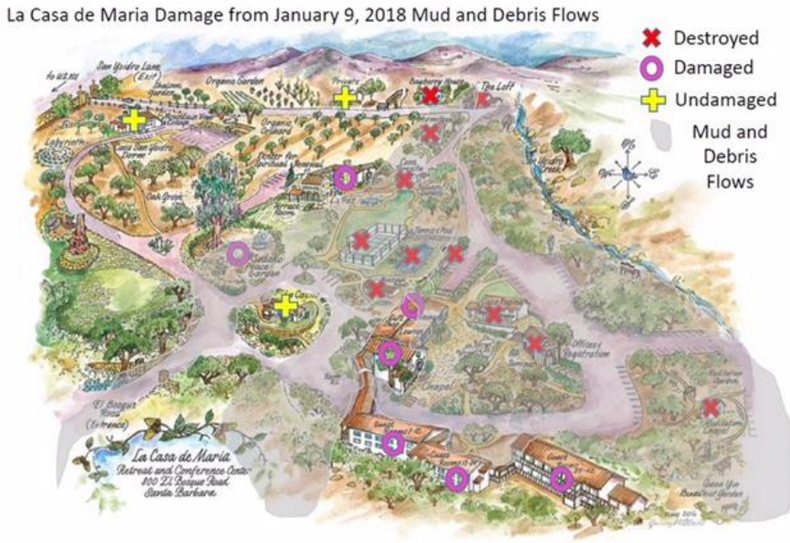
Annual CROP Walk – Sunday, May 20th, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.,
South Coast Botanical Garden.

The walk to bring awareness to hunger issues returns to our neighborhood this May. Signups will start closer to the event, but you can put it on your calendar now. We walk because they walk, for water, for food.

Update on La Casa de Maria Rebuild

After having to relocate for our retreat in January due to the mudslides in Montecito, many of us donated the refunds due back to us to a fund to help La Casa de Maria rebuild. We have collected $1500, and wanted to give those of you who have experienced Casa's hospitality or just want to make a difference where it will really help, an opportunity. A check written to RHUMC with Casa in the memo line will become part of the fund raising effort. We will extend this to Sunday March 18th. I have included just how devastating the mudslides were.

Patty Koester, Retreat Team Leader



Lazy W Ranch
faith grows here

Save the Date
Memorial Day Weekend
May 26-28
Family Camp
at Lazy W Ranch in San Juan Capistrano

Second Sundays Supper

We hope you can join us for dinner on **Sunday, March 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

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be at 8:30 a.m. on **Saturday, March 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.

Thank You Maureen Banasky

The Hospitality Committee got together at the Red Onion to celebrate and thank Maureen Banasky for her 16 plus years as Hospitality Committee Chairperson. Thank you Maureen for your unwavering leadership!

Second Sundays At Two

Sunday, March 11, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Acclaimed longtime Concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic
and now USC Thornton faculty member **Glenn Dicterow** *(below, center)*
and renowned fellow USC faculty members,
pianist **Bernadene Blaha** *(left)* & violist **Karen Dreyfus** *(right)*

and two top students from the USC Thornton School of Music,
cellist **Benjamin Lash** *(left)* & violinist **Mann-Wen Lo** *(right)*,

perform César Franck's great Romantic-Era masterpiece
Piano Quintet in F Minor

~~~ This will be a special Music-for-Food concert ~~~
100% of the Contributions for Local Hunger Relief!

Free-Will Offering

Youth Ministries Announcements

Wednesday Nights
6:00 p.m.-6:30 Dinner
6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Activity/small groups

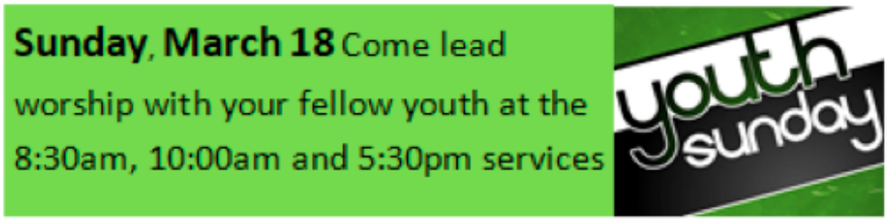
March 7 - "The Choice is Yours"
March 14 - Youth Sunday Rehearsal
March 21 - "Super Hero Night" (Dress as your favorite character and participate in "random acts of kindness" around town. RSVP is encouraged to ensure we have enough drivers.)
March 28 - Holy Week 101

Youth Service Opportunities:

- Habitat for Humanity **March 24**
- Easter Egg Hunt **March 31**
- Coming up…. Relay for Life **April 21 @ 9 a.m. - April 22 @ 9 a.m.**

Remember, these service events can count as hours towards The annual Presidential Volunteer Service Awards (PVSA)

Contact Kristin Reksc for more information at kristin@rhumc.org



Kid Zone

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

Kid Zone presents

***Under the Sea** Spring Break Camp*

Kindergarten to 5th!

March 26 -30 or April 2-6

5% off** if you register and pay by **March 16 2018

For more information

Call: 310-377-7302

Email: kidzone.midzone@gmail.com

Save the Date

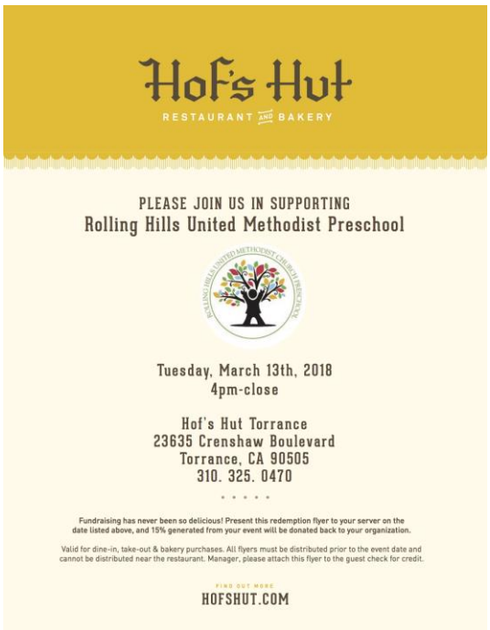
July 30 – August 3

Vacation Bible Camp

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

We hope you can join us on **Tuesday, March 13,** at Hof's Hut Torrance from 4:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. and 15% of your purchases from dine-in, take-out and/or bakery will be donated back to our preschool.

Hof's Hut Torrance
23635 Crenshaw Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90505
310-325-0470



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 March 23
www.rhumc.org