The Cornerstone

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

July 2018

from the pastors — *Jonathan Chute*

"Something will work." These words, once offered by a friend, were his attempt to correct an assumption we make when things are going wrong. In the face of apparent disaster, we come to the conclusion that "Nothing will work." That approach brings an expectation of defeat to any project. It sets us up for failure. It isn't true, and it definitely isn't helpful.

Sometimes in an effort to be positive we overcorrect. We end up insisting, "Everything will work!" That isn't true either, and may not be any more helpful than our earlier pessimism. This approach sets us up for failure as well, because we know that everything *doesn't* always work. The good news is that everything doesn't *have to* work. If that were the case nothing would ever get done.

I found myself remembering these words as our construction began this past month. The delivery of the portable classrooms went smoothly, especially considering the obstacles we faced. But then we got held up by a couple of administrative twists and turns. Our preschool teachers worked hard to get ready for a moving day that has yet to happen. They packed up their classrooms, hoping to be in the portables for summer school. Then they had to unpack them. It was disappointing for everyone. In a moment like that it's easy to feel defeated. We think, "Nothing will work!"

With 4th of July celebrations nearly here, it occurred to me how many things went wrong as the 13 colonies sought their independence from Great Britain. American forces were defeated in their effort to capture Canada. Washington's entire army barely escaped after being trapped on Long Island. They had no money to purchase supplies through the winter in Valley Forge. There were any number of near disasters along the way. I'm sure there were moments when even the most dedicated patriots began to think, "Nothing will work!"

In such times it helps to remember, “Everything doesn’t have to work.” It doesn’t! Those who sacrificed to bring about our independence showed that clearly. Despite defeat and failure along the way, they kept moving forward, working toward a goal that many take for granted today. The achievement of this new, free nation did not come easily. It is helpful to remember how much they had to overcome when we are challenged by the events of our day.

“Something will work.” I promise! Soon we will see more progress on the portables, and once they are ready the excitement will really begin. Even then, I know that there will be other frustrations and challenges to come. “Not everything will work.” I promise that too!

“Something will work.” It’s true in church building projects and nation building projects. It’s true as we grow in the grace of God each day.

In the parable of the sower, Jesus describes the kingdom of God as a farmer sowing seed on the ground. Some of the seed fell among the weeds, some along the path, some in the rocks. But when it fell into good and healthy soil, it brought forth a rich harvest – 30, 60, 100 times what was planted. That is God’s promise to us.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

July 1 marks the beginning of my fourth year at Rolling Hills UMC. July 15th is my birthday. But these are not the only two happy milestones being marked in my life at the moment. There is an additional, and rather monumental, significant event in the works. I am planning to be married!

When I arrived at RHUMC I had been officially single for ten years. In those years my two daughters completed high school and college. One earned a Master's degree and deepened her devotion to wilderness places; the other moved to a different country, started a business and fell in love with the man who is now her husband. I was happily immersed in ministry with the wonderful people of Pacific Beach UMC, and they supported me in earning my Doctor of Ministry. I learned a lot about myself in those years; I experienced God as steadfast and faithful.

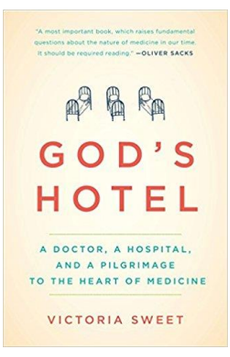
Moving to a new part of Southern California, from a parsonage big enough for a family to an apartment just for me, and joining the staff of a church more than twice the size of my previous congregation represented lots of change for me. You all have been generous and encouraging in sharing your lives, faith, and wisdom as I learned to make a home here among you. I already felt tremendously blessed, and then, a little more than a year ago, my heart began to open to something else that was new: a special relationship.

Those of you who know Bob Chamberlin know of his personal integrity, his dedication to the church, his deep curiosity about the Bible and the world, his willingness to share his gifts in service to what he values and believes, his compassion toward those who are struggling, and his wonderful sense of humor. I am delightedly and profoundly grateful for Bob's suggestion and invitation that we join our lives together going forward. I must admit we are both rather astonished to find ourselves on this unexpected adventure together. I thank all of you for sharing our joy as we anticipate a wedding in late December at our beloved RHUMC.

In the peace of Christ,

April

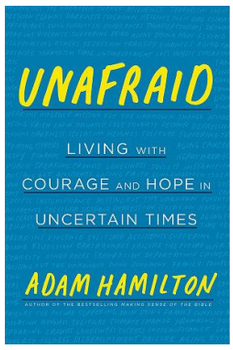
Reading That Awakens Faith



This summer might be a good time to read a book and join a discussion! All readers are invited to join our conversation about *God's Hotel - A Doctor, a Hospital, and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine* on **Monday, August 6**, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. The book is a memoir written by Victoria Sweet and published in 2012. Amidst a collection of moving stories of patients for whom she has cared, Dr. Sweet recounts her explorations of the classical and Christian roots of healing practices, noting the ways we have subsequently deepened or diverged from those roots. She offers insightful ways to think about health, as well as suggestions about how we might improve our experiences of health care today.

Oliver Sacks described this as “a most important book, which raises fundamental questions about the nature of medicine in our time. It should be required reading.” April Herron will facilitate the discussion.

Sunday Bible Study



In July we, the searchers/seekers will undertake a brand new 5-week study of Adam Hamilton's newest book *Unafraid*. We know Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid," but with everything going on in the world, how is it possible not to be anxious? The vast majority of fears have almost no basis in reality. These fears are often vestiges of primitive "fight or flight" instincts that mostly, no longer apply. Making matters worse is the overwhelming presence of media, divisive politics and natural disasters that wreak havoc with our state of mind.

But there is good news as trusted Pastor Adam Hamilton will lead us on a 5-week study of Scripture and faith (using text and videos) that promises to show us how we can live with courage and hope. Topics include:

1. Understanding and conquering Fears
2. Crime, Race, Terrorism and Politics
3. Failure, Disappointments, and Loneliness
4. Change, Missing Out, and Finances
5. Aging, Illness, Dying and Fear of the Lord

We meet every Sunday in the Aldersgate room at 10:00 a.m.
Refreshments are always served.

NUTS & BOLTS, GRACE & HOPE

A DAY OF LEARNING FOR TEACHERS AND MENTORS

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 2018
10:00 AM TO 2:00 PM

LOCATION:

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

Teachers and classroom volunteers, youth ministry volunteers, SSP & after school program counselors, Vacation Bible Camp volunteers, parents & grandparents interested in supporting their children's growth and development, anyone interested in United Methodist beliefs and practices.

PROGRAM:

10:00 am to 11:30 am – *Session with Keynote speaker Jen Hoggan.*

11:30 am to Noon *Lunch*

Noon to 2:00 pm – *Two workshop sessions. Participants will choose based on their interest.*

REGISTRATION:

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

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

Tiny Chairs, Tight Reins, and Tickled Pink

Teaching children's Sunday School and loving it. Yes, it's possible!

Get Smart!

Did you know there are eight kinds of "smarts"? Discover how to make use of multi-sensory, multiple intelligence learning styles. Learn practical strategies for planning engaging lessons and working with group dynamics.

You Don't Know Jackie: United Methodist Beliefs

Strengthen your understanding of the church's proclamation and practice of the Christian faith.

Seeds to Branches

The mustard seed starts out very small. With time, it becomes a plant offering hospitality to many birds. Humans, too, go through processes of development. We'll talk about stages of faith and ways to nurture our sense of God's nearness and love.

Message from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

I was excited to learn from Jonathan that the congregational meeting about the proposed building program went well and that the children in the preschool will soon be able to watch the fascinating construction equipment that will perform for them nearby. Construction is a love/hate affair. I hate the inconvenience, the dust, the noise. But I love the wonder of watching new things unfold before my eyes, with all of the expectation of opportunities they will bring. I am also excited to learn that the building will be equipped for solar energy with the exception of the actual solar panels. The wiring, the meters, the plumbing (for washing down the panels), etc. And when the cost of the building is covered, the panels can be installed. The good old sun will cover ½ of the church's electric bills. A substantial amount of fossil fuel with be left in the ground and the air will be cleaner. Makes inconvenience, dust and noise a small price to pay when you get not only the buildings, but this wonderful step forward in caring for our world.

Mission News

Christmas in July for Amigos Pantry

We at RHUMC provide six meals a year for the Amigos Circle of Life program, which serves those with HIV/AIDS and their families. Clients and their families go home with full bellies and also with bags of groceries from the Amigos pantry. At Christmas, Amigos receive large donations of food but by mid-year some supplies are running low. You can help by bringing donations of non-perishable food and household supplies to any Sunday service in July. Most needed items are beans, rice, peanut butter, canned meat and fish, oatmeal and raisins. Just look for the Trader Joe's cart with the "Christmas in July" sign and drop off your donations. Thank you!

Jackie Showalter for the Mission Committee

Earth Keepers 2018

"With over a thousand references to the earth and caring for creation in the Bible, the message is clear: all in God's creation - nature, animals, humanity - are inextricably linked to one another."

\- Introduction to the Green Bible, 2009

Our Earth Keepers group representing eight states and including pastors, lay people, recent seminary graduates, and a young couple who met as missionary children in Latin America.

When I was in college I fell head-over-heals in love with nature. Even all these years later (whoa, can it really be fifty?) I am still awed by the intricacies of each life form, the elegance of how all life plays together in God's grand symphony. Lately, I've been wondering if there was something more I should be doing—maybe even things we as a church could do to develop and deepen our care for God's creation. This spring I had the opportunity to explore some possibilities when I attended the United Methodist Church's Earth Keepers Training at the UMC Global Ministries Headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia.

It is hard to describe the depth of connection we felt to one another and the inspiration we gleaned from each other as we were ably led by staff of the UMCOR Sustainable Development and Creation Care teams. We reflected on the theology of creation care, bared our souls about racism, discrimination and reconciliation, toured the sustainable building headquarters of a local nonprofit, worked on the design and presentation of our own creation care projects, had communion and worshiped together. It was a pleasure to walk our walk and talk our talk: we were served delicious vegetarian meals, used a van or walked between hotel and Global Ministries, brought our own water bottles and mugs, and composted our leftovers, including our paper plates and paper ware utensils. We also "rated" our meeting on the United Methodist Women's Thirteen Guidelines for Sustainable Event Planning.

Early Sunday morning we made our project presentations and then joined in worship at our host church, Grace UMC. It was Pentecost Sunday and the symbolism of the Holy Spirit in the flaming bowl on the altar was not lost on us. God was charging us to go out into the world and act on what we had learned. Creation Care ministries are growing throughout the United Methodist Church!

I hope you will join me in exploring ways we can enhance our care of God's creation. We are considering some activities for this fall, maybe a book and/or Bible study or a sustainability workshop of some kind. If you have ideas to share or would like to know more about Earth Keepers, feel free to contact me. And if you are interested in taking the training yourself, (There are two more this year, September in Detroit and November in Salt Lake City), here is the website with more information: https://www.umcmission.org/Learn-About-Us/Events/earthkeepers-training-2018

Susan Deo

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, July 8 at 2:00 p.m.

iPalpiti Soloists

DUO DE ASCANIIS

Violinist **DAVIDE DE ASCANIIS**

Pianist **SARA DE ASCANIIS**

Virtuoso siblings **Davide** and **Sara De Ascaniis** from Italy perform Franz Schubert's Fantasie in C and Leos Janácek's Sonata for violin and piano as part of the 2018 *iPalpiti Festival* in Southern California from June 28 to July 18.

Free-Will Offering

Drop-In Drawing – Outdoor Salon

Who can not delight in the fresh and sunny resolve of an Impressionist painting? One looks at a Monet and can see the sketchiness of the brushstrokes come to vibrant life. How does this happen with such looseness? We might find out the looseness stemming from relaxation is the key, especially for outdoor drawing and painting.

Please consider joining RHUMC member and artist Curtis Green in the park for drawing pastoral scenes out of doors. You will be provided materials and guidance in drawing and a little insight on how to capture outdoor subjects. Please be aware that no experience is necessary and if you cannot draw a straight line, then all the better!

This two-hour event should be fun filled, with snacks and refreshments. Bring a hat, some sun block, and be ready to make your masterpiece!

At Chandler Park, across Crenshaw from RHUMC
Saturday, August 4 - 10:00 a.m. to noon
Park in City Hall lot for access to Chandler Park via a short uphill walk.
Email churchoffice@rhumc.org to let Curtis know to expect you.

Club Maintenance

Club Maintenance met on Saturday, June 16. Tasks included lubricating all door locks with a Teflon lubricant, fixing the west gate latch of the Wesley Hall patio, cleaning the Wesley Hall gutter, patching and painting the corner of the Aldersgate Room, reviewing contents of the fireproof storage cabinet, filling two large holes in the north driveway with asphalt, hand watering plantings around the temporary preschool buildings where the irrigation had been badly damaged, replacing a fluorescent bulb in the ceiling of the office building hallway, and starting a safety checklist for all buildings.

Bob Chamberlin, Clarence Fung, Dave Larson, Keith Levan, Eric Rasmussen, Oren Sheldon, and Jim Showalter managed to accomplish all this, and enjoyed a good lunch together afterwards. Bob Chamberlin is in charge of the next Club Maintenance meeting on **Saturday, July 14**, at 8:30 a.m. New members are always welcome!

Social Media

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church now has an Instagram page.
Follow us at rolling_hills_umc.

You can also follow our Youth Page at rhumcyouth_

Instagram

Second Sunday Supper

We hope you can join us for dinner on **Sunday, July 8,** after 3rd service. Dinner will include Hawaiian barbecue teriyaki chicken, salad and rice from L&L Hawaiian Barbecue. The requested meal donation is $5 per person, $15 per family. 3rd service takes place every Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Children's Ministry

RHUMC is seeking to hire a Nursery Room Teacher for every Sunday at 5:30 p.m. Duties would include: greeting parents and children as they sign in, caring for the children to the highest degree, ensuring their safety, being mindful of their developmental and special needs, story time, coloring, crafts and communicating with the Director of Children's Ministries with any issues that may arise. First Aid and CPR certification required. If interested, please contact Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org.

Youth Ministries is looking for all able-bodied sailors for Vacation Bible Camp! We need you for the following dates in July and August:

Sunday, July 29th, 6:45-8:00 p.m. – Decorating the Sanctuary immediately after the 5:30pm service

Friday, August 3rd, 12:15 p.m.-? – Taking down decorations in the Sanctuary, Narthex and Wesley Hall

Calling all bakers and homemakers!

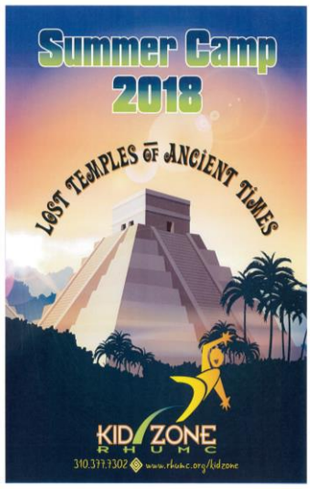
We are looking for volunteers to donate nut-free snacks for our hardworking volunteers during the week of Vacation Bible Camp.

Monday, July 30th – Friday, August 3rd

Cookies, muffins, fruit, granola bars, etc. (homemade or store bought all is welcome)

Please contact Debra DeLuca at Debra@rhumc.org or call (310) 377-6771

Kid Zone



Kid Zone and Mid Zone Summer Camp

To register, go online at rhumc.org or stop by the office to pick up a brochure.
For more information, call 310-377-7302 or email kidzone.midzone@gmail.com.
Hope to see you this summer!

Youth Ministries Upcoming Events

Presidential Volunteer Service Awards

It is time to turn in applications for the **PVSA, due by July 15, 2018**. Hours earned between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018 will count towards this year's award. There will be an award ceremony in September to present the youth with their certificates and pins. Applications and additional information can be found on the church website at https://rhumc.org/ministries/youth/service-opportunities-youth/

July 9 Mindfulness Monday

4:30-7:00 p.m. - Take time to relax and re-center with a guided meditation, followed by a beginner's level yoga class and concluded with prayer time for joys and concerns. If weather permits we will be in the meditation garden at RHUMC. Wear comfortable clothes and bring a yoga mat if you have one (there will be extra mats available to use as well.)

July 19 Gable House Laser Tag

7:00-10:00 p.m. - Unlimited Laser Tag - 22501 Hawthorne Blvd. Torrance, CA 90505. We will be meeting at the Gable House and parents will pick up their youth there at 10:00 p.m. when the event ends.

July 24 Museum of Tolerance

Senior High Only 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Youth will spend the day at the Museum of Tolerance then will gather for a late lunch and discussion over the experience. We will meet at the church at 10:00am and carpool. Please RSVP by

Sierra Service Project
Smith River, CA

Junior High Group
July 21-July 28, 2018

Senior High Group
July 28- August 5, 2018

SSP Sunday
August 12, 2018

Youth Sunday School

Sunday School is available for youth 6th-12th grade every Sunday during the 10:00 a.m. worship service in the Youth Lounge. Youth are also welcome to stay and worship in the service with their families.

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
Treasurer	Robin La Tourette	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
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 July 23
www.rhumc.org