The Cornerstone

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

September 2018

Come join us as we start off another wonderful year together.
The children will meet their new Sunday School teachers
and we will have a blessing of the backpacks.

There will be refreshments after both morning services
and L&L Hawaiian Barbecue after the 3rd Service.

Children will enjoy games, crafts and a special treat.
Join us for fun and fellowship where all are welcome!

*from the pastor*s *Jonathan Chute*

It would be fair to say that the summer has been busier than ever. On top of all the usual active and ongoing mission, we've had the tumult and drama of the start of construction on our new educational facilities. The portables showed up first, and once they were licensed and ready for occupancy the real work could begin. That has now been under way for about two weeks, and the place looks like a mess!

The good news is that we will have our driveway back for Sunday, and for many Sundays to come! It's not the final version, but I think you'll find it's still a lot nicer than the one it replaced. We moved and straightened it to make more room for our mission with children and families. When all is done we will have a more open and welcoming campus for everyone. A number of trees were removed as well. Some were in locations that will be under construction soon. Others had roots that would have been so damaged by the work that they would not have survived. I want to confirm that new trees are a part of the landscaping plan. They will appear when it is safe, after most of the construction has been completed.

As we move into September, we start with the celebration of Labor Day, recognizing the dignity of labor and all who work for a living. That's pretty well everyone, at least for some portion of our lives. But not much more than a century ago the idea was more than a little contentious. We weren't far removed from violent clashes – even riots – between workers and owners. These days, we're more likely to light a barbecue than start a revolution. But it's worth remembering where we came from, and being mindful of those who still struggle for enough to sustain their families.

On September 9, we will start the Fall off with a bang. It's Rally Sunday, so the choir will be back in their rightful places. They provide such warmth and spirit to our worship each Sunday, and we are grateful for joy they share. Our children will be back to their usual Sunday School classes, and we'll be giving Bibles to our new 4th graders during all three services. If you have a 4th grader this year please be sure to contact Debra DeLuca, our Children's Ministries Director, so that we will be ready for you that morning!

We will also be holding a Groundbreaking Ceremony to mark the official start of our construction. The demolition and grading will be mostly finished, and we will have nice, clean dirt for our shovels. We will be joined by our Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Grant Hagiya. Grant oversees the roughly 400 churches of southern California and Hawaii, but he lives just around the corner in the Hollywood Riviera section of Torrance. We look forward to the celebration, which will take place at about 11:15, where Building B used to be. There will be refreshments and fun for everyone on the patio that morning. We hope you can join us!

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

Among the myriad stories in the Bible about building, I have discovered a sense of kinship with the people of ancient times who took on a *re*building project out of a sense of memory and hope. These people remembered a past in which they and their community were thriving; a time in which their predecessors had honored God with the quality and beauty of their construction. They hoped for a future that would manifest continuity with the past; a time in which they would be able to proclaim God's goodness and share God's blessings with others. When asked to identify themselves and their project, they said, “We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and we are rebuilding the house that was built many years ago, which a great king of Israel built and finished” (Ezra 5:11).

I can't think of a better name for who and what I'd like to be than a servant of the God of heaven and earth! I admire the group of builders who declared this to be their identity and purpose. They were being watched by people who wanted to see their permits and possibly did not have the builders best interests at heart! They were trying to advance their own livelihood while also working on their shared project. They were volunteers, stretching their time and energy so as to be part of a worthy community endeavor. And they knew the source of their strength; they were proud of their heritage.

Like those ancestors in faith, we are building a new building on a familiar site. Happy preschoolers and Sunday School families loved the old buildings on this plot of ground, and used them so well they eventually fell apart. Now we get to recreate the function of a healthy place for learning and growing by putting up a brand new building using the best design and construction strategies currently available. Should anyone ask us what we are doing and why, we can say we are renewing our mission for the next generation. We can say we are eager to honor God and share God's grace through our efforts.

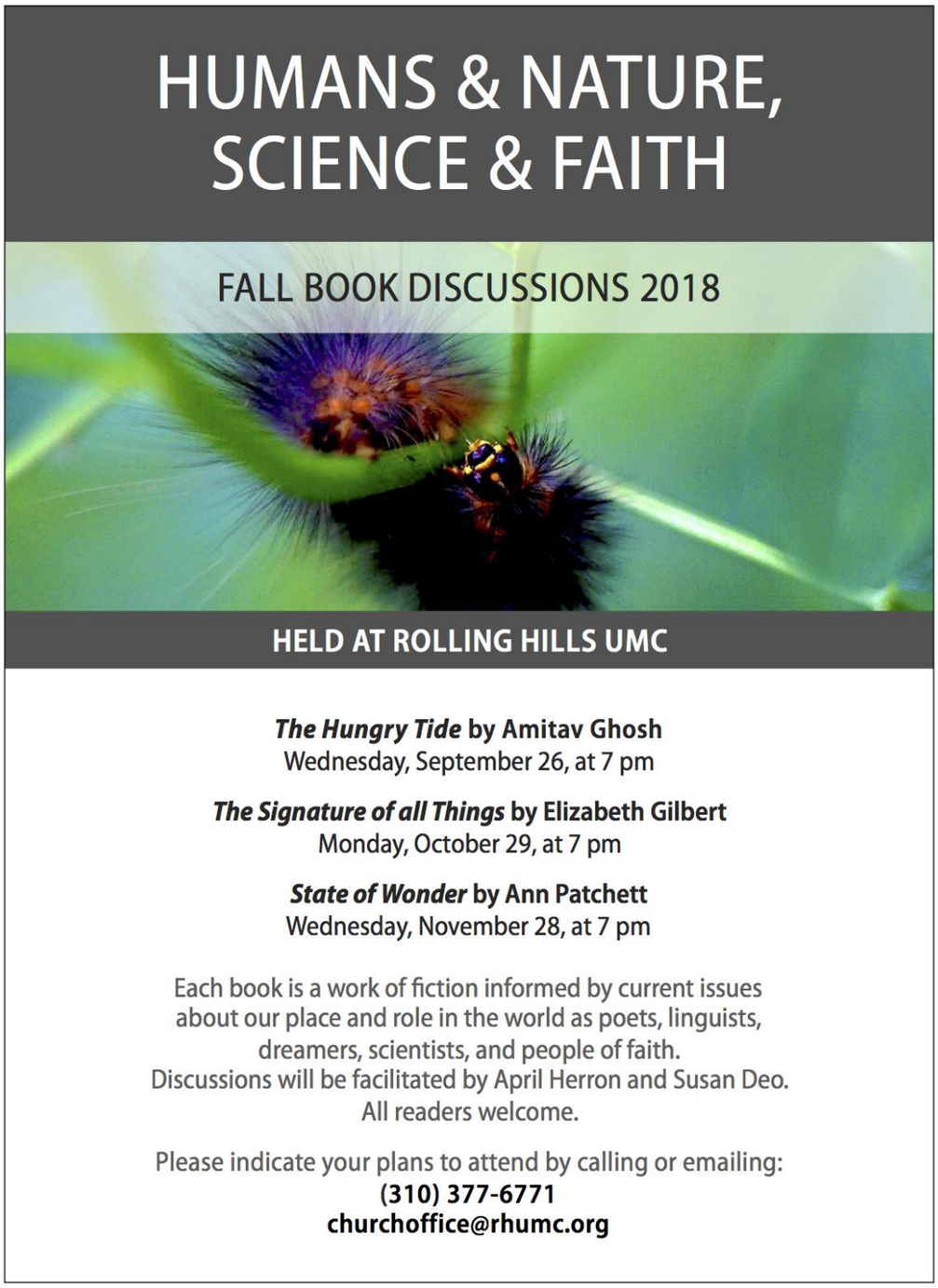
I am glad to be here at RHUMC during such exciting and rewarding times, even though the excitement and rewards come with a certain amount of inconvenience and low-level chaos. Each day, obstacles are overcome and new developments unfold. When the individuals and families of our church's future look back on our current undertaking, I imagine them doing so with gratitude. I certainly appreciate those who established the patterns of love and trust that we now follow.

May this season of building bring us joy!

April

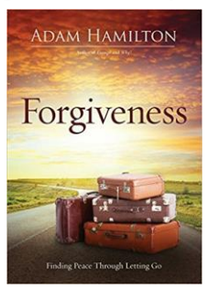
Message from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

Suellen Fung and I are working together on a story about her family’s experience in Singapore in World War II. When she was two months old, the Japanese took over Singapore and her Chinese heritage family were prisoners of war. I had known a little about this history when I was in Rolling Hills. But in July of 1991, I went to Singapore as a delegate from the California-Pacific Annual Conference to the eight day long Sixteenth World Methodist Conference. Suellen was visiting her family while I was there. The Conference was wisely planned with morning and evening sessions and free afternoons. Suellen picked me up at noon and brought me back after dinner and I saw Singapore. Bob played golf with her father. We also met her family and heard more about their wartime experience. Recently, I have been writing stories, and have just finished one about my ancestors’ experience of the Civil War. I approached Suellen about doing a story on this part of her history. She has shared her father’s summary of his experience and is turning up remarkable resources both about the military history and about the Methodist church in Singapore. Missionaries that she knew there had come from my home Conference in Virginia and my family knew them here. The name of the missionary who baptized her was familiar to me as a child. We are both excited about this project. I have a lot to learn before writing. One of my friends here says, “This ought to keep you off the streets!” I will share the story with you when it is done, maybe by Thanksgiving? In the meantime, you can commemorate the end of World War I on the 100th anniversary on November 11 by watching that story on YouTube. Check the title “Daddy, What Did You Do In the War?” with my last name and it will begin immediately a 30-minute showing. I am looking forward to this new connection with RHUMC friends.



Sunday Morning Bible Study

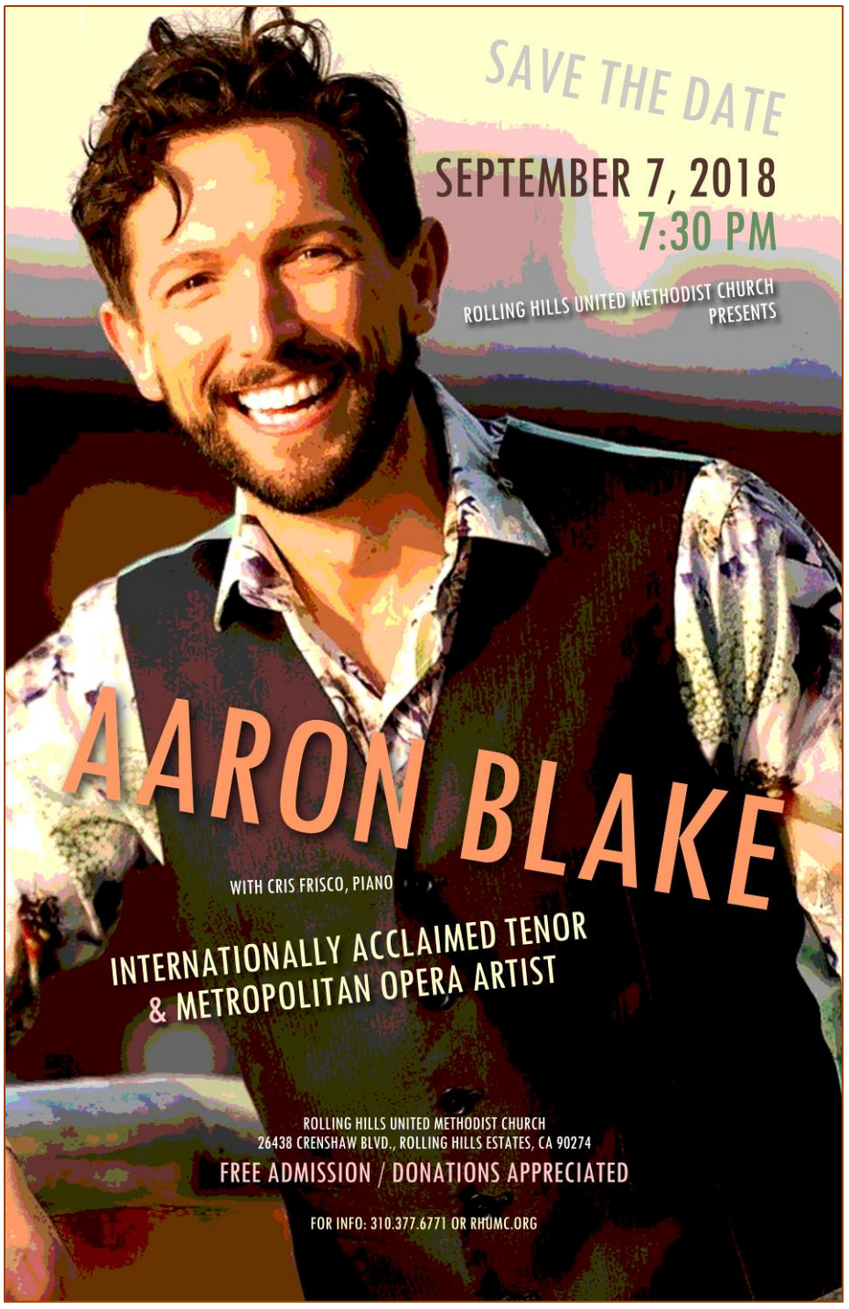
We are half way through our exploration of Adam Hamilton's *Unafraid.* Future discussions will be on "Fear of Failure," "Disappointing Others," "A Meaningless Life," "Loneliness," "Change" and "Running out of Money." We have attracted a diverse set of people from within the church community and outside. About 15 people gather to discuss and learn what they can do to alleviate fear especially of others.



We will continue to meet Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Aldersgate room until the beginning of October when we'll turn our attention to another topic that gives many of us heartburn "Forgiveness." A basic premise of the Christian religion and the teaching of Jesus.

Sunday Morning Church Audio Recordings

Want to get involved helping with our church audio? RHUMC is looking for a volunteer who wants to learn about our audio system and record the CD for the Sunday morning service. Generally, it's one service, occasionally two. It's exciting to learn and you'd be doing a great service. Just contact the office and we'll put you in touch with Ron McCoy and get you started.



We may be reached through the church office at: **(310) 377-6771**
or at: **(424) 262-6483**
Email is also a good way to reach us at:
pvtlcsingers@gmail.com

Who We Are

Last winter a few friends who love to sing gathered to form a new group. Made up of church members and friends, and choir members and friends, we discussed community service and harmonized together. Thus was born the TLC Singers.
We have sung for people in a variety of settings – in home or hospital, ill or grieving. The purpose? To bring soothing music that might recall warm memories and to offer the joy of song.

Crafting for a Purpose Class

The Health & Wellness Team gives a heartfelt thanks to those who participated in this rewarding activity!

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, September 9 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Pianist **ROBERT THIES**

Gold-Medal Winner of the International Prokofiev Competition

Called a pianist of "unerring, warm-toned refinement, revealing judicious glimmers of power" by *The Los Angeles Times*, **Robert Thies** first captured worldwide attention in 1995 when he won the Gold Medal at the Second International Prokofiev Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Robert Thies' recitals are highly regarded by aficionados not only for his consummate musicianship and his sensitive artistic interpretations, but also for his illuminating observations about the composers and the selections. In this all-Debussy recital, Robert will comment on the paintings that inspired Debussy, and Robert's comments will be illustrated by projected images of the paintings.

Free-Will Offering

Save the Date: The Copenhagen Girls' Choir Returning to Southern California in March 2019

Several years ago, we enjoyed the angelic voices of the Copenhagen Girls' Choir in concert at RHUMC. About one dozen families had the fun of hosting 2 or 3 of the teenagers in their homes for a few nights. The Girls are returning to Southern California in March of 2019 and plan to sing in our sanctuary on **Tuesday, March 26**. So, if you would like to attend the concert or might be interested in volunteering as a host family, mark the last week of March 2019 on your calendars! The choir (this time about 65 girls!) will be in Northern California first and will arrive in Southern California on Monday, March 25, and fly home Friday, March 29. If you have any questions about the Choir or would like to know more about hosting 2 or 3 of these 14-16 year-olds, feel free to contact Susan Deo: nasdeo76@gmail.com or 310-373-9826. More information on the particulars after the first of the year!

Save the Date - RHUMC Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Dinner is happening again this year on **Saturday, November 17**, at 6:30 p.m.! We will be serving the usual delicious, homemade turkey dinner we all look forward to sharing. We have much to celebrate with family and friends! Signups for the dinner will start Sunday, October 28. See you there!

Club Maintenance

Will meet on **Saturday, September 8**, at 8:30 a.m. Your help with the needed maintenance and repairs on the facilities and grounds is much appreciated!

Phase 2 Construction Updates

We have posted a project overview (with plans and renderings) and a construction update page on the church's website at **rhumc.org**. If you would like to receive regular email updates on our progress, please go to: **rhumc.org/construction-updates/** and click on the "Sign up for Email Updates" button.

Saturday

September 22nd

4:30-8:30pm

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!

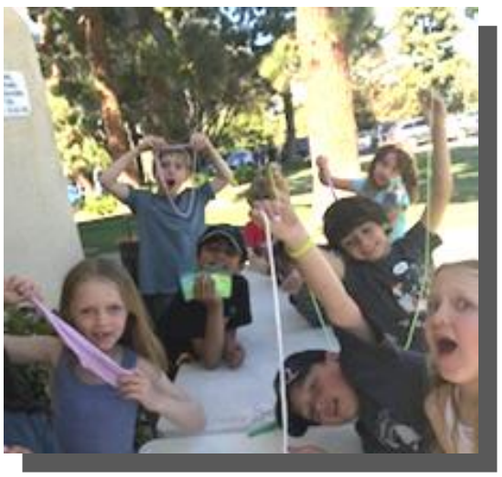
Who:	Infants to Fifth Graders
Costs:	$25 per child/$10 for each additional sibling
Registration:	Email Debra@rhumc.org or call the church office at (310) 377-6771, ext.106 with your child's name and age.

4th Grade Bible Presentation

Please join us on **Sunday, September 9th**, as we celebrate children who have completed 3rd grade and are beginning 4th grade by presenting them with their own Bible during any of the three services. To ensure we include your child, please contact Debra DeLuca at the church office at 310-377-6771 or at debra@rhumc.org.

Kid Zone

Come join us this school year!



Kid Zone and Mid Zone After-School Registration is now open!

For School Year 2018-2019

To register for this school year, please stop by the office to pick up registration packets.
Palos Verdes Schools start August 22 and Torrance Schools start September 6
For more information call 310-377-7302 or
email kidzone.midzone@gmail.com.
Hope to see you this school year!

Youth Ministries Update

Service Opportunity: Manna Bags
Sunday, Sept 30 @ 11:30-1:00pm
Youth will assemble "Manna Bags" for the homeless in their community.

Ignite: Improv Night Oct. 3 @ 6-8pm
Youth will participate in improv games and activities. Youth will talk about what it takes to work as a team and go out of their comfort zone. Dinner will be provided.

SSP information meeting for summer 2019
Sept 16 @ 4:30pm-5:15pm

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
Kid Zone Director	Megan Pelc	Music Dir., 3rd Service	Patti MacLeod
Children's Ministry Dir.	Debra DeLuca	Exec. Asst. to Pastor	Roksolana Vecerek
Youth Ministry Dir.	Kristin Reksc	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Youth Ministry Asst.	Ryan Perry	Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	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 September 28
www.rhumc.org