The Cornerstone

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

October 2018

RHUMC Children's Ministries would like to invite you to join us for some Fall Family Fun at The Great Pumpkin Hunt Sunday, October 14th 11:30 a.m.

This is a great fall outdoor activity for families of all ages and abilities. It is a scavenger hunt of sorts, using a map to find six birdhouses scattered throughout the South Coast Botanic Garden (our church's neighbor to the north). Each birdhouse yields a clue that is added to the map. Taken together, the six clues reveal where the pumpkin garden is hidden. The search takes about two hours of pleasant walking and exploration, and includes lots of fun information about the birds and the garden. The Secret Pumpkin Garden (home of pumpkins and friendly scarecrows) provides a rewarding sense of discovery and some great photo opportunities. Wear comfy clothes and shoes, and bring a water bottle!

We will meet in front of the South Coast Botanic Garden at 11:30 a.m. After entering the Garden we will head to the lower meadow for a picnic lunch on the grass (please bring a blanket for your family). We will provide a simple lunch consisting of sandwiches, chips and water. Please rsvp to Debra at debra@rhumc.org or 310-377-6771 by Friday, October 12, so we can be sure to have enough food for all our families.

General admission price for the Garden is: $9.00/adult (13 and up), $6.00/seniors, $4.00 children (5-12) and kids 4 and under are free. If you have a membership to the Garden, your admission is free.

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

I have often thought that I have the most interesting job in the world. It's different literally every day. Of course there are ongoing, regular, weekly tasks – the Sunday worship bulletin comes to mind. Preparing the sermon, or other elements of our weekly worship. April and I meet with people at home or in hospital, when health concerns are pressing. But we also get to visit over lunch or coffee, at the church or wherever is helpful, listening and learning about the lives of our church family on an ongoing, everyday basis. We count that a privilege and a blessing.

But we also deal with lots of necessary, but not obviously spiritual or theological concerns. Preparing the annual budget comes to mind. Directing traffic in the parking lot is another. Still, those more mundane matters reflect who we are as a community of faith. One of John Wesley's key insights was the connection between our faith and every day, ordinary life. We can't be a Christian on Sundays only, and live out a completely different set of values through the week. Our budget really IS a theological statement. It expresses what we believe in financial terms. It makes possible so much of what we do.

The month of October is a time when we focus on generosity and giving, especially as we look ahead to the coming year. We will hold this year's Celebration Sunday on October 28, with a delicious brunch after each morning service and a special Taco Night after 3rd service. We hope that everyone who can will join us that day as we celebrate the mission we share as God's people. We want to thank you for the generosity which makes it all possible.

A few pages along you will find a copy of our Mission Budget. It describes what we are able to accomplish as a result of your giving. Together we share a mission that reaches more people than most of us would ever imagine. So take a look at what we are up to, and give thanks for the many opportunities we have to make a difference.

With all the construction going on around our campus, there is lots of noise and chaos. I'm learning more about building permits and property easements than I ever hoped. But some of the noise is made by our preschool children. And some of the chaos is caused by having an excellent after school program. As I said, I think I have the most interesting job in the world. Thanks for the privilege of living and working together with all of you!

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

"The Bible by its very nature invites us to wrestle,
doubt, imagine, and debate."
- Rachel Held Evans

Dear Friends:

Perhaps you have heard people refer to the Bible as, "divinely inspired."

In her new book, *Inspired*, Rachel Held Evans explains the origins of the word as it is used by the Bible itself to describe holy writings. 2 Timothy 3:16 translates into English as, "All Scripture is inspired by God." The Greek word *theopneustos* more literally means "God-breathed," since *theo* means "god" and *pneo* means "to breathe out" or "to blow."

To Evans, the word evokes images of "a collaborative process, a holy give-and-take, a partnership" between Creator and people (imbued themselves with creative spirit). She is energized by the understanding of *inspiration* as divine breath and an "eternal rhythm of inhale and exhale, gather and release." She is convinced that God is still breathing!

For Evans, the Bible is both inspired and inspiring. That's why I'm looking forward to reading her book, and the scripture stories she highlights, with those of you who are interested in exploring well-informed and fresh perspectives on God's word. We'll meet three times this fall (on Thursdays, October 11, October 25, and November 8) to focus on the first three chapters of the book.

Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again is easily ordered and available in paperback, e-reader, and audio formats. If you need help in obtaining a copy, you may contact the church office for assistance. You would benefit from reading chapter one before our first session.

Here is one more intriguing image that might inspire you to take part in the study: according to Evans, "The ancient rabbis likened Scripture to a palace, alive and bustling, full of grand halls, banquet rooms, secret passages, and locked doors....Every page of the Bible serves as an invitation--to wonder, to wrestle, to surrender to the adventure."

Let's dive in together!

April

Message from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

North Carolina residents would have been very happy this month to send a gift to our friends in California. It was a big gift that I think would have been very welcome. But we could not figure how to package and ship it. The gift is identified by the name Florence. I woke one morning with a vision of this incredible package of water flying across the country and joyfully spreading its load over northern California. I could see fires sputtering and disappearing. I could see crowds cheering on both coasts. We spent days getting ready, but when Florence arrived in Asheville she had given what she had to give. We had light rain, no wind and only four hours without power. But the damage on the eastern half of the state has been huge and will be long lasting. Nature does this kind of thing, sometimes without warning or explanation – like earthquakes and volcanos. But fingers are pointing at human beings in our contemporary fires and floods. And the sad part of the story is that the forecast is for worse rather than better. That is why I am so pleased to learn that much of the energy to be used by the new buildings at RHUMC will come from the sun. Fossil fuels will be left in the ground and carbon will not be set loose to do mischief in the air while the marvelous ministries of our church move full speed ahead. Do I hear crowds cheering?

Sharing Compassion, Building Community, Offering Hope

In 2018 we are investing $1,366,411 in God's mission.

Our Worship Life – $409,923 *(30% of our budget)*

In worship we discover grace and hope for our lives each day. Worship lifts our hearts, stirs our spirits and stretches our minds. In worship God speaks to us through the stories of our faith. God listens as we pray, lifting up our deepest needs and hopes. Our congregation looks forward to worship that gives thanks for God's love and care in our lives and leads us into the coming week with renewed hope.

A team of leaders works together to make each Sunday meaningful. Many contribute behind the scenes – others out front. Our altar guild prepares the sanctuary with care. Ushers offer a warm welcome as we arrive.

Our chancel choir shares music that inspires and encourages us with grace and hope. Our 3rd service ensemble offers a distinctive musical take on the message of the day. We are blessed with exceptional music, and wonderful music leaders.

Your gifts help make possible sermons that deal with the humor, struggle and drama of everyday life. Each Sunday, our pastors seek to bring the resources of faith to bear on the questions and hopes of our time.

Worship is the life and breath of our congregation. It is where new friends discover a sense of welcome in God's family, and where all are strengthened and encouraged in our faith. Your gifts make possible generous, hopeful and helpful worship throughout the year.

Caring for Our Community – $286,946 *(21% of our budget)*

Our lives include seasons of joy and pain, celebration and sadness. From the birth of a baby to times of illness or grief, we count on God's grace to see us through.

Each week our Prayer Partners gather to lift up the needs and hopes of our church family, as shared in the Sunday prayer cards. Our pastors and parish nurse visit our church family not only when someone is in the hospital, but throughout the year. These visits take place every week and number in the hundreds. The new TLC Singers offer to lift their voices in song with friends who would welcome their caring and encouragement.

Our congregation serves an amazing range of people. We help dozens of families with funeral or memorial services, not only from within the church but from the community around us. Our Hospitality Committee includes more than a dozen volunteers who provide receptions after those same services. Our church staff works to ensure that these families know that they are welcomed and cared for in the midst of their loss.

We celebrate the gifts of new life and new relationships! We help encourage parents in the midst of the joys and the challenges children bring. We support couples seeking to be married, working to keep their relationships healthy, or facing the end of a marriage. We offer a monthly Parents' Night Out, caring for about 40 children while their parents enjoy an evening together.

Your gifts help us reach out to our community with the same healing and hope that Jesus offered. Caring for others in everyday, ordinary life is one of the ways we live out God's love for the world.

Local and World Outreach – $232,289 *(17% of our budget)*

Some of our best work takes place in places we will never see. Your gifts touch people we will never have the chance to know.

When a hurricane strikes, or the earth shakes, here at home or around the world, your gifts help provide relief and support to rebuild homes and lives. Whether those needs are the result of natural or human disasters we reach out with care and compassion to those in need.

Our congregation supports missionary work and educational efforts around the world, who seek to relieve hunger and hopelessness closer to home. We partner with other Churches, other faith communities, with hospitals, relief agencies and universities. We know that we can accomplish far more by working together than on our own.

The United Methodist Church is found in 58 countries, from the U.S. and Europe, to much of Africa and Southeast Asia. Your gifts support theological study and higher education across the globe. We provide scholarships for students from our own congregation and others as they look to find their way and make a difference in the world.

We contribute to the work of bishops, district superintendents, church boards and agencies, encouraging the mission and ministry of local churches in our diverse communities. We support Toberman Neighborhood Center and other local partners, providing food, shelter and transitional support to hundreds of families each year. Wherever we are, wherever we may go, we seek to follow Jesus' invitation to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Children and Families – $437,252 *(32% of our budget)*

The needs and hopes of families are at the heart of our mission. From our youngest and smallest members, to middle and older adults, we believe that all are precious in God's eyes.

Each week we help growing children learn lessons of faith and love to help carry them through their lives. Our Vacation Bible Camp reaches over 200 children each summer, and includes over 100 youth and adult volunteers to make it happen. Our junior and senior high youth take part in Sierra Service Project, giving a week of their summers in underserved communities across the western U.S. While there, they learn about themselves, each other and the world as they take part in hands-on mission. They also learn, grow, and have fun during the rest of the year!

We offer opportunities for spiritual growth and faith development through a range of Bible studies, book groups, retreats and other gatherings. Seminars on health & wellness, workshops on caregiving and grief support are open to the whole community. Musical concerts are also offered in our sanctuary throughout the year, free to all.

Our Children's Christmas Eve service is the largest single worship service of the whole year, as the children sing, tell and act out the story of Christ's birth. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt brings families together to share in joy, hope and good fun. Our Children's Ministry leaders are an amazing and capable team! Your generosity helps literally thousands of people from across the South Bay experience God's grace in a wonderful variety of ways.

October Book Discussion

This month's book discussion will focus on *The Signature of All Things* by Elizabeth Gilbert. The novel was named a Best Book of 2013 by *The New York Times*, *O Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *The New Yorker*. It tells the story of a woman who resists the social constraints and expectations of her time to become a botanist and world traveler. This character's observations about plants, people, time, space, science, spirituality, social forces and personal identity offer a multitude of possibilities for reflection and conversation. All readers are welcome to take part in the discussion, to be facilitated by April Herron and Susan Deo, on **Monday, October 29**, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Dawn Unity

The Interfaith Discovery Series will begin on **Tuesday, October 9**, at 7:30 p.m. at St. John Fisher Catholic Church, 5448 Crest Road, RPV with a discussion of "The Creation Story" by a panel of religious scholars: Rabbi Mark Diamond, LMU; Prof. Amir Hussain, LMU; Rev. Reinhard Krauss, UCLA; and Msgr. David Sork, St. John Fisher with Bob Rothman as moderator. The interpretation of the Genesis story from Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, and Catholic teachings will be enlightening. As with all scripture there is much to learn beyond the Biblical text since centuries of commentary has added enrichment to the story. Genesis' creation story is remarkable for being completely distinct from that of neighboring Iron Age cultures, so exploring that difference will be informative. There is no charge for this 90-minute event.

Fall Finance Update

Good news! With eight months of the year behind us, our overall financial picture remains healthy and strong. Through August our congregation has given over $626,000 toward our mission and ministry. That was below our giving goal to date, but our expenditures were also lower than expected. Both Preschool and Kid Zone were in the black as well. So, out of total operating expenses of over $1.15 million we were off budget by $532 (to the good!). As we move into the upcoming season of giving we want to thank you for what you have already done to strengthen our mission. Thank you!

You may have heard that there are tax advantages to making charitable contributions directly from an IRA account. It's true! Each year a number of families make their gift to the church by directing a portion of their IRA distribution to RHUMC. This is more helpful for some, since charitable distributions from regular IRAs are not counted as income. Changes to IRS rules this past year may make this a fruitful topic to explore with your tax advisor. Feel free to call the church office with any questions.

Celebration Sunday – October 28

Celebration Sunday for our annual giving campaign is October 28. Two events will take place that day which we hope all of you will attend. The first is worship, which will help us to focus on the values of compassion and community that we share as God's family.

The second will be the special Celebration meal which will follow in Wesley Hall after each of our Sunday services (brunch in the morning and dinner after 3rd Service). We will have plenty for visitors, guests and friends to join with us, but we also ask everyone who plans to come to make a reservation so that we can have an accurate count. Reservation cards will be distributed by our ushers at our Sunday services on October 21 or feel free to contact the church office at 310-377-6771.

As we give thanks for the blessing of life which God gives us, please plan to gather and celebrate with other members of our church family. Thank you!

All Saints' Sunday – November 4

Each year, on the first Sunday of November, we celebrate All Saints' Day with a special prayer of thanksgiving for members and friends of our church family who have died in the past year. We are also invited to share names of persons who have been a part of our own lives over the years, whether they were members of this church or not. If you would like to include someone in the service who has died since November 1, 2017, please call the church office with their name, and the date of their death. All of us have been blessed by people who have gone before us, and this is an opportunity to remember their contributions to our lives.

Loaves of Welcome Bread

We have a lovely tradition of welcoming those who attend a service at RHUMC for the first time, with a loaf of fresh bread, baked by church volunteers.

If you would like to occasionally bake a "welcome loaf," please call the church office and we will gladly add you to our list of wonderful bakers.

STORIES OF THE BIBLE

LED BY APRIL HERRON

THURSDAYS
OCTOBER 11, OCTOBER 25 & NOVEMBER 8

10:30 AM IN THE SANCTUARY
7:00 PM IN THE OFFICE BUILDING "ROUND TABLE" ROOM
(Choose either time)

We will discover the origins of the Bible
and what it means for us today.
Participants will be asked to read one chapter of
Inspired by Rachel Held Evans in preparation for each class.

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

Thoughts on the Joy and Care of God's Creation by Susan Deo

"Between every two pine trees there is a door leading to a new way of life." John Muir

After church the other day, I stopped by the Meditation Garden for a moment. Water gurgled softly in the stone fountain, a gentle breeze stirred the cool green leaves of the bushes and trees surrounding me, flowers jauntily displayed their colors. Our Meditation Garden offers a welcome respite from our busy lives and a chance to reflect. As Florence Williams writes in her book, *The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative*, we "evolved in nature, it's where we feel most comfortable, even if we don't always know it." Every day we are learning more amazing ways being in nature makes our lives better. For example, nature is full of infinitely complex, repeating patterns that mathematicians call fractals: in seashells, snowflakes, a bird's feathers, our own capillaries, and even in the branching patterns of a head of broccoli. Scientists have discovered the type of fractals most commonly found in nature are also the most pleasing to our brains. When we look at nature's patterns, like gazing at a forest landscape, it activates our frontal lobes to produce alpha brain waves, stimulating a wakefully relaxed state. These patterns enhance spatial long-term memory and high-level visual processing. Nature's smells can be more than just pleasant and refreshing also. Some of these volatile organic compounds can reduce stress, lower blood pressure, or have anti-infective properties. For example, geosmin, produced by soil microorganisms, contributes to the earthy taste of beets and the aroma released when it rains after a long dry spell. Geosmin puts us at ease and can help lead us to water. We can detect as little as seven drops of it in a swimming pool! So, not only does spending time in the Meditation Garden or in our favorite natural place FEEL good, it IS good for us. What a wonderful world God created!

Do you have something you'd like to share about the joy and care of God's creation? Contact Susan Deo at nasdeo76@gmail.com

Sunday Ushers

Join our ministry of hospitality and welcome! We invite adults & youth to join us on Sundays to pass out bulletins, collect the offering, and greet worshipers with a friendly smile. If you are interested in giving it a try, contact Chris Larson at chrislarsonrhumc@gmail.com.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

We look forward to gathering again after a long summer break on **Saturday, October 20.** We'll meet in the Mission Room for Coffee at 7:30 a.m.; Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and our guest speaker Earl Butler at 8:30 a.m.

Club Maintenance

Club Maintenance met Saturday, September 8. We spruced up the campus for our groundbreaking the following day. We also set up drip irrigation for our three potted trees near the temporary classrooms, cleaned storm drains, and reattached the reflector of one of our gym light fixtures. Participants were: Steve Boilard, Bob Chamberlin, Pastor Jonathan Chute, Gene Koester, Dave Larson, Keith Levan, Jim Showalter and Neil Stolz. Our next Club Maintenance meeting will be **Saturday, October 13**, at 8:30 a.m. with Bill Bails being our coordinator. All are welcome to participate and enjoy a fellowship lunch.

Gene Koester, September Coordinator

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, October 14, at 2:00 p.m.

Portugal's Foremost Pianist Plays Liszt and Some Portuguese Gems

FILIPE PINTO-RIBEIRO

A Steinway Artist, **Filipe Pinto-Ribeiro** is considered a *"poet of the piano."* Born in Porto, Portugal, he earned a Doctorate in Musical Performance at the famed Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Moscow. Filipe Pinto-Ribeiro has premiered works by Dmitri Shostakovich, Marcelo Nisinman, Eurico Carrapatoso, and Sofia Gubaidulina. As a concerto soloist, he is frequently invited by leading European orchestras.

Free-Will Offering

Day Light Savings Time Ends on November 4

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!

SAVE THE DATE – CHRISTMAS SEASON CONCERT

The Chancel Choir will present its Christmas Season Concert on **Saturday, December 15,** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. The choir will be accompanied by members of the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles. Plan now to attend this yearly festive celebration!

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Mimi's Cafe

25343 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90505
(310) 326-4477

We hope you can join us on **Thursday, October 11**, at Mimi's Cafe between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. and 20% of your food bill will be donated back to our preschool. Hope to see you there!

Children's Ministry

Parents Night Out
Saturday,
October 20th

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
Where:	Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
Time:	4:30-8:30 p.m.
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.

Youth Ministries Update

Ignite: Improv Night Oct. 3 @ 6-8 p.m.
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.

Service Opportunity: Feeding the Homeless
Saturday, Oct. 13 @ 8:00-12:30 p.m.
Youth will meet at RHUMC at 8:00 a.m. and we will carpool to St. Luke's in Long Beach to serve lunch to the homeless community. Volunteers are also needed to bake cupcakes ahead of time and to drop them off in the RHUMC church office by 4:00 p.m., Friday, Oct 12 (we will add frosting once we are at St. Luke's).
Contact Kristin at Kristin@rhumc.org with any questions or to RSVP.

Ignite: Scavenger Hunt Oct. 10 @ 6-8 p.m.
We will meet at RHUMC and carpool to Del Amo Mall for a photo scavenger hunt. Please provide youth with money to buy dinner at the food court.

Ignite: Under Construction Oct. 17 @ 6-8 p.m.
Congregation members will teach youth how to use tools to build a project out of wood. Youth will discuss how we build healthy relationships and community. Dinner will be provided.

Ignite: Halloween Party Oct. 24 @ 6-8 p.m.
Wear your best costume and enjoy Halloween treats and games all night! Dinner will be provided. **There is NO IGNITE on Oct 31st so youth can go trick or treating with their families.**

Youth Sunday School is offered every Sunday morning during the 10:00 a.m. worship service & the last Sunday of the month during the 5:30 p.m. worship service followed by dinner at "Taco Night."

Registration for Sierra Service Project Summer 2019 is now available.
If you would like to attend SSP with RHUMC this summer, please contact the Director of Youth Ministries, Kristin Reksc, at Kristin@rhumc.org for more information. A $100 deposit is needed to reserve a spot on the Junior High team (youth entering 7th or 8th grade) or Senior High team (youth entering 9th grade through graduating seniors).

Kid Zone

Join us at Kid Zone for a Fall Festival

Family, friends, neighbors all are welcome!

There will be fun games, prizes, tricks and treats! Costumes are encouraged!

Thursday, October 25th
Festival 3:45 to 5:00 p.m.
Mini Trunk or Treat 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.

For more information, please contact us at the Kid Zone office
310-377-7302 or email kidzone.midzone@gmail.com

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 October 26
www.rhumc.org