The Cornerstone

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

November 2018

RHUMC's Thanksgiving Dinner
Saturday, November 17
6:30 p.m.

RHUMC's Thanksgiving Dinner has been a favorite event for many of our church families and their friends, and we hope you will join us again this year!

Warm apple cider will be served in the Martha's Room from 6:00-6:30 p.m. while you check in to get your table assignment and greet friends and neighbors. Wesley Hall will open at 6:30 p.m. to welcome you to your assigned table.

Our traditional dinner, prepared by our own gourmet chefs and volunteers, will include turkey prepared in the Weber kettles, cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn pudding, green beans, cranberry relish and cranberry "fluff," pecan, apple, pumpkin pies and sugar-free pumpkin pie for those watching their sugar consumption!

Following the dinner, we move to the Sanctuary to be entertained by the **LA South Towns Show Chorus**, affiliated with the Sweet Adelines International, to hear over twenty women singers who enjoy harmonizing in the acapella style, under the direction of Caroline McLean. Their musical menu includes traditional favorites, nostalgic show tunes, and classics you'll recognize. We thank Ann Peitzman, a member of the group, for helping to make this performance possible.

Donations for the dinner and show are $30.00 per adult, and $15 per child under twelve. All net proceeds will be donated to helping our youth attend the Sierra Service Project next summer. Reservations will be taken on the patio between morning services and following the second service. Third service attendees may reserve before the 5:30 service begins or contact the church office. You may request special seating arrangements and child care, but we need to know at the time you make your reservations.

Volunteers are needed to help cook and/or decorate Wesley Hall. If you would like to join us, please contact Suellen Fung or Doug Kemps for details.

*from the pastor*s — *Jonathan Chute*

I knew I shouldn't have parked in the clergy spot. Mine was in the shop, so I was driving Thyra's car, a two seat sports car. When I drive her car I feel funny parking in the clergy spot at our local hospital. So I headed past the wide open clergy parking space, thinking I would find another in the levels above. It was completely full. So I headed back down and decided to get over my misplaced sense of guilt. After all, her car actually cost less than mine when both were new. I was there to see two members who were in that hospital. That's what the spot is for.

When I had completed my rounds and got back to the car, a woman came over and indicated that I should roll down my passenger window. When I did, she leaned over and with a fairly bright and visible gold cross hanging from her neck, said (in the most skeptical sounding tone you can possibly imagine), "*Father*???" I said, "No, the Rev. Jonathan Chute. Can I help you?" She said (in that same amazing tone) "*Of what parish*???" I said "Rolling Hills United Methodist Church." By then I realized that she had thought, based on the car I was driving, that I was fraudulently using the clergy space. So I told her that this was my wife's car and that mine was in the shop (I didn't tell her that my wife was a physician at the same hospital.). When I asked her if she had a question with which I could help she said "*Oh no*!" and backed away, heading toward her own (more expensive?) automobile.

I realized what had happened. This is *exactly* why I didn't want to park Thyra's car in the clergy spot. She was probably distressed by any of the myriad problems in the wider world, or even perhaps in her own life, and many of them don't seem all that fixable. But to see a two-seat convertible in the spot reserved for one of God's faithful (and of course, humble) servants was too much for her to bear. She had to do something about it, and I was the villain in her story that afternoon.

Of course I do the same thing. When I can't solve the problems of the world, or of my own life, it's easy to bring that frustration and urgency to something going on right in front of me. My own self-righteousness and moral clarity is just as grandiose as hers was during our interaction in the parking garage. If I'm lucky I manage to do a better job of keeping it to myself. But I'm not always lucky.

Jesus said something about this. It's in Matthew 7:3-5 – "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?" It's a good question. As I drove away from the hospital yesterday I began to feel rather righteous in comparison with the woman. But then I remembered how often I want to do exactly what she did – to somebody else.

Let's be kind to each other, and (even) kind to ourselves, as we walk together as God's people. We've all got enough going on that we aren't handling all that well. Let's encourage each other as we go.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

Ap

Dear Friends:

As the twirling and tilting of my recent vertigo episode recedes, I am glad to be once again enjoying worship, Bible study, interesting books, and good conversation at RHUMC. Apparently there is no preventative routine for sudden inner ear-related imbalance issues, so I can't tell you how to avoid such a crisis, but it's very clear to me that no one who has had it would recommend it as an enjoyable experience. I was far from home when the spinning commenced, and I remain grateful for the kindness, care, and assistance that came my way as I journeyed back to the comfort of my own apartment and the reassurance of familiar routines.

Meanwhile, the twirling and tilting that comes along with experiencing a major life event is amplifying, not receding! There is much to consider and contemplate as Bob and I move toward marriage; also, of course, much joy and continuing astonishment. By way of keeping our wonderful church family appraised, I share the following.

Bob and I have decided our wedding needs to take place at my parents' home in San Diego so that my father can be present. We will gather with our daughters, siblings, and various significant others on Thursday, December 27, for the ceremony. Jonathan will preside.

In order that we can mark the occasion with all of you, we are planning that on December 30, the last Sunday of the year, we will include a prayer of blessing for the marriage, along with some level of festivity, at each of the three worship services. Jan Johnson and Doug Kemps have kindly stepped forward to volunteer coordination of food and decor. We look forward to sharing a toast (non-alcoholic, of course) and suitable taste treat after each morning service. In the evening, Taco Night (6:30 pm) will be enhanced and transformed into a wedding reception.

Of course we understand that the prevalence of travel and holiday gatherings will mean that not everyone will be available to celebrate with us on December 30, but we have already felt your love and support in significant ways and we deeply appreciate your good will. Our whole community is now entering the season of the year defined by gratitude and generous love, and I pray it will bring hope and encouragement to us all.

April

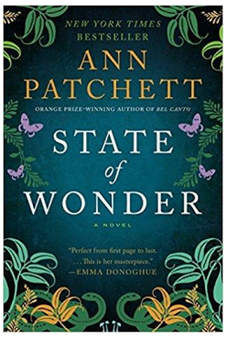
Heifer Plus Sunday, November 4

The Missions Committee presents an opportunity to get to know the missions we support on **Sunday, November 4,** in Wesley Hall after each of the morning services. Join us for the annual Missions Market/Heifer Plus Sunday! Representatives will be available from Heifer International, Habitat for Humanity and Projects Needs to answer your questions and talk about upcoming projects. Photos and letters will be on display which give an understanding of the work being done by the four missionaries that RHUMC supports. An insert in the bulletin will outline opportunities for giving to each of these organizations and/or missionaries. Additionally, the second annual art auction and the ever-popular pickle sales will benefit UMCOR (the United Methodist Committee on Relief) to help provide supplies in places where disasters have occurred around the world. We encourage you to take a few moments to focus on our church's various missions and stop by Wesley Hall during the morning of November 4.

Message from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

November 11 is the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. My retirement community is excited about our plans for a day of remembrance/celebration for the occasion. We are the last generation to have firsthand memories of people who were involved in that war. So we are planning to have a sing-along of World War I songs led by a local vocal group, to exhibit memorabilia we have stored for decades, to share memories about people we have known. A retired professor of military history from the Army College at Ft. Leavenworth will share for an hour in the afternoon about the US involvement. We will see the film my family produced from a box of 100 year old letters he sent from France in 1918. Amazing things are coming out of the closets: a uniform, a helmet, a purple heart, picture postcards, an Army Songbook, shell cases, even a section of rusty barbed wire! If you have ever seen Steven Spielberg's movie WAR HORSE, you know about the barbed wire. Anyway, if you want to have your own commemoration of that day in our history, you can watch our film on YouTube by just entering the name "Daddy, What Did You Do in the War?" Add the name Rowlett and click. It is 30 minutes long. This day of commemoration is intended to be a reminder of what our ancestors sacrificed so that we can live in a democracy. It is also a clear challenge to our generation to do what is needed in our time to secure democracy for our descendants.

November Book Discussion



This month's book discussion will focus on *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett. Join us to explore our favorite aspects of this provocative novel by award-winning and New York Times bestselling author. A tale of "morality and miracles, science and sacrifice" set in the Amazon rainforest. *State of Wonder* is "a gripping adventure story and a profound look at the difficult choices we make in the name of discovery and love." There is so much here to discuss! All readers are welcome to take part in the conversation, to be facilitated by April Herron and Susan Deo, on Wednesday, November 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Wisdom for Retirement – A Workshop and Community Conversation
Monday, November 12, 7:00 p.m., in the sanctuary at RHUMC
Facilitated by Dr. Michelle Dexter

Are you anticipating, or already living into, retirement? Have you gained insights from your experience of retirement that you think might benefit others? Do you have questions about how to create or advance a fulfilling retirement? Would you enjoy "comparing notes" with others about the shifts, changes, and new opportunities that retirement brings? Is quality of life among your goals? Might you make use of the guidance that current psychology and wellness studies have to offer? If so, this workshop is for you!

We'd be glad to know that you plan to attend. You can communicate your plans by emailing churchoffice@rhumc.org or calling 310-377-6771. April Herron (Associate Pastor) would be happy to answer any questions you may have about the workshop. Please feel free to invite or bring friends.

STORIES OF THE BIBLE
LED BY APRIL HERRON

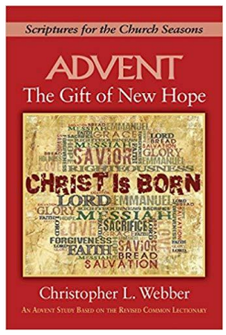
THIS MONTH'S SESSION WILL BE HELD ON:
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

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

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study



On November 18, we will begin our Advent Study for the season. We will use a new book by Christopher Webber, *ADVENT, The Gift of New Hope - Christ Is Born.*

The Gift of New Hope invites readers to explore their yearning for God's presence through a study of the lectionary Bible readings for Advent and Christmas. Each week's Scriptures call us to praise God as we actively await the coming of Christ and prepare our hearts and lives for his arrival. Through the readings, we hear the invitation to claim and celebrate the new hope we have in Jesus Christ. We will discover the light that began in the manger, which continues as we look forward with hope to Christ's return.

The Gift of New Hope is based on the Revised Common Lectionary scriptures for the church year. The study includes commentary and reflection on readings from the Old Testament, the Gospels, and the Epistles. It offers the opportunity to explore these Bible readings in a five-session study. It will help participants understand, appreciate, and engage in meaningful and joyous celebrations of Advent and Christmas and to live each day in God's hope through Jesus Christ.

We meet in the Aldersgate Room, adjacent to the narthex, each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. As we begin our Advent Study on November 18, we are glad to welcome new, continuing, and returning participants.

For Your 2019 Calendar: February 23 Women's Retreat

RHUMC women who choose to attend will spend **Saturday, February 23**, at the Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Rancho Palos Verdes. Our theme will be "Courage to Love." Leadership will be provided by April Herron, Michelle Dexter, Kristen Tyler Franco, and Julie Lemke. Lunch will be included. Registration will open in early January.

Celebration Sunday Festivities

A Note of Appreciation

Dear church friends,

The support and care expressed following the loss of Roy has been so meaningful for my family and me. The kind thoughts and prayers accompanying cards, messages, phone calls, visits and floral gifts were very comforting. I am grateful for each one of you.

With much appreciation,
Marian Komori

ROLLING HILLS Online Church DIRECTORY
Log In

Dear Church Family and Friends,

Help us keep our online Church directory current. If you have moved, changed your phone number or email address, please let us know!

If you would like us to update your information or do not have a listing and would like to be included, please email us at **churchoffice@rhumc.org** or call **310-377-6771**.

You can go also go online and update your contact information at **rhumc.org/about-us/church-directory/** and if you have forgotten your login name or password, just email the church office at churchoffice@rhumc.org and we will send it to you.

We would also be happy to help upload your photo to the directory. If you do not have a current one, we will take one for you!

Altar Flowers

The new flower chart for 2019 has arrived! Sign up early to ensure you get your favorite date to honor, celebrate, or remember that someone special!

'Tis the Season - RHUMC Rings Bells

For the sixth year, RHUMC will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army at Christmas. We take our ministry to Vons Market in Redondo Beach during December, and have raised over $7000 for the good of our community. The Salvation Army in Redondo Beach uses the funds we raise for their local ministry…all our help stays local! We hope you will consider taking a shift this season. Our volunteers include family members, songsters, or just you and your smile. We have many repeat volunteers who enjoy their shift and say it is a highlight of the season.

Roxanne Morse will be on the patio on **Sunday, November 11**, after all services to gather sign ups or simply answer your questions. Look for the kettle! You may also contact Roxanne at 310-543-2281. Come join this cheerful band of bell ringers and know you will make a difference.

SAVE THE DATE – CHRISTMAS SEASON CONCERT

The Chancel Choir will present Antonio Vivaldi's ***Gloria***, along with ***Jesus! The Advent of the Messiah*** by Mary McDonald and Rose Aspinall for its Christmas Season Concert on **Saturday, December 15,** at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Also featured will be Soprano soloists Jessica Tisdale and Jinian Austria, and Alto soloist Carol Wooten. The choir will be accompanied by members of the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles. Plan now to attend this yearly festive celebration! Tickets will be available for $10 at the Thanksgiving Dinner, in the office or on the patio Sunday mornings beginning November 25th.

Hanging of the Greens

The Worship Committee invites you to get into the holiday spirit by helping us transform the church. We will be working the first 2 Saturdays in December:

1. Saturday, December 1, 8:30-10:30 AM – Decorating the huge Narthex tree
2. Saturday, December 8, 8:30-10:.30 AM – Decorating the Sanctuary

Come share the spirit!

Ripples - The Food We Don't Eat *by Susan Deo*

"All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful: the Lord God made them all."
- Cecil Frances Alexander, from Genesis 1:31

One of the amazing things about creation is how everything fits together. Each living thing has a role to play: from the lowly mosses and cyanobacteria to the mighty whales and we ubiquitous humans. And the plants we rely on for our sustenance. We say grace before meals, but in what other ways do we honor these food plants that give us so much? We donate nonperishables to the food pantry, volunteer to make meals for the homeless, and fund missions that help people grow their own food, but how are we as a world going to feed everyone as populations increase, climate changes, more land is taken from agriculture? Reducing food waste is a promising step. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, roughly ONE THIRD of the world's food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted, that's about 1.3 billion tons worldwide. In poorer countries this loss mostly occurs between farmer and market but in countries like the US, it occurs after market. A recent study showed the average annual food loss for a US family of four was 1,160 pounds. This includes half-eaten apples, scraps from food preparation, sour milk the family pours down the drain. At a cost of $115 billion, this food waste accounts for 2.5 % of US energy consumption, 25% of all fresh water used for US agriculture, 200 million barrels of oil. Wow. We can make a difference. I set some goals for myself. I don't always achieve them, but I keep trying: avoid overbuying, give away extra garden produce, find better ways to store food, and compost. Composting food scraps and leftover food from the table (unfortunately, this is only vegetable scraps, not meat or dairy), along with leaf litter, grass clippings, prunings from landscaping plants, enriches our garden soil and fosters future plant growth. God's amazing plan – re-use everything on planet Earth! Composting is an art and a science and good for the soul, another way to be part of God's plan - plus you save on disposal fees by reducing your trash volume! Might we be composting on our Church campus someday soon too? One book where you can learn more: *Waste Free Kitchen Handbook: A Guide to Eating Well and Saving Money by Wasting Less Food*, by Dana Gunders. If you have tips to share on reducing food waste or want to learn more about composting, drop me an email. Maybe we can put together our own workshop or attend a local one together. Susan Deo: nasdeo76@gmail.com.

Health Equipment Aids

If you have a need for gently-used aids, such as a walker, crutches, or other such equipment, please contact Annette Matsuda, Parish Nurse, at 310-618-8122. Likewise, if you would like to donate equipment for others in the church to use, contact Annette.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Our next gathering will be on **Saturday, November 17.** We'll meet in the Mission Room for Coffee at 7:30 a.m.; Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and our guest speaker at 8:30 a.m.

Club Maintenance

Club Maintenance met Saturday, October 13, and completed a number of tasks around the church campus. Phones were installed in the sacristy and kitchen hall, a stool installed in the preschool porta-potty, a flag stall mounted on portables, Wesley Hall A/C condensers were cleaned, weather strip installed on kitchen door, doorstops installed on narthex restroom doors, a light fixture was reinstalled in the Youth Lounge, the front fence rails were secured and the fence and entrance sign cleaned, the storage lot door was repaired, and squeaky doors, flat wheelbarrow tires, and missing trash bin supports were fixed. Joining in the festivities were Bill Bails, Steve Boilard, Bruce Harkins, Gene Koester, Dave Larson, Keith Levan, Chris Martin, Oren Sheldon, and Jim Showalter. Join us **Saturday, November 10**, for the next Club Maintenance get together. All are invited.

Second Sundays at Two

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

Artists from the Acclaimed Dilijan Series

Violinist
VARTY MANOUELIAN

Pianist
STEVEN VANHAUWAERT

Dilijan Chamber Music Series' artists, Los Angeles Philharmonic violinist **Varty Manouelian** and award-winning Belgian pianist **Steven Vanhauwaert**, perform masterpieces by Mozart and Brahms.

Free-Will Offering

Children's Ministry

The Great Pumpkin Hunt

A big thank you to all of you who came out and joined us for "The Great Pumpkin Hunt," at the South Coast Botanic Garden on Sunday, October 14th.

From picnic lunch to searching for clues to getting to the special pumpkin patch, a festive time was had by all!

Winter Wonderland
&
Parent's Afternoon Out

Join us for an afternoon of Christmas cheer with family fun for children ages 3 (potty-trained) and up.

Story Time, Crafts, Snow Station, Letters to Santa, and Lunch.

Drop off your child or stay and help us celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

Saturday, December 1st
12:00-3:00 p.m.

Come Join In The Holiday Spirit

Space is limited, so don't delay!

RSVP by November 28th to Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.com or call the church office at 310-377-6771 to be entered into a Christmas Raffle!

Calling All Shepherds, Angels, Kings and Animals of the Manger!

Parents: Put Saturday, December 22nd, 9:00 a.m. on your calendar. That's the date for the rehearsal of the Christmas Eve family worship service. At the rehearsal, which runs from 9:00-11:30 a.m., children ages 3 years through 5th grade will be fitted for their costumes and practice their part. December 22nd is the one required rehearsal for all participants who plan to be part of the December 24th Christmas Eve (4:00 p.m.) worship service.

Calling All Youth!

Youth leadership opportunities for the Family Christmas Eve service include reading scripture, litany parts and prayers; lighting candles; ringing hand bells; greeting and ushering. 6th graders through High School will rehearse Saturday, December 22nd, from 11:30-12:30 p.m. You can also earn service hours by assisting with the younger kids' rehearsal. For information and to sign up, contact Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org, Jan Johnson at janaleejoh@aol.com or call the church office at 310-377-6771.

Youth Ministry

Ignite: Game Night November 7 @ 6:00-8:00 p.m.
"Ultimate Rock, Paper, Scissors," "Chain Reaction," field games, and much more. Please wear shoes that you can run in! Dinner will be provided.

Ignite: Outdoor Movie Night November 14 @ 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Enjoy a movie outside under the stars. Pizza and popcorn will be provided.

Ignite: Escape Room November 28 @ 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Please RSVP by November 14 (we need to reserve the room).

Ignite: Poinsettias and Carols December 5 @ 6:00-8:00 p.m.
Youth will meet at RHUMC and we will drive to homebound congregation members to deliver poinsettias and sing Christmas carols. Youth will receive service hours for this event. Dinner will be provided.

Service Opportunity

All Church Thanksgiving Meal
November 17 @ 5:30-9:00 p.m.
Help serve dinner at RHUMC's annual Thanksgiving event. Proceeds in the past have gone to the SSP mission trip.

Please contact the Director of Youth Ministries, Kristin Reksc, with any questions at
Kristin@rhumc.org

If you would like text message reminders for youth events please text the keyword "RHUMCyouth" to 33222.

Kid Zone

Thank You

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 November 23
www.rhumc.org