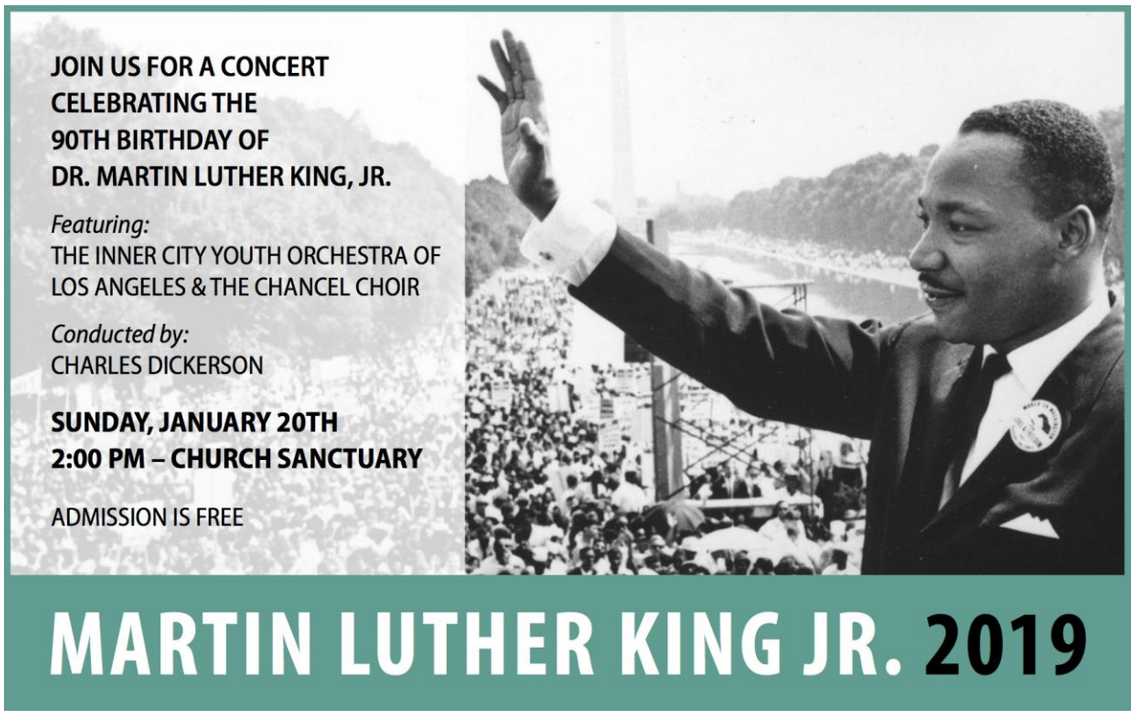
The Cornerstone

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

January 2019



from the pastors — *Jonathan Chute*

I want to begin the new year by expressing my gratitude for the gift and privilege of serving with such a generous and loving congregation. Many people think of church as what happens on Sunday morning. But there are so many things going on behind the scenes to make our church the community it is.

An amazing team works to ensure that our sound system is working properly for each worship service. But they also take part in any number of choir and orchestra dress rehearsals, Children's Christmas, Vacation Bible Camp and Preschool Graduation programs. It is a labor of love, but it is a labor! They record one or more of our Sunday services, making them available on CD or on the church web site, for those who have missed a service or would like to share one with friends.

The Altar Guild helps prepare the sanctuary for worship each week, resupplying the welcome pads and prayer cards, clearing out things that have shown up during the week, marking hymnals and Bibles for the pastors and liturgist, changing the altar and pulpit cloths with the seasons.

Our Hospitality Committee keeps busy with all kinds of special events, from concert receptions to memorial and funeral gatherings. They share a spirit of welcome and encouragement with members and friends of the church, as well as with hundreds from across the community.

Our Trustees, and members of Club Maintenance, lend their talent to projects to maintain and preserve the facilities that serve our mission. They oversee the care and rental of the church parsonage, deal with insurance on all church properties, and work through legal and other matters on behalf of all of us.

The Worship Committee helps keep us on track through the special Sundays and seasons of the year ensuring that our worship and music reflects the values that sustain our life of faith. The Missions Committee provides leadership to everything from the CROP Walk and Heifer Plus Sunday to Trek to the Tree and other special appeals. We also provide monthly and other meals to help feed hungry residents of the South Bay.

Our friends on Membership & Evangelism help organize the welcome gatherings for people who are newer to our congregation. But even when someone worships here for the first time we seek to share with them a loaf of bread, home-baked by one of several members.

Our Children's Ministry team includes parents and staff who put together a range of events over the course of the year, from Sunday School to Parents Night Out, to our amazing Vacation Bible Camp. We offer Sunday School at each regular worship service, so that families know their children matter to us whatever the time of day (or night!).

Each year a number of our youth parents (and some who aren't even parents!), take a week out of their summer to serve as adult counselors for our youth taking part in Sierra Service Project. Without their involvement we would not be able to offer such a significant opportunity for those in middle or senior high.

On Monday mornings a team of volunteers helps count the congregation's generous offering, and another team records those so that we can say a proper thank you. As they are finishing up our Prayer Partners are usually gathering, offering encouragement and comfort with persons in need. Our Health & Wellness Committee supports the work of our Parish Nurse, helps coordinate our Brown Bag Lunch educational program, and leads our Blood Drive at Torrance Memorial Medical Center.

Even the choir, who appears in front of us each Sunday, puts in hours of rehearsal on Thursday nights throughout the year, and well more than that for our special seasonal concerts.

These are just *some* of the happenings going on day by day, over the course of the year. So as we look with hope to our mission in the year ahead, all I know how to say is "Thank you!"

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends

April with Patty Koester
and John August Swanson

Bob and I would like to thank you for your tremendous generosity in gifting to us one of John August Swanson's beautiful artworks. I love it for the bright colors and the liveliness of sea and sun and wind and sky. Bob loves it because it is inspired by the *great catch* of fish that the disciples hauled in when they followed Jesus' instructions about casting their nets. (Bob is kind enough, in his lighthearted way, to consider me a "great catch.") John August Swanson loves it because it depicts a story that reminds him to never stop reaching for the next thing in life - the next creative project, the next opportunity to connect with others, the next act of faith. This picture is one he turns to when he is tempted to think he is finished. He remembers the disciples' despair over Christ's crucifixion, and their astonishment when the risen Christ stood on the shore and blessed them with nets bursting at the seams. Inspired, the artist continues on his path.

Swanson talked about the picture's meaning to him when Patty Koester (representing the Staff Parish Relations Committee) and I went to his studio and home to choose a frame and collect the artwork. Bob had a bad cold that day, so he was present via FaceTime. (He and John conversed until my arm got tired of holding up the phone!) Looking at the boat full of friends and the water full of life will forever bring to mind the wonderful people I have come to know through Rolling Hills UMC. I count each of you in that number. And I am glad that at RHUMC we are blessed with many of Swanson's works, hanging in the narthex and the office buildings, to lift our spirits and encourage us in walking the way of Jesus.

Speaking of sources of encouragement, I'd like to invite you to join in the next phase of our study of the nature and origins of the ancient texts that make up the Bible. We are reading and discussing the book "Inspired," by Rachel Held Evans, and studying highlight scripture passages. We'll meet January 24 for "Wisdom Stories" and February 7 for "Resistance Stories." Both dates are Thursdays and you can choose a morning or an evening session. As Evans writes, "The Bible reflects the complexity and diversity of all human experience, with all its joys and sorrows." Thus, we enrich our lives by learning and living into its stories.

God's joy and peace to you in the New Year!

April

Message from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

A Benediction for a Month

May your life be blessed in 2019 by the gifts of Christmas.

HOPE

May you find courage to hope in dark times because God is with you.

LOVE

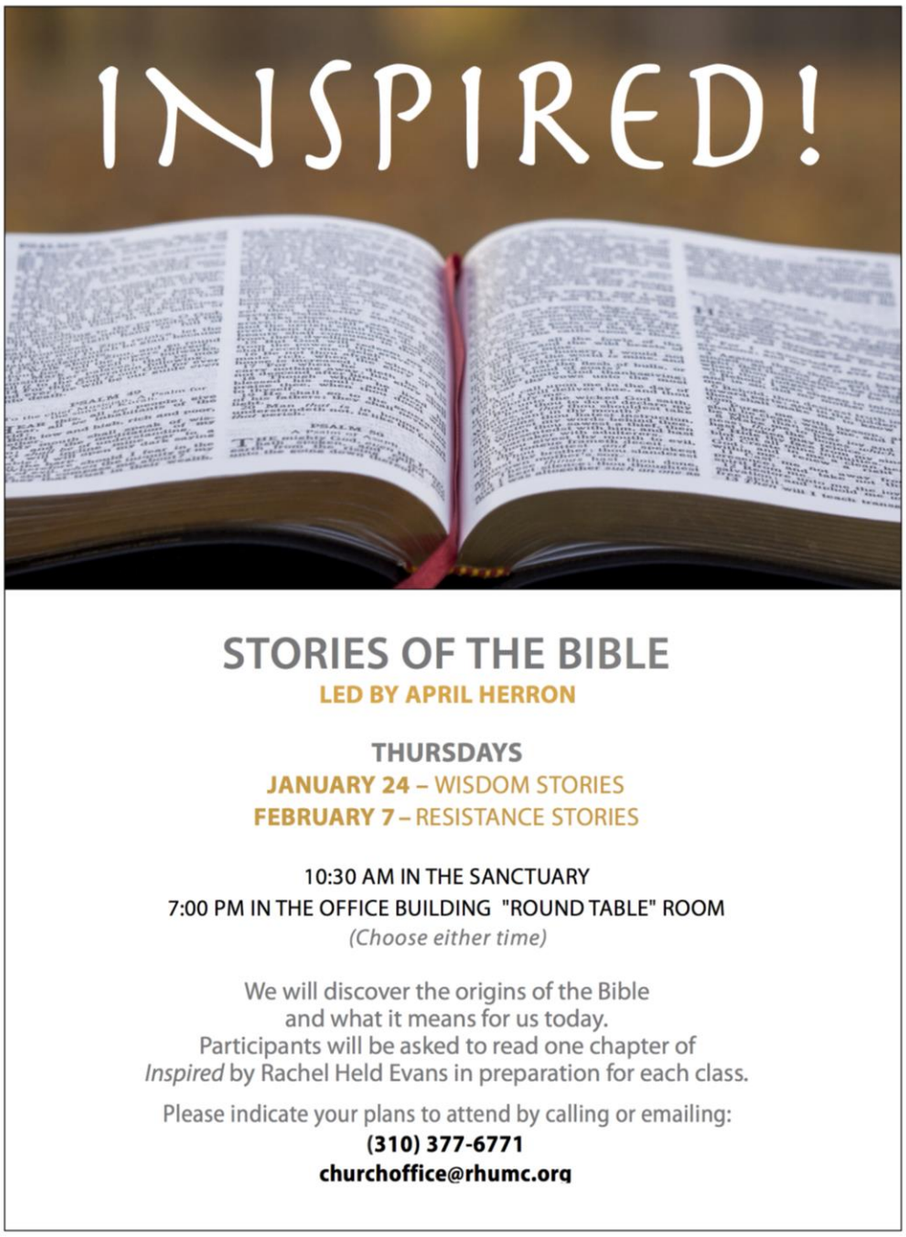
With your heart warmed by the infinite love of God, may you share love with the rest of God's creation.

PEACE

May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your heart and mind.

JOY

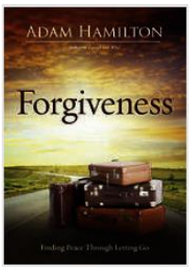
As you discover each day ways to live the life that God has created you to live, may you find joy.



Dawn Unity

The Dawn Unity Group's Interfaith Discovery Series will present "Heaven and Hell: Reward and Punishment" on **Tuesday, January 15**, 7:30 p.m. at the Congregation Ner Tamid, 5721 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes. The panelists will include our very own Jonathan Chute, RHUMC; Rabbi Brian Schuldenfrei, Congregation Ner Tamid; Father Alexei Smith, Archdiocese of Los Angeles and Dean Jihad Turk, Bayan Claremont. Bob Rothman will be moderator for this free, ninety-minute program. For further information, call 310-833-7008.

Sunday Morning Bible Study



Starting January the Seekers/Searchers Group will be using the book *Forgiveness* by Adam Hamilton as a guide to examine this vital topic in leading a good life with the help of Scripture writing. Anger, more than any other emotion, has the power to consume all aspects of our lives, distort our sense of purpose, and destroy our relation with God. Forgiveness is a gift we give ourselves and when we learn to forgive ourselves and others then we truly receive forgiveness from God. As we reconnect the broken pieces of our lives, we will see how the process of Grace and Forgiveness is possibly our most complete picture of God. Join us Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Aldersgate.

Volunteer Opportunities

Circle of Life Meal Preparation – the Circle of Life team prepares meals in RHUMC's kitchen and serves lunch at the Amigos House in the Harbor Gateway area to individuals who have AIDS and their families. The next three meal preps are scheduled for Saturdays, February 2, April 6, & June 1 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. If you would like to help with cooking in the morning and/or serving later in the day, contact Jackie Showalter at 310-544-8510 or jjshow2@verizon.net. Also, if you happen to be remodeling your kitchen or have a working appliance you are looking to get rid of, the Amigos House would appreciate donations of a freezer and a gas stove with a hood.

St. Paul's First Tuesday Meals – RHUMC helps support St. Paul's UMC in Redondo Beach with preparing meals for the homeless. Meals are prepared in RHUMC's kitchen. The next three meal preps are scheduled for Tuesdays, February 5, March 5, & April 2 from 12:30-2:00 p.m. If you would like to help with preparing the meals and/or delivering them to St. Paul's, contact Mary Jane Schwebel at 310-377-8780 or mjs41@cox.net.

New Member Welcome

If you are interested in learning more about Rolling Hills UMC, plan to join us **Sunday, January 13**, at 11:30 a.m. for the next **New Member Welcome**. It's a relaxed and informal time where you'll meet others who are new to the church, hear about the life and work of the congregation, take a tour of the facility, share a light meal and learn a bit about the United Methodist Church. It's a helpful introduction for people who would like to know more than just what happens on Sunday mornings. Many of the people who attend one of these gatherings decide to join the church, but there is no expectation that anyone do so. For those who do wish to join, we will be welcoming new members into the church on Sunday, January 27, at all three services.

Please call the church office at 310-377-6771 if you would like to attend. Childcare is available with reservation.

Opportunity to Host Members of the Copenhagen Girls' Choir March 2019

The internationally acclaimed Copenhagen Girls' Choir will be performing a concert at Rolling Hills United Methodist Church on Tuesday evening, March 26. The choir will also be visiting and performing with the Los Angeles Children's Chorus in Pasadena. They will be accompanied by a six-instrument Nordic band and some of the pieces are being written for them right now to premier during their California tour.

We are seeking volunteer host families to host two to four girls each during their time in Southern California. (Their chaperones will be staying in a local hotel.) The girls arrive Tuesday afternoon March 25 (by chartered bus via Carpentaria) from their tour in Northern California and will return to Copenhagen by air from LAX on Friday afternoon, March 28. There are sixty-five girls in the choir, ages 14-16. They all speak English.

Would you like to be a host family? It's an amazing experience - ask any of the families that hosted three years ago. If you are interested, please contact Susan Deo at 310-373-9826 or nasdeo76@gmail.com with your name and contact information and how many girls you are able to host (between two and four). Feel free to contact Susan if you have any questions as well.

By the way, you don't have to be a host family to attend the concert, so save the date, March 26 evening, whether you are hosting some of the Girls or not!

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, January 13, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Grand-Prize Winner of the
Los Angeles International Liszt Competition

Pianist
STEVEN VANHAUWAERT

Hailed by the Los Angeles Times for his "impressive clarity, sense of structure and monster technique," **Steven Vanhauwaert**'s accolades include First Prize at the Los Angeles International Liszt Competition. He has appeared as a soloist in some of the world's leading venues, including Walt Disney Concert Hall, Beijing's National Center of the Performing Arts and Forbidden City Theatre, the Shanghai Oriental Arts Center, the Concertgebouw in Brugge, the Great Hall of the Budapest Liszt Conservatory, Segerstrom Hall, and the National Philharmonic Hall in Kiev. He has appeared as concerto soloist with the Pacific Symphony, the Lviv Philharmonic, the Sofia Sinfonietta, the Flemish Symphony, and the Kyiv Kamerata, to name just some. Steven is a Steinway Artist.

Free-Will Offering ~ 100% for the Artists
All Are Welcome!

Courage to Love

Women's Retreat 2019

In times of transition and stability, it takes strength to care for others and ourselves. Michelle Dexter, Ph.D. will facilitate a day of exploration and learning, and Rev. April Herron will share insights from scripture. We will enjoy solitude and friendship, rest and reflection, movement and stillness, worship and wonder.

When Saturday, February 23
9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Where Mary & Joseph Retreat Center
5300 Crest Rd, Rancho Palos Verdes

Cost $50
Includes lunch and snacks

Registration will begin on Sunday, January 13 after all three services. You can also stop by the church office during the week. We have 25 spaces available, so be sure to sign up early to secure a spot. Please note that priority registration will be given to first time retreatants.

A deposit of $25 is due at the time of registration, and final payment will be due by February 15. Limited financial assistance is available.
Please contact April Herron at the church office for more information.

Childcare housed at RHUMC will be available for a small fee.
Please indicate your needs at the time of registration.

Charcoal Art Class - Beginners and *all* ability levels are welcome!

Instructor: Curtis Green, RHUMC member and artist
Thursday, January 31, 2019, 10:00-12:00 noon
Location: Sanctuary chancel area
All materials will be provided.

\Prehistoric peoples used charcoal sticks made from burnt fire embers to draw and express themselves in cave drawings. We still use compressed charcoal sticks today to make lovely drawings. Join us and draw using this timeless medium. Curtis has led two art classes for us in the recent past. He is known here for his talent, his ability to teach and guide, and his encouragement of each of us in our unique art expression. Relax, learn something new, and enjoy this engaging activity with friends. Please indicate your plan to attend by emailing churchoffice@rhumc.org or calling 310-377-6771.

Early Notice of Spring Book Discussions

What Makes A Family? (Facilitated by April Herron)

Monday, February 25: *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane* by Lisa See
Monday, March 25: *Sing, Unburied, Sing* by Jesmyn Ward
Monday, April 29: *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler

Save the Date

Our 2019 church-wide Blood Drive is coming!

Friday, March 8, 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
and
Monday, March 11, 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Sign-ups will be taken by Health and Wellness team members in the 3 weeks prior to the drive.

Altar Flowers

If you have a special occasion, a birthday to celebrate, someone to honor or remember, please consider donating flowers for the worship services. Sign up on the 2019 flower calendar posted on the narthex wall or call the church office during the week. The cost is $45.00 and the arrangement is yours to take home after third service.

Club Maintenance

We look forward to meeting again on **Saturday, January 12**, at 8:30 a.m. Our team took the month of December off from Club Maintenance activity to share in Christmas preparation in the sanctuary. All are welcome to participate and enjoy a fellowship lunch.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Join us for breakfast on Saturday, January 19. We'll meet in the Mission Room for Coffee at 7:30 a.m.; Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and at 8:30 a.m. Kim Hall will be our guest speaker at 8:30 a.m.

Preschool Fundraiser

Pizza with a purpose.

Bring in this flyer, present it to your server, and we'll donate **20%** of your check to the organization listed below. Purchases include dine in, take out, catering and all beverages.

FUNdraiser in support of:
Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool
Thursday, January 10th 2019
(All Day)

California Pizza Kitchen
25306 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90505
310-539-5410

Join the **Pizza Dough™ Rewards program** on your next visit or at **cpk.com** and receive a **free** Small Plate for registering.

california PIZZA KITCHEN

Children's Ministry

Come help us celebrate Groundhog Day
and see if there will be six more weeks of winter or an early spring.

Friday, February 1, 2019
5:00-6:00 p.m.
Rolling Hills United Methodist Church

Story time, crafts, games and a special snack

Pre-K through 5th grade
(parents encouraged to stay)

RSVP & Questions:
debra@rhumc.org

Youth Ministry

Ignite Spring Kick Off

January 30, 2019 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
(Dinner will be provided)
RHUMC's mid-week youth ministry resumes for the spring semester. Youth will play "get to know you" games and parents will meet with Kristin Reksc, Director of Youth Ministries, to review the calendar and sign up to volunteer.

Confirmation

Youth 9th grade and older are invited to attend an orientation and information meeting, Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 11:15 a.m. in the Youth Lounge or 6:30 p.m. at a reserved table during Taco Night. Please contact Kristin if you are interested in participating in the confirmation classes this spring.

Sierra Service Project

Spots are filling fast; submit a $100 deposit as soon as possible to reserve a space on our service team! Youth entering 7th grade or 8th grade in fall of 2019 will attend the Junior High SSP, July 21-July 26 in San Diego, CA. Youth entering 9th grade through graduating seniors will attend the Senior High SSP, July 27 through August 3 in Spokane, WA. We are also looking for adult counselor volunteers that would like to chaperone with our team. Please contact Kristin to sign up.

Kristin Reksc, Director of Youth Ministries
Kristin@rhumc.org

Stay connected on social media
Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/RHyouth
Instagram: rhumcyouth_
Text Reminders: send keyword "RHUMCyouth" to 33222

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 January 25
www.rhumc.org