



The Cornerstone

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

March 2019



Join Us for a Spring Concert Featuring

The Copenhagen Girls' Choir
with Afenginn & Maggie Bjorklund

Tuesday, March 26, 2019
7:30 p.m.

The Copenhagen Girls' Choir rates among the best of its kind in Denmark and is recognized abroad for their

homogenous sound - a result of the extensive voice-training the singers receive. The choir was founded in 1973 and is under the patronage of H.R.H. Princess Benedikte. On their U.S. tour they will be performing with the award-winning ensemble Afenginn and the pedal steel player Maggie Bjorklund. The Concert repertoire consists of new Nordic Music composed for this tour, classical choral music, and re-compositions of classical repertoire. Composer and front man in Afenginn, Kim Nyberg, has a strong Nordic voice in his compositions that encompasses classical techniques, Scandinavian folk music and the odd meters of eastern European music. Maggie Bjorklund's exceptional and poetic pedal steel playing is an interesting link between Denmark and the U.S., where she has toured extensively as a soloist and with American artists. The concert will feature all ensembles together as well as choir a cappella pieces and some instrumentals.

from the pastors

Jonathan Chute



The Special Session of our church's General Conference, held this past week in St. Louis, gave pretty well everyone a reason to be disappointed. It had been called to provide "A Way Forward" for our denomination around issues of same sex relationships. Some 900 delegates from around the world gathered at the America's Center Convention Complex for four days of worship, prayer, conversation and argument about our future.

The background to the gathering included the recommendation by our College of Bishops of the One Church Plan. That would have allowed each member of the clergy, each congregation and region of the church to follow their own conscience.

This did not satisfy some more conservative United Methodists here in the U.S., as well as many more in Africa and Asia. They wanted to tighten enforcement of our existing rules prohibiting both the celebration of same sex marriages and the ordination of lesbian or gay clergy. Ultimately, this Traditionalist Plan was approved, 438-384. Had the vote been taken among United Methodists in the U.S. only, the One Church Plan would have passed by a significant margin.

Though approved, the Traditionalist Plan faces significant obstacles. It includes a number of provisions which our Judicial Council had already ruled unconstitutional. Those rejected proposals had mostly to do with enforcement. Without them, it is hard to see what any of it will really mean. The Judicial Council will review the entire plan in April, to decide whether all or any part of it will survive. It is possible that those provisions which were not unconstitutional may be implemented, or that the entire plan will be tossed out.

Before the meeting some of our more conservative churches and leaders in the U.S. worked to create an exit strategy from the United Methodist Church. They had planned to leave if the One Church Plan were approved. One of those groups, the Wesleyan Covenant Association, may well still decide to depart. I do not know. They are meeting this week to choose their course.

Most Methodists in the Western U.S. hoped that the One Church Plan would pass. It reflects where many clergy and congregations have moved in recent years. It allows for a diversity of understanding among us. It does not force anyone to believe or act against their own convictions. At the end of the Special Session, there was an invitation by a leader in the Western Jurisdiction for those of like mind and heart to be in conversation as we seek a different way forward. It is possible that United Methodists from the Rockies, west, will live out of a different understanding from what the General Conference decided. It is also likely that many others from across our country, including some of our healthiest and largest congregations, will want to do the same.

It's fair to say that no one is, or really should be, happy about any of this. Over the course of the four days many unfortunate, unkind, and even un-Christian things were said by people across the spectrum. It was obvious that people were afraid of what would happen if their side lost. In the end, I believe we all lost.

April and I have already had conversations with many of you about this, and we are open to continuing that discussion over the coming weeks, months, and years. We feel especially for the families in our congregation who know and love their gay children and grandchildren, partners and spouses, brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles and cousins. As we say each month at communion, "the table is open." Our church is open, and we want all who find welcome and home here to know that we are grateful to be with you in the Church, the Body of Christ. We look forward to a strong and healthy future together as a family of faith, hope and love.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron



Dear Friends:

Did you know I was first introduced to my dear husband because of his interest in Bible study? It's true, so you could be forgiven for thinking I am biased when I talk about the benefits of reading and reflecting on scripture. Nevertheless, I would like to invite you to delve into learning from and about the Bible during the season of Lent.

Starting on March 14, those who gather on alternate Thursdays (at 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary or 7:00 p.m. in the office building) will be interacting with the last three chapters of the book "Inspired" by Rachel Held Evans. The focus will be on the New Testament, under the themes of Gospel Stories, Fish Stories, and Church Stories. At each class session we will read scripture and discuss the related chapter.

It's not too late to gain the benefit of the insights offered by Evans on how the Bible came into being and what its concerns are. "The Bible reflects the complexity and the diversity of human experience, with all its joys and sorrows," Evans points out. Thus, the texts can speak to us on a variety of levels. Some of the participants will have been to previous sessions; others will be there for the first time. All are welcome!

Meanwhile, Bob and I would like to say one more time how much we appreciate your enthusiasm, joy, best wishes, cards, contributions to the party, and generous gifts which blessed our wedding and the surrounding days. We continue to feel buoyed by love and grace.

God's peace and hope to all,

April

Message from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

In January I wrote about the gifts of Christmas. In February I wrote about New Year's resolutions. Now it is March, and I have a new take on Valentines. Jonathan and April may give you "Breaking News." I am more likely to share about "news that broke last month." So be forewarned! In February, my pastor here preached on an intriguing topic: "Send a Valentine to Someone You Do Not Like." He described a daily prayer practice that is like making every day Valentine's Day with the Valentines being blessings. Blessing, he said, is the art of being spiritually present to others in prayer and asking for God to surround a particular person or situation with three things: love, healing and peace. God is already willing for and offering to everybody and everything these three things. But the "Valentine prayer" says that you are willing these things too. He says that he starts with asking for himself, or opening himself to receive, love, healing and peace from God. Then he prays a blessing for a good friend. Thus warmed up, he turns to someone he does not like, sharing with God that he wishes for them to receive these gifts "Try to hold them gently in your heart," he says, "Release to God any anger or tension that may arise in you. Let these feelings go by setting them free to God's care." You may not want to start with praying a blessing for your worst enemy, but just with someone you dislike. He closes his prayer time by expanding his Valentine blessing list out to neighbors, friends, and eventually to people everywhere. Then he takes a few deep breathes and closes his prayer time. I have had a few transformational experiences with Valentine prayers of blessing already, and it is just March. Thought you might be interested.

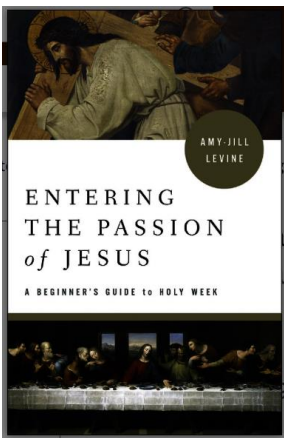
Ash Wednesday, March 6

Our congregation's observance of Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil on March 6 from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Choose a time that suits your schedule and come spend half an hour in prayer. Resources will be available to guide you. Our worship service is at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary with music and singing, prayer and scripture. Stop by the church office today to sign up for the Prayer Vigil or call the church office at 310-377-6771.

UMCOR Sunday-March 31

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) lives out a mission to alleviate human suffering. UMCOR provides humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries when war, conflict or natural disaster strikes. On **Sunday, March 31**, we will have a special offering to help underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." Funds raised will help UMCOR keep their promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. Special envelopes will be inserted in the Sunday Worship bulletin. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday Morning Bible Study



LENTEN STUDY: Starting March 10th, the Seekers and Searchers will be engaging in a six-week Lenten study leading up to the holy week that climaxes with Easter Sunday, April 21. We will be using Amy-Jill Levine's new book "Entering the Passion of Jesus." Amy is a Jewish scholar and Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and the College of Arts and Science. This is not your ordinary Lenten study. We will read the passion stories with compassion as we find how much more meaningful they become: as we learn the history behind the texts themselves to see what brilliant writers the Evangelists were. We will find ways to understand and question our own lives as we read the stories of Jesus' trials and choices. We will be challenged to examine our consciences and will emerge with a deeper relationship with Jesus and with others in the world. Aldersgate room every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. beginning March 10 through April 14.



STORIES OF THE BIBLE

LED BY APRIL HERRON

THURSDAYS

MARCH 14, MARCH 28 & APRIL 11

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.

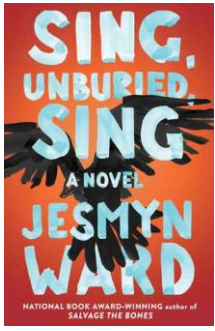
Participants will be asked to read one chapter of
Inspired by Rachel Held Evans in preparation for each class.

Please indicate your plans to attend by calling or emailing:

(310) 377-6771

churchoffice@rhumc.org

Join the Book Discussion!



Sing, Unburied, Sing by Jesmyn Ward, will be the topic of our **Monday, March 25**, 7:00 p.m., gathering. Jesmyn Ward teaches English at Tulane University and is a two-time National Book Award winner. This novel illuminates the story of a family on a journey through rural Mississippi. Jojo is thirteen years old and trying to understand what it means to be a man. His mother, Leonie, is an inconsistent presence in his and his toddler sister's lives. Leonie is embattled in ways that reflect the hard reality of her circumstances. "Ward's writing throbs with life, grief, and love," says one reviewer. April Herron will facilitate the conversation, as we continue to reflect on what makes a family. All readers welcome!

Blood Drive



Our 2019 church-wide Blood Drive is:

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

Our Health and Wellness team and Parish Nurse are hosting the drive at the wonderful **Torrance Memorial Blood Donor Center**. We will offer you a choice of a Starbucks or Sees gift card at the Blood Donor Center as a small token of appreciation for your time and valuable life-saving gift to our community. Invite your family and friends and visit with them while you give blood or go out to lunch afterwards!

Sign-ups to donate blood will take place on the patio Sunday, March 3, following each of the morning services with a member of the Health and Wellness team or Parish Nurse. You may also call Annette Matsuda at 310-618-8122.

Second Sundays At Two

Sunday, March 10, 2019 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

*Beverly Hills National Auditions Winner &
Artists-in-Residence at San Diego State University*

HAUSMANN QUARTET



ALEX GREENBAUM *cello* **ISAAC ALLEN** *violin*
BRAM GOLDSTEIN *violin* **ANGELA CHOONG** *viola*

Now in its 15th season, the **Hausmann Quartet** has established itself an integral part of the cultural life of Southern California as faculty Artists-in-Residence at San Diego State University and Ensemble-in-Residence at the *Mainly Mozart Festival* in San Diego. The Hausmann Quartet was one of only two American quartets chosen to participate in both the Beijing International Quartet Competition and the Banff International Quartet Competition.

*Contribute What You Can ~ 100% for the Artists
All Are Welcome!*

Usher Appreciation and Training

We would like to extend a special **Thank You** to all the ushers who make us feel so welcome as we arrive at church. Whether you are there regularly on Sundays or only on special event days or are considering joining our teams, you are invited to lunch on Saturday, April 6, at 11:00 a.m. We will be welcoming some new friends and reviewing ways that you can be especially helpful on Easter and other special days. Please let the office know if you will be able to attend.



Dawn Unity



Dawn Unity Interfaith Discovery Series will next meet on **Tuesday, March 12**, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 2200 Via Rosa, Palos Verdes Estates. "Many Songs, One Heart" will be led by Dr. Jeannie Cobb, St. Francis Episcopal Church. Directing their choirs are Cantor Rachel Goldman, Congregation Ner Tamid and Music Director Grant Hungerford, St. John Fisher Catholic Church. For more information on this free, 90-minute program, contact Bob Rothman at 310-833-7008.

New Member Welcome

If you are interested in learning more about Rolling Hills UMC, plan to join us **Sunday, March 17**, 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, March 31, at all three services.

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

Good Friday Concert



The Chancel Choir will be joined by the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles to present our annual Good Friday Concert at 7:30 p.m. on **Friday, April 19**. The concert, entitled Music Celebrating the Passion of Christ, will include the *Requiem* by Gabriel Faure with Jessica Tisdale and Perry Hayes as soloists. Plan now to attend what promises to be a beautiful and sacred program.

Club Maintenance



Thanks to the robust crew which showed up on February 9 in spite of rain and a tight time schedule. We accomplished the tasks set before us, dined and were out before the memorial service at 11:00 a.m. We even vectored a few memorial attendees in to the narthex. Appreciation goes to Bill Bails, Steve Boilard, Bob Chamberlin, Clarence Fung, Gene Koester, Dave Larson, Keith Levan, Jim Showalter, and Scout Ellis. Club Maintenance will next meet on **Saturday, March 9**, with Dave Larson in charge. New members are always welcome!

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Join us for breakfast on **Saturday, March 16**. We'll meet in the Mission Room for Coffee at 7:30 a.m.; Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and Guest Speaker at 8:30 a.m.



Daylight Saving Time
Sunday, March 10

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Join us on **Thursday, March 14**
4:00-9:00 p.m.
at
Riviera Mexican Grill
1615 S. Pacific Coast Hwy
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
310-540-2501



15% of all food and beverage sales
will be donated back to RHUMPS.

Children's Ministry

Calling all 3rd, 4th and 5th graders
to come join us for...



We will play games that teach us about keeping God's commandments,
the power of God's grace, God's blessings and a whole lot more!

<p>Sunday, March 17th 11:15 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Rolling Hills United Methodist Church Inside Wesley Hall</p>	<p>PIZZA, BEVERAGES, AND DESSERT WILL BE PROVIDED!</p>
<p>RSVP to Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org By Friday, March 15th</p>	

**SAVE THE DATE
VACATION BIBLE CAMP
JULY 30TH – AUGUST 3RD, 2019**



Youth Ministry

IGNITE YOUTH MID-WEEK MINISTRY
Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (Dinner is provided)
March 6 - Ash Wednesday Service
March 13 - Youth Sunday Rehearsal
March 20 - Movie night
March 27 - Bible Trivia



YOUTH SUNDAY, MARCH 17

All youth are invited to participate in leading worship on Sunday March 17. Youth can read scripture, present a mini-sermon, usher, greet or pray! Contact Kristin if you would like to be involved.

SIERRA SERVICE PROJECT 2019

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/RH youth](https://www.facebook.com/groups/RH youth)
Instagram: [rhumcyouth_](https://www.instagram.com/rhumcyouth_)
Text Reminders: send keyword "RHUMCYOUTH" to 33222

Kid Zone



We are looking for fun, energetic people interested in becoming a part of our Kid Zone and Mid Zone family. We have a variety of positions to fit your schedule. Listed below are the positions available. Please contact the Kid Zone office 310-377-7302 or kidzone.midzone@gmail.com.

Positions available:

- After School Driver approximately M-F 1:30-3:30 p.m.
- Assistant Director of Kid Zone approximately 30hrs/week
- Teaching Summer Camp (Art, Cooking, Sports or Performing Arts) - June 10-to July 26 approximately M-F 9:00-4:00 p.m.
- Summer Camp Counselors and Jr Counselors/Volunteers
 - You must be 16 years old to apply for a paid Counselor position.
 - Graduating 8th graders and older may apply for our Jr. Counselor/Volunteer Program to earn volunteer hours. Applications are due by **MARCH 25, 2019**.



Save the Date
Memorial Day Weekend
May 24-27
Family Camp
at Lazy W Ranch in San Juan Capistrano

Senior Pastor
Senior Pastor Emeritus
Preschool Director
Kid Zone Director
Children's Ministry Dir.
Youth Ministry Dir.
Youth Ministry Asst.
Parish Nurse
Treasurer
Church Business Mgr.

Jonathan Chute
Martha Rowlett
Myra Ghabrial
Megan Pelc
Debra DeLuca
Kristin Reksc
Ryan Perry
Annette Matsuda
Robin La Tourette
Nicole Lowery Zakman

Associate Pastor
Music Director
Organist/Pianist
3rd Service Music
Exec. Asst. to Pastor
Church Office Admin.
Admin. Assistant
Custodian

April Herron
Chuck Dickerson
Althea Waites
Paula Kuno
Roksolana Vecerek
Peggy Roulette
Ana Ysabel Lopez
Miguel Portillo

Church Office Phone
Fax Line
Web Site

310-377-6771
310-544-4123
www.rhumc.org

Resident Bishop
District Superintendent

Grant J. Hagiya
Mark Nakagawa

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 March 29
www.rhumc.org