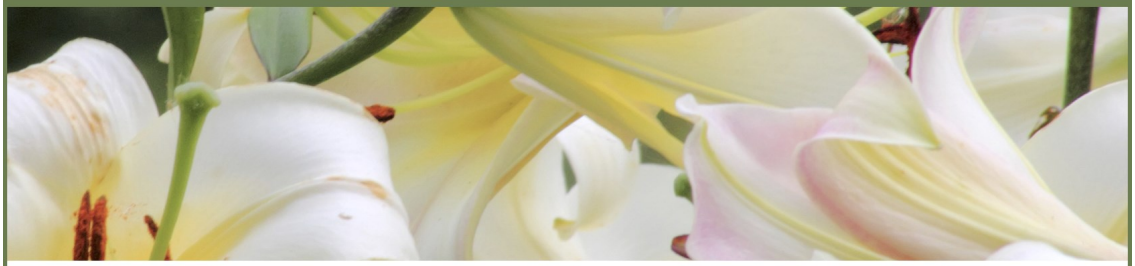
The Cornerstone

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

April 2019

Holy Week



Maundy Thursday - April 18

Tenebrae Service: 7:30 pm with readings and candles.

Good Friday - April 19

Music Celebrating the Passion of Christ: 7:30 pm
Will include "Requiem" by Gabriel Faure, presented by the Chancel Choir and the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles.

Easter Worship - April 21

Sunrise Service: 6:15 am in the Meditation Garden
Morning Services: 8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am with Chancel Choir & Brass
Evening Service: 5:30 pm with 3rd Service Ensemble

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

I'm not sure how popular Jesus would have been with church trustees or building committees. When he and his disciples were in Jerusalem, the disciples were overwhelmed by the size and majesty of the Temple. "What large stones and large buildings!" they said. Jesus replied, "The days are coming when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." That's not what they expected to hear.

Construction on the Temple had been going on for decades, and was not completed till after Jesus' death. It was the largest employer in the city, or for that matter, the entire region. It represented some of the highest and best hopes of the Jewish people. It was a place of reverence and worship, serving as a sign of the presence of God in the world.

So at his trial, it is perhaps not surprising that one of the charges thrown at Jesus was "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this temple that is made with hands and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.'" No, I don't think the building committee would have welcomed his input.

As we move through the season of Lent, into Holy Week and on to Easter, I find myself remembering these words. We are in the midst of our own building project – one which represents some of our highest and best hopes. We are building a wonderful home for our children, for our youth, for families of all ages, shapes and sizes. We are not building with stone, but when we look up I know some have been thinking along the same lines as the disciples – "What large buildings!"

To be in the midst of such a hopeful, positive, literally "constructive" project, at the same time that our United Methodist Church seems determined to shoot itself in the foot (or worse) feels awkward, to say the least. As we establish a foundation for a generous and hopeful future, other forces are at work that would seem to threaten that project. The actions of the 2019 General Conference did not help us reach out with the word of hope so needed in our world. Despite our frustrations and our fumbling, I trust that our future is in God's hands.

Across our country and around the world, United Methodists are working to build a community where all of God's people are welcome. Perhaps what is coming will be a new denomination. But I don't believe that God is all that worried about the brand name on the signs out front of our churches. More important is the mission we live out in the world around us.

The Church I want to serve welcomes people with diverse backgrounds and widely different views on almost everything. That's the United Methodist Church I've known and loved since I was a child. It has been called a "big tent," with room for people who disagree even about important things. I hope to keep it that way.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends:

Amidst all the construction and commotion on the RHUMC campus, it would be easy to lose sight of our meditation garden. But it is still out there, at the far edge of our property next to the horse trail. Roses are blooming and the fountain is burbling! The trees and hedges and memorial wall provide a protective enclosure. The wooden cross serves as a focal point. On a recent visit, I discovered two friends sitting together on one of the benches enjoying sunshine, conversation, and music.

The meditation garden remains always open to anyone who might like to spend a little time with the sights and sounds of nature, which thankfully cannot be completely drowned out by the sounds of hammering, drilling, and driving. Thus, those of us who like to get up early can look forward again this year to an Easter Sunrise Service at 6:15 a.m., on **Sunday, April 21**, in the meditation garden. Joy, simplicity, and the nourishment of food and friendship are the traditions which define this gathering. Dale and Linda Gehr and friends provide the cinnamon rolls, fruit, and coffee. Woody and Patrick Woodland provide the guitar music. We will pray, read scripture, and reflect on the meaning of the day.

Feel free to wear casual clothes and/or bring a blanket. We'll have seating for some worshippers, and standing room for others. If you are dressed up for services or other events later in the day, that's fine too. The point is to be together as the new day dawns, thanking God for life and hope.

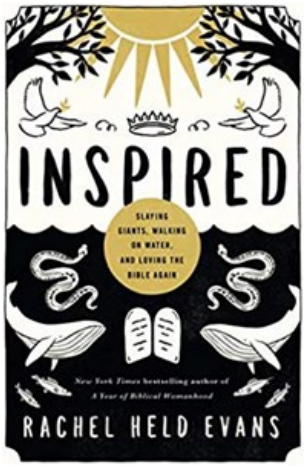
With you in faith,

April

Message from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

Guess who I sat with in church this morning. She came for breakfast and we visited the Folk Art Center and the Blue Ridge Parkway too. Kathy Platnick! She was in N.C. with Sara who was on Spring Break and came to Asheville to put Sara on a plane back to Boston. We talked and talked and she brought me up to date on things happening in Palos Verdes and RHUMC. I showed her a quilt that had been given to me by the children in the Sunday School at RHUMC on my last Sunday there. One foot square pieces were prepared by the different classes and sewn together by somebody – I never knew who. Many of the children had put their signatures on the farewell best wishes greeting with a few personal notes on their class's square. We had great fun identifying these children who are now young adults in their twenties. They drew pictures and obviously had fun with the project. Somebody quilted the final product to a large piece of colorful fabric with pictures of children. I have used this quilt a lot since I had foot surgery in November because I need to elevate the foot frequently. It has been my cover of choice for these months. I wish that I could thank the person who managed this project. This is one of those good deeds that somebody does that generates more ripple positive effects for longer than they could have imagined. 20 years later I feel not only the warmth of the quilt, but the warmth of the children's good wishes. I am blessed by it. I can say to you: "If anybody knows who did this, please say thank you for me." That will be another good deed. And who knows what long-term blessings might come of that!

Inspired! Bible Study Wraps Up This Month



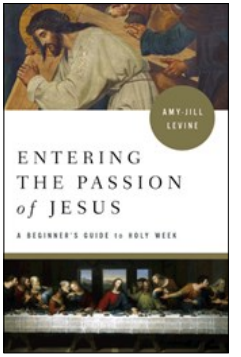
What did the first Christians make of the crucifixion? How did they experience themselves as different from, or similar to, their neighbors? Why did they come into conflict with the authorities who represented the Roman Empire? How did they learn what it meant to be a part of the community brought into being by Christ's life, ministry and resurrection?

Chapter 8 of *Inspired* focuses on the letters contained in the New Testament and what they teach us about the early church. "Church Stories" will be our final session of the series. We'll meet **Thursday, April 11**, 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and 7:00 p.m. in Martha's Room. Choose whichever works best for you. You may not have been to all (or even any) of the previous sections, but you are still welcome at this one! April Herron guides the class.

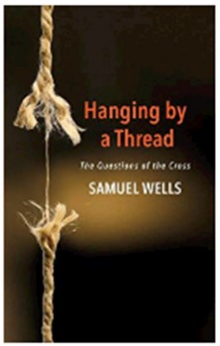
Good Friday Concert

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.

Sunday Morning Bible Study



Continuing LENTEN STUDY - Biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine delves into the history and literature surrounding the last days of Jesus' life. She puts the narrative in historical context and analyzes the risks and motives of the main characters. Levine brings forward aspects and details that open doors for all readers of the Bible. She shows how the stories raise ethical and spiritual questions, and how we all face risks in our Christian journey. The exploration of the passion narratives is not only greatly informative but also deeply comforting and challenging, as we see the risks Jesus takes in order to love us as he did. Strongly recommended for those seeking deeper meaning of the Passion.



We are also using a book called "Hanging by a Thread" by Samuel Wells, whose premise is that the cross was once an answer and now has become a question. "Why the Cross?" is an exciting exploration that we will enjoy pursuing this Lenten season. There are many answers that scholars and laymen have considered over the centuries. Wells contends the answer lies in considering not what "God has done 'for' us by being on the cross," but that the cross represents that "God wants to be 'with us' no matter what." "This transformation from 'for' to 'with' discloses a profound, moving and inspiring vision of what the central event of the Christian faith was truly about."

Missions Committee Upcoming Events

The Missions Committee has been blessed with many opportunities for participation in April and May. We hope you can join us for several.

April 27: Support our RHUMC Youth by walking a lap or two at the **Relay for Life** at South High School. Our youth are looking for church members to join them in a commitment to have someone on the track from 9:00 a.m. April 27 to 9:00 a.m. April 28. You can walk, run, bring your pet and just hang out for a good time. For more information, check out the article in the Youth Section of this Cornerstone or contact Kristin Reksc at Kristin@rhumc.org.

May 4: Walk in the annual **Crop Walk**. This year we will be back at Pt. Fermin Park in San Pedro. The course is 1.5 miles; the walk begins at the park at 11 a.m. The Missions Committee will be offering a light brunch before the walk starting at 10 a.m. You can donate or join the RHUMC team at https://www.crophungerwalk.org/peninsulaharborca/Team/View/95379/Rolling-Hills-United-Methodist-Church. Alternatively, you can pick up an envelope to collect donations at the Crop Walk table on the patio April 14 and 28.

May 5: Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with our supported missionary **John Elmore**. John will speak briefly at the 5:30 service and then be available at 6:30 for a more detailed presentation on his work in Chile. John and his wife Maria work at a high school and church in Chile. The Committee will provide a light Mexican supper.

May 15: Our longtime missionary **Paul Jeffrey** is retiring, so this evening's presentation will be his last update. Paul is well known for his fabulous photography documenting the work of the Methodist church from around the world. He has reported from over 70 countries. Paul plans to discuss his work over the last three years as well as summarize a bit of what he has learned over his 35 years of missionary work.

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 11:15 a.m. We will be welcoming some new friends and reviewing ways that you can be especially helpful on Easter and other special days. We will begin in Wesley Hall and then move over to the sanctuary after we have enjoyed our meal.

April 29 Book Discussion

"Once upon a time there was a family with two daughters, and a mother and father who had promised to love them both the same." So begins *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler. Kirkus Review called the book, "A fantastic novel: technically and intellectually complex, while emotionally gripping." Ursula Le Guin described the family which is the subject of the story as, "A very American, an only-in-America family - and yet an everywhere family, whose children, parents, siblings, love one another very much and damage one another badly." Le Guin adds, "This is a strong, deep, sweet novel."

It's also a story that contains a surprise, so don't read too much about it before you start into it (unless you don't like surprises). Published in 2013, it is still available in bookstores and libraries. You might know the author from her best-seller, *The Jane Austen Book Club*, which was made into a movie in 2007. April Herron will lead the discussion, to take place on **Monday, April 29**, at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Health and Wellness News

Thank you, Blood Drive Donors!

Mark Pope Tom Berg
Kathy Platnick Chellie Powell
Kristen Tyler Lindy Miller Diane Salter
John Nelson Sue Walters Mark Conrad
Jonathan Chute Pat Van Putten
Debra DeLuca Steve Boilard
Annette Matsuda
Bruce Harkins
Patty Kurlak
Kim Hall

We added significantly to the stores of needed blood in the Torrance Memorial Medical Center Blood Bank. Remember to donate throughout the year, too!

Special thanks goes to Ann Peitzman and Patty Kurlak who coordinated our drive and to our Health and Wellness team for hosting!

"No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13 (NRSV)

Second Sundays at Two

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

~ presents ~

Spanish Harpist

CRISTINA MONTES MATEO

"Cristina Montes Mateo is one among those very few individuals who have reached the very top of her field"

~ Maestro Zubin Mehta

First-prize winner of the *Torneo Internazionale di Musica* in Rome, Italy, **Cristina Montes Mateo** is recognized throughout the world as one of the leading harpists of her generation. Cristina performs with leading orchestras under such noted Maestros as Bernard Haitink, Sir Colin Davis, Georges Prêtre, Pierre Boulez, and Daniel Barenboim. She has performed at the Berlin's *Philharmonie,* London's Royal Albert Hall, Zurich's *Tonhalle,* Paris's *Théatre du Châtelet,* and New York's Carnegie Hall. Locally, besides unanimously winning the Beverly Hills National Auditions, Cristina also won LACMA's *Sundays Live!* Auditions.

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

The Lord is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.
Psalm 34:18 NIV

Mental Health and Hope Seminar, Sunday, May 5th

Light lunch in Wesley Hall, following the morning worship services
12:00 noon – 1:30 p.m.: seminar in the sanctuary with Q/A

Join us to learn and hear from these outstanding speakers, experts and highly respected in their fields, on topics relevant to people of all ages:

Paul Stansbury, President of NAMI, South Bay, returns to us to address the topic of mental health in our society and community. He will give us suggestions about how we can help ourselves and/or those we love who suffer from mental illness.

Sharmone LaRose is a well-known Geriatric Educator and Caregiver Training specialist in our South Bay. Many of you in our church care for a spouse or parent who is debilitated with medical and/or dementia challenges. Sharmone will address ways to prevent burnout and how we can support our church family caregivers. Additionally, she will address signs and symptoms of mental health care needs common to seniors and how we can help.

Gail Andrews, is a licensed clinical social worker employed by Kaiser. Gail has been working with cancer patients and adults in hospice who are at risk for suicide for the past 15 years. Articulate and insightful, Gail will discuss the self-harm continuum scale and give us tools to help us detect suicidal symptoms in others and ourselves with the goal of intervening in a timely and effective manner.

Gail also plans to teach us some "fun" mental health exercises, to recognize symptoms and trends, and will discuss alcohol, drug, and food addictions.

ALL church family, including our youth, and community friends are welcome.

A period for questions and answers from our panelists will be included.

Please RSVP for the luncheon by calling the church office at 310-377-6771 or emailing Annette Matsuda, Parish Nurse, at annettematsuda@gmail.com

Sponsored and hosted by our Health and Wellness team and Parish Nurse

Thank You for the Success of the Copenhagen Girls' Choir Visit

Thank you to the members and friends of the RHUMC community for their warmth and hospitality in welcoming the sixty-six girls of the Copenhagen Girls' Choir, their teachers and the accompanying musicians. The girls really enjoyed their stays with our families, most of whom were church members, the rest friends of church members. The girls, their teachers and the musicians all felt the joy the audience shared in their performance as well. What great memories for all of us!

Club Maintenance

On March 9 a group of eight fellows took care of many items on our maintenance work list. Completed tasks included repair of the choir room pocket door, door lubrication maintenance, repaired a patio bench, trimmed bushes, polished the acolyte candle holders, trimmed sticky doors and completed other miscellaneous tasks.

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, April 13** at 8:30 a.m. Please mark this date on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair. All are invited and note that a lunch is served. Bill Bails will be the coordinator for this work day.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Join us for breakfast on **Saturday, April 20**. We'll meet in the Mission Room for Coffee at 7:30 a.m.; Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and Guest Speaker, Eric Rasmussen at 8:30 a.m. Attendees are invited to bring a small object or two that are keepsakes from a particularly important time in your life that are now unnoticed by family members and friends.

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers are invited to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter! We will meet on **Saturday morning**, **April 20**, at 8:30 a.m. One crew will decorate the large narthex cross outside. The other crew will decorate the inside of the sanctuary. This is a wonderful opportunity to prepare for Easter surrounded by beautiful flowers!

Help us decorate the Sanctuary for Easter!

You are invited to donate one or more Easter plants to decorate the sanctuary for Easter services. The plants can be dedicated a few different ways.

☐ To the Glory of God

☐ In Honor of: _____

_____

☐ In Memory of: _____

_____

Given by: _____

Number of plants: _____Amount paid: _____

Cash: _____Check number: _____

Please make checks payable to RHUMC for $15 per plant, or 2 for $25. Give this order form and payment to the volunteers staffing the table on the patio, place in the offering basket, or send to the office. The last day to order plants is April 14th. Thank you!

Women's Interfaith

Freedom Seder

Panelists

Rabbi Leah Lewis **Temple Menorah**	**Sara Deen** **South Coast Interfaith Council**	**Reverend Rachel Nyback** **St. Cross-by-the-Sea**

Thursday, April 11, 2019
At Temple Menorah
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Program begins promptly at 7:00 pm

Interactive program and dinner
$25 per participant

RSVP for address
310-316-8444 or www.templemenorah.org

Children's Ministry

Join us for the best week of the summer!
New friends * Creative games *
Surprising adventures *
Super-fun snacks * Incredible music *

Vacation Bible Camp

July 29th – August 2nd
Contact: debra@rhumc.org

GRAB YOUR BASKET & HOP ON OVER!

Please join us for an Easter Egg Hunt!
Saturday, April 20th at 10:00 a.m.

A donation of one dozen filled eggs would be appreciated and can be left in the church office by 4/18. No nuts or peanut products please.

Event starts at 10:00 a.m.
Meet and greet at RHUMC. Egg Hunt for children ages 3 and under on Imagination Island. Egg Hunt for children ages 4 and up on church patio. Enjoy crafts, cookie decorating and photo with Easter Bunny in Wesley Hall.

FYI:
Bring your favorite basket or plastic bag to collect 12 eggs from the designated area. Eggs that are 1 color are filled with candy, eggs that are 2 colors have non-candy items inside.

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Thursday, April 11
All Day

15% of all food and beverage sales, including takeout orders, will be donated towards RHUM Preschool.

ROCK & BREWS

6300 S. Pacific Coast Highway
Redondo Beach 90277
310-378-4970

Youth Ministry

Ignite Youth Mid-Week Ministry

April 3 @ 6:30-7:30 p.m. “Spring Break Meet-up” at In-N-Out (Crenshaw and Skypark Drive location)
April 10 @ 6:30-7:30 p.m. “Spring Break Meet-up” at Starbucks (PV Drive West and Hawthorne Blvd)
April 17 @ 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Holy Week 101
April 24 @ 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Prep for Relay for Life
May 1 @ 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. “Be Our Guest”-5 course meal (please RSVP by April 24)

Relay for Life

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church is officially a registered team for the Relay for Life at South Torrance High School. The youth will be hosting the event with the hopes that this will be an intergenerational endeavor. Families or individuals can sign up to walk on the track for 30 minute intervals, participate in one of the many activities that will happen throughout the 24 hours, or folks can make a donation of snacks or water to fuel our team as they walk. **The event starts April 27 at 9:00 a.m. with an opening ceremony; at 9:00 p.m. there is a Luminaria Ceremony, and the event ends April 28 at 9:00 a.m.** Contact Kristin to sign up!

Mother’s Day Flowers

Would you like to give a gift and have the proceeds go towards a great cause? Here’s your chance! The youth will be selling flowers for Mother’s Day as one of their SSP fundraisers. Flowers can be ordered **April 28** and **May 5**. On Mother’s Day, May 12, the flowers will be ready for pick up after every worship service.

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

Kid Zone

Kid Zone and Mid Zone Summer Camp
Registration is now open!

Register and pay in full by **MAY 3rd**
to receive a **10% discount**.

To register, you can either stop by the office to pick up a brochure
or go online at rhumc.org

For more information call 310-377-7302
or email kidzone.midzone@gmail.com.
Hope to see you this summer!

Lazy W Ranch
faith grows here

Save the Date
Memorial Day Weekend
May 24-27
Family Camp

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	3rd Service Music	Paula Kuno
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 April 26
www.rhumc.org