The Cornerstone

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

May 2019

Mother's Day Brunch
Sunday, May 12th

Join us as we celebrate
all the influential women in our life.

9:00-10:30 a.m.
Come after the 1st service or before the 2nd service.

Enjoy a Brunch Buffet of scrambled eggs, veggie quiche,
breakfast potatoes, bacon, sausage, bagels,
buttermilk biscuits and gravy, fresh fruit and coffee.

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

As many of us expected, the United Methodist Judicial Council ruled last week that several of the petitions included in the Traditional Plan, as approved at February's General Conference meeting in St. Louis, are unconstitutional. Some of us had hoped that the Council might throw out the entire plan as a result, but they did not. It now appears that those parts that were found constitutional will go into effect on January 1, 2020. Among those are mandatory penalties for clergy presiding over a same sex marriage. The initial penalty is a year's suspension without pay. A second violation requires the permanent loss of one's ordination credentials.

Along with many of my colleagues I cannot imagine serving under this new (and very *un*-traditional) rule. Our congregation includes many families with LGBTQ members. They are persons of grace, dignity and worth equal to anyone else. They are beloved of God and ought to be welcome and included into the full life of the church. We had hoped that the Judicial Council would find a way to leave the door open to a different future. That is now clearly not the case.

In recent weeks there have been conversations happening among United Methodists across the country seeking a way forward on these issues. One of those will be held later this month at the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas. Some 600 leaders from across the the United States have been invited to take part. I was fortunate to be chosen one of ten from our California-Pacific Annual Conference and look forward to what I will learn there.

I will look to represent this congregation's varied perspectives and experience honestly. I know that we are not all of one mind when it comes to almost anything – let alone something so personal and important. But I believe we are an example of a healthy community, able to include different perspectives and experiences in an atmosphere of respect and care. I am grateful for your faithfulness to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and your openness to all those God sends us out to meet and serve.

I will be in Kansas City May 20-22 and will expect to know more when I return. It may be that the majority of United Methodist congregations here in the west, but also in the upper midwest and northeast, along with others in the south central and southeastern parts of our country, will seek to continue as we have for years, but under a new name. That was what happened in the early 19th century, when the church divided over the issue of slavery. It may even be an opportunity for us to witness more clearly and faithfully the meaning of the unofficial motto of our denomination, "Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors." We live in hope.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends:

What makes a person decide to go to seminary? How does one become an ordained minister? Who has the gifts and temperament necessary to accompany individuals and families through times of fear, grief and terrible loss?

The book *Here If You Need Me,* by Kate Braestrup, offers insight on these questions. It is the author's memoir of her own heartbreaking loss and of how she became a chaplain with the Maine Warden Service, which is the state entity responsible for search-and-rescue missions in the woods and wilderness of Maine. Kristin Reksc (RHUMC's Youth Ministry Director) and I plan to lead a discussion of the book on Monday evening, June 17, with a focus on how Chaplain Braestrup responds to questions about God and about suffering that emerge in the course of her work.

The book is full of comfort and hope even as it describes painful situations and circumstances. The story is engrossing as well as informative and concise. It's of particular interest to Kristin as she continues her effort to be commissioned and ultimately ordained by the United Methodist Church. I keep it on my bookshelf as one of the best books I've ever read about ministry. I hope you can join the conversation.

Meanwhile, in light of conversations already underway about the future of the United Methodist Church, I offer the following recommendation for personal reading for anyone in search of an overview of United Methodist history, beliefs, and structure. *Living As United Methodist Christians* by Andy and Sally Langford, published in 2011, does a good job of highlighting the distinctive qualities and contributions of Methodism. It's a quick and well organized read; it helped me to remember and appreciate anew the reasons I was glad to become a United Methodist some forty years ago.

Both books are available in paperback by ordering online from major booksellers or from Cokesbury.com. If you need help obtaining a copy, please contact Peggy in the church office.

May your summer be blessed with good reading!

April

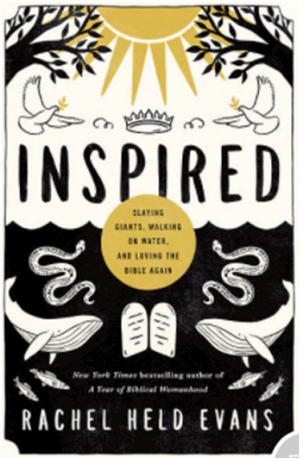
Message from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

I am feeling very, very small! I have been reading about the recent pictures scientists have captured on film of our cosmic neighbor, our galaxy's Black Hole. The solar eclipse of a couple of years ago left me with a feeling of breathtaking awe and a fresh sense of wonder before the magnitude of creation. I felt small then. But at least I could see with my own eyes, the sun and the moon up there doing their thing together. But now the newspapers have shown us something Albert Einstein told us was there, but until now we had never seen. I feel like holding onto my seat when I read the consensus description.

For starters, this Black Hole is 6.5 times as big as the sun. It is 5.5 million light years away. The photograph was taken by a network of telescopes linked around the world that functioned as a single global-sized camera. One attempt at expressing the power of that global telescope camera network was to say that with its power from New York you could see the date on a quarter in L.A. Wow! That is big stuff.

I feel small. But more importantly, that picture in the paper reminds me that I am a significant part of one unified creation filled with God's presence. The God who is present to the vast expanses of the universe is also present in the very depths of my soul – one Life in all life. My faith reminds me that I am not small at all.

Sunday Morning Bible Study



Now that Lent is over and Easter has begun, we are offering another opportunity to read and discuss the book *Inspired* by Rachel Held Evans. For those who missed April's class or want to explore its themes again, please join us. This class is for those who want to read the Bible as a "living, breathing, confounding, surprising, alive and bustling" document that it truly is. "It is not static, certain or absolute." It is to be mined and understood using techniques rich in interpretation and translation as we "wrestle, doubt, imagine and debate." It is a document full of "mysteries and contradictions not to be fought against but courageously engaged." We will emerge truly inspired.

Tour de Friends!

Starting later this month we will be inviting church members and friends on a behind the scenes tour of our new facilities. Construction began back in September and will be finished before the end of August. We are still on schedule and under budget even after the long wet winter. So there is lots to celebrate!

We'll meet out on the patio for a brief overview and light refreshments before we begin. We want to show each group a couple of up and downstairs classrooms, as well as our wonderful outdoor play areas. The exact itinerary will depend on the construction schedule that week.

There will be weekday opportunities from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, when the workers are on their lunch break. We will also be arranging weekend tours. Saturday times are yet to be determined. Sunday tours will follow each of the morning worship services and be available after 3rd service too.

Invitations will be going out to everyone and we hope that you will come! You can also call the church office to find a day and time that works for you. We will have to limit each group to about 20 people, so it may take a little juggling to fit us all in. Watch for your invitation, coming soon!

Celebrate our Missionaries in May

We are pleased to welcome two of the missionaries RHUMC supports in May. We hope you will join us to hear about their work.

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 p.m. for a more detailed presentation on his work in Chile. John and his wife Maria work at a high school and church in Chile. Light dinner will be available in the Mission Room.

May 15: Our longtime missionary Paul Jeffrey is retiring, and will be giving us his last update on Wednesday, May 15. Paul is well known for his impressive photography documenting the work of the United Methodist Church 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. Program begins at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary with desserts following the program.

May will also feature our annual **Crop Walk** on May 4 at Pt. Fermin Park in San Pedro. The course is 1.5 miles; the walk begins at the park at 11:00 am. The Missions Committee will be providing coffee, donuts and fruit before the walk starting at 10:00 a.m. If you haven't already done so, you can donate or join the RHUMC team at https://www.crophungerwalk.org/peninsulaharborca/Team/View/95379/Rolling-Hills-United-Methodist-Church.

Dawn Unity

Dawn Unity Interfaith Discovery Series will present "Why I Pray" on **Tuesday, May 14**, 7:30 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5845 Crestridge Road, Rancho Palos Verdes. The panelists will include our very own April Herron, RHUMC; President Mike Gazdik, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; Rev. Paula Vukmanic, St. Francis Episcopal Church and Rev. David Young, Neighborhood Church. Bob Rothman will be moderator for this free, ninety-minute program. For further information, call 310-833-7008.

Second Sunday Supper

We hope you can join us for dinner on **Sunday, May 12,** after 3rd service. Dinner will include Hawaiian barbecue teriyaki chicken, salad and rice from L&L Hawaiian Barbecue. The requested donation is $5 per person, $15 per family. 3rd service takes place every Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Music Committee Sponsored Concert

Finance Update

At the first quarter of the year we have good news to share. Your contributions to our church's mission are ahead of budget, and our expenses to date are below. Our giving goal through March was about $253,000 and your contributions were a little over $264,000! Expenses are down about $18,000. Some of that is a simple matter of timing and will even out over the next couple of months. But with everything we are up to these days it is very good news indeed. Thank you very much for your generosity and giving!

Second Sundays at Two
Sunday, May 12, at 2:00 p.m.

Two Stellar Concerto Soloists & Good Friends Return for Their 3rd Appearance Together on the "Second Sundays At Two" Series

Since her solo debut with the New York Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta at the age of nine, Juilliard- and USC-trained violinist **Linda Wang** has performed concertos with leading orchestras worldwide. Linda's numerous solo recitals have taken her across Europe, Asia, and the U.S. in such renowned venues as New York City's Carnegie Hall, Amsterdam's *Beurs van Berlage* and the Berlin *Schauspielhaus*. Ms. Wang is Professor of Violin and Chair of Strings at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music.

Pianist **Robert Thies** is an artist renowned for his consummate musicianship and poetic temperament. He first captured worldwide attention in 1995 when he won the Gold Medal at the Second International Prokofiev Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia. With this victory, Robert Thies became the only American pianist to win first prize in a Russian piano competition since Van Cliburn's famed triumph in Moscow in 1958.

Contribute What You Can ~ 100% for the Artists

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

Club Maintenance

Club Maintenance met on Saturday, April 13, to accomplish some needed tasks. The biggest job was to erect the palm branches for the Palm Sunday services. In addition, the door locks in Wesley Hall were lubricated, conduits primed and ready for painting next month, the nail holes in the narthex wall were spackled and ready for painting, the remaining DG was removed from the patio, the kitchen frig and freezer coils were cleaned, and the dishwasher run to complete the tasks. Participating in this effort were Bill Bails, Steve Boilard, Clarence Fung, Keith Levan, Eric Rasmussen, Oren Sheldon, and Jim Showalter. Sandwiches from the Subway were delivered by Jeff Bails (Bill's son) and we all enjoyed a good lunch and fellowship.

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, May 11** 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. Gene Koester will be the coordinator for this work day.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Join us for breakfast on **Saturday, May 18**. 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.

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

Family & Friends Camp is just around the corner! We hope you can join us for **Memorial Day Weekend**, **May 24-27**, at the Lazy W Ranch in San Juan Capistrano. It is the perfect place for fun, relaxation and fellowship with family and friends in a beautiful picturesque setting. Choose to be active or sit back and enjoy the tranquil surroundings. Traditional camp activities offered include hiking, swimming, volleyball, archery, horseshoes, crafts, ping pong and campfires. Accommodations include heated cabins, bathrooms with hot showers, and delicious meals. Join us for the whole weekend or when you are available.

For more information, contact Cathy Stark at cathy@bblsurflaw.com, stop by the patio after morning services on May 5, or call the church office at 310-377-6771.

Holy Week at RHUMC

Photos by Bob Chamberlin

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Thursday, May 9
5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

All food & beverage sales, including take-out orders, will be applied towards the 20% donation excluding sales tax and gratuities!

550 Deep Valley Drive
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
(310) 544-7829
www.rubys.com

Children's Ministry

Last Parent's Night Out of the School Year!

Saturday
May 18, 2019
4:30-8:30 p.m.

Space is limited, so be sure to sign-up early!

Who: Infants to Fifth Graders
Where: Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
Costs: $35 (1 kid), $45 (2 kids), $50 (3 kids), $55 (4 kids)

Registration: Email Debra@rhumc.org or call the church office at 310-377-6771, ext. 106 with your child's name and age.

Cancellation: If you have confirmed your child's attendance and then find you will be unable to attend, please contact Debra asap to cancel as we always have a waiting list for this event.

Register online at RHUMC.org

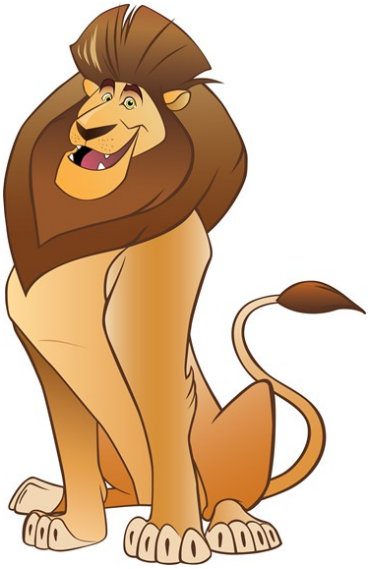
VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2019

Ages: 3 years old thru 5th Grade

July 29 – August 2
9:00 am – Noon
Registration – $65

Adult & Youth Volunteers Welcome!

Volunteer Opportunity



Tired of LION around? Looking for adventure?

Come be a volunteer at our Vacation Bible Camp Monday, July 29th through Friday, August 2nd.

VBC, takes place in churches around the world each year.

It's important and impacts lives. But...it can't happen without volunteers like you and me.

From teachers, to crew members, to craft helpers, to snack preparation many volunteers are needed!

Contact Debra at debra@rhumc.org or (310) 377-6771

Youth Ministries

Mid-Week Youth Ministry

May 8, 6:30-8:00 p.m. De-Stress Night
May 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Graduation Celebration
Ignite will resume in September.
(One-time youth events will happen throughout the summer)

Confirmation Sunday is May 19, 2019

Graduation Celebration

On **May 15**, 6:30-8:00 p.m. we will be celebrating youth who are being promoted into 6th grade and 9th grade, and those who are graduating high school.
The whole family is invited to this special dinner.
Please RSVP to Kristin at kristin@rhumc.org by May 8.

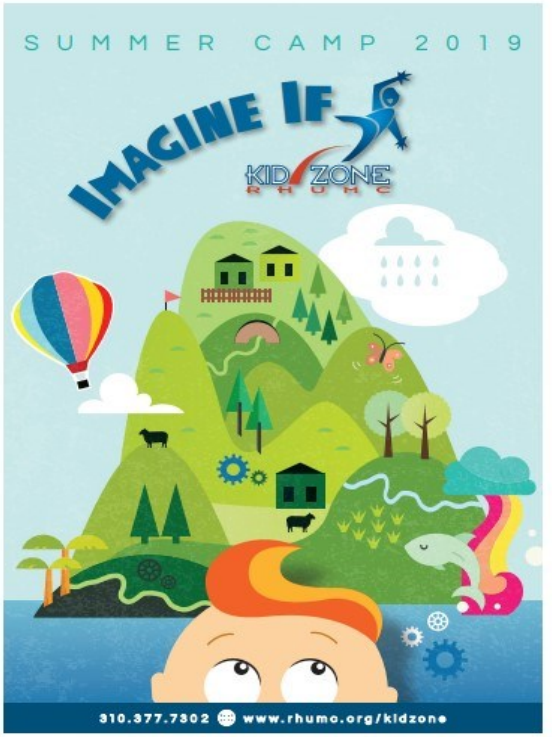
Mother's Day Flowers

The youth will be selling flowers for Mother's Day as one of their SSP Fundraisers. Flowers will be pre-sold on May 5. On Mother's Day, May 12, the flowers will be ready for pick up after all worship services.

There are still spots remaining for **Sierra Service Project** this summer. The Junior High team is going to San Diego, CA July 21-26 and the Senior High team is going to Spokane, WA July 27-August 3. Sign up today!

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!

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
26438 Crenshaw Blvd.
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

Change Service Requested

SAVE OUR PLANET!

Have your Cornerstone sent via email; it's easy, just call the church office at 310-377-6771. You can also view the Cornerstone on the church website at www.rhumc.org

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
Parish Nurse	Annette Matsuda	3rd Service Music	Paula Kuno
Children's Ministry Dir.	Debra DeLuca	Exec. Asst. to Pastor	Roksolana Vecerek
Youth Ministry Director	Kristin Reksc	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Kid Zone Director	Megan Pelc	Admin. Assistant	Ana Ysabel Lopez
Treasurer	John Fitzgerald	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
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 May 24
www.rhumc.org