The Cornerstone

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

June 2019

Sunday, June 16th

Join us as we recognize all the positive male figures in our lives.

Following the 1st service we will have doughnuts and orange juice on the patio.
Following the 2nd service we will have hot dogs, chips & watermelon in Wesley Hall.
After our 3rd service we will have desserts in the Narthex.

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

It has been a bit of a whirlwind around these parts lately. With the construction at a rapid pace our campus changes almost every day. Stucco is finished and scaffolding is coming down. The shape and character of our new facilities are coming into view. Over the next week or so doors and windows will arrive and the elevator installation begin. The church office is a little upside down with the temporary relocation of our staff and entrance. Everyone has been so understanding and friendly about all of this. I can't thank them (or you!) enough.

And if our plates weren't already full, the conversation about how best to respond to the passing of the Traditional Plan by our Special General Conference continues. As you know I was among 600 or so United Methodists who met in Kansas City, May 20-22, to reflect and strategize. It was a remarkable gathering. Our differences were many – background, culture, church size, language, clergy and lay, gay and straight, male and female – we come in every color, shape and size.

There was a fair amount of anxiousness and fear among us. Some of that was the result of the Traditional Plan, whose punitive character has caused many to worry about our future, or that of colleagues and friends. There was also fear that the organizers of the event had their own biases, and that we might be led toward a pre-planned conclusion. Within a short time it was clear that this was not the case. The humility and openness of the leaders, at nearly every point, was truly amazing. The temperature in the room dropped as people began to see each other with new and hopeful eyes.

What has come out of UMCNext is a desire to build a community of passionate, hopeful followers of Jesus, grounded in scripture and informed by tradition, experience and reason. We want to be a church that welcomes all persons, without reservation. We agree that the Traditional Plan is inconsistent with the teaching and example of Jesus and will resist it. We will eliminate discriminatory language and penalties in our book of Discipline around LGBTQ persons.

The conversations around these four principles will continue over the coming months. Some regions of the church, and some congregations, will likely withdraw from the United Methodist Church. Others will stay and work to bring change from within. Neither option will please everyone. And even those who agree on our goals do not know which way may ultimately prove effective. There is a reasonable likelihood that most of our California-Pacific Annual Conference will choose to become a part of something new. Indeed, I hope that we will. Even then, I want to say again that April and I look forward to serving as your pastors for years to come.

We look forward to welcoming a number of new persons into our congregation later this month. What a wonderful privilege and joy it is to be moving forward together!

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends:

Sorting, packing, building, moving - it almost seems contagious! The construction crew at church is working full tilt and the work is now directly impacting the office building. Finding functional work space for all members of the team is becoming an increasing challenge. Creating space for everyone to have their necessary supplies at hand is also an ongoing puzzle.

Meanwhile, back at the apartment that I have greatly enjoyed since moving to the South Bay, I spend my evenings going through my possessions making piles for “donation" and "discard,” and then trying to consolidate what remains into boxes containing similar items. The goal of this exercise is for me to get successfully relocated into my husband's condo in San Pedro by the end of June. Before I take up residence, we are hoping to replace countertops and install a new dishwasher. The whole endeavor seems prone to complication and delay, but we are persisting.

In March and April, my brother and I moved all my father's personal files and possessions out of the building where he practiced veterinary medicine for 40 years. My daughter and her husband are trying to move into their new apartment before their baby is born in mid July; they also are waiting for construction to finish. And my younger daughter just moved (temporarily) from St. Paul to her summer research site in the farm country of western Minnesota. Oh, and then there are the temporary but troublesome road constrictions on and near Crenshaw Boulevard undertaken for the sake of water infrastructure in our whole community.

I know I am not the only person experiencing renovation, reconstruction, and life transition. Others in the church family are also remodeling and moving and adapting to new circumstances. That's why this month seems like a good time to learn from our friend Wayne Kalayjian about building projects of generations past. Wayne is going to offer two Tuesday evening sessions, June 18th and 25th at 7:00 p.m., on “The Miracle of It All: Building the Medieval Cathedral.” Based on previous experience with Wayne's teaching style, I am confident we’ll learn and find encouragement from his presentations.

The miracle of it all, indeed!

April

Message from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

May 24 on the Methodist calendar worldwide is the date for remembering what is thought of as the starting point for the Methodist movement - John Wesley's experience in a little chapel on Aldersgate Street in London on that date. The newsletter from the Methodist museum reports that "Today more than 80 denominations in 130 countries attribute their Christian beliefs to John Wesley and are called Methodists." Today we are caught up in an intense struggle about what being a Methodist means in our time and place in what is known as The United Methodist Church. Probably it is a good time to read again Wesley's note in his journal on that day: "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society on Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone, for salvation; and an assurance was given me that He had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death."

We share with all of these other Methodists the heritage of the warmed heart. We also share Wesley's famous instruction to do good. "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

I once asked a very happy and life-affirming man who was 102 years old if he had an explanation for his quality of life at this age. He smiled and said, "Just doing what I learned as a child from John Wesley." Then he shared the quote, slowing down and emphasizing the last phrase: **"as long as ever you can!"**

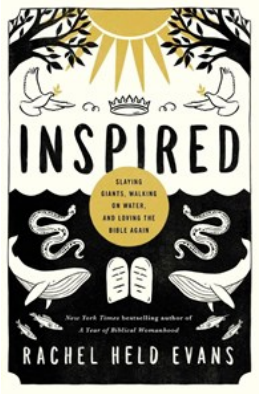
Hopefully, when all of this is over, no matter what the final solution, we can enter the future as people with warm hearts who are doing all the good we can.

New Member Welcome

If you are interested in learning more about Rolling Hills UMC, plan to join us **Sunday, June 9,** 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, 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, June 23, at all three services.

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

Sunday Morning 10:00 a.m. Bible Study - “Seekers and Searchers”



A gathering takes place each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Aldersgate Room (adjacent to the narthex) for adults interested in exploring the Bible together. Currently the group is reading and discussing Rachel Held Evan's book, “Inspired.” Here are some of Larry Kittiver's reflections on the opportunities presented by the book:

In this book we will be invited to see the Bible as a book of wisdom. We will be encouraged to remain open and curious about what it means to live in the presence of God. We will ask questions, seek explanations through debate, and find new and fresh possibilities. It will give us different ways of reading the Bible and help us in appropriating its core messages. Changing times may require adjustments to our thinking about God and faith. Join us as we continue on this journey.

Ripples 4: Discover More about Creation Care and What You Can in Support of God's Creation *by Susan Deo*

In May 2018 I attended the Earthkeepers Training sponsored by UMC Global Ministries in Atlanta, GA, and have since shared with you some of what I learned about the foundations of Creation Care in our faith and what has inspired me to action. Last November, in a moving online ceremony, the forty 2018 trainees were commissioned to serve as Creation Care proponents in their communities. The announcement is now out for this year's training! It's such a life-affirming, life-changing experience I hope more from our congregation - and our state -will participate this year! (So far I'm the only person from California trained.) You can pick which time and location work for you when you apply. (Three choices: Philadelphia in August, Austin in September or Chicago in October) Room and board and training costs are all included in the long weekend workshop - and the benefits are bountiful! Your only cost is transportation to and from the site you choose, and any incidental expenses. I'd be happy to answer anyone's questions (Susan Deo at nasdeo76@gmail.com). More information and application are available online at https://www.umcmission.org/learn-about-us/our-work/creation-care/earthkeepers.

Confirmation

In May, five young people from within the congregation remembered their baptism, affirmed their faith, and were confirmed as professing members of Rolling Hills United Methodist Church. Their families, pastors, and friends rejoiced, and all present for the occasion recommitted ourselves to living according to the example of Christ. Sony, Zach, Shane, Fiona, and Ryan, we honor you!

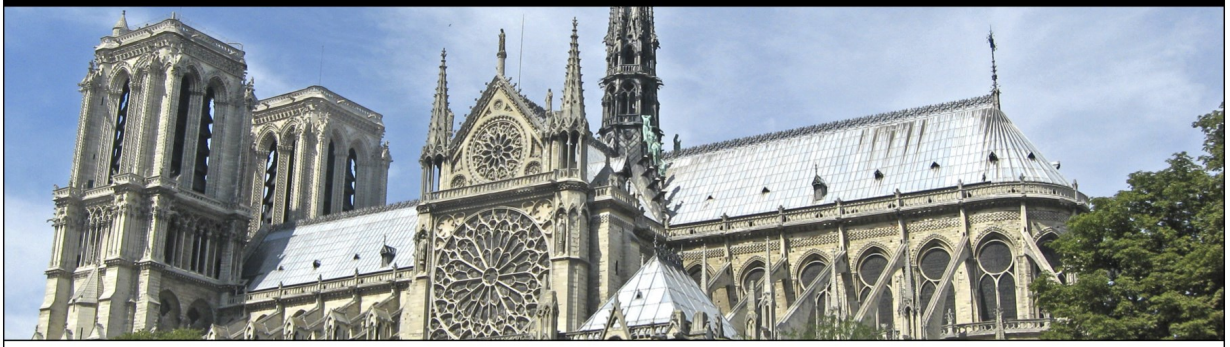
Missionary Updates

We were blessed to hear from our supported missionaries John Elmore and Paul Jeffrey during May. John spoke of his work in Chile and Paul recapped his recent work as well as his reflections on the work he has done over the last 30 years. Paul will be retiring in July. We took an offering during Paul's visit but failed to do so during John's. If you are interested in supporting John's work, please mark your donation as being for John Elmore (in the subject line of the check or on the giving envelope). Checks should be made payable to RHUMC.

And, as a reminder, we are still collecting Box Tops to benefit Red Bird Missions. You can clip the Box Tops from a broad range of products. For a list of supporting merchants, go to https://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/participating-products. There is a collection box for Box Tops on the table in the Narthex.

THE MIRACLE OF IT ALL

BUILDING THE MEDIEVAL CATHEDRAL



Presented by Wayne Kalayjian, PE, SE

Tuesdays June 18 and 25, 2019

7 PM in the Sanctuary

Medieval cathedrals are among the most intricate and inspiring legacies of the Church. They are also fascinating windows into the past and tell us much about the political, artistic, and cultural tempers of those times; the religious convictions of their patrons; and the engineering daring that it took to have them built. The two consecutive presentations will explore how these great moments of the Middle Ages were designed and constructed, how they were financed, as well as their philosophical underpinnings. As a "current events" bonus, possibilities for the rebuilding of Notre Dame will be reviewed.

Please indicate your plans to attend by calling or emailing:

(310) 377-6771

churchoffice@rhumc.org

The Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles

Our "in-house orchestra," The Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, will present its Season Finale Concert at the Walt Disney Concert Hall at 3 p.m. on **Sunday, July 7**. Chuck especially invites all of our congregation to attend this concert. This is the orchestra's only fundraiser for the year, and tickets are available from $30 - $75. So if you're interested in attending, or if you'd like to sponsor this event by making a contribution that will be applied to tickets for those who cannot afford to purchase tickets, or both, please either call the ICYOLA office at 213-788-4260 and speak with Akilah Morgan, or send Chuck an email at cedickersoniii@sbcglobal.net.

Club Maintenance

Even though four of our key members were out of the country and a shortened work period due to a memorial, service tasks were accomplished on May 11. Lamps were replaced in the choir loft and sacristy, air vents were vacuumed in the narthex, doorstops were replaced in the Mission Room, and a weather strip was installed on a recently repaired door. When we reached our time limit, we retired to the Mission Room for donuts and coffee. Volunteering were Bob Chamberlin, Bruce Harkins, Gene Koester, Keith Levan and Oren Sheldon. Our next Club Maintenance is scheduled for third **Saturday, June 15**, at 8:30 a.m. with Dave Larson coordinating. All are invited to help keep our church facility functioning and beautiful.

Gene Koester, May Coordinator

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Join us for breakfast on **Saturday, June 15**. 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.

Second Sunday Supper

We hope you can join us for dinner on **Sunday, June 9,** 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.

Benefiting schools in San Pedro serviced by the

TOBERMAN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

You don't have to be a billionaire to make a difference. For $35, you can send a San Pedro child to the first day of school prepared with a backpack and needed school supplies. The RHUMC Children and Youth Ministries and Missions Committee are supporting Toberman's efforts this summer to collect new or gently used backpacks and school supplies for San Pedro children.

To help, you can donate cash or any of the following items:

- new or gently used backpacks
- #2 pencils
- Crayons
- composition or spiral notebooks
- pencil cases
- 1.5 and 2 inch binders
- binder paper (3 hole punched)
- pens
- highlighters
- subject dividers
- pencil sharpeners
- folders
- erasers

You can make donations at our Sunday patio table beginning June 9 through August 4 or leave backpacks and school supplies in the bin marked for donations located in the Narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Platnick at 213-479-6950 or kasandersplatnick@gmail.com. We hope to provide 100 fully loaded backpacks with the generosity of this congregation.

Welcome John Fitzgerald

Joining the RHUMC staff as Treasurer is John Fitzgerald. John has been a church member since 2014 and is concurrently on the staff at Manhattan Beach Community Church, where he has been serving as Business Manager for the past five years.

John grew up in a small farming community in Kansas. He received his undergraduate degree in accounting from Drake University and later his Masters in Business Administration from California State University at Fullerton. John brings over 30 years of accounting and business management experience, including work as an auditor with the State of Iowa, and accounting and financial roles with Ralph's Grocery Company, HJ Heinz, ConAgra, Coca-Cola, and Curtiss-Wright. In 2013 John and his family sold their commercial cleaning equipment company in Mesa, Arizona and relocated back to Southern California to be closer to family.

John and his wife, Angela have two sons, Andrew and Anthony graduating from Peninsula High School this year and one daughter, Athena, who will be in 7th grade at Miraleste Intermediate School in the fall. When he has spare time, John likes cooking, writing, playing pinochle and tinkering in the garage.

"I am very happy to be able to participate in the life of the church as a staff member. I look forward to working with Church leadership and being able to contribute to the many ways we are growing, fulfilling our mission and expanding our ministries."

Behind the Scenes - Construction Tours

In early June, we will be hosting "Behind the Scenes" tours for members and friends of our congregation. We want to be sure that everyone has a chance to visit our wonderful new facilities as we enter the home stretch of project completion. If you would like to take part in one of the tours, please call the church office at 310-377-6771. The tour will take approximately one hour.

Second Sundays at Two
Sunday, June 9, at 2:00 p.m.

Members of the Internationally Acclaimed

DSCH – Shostakovich Ensemble

Portuguese Pianist

FILIPE PINTO-RIBEIRO

Canadian Violinist

COREY CEROVSEK

The **DSCH – Shostakovich Ensemble** is a Lisbon-based Portuguese project with an international dimension. It is represented here by Portuguese pianist **Filipe Pinto-Ribeiro** and Canadian violinist **Corey Cerovsek**. A chamber ensemble of variable geometry, the Ensemble constitutes a platform for interaction of musicians of excellence on the international scene, masters of their instruments, compelled by the pleasure of making chamber music and a deep artistic complicity. It was created under the artistic direction Filipe Pinto-Ribeiro in 2006, the centennial year of the birth of Dmitri Shostakovich. The DSCH cryptogram created by the composer based his name, the musical motif "D – E-flat (S) – C – B-natural (H)," is found in some of his most significant works.

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

Kid Zone

Kid Zone and Mid Zone Summer Camp

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!

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

Stick your neck out
and have some fun!

Adult volunteers needed for
"Roar" Vacation Bible Camp

When: July 29 - August 2, 2019
Time: 8:45-12:15 p.m.
(volunteer hours)
RSVP to: debra@rhumc.org

Can't volunteer on these days?
Maybe you could drop off snacks for
our hungry volunteers or
help decorate the sanctuary on
Sunday, July 28th after our 3rd service.

Youth Ministries

Saturday, June 1 @ 10am-11am: Labyrinth Walk
Make time to center yourself and learn a new spiritual practice as we walk the labyrinth at the Mary & Joseph Retreat Center, 5300 Crest Road, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Monday, June 17 @ 7:00pm-8:00pm: Mindfulness Monday
Participate in an hour of yoga and guided meditation. No yoga experience needed. Wear comfy clothes and bring a mat if you have one. We will meet in the Youth Lounge.

Saturday, June 22 Universal Studios Hollywood We will meet at the church at 9:00am and carpool to the park. Youth should bring a sack lunch or money for food. Tickets are $90 per youth (Scholarships are available). **Please RSVP by June 14.**

Saturday, July 6 12:00pm-2:00pm: Day at the Park
Spend an afternoon at the park. Games, BBQ and new friends. We will meet at Alta Loma Park.

Wednesday, July 17 @ 7:00pm-8:00pm: Paint Night
Come create a masterpiece while enjoying desserts in the Youth Lounge. Youth will learn how to create a picture or create their own work of art.

Sierra Service Project

Junior High mission trip to San Diego, CA	July 21-July 26
Senior High mission trip to Spokane, WA	July 27- August 3

Wednesday, July 31 @ 2:00pm-3:30pm: **Mulligan Fun Center**
Enjoy a round of mini golf, laser tag, and go-carts. Tickets are $15. per youth. Please RSVP by July 24. 1351 West Sepulveda Torrance CA 90501

Saturday, August 10 @ 8:00am-12:30pm: Volunteer at St Luke's
Youth will meet at RHUMC and we will carpool to St. Luke's in Long Beach to prepare and serve lunch for those experiencing homelessness.

Monday, August 12 @ 7:00pm-8:00pm: Mindfulness Monday
Participate in an hour of yoga and guided meditation. No yoga experience needed. Wear comfy clothes and bring a mat if you have one. We will meet in the Youth Lounge.

Saturday, August 24 2:00pm-6:30pm: Aquarium of the Pacific
We will meet at church then carpool to Long Beach for an afternoon at the aquarium. Tickets are $20 per youth.

Save the Date! Wednesday, Sept.18 @ 6:30-8:00pm: Ignite Fall Kick-off

Contact Kristin Reksc, Director of Youth Ministries
Email: Kristin@rhumc.org Cell phone: 562-234-0161

Applications for the Presidential Volunteer Service Award
are due Monday, July 15, 2019.

Please make sure to include the appropriate documentation and signatures in the application. Late submissions will not be accepted. Contact Kristin Reksc with any questions by email at kristin@rhumc.org

The application, additional information, and relevant forms are available on the church website at:
https://rhumc.org/ministries/youth/service-opportunities-youth/

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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 June 21
www.rhumc.org