The Cornerstone

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

December 2019

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

As we journey from Thanksgiving into Advent, I want to thank you all for your compassion and care, your faithfulness and hope throughout the year. It has been a time of chaos and tumult, of construction and confusion for us all. From parking lot to patio, classroom to choir rehearsal, somehow we made it through this once in a lifetime experience. Thank you for putting up with the noise, the dust, the mud, the construction fencing and the detours. Those are now mercifully behind us – at least until the Cal Water project is completed!

We came through this unusual year because of you. Our mission with children and families, our outreach and care for the community around us, not only continued but grew. Despite all kinds of obstacles we found a way to help an extraordinary number of people. From weddings and baptisms to funeral and memorial services our campus, and our congregation, scarcely ever rested. Your patience with me, and your grace toward one another, remained steady and true.

Thank you also for your generosity in support of our ongoing mission, as well as toward our new facilities. As we complete this year's work and look toward the next it will be helpful for us to finish strong. December is a time of grace and hope, as God's people look to the birth of Christ as our greatest gift and hope. God has chosen us to follow through on the work that began in the dark of night, on the edge of a tiny town in the hills of Judea. What more could we hope for?

Thank you for all that you have already done to make our mission possible. I am grateful beyond measure, and even more hopeful for the year to come.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

"Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!" - Isaiah 2:5

Dear Friends,

For some people, December will be way too busy. For others, it will be too quiet or too lonely. No matter which camp you fall into, the invitation to walk in the light of God's love is for you.

Gifts that help us to walk in God's light include scripture, music, friendship, and the myriad beautiful facets of God's creation. Practices that help keep our feet on God's pathway include worship and prayer. In the pages of this Cornerstone you will discover many opportunities to gather with others for support, study, inspiration, and the cultivation of hope. They are meant to welcome you into a sacred time of waiting and a joyful celebration of birth.

The Christ child was, and is, born among us. By choosing to take part in the preparations, and by joining in the expressions of gratitude, we care for our souls and magnify God's love for the world.

May each day this month bring the blessing of peace.

April

WRAPPED IN GOD'S LOVE

THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

TUESDAY
DECEMBER 17, 2019
7:00 PM
ROOM 204/205

2nd floor, new building

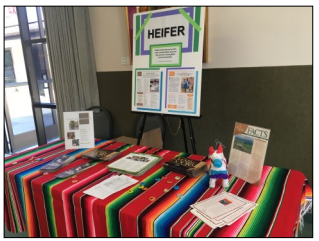
Time to exercise your creative spirit and complete your Christmas preparations! Join Julie Lemke, April Herron, and friends from RHUMC for an evening of designing wrapping paper and cards, as well as creating decorative touches, for the gifts you will give to celebrate the birth of Jesus. A $5 donation will cover supplies and treats. Bring a few gifts to wrap on the spot, and/or take your creations home and put them to use when the time is right. Please let us know you are coming by emailing or calling the church office so that we can gather sufficient supplies.

Message from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

I am back in North Carolina after a whirlwind trip to celebrate with RHUMC the beautiful new buildings and to reminisce on the 25th anniversary of completing the sanctuary. We flew north from LAX to Portland and spent two nights in Salem, Oregon visiting Willamette University, the new home of our United Methodist Claremont School of Theology where Bob taught for 25 years and I earned my doctorate. I learned that Methodist missionaries established Willamette before Oregon became a state, and that it is the oldest higher education institution west of the Mississippi. The school gave the new state land for the capital building which was built across the street from the school. The university also has a law school and a school of business administration. Then we drove down the middle of the state on I-5 through smoke. We spent four nights in San Francisco visiting friends before flying home. The trip was a delight and I appreciated your invitation to come. Being in Rolling Hills is always a special kind of homecoming. My only disappointment was learning that a visit to Muir Woods on our last day in CA was cancelled because power was shut down in Marin County for fire danger. I did not get to hug a redwood! But I bring back with me a powerful impression of the potential for ministry to the community and to the world that the RHUMC congregation possesses. You have demonstrated capacity to hear God's call to do what God is calling you to do with what you are and with what you have. I wait eagerly to learn what God is calling you to be and do with all that you now have and who you now are.

Missions Update

Our annual **Trek to the Tree** will take place the first two Sundays in December (the 1st and the 8th). This program allows the congregation to provide a toy or a gift card for the children and youth served by Toberman Neighborhood Center. Pick a gift card off the tree in the narthex and check in at the table on the patio for instructions. Purchased toys need to be back at the church by December 10. Special thanks to Noucha Jasanis for organizing this popular event for the 17th consecutive year.



The Missions Committee thanks our very generous congregation for your support of **Mission Fiesta Sunday**. We raised almost $12,000 in support of Heifer, Habitat, St. Paul's Project Needs and the four missionaries our congregation supports. We even raised enough money to purchase a full $5,000 ark on behalf of Heifer! Thanks to everyone who donated, purchased items and offered up baked goods for our bake sale. Special thanks to Fletcher Larson who makes those very yummy pickles. Pickle sales alone generated $900!

AN ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

April Herron will guide the gatherings. The Wonder of Christmas by Ed Robb and Rob Renfroe is available for $12.

You may stop by the church office to purchase or order a copy.

Please email:
church office@rhumc.org
to let us know you plan to participate.

SESSION 1
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3
10:30 AM ***or*** 7:00 PM
Aldersgate Room
What's Right With the World

SESSION 2
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10
10:30 AM ***or*** 7:00 PM
Aldersgate Room
Words That Heal

SESSION 3
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17
10:30 AM
Botanic Garden
Walking in God's Light
or
7:00 PM
Garden View Room
(2nd floor of the new buildings)
Wrapped In God's Love

Welcoming God's New Day - A Weekend Retreat for Women

From Friday evening, February 21 to Sunday lunch, February 23, in the year 2020, a group of women from Rolling Hills UMC will take up residence at the Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside, California. This is a new location for our every-other-year weekend retreat. We loved Casa de Maria in Santa Barbara, but it has not been able to resume operations since the terrible mudslides following the fires in 2017/2018. We are needing to open our hearts to a new place, so we're looking south to a spot on the bluffs above the San Luis Rey Valley and the Pacific.

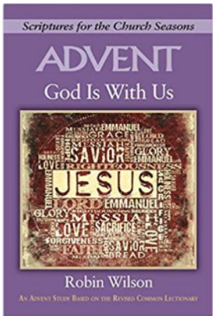
Our gathering will include shared meals, friendship and laughter, times of worship and reflection, opportunities for creativity and relaxation, and support for prayer and meditation, We will be housed in single and double rooms. Each room has its own bathroom.

Thoughts and activities on the theme of "Welcoming God's New Day" will be offered by April Herron and others from among our group. The organizing team is led by Patty Koester and includes Chris Larson, Michele Nelson, Claire McCurry, Terry Hunt, Thyra Endicott, and Patti MacLeod.

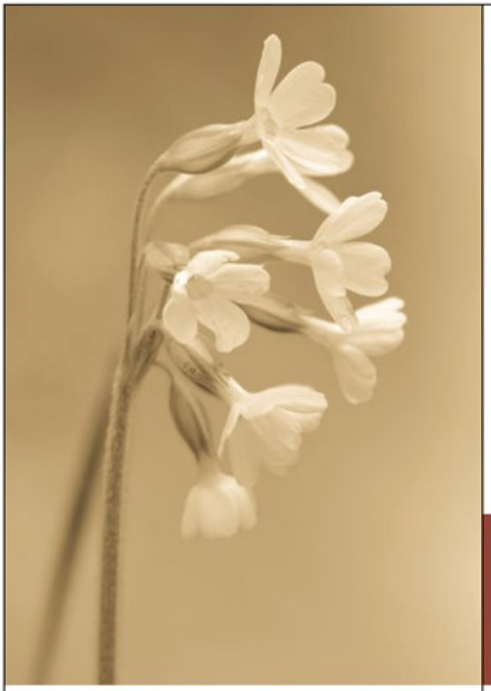
We still have space available. You may register by providing your name and contact information along with a $100 deposit to the church office. The remaining balance (another $120 per person for double occupancy, another $250 per person for single occupancy) will be due in mid January. The cost includes meals and supplies.

"I am about to do a new thing. Now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."
- Isaiah 43:19

Sunday Morning Advent Study - *by Larry Kittiver*



Advent study begins Sunday, December 1. We are using Robin Wilson's Book "God Is with Us." The book follows the common Lectionary for this season. Each week we will have a selection from the Old Testament, one from the Gospels and one from the Epistles. One of these readings becomes the basis for the sermon each week. We worship at 8:30 a.m. and then gather at 10:00 a.m. in the Aldersgate room to engage in a discussion of the sermon and the selected passages as we read from Robin Wilson's book.



COMFORT & COURAGE

FOR THE HOLIDAYS

A GATHERING FOR BEREAVED FAMILY MEMBERS

CLAIRE TOWLE

A Licensed Clinical Social Worker who specializes in the area of grief and loss, Claire Towle received a Master's Degree in Social Work from the University of Southern California where her focus was medical social work. She is a Certified Bereavement Facilitator, Certified Trauma Professional and Certified in Thanatology (the study of death and loss). Claire was formerly the Associate Director of Bereavement Services and the Director of The Gathering Place, a community bereavement center, for Providence TrinityCare Hospice. While with The Gathering Place, she provided grief counseling and support group facilitation to the bereaved.

WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 4, 2019
7:00 PM
GARDEN VIEW ROOM
(2nd floor, new building)

Whether you have experienced the death of a child, spouse, longtime partner, parent, sibling, grandchild or other significant person, you are welcome. Claire Towle, experienced grief counselor will facilitate.

Reserve your spot by calling or emailing the church office at:

(310) 377-6771
churchoffice@rhumc.org

Recipe for Thanksgiving

The RHUMC Thanksgiving Dinner 2019 was very well attended. The diners were well fed, the company warm, and the entertainment enjoyable. All this needed a lot of teamwork to put together. Our gratitude goes to the planning and cooking crew for their hard work, the youth and their leaders for doing a fine job of serving the dinner, the silent auction team including the contributors and the donors, for helping raise funds for the new building, and the magnificent help from all in getting Wesley Hall cleaned up.

Thank you.
Doug Kemps and Suellen Fung

Corn Pudding

Serves 10
Bake at 350°F for 1 hour.

Ingredients:
4 eggs, beaten
1 stick butter (8 Tablespoons), melted
1 cup heavy cream
1 teaspoon salt
1/3c sugar
1/2c flour
Pinch Cayenne
2(16 oz.) Cream corn
2 (10 oz) Corn niblets, frozen

Preparation:
Preheat oven to 350°F
In a bowl, mix together the eggs, butter, cream, salt, sugar, flour and cayenne.
Gently mix in the cream corn.
Add the semi-thawed niblets, taking care not to crush the kernels.
Pour into an ungreased Pyrex.
Bake for 1 hour or until the top is golden and the custard is set.
The custard should still have a 'jiggle' in the center, which will gently continue to set.

Happy Eating.

This recipe was included in the RHUMC Thanksgiving Dinner menu, thanks to the generosity of Ann Ellerman.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Join us for breakfast on **Saturday, December 21**, in the Mission Room. Coffee at 7:30 a.m.; Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and Guest Speaker at 8:30 a.m. Jonathan will inspire us with Christmas tales from his favorite authors.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 21, 2019
7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS ORATORIO
BY J.S. BACH

GREAT JOY
BY JOSEPH JOUBERT

TICKETS ARE $10
FOR INFORMATION CALL
310-377-6771

Help us Decorate the Sanctuary with Poinsettias for Christmas!

You are invited to purchase one or more poinsettia plants to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas. 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 December 8th.**

Thank you!

Bells Ring Again for the Salvation Army!

Volunteers from RHUMC have been ringing bells for the Salvation Army for 7 seasons….and we hope you will join us this year. We have raised over $8700, one person at a time, ringing the bell for 1.5 hours during December. It is true: one person can make a difference! We meet at Vons in Redondo Beach after 5:00 p.m., as that is the busiest time. We have families, pals together, young people (must have adult with them), songsters, or simply you and a friendly greeting. Our kettles are returned to the Redondo Beach Army for their work in our community which includes Meals on Wheels, youth summer camps, a food pantry, holiday meals and toy distribution.

Contact Roxanne Morse at 310-543-2281 for more information. We have many volunteers that make bell-ringing a part of their Christmas tradition….we hope you will too.

Hanging of the Greens

The Worship Committee invites you to get into the holiday spirit by helping us transform the church. We invite you to join us on:

Sat., Dec. 7th, 8:30-10:30 AM – Decorating the Sanctuary

Fri., Dec. 13th, 8:30-10:30 AM – Decorating with poinsettias

We will enjoy the majestic tree in the narthex throughout the season of advent as it graces our celebration of Christmas. The tree will be taken down on Thursday, December 26. If you can help, please arrive at 8:00 a.m. And all the rest of the Christmas decorations will be taken down after the 10:00 a.m. service on Dec. 29. Please stay and help! Thanks!

Come share the spirit!

Altar Flowers

The new flower chart for 2020 has arrived! Sign up early to ensure you get your favorite date to honor, celebrate, or remember that someone special!

A Fun & Fashionable Event - *by Co-chairs Barbara Addleman & Shirley Fehrman*

Martha and Sister Circles held a fashion show at Talbots at the Promenade on October 14 to raise money for our new facilities. It was a great success and we raised $750.00 through the sale of tickets to members of our groups as well as to some of their friends. The proceeds will be used to purchase a needed item for our new building. Five of our very own were the super models for the show - (from left to right) Sheri Wilson, Patty Koester, Shirley Fehrman, Cindy McCoy, and Karen Lamoreaux. They all looked fabulous modeling Talbots newest fall fashions. After the show many of our group purchased new items from Talbots which was really appreciated by the store. Look around and you will see many church members with stunning new fall outfits!

Second Sunday Supper

We hope you can join us for dinner on **Sunday, December 8,** after 3rd service. This month's Second Sunday Supper is lasagna (traditional and a gluten-free/vegetarian option), salad and garlic bread from Sorrento's Restaurant in San Pedro. The requested donation is $5 per person, $15 per family. 3rd service takes place every Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Club Maintenance

On November 9th a hard-working group took care of many items on our maintenance work list, including repair of the A/C yard entrance gate, painting of the gate, and spreading gravel to eliminate a safety hazard in that area. We also installed a microwave in the preschool teacher lounge, installed several wall clocks upstairs and in the playground areas, painted three preschool tunnels yellow, repaired the door closure into Aldersgate room, accomplished trim painting in Aldersgate and a rehanging of the choir room white board, as well as the destruction of an old desk from the Business Office, and tended to several other items. Plus, we helped prepare for the Western Jurisdictional Summit held the following week. The following personnel helped in this Club Maintenance session: Steve Boilard, Bill Borland, Clarence Fung, Dave Larson, Keith Levan, Don McCurry, Oren Sheldon, Jim Showalter and Bill Weisinger. Our thanks to all of these individuals.

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be at 8:30 a.m. on **Saturday, December 14**. Please mark this date on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair. Bob Chamberlin will be the coordinator for this workday.

CHRISTMAS EVE

CHILDREN'S PARTICIPATION

Children are invited to participate in the 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service. To sign up and/or get more information please contact Debra DeLuca, the Director of Children's Ministries at debra@rhumc.org or call the church office at (310) 377-6771, ext. 306.

Parent's or relatives willing to stay and help would be greatly appreciated!

WORSHIP

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th, 4:00 PM
ARRIVE BY 3:15 PM
CHILDREN AGES 3 – 5th GRADE

Calling all children to participate in our 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Service on December 24th, 2019. Please arrive no later than 3:15 pm. Children are invited to portray the holy family, animals, shepherds, angels, and the royal wise ones bringing gifts.

REQUIRED REHEARSAL

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 21ST
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

At the rehearsal, children will be fitted for their costumes and practice their part. December 21st is the ONE REQUIRED REHEARSAL that will secure your child or grandchild a role. Please bring your children to the narthex to check them in.

Children's Ministry

Join us for a day of Christmas cheer
with family fun for all ages!

Saturday, December 7th 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Crafts, Letters to Santa, Story Time,
Apple Cider and Cookies
to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

RSVP by December 4th to Debra DeLuca
at debra@rhumc.org
or call the church office at (310) 377-6771 ext. 306.

A big thank you to our youth volunteers who so graciously and enthusiastically helped serve at our church Thanksgiving Dinner!

Youth Ministries

Ignite: Poinsettias and Carols December 4 @ 6:30-8:00 p.m.
Youth will meet at RHUMC and we will drive to congregation members' homes to deliver poinsettias and sing Christmas carols. Youth will receive service hours for this event. Dinner will be provided.

Ignite: Christmas Party December 11 @ 6:30-8:00 p.m.
This is the last Ignite of the season. Wear your favorite ugly Christmas sweater and enjoy holiday treats and games. Dinner will be provided.

Service Opportunity: Spread Holiday Cheer

"Santa's Breakfast" at Toberman Neighborhood Center
Saturday, December 14 @ 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Youth will help with Toberman's annual Christmas event. We will meet at RHUMC and carpool. Please RSVP by December 7 so that we have enough drivers.

Celebrate Christ's Birth December 24
Join the handbell choir, share in lighting the advent wreath, help shepherd the children, or be part of the usher team for the 4:00 p.m. worship service on Christmas Eve. Rehearsal required. Contact Kristin for details.

Youth Sunday School is offered Sundays
during the 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. worship services

Contact the Director of Youth Ministries, Kristin Reksc,
with any questions: Kristin@rhumc.org

To receive text message reminders for youth events
please text the keyword "RHUMCyouth" to 33222.

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	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Treasurer	John Fitzgerald		
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 December 23
www.rhumc.org