The Cornerstone

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

February 2020

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

It is time to celebrate on **Sunday, February 16**, with those in our church family who have been or were married for 50 years or more. We would love to post the stories of how you met as well as display your wedding photo. If you'd like to tell your story, please send us an email with a short description of how you met. We still have the anniversary list from last year, but if you are new to the congregation, or have now been married for 50 years, please let us know your name and wedding date. Contact us by email at churchoffice@rhumc.org or call the church office at 310-377-6771. In addition to sending in your stories, please consider bringing a wedding photo to the church office during the week of February 10th identified with your name. Photos may be retrieved in the office the following week. Thanks for your help! And congratulations!

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

I want to thank you all for helping us finish strongly one of the most challenging, hopeful and interesting years in our congregation's recent life! In case you don't remember, about a year ago at this time we were deep in mud. Construction fencing made access difficult across our campus. Virtually every room was in use, and frequently for purposes no one had ever expected. The parking was a mess, and the driveway even worse. Well, at least some things are still the same!

In so many ways we were up in the air, and lots of wise and well-meaning friends were saying we would never get the work done before the start of the new school year. But that wasn't all. February was also the month of the Special General Conference, which has caused much distress across our denomination. The issues raised of welcome and inclusion for our LGBTQ family and friends created confusion and pain for many. We continue to work our way toward a hopeful future together. I pray that the upcoming General Conference in May will allow us to serve our community with open arms.

As we move into 2020, I want to give thanks for the extraordinary generosity and hopefulness you showed last year. December's giving, both to the ongoing mission of the church and to our recently completed construction efforts, was the largest in our history! We ended the year well, slightly under budget both in giving to our Operating Fund and in our expenditures. That is our usual pattern, but given the chaos and challenges we faced in 2019, I think it is truly remarkable. This coming week our Charge Conference (the annual meeting of a United Methodist Church) will take place in the Choir Room, and I am confident that we will be looking with hope to the opportunities of this new year.

Rolling Hills UMC was born in 1960, actually a few months after both of your current pastors! A group of about 13 persons met and decided to gather for worship in the cafetorium of Valmonte School. After four years there the congregation moved to our current location, where a sanctuary and multi-purpose room (now Wesley Hall) had just been completed. In the years since then we've seen many changes in the life of our congregation and surrounding community. But what has remained constant and true, healthy and strong, is the mission God has given us to share. Thank you for all that you do and share to make it possible!

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

It is not uncommon for Jonathan and me to receive inquiries from individuals, couples, or families looking for a church home and wondering if they would be welcome at RHUMC. Their specific concern as they contact us by phone or email is that they, or someone in their family, is gay or lesbian and they want to know if they would be accepted on equal footing with all others who hope to join in Christian community to worship and serve God. We make an effort to assure these inquirers that they would not be alone or unique and that we believe they would be warmly encouraged in the life of faith. At the same time, we are careful not to promise uniformity of outlook or understanding within the congregation on matters of sexual orientation and sexual identity.

Because we know that people both within and without the congregation are looking for safe places in which to ask questions and explore Biblical and personal perspectives, I will be convening a class this month using a DVD called “Faithful and Inclusive.” The DVD was created by the Rev. Rob Fuquay and the St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. The class will consist of viewing and discussing the material. I hope to get through the DVD in four sessions, offered on Tuesdays in February, with participants having the option of choosing between 10:30 in the morning or 7:00 in the evening.

I learned about this resource when Bob and I attended a leadership conference in late September at the Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City. This period of intense discussion about the future of the United Methodist Church seems like a good time to appreciate our connection with other United Methodists around the country and to participate in conversations that many United Methodists are having. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about whether to sign up for the class. My goal is to proceed with a spirit of mutual respect.

God's peace to all,

April

Message from Martha Rowlett, Senior Pastor Emeritus

“May your will be done.” The Chaplain stood by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court with the Senate Chamber full of members of Congress and staff and began a day of historic business. This is a good model for everybody every day. It would be wonderful if we could all wake up in the morning and let our first thoughts be “Your will be done.” The Chaplain’s prayer was for these people and this day. He was not praying for other people in other places and other times. We can pray for ourselves in this day and the circumstances into which we wake. Trusting that God loves us and wills for all of us the very best possible, this prayer can open us up to a future that might never have occurred to us. Just imagine what might have happened if everybody in that room had opened their hearts and minds to pray that prayer with the Chaplain on that day.

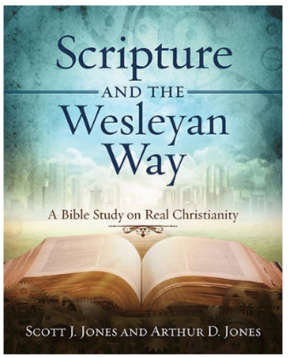
Ash Wednesday, February 26

Our congregation’s observance of Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil on February 26 from 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Choose a time that suits your schedule and come be with God in prayer. Resources will be available in the sanctuary to guide you. Our worship service is at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary with music and singing, prayer and scripture.

Charge Conference

All are invited to attend our annual congregational meeting on **Wednesday, February 5**, at 7:00 p.m. in the choir room.

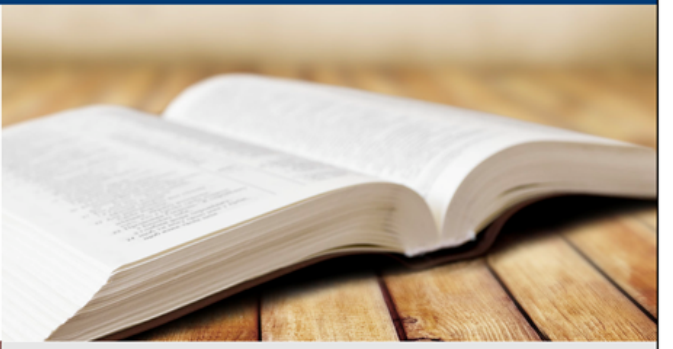
Sunday Morning Bible Study



The 10:00 a.m. Sunday Bible Study continues in the Aldersgate room using a book titled "Scripture and the Wesleyan Way, A Bible Study on Real Christianity.” The Bible was central to John Wesley's Faith. Scripture forms one of the 4 “legs” of the Methodist Quadrilateral. This book uses Wesley's own sermons and relevant passages from scripture to answer some questions that are still valid today, for example, “What does it mean to be a real Christian?” Hear John's call to live a Christian life and be inspired to respond to this call with faith and boldness.

FAITHFUL & INCLUSIVE

THE BIBLE,
SEXUAL ORIENTATION
AND THE UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH



TUESDAYS:
FEBRUARY 4, 11,18, 25

CHOOSE:
10:30 AM *or* 7:00 PM

ALDERSGATE ROOM

Please reserve your spot by calling or emailing the church office.

Study the actual scriptures used in the discussion about human sexuality and the rules and practices of the church. Listen to faith stories and pastoral guidance, via DVD presentations, assembled by Rev. Rob Fuquay of St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Indianapolis. Share in respectful conversations focused on scripture, tradition, personal experience, and reason.

The creators of the study made it for those who want to learn what the Bible says and then determine their own responses. FAITHFUL AND INCLUSIVE is not a book; it is a group experience based on reading scripture together, listening with an open mind, and reflecting on possible meanings. April Herron will facilitate our gatherings.

It will be most helpful if you come to all four sessions. The content builds on previous material as the class progresses.

RHUMC Sponsored Concert

The RHUMC Concert Committee is proud to present the Joanna Medawar Nachef Singers on **Friday, February 21** at 7:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

The JMNS Singers are internationally known world-class singers, who easily navigate between gorgeous Classical repertoire and exciting American Gospel and Soul music. The upcoming concert will feature Gospel and Soul music they performed on their recent tour of Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia.

The Joanna Medawar Nachef Singers were founded by the Beirut-born Nachef, who is recognized as the first woman conductor from the Middle East in the U.S. She is the Director of Choral Activities at El Camino College and holds Master and Doctorate Degrees from USC. This is an opportunity not to be missed!

Help Us Help the Homeless and Others in Need

The RHUMC Missions committee is dedicating February to the collection of food items for the St. Paul's Project Needs food pantry. In addition to preparing weekly hot meals for homeless and hungry persons in the South Bay, Project Needs opens a food bank twice a month. The pantry serves over 400 people monthly. Right now the pantry is pretty bare and we'd like to refill it! Starting Sunday, February 2, and continuing throughout the month, we will have available brown paper bags with a shopping list attached. Among the continuing items the pantry needs are peanut butter, canned tuna and meat, dry beans, rice, boxed macaroni and cheese, other pastas, pasta sauce, and canned fruit and vegetables. Please stop by our table on the patio, pick up a bag (or two!) and return it to the church during February stocked with the requested items. You can also donate cash that we will use to buy groceries in bulk. If you have questions, please reach out to Dale Gehr, Kim Hall or Kathy Platnick. Thanks for your help in making a difference in the lives of others.

A BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES

HOMES & NEIGHBORS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24 *at* 7 PM
OUR HOMESICK SONGS
BY EMMA HOOPER

MONDAY, MARCH 23 *at* 7 PM
THE MURMUR OF BEES
BY SOFÍA SEGOVIA

MONDAY, APRIL 20 *at* 7 PM
THE DUTCH HOUSE
BY ANN PATCHET

What makes a place home? What role do neighbors play in our lives? How do we resist or adapt to change? What values do we carry with us? What might we learn from those with whom we dwell in close proximity?

Join the conversation as we gather in the choir room at Rolling Hills United Methodist Church. All readers welcome. April Herron will facilitate.

Second Sundays At Two

Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Stars of Tomorrow from the

USC Thornton School of Music

ZELTER STRING QUARTET

Kyle Gilner & **Kevin Tsao** *violins*
Nao Kubota *viola,* **Allan Hon** *cello*

Founded in 2018, the Los Angeles-based **Zelter String Quartet** comprises current or past students of the USC Thornton School of Music. The quartet has studied with renowned artists including Joseph Lin, Alasdair Tait, Lina Bahn, Glenn Dicterow, Karen Dreyfus, Ralph Kirshbaum, as well as members of the St. Lawrence and Danish String Quartets. In 2019, the Zelter String Quartet participated in the St. Lawrence String Quartet Chamber Music Seminar at Stanford University. In August 2020, the quartet will be participating - with an all-expense paid trip to France - in the *Rencontres Franco-Américaines de Musique de Chambre*, as winners of the Ofiesh Chamber Music Competition held at the USC Thornton School of Music.

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

Shawl Ministry Group Shares Warmth and Love by Karen Sakura

You don't know how to knit? We'll show you how. Knit 3, purl 3. That's it! Easy stitches for the comforting shawls we make for those in need of comfort. Both those who knit, as well as those who receive the shawls, are loved and blessed.

The shawls we make give solace to those who are ill, and bring hope to those who are in despair. After we make a shawl we bless it, and a blessing is included for the receiver. We need your loving hands to knit for a good cause: to date we've donated over 300 shawls.

Meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month at 10:30 a.m.in Martha's Room. Our next meeting is April 11th. For more information contact Karen Sakura at (310) 375-1216.

Art Class Photos

Thank you, Curtis Green, for guiding our class in creating these works of art.

Follow Rolling Hills UMC on social media for updates, events, photos and more!

www.facebook.com/RHUMC26438/

Rolling_Hills_UMC

Save the Date

Our 2020 church-wide Blood Drive is coming!

Friday, March 27, 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and
Monday, March 30, 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Our RHUMC blood drive will be held at the Torrance Memorial Medical Center Blood Donor Center. Anyone wishing to donate later in the day may walk in or call to arrange a donation appointment. Sign-ups will be taken by Health and Wellness team members in the 3 weeks prior to the drive.

United Methodist Men's Breakfast

Join us for breakfast on **Saturday, February 15**, in the Mission Room. Coffee at 7:30 a.m.; Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and Guest Speaker Tom Coleman at 8:30 a.m. Bring your income tax questions for him to answer.

Second Sunday Supper

We hope you can join us for dinner on **Sunday, February 9,** after 3rd service. This month's Second Sunday Supper is lasagna (traditional and gluten-free/vegetarian options), 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 January 11 a hard-working group took care of many items on our maintenance work list, including replacing burned out lights in several areas, installation of additional cabinets in the Utility Room, and replacement of furnace filters in the A/C systems. We also worked on a broken pew support, tightened up a loose floorboard in front of the altar, installed banners and replaced a bad electrical plug for the Wesley Hall drinking fountain. The following personnel helped in this Club Maintenance session: Bill Bails, Steve Boilard, Bob Chamberlin, Dave Larson, Keith Levan, 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 **February 8**. Please mark this date on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair. And note that Bob Chamberlin will be the coordinator for this workday.

Toberman Neighborhood Center
131 North Grand Avenue
San Pedro, California 90731
Tel: 310.832.1145 Fax: 310.832.6712

January 8, 2020

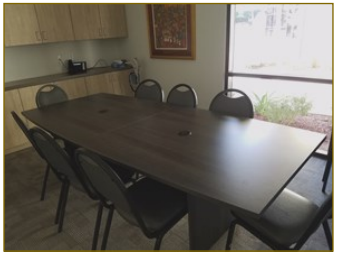
To RHUMC,

On behalf of the entire Toberman family, we would like to extend a warm thank you for helping make our Breakfast with Santa event possible!

Your gifts ensure that our clients and the community we serve will have a wonderful holiday season. Without the help of caring individuals like you coming together as a group, none of this would be possible. Here at Toberman we take pride in being a beacon of hope for individuals and families in the Harbor area. During the holiday season we have the pleasure of putting a smile on the faces of those less fortunate. Your charitable gift is greatly appreciated as Toberman continues to move forward and provide hope to those that we serve. Together, we make a difference!

Sincerely,

Gift Appreciation by Barbara Addleman & Shirley Fehrman, Fashion Show Co-chairs



Martha and Sister Circles were pleased that with the money they made on their fashion show in October they were able to purchase a conference table for our new, larger, office building as well as a moveable cart to store chairs. Everyone had a wonderful time at the show and we are so pleased that the proceeds enabled us to buy two much needed items for the new building. Many thanks to all who participated by modeling or by buying tickets and attending. We are grateful to Talbot's for not only providing the location for our venture, but for supplying all the fashions and narrating the show. All in all, a win-win situation for all involved.

Congratulations Kid Zone!

RHUMC Kid Zone has been selected for the 2019 Best of Palos Verdes Peninsula Award in the Child Care category by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Award Program.

Each year, the Palos Verdes Peninsula Award Program identifies companies that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Palos Verdes Peninsula area a great place to live, work and play. The Palos Verdes Peninsula Award Program is an annual awards program honoring the achievements and accomplishments of local businesses throughout the Palos Verdes Peninsula area. Recognition is given to those companies that have shown the ability to use their best practices and implemented programs to generate competitive advantages and long-term value.

2020-2021 Fall Registration
Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool
310-377-0742

Registration Dates

Friday, February 14 to Friday, February 21

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church Members
and Preschool Committee Members

Monday, February 24 through Monday, March 2

CURRENTLY ENROLLED and RETURNING FAMILIES
All registration cards MUST BE RETURNED by Monday, March 2

Monday, March 9 through Friday, March 13

WAITING LIST FAMILIES

The waiting list families will be contacted by phone to come and register based on available spaces left after the above registration. Boy/girl ratio is also taken into consideration.

Wednesday, March 18 - NEW FAMILIES, OPEN ENROLLMENT

After all the above registration, if we have an available space, the child will be enrolled based on boy/girl ratio in class and age. If not, the child will be put on the waiting list and will be contacted as soon as a space becomes available.

FALL CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

Currently enrolled families will receive fall class assignments on Monday, March 23 and Tuesday, March 24.

Lic. #191600604

Children's Ministry

Parents Night Out February 15th
4:30-8:30 p.m.

Treat yourself with a night off while we entertain the kids
with crafts, games, dinner & and movie.

Who:	Toddlers 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 DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org to reserve your child's spot. Space is limited, so be sure to sign-up early!

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. Thank you!

Preschool Fundraiser

Join us on **Thursday, February 13**, at **Rock & Brews**, good for dine in/take out all day and 15% of food and beverage sales will be donated back to our preschool.

Rock & Brews
6300 S. Pacific Coast Hwy.
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
310-928-2969
www.rockandbrews.com

Youth Ministries

Ignite Youth Mid-Week Ministry

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. (Dinner is provided)
Feb. 5 - Cake Decorating Bible Edition
Feb. 12 - "Spread the Love"
Feb. 19 - Mall Scavenger Hunt
Feb. 26 - Ash Wednesday Service

Confirmation 2020

Youth 9th grade and older are invited to enroll in RHUMC's Confirmation program starting at the beginning of February. Please contact Kristin if you are interested in participating or would like more information.

Sierra Service Project 2020

Spots are filling fast; a $200 deposit is due now!
Youth entering 7th grade or 8th grade in fall of 2020 will attend the Junior High SSP, July 18-July 25 in Chiloquin, OR. Youth entering 9th grade through graduating seniors will attend the Senior High SSP, July 25 through August in Chiloquin, OR. 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/RHyouth
Instagram: rhumcyouth_
Text Reminders: send 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 February 21
www.rhumc.org