The Cornerstone

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

February 2022

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

It is time to celebrate on **Sunday, February 13**, with those in our church family who have been or were married for 50 years or more. We still have the anniversary list from last year, but if you are new to the congregation, or reached the milestone of 50 years of marriage and have not yet notified your church family, 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. We would also like to present a video of wedding photos to be shown in the narthex and appended to the on-line YouTube recording. Those new to our list, please consider forwarding a scanned copy or use your phone camera to take a photo of your wedding picture and send via email to churchoffice@rhumc.org. Actual wedding photos may be brought to the church office weekdays between 10:00-4:00 p.m. Be sure to let us know your name and wedding date. Submissions must be received by Monday, February 7, to be included in the video. Thanks for your participation and congratulations!

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

Our Charge Conference (annual congregational meeting) is now behind us, which confirmed how truly fortunate we were as last year came to a close. We celebrated new persons who have come into our life in recent months. We gave thanks for the creativity and resilience of this wonderful church family. And we learned how generously and well you helped us to finish the year. December set an all-time record for giving to the church's life and work. Well done, and thank you!

In addition, we have seen our preschool return to full enrollment and financial stability. Kid Zone has recovered miraculously under Gabby Palacios' leadership. Our mission to children and families in the community has never been stronger.

We successfully achieved the forgiveness of our PPP/Cares Act loans, funds which helped keep our staff in place despite last year's reduced enrollments. Our treasurer and church business manager did most of the legwork to make that happen, and members of the Finance Committee and Trustees supported the effort as well. It was truly a team effort.

As a result of our overall financial health, the Finance Committee recommended to the Charge Conference that we use $250,000 from accumulated cash reserves to accomplish a number of important purposes. First, we will use approximately $150,000 to replace the roof on Wesley Hall and the church kitchen this spring, when the solar energy project gets under way. A generous gift from the Coleman and Manth families is covering the cost of the panels and batteries. Rather than re-doing only half the roof we decided to do the whole job at once.

Our Trustees will also receive about $50,000 as a contribution to their reserves, designated for preventative maintenance, ongoing restoration, and major emergency repairs across our campus. With our recent focus on building new education facilities they have not had an opportunity to build up those reserves.

But we are also going to make an additional payment on the principle of our building fund loans of another $50,000, on top of the $140,000 paid down at the end of 2021. As we look forward to a campaign this coming spring we want you to know that we are already making progress. We expect that there will be more good news to come in the year ahead.

I do want to give you all something of a heads up on the roofing project. Some of you do not know that the Wesley Hall steeple was not an original part of the building. It was constructed about twenty years ago in order to accommodate a cell tower for Sprint/NexTel. With the installation of solar panels and a new roof, we believe that the time has come to remove the steeple and restore the original roofline. It will be some time before the work begins, but I do not want you to be surprised when that happens.

There is much to be glad for, and much to look forward to in the coming year. As we discover where God is leading us please know how grateful I am that we share together in this life and work.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Rebecca Taussig had cancer as a small child. The cancer and the treatment rendered her with chronic pain and extremely limited ability to walk. As she tried to imagine her adult life, it was difficult for her to know what possibilities would be open to her, and what would not. As it turns out, she possessed the determination to earn a PhD, the courage to write and publish a blog and a book about her experiences as a wheelchair user, the capacity to love and commit herself to a life partner, and the willingness to risk pregnancy and childbirth.

The publication of Tauusig's book (*Sitting Pretty*) coincided with the discovery that she was pregnant and (one week later) that her true love, Micah, had colon cancer. He was in the ICU, recovering from surgery, when the COVID pandemic began. Those are a lot of life-changing events to happen at one time! And we, too, have experienced many significant events in the past two years, some of them joyful and some of them terrible. It has been enough to keep our heads spinning and our hearts lurching. As Rebecca wondered in a 2021 essay published in *Time* magazine, "What is the word for a full and tattered spirit? Is there a way to feel loss and hope at the same time?"

Taussig has noticed the contrasting feelings that keep us awash in uncertainty. She names them as rage and comfort, grief and levity, anxiety and openness, strain and resilience, devastation and creativity. There must be a way to live both ends of the spectrum at once, because we are doing it day by day, week by week, month by month. Fortunately, we have one another as companions. Seeing one another at worship, and knowing that others are connecting to us in Spirit though they are physically remote, helps. Studying the scriptures together helps. Planning, supporting, and carrying out the church's mission together helps. Taking walks together helps. Remembering and memorializing our loved ones helps. Reading and discussing books together helps.

We put our trust in God and we go forward as best we can. Thank you all for the encouragement you share with one another, with your neighbors, with the world, and with your pastors. We remain surrounded and sustained by God's grace.

April

Message from Martha Rowlett
Senior Pastor Emeritus

To the Rolling Hills UMC Choir

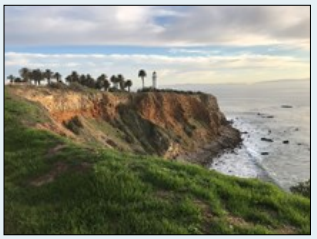
Dear Friends of the beautiful voices smoothly blended into worship expressed in music:

My heart is being warmed on very cold January Sundays because I am once again hearing you do your thing together. I had missed you for the seemingly endless months when various forms of Covid kept you apart from each other and therefore from us. But I was stoic about your absence and did not realize until you reappeared the contribution you made to my weekends. But now you are back and the temperature in my life has risen. I had not fully appreciated the contribution your blended voices expressing the words of worship make to a service. The worship team has done a commendable job bringing worship in spoken words into our lives during this stressful ordeal. I am so deeply grateful for the gift of their dependable presence every Sabbath. But I have missed you and come now to the computer to tune in on Sunday afternoon with enhanced anticipation. The choir will be singing too! Thank you for coming and adding your voice to our worship.

See you Sunday! Your Emeritus friend, Martha

Health and Wellness Whale Watch Walk I - by Annette Matsuda

Join members of our Health and Wellness Team and Parish Nurse for an outdoor walk along safe cliff trails and look for whales and their calves as they migrate back to Alaska's waters! Get some exercise, visit with new and old friends, and enjoy God's creation!



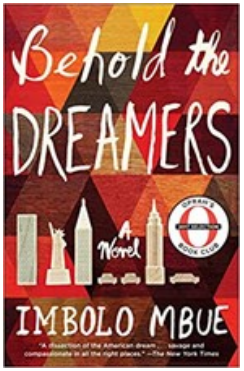
Monday**, February 28, 9:45 a.m.**

Point Vicente Interpretive Center trails
31501 Palos Verdes Drive West
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Free parking. Meet at the concrete amphitheater facing the ocean. We will begin our walk at 10:00. Dogs on leashes are allowed. **Masks**: If you are fully vaccinated, facial coverings are optional. The CDC advises individuals who are not fully vaccinated to continue wearing facial coverings. Please email Annette Matsuda at annettematsuda@gmail.com or call her at (424) 399-3175 if you have any questions.

All things bright and beautiful, All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, The Lord God made them all.
Cecil Frances Alexander

Book Discussion: Monday, February 28 at 7:00 p.m.



Behold the Dreamers was Imbolo Mbue's debut novel, published in 2016. It became a *New York Times* bestseller and won the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction. The novel tells the story of a family that comes to the United States from Cameroon, finds work and a place to live in New York, and then, along with everyone else in the city, is caught at the epicenter of the financial crisis of 2008.

Behold the Dreamers "struck me as a fresh take on the immigrant experience - providing not simply the jolt of being in a new place but also the jolt of taking on a new identity because of that place." - Cristina Henríquez for the *New York Times*

All readers are welcome to join the discussion, which will be facilitated by April Herron. Please send an email to April@rhumc.org or call the church office so that you can receive all necessary communications pertaining to the gathering.

Wedding Announcement

Kristin Reksc, our Youth Ministries Pastor, has shared with us the wonderful news of her upcoming marriage to Akshay Sutrave. In celebration, on Sunday, February 27, the congregation will enjoy special refreshments on the patio before or after worship, along with the chance to congratulate Kristin and Akshay. On Friday, March 11, the youth are invited to join a service project which will double as a blessing for the marriage.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee invites anyone who is interested to contribute to a gift from the church family. One of the activities Kristin and Akshay enjoy as a couple is stand up paddle boarding, so we would like to give them a paddle board. Checks should be made payable to RHUMC with "Wedding Gift" noted on the memo line and can be placed in the offering plate or sent to or dropped off at the church office.

Women's Retreat - Postponed

WOMEN'S Retreat

At the interest of keeping everyone safe and healthy, the Women's Retreat has been postponed to next year due to Covid concerns. Please mark your calendar for February 3-5, 2023, to be held at the Prince of Peace Abbey Retreat House in Oceanside.

Gratitude Expressed for our “Trek to the Tree”

Dear Friends,

This past year so many of you supported Toberman Neighborhood Center in ways that gave me many opportunities to say proudly “that’s my church!” Be it monetary donations, the gift of your time, school supplies, kids PJ’s, toys, gift cards, donations to the thrift store or the food pantry. This past week I delivered a check in the amount of $6,642.63 which reflected additional Trek to the Tree donations and the Christmas Eve Offering.

In appreciation,

Patty Koester
Board Member

December 30, 2021

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
26438 Crenshaw Boulevard
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274-2517
Attn: Rev. Jonathan Chute

Dear Pastor Jonathan and Rolling Hills UMC,

Thank you for your generous in-kind donation of **Target Gift cards and Toys** to our Breakfast with Santa holiday event. With your support, we were able to bring holiday joy to over 530 kids and 220 teens!

Support from donors like you keeps our mission to build a healthy, vibrant community, alive. Because of you, more families have access to life-changing services such as one-on-one case management, food pantry deliveries, gang prevention and intervention, and after-school enrichment for youth. Because of you, community members have a safe place to turn in their time of need.

On behalf of the clients and community we serve, thank you for making this holiday season one to remember. Merry Christmas!

Sincerely,

Darlene Kiyan
Executive Director

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, February 13 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Stars of Tomorrow from the
USC Thornton School of Music

The February ***Second Sundays at Two*** concert is awarded annually to the top chamber music ensemble from the acclaimed USC Thornton School of Music. This year, we're delighted to present the string quartet that won the ***2021 USC Ofiesh Chamber Music Competition***:

Olena Kaspersky *and* **Albert Yamamoto** *violins*,
David Kang *viola*, **Quenton Blanche** *cello*

Streamed over the Internet - No Live Audience

Check the concert announcement at

www.RHUMC.org
for the link to the recital

Club Maintenance - by Dave Larson

On January 8 a hard-working group took care of many items on our maintenance work list, including replacing burned out lights in several areas and repair of some gate latches. We addressed the gutter on the Office building clogged with pine needles and dirt and concluded it needs to be cleaned out by hand once a year. We also removed a tree that was overhanging on the upper walkway.

We are grateful for assistance from Bill Bails, Dave Larson, Chris Martin, Don McCurry, and Don Peterson.

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, February 12**, 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.

Kid Zone After-School Program

RHUMC Kid Zone is an after-school program for elementary and middle school students offering a fun and safe environment while supervising the completion of daily homework. Student pickup from many local schools is provided.
For more information call 310-377-7302
or email **kidzone.midzone@rhumc.org**.

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Tuesday, February 8 - Available from 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

California Pizza Kitchen
at Rolling Hills
25306 Crenshaw Blvd.
Torrance, CA 90505
310-539-5410

Dine-in, take-out and online orders at CPK.com
Promo Code: BACK20%

20% of your transaction will be donated to RHUMPS

Indicate RUMPS when ordering so credit will be given.

2022-2023 FALL REGISTRATION

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool
310/377-0742

REGISTRATION DATES

Friday, February 11th to Friday, February 18th

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church Members and Preschool Committee Members

Tuesday, February 22nd through Wednesday, March 2nd

CURRENTLY ENROLLED and RETURNING FAMILIES

All registration cards MUST BE RETURNED by Wednesday, March 2nd.

Wednesday, March 9h through Wednesday, March 16th

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.

Monday, March 21st – 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 Tuesday, March 22nd and Wednesday, March 23rd.

SUMMER SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Registration will begin on Wednesday, April 13th

Lic. # 191600604

Youth Ministries

Ignite Youth Mid-Week Ministry

Wednesdays, 7:00pm-8:00pm

Feb. 2 - Ignite Spring Kick off - "Wisdom" **(via Zoom)**
Feb. 9 - "Love" **(via Zoom)**
Feb. 16 - "Depth" **(via Zoom)**
Contact Kristin for the Zoom link and supply bag.
Feb. 23 - "Self-care" (**In-person** gatherings resume tonight!)

Volunteer Opportunity

Saturday, February 5, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Youth with their families will join with other local Methodist churches to volunteer working on an 8-acre farm (The Giving Farm in Westminster, CA) supporting the day-to-day operations such as planting, weeding, and harvesting. Email Kristin@rhumc.org for more information.

Sierra Service Project 2022

Youth are invited to sign up to attend SSP in-person this summer! **Deposits are due now**. Information about the high school and middle school teams can be found on the church website (rhumc.org) under youth ministries. We are also looking for adult volunteers to serve as counselors!

Youth Sunday School

Sunday school is available at 10:20 a.m. via Zoom or in-person during the 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. worship services. Contact Kristin for the Zoom link**.**

Kristin Reksc, Director of Youth Ministries
Kristin@rhumc.org
Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/RHyouth
Instagram: rhumcyouth_

Children's Ministry

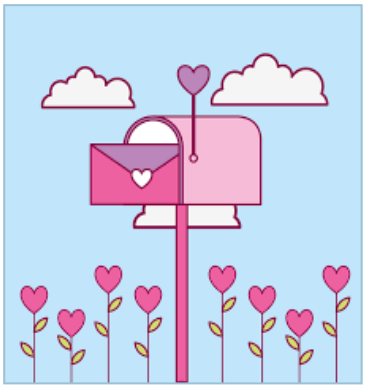
There's a place for you here at
Rolling Hills United Methodist Church.

Join us as we learn and build a solid foundation with Jesus during Sunday School classes each week. Through our Bible stories, videos, crafts, music, and games, we will lead your children on a life-long journey of faith.

Our services are at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.

PreK - Kindergarten (potty trained) with Ms. Debra in room #201
1st - 2nd grade with Ms. Natalie in room #205
3rd - 5th grade with Ms. Stevie in room #204

We can't wait to see you in person! If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact me at debra@rhumc.org.



Valentine Care Packages

Please let us know if you have a special person in your life that might be away at college, homebound, or someone who might benefit from a lovely package made by Children's Ministries at RHUMC. Please call the church office at 310-377-6771 by Monday, February 7, with their name and address or email Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org.

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 Pastor	Kristin Reksc	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Kid Zone Director	Gabby Palacios	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 25
www.rhumc.org