The Cornerstone

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

August 2022

Vacation Bible Camp was Monumental!

With colorful southwest backdrops, brightly colored cactus, and animal Bible buddies, our children experienced an exciting adventure in God's greatness. Our VBC ran August 1st through the 5th, from 9:00 a.m.-12 noon and included Bible stories, games, kid vid, crafts, and snacks. With songs of joy, experiments and skits in our opening and closings, God's monumental love shown through.

A huge thank you to our hard working and fantastic volunteers who made it the best week of the year! Be sure to attend any of our three worship services on Sunday, August 7, to see a slide show from the week.
Debra DeLuca
Director of Children's Ministries

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

"Things take longer than they do." My old friend Bob Specht taught me this now many years ago. Bob was the resident historian at the Rand Corporation, having started with them nearly from the beginning, and continuing pretty well as long as he lived. What he meant by that is that people will tell you how long something will take – "I can be there in 20 minutes." But it actually takes 45. The plumber tells you that clearing the drain will take about an hour. It takes two and a half, and they're still cleaning up. The can of paint says it will dry to the touch in 10 minutes. But it takes 25. Things take longer than they do.

We've had a solid lesson in the wisdom of Bob Specht with the installation of our new solar panels and batteries. We were supposed to get the batteries on line before the beginning of 2022. The solar would come later. The roof tiles we need were supposed to be available in late March or early April. Then it was May/June. The current schedule, recently confirmed, says it will be later this month. It's frustrating to have to wait, but the old roof wasn't leaking and we'll be okay till the work gets done.

It's been much more frustrating dealing with the folks at Southern California Edison. The work by our contractor, Xero Solar, has been inspected and approved by all of the appropriate entities. All that's left is for the new meter to be installed. They require a plastic map placard to be affixed to the meter box. We had one. When the installation team showed up they said they needed two placards, not one. We got that done the next day. But after a week of following up with them it turns out that their crew marked the job closed – as in finished – which it wasn't, and still isn't. We had to make a brand new request for the meter, with more weeks of waiting. In the meantime, both our new and our existing solar systems have been turned off, so that when Edison finally shows up they can get it installed. With the long days of summer it's terribly frustrating to be paying for electricity we could generate ourselves.

One of the great refrains of God's people throughout the ages is the cry, "How long, O Lord? How long?" So we're in good company with them, and with all who have longed to see justice and righteousness prevail. They didn't know anything about Southern California Edison, but they faced powerful enemies of their own.

Of course that is God's question to us – "How long, O my people? How long?" If we think it's taking too long for God to set things right, imagine how it looks from God's point of view, waiting for us to get with the program! I suspect that Bob's up there right now, letting God know that things just take longer than they do.

Thank goodness, as the scriptures remind us, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's mercies are new every morning." God will be with us as long as it takes.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends:

The first week of August is HUGE for both the Children's Ministry and the Youth Ministry programs at RHUMC. The rest of us may have been enjoying the lazy days of summer all through July, but Debra (along with her team) and Kristin (along with her team) have been working full tilt to be ready for the children's Vacation Bible Camp and the week-long youth expedition to Smith River to take part in the Sierra Service Project.

Planning started months ago for Debra, choosing the theme and ordering the curriculum, supplies and props. Next came recruiting volunteers and creating publicity and a registration process. Camp capacity quickly filled up and Debra has been busy ever since planning snack menus, packaging the daily crafts and games into easy-to-use kits for the leaders of each activity, and training her youth and adult volunteers. She and Natalie have also been learning the songs and skits to help introduce each day's theme. All of this planning and prep work pays off in an orderly, fun, inspiring, and faith-building experience for the kids.

Likewise, it was early in the year when Kristin, her assistant Cassie, and fourteen high school students began to fundraise and plan the details of their trip. Air reservations, rental cars, meal plans, snacks, and games all had to be organized for the travel phase. T-shirts were decorated. Informational sessions and social events were organized so that youth and their adult counselors would be ready to live and work together, and parents would be fully informed on all aspects of the destination and the project. Even the thoughtful appreciation gifts for the site staff were purchased and packed ahead of time. It was a wonder to behold, watching Kristin and Debra side-by-side in their office, just a few days before "blast off," putting the finishing touches on all their preparations.

If you volunteered to help or contributed support for either of these endeavors, THANK YOU. It could not have happened without you. If you want to get a glimpse of the results of these months of advance planning and teamwork, be sure to be in worship on August 7, when we will enjoy a VBC slideshow, and August 21, when the SSP crew will offer leadership and share some of the fruits of their experience. We are blessed to have talented and dedicated people working and learning alongside our children and youth.

Thanks be to God,

April

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
ALL ROLLING HILLS UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
SAVE THE DATE!

Many years ago, when I first joined the church, I went to a Fall Women's Luncheon and learned about the various circles that provided monthly small group fellowship and study. Then, we organized under the umbrella of the United Methodist Women. Now, the groups are more specifically tailored to our unique setting. However, many circles continue, and we want to reach out to let all the women of our church, new as well as long time members, know about these groups and encourage them to learn about us and hopefully decide to join.

On Saturday, October 22, we are going to have a luncheon at the church for three reasons –

- To provide a time of fellowship for the women of our church to get to know one another better
- To let all women of our church learn about the various circles and see if they would be interested in joining one
- To gather women together to perhaps form a new circle that would best fit their needs

So please put the date on your calendar! There will be no obligation to join (although we hope you do)! We promise great food, great fellowship, and a great time! More details will follow as we get closer to the date. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me – Barbara Addleman 310-541-6472.

Blood Pressure Sundays

Blood Pressure Sundays are held twice monthly following our morning services and monthly following our evening service. August screenings after the morning services are on August 7 & 28 and after the 3rd service on August 21.

FALL BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES

WHAT WAS IT LIKE?

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH
THESE PRECIOUS DAYS
by ANN PATCHETT

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24TH
THE SENTENCE
by LOUISE EDRICH

Choose:
2:00 PM - IN PERSON
7:00 PM - VIA ZOOM

The pandemic is not over, but it is different now than it was in 2020. Some authors have written narratives reflecting on what the experience was like for them and their communities in the early months of this ever-evolving experience. We will read one memoir and one novel to help us remember and reflect on what it was like for us and for the world to experience a wildly contagious disease that translated, in some cases, to serious illness, loss of life, social isolation, and a highly stressed health care system.

April Herron will facilitate the conversations. Please email **april@rhumc.org** to communicate your intention to participate.

From the RHUMC Missions Committee

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church is excited to be the host of an Interfaith Cafe for the South Coast Interfaith Council, on Sunday, August 21, here on our campus. In a relaxed and informal setting, people of different faiths gather to connect, explore personal experiences, faith traditions, and beliefs. A simple board game provides a format for sharing, for comparing, and perhaps finding common ground among different backgrounds.

Please see the Flyer below, register, join us, and spread the word. All are welcome! (Note our precautions - this is the very first in-person event held by the Council since early 2020.)

Update on Church Finance and Accounting Systems

As mentioned in the last Cornerstone, two key members of our church finance staff told us in May that they would be leaving their positions in mid-June. Fortunately for us, both Nicole Zakman, our business manager, and John Fitzgerald, our treasurer, have stayed on a bit to provide continuity and support as we move our payroll and accounting functions to a remote firm, Chaney & Associates. Chaney provides collaborative stewardship exclusively to churches and religious non-profits (you can read more about them at chaneyassociates.com). We appreciate Nicole's and John's excellent service over the past years, and especially as we negotiated the impact of the pandemic on our operations. We wish them well in their new professional endeavors and we are glad they will continue to be part of our church family going forward.

The decision to move to Chaney & Associates was made through a joint effort of the Staff Parish Relations Committee and the Finance Committee, along with input from Jonathan. A significant amount of time has gone into working on the accounting transition, including meetings with program leaders and staff to implement electronic timekeeping and expense reimbursements. The transition includes changing all of our accounting systems and moving to a cloud-based platform, which is better from a security point of view. It will also enable us to streamline our accounting and timekeeping practices, making better use of technology. Tracking our donations and other revenues will remain the same with volunteers and church staff handling the deposits and data entry. Jonathan's assistant, Catherine Dingman, will be serving as our liaison with Chaney and will be in charge of getting relevant information to Chaney for processing.

We will also be simplifying our reimbursement process and will shortly be reaching out to members of the congregation who routinely need to seek reimbursement to educate them about the new process.

The transition began in late June and is proceeding apace. We have fully converted to the new payroll system and expect to begin electronic timekeeping early next week. Our goal is to complete the full transition of our accounts payable by the end of August. Once we have completed the transition and have a chance to review the work product produced by Chaney, Finance and SPRC will consider whether it would be prudent to provide additional staff time or otherwise supplement our resources. We will continue to update you as we progress.

If you have questions about the new financial system arrangements, feel free to contact SPRC co-chair Kathy Platnick at kasandersplatnick@gmail.com or 213-479-6950 or Finance Committee member Wade Welch at wadepwelch@yahoo.com or 310-408-4391.

Toberman Neighborhood Center - by Patty Koester

On behalf of the many families
served by Toberman,
... for filling our pantry!

Club Maintenance - by Dave Larson

On July 9 eight Club Maintenance participants worked on a variety of tasks. Most of these tasks were planned; some were unplanned, or discovered in the moment as things that needed to be taken care of. This is an example of what makes CM work parties fun!

Our next opportunity for CM work will be on Saturday, August 13, at 8:30 a.m.; we invite folks to come on out to share in the good work of tending to our church facilities.

FREE **SUPPORT GROUP for** those caring for a loved one with

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesdays
August 10 & 24
10:00-11:00 a.m.
in the Aldersgate Room

Lauren Mahakian

Certified Dementia Practitioner, Speaker
Facilitator/Educator
Certified Validation Therapy
HCO#194700543

The discovery of memory loss can be daunting, yet in our experience, professional guidance and learning from others with similar experiences can be very helpful. Join PV News columnist, certified dementia practitioner, and founder/CEO of Family Connect Memory Care Lauren Mahakian at this community-based gathering of people that share support, tips, and authenticity. Our groups are designed for those caring for a loved one with dementia, Alzheimer's or cognitive decline. All groups are led by Lauren Mahakian and are free of charge. Please contact the church office to RSVP at churchoffice@rhumc.org or call at 310-377-6771.

Vacation Bible Camp Highlights

Youth Ministries

Youth Events this Month

Pickle Day
Saturday, August 20, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
Mr. Fletcher will teach the youth how to make pickles! Youth will also have the opportunity to sell pickles as a fundraiser for SSP in the fall. Space is limited so please RSVP if you would like to attend.

SSP Sunday
Sunday, August 21 (8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.)
Join us in worship as the youth tell us about their trip to Smith River, CA this summer! All past SSP participants are invited to wear their SSP shirts to worship.

End of Summer Social
Monday, August 22, 3:30-4:30 p.m.
All youth and their families are invited to hang out on the church patio. We will have ice cream and get to know one another.

Youth Council Meeting

Monday, August 8 @ 7:00 p.m.
All youth are invited to attend this meeting. We will be planning the fall calendar for youth ministries and Ignite. If you are interested in becoming a youth council youth representative (we meet every other month) please let *Kristin* know!

Youth Sunday School

Sunday school is available on Sundays during the 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. worship services. We will be gathering in Wesley Hall for rotation style classes with bible, activities, and cooking in the kitchen!

Kristin Sutrave, Director of Youth Ministries
Cell phone: 562-234-0161 Email: Kristin@rhumc.org
Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/RHyouth **Instagram**: rhumcyouth_

Children's Ministry

Summer Sunday School!

Summer is here and that means our Summer Sunday School rotation classes are offered at our 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. church services but will be in a different location than our upstairs classrooms!

Children ages 3 years through 5th grade will leave the church with their Sunday School teachers after the children's sermon. They will walk across the patio to Wesley Hall and spend equal time in the following areas:

Mission Room – Bible story and/or skit related to that week's Bible lesson
Wesley Hall – Craft and/or game related to that week's Bible lesson
Kitchen – Cooking and/or snack related to that week's Bible lesson (if your child has any food allergies, please be sure to let us know so we can plan accordingly)

We are glad to be spending the summer together with your child and learning more about God and His love for all of us.

Kid Zone Summer Camp & After-School Program

SUMMER CAMP DATES: Currently - August 12

KID ZONE AFTER-SCHOOL REGISTRATON 2022-2023

Stop by the Kid Zone office to pick up registration packets for this coming school year. Our first day of Kid Zone is August 25. For more information please call 310-377-7302 or email kidzone.midzone@gmail.com. Thank you!

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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	Catherine Dingman
Youth Ministry Pastor	Kristin Sutrave	Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette
Kid Zone Director	Gabby Palacios	Lori Brunn	Admin. Asst.
Church Business Mgr.	Nicole Lowery Zakman	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
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 August 26
www.rhumc.org