The Cornerstone

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

March 2023

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

When I first considered whether I was being called to ministry, I remember that I wanted my life to count for something. I wanted to make a difference. I know that's true for people in lots of vocations. Teachers want to enrich the lives of the children. Doctors and nurses want to offer healing to the patients in their care. Of course none of us wants to waste our lives in meaningless drudgery. But probably all jobs come with some share of that. I suspect it's unavoidable.

Then there are those days, or even weeks, when it feels like everything is happening all at once. It has been a bit like that around here, lately. A number of friends in the congregation have been facing challenges to their health, and been in and out of the hospital. Others have lost loved ones. We have had more memorials and funerals lately than seems possible. But we also know that it is a privilege and gift to be able to see someone through the end of their life with grace, with encouragement, with hope.

I have also had the joy of sharing with a couple in their marriage, and look forward to several more of those to come between now and the fall. We've celebrated the sacrament of baptism with two young families, and been encouraged to see their numbers growing from week to week. We've launched this year's confirmation program, with seven middle and high school youth exploring their faith and growing in their relationships with each other and with God. This month they and others will take the reins in leading our worship on Youth Sunday, March 19.

We've rejoiced to welcome a number of new members into our church family and expect to do so again soon. What a gift it is to see people discovering a sense of belonging and taking part in a shared mission. We commissioned our first group of Congregational Care Ministers and look forward to their offering a supportive presence and a listening ear under Kristin's care and leadership.

Each week, we serve about 250 children through our preschool and Kid Zone after school programs. We join with other religious communities in interfaith dialogue and exploration, including hosting next week's Dawn Unity Interfaith Discovery series. We support disaster relief efforts around the world through the United Methodist Committee on Relief, as well as working with local efforts around persons in need in our own communities, such as Toberman Neighborhood Center in San Pedro and Project Needs at St. Paul's UMC in north Redondo Beach.

I am grateful to all of you – members of our church family, leaders in the community, the teachers and staff of our educational mission, church staff, volunteers who carry out God's work each week. Our efforts to be faithful do count for something. Together, we are making a difference.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

"The winds of March are wild and strong..." - Annette Wynne

Dear Friends,

Here on the Palos Verdes Peninsula we seem to be in a season of toppled trees and broken branches, pine needle carpets, and falling cones. Wind can be exhilarating, soothing, frightening, piercing. It can lift and twirl, race and reduce, dance and delight. It can be barely noticeable or violently intrusive. It can be experienced both as a gift and a threat.

Jesus is recorded as having remarked, "The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who has been born of the Spirit." (John 3:8) Perhaps he was suggesting that life with God involves a great deal of mystery. As wind blew over the face of the deep "in the beginning," so do we also experience God's creative power moving over and through us in amazing, but not entirely explainable, ways.

These days, enough is known about air molecules and air pressure to be able to predict when the wind is likely to arise and anticipate something of where it is going, but our experience of wind still reminds us that forces bigger than ourselves are at work in the world. We can be glad for Jesus' reassurance that God is among those forces, even if we cannot necessarily see God or fully understand God's processes.

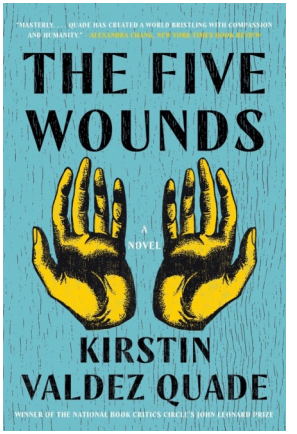
God is making us new, says Jesus. God is inviting us into eternal life. God is whirling us around and communicating with us in energetic ways so that we can truly comprehend how much God loves the world. "God loves the world so much," proclaims Jesus in the Gospel of John, "that he gave his only Son ... not to condemn the world but that the whole world might be saved through him." (John 3:17)

God wants to save the world! May the winds of March awaken in us a fresh awareness of that wonderful news.

With you in Christ's service,

April

March Book Discussion



The Five Wounds by Kirstin Valdez Quade aligns with the season of Lent in that it begins with a reenactment of the passion of Christ. The setting is a small town in New Mexico. The day is Good Friday. The person chosen to depict Jesus is Amadeo. Amadeo is extremely aware of his own brokenness and failings and is hoping that, by participating in this traditional act of devotion, he might somehow make things right or be himself set right. The story builds from there as we meet other family members and learn about their lives, challenges, and relationships. A reviewer for the *Guardian* writes that, "After a slow start, *The Five Wounds* turns into a propulsive, immersive story that reckons wisely with the real cost of redemption."

Participants can choose to join the discussion in person on **Monday, March 27**, at 2:00 p.m. in the choir room OR via Zoom on Monday, March 27, at 7:00 p.m. Please email April@rhumc.org to let her know of your plans to participate. All readers are welcome!

Dawn Unity - by Bob Rothman

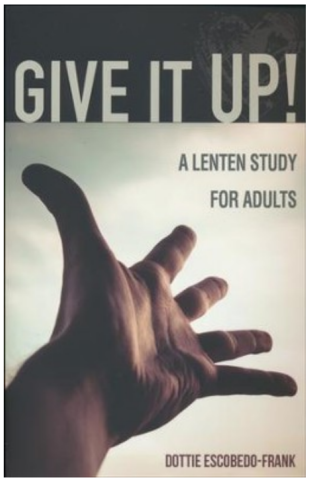
We will learn from a first time Dawn panel presentation "Today's College Students: Tomorrow's Leaders" on **Tuesday, March 7** at 7:30 p.m. at RHUMC. Four clergy who minister to college students will comprise the panel: Rev. Jeanne Roe-Smith, Methodist Minister at UCLA; Kienan Taweil, Muslim student advisor at Loyola Marymount University; Fr. Mark Villano C.S.P., Associate Director of the UCLA Catholic Student Center; and Rabbi Zach Zysman, Hillel Rabbi and Jewish student advisor, Loyola Marymount University. Bob Rothman will be the moderator. These religious professionals, who work with college students, will tell us about their student congregations. What is important to this generation as compared to their parents and grandparents? How different are those who are involved in their religions from other university students who are not? Are students more confrontational today, or is that what the media selects to report? The program will be live streamed on facebook.com/dawnunitygroup/live. For further information call (310) 833-7008.

UMCOR Sunday - March 19

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) lives out a mission to alleviate human suffering. UMCOR provides humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries when war, conflict or natural disaster strikes. On **Sunday, March 19**, we will have a special offering to help underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." Funds raised will help UMCOR keep their promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. Donations may be made via check made payable to RHUMC with a notation of "UMCOR Sunday" on the memo line or via our website at RHUMC.com by clicking on Giving and listing UMCOR under Other Designated Giving. Checks may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your generosity.

Bible Study

During this study (written in 2014) Dottie Escobedo-Frank (now Bishop of the California-Pacific Annual Conference of the UMC) takes the reader on a journey of self discovery, with an opportunity to learn that the power of release brings great gain. The biggest gain is a stronger relationship with Christ. In the release, each person is freed to "give it up" in applause and praise for a life deeply lived in Christ.



LED BY:

APRIL HERRON

Please email april@rhumc.org to let her know of your plans to participate. The book is available in the church office at a cost of $10. You are also free to buy from your preferred bookseller.

CHOOSE SESSIONS:

TUESDAYS / FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 7, 14, 21 & 28
10:30AM - IN PERSON

OR

WEDNESDAYS / MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29
7:00PM - VIA ZOOM

ROLLING HILLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

26438 Crenshaw Blvd.
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
rhumc.org

SOUTH COAST INTERFAITH COUNCIL

70th Annual Assembly:

VOICES IN HARMONY

Spotlight Awards, Dinner, Fellowship & Business Meeting

Thursday, March 9, 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Keynote Address:

Charles Dickerson

Founder, Artistic Director and Conductor of the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles

SPOTLIGHT AWARD HONOREES

Faith Leader: ***Pastor Kristin Sutrave***, Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
Woman: ***Elena Meloni***, New Star Family Justice Ctr.
Man: ***Victor Thompson***, National Pacific Islander Education Network
Youth: ***Melody McCants***, Baha'i Faith Community of Long Beach
Sage: ***Dale Whitney***, First Congregational Church of Long Beach

Location:
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 3701 Elm Ave., Long Beach
Cost: $40 (dinner included)

Register here: https://bit.ly/SCIC70AnnualAssembly
RSVP Due: March 5

SPECIAL SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITY

The SCIC is partnering with Community Outreach in Action and collecting the following items to help the underserved. We invite you to bring any of the following things with you to donate at the Annual Assembly! Diapers for kids (sizes 4,5,6) & adults (sizes xl, 2xl, 3xl), Paper plates & cups, Travel size personal hygiene items, Men's clothes & shoes, Boxes of cold cereal.

The Missions Corner - by Debra Shrader and Chris Campbell, co-chairs Missions

Recap and Update on Welcoming the Lajmar Family

In September 2021, the family fled Afghanistan along with thousands of other refugees as the United States withdrew its troops. The family of seven spent time in Europe in a camp, then in the U.S. at a base in Alamogordo, New Mexico. Finally, they were "settled" in a hotel in Inglewood for a few months. The refugee resettlement organization HIAS described their endeavor to support Afghan refugee families here in Southern California, as part of the online program "Courageous Conversations over Coffee" which was sponsored by the South Coast Interfaith Council. This caught the attention of several members of our church. Along with community members from the area, Nancy Rasmussen (local hero) used her disaster response experience to organize a volunteer group. You've heard it "takes a village?" Well, it certainly does as we helped them settle in an apartment in Gardena, enrolled the five children in schools, arranged for food stamps, medical and dental care, and benefits of all sorts! The young parents did their best to provide for the children. Dan and Felicia McClain arranged to deliver regular food bank provisions to them. Many of us drove the kids to school and medical / dental appointments. Others tutored the kids in English and helped with homework and meetings with teachers. Others filled out applications for immigration updates and helped the dad find a job. One person did almost all of the translation for the family, often by phone from various appointments they had.

What did we gain from this contact with a loving Afghan family? We learned about their customs, from household habits to food preparation. We learned to be sensitive about their traditions and how not to judge another culture. With great appreciation for all the help with transportation and purchase of bicycles, the family has now found a community that can give them continuing support. The Lajmars will be moving to El Cajon next week, ready to assume responsibility for their future without our hand-holding. We are celebrating their independence and sending them to their new community in joy! Please pray for each of them as they go through this new experience.

Most of all, THANK YOU to the congregation of RHUMC for the financial and prayerful support given this family during our Missions Fiesta in November!

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, March 12 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Trio Céleste

Cellist	*Pianist*	*Violinist*
Ross Gasworth	***Kevin Kwan Loucks***	***Iryna Krechkovsky***

Hailed as "a first-class ensemble" *(Orange County Register),* "unfailingly stylish" *(The Strad),* "technically dazzling" *(Long Beach Gazette),* "flawless" *(New York Concert Review),* and "the epitome of what chamber musicians should be" *(Palm Beach Daily News),* Trio Céleste has firmly established itself as one of the leading chamber music ensembles on the classical music scene.

Watch the livestream *at* ***https://vimeo.com/event/2899317***

Advance Reservations Are Required to Attend in Person

Email:ClassicalCrossroads@Earthlink.net by a day ahead and request to be included on the check-in list with the names of your guests. Proof of vaccination + booster and N95-level masks (provided) required.

Decorating for Easter

Volunteers are invited to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter! We will meet on **Saturday morning, April 8, at 8:30 a.m.** One crew will decorate the large narthex cross outside. The other crew will decorate the inside of the sanctuary. This is a wonderful opportunity to prepare for Easter surrounded by beautiful flowers!

Easter Lilies

You are invited to donate one or more Easter plants to decorate the sanctuary for Easter services.

Please make checks payable to RHUMC for $20 per plant, or 2 for $30. You may bring or mail this form with payment to the church. Plants may also be ordered on the church website. The last day to order plants is April 2. Thank you!

The plants can be dedicated a few different ways:

☐ To the Glory of God

☐ In Honor of: _____

_____

_____

☐ In Memory of: _____

_____

_____

Given by: _____

Email: _____

Number of plants: ____ Amount paid: _____

Cash: _____ Check number: _____

Attention Martha Circle Members and Guests - by Phyllis Goetz

Come walk through London following John Wesley, who along with his brother Charles, started the Methodist Movement in England. John chartered the first Methodist Church in America. In England he traveled by horseback to carry his ministry to others. He had experienced a conversion when he "felt his heart strangely warmed." Edith Utterberg and her daughter, Gina Keller took this walk, taking pictures they will share, starting with John Wesley's statue at St. Paul's, walking through Roman wall ruins, passing a church where Wesley's father preached and eventually ending at Wesley's Chapel. A discussion will follow.

You are invited on **Monday, March 13**, at 12:00 noon to come with a brown bag lunch and a visit with friends. This will be followed by a short business meeting and then the program. We will meet in the Aldersgate Room. Hope to see you there.

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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesdays
March 8 & 22
10:00-11:00am
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.

March Blood Pressure Sundays

March 12: following both morning services

March 19: following 3rd service

March 26: following both morning services

Taco Night

Join us for Taco Night after 3rd service on **Sunday, March 26**. You'll have a choice of chicken, beef or pork tacos served with rice, beans, and chips. The requested meal donation is $5 per person, $15 per family. 3rd service takes place every Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Lazy W Ranch
faith grows here

Save the Date
June 9-11
Family Camp
at Lazy W Ranch
in San Juan Capistrano

Club Maintenance - by Bill Bails

Club Maintenance met on Saturday, February 11. Various tasks were performed around the campus including working on the benches in the Meditation Garden, priming the copper pipes at Wesley Hall, changing some Sanctuary A/C filters, and various preschool tasks. Subway sandwiches were had for lunch. The next opportunity to participate is on **Saturday, March 11** at 8:30 a.m. We hope you can join us and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair.

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Monday, March 13 - Available from 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Good Stuff Palos Verdes
550 Deep Valley Drive
Rolling Hills Estates, CA
310 544 8000

20% of the proceeds will be donated to RHUMPS.

Indicate RUMPS when ordering so credit will be given.

GOOD STUFF RESTAURANTS

Online Orders:
Eatgoodstuff.com

SPRING BREAK CAMP 2023

TK/KINDERGARTEN - 8TH GRADE

WEEK #1 PVPUSD MARCH 27 - 30

WEEK #2 TUSD APRIL 4 - 7

SUMMER CAMP 2023 JUNE 12TH - AUGUST 11TH

REGISTRTION BEGINS, MARCH 1ST

WE ARE NOW ACCEPTING COUNSELOR AND VOLUNTEER APPLICATIONS FOR OUR KID ZONE SUMMER CAMP

KID ZONE CONTRIBUTIONS

If you wish to contribute to the mission here are some ideas:

CRAYONS

FUSE BEADS.

SPONSOR A STUDENT

Youth Ministries

Ignite Youth Mid-Week Ministry

Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m-8:00 p.m. at RHUMC
March 1- Intentionality with Time
March 8- Movie Night
March 15- Youth Sunday Rehearsal
March 22- Hot Topic Night
March 29- Field Trip: Handel's Ice Cream from 7:15-8:00 p.m.
We will meet at 882 South PCH, Redondo Beach. Please bring money for dessert.

Youth Sunday, March 19

All youth are invited to participate in leading worship on **Sunday, March 19**. Youth can read scripture, present a mini-sermon, usher, greet or pray! Contact Kristin ASAP if you would like to be involved.

Sierra Service Project 2023

Spots are filling fast; submit a $200 deposit as soon as possible to reserve a space on our service team! Youth entering 9th grade through graduating seniors may join our High School team who will be going to Del Norte County in northern CA, **July 29 - August 6, 2023.** We are also looking for adult counselor volunteers that would like to chaperone with our team.

Kristin Sutrave, 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

SAVE THE DATE
VACATION BIBLE CAMP
JULY 31 – AUGUST 4

Vacation Bible Camp Volunteers Needed

Volunteers needed for our Vacation Bible Camp…
"Food Truck Party, On a Roll with God."

Volunteering is fun and you can volunteer for
as little as one day or the whole week!

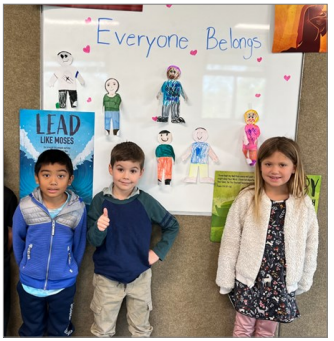
Positions available: Bible, Science, Crafts, Games,
Snack, Greeters and Decorators

Come be a volunteer at Vacation Bible Camp
Monday, July 31st – August, 4th 2023
9:00 a.m. till 12:00 p.m.

VBC, takes place in churches around the world each year.
It's important and impacts lives. We need you!

Contact Debra at debra@rhumc.org
or (310) 377-6771

Children's Ministry



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

Our nursery is open for children 3 years of age and younger in room #110 with our wonderful caregivers Ms. Michelle and Ms. Clara during our 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services.

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.

JOIN US FOR AN EASTER EGG HUNT!

Saturday, April 8 at 10:00 a.m.
Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
26438 Crenshaw Blvd., Rolling Hills Estates

A donation of candy would be appreciated and can be left in the church office by Wednesday, April 5. Pre-wrapped candy small enough to fit into the plastic eggs, we have already purchased. No nuts or peanut products please! Thank you ☺

Meet and greet near preschool gate then we will proceed with two egg hunts. One for children ages 4 and younger and a second egg hunt for children ages 5 and older. Please bring a basket or bag to collect your 12 eggs.

After the egg hunt join us in Wesley Hall to make Easter crafts and have a photo op with the Easter Bunny!

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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	Church Office Admin	Peggy Roulette
Youth Ministry Pastor	Kristin Sutrave	Admin. Asst.	Lori Brunn
Kid Zone Director	Gabby Palacios	Custodian	Miguel Portillo
Exec. Asst. to Pastor & Finance Manager	Catherine Dingman		

Church Office Phone	310-377-6771	Resident Bishop	Dottie Escobedo-Frank
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 March 24
www.rhumc.org