The Cornerstone

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

April 2023

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

As I write, I am recovering from home from my first known personal encounter with COVID-19. So it feels a bit ironic to be thinking about a post-pandemic future. But numbers are way down at local hospitals. People are more and more returning to previous activities. We will continue to do our best to take care of each other. But I believe it is time for us to consider our task as more than just recovering from the pandemic.

This congregation has benefitted from excellent long-range planning a number of times over recent decades. It was such an exercise, when Martha Rowlett served as Senior Pastor, that led to a generous mission with children and families, as well as to the building of the current sanctuary. As a result of such work in more recent years, we developed a full-day preschool program, our Kid Zone after school program, renovated Wesley Hall, built our new education facilities, and brought on board staff and key leaders to help strengthen our mission in the community.

Since I had the privilege of coming to serve with you all, we have experienced the trauma of 9/11, the turmoil of the Great Recession, undertaken a multi-million dollar renewal of our facilities, and survived a global pandemic. I believe that one of the reasons we were able to continue a generous and healthy mission was the result of these earlier exercises in long-range planning.

Over the years both April and I have benefitted from the wisdom and counsel of Dr. Kennon Callahan, whose book, *12 Keys to an Effective Church,* has helped thousands of churches across the country. This fall, we will plan to use the 2010 revised version of the book to look once more at the gifts and strengths with which God has blessed this congregation, and develop together a plan for the coming 3-5 years.

We are looking at a number of ways to engage with the material. Ken has an excellent Bible study that would introduce the material to some. There will be an opportunity for anyone who wishes to read the book and several chances to discuss its implications for the future of RHUMC. We will plan to hold a planning retreat, dates and times yet to be determined, this coming fall. We will want to invite and include the input of as many of us as possible to help shape the next seasons of our life, together in God's mission.

As I write, I am still recovering from COVID. But Easter is coming. And Christ invites us into God's new day.

Peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

Easter is underway among us! The hillsides and clifftops around us are currently defined by greenery and a profusion of flowers. We are taking delight in blue skies and sunshine. The laughter and high spirits of children on the church patio is contagious. The youth of our congregation have inspired us with their personal testimonies and leadership in worship.

Meanwhile, new ministries are emerging and previously valued ministries are gaining renewed life. The Winter Supper Club organized by Anna Randall and Debbie Taylor is resulting in new friendships and deepened connections. The Congregational Care Ministers, recently trained by Kristin, have already extended the reach of our care and compassion. The welcoming of newcomers to worship with a home delivery of freshly baked bread is taking place weekly because three new volunteers joined the two who were already involved. (This ministry went on hiatus starting in early 2020, but now it's back!) The hospitality ministry of RHUMC also has new volunteers taking part, and this makes possible our ability to host the memorial services and receptions that are such an encouragement to families and friends in times of loss.

These are all wonderful developments, because God keeps sending new people to join us in mission, worship, study, and the creation of a community that reflects Christ's life of loving service. If you are still looking for your place of involvement, consider learning more about Club Maintenance, Vacation Bible Camp, the Altar Guild, the ushering crew, or opportunities to support the work of Toberman Neighborhood Center (to name a few options). Christ's resurrection isn't an end in itself – it's the beginning of a new sense of purpose and possibility for the church.

May the joy of Easter be yours,

April

The Caring Congregation

RHUMC has founded a new caring ministry for laity to provide care and visitation to fellow members of our faith community. Utilizing the model of The Caring Congregation from the Church of the Resurrection, our church has now trained our first cohort of "Congregation Care Ministers" or "CCMs." Our CCMs have a clear passion for walking along side folks as they go through the mountain top experiences and dark valleys of life, and they are excited to meet with you!

Our CCMs serve as an extension of the pastoral team at RHUMC offering prayer, visitation, and a listening ear. Some of you have already been contacted by this amazing team, either by phone, through caring notes, or in person visits. Prayer and/or visitation requests can be made by filling out a Google form on the church website, emailing Kristin@rhumc.org, or calling the church office (310-377-6771).

Good Friday Concert - April 7

We hope you can join us on **Friday, April 7 at 7:00 p.m.** as our Chancel Choir will perform *Requiem* by John Rutter and *Gospel Mass* by Robert Ray. Joining our Chancel Choir will be choir members from California State University Dominguez Hills and The Angel City Chorale. The Choral ensemble will be accompanied by the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles. Admission is free and all are welcome.

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!

The Path from Past to Present

Three Mondays:

April 25

Remarkably Bright Creatures

By Shelby Van Pelt

June 26

The Violin Conspiracy

By Brendan Slocumb

August 28

The Lincoln Highway

By Amor Towles

2PM & 7PM

In Person or on Zoom

Could where we have ended up been predicted
by where we started?
How do events of the past
influence or create our present?
Does the future seem constrained in some way,
or just shrouded in mystery?
What are the possibilities behind and before us?

Note that summer rewards you with extra reading time!
Please register your plans to participate by emailing april@rhumc.org
so you can receive specific meeting information.
The facilitator is April Herron.
All readers are welcome.

ROLLING HILLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

26438 Crenshaw Blvd.
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274

Peninsula Harbor CROP Hunger Walk

A team of walkers from Rolling Hills UMC led by Debra Shrader (teach2play@gmail.com) of the Missions Committee will be taking part in the 41st Annual Peninsula Harbor CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, April 23 at the South Coast Botanic Garden.

Rolling Hills UMC joins with congregations across the United States to help end hunger one step at a time, both around the corner and around the globe. CROP Hunger Walks support the international relief and development work of Church World Service. Additionally, the Peninsula Harbor CROP Hunger Walk also supports the efforts of Toberman Neighborhood Center, Harbor Interfaith Services and the Shared Bread Project of First UMC Redondo Beach to combat hunger in our community.

The walk will begin at 1:00 p.m. and last throughout the afternoon. RHUMC members who are also members of the Botanic Garden will need to make advance reservations with the Garden, while non-members are asked to register in advance with Debra. Walkers who are not Botanical Garden members will be admitted free for this special event.

Those who are unable to walk with the Rolling Hills team but who would like to support the work of Church World Service may do so by writing a check to RHUMC, writing in "for CROP Hunger Walk" in the memo line of their check.

There is a website for enrollment as a walker or to donate to our RHUMC team: https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/team/rolling-hills-umc

Harbor Interfaith Food Drive

During the month of April, the Missions Committee is sponsoring a food collection for the food pantry for Harbor Interfaith Services in San Pedro. Please bring any non-perishable food items to the box in the church office.

If you would like to donate a "3 Day Food Allowance" that will feed a family of 3-4 persons, you can either donate $70 (put Harbor Interfaith food drive in the memo on your check) or purchase the following food items:

- 4 Cans of Beans (chili, baked, Or vegetarian)
- 4 Cans of Vegetables
- 2 Boxes of Macaroni & Cheese
- 1 Jelly
- 1 Peanut Butter
- 1 Container of Quick Oats
- 2 Cans of Fruit
- 2 Cans of Tomato Sauce
- 2 Cans of Soup
- 2 Cans of Tuna
- 2 Bags of Pasta Noodles
- 2 Bags dried beans or lentils
- 2 Cans of Ravioli
- 1 Bag of Rice

We thank you in advance for your donations and continued support of those in need!

Transformation in Christ: A Study of Galatians

God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use your freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. --Galatians 5:13 (*The Message*)

RHUMC's next Bible Study class for adults will focus on the life and teachings of the Apostle Paul as expressed in his letter to the believers in Galatia. The story of how Saul the Pharisee transformed from an ardent and violent suppressor of the gospel into Paul, the Apostle of Christ, is a vivid example of how knowing Christ leads to a change in identity. The class will offer inspiration from Paul's thought and writing. Class members will be invited to consider what it might mean to be made new in our time.

The four sessions will begin on Monday, May 1, and meet weekly for one hour. Participants may choose to gather in-person in the Aldersgate Room at 10:30 am or on Zoom at 7:00 pm. The themes are as follows:
Session 1, May 1 -- Faith Working Through Love
Session 2, May 8 -- Unity with Diversity
Session 3, May 15 -- Freedom in Christ
Session 4, May 22 -- The Gift of the Spirit

The class will be taught by congregation member Nancy Wallis, whose vocational life overlaps significantly with her faith. After working in business leadership and development for many years, both as an executive and an educator, she completed her Master of Divinity degree at Claremont School of Theology. She now focuses her energy in a variety of specialized ministries, including spiritual direction, guest preaching, and retreat leadership.

Please register your plans to participate by emailing churchoffice@rhumc.org. You will be provided with scripture text citations each week which you may read in advance of class. All are welcome to join in this exploration of how we grow in Christ in our own current and unique circumstances.

CALLING ALL WOMEN - by Barbara Addleman

Join Martha Circle on **Monday, April 10** for an exciting trip down the Nile to Giza and the tombs of the powerful Egyptian Pharaohs. Visit Karnak, Luxor, Abu Simbel, and the famous Sphinx. Ride across the Sahara on a camel and marvel at the sights and silence of the great desert. The best part is that you can do all of this from the comfort of the Aldersgate Room with Shirley Fehrman who toured Egypt with the renowned archeologist Dr. Zahi Hawass. She created a fabulous video complete with music and detailed views of these incredible sights. It's a treat not to be missed.

We invite all women of the church to come whether or not you are a member of Martha Circle. We love to have guests so please join us at this meeting or any others that sound interesting to you. Bring a brown paper lunch at 12:00 noon for a social time before our 12:30 program. Hope to see you there. Questions – email Barbara Addleman baddleman@cox.net.

Altar Guild Opportunity

Do you like to spend time in a place of peace & beauty? Do you like a sense of order?

The RHUMC Altar Guild is a group of men and women who serve God by preparing and tending the place in which we worship. Altar Guild work goes on behind the scenes, usually on Saturday mornings. They are responsible for creating the familiar scene in the chancel that worshippers expect to see at Sunday services. Altar Guild members serve one month a year, and it takes about an hour per weekend.

Have you considered joining the Altar Guild? Here are some reasons God may be calling you to this ministry:
- You will be joining a host of other individuals who week by week create our services of worship, including choir members, acolytes, liturgists, ushers, and communion stewards. As part of Altar Guild, you will be making a valuable offering to our community's worship life.
- You will grow spiritually. Members of the Altar Guild find this work to be a true ministry of devotion and prayer.

If you would like to learn more about this ministry to see if it is something you might have fun doing, email or call Chris Larson at chrislarsonrhumc@gmail.com or 310-738-3909.

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, April 16 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Pianist Dmitry Rachmanov

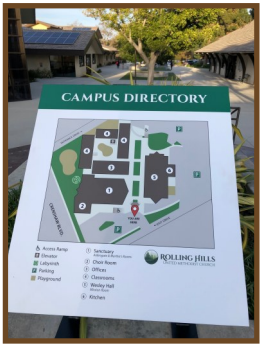
"suave and gifted pianist" *~ The New York Times*

A Steinway Artist, pianist **Dmitry Rachmanov** has garnered acclaim for his passionate performances, refined musicianship, and brilliant pianism. He has been heard at leading venues such as New York's Carnegie Hall, Washington DC's Kennedy Center, London's Barbican and South Bank Centres, and Beijing Concert Hall. A graduate of The Juilliard School, he holds a DMA from Manhattan School of Music. Dmitry Rachmanov is Professor of Piano at CSU Northridge, where he serves as Chair of Keyboard Studies.

Watch the livestream at *https://vimeo.com/event/3188931*

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.



New Campus Signage

Good News! Our updated campus directory has recently been installed at the top of the steps as well as posted on the wall outside of the Mission room. We are thankful for the clear guidance they offer to our visitors.

Times of Transition

At RHUMC, our focus has always been on the needs and hopes of families with the goal of helping people through the many seasons of their lives. Over the past year, our Staff Parish Relations Committee - the team responsible for personnel and related issues that affect our overall ministry - has been reflecting on and considering ways in which our church can best meet these various needs. That process has led to a number of changes over the past year that have broadened RHUMC's access to support services and deepened the ability of our congregation to serve one another and the community in meaningful ways.

As part of this ongoing reflection process, the SPRC also determined that it was time to reconsider the role of Parish Nurse and ultimately concluded it was an appropriate time to phase out that position. Some of the Parish Nurse responsibilities have been absorbed by other members of RHUMC's staff. And, we are grateful that a number of volunteers have come forward to allow for the continuation of monthly Blood Pressure Sundays and to assist with visitations. We also want to express deep appreciation to Annette Matsuda for her care and compassion in her role as Parish Nurse over many years. Annette has been an important source of support for members of the congregation experiencing illness or loss and has developed many friendships through her work. We are extremely grateful for the heartfelt work that she has done on the congregation's behalf.

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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesdays
April 12 & 26
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.

From Annette Matsuda...

Dear Rolling Hills United Methodist Church Family,

Serving as your parish nurse these past ten years has been a joy and privilege. I plan to continue singing in our choir and to be involved in your lives as a friend in the years to come. May God's abiding presence and activity touch you all deeply.

Love,
Annette

Blood Pressure Sundays

Blood pressure screenings will now be offered on the last Sunday of every month after each service. The morning screenings will be held in the church office conference room and after 3rd service in the Aldersgate room.

Taco Night

Join us for Taco Night after 3rd service on **Sunday, April 30** 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.

Club Maintenance - by Gene Koester

Don McCurry, Bob Chamberlin, Daniel Shrader, George Mercer and Gene Koester gathered on March 11 for Club Maintenance. It was a cool, damp day so we did not attempt any painting. We all got busy with the HVAC filters in our preschool classrooms. Using 6' and 8' stepladders seventeen filters were washed for the lower classrooms and thirteen 2" pleated filters were replaced in the upper classrooms. We enjoyed coffee, donuts and conversation before adjourning. Our Club Maintenance activities for April will center around getting ready for Easter. On Saturday, April 1, we will assemble the Palm arches starting at 8:00 a.m. On Saturday, April 8 we will decorate and hang the narthex cross starting at 8:00 a.m. Normal Club Maintenance activity will resume in May.

Lazy W Ranch
faith grows here

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

A Note of Thanks

The youth would like to thank the entire congregation for their generous support of this summer's Sierra Service Project trip. Our donation board was completely revealed and the beautiful picture is on display in the Children and Youth Ministries office window.

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Wednesday, April 12 - Available from 11:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m.

Riviera Mexican Grill
1615 S Pacific Coast Hwy
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
310-540-2501

20% of the proceeds will be donated to RHUMPS.

Indicate RUMPS when ordering so credit will be given.

RIVIERA mexican grill

Online Orders:
therivmex.com

Youth Ministries

Ignite Youth Mid-Week Ministry

Wednesdays, 6:30pm - 8:00pm at RHUMC
Dinner will be served
April 5 – Holy Week 101
April 12 – Like Living Stones
April 19 – Teamwork
April 26 – Earth Day

Service Opportunity: Hungry to Help

Youth are invited to help cook a healthy meal for our unhoused neighbors **Saturday, April 15 from 9:00-12:00pm** in the RHUMC Kitchen. Space is limited so please RSVP to Kristin@rhumc.org if you would like to volunteer.

Sierra Service Project 2023

Youth entering 9th grade through graduating seniors may join our High School team going to Del Norte County in northern CA, **July 29 - August 6, 2023.** We are also looking for adult volunteers that would like to chaperone with our team.

Youth Sunday

Thank you to all the youth who helped with youth Sunday.

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

VACATION BIBLE CAMP

JULY 31ST – AUGUST 4TH / 9:00AM – 12:00PM

3 YEARS OLD (POTTY TRAINED) THROUGH
5TH GRADE (FALL OF 2023)

PRIORITY REGISTRATION FOR RHUMC, RHUMPS AND KID ZONE FAMILIES BEGINS APRIL 3RD

FULL REGISTRATION OPENS FOR ALL CAMPERS APRIL 10TH

REGISTER ONLINE AT RHUMC.ORG OR STOP BY THE CHURCH OFFICE TO PICK UP YOUR REGISTRATION FORM

QUESTIONS: DEBRA@RHUMC.ORG

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!

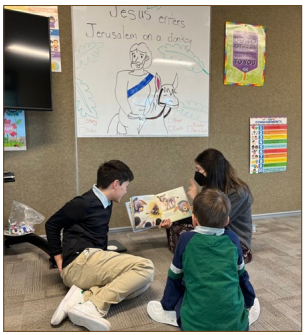
Positions available: Bible, Science, Crafts, Games, Snack, Greeters and Decorators

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 8:30am and 10:00am 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
Children's Ministry Dir.	Debra DeLuca	3rd Service Music	Paula Kuno
Youth Ministry Pastor	Kristin Sutrave	Church Office Admin	Peggy Roulette
Kid Zone Director	Gabby Palacios	Admin. Asst.	Lori Brunn
Exec. Asst. to Pastor & Finance Manager	Catherine Dingman	Custodian	Miguel Portillo

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 April 28
www.rhumc.org