The Cornerstone

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

July 2023

Summertime Fun at Kid Zone Camp!

Ministers don't like talking about money. That's not why most of us got into this line of work. It's not typically associated with hearing the call of God. We remember the words of scripture, "Love of money is the root of all evil," or "You cannot serve God and mammon" (an old word meaning "evil wealth"). So when we talk about money, we often shuffle our feet. We don't make eye contact. It's just not our strong suit. We'd rather do almost anything else.

On the other hand, we love to celebrate good news. And we love to share gratitude and thanksgiving. That's in the Bible too! So I want to express my gratitude to all of you for the generosity you have already shown this year. I am grateful for the gifts that make our mission possible, but also for the spirit of compassion, community and hope that lies behind your giving.

So far this year your contributions to our life and work have met or exceeded our monthly giving goals. As of the end of May, gifts given are 23% ahead of what we projected in our budget for the year. Our budget anticipated contributions through May of $403,000. But you have already given $497,000. That is kind of amazing! And I thought it might be encouraging for you to know.

Your gifts help support worship that reaches people among three services each week in the sanctuary, as well as around the world via YouTube. Each week about 300 persons gather for worship in person at one of our three Sunday services. Another 200 or more join us on line. You are helping us to carry out a healthy and dynamic ministry with youth and children, serving literally hundreds of children each week this summer. Compassion and care for our church family, and for the community around us, is made possible because of your gifts. Congregational Care Ministry has broadened and deepened connections among us. Pastoral support in times of illness or loss is vital. When I see the evidence of your faith, hope and love, how can I be anything but grateful? Thank you! And well done!

This July, with the beginning of a new conference year, I am especially grateful for the privilege of serving with you for a remarkable twenty five years. Even more, I look forward to where God will lead us in the years to come. Thank you again.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

The month of July always reminds me that it is a wonderful thing to be welcomed. Thirty-six years ago, two United Methodist congregations on the west side of Kauai welcomed me and my family to the parsonage and the position of pastor with a potluck of local specialties. Thirty-two years ago, the people of the Pacific Beach United Methodist Church in San Diego led in celebrating our first Sunday together by focusing the worship service on sharing their hopes and dreams for the future. And eight years ago I arrived on the beautiful campus of RHUMC on July 1 to discover that the Kidzone summer camp was in full swing and the staff had prepared a name tag and lanyard for me!

Except for unusual circumstances, the departure of United Methodist pastors, for new assignments or retirement, happens in June. The arrival of a new pastor happens in July. Churches benefit from keeping their momentum, and so the transition (if there is one) receives considerable attention. The goal is a smooth and positive "hand off" of responsibilities and joys from one pastor to the next and/or to graciously incorporate the new capabilities and contributions of an additional pastor. Jonathan, Kristin, and I each arrived to RHUMC at different times in its history, but all three of us celebrate in July that we get to stay another year!

To be welcomed in any context is to be reassured that you are worthy of notice and care. To be welcomed in the role of service to Christ's ministry is to feel affirmed in faith. Welcome is not a thing that can be taken for granted. It is a gift to be celebrated. When the apostle Paul and his companions told the story of being shipwrecked on Malta, they reported (Acts 28:2) with amazement, "The natives showed us unusual kindness. Since it had begun to rain and was cold, they kindled a fire and welcomed all of us around it." Perhaps it was *being* welcomed that later helped Paul excel at welcoming others. Acts 28:30 makes a point of emphasizing that once Paul arrived in Rome, "He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him."

Summer no doubt will offer opportunities for all of us to welcome and be welcomed. May we grow in grace as we give attention to helping others feel at home.

April

Ways to be Welcoming

Recently some members and staff of RHUMC traveled to the Church of the Resurrection (a United Methodist congregation in Kansas City) to learn how they cultivate warmth and a sense of community to the extent that they have attracted thousands of people to worship services and other active expressions of their Christian faith. Here are some suggestions our team brought back that anyone and everyone could adopt when on campus at Rolling Hills UMC, whether it's your first time or your millionth time, to help all of us feel at home.

+ Smile and say, "Hi!"

+ Introduce yourself and try to learn people's names.

+ Practice these two "rules": The 10 feet rule, which involves greeting everyone standing or seated within ten feet of you; the 3 minute rule, which asks that you spend at least three minutes before and after a worship service or other church event/activity talking to someone you don't yet know.

+ Introduce the people you meet to others you know and include them in your conversations.

+ Look for opportunities to be helpful. If someone asks for directions to a specific location on campus, and you have knowledge of how to get there, you could escort them to their destination.

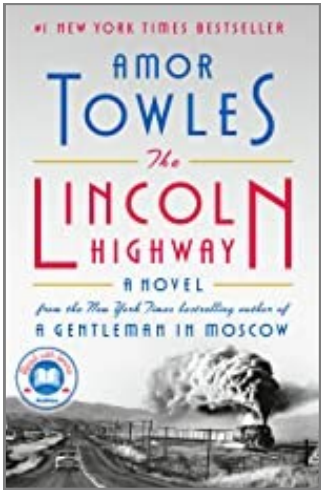
+ Offer a friendly farewell to those you might encounter on your way to your car.

With these and other thoughtful approaches, we could put into practice the guidance that Paul suggested in his Letter to the Romans: "Welcome one another...just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (15:7)

SAVE THE DATE – by Barbara Addleman

Since our **All-Church Women's Luncheon** was such a success last year, we are going to do it again! We hope all women of RHUMC will join us in Wesley Hall on **Saturday, October 14** at 11:30 a.m. If you would like to help with the plans, please contact me at baddleman@cox.net so we can include you as we go forward. More details to follow, but please put this fun event on your calendar now!

Upcoming Book Discussion Invites Readers on a Journey



What could be more perfect for summer than a road trip? *The Lincoln Highway* debuted on the New York Times bestseller list at #1 and was named Amazon's best book of 2021. Its author, Amor Towles, introduces three 18-year-old young men, and one 8-year-old little brother, each with his own needs and goals, and puts them all in the same car. They set out from Nebraska and 1954, and for the next ten days hardly anything goes as expected, hoped, or predicted. The characters are vivid, the circumstances are compelling, and the guidebook is inspiring. Yes, it's 600 pages long, but you have two months to read it and with each page you will be eager to discover what happens next.

Ann Patchett said about the story, "Welcome to the enormous pleasure that is *The Lincoln Highway*, a big book of camaraderie and adventure in which the miles fly by and the pages turn fast."

Discussions about the book will take place on **Monday, August 28**, at 2:00 p.m. in the Choir Room and 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. All readers are welcome. Please remember to email april@rhumc.org so that there will be a chair for you at the in-person gathering or a Zoom link coming your way for the evening conversation.

Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles Performance

Dear Church Family,

The Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles was founded by our Director of Music Chuck Dickerson 15 years ago. The orchestra comes to RHUMC at least twice a year - for a Good Friday Concert and a Christmas Season Concert. Now, the orchestra will present its Season Finale at the Walt Disney Concert Hall at 3:00 p.m. on **Sunday, July 9**, and Chuck would like you to attend. Pianist Terrance Wilson will be featured in a performance of Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1, and the orchestra will also perform the Overture to Candide by Leonard Bernstein and the Finale to Swan Lake. Tickets are both reasonable and available, and can be ordered at: http://www.icyola.org.

Charles Dickerson
he/him

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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesdays
July 12 & 26
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.

Summer in the Sanctuary

Our thermostat has recently been repaired, so cool air will be flowing. If summer Sunday mornings find you at the beach, or enjoying some other adventure, remember that 5:30 p.m. worship is always available. Our 3rd service music ensemble is fantastic, and you will hear the same scripture text and sermon as the morning worshippers.

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, July 23 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents a bonus summer concert ~

iPalpiti Festival Ensemble-in-Residence

Trio Zadig

Violinist	*Cellist*	*Pianist*
Boris Borgolotto	**Marc Girard Garcia**	**Ian Barber**

Awarded 11 international prizes, Paris-based **Trio Zadig** captivates audiences with its virtuosity, elegance, and irresistible enthusiasm. **Boris Borgolotto** and **Marc Girard Garcia** are childhood friends who studied together at the *Paris Conservatoire National de Musique* and at the University of Music in Vienna. Upon their return to France, they crossed paths with **Ian Barber**, an American pianist from the renowned studio of André Watts at the University of Indiana.

Watch the livestream at
https://vimeo.com/event/3510420

Advance Reservations Requested to Attend in Person
Please email: ClassicalCrossroads@Earthlink.net by a day ahead and request to be included on the check-in list with the names of your guests.

Blood Pressure Sundays

Blood pressure screenings are 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, July 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 Bill Bails

When Club Maintenance last met, we finished the painting on the pipe outside Wesley Hall, mulched the north entrance flower bed, straightened a parking lot banner, trimmed around and swept the labyrinth, cleaned the directory signs, and painted a cement bumper red for no parking. Club Maintenance will next meet on **Saturday, July 8** at 8:30 a.m. We hope you can join us and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair.

Kid Zone Summer Camp 2023

SUMMER CAMP DATES: Now through August 11

Available for children in grades TK - 8th grade

Contact Gabby Palacios for more information at

Kidzone.midzone@rhumc.org

310-377-7302 or 323-610-2253

KID ZONE
RHUMC

Youth Ministries

July Youth Events

7/17 @ 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. **Western Museum of Flight**
7/23 @ 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. **BBQ and Games** at Alta Loma Park
(26126 Delos Dr, Torrance, CA 90505)

Please RSVP to Kristin@rhumc.org.

President's Volunteer Service Award

Applications for **PVSA are due by July 15, 2023.** Community service hours earned between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 will count towards this year's award. There will be an award ceremony in the fall to present the youth with their certificates and pins.

Applications and additional information can be found on the church website. Please contact Cassie Walke at Cassie@rhumc.org with any questions.

Sierra Service Project

Our high school youth will be attending Sierra Service Project 7/29-8/6. We will be serving in Del Norte County in northern California. If you are interested in attending as a youth, or an adult counselor, please let Kristin know!

Rev. 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 is here and it's time to shake things up a bit. Don't look upstairs for our Sunday School classes because you will not find us there! Instead, you will find us across the patio in Wesley Hall.

Our Summer School rotations are offered at our 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. church services. Children ages 3 years through 5th grade will exit 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 engaging 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 may plan accordingly)

It's sure to be wonderful times filled with faith and fun for everyone. Don't miss it!

Sunday School celebrated Father's Day with crafts and yummy treats!

VACATION BIBLE CAMP NEEDS YOU!

Help Us Get Ready for
"Food Truck Party, On a Roll with God."

Sunday, July 30 6:45-8:00 p.m.
Decorating the Sanctuary immediately after the 5:30 p.m. service for our weeklong VBC.

Friday, August 4, 12:15 p.m. -?
Taking down decorations in the Sanctuary, Narthex and Wesley Hall.

Snack Helpers Needed for VBC
Monday, July 31 – Friday, August 4
8:30 a.m.-11:15/11:30 a.m.

What is a snack helper?
A person with a friendly smile
Someone who is organized
Someone who can follow directions
Someone who likes to prepare snacks
Someone who loves and encourages children

If interested, please contact Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org or (310) 377-6771.

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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 July 28
www.rhumc.org