# The Cornerstone

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

**August 2023**

## VACATION BIBLE CAMP

It was a great week here at "Food Truck Party" Vacation Bible Camp 2023! Our VBC was July 31 through August 4, from 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon. With great Bible stories, games, science experiments, and crafts, everyone learned how God gives us our daily bread!

Thank you to all who taught, volunteered, donated, and prayed for our program. Don't miss any of our three worship services on Sunday, August 6, to see a slide show from the week of camp. Check out the joyful smiles of all who attended and participated in our wonderful week!

*from the pastors* *Jonathan Chute*

Some of you may have noticed that April and I are going mostly maskless now during Sunday worship. I wanted to share a couple of thoughts on the matter in case anyone was wondering about it.

We've not required masks in worship for over a year. And even when we did, individual practices varied a good bit. My own practice was based on the number of older adults and medically fragile persons with whom I visit during the week. While I wasn't immediately concerned about my own status, I did not want to be a vehicle for anyone else catching COVID.

Our local hospitals no longer require visitors to wear masks and plan to drop the requirement for staff as well in the fall. That said, there are still lots of good reasons for people to wear masks for their own protection, and I don't want to make anyone feel out of place for doing so. Throughout the pandemic we have sought to live out values of trust and care for one another. We can keep doing that even without the threat of a global pandemic hovering over us.

I also wanted to say a brief word about the upcoming 12 Keys Bible Study which April and I will be leading in the month of September. Since it begins on September 5, I thought it would be helpful to say something now to encourage your participation.

The author of the study, Dr. Kennon Callahan, has been a mentor for both April and me over many years. I first encountered him in 1986, and felt that I learned more in a one-week seminar than in some year-long graduate courses. Ken taught at Candler School of Theology, Emory University, and has consulted with churches in the U.S., Canada and Australia. One of those churches is our own RHUMC, whom he helped several times over the past 35 or more years.

The 12 Keys Bible Study offers a way to engage with some of Ken's most helpful work, locating it in the context of scripture and prayer. It is both diagnostic and encouraging. It invites us to identify, to claim, and to build upon the strengths with which God has blessed us, both in our lives and as a family of faith. I believe that, in addition to advancing our understanding of our congregation's mission, we will have the fun of deepening and growing who we are as persons.

I hope that many of you will feel like joining with us, as we look to discover where God is leading in the coming years together.

Jonathan

*April Herron*

Dear Friends,

It is always thrilling to witness the sharing of gifts, talents, knowledge, skills, and wisdom that takes place within our congregation and between our congregation and the wider community. RHUMC's Vacation Bible Camp for children and our Sierra Service Project trip for youth are two annual examples of how much joy and learning can be unleashed when people generously work together toward a common purpose. This month, yet another example of meaningful partnership will have its beginning at RHUMC: a grief support group open to both congregation and community.

Claire Towle, Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a career specialty in grief and loss, has, for some years now, been leading a pre-holiday gathering here at RHUMC to help bereaved persons honor their loved ones, care for themselves, and plan for new and different experiences of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Participants have greatly appreciated the information, encouragement, and sense of community they experience within the safe space that Claire creates. Having recently established a new entity called *Taking Time*, Claire and a valued colleague are now in a position to offer an eight-session grief support group here at RHUMC. It will be open to members of the church and members of the community who have experienced the death of a family member or significant other in the past two years. We could not be more thrilled to be hosts and supporters of this important ministry.

The group will begin in September. Meanwhile, this month, an information session will take place on Thursday, August 24, at 11:00 a.m. in the Aldersgate Room. Anyone and everyone is welcome to come and learn about the goals and purpose of the group. You can experience Claire's leadership and compassion and learn about the structure of the group with no commitment required. Those who decide to enroll will schedule a time to meet individually with Claire and her co-facilitator prior to the start of the group on September 21.

At some point in time, everyone is touched by grief. There is never a wrong time to come together with others in order to gain new insights, give and receive support, and honor our loved ones. May God bless this gracious endeavor.

April

## August Book Discussion: The Lincoln Highway

Have you ever been on a road trip that encompassed more twists and turns than you originally planned? "The Lincoln Highway," by Amor Towles, will outdo anything you can possibly imagine about a trip that goes in the exact opposite direction as was intended. Along the way, readers have the opportunity to consider motivation, character development, life choices, American iconography, and questions about the nature and power of guilt and forgiveness. Discussions will take place on Monday, August 28. Choose either 2:00 p.m. in person or 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. 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.

## FOOD DRIVE IN AUGUST - by co-chairs Chris Campbell & Debra Shrader

The Missions Committee is sponsoring a Food Drive for Hungry to Help to aid them in replenishing their food pantry so they can continue to provide healthy meals on a monthly basis to communities of unhoused persons in the South Bay area. Please drop off any food items to the church narthex during the month of August. Thank you in advance for your generosity! Contact Chris Campbell at campbellchris123@msn.com or 310-947-9574 with any questions.

Their most needed items include:

- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Canned beans
- Canned veggies (any type)
- Canned chili
- Boxed macaroni and cheese
- Canned tuna/chicken

## Taco Night

Join us for Taco Night after 3rd service on **Sunday, August 27**. 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.

Inspired by Kennon L. Callahan,
mentor to clergy and churches around the globe;
led by Jonathan Chute and April Herron.

**The Twelve Keys** help us identify and celebrate our gifts and strengths. We focus on the Biblical message. We discover the possibilities to which God is inviting us. We discover the depth and riches of the grace of God.

**TUESDAYS** / SEPTEMBER 5, 12, 19 & 26

**CHOOSE SESSIONS:**

10:30 a.m. - In Person

7:00 p.m. - Via Zoom

All are invited to participate and learn a common vocabulary for visualizing our mission and ministry in the years to come. Please reply to churchoffice@rhumc.org to let us know of your plans to join the study. The book may be purchased from the church office at a cost of $10.00.

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

## *Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's*

**Wednesdays**
**August 9 & 23**
**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.

## 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.

## *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!

# Adult Bereavement Support Information Meeting

TAKING TIME

NAVIGATING . THROUGH . LOSS

THURSDAY
AUGUST 24, 2023
11:00 a.m. -12:00 Noon
RHUMC
ALDERSGATE ROOM

Taking Time South Bay and RHUMC are partnering to offer a non-denominational 8-week grief support group to adult members of the community who have experienced the death of a family member or significant other in the past two years.

Grief is hard and it hurts. Bereavement support groups can be very beneficial to those who have experienced a death. The group offers hope and the opportunity to share, understand and feel the support of others. The group also provides a place to learn new coping skills and ways to move forward with life. The support group facilitators provide guidance, support, education and information.

Join us and meet the facilitators, learn more about attending the group and ask questions you may have.
The support group will be held on Thursdays 10:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon beginning September 21, 2023.

Please indicate your plans to attend by calling or emailing:
310-377-6771
churchoffice@rhumc.org

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## **Mission Committee News** - by co-chairs Debra Shrader & Chris Campbell

Do you know that RHUMC supports four missionaries (including one project, Red Bird Mission)? From our church budget, we allocate regular support for their salaries through the General Board of Global Ministries. Beyond that, we are invited to be in contact with the individuals, but most of us never "know" them well.

The Missions Committee tried a new outreach to one of our missionaries last month. To our delight, Rev. Claudia Genung responded positively that she could join us by Zoom live from Japan on our designated meeting time. On her iPhone, our connection was almost seamless, like talking to a friend on the other side of the city. Claudia is the senior pastor of the Kobe Union Church in Japan. She has English services at the church. The community that attends includes a large group of Filipina nurses who appreciate the social connection. She took us on a tour of the campus, a very old institution that will soon celebrate 150 years.

The most interesting thing was the connections we all made with her. Claudia is a clergy friend of April Herron. Debra met her when she and April had lunch together many years before the pandemic. Nancy Rasmussen shared that she and Eric had been missionaries in Japan when they first met. Nancy said she had visited that church site during her time there. Debra had met Claudia's uncle Dan Genung through an association with the Disciplined Order of Christ in the early 2000s. Dan and Felicia McClain shared their experience as missionaries in Saipan, not so far from Kobe. So many connections!

Claudia took us in for a peek at the Wednesday morning ladies' group. It seemed that things work in that church just like they work on our busy campus!

We hope to share with our other missionaries soon. Katherine Parker in Nepal and Hannah Reasoner in Colombia, and the Red Bird Mission in Kentucky. Doesn't that sound fun to connect directly? Look for notices about that upcoming soon.

## **Club Maintenance** - by Dave Larson

The folks in attendance enjoyed good companionship on July 8; the Spencer family joined in the fun as well as new member Jeff Rakas. We changed out air conditioning filters, cleaned the new Navien water heater, worked on teeter-totters in the preschool area, and James and son Logan lubricated all door mechanisms and key locks in the Sanctuary, the office, and Wesley Hall. Plus a variety of other tasks were accomplished. The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be at 8:30 a.m. on August 12. Please mark this date on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair. Dave Larson is the coordinator for this activity and can be reached at 310.408.2883.

# KIDZONE NEWS

## Important Dates

**WK#8 Monday, July 31st to August 4th**
**VBC-Kid Zone 12:00-6pm**

**WK#9 Monday, August 7th to August 11th**
**Wacky Days of Summer *8am - 4pm**

**August 24th** — **1st Day of Kid Zone**

**September 4th** — **Kid Zone Closed (Labor Day)**

STAY GROOVY

## First Day of School

The first day of school
Can be hard for Mom and Dad.
Part of you feels excited,
The other part feels sad.
For many years you've held their hand,
And have been their loving guide.
Now you know the time has come
To leave them by my side.
But it is only for a little while,
As your child will learn and grow.
And at the end of everyday,
They will share with you all they know.
So as you walk away
Don't worry anymore.
I'll take care of all those precious gifts
When you leave them at my door.

"Love is so unconditional; love liberates; love is the reason why I do what I do, and so I think it is the greatest gift we have."
— BeBe Winans

Dear Mama,
There's no way to freeze time and keep your child little forever. Instead, you must love them and enjoy them as much as you can today because tomorrow they will be a little older.

# Youth Ministries

## Youth Events this Month

**Opportunity to Serve: Homeless Meal**
S*aturday, August 12 at 9:00-11:30 a.m.*
We will meet at St. Luke's Episcopal Church (525 E 7th St, Long Beach, CA 90813). Youth will prepare and serve a meal for those experiencing homelessness or food scarcity. Please contact Kristin@rhumc.org if you plan to volunteer by Wednesday, August 9.

**SSP Sunday**
*Sunday, August 20 (8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., & 5:30 p.m.)*
Join us in worship as the youth participants tell us about their trip to Sierra Service Project in Del Norte County this summer! All past SSP participants and adult counselors are invited to wear their SSP shirts to worship.

**End of Summer Ice Cream Social**
*Monday, August 21 at 7:00-8:00 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 14 @ 7:00-8:00 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!

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!

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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***

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|---|---|---|---|
| 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 | Exec. Asst. to Pastor | Catherine Dingman |
| Kid Zone Director | Gabby Palacios | | & Finance Manager |
| Treasurer | Jeff Henry | Church Office Admin | Peggy Roulette |
| Custodian | Miguel Portillo | Admin. Asst. | Lori Brunn |
| | | | |
| Church Office Phone | 310-377-6771 | Resident Bishop | Dottie Escobedo-Frank |
| Fax Line | 310-544-4123 | District Superintendent | Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi |
| 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 25**
www.rhumc.org