The Cornerstone

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

September 2023

I ♥ MY CHURCH

COME TOGETHER FOR

Rally Sunday 09.10.23

Worship at 8:30 AM
10:00 AM & 5:30 PM

The choir is back, upcoming 3rd graders receive their Bibles, Sunday school returns upstairs to the classrooms, and everyone is invited to come celebrate our love of our church!

- Following the 8:30 AM service we will serve cinnamon rolls and coffee on the church patio.
- A BBQ lunch will be served at 11:15 AM along with games, including bingo, for the young and old alike.
- After 3rd Service we will enjoy a BBQ dinner.

Whichever gathering you chose to attend, you will meet with old friends and make new ones!

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

After a wonderful summer of service and celebration, of activity and accomplishment, of rest and recreation, we look forward to the season of grace that comes with the end of summer. Our children and youth took part in experiences of wonder and learning, of helping and hoping, through Vacation Bible Camp and Sierra Service Project. Our Preschool summer session and Kid Zone camps kept our campus hopping. We are fortunate to be able to meet and serve our community in such important ways.

The last few weeks have seen progress on a couple of other fronts. The sanctuary roof is now complete, and we count on it protecting us for the next fifty years. The front steps, which suffered a bit from last winter's rains have been cleaned and re-sealed. Our Trustees have been busy arranging and overseeing work on a number of fronts. And there's more to come. The sanctuary heating and cooling system, which is now nearly 30 years old, was showing signs of fatigue and failure. We will be replacing it with a much more efficient system this fall, reducing our utility costs for coming decades.

Your response to the terrible disaster in Lahaina was remarkable. So far we have sent $20,000 to help relieve the distress of that community. The pastor of the Lahaina UMC let us know that our gifts so far are the largest contribution from any single source. And more continue to come in. So thank you, once again, for your generosity and compassion.

Members of the choir have enjoyed a month's break and will be back leading our morning music just a week from now. The Sunday after Labor Day has been a time for folks to "come back" to church. Rally Day, as it's been known, coincided with the return to school, the start of football season, and the approaching time of harvest. Though most of us aren't living on the farm any longer, those traditions linger on.

We love our church in all its seasons, but there is something about this time of year that stirs us. We've planned some things to make our return even more fun. On Sunday, September 10 we'll have cinnamon rolls, fruit and juice for everyone after the 8:30 service. After 10 a.m., our Children's Ministries team will be grilling hot dogs, burgers and veggie burgers, as well as providing games on the patio for children of all ages. After 3rd service we'll get the grills going again, and enjoy another lovely late summer evening together.

Our 12 Keys Bible Study begins next week, and I look forward to seeing where God will look to lead us. I am grateful to work with such a generous, caring and hopeful congregation. I am grateful for the team of staff and key leaders who help carry forward our mission and ministry. I look forward to seeing you all, and to sharing in this wonderful work together.

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

My first pastoral assignment was to serve two little churches adjacent to sugar cane fields on the island of Kauai. By "little" I mean less than 50 people in worship and everyone was either a relative or a near neighbor of everyone else. One of the couples in the congregation were the great grandparents of the youngest children among us. These elders sat in the back of the sanctuary. It was hard for them to walk, but they were there every Sunday. They had both lost their hearing. They often felt the need to say something to each other during the service. I imagine they thought they were whispering. In fact, they were shouting. Their high volume communication was carried out in the language they had grown up speaking and continued to use throughout their lives, which was Ilocano - a language completely unfamiliar to me, their pastor. From this dear couple, I learned that faithful followers of Jesus come to worship for lots of reasons *other than* to listen to a sermon.

People come to worship to honor God and to be amidst a community they treasure. They come (both in person and virtually) to pray about things known only to them and to God. They might come to catch a glimpse of the smiles on the faces of children or express loyalty to a meaningful tradition of previous generations. They might come because they plan to sweep the floor or tidy the altar when worship is over, thus finding a way to be of service even when their capabilities seem limited. Maybe they come because they baked the cookies or brought the donuts that will bring people into conversation after the last hymn is sung. Maybe they come because someone else is counting on them for a ride, or a handshake, or a hug. This awareness, given to me decades ago, arrived as a huge relief! I was glad to learn that it is not up to me, as the preacher, to make going to church worthwhile.

Of course, I still strive, to the best of my ability, to present a meaningful prayer or (if it's my turn to preach) a helpful sermon. Yet I find it encouraging to remember that "church" is something that we all do together as a grateful response to the various ways God is present in our lives and in the world. When we gather, the Holy Spirit moves among us in ways both unexpected and wonderful. On September 10 we are going to celebrate "I ♥ My Church" Sunday. I look forward to worshipping with you.

April

The Caring Congregation - Join the Team!

Our church has begun a ministry in which a team of lay persons, called Congregational Care Ministers, partner with the pastors in caring for our church family.

Congregational Care Ministers telephone persons in need of contact, meet one-on-one with persons who could benefit from a listening ear for prayer and encouragement, offer support to grieving families, and seek to shepherd persons within their arena of care. This partnership between lay and clergy enables RHUMC to provide an expanded level of care for our members and friends.

If you are interested in becoming a Congregational Care Minister (CCM), the first step is to complete our CCM interest form with discernment and thoughtfulness. Following receipt of your interest form, Kristin will contact you for an interview.

Current CCM's are available to share about their experience and answer questions about the program.

Interest forms can be accessed via Google forms at this link:
https://forms.gle/2Xm7uBSte4cAg4vj8

If you have any questions, or would prefer to complete a printed paper copy of this form, please contact Kristin Sutrave at kristin@rhumc.org or call the church office at 310-377-6771 ext. 305.

Bereavement Support Group Begins Thursday, September 21

TAKING TIME

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church is hosting and sponsoring a group for adults who have experienced the death of a family member or close friend within the last two years. The group will meet eight times, with a different theme or topic each time. Leadership and materials will be provided by Claire Towle, LCSW, and her team from Taking Time, a not-for-profit organization that helps people navigate through loss. Claire is a church member who leads with gentleness and grace. Advance registration is required in order to join those who have already signed up. To learn more, or to communicate your interest in participating, please contact Claire by phone (310 686 6714) or email (ctowle@takingtime.org). You may also contact April@rhumc.org for further information.

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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Happening Soon - An Afternoon of Hymns

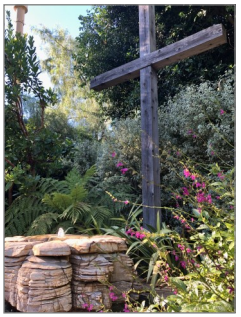
The Chancel Choir will present **An Afternoon of Hymns** on **Sunday, October 22**, at 2:00 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary. The choir will be accompanied by members of the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles. This concert will feature some of the best loved hymns of the Christian faith. The Chancel Choir will be the primary chorus; but friends of the Choir from various choral ensembles around Southern California will also join. Chuck will conduct.

Please mark this event on your calendar, and please join us for what promises to be a magnificent afternoon.

Newcomer Gathering and Opportunity for Membership

RHUMC is eager for you to feel at home! If you would like to learn more about our ministries and meet others who are getting acquainted with our community of faith, please come to a "welcome session" on **Sunday, September 17** at 11:15 a.m. You'll get a chance to visit with one another and the pastors, take a tour, and enjoy lunch. Boxed lunches may be taken home or served on campus. Please make a reservation by calling 310 377 6771 or sending an email to churchoffice@rhumc.org. Those who then wish to become members of the church will have an opportunity to do so on a subsequent Sunday.

Meditation Garden, Our Hidden Sanctuary



The Meditation Garden is a place where we can remember family and friends on a Memorial Wall. And it can be used for small group meetings and events.

Tucked away in a peaceful corner in the back of the campus, it is a sanctuary for quiet reflection and prayer.

Please feel free to schedule both events and wall memorials by calling Peggy in the church office.

FALL BOOK DISCUSSIONS

CHOICES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH
FLORENCE ADLER SWIMS FOREVER
BY RACHEL BEANLAND

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27
NO LAND TO LIGHT ON
BY YARA ZGHEIB

2 PM - IN PERSON
7 PM - ZOOM

Sometimes people make impossible choices. Sometimes they feel they have no choice. Or maybe there is no choice. Sometimes people make a new choice. These two books invite us to think about possibilities and consequences.

April Herron will facilitate the discussions. All readers are welcome!

Please register by emailing april@rhumc.org.

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HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

ALL ROLLING HILLS UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

IT'S ALMOST HERE!

It's hard to believe, but summer is gone and our long awaited All Women's Church Luncheon is just around the corner on **Saturday, October 14 at 11:30 a.m.** in Wesley Hall. It will be a salad potluck so you know there will be plenty of delicious food and lots of fun for all. Many of the established women's groups in the church will give a brief presentation of what they do with an invitation to join them if it seems like something you would enjoy. There will also be an opportunity to meet with others who might want to start a new group that would better suit their needs. In general, we hope the luncheon will:

- provide a time of fellowship for the women of our church to get to know one another better
- allow all women of our church to learn about the various groups and see if they would be interested in joining one
- facilitate the gathering of women together that might want to form a new group that would better fit their needs

So please put the date on your calendar! There will be no obligation to join any group (although we hope you do)! We promise great food, great fellowship, and a great time! See you there!

Luncheon Committee: Barbara Addleman, Shirley Fehrman, Edith Utterberg & Marian Komori

Please RSVP by October 9 to Marian Komori at marian.komori9@gmail.com or call at 310-541-8243 and let her know what you plan to bring.

Kristin Enters Final Phase of Clergy Credentialing

In the United Methodist Church, the ordination process has several stages. It begins when a local congregation affirms that a person within their membership is experiencing a call to ministry, and ends several years later when the Bishop of the geographic region blesses and bestows authority on that same person. Kristin Sutrave, RHUMC's associate pastor working in the arenas of youth ministry and congregational care, is in what (we hope and trust) will be the final few months of the process.

Since setting out on this journey, Kristin has completed both a Master of Divinity from the Boston University School of Theology and a Master of Social Work from Boston University. She has served in ministry at Los Altos UMC and, for over six years now, at Rolling Hills UMC. She was interviewed by and reported annually to the District Committee on Ordained Ministry until June of 2020, when she was commissioned as a deacon and provisional member of the California-Pacific Annual Conference. Since then, while developing an excellent ministry with youth and working on a variety of special projects to strengthen RHUMC's overall ministry, she has also taken part in a series of required continuing education events. What remains is a final evaluation by the Board of Ordained Ministry of the California-Pacific Annual Conference.

Between now and the beginning of November, Kristin will be writing several lengthy papers about her theology and practice of ministry in the United Methodist context. She will also reflect again on her call to ministry. Representatives of the Board will visit and observe Kristin on our campus as she carries out some aspect of her weekly responsibilities. She has already submitted names of persons who will write recommendations. Sometime early next year she will be called to an in-depth interview by the Board. Then she will await a final verdict. Imagining it's a "yes," she will be ordained at the Annual Conference in June of 2024.

As Kristin enters this culminating intensive period of reflection and evaluation, we can hold her in prayer, offer words of encouragement, be patient if she has to finish writing a paper before she can return a message, and be glad that she remains here among us giving good leadership to the young people of our congregation, as well as outstanding training and coordination to the lay members of our Congregational Care Ministry.

Martha Circle News - by Barbara Addleman & Phyllis Goetz

Fall is just around the corner and we want to invite all our members and prospective new members to our first official meeting of the year. It will be on **Monday, September 11** at 12:00 Noon in the Aldersgate Room. We are looking forward to having everyone present as we will be finalizing our plans for the upcoming year and want to be sure to have everyone's input.

Please bring a brown bag lunch and while we eat, we can catch up on what everyone has been doing this summer. After that we will firm up our plans for the coming year. Bring all your great ideas so we can put together an exciting and interesting calendar.

Please put the All Women's Luncheon on your calendar for October 14 at 11:30 a.m. It was a great success last year and will take the place of our usual October meeting.

It will be fun to have our group back together and I know we are all looking forward to seeing each other. We welcome all new and prospective members so please come and find out what we are all about. Looking forward to seeing all of you on September 11!

Barbara Addleman - baddleman@cox.net - 310-541-6472
Phyllis Goetz - goetzk1@cox.net - 310-377-5405

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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesdays
September 13 & 27
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.

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, September 10, 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 Requested 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*.

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, September 24**. 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 Dave Larson

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, September 9,** at 8:30 a.m. The principal effort this time will be to clean filters in various A/C units. This work is necessary to keep our units in good operating shape. We also have a variety of other tasks on our list, including miscellaneous jobs for the preschool. Please mark this date on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair.

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool

The preschool is preparing for another exciting year with both brand new and returning families for the September 2023-June 2024 school year.

Our summer program was a great success with lots of joyful visitors bringing the children more wonder, laughter and surprises each week. We can't wait to welcome our families come September 7!

KIDZONE NEWS 2023

Important Dates

September 4th Kid Zone Closed (Labor Day)

September 25th Kid Zone 9am to 6pm
*KID ZONE MEMBERS

"Only where children gather is there any real chance of fun."
—Mignon McLaughlin, author and journalist

Kid Zone offers a safe and healthy place for the children to grow and play, allowing us to be a part of your village and assist with any of the following.

- Pick up from most Palos Verdes and Torrance schools
- Social and emotional growth
- Assistance with homework
- Safe and comfortable environment to make friends and build confidence
- Organized games and sports
- Art, crafts and cooking

HOMEWORK

- Individualized approach with each child
- Experienced and caring staff
- Support in all subjects

"The quickest way for a parent to get a child's attention is to sit down and look comfortable."
LANE OLINGHOUSE

For more information: kidzone.midzone@rhumc.org (310) 377-7302 Gabby Palacios (323) 610-2253

Youth Ministries

Ignite youth Ministry

"Back In Time" Ignite Kick Off Wednesday 9/6 @ 6:30-8:00pm
Youth, in 6th-12th grade, are invited to join us for dinner and games as we resume our weekly youth gathering at RHUMC. Youth are encouraged to wear clothes from their favorite decade to this event.

Ignite meets on Wednesdays at 6:30-8:00pm (Dinner is served)
9/13 Paint Night
9/20 Bible Trivia
9/27 Cake Decorating

Youth Opportunity to Serve

Help with Rally Sunday, 9/10 Youth are needed to help facilitate the rally day games with the children following the 10:00am worship service. Contact Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org if you would like to help.

Save the Date: St. Luke's Homeless Meal

Saturday, October 11, 2023 9:00-12:00pm
Youth will help serve a meal to those with housing or food insecurity. Please contact Kristin if you would like to help.

Youth Sunday School

We offer a youth Sunday school class on Sundays during the 10:00am and 5:30pm worship services.

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

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
welcomes YOU!

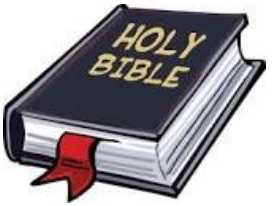
Join us as we learn and build a solid foundation
with Jesus during Sunday School classes each week.

Our Sunday school provides a wonderful opportunity
for learning, growing and sharing God's love
in a safe and nurturing environment.

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 under 3 years of age in
room #110 with our wonderful caregivers Ms. Michelle and Ms. Clara.

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.

3rd Grade Bible Presentation



Romans 15.4: For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

It's time to celebrate the tradition of presenting Bibles to our children
who have completed 2nd grade and are now beginning 3rd grade as a gift from our congregation.

We would be happy to present a Bible to your child here at the church during one of our three worship services on Sunday, September 10.

To ensure we include your child, please contact Debra DeLuca at the church office at
(310) 377-6771 or at debra@rhumc.org by Tuesday, September 5.

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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

Senior Pastor	Jonathan Chute	Associate Pastor	April Herron
Youth Ministry Pastor	Kristin Sutrave	Senior Pastor Emeritus	Martha Rowlett
Music Director	Chuck Dickerson	Organist/Pianist	Althea Waites
3rd Service Music	Paula Kuno	Children's Ministry Dir.	Debra DeLuca
Preschool Director	Myra Ghabrial	Kid Zone Director	Gabby Palacios
Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette	Executive Assistant	Catherine Dingman
Treasurer	Jeff Henry	& Finance Manager	
		Custodian	Miguel Portillo

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 September 22
www.rhumc.org