The Cornerstone

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

March 2024

HOLY WEEK

MAUNDY THURSDAY / March 28

Tenebrae Service: 7:30 pm with readings and candles.

GOOD FRIDAY / March 29

Music Celebrating the Passion of Christ: 7:00 pm
Handel's *"Messiah"* Part II
Presented by the RHUMC Chancel Choir.
The Choral ensemble will be accompanied by
the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles.

EASTER WORSHIP / March 31

Morning Services: 8:00 am, 9:30 am & 11:00 am
with Chancel Choir
Evening Service: 5:30 pm with 3rd Service Ensemble

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

"Ring the bells that still can ring.
Forget your perfect offering.
There is a crack in everything.
That's how the light gets in."
- Leonard Cohen, *"Anthem"*

Easter springs forth out of darkness. It was in darkness that the women made their way to the tomb, just two days after they had watched the body of their friend sealed within its walls.

Creation, too, sprang forth out of darkness. It was darker than dark before God spoke the words that brought the universe into being, "Let there be light."

It was in the depth of the night that God showed Abraham the stars in the sky, telling him to count them if he could, and promising him descendants to outnumber them all.

It was the middle of the night in the temple of the Lord when the boy Samuel heard God's voice, calling him to lead the people toward a future of righteousness and faith.

Of course the incarnation took place in the dark as well. The Savior of the world was smuggled into this earthly realm in the middle of the night, in the middle of nowhere. It was in darkness that the angels appeared to the shepherds, announcing the birth of the Messiah.

It was in darkness that Jesus gathered with his disciples to wash their feet, to break the bread and drink the cup of salvation. And it was in the darkness of Gethsemane that he was betrayed, and in the dark of the tomb his body was laid.

I tend to prefer the light. I am grateful for the sun rising each morning, for the warmth and light it brings. I am glad for the arrival of spring, with flowers blooming and grass growing. It is grace and beauty, joy and hope. But it seems that God does important work in the midst of darkness. From the beginning, God has moved powerfully when it seemed to some that the light had all but gone out.

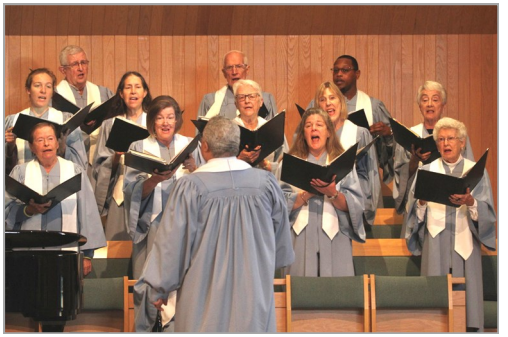
It was in darkness that the women made their way to the tomb. They help us to see that when it seems that the light has gone out, whether in distant corners of the world or in our own lives, God is with us. They remind us that redemption and healing begin in darkness, when we cannot see any other way to go. Just when it seemed time for them to accept the bitter truth of defeat and death, Jesus invited the women to see what God had done in the dark.

God knows how to work with darkness and despair. Indeed, Easter springs forth out of darkness. Thanks be to God.

Jonathan

April Herron

The joy of Easter is before us.
Let us run toward God's mercy and love!

April

Save the Date - by Patty Koester

Women's Retreat
Prince of Peace Abbey
January 24-26, 2025

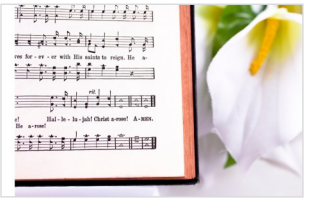
Look for more information and how to sign up in the September 2024 Cornerstone.

Documentary Presentation of "The Orchestra Chuck Built"

Our Director of Music - Chuck Dickerson, and The Inner City Youth Orchestra - the orchestra that he created and that regularly performs at our church, especially during holiday seasons, are the subjects of a documentary short film that is currently on the film festival circuit being shown around the world. The film is entitled "The Orchestra Chuck Built," and among other things, there is a short snippet of our Chancel Choir in the film! We have the opportunity to offer a free screening of the film, and you are all invited. The screening will take place on **Saturday, March 9** at 4 p.m. The screening will take place at the AMC Rolling Hills 20 Theater located at 2591 Airport Drive in Torrance (part of the shopping plaza on the northeast corner of Crenshaw and Pacific Coast Highway).

Seating is limited. **Reservations are required**. Call the church office at 310-377-6771 or stop by the patio table after church worship services to make your reservation.

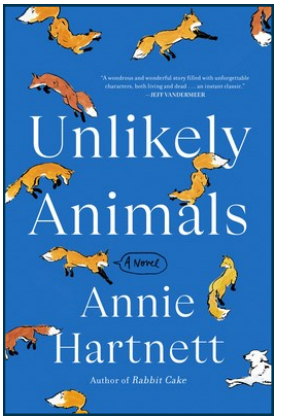
See you at the movies!!

Chancel Choir Performances

The Chancel Choir is engaged in a **three-stage project** to present the entire Messiah by George F. Handel in our sanctuary. The project began with the Choir's annual Christmas program where it presented the Christmas portion of this masterwork by Handel. The second portion of the work, appropriately referred to as the Easter portion, will be presented at 7 p.m. on **Good Friday, March 29**, and the third portion will be presented at 2 p.m. on **Sunday, April 7**. Please plan now to attend each of these two remaining presentations. The Choir will be accompanied by the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles, all under the direction of our Director of Music, Chuck Dickerson.

Performance by The Joyful Ringers - by Jan Johnson

The Joyful Ringers will be ringing a medieval song at the Maundy Thursday service on **March 28**. "Adoro Te Devote" was written by Thomas Aquinas in 1264. The Latin title is translated to "Humbly I Adore Thee." This hymn was a spoken prayer and also a chanted hymn used during the Eucharist. It was preserved in the Roman Missal which was published in 1570. The hymn is still sung today.

March Book Discussion - *Unlikely Animals*



Unlikely Animals by Annie Hartnett will be the topic of conversation at RHUMC's next book discussion gatherings, to be held **Monday, March 25**. Participants can choose 2:00 pm in person or 7:00 pm via Zoom. April Herron facilitates by preparing questions and inviting participants to share their thoughts and experiences.

Annie Hartnett's story is centered in a fairly small New Hampshire town and is narrated by the residents of the cemetery, who are charming and gossipy and required to follow certain rules of conduct. The main characters are young people trying to find vocation and direction in the world, as well as their elders who are facing various health and relationship challenges. The tone is both hilarious and poignant. *"Unlikely Animals* is a big novel doing big things," observes reviewer Josh English. It "explores how we construct the miraculous after our promise has left us, and challenges us to dream through disillusionment even as suffering derails us."

Dawn Unity

"Prayer" is the topic for discussion on **Tuesday, March 12**, at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary. The panel will consist of Jonathan Chute; Herb Kaighan, a local leader of 12 Step groups; Dean Jihad Turk, Bayan Seminary; and Rabbi Zach Zysman, Loyola Marymount University. Why do we pray, and what should we expect from our prayers? Is it right or wrong to pray for victory over another of God's people? How should we prepare ourselves to pray? Does God hear all prayers from all people? How important is the act of prayer itself in providing a framework for a person to express their thoughts? Compare the importance of traditional stated prayers to personal reflection.

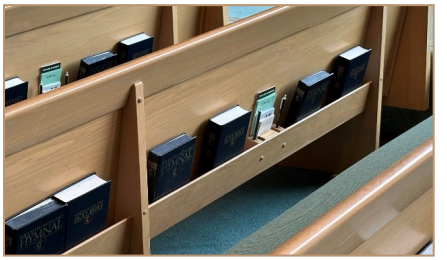
UMCOR Sunday - March 10

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 10**, 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.

Decorating for Easter

Volunteers are invited to help decorate the sanctuary for Easter! We will meet on Saturday morning, **March 30, at 8:30 a.m.** One crew will assemble 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! There will be donuts!

Altar Guild Opportunity - by Chris Larson



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 generally 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.

Daylight Saving Time

2:00 a.m. - Sunday, March 10

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 March 24. 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: _____

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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesdays
March 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.

Charge Conference Report

On February 12 our new District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Siosaia Tu'itahi (who likes to be called "Pastor Saia") led RHUMC's 2024 Charge Conference. During the meeting we celebrated the growth and vitality of our church and its many ministries. In addition we approved changes in committee membership and our Treasurer, Wade Welch, gave us a detailed report of our budget for the upcoming year.

The Charge Conference Report can be found here: 2024 Charge Conference Report or you can request an emailed copy by contacting the church at churchoffice@rhumc.org.

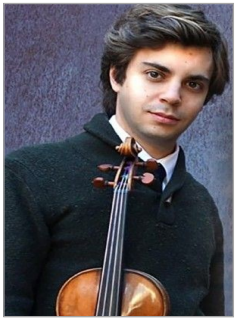
Martha Circle Invitation - by Phyllis Goetz

You are invited to Martha Circle's March meeting, **Monday, March 11**, 12:00 noon in the Aldersgate Room. Please bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy a social time with friends. The hostess for the meeting will be Suellen Fung with devotions by Lorene Lucas. The program will feature our own Althea Waites and her subject will be "The Healing Power of Music." She has been our outstanding, dedicated pianist and organist for many years. I'm sure she will have many interesting stories to share and she has some musical selections planned for her program also. Bring a friend and join us, everyone is welcome!!!

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, March 10 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~



Violinist
AMBROISE AUBRUN

Pianist
STEVEN VANHAUWAERT

Flutist
JOCELYN AUBRUN

~ performing ~

Selections from Their Soon-To-Be-Recorded Album

Watch the livestream at
https://vimeo.com/event/4030680

Advance Reservations Requested to Attend in Person

Please email ***ClassicalCrossroads@Earthlink.net*** a day ahead
and request to be included on the check-in list *with your guests' names*.

Taco Night

There will be no Taco Night on Easter Sunday.

Club Maintenance - by Dave Larson

Our March work party is being redirected toward the Easter preparations on March 30.

KIDZONE

Lic#197409233 26438 Crenshaw Blvd Rolling Hills Est, CA 90274

SMile+ Important Dates

THURSDAY & FRIDAY, MARCH 14TH & 15TH
KID ZONE OPEN 9AM - 6PM *TUSD closed
Free for Kid Zone members -Non members $75

Spring Break April 1st - 5th
Kid Zone Closed April 1st and 5th

Spring Break Camp April 2nd - 4th

SUMMER CAMP 2024

COUPON **JUNE 10th - AUGUST 9th** COUPON

Register by 4/16/24 to receive a 5% discount.
Kid Zone members receive a 10% discount

REGISTER NOW

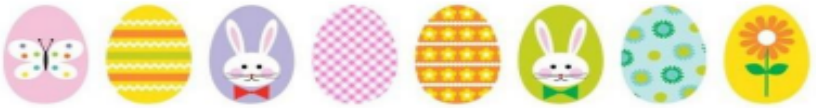
Families are like branches on a tree. We grow in different directions yet our roots remain as one.

—ANONYMOUS

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

See's CANDIES

EASTER FUNDRAISER



Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool

Dear Parents and Friends:

. . . We are hopping over to tell you about our:

EASTER FUNDRAISER!

All of our RHUMPS students and classes will benefit from this Easter fundraiser (*classroom essentials, playground toys, and more*), and we hope you'll all be hopping by! Please feel free to take orders from friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers. We'll begin taking orders the last week of February and closing the fundraiser on Friday, March 15th. Please get your order/payment in on time as we won't be able to accept any late orders; rabbit's rules!

Every bunny likes to find a chocolate egg in their basket!

IMPORTANT DATES & INFORMATION:

February 26th	Fundraiser Starts
March 15th	Fundraiser **Ends** (all orders & money must be turned in today)
Week of March 25th	Treats Get Sent Home
Payments	**Cash** (*exact amount please*) **or checks payable to Annie Weyand** *(our Lead Teacher in the Hybrid 3's Class, also known as Ms. Banasky)*

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Wednesday, March 13 - Available from 11:00 a.m.-9:30 p.m.

PRĪMO
24590 Hawthorne Blvd.
(Hillside Village)
Torrance, CA 90505
310 378 4288

15% of the proceeds will be donated to RHUMPS.

Indicate RUMPS when ordering so credit will be given.

PRĪMO

Online Orders:
www.eatprimo.com

Youth Ministries

Ignite Mid-Week Youth Ministry

Wednesdays, 6:30pm-8:00pm. Dinner will be served.
March 6 - Bible Trivia
March 13 - Youth Sunday Rehearsal
March 20 - Vision Boards
March 27 - Holy Week 101

Youth Sunday, March 17

All youth are invited to participate in leading worship on Sunday, March 17. 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 2024

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 Tsaile, AZ **July 27 - August 4, 2024.** We are also looking for adult counselor volunteers that would like to chaperone with our team.

Kristin Sutrave, Director of Youth Ministries
Cell phone: 562-234-0161 email: Kristin@rhumc.org

Stay connected on social media
Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/RHyouth **Instagram**: rhumcyouth_
Text Reminders: send keyword "RHUMCyouth" to 33222

Children's Ministry

"Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them." – Matthew 19:15

We would love to have your children join us for Sunday School. Our services are at 8:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., and 5:30 p.m.

Children will remain with their family in the sanctuary through the children's message. After the children's message, they will be dismissed with our Sunday School teachers and head upstairs for learning.

Your children will learn about Jesus through stories, skits, videos, crafts, and music. Building a solid foundation with Jesus on a life-long journey of faith.

PreK – Kindergarten (potty trained) in room #201 with Ms. Debra
1st - 2nd grade in room #205 with Ms. Natalie
3rd - 5th grade in room #204 with Ms. Stevie
Our nursery is open for children 3 years of age and younger in room #110 with Ms. Michelle and Ms. Clara during our 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services

We can't wait to see you! If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact me at debra@rhumc.org.

Vacation Bible Camp

It may feel like summer is months away, but we all know that it will be here before we know it!

That's why it's never too early to…Save the date.
July 29th through August 2nd

April 8th, 2024 – Priority registration opens for RHUMC, Kid Zone and RHUMPS families.

April 15th, 2024 – Full registration opens for all campers.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Come be a volunteer at our Vacation Bible Camp
Monday, July 29th through August 2nd.

VBC, takes place in churches around the world each year and it impacts lives.
But…it can't happen without volunteers like you and me.

Positions available: Science instructor, Crafts instructors, Games instructors, Snack assistants and decorators.

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

EASTER EGG HUNT

SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH – HUNT BEGINS @ 10:00AM

ROLLING HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

26438 CRENSHAW BLVD, RHE

A DONATION OF ONE DOZEN PREPACKED CANDY FILLED EGGS WOULD BE APPRECIATED AND CAN BE LEFT IN THE CHURCH OFFICE OR NEAR THE PRESCHOOL OFFICE BY WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27TH.
NO NUTS OR PEANUT PRODUCTS PLEASE. THANK YOU.

PLEASE BRING A BASKET OR BAG TO COLLECT YOUR EGGS.

JOIN US IN WESLEY HALL AFTER THE HUNT TO MAKE CRAFTS AND MEET OUR SPECIAL GUEST!

Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
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
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	Wade Welch	& 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 March 29
www.rhumc.org