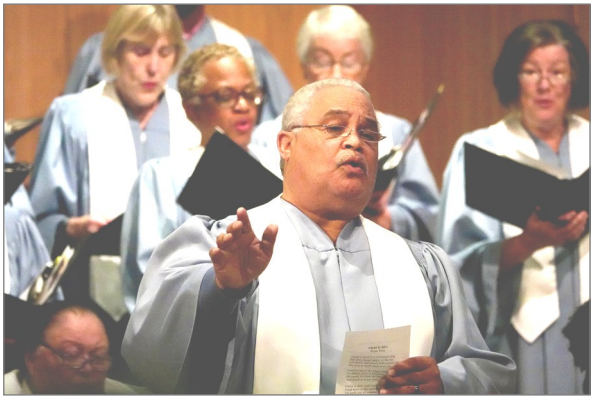
The Cornerstone

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

April 2024

April 7 Concert: Handel's *Messiah,* Part 3



From the Hallelujah Chorus through to the end, RHUMC's Chancel Choir and the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles will combine to present the third in their series of concerts that has included attention to Christmas, Good Friday, and now Easter. All are welcome to gather in the sanctuary at 2:00 pm on **Sunday, April 7** for the "grand finale."

What now? What's next? That was the kind of question the disciples were asking after the morning of the resurrection. Most of them went back to the upper room, huddling in fear. A couple of others went on a walk to the nearby village of Emmaus, where they encountered Jesus on the way. They all went back to the Temple in Jerusalem, where they continued their worship and practice as faithful members of the Jewish community.

It would be some time before the followers of Jesus shifted their principle worship from the sabbath – the last day of the week, Saturday – to the first day of the week, Sunday. This was done to recognize that the resurrection of Jesus was something like the dawn of a new creation. As they sought to understand more fully what God was up to it took a while for that new reality to emerge.

After our recent Long Range Planning Retreat, some of you have asked the same questions. What's next? Where do we go from here? What are we going to do with what we learned? Those are good questions! And right along with you, I look forward to where God leads us.

Over the next couple of weeks I will be reaching out to those who formed the teams that worked on our three key strengths. Those were Worship, Relational Groupings, and Program. There were good ideas that came out of each conversation on how to take what we have going for us already and build on those strengths. There was also a good deal of overlap among the several discussions. Improving communication about opportunities to gather, engage, grow and serve is an ongoing (never-ending?) effort.

The energy and enthusiasm that was present through the time together was remarkable. There were more than eighty of us who took part. It felt a bit like a family reunion. Some of us met new friends, other reconnected with folks they've known for years. It was a joy to see it all unfold.

Our congregation is fortunate in so many ways. The generosity, the hopefulness, the spirit of encouragement present among us is a gift and blessing. And I am fortunate. I get to work with a team of pastors, staff and key leaders who always look to see how we can meet and serve our neighbors with compassion and care, how we can love God with all our hearts, minds and spirits. Thank you.

As with the disciples in the days after Easter, what's next is yet to be discovered. But you will be there when it happens!

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

On Easter Sunday I received a short video clip from my daughter. My 4-year-old grandson in Brooklyn had been to church and he wanted to show me something he collected in what he calls an "egg find." He held up something that looked like a cross between an egg and a rock. "Guess what's inside," he urged. I have to confess I thought maybe it was going to be a baby dinosaur. But it wasn't. It was a Jesus figure made out of soft cloth. He was thrilled, and kept it close to him the rest of the day. *I* was thrilled to know he had been in the midst of a community of faith that had thought carefully about how to help young children experience Easter in a meaningful way, just as our children's ministry team does throughout the year.

I am likewise treasuring the memories of our joyful Easter at RHUMC. Hundreds of us worshipped together in person and online. During each gathering, Jonathan also held an egg in his hand, shook it to induce a clattering sound, and invited watchers and listeners to guess what was inside. The surprising emptiness of that orange plastic egg shell astonished the children (except maybe those who remembered that Jonathan is "known for his magic") and helped all of us to consider what a shockingly unexpected thing it was that the body of the crucified Jesus could not be found in the tomb where it had been laid only two days previously.

The gospel writings help us to understand that it took a while for the original disciples of Jesus to absorb and accept the reality of the resurrection. At first, they were confused and afraid. It required multiple encounters with the risen Christ for the truth to take hold. Jesus was showing them life beyond death. Jesus was urging and empowering them to continue his work in the world.

In these weeks following the day of resurrection, we will continue to read and reflect on the scripture stories that tell of how Jesus opened the disciples' eyes and encouraged their hearts toward a future full of grace and courage. Our season of Easter observance will teach us that Easter is actually a permanent condition. The peace of Christ be with you!

April

The tomb was empty and the sanctuary was full! Thanks to all who helped to decorate, welcome, assist, share the gift of music, provide hospitality, and tend to a multitude of details, RHUMC gladly opened its doors to a joyful (and rainy) Easter Sunday, which followed a meditative Maundy Thursday service, an inspiring Good Friday concert, and a festive children's egg hunt. Christ is risen and Easter worship continues every Sunday at 8:30 am, 10:00 am, and 5:30 pm!

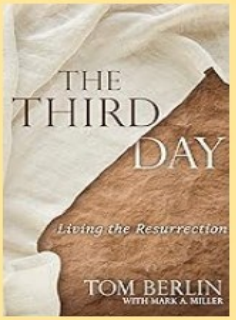
EASTER SEASON BIBLE STUDY

The Third Day: Living the Resurrection

Six Sessions

Mondays: April 8, 15 and 22; May 6, 13 and 20

Choose: 10:30 am in person *or* 7:00 pm on Zoom



"We need the Resurrection to be a reference point in our lives rather than one Sunday on our calendars. It is both an experience of the power of God and a truth about Jesus that offers us confidence. Because Jesus was resurrected on the third day, we know that God offers new beginnings, no matter what the facts of our present reality seem to tell us." - Tom Berlin

Open to all adults interested in deepening their understanding of scripture and the life of faith. Facilitated by April Herron. Book by Tom Berlin, United Methodist Bishop serving the Florida Annual Conference and the wider church. Participants may purchase a book for $12 from the church office, or order from your preferred bookseller. Please email churchoffice@rhumc.org to indicate your plans to participate.

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UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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RHUMC Missions Committee - by Dan & Felicia McClain

Did You Know?

RHUMC members are serving the needy in our own community:

- We collect Christmas toys and gift cards for hundreds of needy families in partnership with the **Toberman Neighborhood Center** in San Pedro.
- We donate hygiene products for **Hungry to Help,** a non-profit organization founded by a former RHUMC Youth Ministry member that serves the needy in our local communities.
- We volunteer weekly at **New Challenge Ministries' Fresh Rescue Food Bank** in Torrance, filling food boxes for hungry families and needy individuals.
- We volunteer twice monthly with **Laundry Love**, a program that meets needy clients at a local laundromat and provides their laundry soap, dryer sheets, quarters for the machines, a light meal, and fellowship.

Want to get in on any of these fun and rewarding activities?
Contact Dan McClain at mcclaindf@ gmail.com or (202) 360-8898.

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me..."
- Matthew 25:35

2024 SPRING AND SUMMER READING

about God, about our emotions, about our identity

MONDAY, APRIL 29
EMILY OF NEW MOON
BY LM MONTGOMERY

MONDAY, JUNE 24
HAPPINESS FALLS
BY ANGIE KIM

MONDAY, AUGUST 26
THE COLOR OF WATER
BY JAMES McBRIDE

CHOOSE:

2:00 pm for in-person conversation at RHUMC

OR

7:00 pm to gather via Zoom

The first book in the series was published 101 years ago in 1923. The second novel came out last year. The third selection is a memoir from 2007. Discussions are facilitated by April Herron. All readers are welcome. Please email April@RHUMC.org to communicate your plans to participate.

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Hospitality Volunteer Opportunities - by Maureen Banasky

Donut Sunday

In the long history of Methodists providing food for almost everything we do, on the last Sunday of the month we serve donut holes on the patio after the morning services - it's tradition! We need some folks to help make this happen. Singles, couples, family group, youth looking for service hours, are encouraged to participate in our Donut Ministry! It's one of the happiest ways to help the congregation because donut hosts get nothing but smiles! Donuts will be ordered and paid for and the volunteer picks them up from a local donut shop on Sunday morning and places them on trays. There are a few more instructions that will be explained once you volunteer. Please respond to Maureen Banasky at chomo2@cox.net, 310-378-4646 or 310-346-8983.

What Do Hospitality Members Do?

Memorial Receptions

We have been a solid group for over 20 years who find it rewarding to be able to help families who have experienced a loss. We need about 5-6 people for each event and we often split the time between setting up with one group and closing up with another. Both men and women are welcome and youth who may want to accumulate service hours. Maybe you've been looking for an opportunity to make a difference in people's lives and this could be it. Please contact Maureen Banasky at chomo2@cox.net or 310-378-4646 for more information.

Concert Receptions

There are about three concerts throughout the year and we set up the reception area with cookies and coffee and clean up afterward; again, a two/shift event. Please contact Maureen Banasky - chomo2@cox.net, or 310-378-4646.

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, April 14 at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

Pianist
DAVID KAPLAN

Flutist
CATHERINE GREGORY

Australian flutist **Catherine Gregory** performs in some of the world's foremost venues — from Alice Tully Hall in New York to London's Milton Court, Hamburg's new *Elbphilharmonie,* and the Sydney Opera House. *The New York Times* has called her playing "magically mysterious," also writing that "Ms. Gregory left a deep impression, her sound rich and fully present."

A member of the UCLA piano faculty and a Yamaha/Bösendorfer Artist, **David Kaplan** has been called "excellent and adventurous" by *The New York Times,* and praised by the *Boston Globe* for "grace and fire" at the keyboard. Kaplan's *New Dances of the League of David,* a recital he performed at RHUMC, infused Schumann's *Davidsbündlertänze* with 16 short commissioned works and was cited among the "Best Classical Music Performances of 2015" by *The New York Times.*

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*.

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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesdays
April 10 & 24
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.

Adult Bereavement Support Group

TAKING TIME
NAVIGATING . THROUGH . LOSS

Taking Time South Bay and RHUMC are again partnering to offer an 8-week adult support group to members of the community who have experienced the death of a loved one. The weekly gatherings will begin on Thursday, May 9 from 10:30 a.m.-12:00 noon in the Aldersgate room. RHUMC is hosting and partially sponsoring the group. The requested donation is $100 per person per 8-week series. The group is facilitated by a Licensed Mental Health Professional with the help of trained and experienced volunteers. The group facilitators guide the members and provide coordination, support, hope, education, information and referrals. Advance registration is required. For more information, contact Claire Towle, LCSW at 310-686-6714 or ctowle@takingtime.org or contact the church office at 310-377-6771 or april@rhumc.org.

Club Maintenance - by Dave Larson

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, April 13** at 8:30 a.m.

What is Club Maintenance? Club Maintenance is a group of folks, both men and women and sometimes youth, who gather once a month on the 2nd Saturday for some interesting maintenance activities. People come when it is convenient for them; CM is not a monthly commitment, though some people do like to come every month!

What are these activities? We attend to needs that Staff has identified, lubricate door closures and key locks, perform minor painting projects, hang whiteboards, replace burned-out light bulbs, etc. The list goes on. We also have a list of periodic things that need to be done yearly, such as changing out furnace filters, cleaning out gutters, annual exit light testing, and so on. And have you noted that sometimes large pieces of trash appear by the trash bin, source unknown? We deal with those opportunities.

What are the benefits of participating in Club Maintenance? First off, friendship; making new friends and connecting with long-term friends. Newer participants learn tricks of the tool trade from more experienced folks. Another key is gaining an understanding of the church infrastructure – what do we have here at RHUMC and what is required to keep the facility in good shape. Finally, we save the church money by doing these tasks instead of having to contract out work.

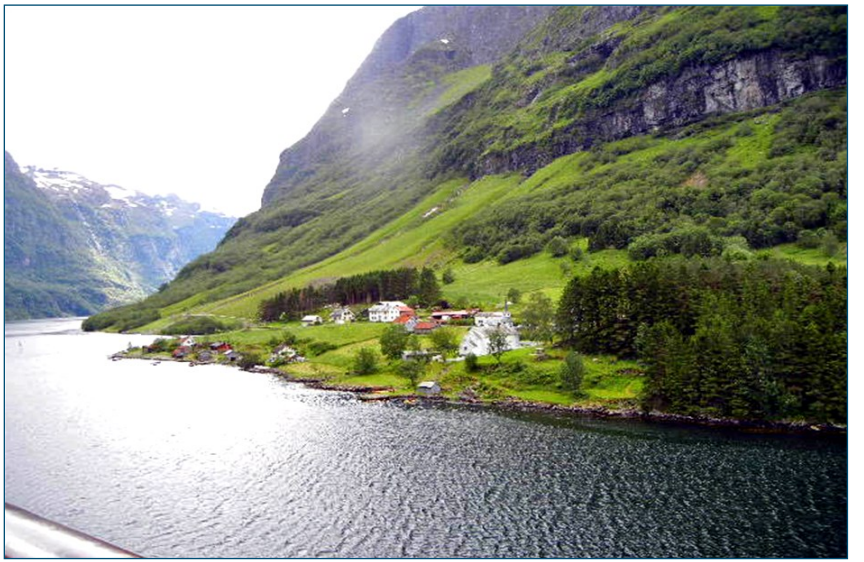
If this activity seems of interest to you, we would love to see you on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. And by the way, we enjoy a provided lunch and good conversation at the end of the morning. Again, no commitment – come and check us out and have some fun working with us. Questions? Call Dave Larson at 310.408.2883.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who donated the beautiful flowers for Easter as well as the magnificent crew who decorated the church. These flowers will look beautiful in your home as well! After the 10:00 a.m. service on April 7, please help us take the Easter flowers out the side doors and clean up. Even 15 or 20 minutes of help can make a HUGE difference!

Martha Circle - by Phyllis Goetz

Do you love to travel? Do you love to travel vicariously by watching spectacular videos of far-off places? Come to Martha Circle on Monday, April 8 at 12:00 p.m. to watch Shirley Fehrman's beautiful presentation of the Norwegian Fiords – definitely one of the most beautiful places on earth. Bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy chatting with friends before brief announcements followed by the video of Norway. We will end with devotions by Arlyss Burkett. All are welcome – you don't have to be a member of our circle to join in the fun!



Taco Night

Join us for Taco Night after 3rd service on **Sunday, April 28** You'll have a choice of chicken 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.

RHUMC Concert Committee

~ presents ~

Julian Kim
C. Bechstein Pianist

Friday, May 3 Concert
7:30 p.m.

South Korea-born pianist Julian Kim is an internationally known prize-winning classical pianist, and has chosen our beautiful sanctuary to perform cuts from his brand new KNS Classical album, which features Johannes Brahms' solo piano works. Mr. Kim is departing for a concert tour in New York City, Germany, South Korea, Austria and the UK in May. The album has already garnered acclaim from prominent publications such as Interlude, Musical Opinion, Fanfare Magazine, and Klassik Heute. Mr. Kim has said, "I am keen to replicate the album's program for the concert, providing an engaging experience for the audience."

This is an amazing opportunity to hear a world-class pianist before he becomes an international superstar. Please put it on your calendars for Friday, May 3rd, at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our Concert Committee will be sponsoring this wonderful event.

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Tuesday, April 9 - Available from 11:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.

Blaze Pizza
2625 Pacific Coast Hwy
Torrance, CA 90505
310-997-2771

20% of the proceeds will be donated to RHUMPS.

Indicate RUMPS when ordering so credit will be given.

FAST-FIRE'D BLAZE PIZZA

Online Orders:
www.blazepizza.com
Promo Code 1003A

Thanks to all who donated filled eggs and made our Easter Egg Hunt a success! We had over 1,200 eggs due to your generosity and over 80 children attended!

Youth Ministries

Ignite Mid-Week Youth Ministry

April 3 - Dinner at Denny's, **6:30-7:30pm** Meet us at *3060 Sepulveda Blvd, Torrance, CA 90505*. Please let Kristin know if you plan to join us!
April 10 - Paint Night **6:30pm-8:00pm** Dinner will be served.
April 17 - "Questions" **6:30pm-8:00pm** Dinner will be served.
April 24 - Up Cycle Night **6:30pm - 8:00pm** Bring your creativity and items from your recycle bin for this Earth Day activity. Dinner will be served.

Service Opportunity: Hungry to Help

Youth are invited to help cook a healthy meal for our unhoused neighbors **Saturday, April 20 from 9:00-11:00am** in the RHUMC kitchen. Space is limited so please RSVP to Kristin@rhumc.org if you would like to volunteer.

Sierra Service Project 2024

Youth entering 9th grade through graduating seniors are invited to join our team 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.

Youth Sunday

Thank you to all the youth who helped with youth Sunday at the 8:30am, 10:00am and 5:30pm services.

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

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.

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 picture is on display in the Children and Youth Ministries office window.

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

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

Vacation Bible Camp Volunteer Opportunity

Join us for Vacation Bible Camp 2024, because the children shouldn't be the only ones having fun!

July 29th through August 2nd
9:00am-12:00noon

Amazing Bible stories, science experiments, crafts, games and fin-tastic snacks!

At VBC we are doing more than simply entertaining children, we are helping them experience Jesus' love.

What you do matters whether it's volunteering for one day or the whole week.

Sign-up and get ready for a splash-tastic time!

Contact: Debra at debra@rhumc.org

Parents Night Out – Pajama Party!

Wear

Your

Favorite

PJ's

April 27th, 2024
4:30 to 8:30pm

Drop your child off to a safe and fun night of crafts, games, dinner and a movie while you hit the town for a date night!

Who: 1 year old and up to 5th grade
Where: Rolling Hills United Methodist Church
Costs: $60 (1 child) $65 (2 siblings) $70.00 (3 or 4 siblings)

Registration: Stop in the church office or email Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org to reserve your child's spot. Space is limited, so be sure to sign-up early!

Payment: Is due within 2 days of the event for the space to be held for your child. PNO tuition is Non-Refundable (within a 24-hour advanced notice a credit may be given to use for another PNO).

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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 April 26
www.rhumc.org