The Cornerstone

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

May 2024

Mother's Day Celebration

Sunday, May 12th

Join us as we celebrate
all the influential women in our lives.

Muffins, juice, and coffee on the patio
after the 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services.

Brownies after 3rd service.

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

Fifty years ago Harvard University welcomed its first class of students for a new area of academic concentration – the Comparative Study of Religion. Harvard was founded to educate clergy. The religious refugees who established the Massachusetts Bay Colony wanted their ministers to be familiar with mathematics, Latin and Greek as well as the Bible. This would come as a complete surprise to nearly all of the students there today. Harvard Divinity School was established in the 1800s, again to educate clergy. But there was really no academic study of religion as such. But in 1974, under the leadership of one of the world's leading religious scholars, Dr. Wilfred Cantwell Smith, Harvard launched this new program.

Just a few years later, both Thyra and I found ourselves drawn to the field, each for our own good reasons. It was, and still is, a small department. I believe there were eight graduates in my year, and maybe twelve when Thyra finished. That would compare with typically 400 Economics or English majors each year back then. But in addition to our own small faculty we had access to the Divinity School. We were surrounded with world class scholars who covered an unimaginably wide range of human experience. From Christian history and theology, to the breadth and depth of Hindu, Buddhist, Muslim, Jewish, Native American and other indigenous faith expressions, we were extremely fortunate to find ourselves in such a rich environment.

Though I went on to study and prepare for ministry in a graduate theological seminary, I still look back on what I learned and experienced in those earlier years with deep gratitude. I would say that I still draw water from that well every week as I carry out my pastoral work. It was there that I learned to treat persons of faith from other traditions – and sometimes even my own tradition – with dignity and respect. We learned from teachers who not only knew a great deal, but who modeled the values of engagement and compassion with our fellow human beings.

This next week Harvard is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Religion Department, and Thyra and I are thrilled to be joining in the festivities. We'll be there for a celebration dinner, a series of panel discussions the next day, and honoring one of our favorite professors, Dr. Diana Eck, at her retirement dinner on Friday. Diana is a specialist in the Hindu faith, though she is a United Methodist minister who grew up in Montana. We are honored to celebrate her wisdom, her care, and her leadership of the department for most of its history.

It'll be a quick trip, but one we're very excited to be making. We don't always get to say "thank you" to those who helped shape our lives over the years. But when you do, you don't want to miss that opportunity!

Peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Eve was the mother of all who lived. Hagar wept tears of anguish as she feared for her child's future. Bethuel blessed her daughter's marriage even though it meant she would travel far from home. Rebekah played tricks on her husband to benefit her favorite son.

Moses' mother protected her son by entrusting him to a floating basket and a royal princess. Naomi grieved the death of her two sons and yet was able to rejoice at the birth of her daughter-in-law's child.

Hannah prayed with all her being that she might have a child. Bathsheba was forced to be the mother of a king's son. A mother shared food with God's prophet during a time of famine; the prophet restored her son to life when illness had caused him to cease breathing. Athaliah served as royal counselor to her son and is said to have guided him in doing harm. Esther's mother died and left her an orphan.

Elizabeth insisted on naming her son "John." Mary agreed to be the mother of Jesus. The mother of Peter's wife was sick and Jesus made her well. She was then able to extend hospitality. Herodias instructed her daughter to ask for John the baptizers's death as a reward for her alluring dance. Mothers came to Jesus to plead for their children and he extended healing. The mother of James and John asked Jesus to make her sons his most honored companions. The request prompted Jesus to encourage his disciples with the teaching that "whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant." This same mother, along with the mothers of other disciples, was among the women who witnessed the crucifixion and brought spices and anointing oils to the tomb. Timothy's mother Eunice raised her child to follow the teachings of Jesus, as have countless mothers ever since.

The Bible contains all kinds of mothers. The world contains all kinds of mothers. Strong, troubled, wise, wounded, brave, desperate, privileged, nameless, generous, stubborn, inventive, feisty, secretive, sorrowful, confused, faithful…one way or another, our mothers have been prime movers in making us who we are.

This month we honor mothers and mothering, recognizing a wide array of life experiences. We give thanks for God's presence with us in our journeys of mothering and being mothered.

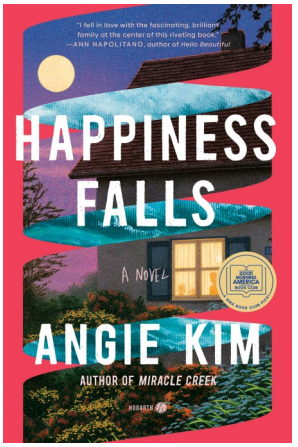
God blesses us with grace and peace.

April

Dawn Unity Group - by Bob Rothman

"Authority in My Religion" will be the fourth panel on **Tuesday, May 14**, at 7:30 p.m. held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 5845 Crestridge Road. We expect a spectrum of responses from our interfaith panel of Prof. Amir Hussain, Loyola Marymount University; Rabbi Leah Lewis, Temple Menorah; Fr. Thomas Rausch S.J., Loyola Marymount University; and President Joseph Whitaker, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. What is the source of authority within the formal organization of each faith, and how is that authority expressed? Who interprets scripture and applies it to issues encountered in contemporary life? Are the words of the Bible God's words? What is the process to overrule them? What is the role of religious and lay leaders in each religion? How does the laity make itself heard, and how is the questioning of authority viewed? How has the top down authority changed over past centuries?

Next Book Discussion: *Happiness Falls* by Angie Kim



This book presents more than one mystery. What has happened to the family member gone missing? What, exactly, is Angelman syndrome, and what are the communication possibilities for people who have it? What are the factors that influence our happiness, and might we be able to nudge those we love into enjoying happier lives? How can families best support each other in the midst of distressing circumstances? How do our assumptions get in the way of true understanding? We will have many themes to explore when we gather for discussion on **Monday, June 24**. Readers can choose to gather in person at 2:00 pm in the choir room, or 7:00 pm via Zoom. Please email april@rhumc.org to let her know of your plans to participate.

RHUMC Missions is Collecting Hygiene Items and Food for the Needy in our Community

Throughout May the Missions Committee and Youth Ministry will be collecting hygiene items and food for our partner Hungry To Help. Hungry to Help serves homeless and low-income people in San Pedro, providing health care screening and meals on a regular basis.

To help these volunteers, who are mostly medical students, serve the community, we can provide some of the physical needs for their clients through our May drive.

Here are the items needed:
Hygiene – washcloths, towels, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, body wash, shampoo and conditioner, wipes, socks/underwear, razors, and feminine hygiene products.
Meal – supplies for their food pantry such as canned tuna, canned chicken, canned vegetables, canned beans, canned chili, canned tomato sauce, dry pasta, Mac & Cheese boxes, etc.

A box will be in the narthex next to the information booth during the month of May. Please leave your donations there so we can get them to the Hungry To Help friends. Financial donations are also welcome. You can write a check to RHUMC, with Hungry To Help in the memo line.

If you have any questions, contact Debra Shrader, teach2play@gmail.com.

Congregational Care Ministry

The Gift of Showing Up

"Being a Congregational Care Minister has allowed me to make a difference in other peoples' lives, just by showing up. In just over one year, our seven-person team has made over 500 care contacts with members of our congregation and local community! Contacts that otherwise would not have occurred. Contacts that say simply, 'We know you're out there, and we care.' If this sounds like something you'd like to be a part of, we'd love to have you join. The time commitment is minimal, the team is great, and the benefits are profound." – Tony Moretti

Becoming a Congregational Care Minister (CCM)

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 Sutrave will contact you for an interview. Interest forms can be accessed via Google forms at this link: https://forms.gle/2Xm7uBSte4cAg4vj8. Current CCMs are also available to share about their experience and answer questions about the program. If you have any questions, or would prefer to complete a printed paper copy of this form, please contact Kristin@rhumc.org.

Requesting a Visit or Prayers

RHUMC's Congregational Care Ministers (CCMs) serve as an extension of the pastoral team offering prayer, visitation, and a listening ear. Some of you have already been contacted by this amazing team, either by phone, through caring notes, or in person visits. Prayer and/or visitation requests can be made by filling out a Google form on the church website, emailing Kristin@rhumc.org, or calling the church office (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.

MOTHER'S DAY FLOWERS

Sierra Service Project Fundraiser

$35.00 PER ARRANGEMENT

PRE-ORDER

The youth are pre-selling Mother's Day flowers April 28 and May 5 on the church patio.

SUBMIT FORM & PAYMENT

- Give to youth volunteers on the church patio
- Place in the offering plate
- Bring to the church office

Credit card payments can be made on the church website, please designate as "Mother's Day Flowers."

Name: _____

Number of Arrangements: _____

Amount Paid: _____

Form of Payment:

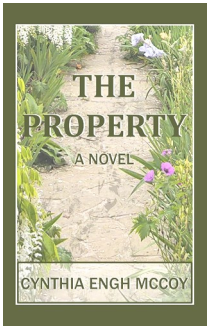
- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Check # _____
- ☐ Credit Card through website

Please pick up the arrangements on Mother's Day, May 12, following the 8:30am, 10:00am, and 5:30pm worship services.

Thank you for your support.

Sister Circle Invites You - by Jean Kinney

On **Thursday, May, 9** at 12:30 p.m., Sister Circle is having a guest speaker many of you will know. A lady with many accomplishments, Cynthia McCoy has now added "author" to her resume. Cindy will share her first novel, *The Property*, with our group and tell us about the process and research that went into writing and publishing her story.



Cindy may be a bit hesitant to talk about what inspired the novel, so as not to spoil the ending for those who may want to read *The Property*. She doesn't consider it a mystery but there is definitely a surprise in store.

We would be happy to share this with others interested in hearing about Cindy's journey. You are welcome to join us in the Aldersgate room on May 9 at 12:30 p.m.

Martha Circle Wants to Share - by Barbara Addleman

Join us on **Monday, May 13** to hear about a unique organization on the hill, Palos Verdes Peninsula (PVP) Village. Our guest speaker, Laura Diepenbrock, will tell you all about this nonprofit organization dedicated to creating "a community within a community" for older adults living on the Peninsula. The PVP Village is a vibrant group of people who have joined together for connection, friendship, learning, and support. The program offers a variety of monthly activities and events as well as volunteer-provided support for things like transportation, handyman help, technology assistance, and more.

Meet in the Aldersgate Room at 12:00 noon with a brown bag lunch. After chatting with your friends we will have some brief announcements followed by a devotion by Sandy Jacobson. The program about PVP Village will start at 12:45 p.m. You do not have to be a member of Martha Circle to come and learn about this unique organization. Men are welcome as well to this event. If you prefer not to have lunch just come at 12:45 p.m. We are hoping for a great turnout.

Palos Verdes Peninsula Village

Opportunities To Connect, Learn & Thrive

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 3**, at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our Concert Committee will be sponsoring this wonderful event.

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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesdays
May 8 & 22
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.

Taco Night

Join us for Taco Night after 3rd service on **Sunday, May 26**. 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.

Club Maintenance - by Dave Larson

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, May 11** at 8:30 a.m. Club Maintenance gathers once a month on the 2nd Saturday for some interesting maintenance activities. No commitment – come and check us out. Questions? Call Dave Larson at 310.408.2883.

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, May 12, at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

SAKURA 桜

The cello quintet **Sakura**'s name honors the great mentor and artist **Ralph Kirshbaum**, with whom all five members studied at the USC Thornton School of Music. Sakura (Japanese) and Kirschbaum (German) have the same meaning: "cherry tree," whose blossoms each have five petals. Hailed as "brilliant" and "superb" by Mark Swed in the *Los Angeles Times,* the **Sakura Cello Quintet** is built on the artistry and virtuosity of its members.

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.*

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Wednesday, May 8 - Available from 4:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

The Habit Burger Grill
4-B Peninsula Center
Rolling Hills Estates, CA
310-377-2044

20% of the proceeds will be donated to RHUMPS.

Indicate RHUMPS when ordering so credit will be given.

Online Orders:
habitburger.com
Promo Code: GIVEBACK

Volunteer Opportunity - Vacation Bible Camp

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

Another preschool year has flown past. We are starting our preparations and rehearsals for our big 4 and 5-year-olds who will have their graduation ceremonies on June 4, 5 and 6.

Families and staff alike are scheduling and planning for summer camps and vacations. We are already accepting registrations for our summer program which extends from July 1st through August 23rd this year. It's been an amazing year as we reflect on how much they've all grown since their first days back in September 2023! They may be little but their accomplishments are BIG and we love them all!

Youth Ministries

Ignite Mid-Week Youth Ministry

Wednesdays at 6:30-8:00pm
Join us for dinner, fellowship, & faith exploration.

May 1 – Mall Scavenger Hunt (Meet at Del Amo Mall).
May 8 – Pajama Day
May 15 – Stress Relief Night
May 22 – Graduation Celebration (This is the last Ignite of the school year. Ignite will resume in the fall.)

Graduation Celebration

Wednesday, May 22 at 6:30pm is our end of the year gathering. We will be celebrating youth who are being promoted into 6th grade and 9th grade, and those who are graduating high school. The whole family is invited to attend! Families are invited to bring a dessert to share.

If you would like to be included in the slideshow please send Kristin a photo and the name of the school you will be attending. Please RSVP, dinner will be served.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 19 we will be celebrating this year's confirmation class. Join us at the 10:00am and 5:30pm worship services as nine of our youth officially join Rolling Hills UMC.

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

"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.

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 May 24
www.rhumc.org