The Cornerstone

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

June 2024

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

We are nearing the half-way mark of the year, so I thought it would be fun to let you know how we are doing with our finances so far. The short answer is that we are in excellent shape. That is a result of the generosity which you all share throughout the year. Some of us give weekly. Some contribute monthly. Some do so in person. Some by mail or on line. Some give by way of stock transfer or IRA distribution. People contribute to our mission and ministry in many different ways. But as Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians, "there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit." That spirit of grace, gratitude, wonder and hope is what gathers us together and leads us forward.

Contributions for ongoing church operations doesn't arrive in 12 equal monthly amounts. We know that a large share of giving takes place near the end of the year. So our budget takes that into account. As of the end of April we were slightly behind our projections for congregational giving. But we were enough ahead in other ways to more than make up the difference. Expenditures were also below budget. Overall, church operations were about $14,000 ahead of where we expected to be. So far, so good!

We continue to make progress on the loans we took for the construction of our education facilities and we anticipate doing even more in the coming year. We currently owe about $3 million at rates from 3.5% to 3.75%. Before those rates adjust we expect to pay down the principal substantially.

We are fortunate to be able to carry out mission and ministry that reaches across the street and around the world. When we identify a need I know that the resources will be available to meet it. That has been the way of this congregation for many years. Thank you for creating and supporting a culture of generosity and compassion, following the example of Jesus.

On another subject entirely, recently a number of you have mentioned missing the news of the passing of a member of the congregation. We try to share that news in Sunday worship, and we announce memorial services in the weekly Worship Update. But if someone is away for a couple of weeks they may not hear about it at the time. So we are adding an "In Memoriam" feature to this month's *Cornerstone* to see if that is helpful going forward. Letting us all know when a member of the congregation has "joined the saints in the light" will give us the opportunity to reach out to loved ones with words of encouragement and care. In times of loss and grief it can mean everything to hear from those who love us.

Peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

Study the pictures on this page. You will see...

- middle school and senior high youth shepherding younger kids (pre-K thru 5th grade) around the RHUMC campus, leading games, and encouraging participation of the children in songs and crafts;

- the sound guy doubling as the sign language teacher;

- adults telling Bible stories, teaching science classes, and helping families sign in upon arrival each day.

What you are looking at is a key feature of our annual Vacation Bible Camp: it is a massive group effort and everyone at church has a role to play. Some of the contributions not pictured include decorating the sanctuary to match the theme of the week; preparing the daily snacks so they can be quickly served; being the nurse for the day so that someone is ready with bandaids or ice packs if needed. Volunteers are essential to making the week a success. So mark your calendar for July 29 to August 2 and talk to our children's ministry director, Debra DeLuca, about how you can help! I plan to be there. I hope you will be too!

April

Celebrating Kristin Sutrave: A New Deacon in Full Connection

- by Janet Westergaard, Staff Parish Relations Committee Co-Chair

In the tapestry of faith, every thread represents a unique journey, a story of dedication, and a commitment to service. Today, we gather to celebrate one such remarkable thread, as Kristin Sutrave ascends to the esteemed role of Deacon in Full Connection. With hearts full of joy and admiration, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Kristin on this momentous occasion.

Becoming a deacon is not merely an appointment; it's a calling that echoes through the corridors of one's soul. It's a commitment to embody the spirit of compassion, humility, and unwavering devotion to serving others. Kristin has exemplified these virtues throughout her journey, touching lives with her kindness, empathy, and steadfast faith.

As Kristin steps into this new chapter of her spiritual journey, we recognize the countless hours of prayer, study, and reflection that have paved the path to this milestone. Her unwavering dedication to God's work and her tireless efforts to uplift those in need have left an indelible mark on our hearts and our community.

In her role as a deacon, Kristin will continue to be a beacon of hope, offering solace to the weary, guidance to the lost, and love to all who seek it. Her presence among us is a reminder of the transformative power of faith and the profound impact one individual can have on the world.

As we congratulate Kristin on this significant achievement, let us also pledge our support and encouragement as she embarks on this sacred journey. May she continue to be guided by the light of God's love, inspiring us all to walk with compassion, serve with humility, and live with unwavering faith. *Please join us as we celebrate Kristin June 16th between the morning services (refreshments will be served).*

Kristin, your dedication, passion, and spirit are an inspiration to us all. May your ministry as a Deacon in Full Connection be blessed abundantly, and may you continue to shine brightly as a testament to the boundless grace of God. Congratulations, and may your journey ahead be filled with countless blessings and divine grace.

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, June 23** 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 join soon after - but this is not a requirement for participation. We are glad you are here.

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.

ROLLING HILLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Heartfelt Creation Care: Wednesday, June 19

"I've been reading and rejoicing about some of the heartfelt Creation Care resolutions adopted at the United Methodist General Conference in May, as well as the encouraging revisions to our United Methodist Social Principles pertaining to creation." So wrote Susan Deo in the days after the conference had concluded. Knowing that many members of the congregation share Susan's interest in learning about and staying involved in Creation Care, **a one-hour seminar has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 19. Participants can come in person to a gathering at 10:30 am in the Aldersgate Room OR join in a Zoom conversation at 7:00 pm.** Please communicate your intent to participate by sending an email to churchoffice@rhumc.org.

When we come together, we'll view a short message from our region's Bishop, the Rev. Dottie Escobedo-Frank. Susan will share details on specific Creation Care goals that were endorsed by the delegates at the General Conference. Copies of the first section of the newly revised social principles, "The Community of All Creation," will be distributed and reviewed. April Herron will be present to support Susan in answering questions and facilitating discussion. We hope to see you there. "The whole earth is full of God's glory!" (Isaiah 6:3)

June Interfaith Café - by Merrietta Fong

The Mission Committee is sponsoring an **Interfaith Café**, with the South Coast Interfaith Council, and co-hosted by First Congregational Church of Long Beach - **Sunday, June 23,** from 3:00-5:00 p.m., in Wesley Hall. Come learn about different faiths and meet people from diverse faith communities in a friendly and fun environment! We engage in dialogue using a board game **"we believe 2"** where small group conversations lead to mutual understanding and respect. When we sit and talk about what is important to us, our world begins to change, we become more alive, and we tap into hope. Please register your plans to participate by emailing churchoffice@rhumc.org or call 310-377-6771. Please join us!

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.

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In Memoriam

Oren Lamar Sheldon
June 26, 1935 - April 3, 2024

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"Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength.
They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary.
They shall walk and not faint."

- Isaiah 40:31

RHUMC Missions Committee

- by Dan & Felicia McClain

Jesus told Peter, "Do you love me? Feed my sheep."

Here are some opportunities for RHUMC members to help feed the needy here in our own community:

New Challenge Ministry Fresh Rescue Food Bank: (newchallengeministries.com) Fresh food is packaged and given to needy clients, five days per week. Volunteers work three-hour shifts sorting fresh produce, meat, milk, eggs, and bread provided by local grocery stores, into large boxes and loading it into client's cars. It is a rewarding experience to see the relief and gratitude of those in need.

There are also opportunities to volunteer at the Palos Verdes Resale Thrift Shop in Lomita, which provides New Challenge Ministries funding to support its feeding program. This is another helpful opportunity for those who want to serve. For more information, contact Felicia McClain at fleemcclain@gmail.com.

Project: NEEDS: (stpaulsrb.org) RHUMC members cook and deliver hot meals in support of St. Paul's United Methodist Church's homeless support program. If you want to know more about this feeding ministry, contact Mary Jane Schwebel at mjs41@cox.net.

RHUMC Youth Ministry: Our youth volunteers provide cooked meals for the needy throughout the year. If you are a youth interested in participating in this or would like a chance to help our youth learn cooking techniques, contact Pastor Kristin Sutrave at Kristin@rhumc.com.

Many thanks to all our church members who supported last month's Hungry to Help food and hygiene supplies drive for the homeless and needy people in our community. Special thanks to Debra Shrader and Kristin Sutrave for leading this successful effort!

Sister Circle - by Jean Kinney

Can you imagine having fresh, clean laundry as being a luxury? It is for some, and Carla Smith will share her experiences with the "Laundry Love" Mission she has been involved with at St. Peters and is now bringing to us at RHUMC.

Mary Ann Donahue will also be sharing her experiences with the South Bay Literacy Council and the Toberman Neighborhood Center.

Please join us at 12:30 p.m. on the second Thursday in June **(6/13)** in the Aldersgate room for another meaningful experience.

Martha Circle - by Barbara Addleman

INVITATION TO ALL RHUMC WOMEN

Martha Circle would love to have you join us for a No Host Lunch at the Seashore Chinese Restaurant on **Monday, June 10,** at 11:30 a.m. The address is 5137 Calle Mayor, Torrance. The cost will be $20.00 which will include tax, tip, and your choice of entrée from the lunch menu. The lunch menu is posted on their website if you want to check it out. This would be a great opportunity for you to meet us, learn more about our group, and decide if we are a good fit for you.

We do not meet in the summer and in the fall we will resume regular meetings on the second Monday of each month at 12:00 p.m. Our first meeting will be on Monday, September 9, in the Aldersgate Room where we will start with a brown bag lunch followed by a program and devotion.

The All Women's Luncheon will be on Saturday, October 5 at 11:30 a.m. Please put it on your calendar so you don't miss this fun event.

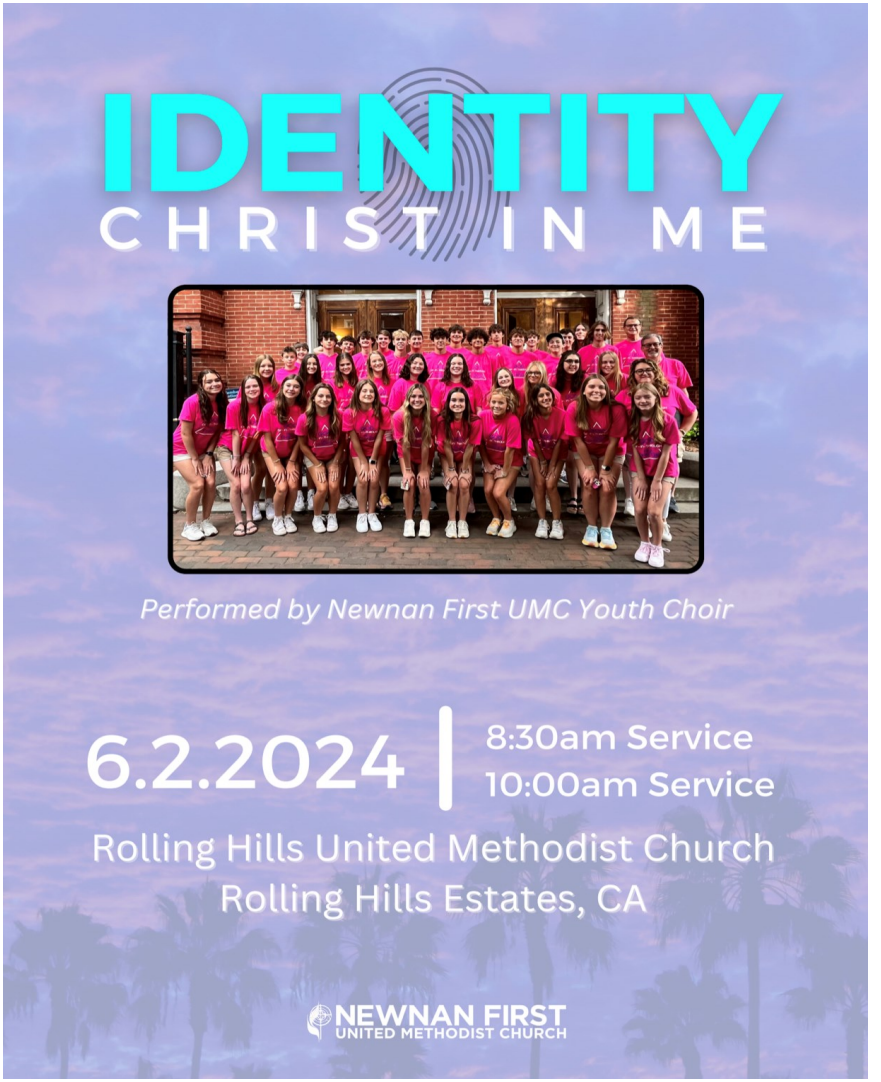
Please call or email Barbara Addleman to make a reservation for the June luncheon or to ask any questions you might have. Hope to see you there!

Barbara Addleman – 310-541-6472 – baddleman@cox.net

Piano Recital - by Beth Howell

You are invited to attend a Piano Recital hosted by Beth Howell in the Church Sanctuary on **Saturday, June 1,** at 3:00 p.m. Young pianists ages 6 to 17 years old will be performing classical compositions, modern movie themes as well as original ragtime jazz pieces written for the piano. Come and enjoy

Guest Youth Choir from Georgia - Performing Sunday, June 2



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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesdays
June 12 & 26
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, June 30**. 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, June 15** at 8:30 am. The principal activity that day will be to work with scouts and church youth to move wood chips into tree basins that are low and also into planting beds in various locations. Dale Gehr promises a tasty BBQ lunch and we welcome all interested folks to come out and help beautify the church grounds.

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.

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, June 9, at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

FROM THE CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY OF LINCOLN CENTER

Cellist *Pianist*

DMITRI ATAPINE & HYEYEON PARK

Acclaimed cellist **Dmitri Atapine** has been described as an artist with "brilliant technical chops" (*Gramophone*), whose playing is "highly impressive throughout" (*The Strad*). Described as "a pianist with power, precision, and tremendous glee" (*Gramophone*) and praised as "very sensitive" (*Washington Post*), **Hyeyeon Park** has appeared on leading concert stages throughout the world.

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*.

Congratulations to our Recent Confirmands

Kid Zone Summer Camp

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

As we approach the end of our school year in June, we are rehearsing and wrapping up the memories of yet another preschool year. Our 4 and 5 year-old stars will be celebrated during their ceremonies coming up on June 4th, 5th and 6th at 6:30 pm. We are so proud of all of our students and the achievements they've made since they started with us back in September 2023! The years just fly by; it's a delight to watch and follow their growth into their own unique styles and personalities with each new year!

Youth Ministries

Service Opportunities

Chocolate Wrapping Sunday, June 9 from 11:30-12:30pm youth are invited to help label chocolate with a QR-code for the Cal-Pac Mental Health Strategy Group's table at Annual Conference.

St. Luke's Homeless Meal Saturday, June 8 from 9:00am-12:00pm youth and adult volunteers will help serve a meal to those with housing or food insecurity. We also need volunteers to bake cupcakes ahead of time for the meal. Please contact Kristin@rhumc.org if you would like to help.

SSP Bake Sale Sunday, June 9 youth will bake and sell sweet treats after each worship service to help fund their trip to SSP!

Ignite: Mid-Week Ministry

Ignite is now on summer break until our fall kick off on September 4, 2024.
Keep an eye out for the monthly youth newsletter for summer gatherings!

President's Volunteer Service Award

Applications for **PVSA are due by July 15, 2024.** Community service hours earned between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024 will count towards this year's award. There will be an award ceremony in the fall to present the youth with their certificates and pins. Please contact Cassie Walke at Cassie@rhumc.org with any questions.

Youth Sunday School

Sunday school is offered on Sundays during the worship services. We will be gathering in Wesley Hall for rotation style classes with all ages combined to engage in Bible study, activities, and cooking in the kitchen!

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

Summer is here at last and things are changing! Beginning June 2nd, 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. 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 the teachers after the children's sermon and head to Wesley Hall.

For the first time ever, we will devote our 3 months of summer classes to a new idea! We will be teaching the children how God used the animals He created to accomplish his purposes! Camels, quail, lions and a dove are just a few of the animals we will be discussing in this fun new program for the summer.

Classes will be split equally in the following areas:
Mission Room – Bible story and/or skit
Wesley Hall – Craft, activities and/or game
Kitchen – Cooking and/or snack

If your child has any food allergies, please be sure to let us know so we may plan the kitchen activity accordingly.

Good times filled with faith and fun for everyone await. 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

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 June 28
www.rhumc.org