The Cornerstone

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

July 2024

Team Spirit

Cheryl Benesh (and USA Volleyball) have recently announced that Cheryl's son Andy Benesh will be representing the United States at this summer's Olympic games. Naturally, all of us who know the Benesh family are thrilled and extend congratulations to Andy and his beach volleyball partner Miles Partain. The qualification process took months and involved literally travelling the world. Beach volleyball in Paris will take place July 27-August 10 at Eiffel Tower Stadium. RHUMC will be paying attention and cheering for "our" team!

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

The dog days of summer have arrived, but our campus is busier than ever. Our Kid Zone summer camp and Preschool summer session are going strong and things are hopping every day around here. Some are getting away for a little down time. Others are gearing up to welcome family and friends. The sun is shining. Gardens are growing. The water is warming. Summer is one of God's best gifts.

It's also a time for projects around the church. Over the next weeks we will be making progress on a couple of important fronts. One of those is the replacement of our sanctuary lighting with energy-saving LEDs. Most of the lights on campus have been converted to LEDs already. But it took some time before reliable stage lighting fixtures were available for an application such as ours. Once they are installed we will see our energy usage during worship drop by about 80%. The new lights will also add much less heat to the room, reducing the demand on air conditioning during summer months.

We are also getting closer to starting the remodeling of the church kitchen. It was built in 1985 and has served us well. But some of the equipment has outlived its usefulness. Some no longer work at all. And the church kitchen is busier than you might think. Many of us remember the Thanksgiving Dinner and hope to see its return. But we do so much more than that! During the school year the kitchen is used for snack preparation five days a week for our Kid Zone after school program. Our youth group Wednesday night dinners come together there. It is the base for dozens of memorial receptions each year, as well as for other congregational events. Each month a team prepares meals in our kitchen to be served at St. Paul's UMC in North Redondo Beach. Our summer Sunday School includes a rotation in the kitchen as well. It is the hub of many things we do to serve our community.

The new kitchen will include two gas ranges with pilotless ignition. There will be two dishwashers to handle the variety of loads we see over the year. We are doubling the amount of refrigerator and freezer space, and adding an ice maker to help with larger receptions. We will be replacing the wooden cupboards and formica countertops with stainless steel throughout, and adding storage space for equipment and supplies. A new coffee-making system will be included, which will make preparation and cleanup much easier for Sunday mornings – and any other group events.

We plan to begin demolition the week of August 12, and the kitchen will be out of commission for several weeks. That timing takes advantage of the couple of the quietest weeks of the year, after summer programs are concluded and before we come back for the fall. But it will still be a bit of disruption to our normal routines.

We have most of the money we need for the new kitchen. And we are working with Del Amo Construction on a final budget. When that is ready we will let you know how close we are and how you can help. Thank you for all you do to make good things possible.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

Kristin Sutrave Is Ordained
and Receives Her Deacon's Stole from the Bishop

I would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to the wonderful folks at Rolling Hills UMC for the joyous patio reception and the beautiful Deacon stole. Over the past six years, I have been incredibly blessed by the support and care you all have shown me as I navigated the process of ordination. From holding me in prayer, to encouraging words on the patio, to writing references and even meeting with members of the Board of Ordained ministry - your efforts were essential to my success. Our congregation has truly showered me with love and well wishes. Thank you.

Adult Bereavement Support Group

TAKING TIME
NAVIGATING . THROUGH . LOSS

Taking Time: South Bay and Rolling Hills United Methodist Church are partnering to offer a non-denominational 8-week grief support group to adult members of the community who have experienced a death. RHUMC is hosting and partially sponsoring the group starting the beginning of September on Thursday mornings from 10:30-12:00 p.m. Registration is required.

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.

For more information, please contact Claire Towle, LCSW at 310-686-6714 or ctowle@takingtime.org. Or contact April Herron at 310-377-6771 or april@rhumc.org.

New Member Welcome

On July 14, RHUMC will be receiving new members. Church membership is an expression of trust in God and of connection to the community of faith. If you have been waiting for a chance to join the church, and July 14 would fit your schedule (at any of the three worship services) please contact the church office (310 377 6771) or one of the pastors so that you can be included.

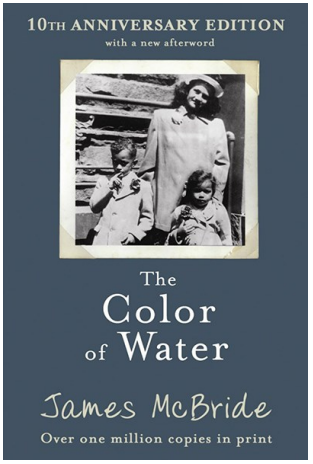
Online Worship

If you are traveling or unable to attend one of our Sunday worship services in person, please know our worship services are recorded and may be viewed by going to our website at rhumc.org and clicking the “Join Us Online” link. The weekly worship service is usually uploaded to our website each Sunday by 1:00 p.m. and remains permanently on YouTube, where you can find it by searching for Rolling Hills United Methodist Church.

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.

Summer Book Discussion: “The Color of Water”



“Everybody loves this book!” - Ann Patchett

James McBride’s book, “The Color of Water,” is fascinating and fantastic. The memoir “gives equal space to the voice of McBride’s white mother (who was disowned by her Orthodox Jewish family for marrying a black man) and his own questions about navigating black identity,” explains Kate Tuttle. McBride was already an accomplished jazz musician when, in 1996, he published the story of his early life. He went on to write several best-selling novels and award-winning novels, including, “The Good Lord Bird,” “Deacon King Kong,” and “The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store.”

Our discussion will take place on **Monday, August 26**. The in-person gathering meets at 2:00 pm in the choir room. The Zoom conversation convenes at 7:00 pm. Please email April@rhumc.org regarding your plans to participate. All readers are welcome.

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

Dementia, Alzheimer’s or Parkinson’s

Wednesdays
July 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.

Sister Circle - by Jean Kinney

Sister Circle at RHUMC is a group of women with very diverse backgrounds, interests and talents. Recently, we have welcomed many new faces to our group and there is certainly room for more. Except for August and December, we normally meet the second Thursday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in the Aldersgate room at RHUMC.

In July, we will welcome a representative from the Toberman Neighborhood Center, a Methodist Mission Project that our Church and Sister Circle continue to support. Come hear how over the past year, 1,501 households (families) have been served - that is 3,530 individuals. Toberman was able to provide Housing Stability to 91 households (over 450 individuals). A total financial assistance of $345,000 was provided through city and third party contributions. The Thrift Store and Food Pantry help sustain those in need and Toberman continues to welcome your contributions.

In the past our Circle has provided school supplies through their annual Backpack program and participated in many other Toberman opportunities. Our gifts and support help Toberman serve those families mentioned above. Providing gang intervention, emergency food and clothing are just a few of the services they offer. To learn more about the Toberman Neighborhood Center, please join us at our next Sister Circle Meeting, on **Thursday, July 11** at 12:30 p.m. in the Aldersgate room.

Club Maintenance - by Dave Larson

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, July 13**, at 8:30 am. We will be back to normal on the 13th following our successful effort in June to work with scouts and church youth to move wood chips into tree basins that were low, and also into planting beds in various locations. Dale Gehr delivered a tasty BBQ lunch for all of the ~22 workers.

Don McCurry will be the coordinator for Club Maintenance activity in July and August.

Taco Night

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

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RHUMC Initiates Laundry Love Unhoused Ministry - by Carla Smith

The need is great - Love never ends and neither does laundry

Laundry Love is a nationwide program giving dignity to local unhoused clients by enabling them to have clean clothing, and therefore feel loved, cared-for and connected to the community. The RHUMC Missions Committee has initiated a monthly sponsorship of the Laundry Love program for unhoused residents in San Pedro.

How You Can Help

There are several opportunities for church members to participate in this ministry. Our team engages in a wonderful, once-a-month, 2 ½ hour commitment that is very rewarding.

You can participate by:

- Making sandwiches
- Volunteering to go to the laundromat on the 4th Wednesday of the month
- Donating liquid laundry soap, dryer sheets or a case of water
- Donating by check to RHUMC, with Laundry Love entered in the memo line

Any of the above donations may be given to Peggy Roulette in the church office.
Your prayers for these folks and this project would also be wonderful.

RHUMC began this ministry on May 22, when a group from the Missions Committee went to the laundromat in San Pedro at First and Bandini St. We had a wonderful experience meeting folks in need of clean clothes. We put quarters in the machines, shared sandwiches and stories. Pastor Oscar, the leader of Laundry Love, led us in prayer.

If you are interested in participating in Laundry Love, please feel free to contact me at 310-871-4104, or email me at carla4health@gmail.com. Thank you.

Save the Date - Saturday, August 17
Summer Concert and Tacos at 4:00 p.m.

RHUMC - 26438 Crenshaw Blvd RHE, CA 90274

Paula Fong Summer Concert

A early evening of **music** for adults, a **movie** for the kids, and AYCE **street tacos**!

RSVP

WWW.PAULAFONG.COM

SAT 8/17
4PM

$20 suggested for concert donation
Taco dinner $5/person
or $15 per family

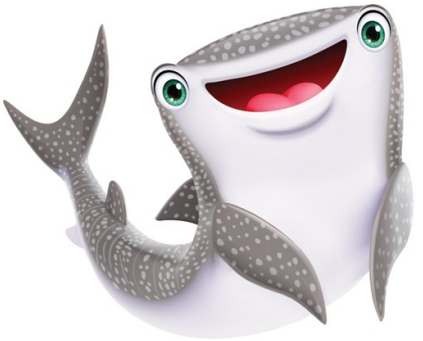
RSVP to secure a spot for free childcare!
Space is limited

VACATION BIBLE CAMP NEEDS YOU!

Help Us Get Ready for our Scuba VBC

Sunday, July 28th
Decorating the Sanctuary immediately after the 5:30 p.m. service for our weeklong VBC.

Friday, August 2nd, 12:15 p.m. - ?
Taking down decorations in the Sanctuary, Narthex and Wesley Hall.



Kid Zone Summer Camp 2024

SUMMER CAMP DATES: Now through August 9

Available for children in grades TK - 8th grade

Contact Gabby Palacios for more information at

Kidzone.midzone@rhumc.org

310-377-7302 or 323-610-2253

wherever you go, NO MATTER THE WEATHER, ALWAYS BRING YOUR OWN sunshine

Youth Ministries

July Youth Events

7/10 @ 1:00 - 2:00pm Hygiene Kit Assembling - Join us in the church conference room to help package the supplies collected by the congregation.
7/15 @ 7:00 – 8:00pm Learn how to make Boba, we will gather in Wesley Hall. Please RSVP to Kristin@rhumc.org.

(Save the date: Ignite is now on summer break until our fall kick off on September 4, 2024.)

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.

Applications and additional information can be found on the church website. Please contact Cassie Walke at Cassie@rhumc.org with any questions.

Sierra Service Project 2024

Our high school youth will be attending Sierra Service Project July 27 through August 4. We will be serving The Klamath Tribes and the larger community in Chiloquin, Oregon. Thank you for all of your generous support of our fundraising throughout the year. Please hold us in prayer during our travels!

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

We are asking for help from the congregation for snacks for our hardworking volunteers during the week of **Vacation Bible Camp.**

Camp starts Monday, July 29th and ends Friday, August 2nd with over 40 volunteers working with our children this year!

Cut up fruit or vegetables, cheese sticks, cookies, crackers, assorted chips, muffins and small bottles of water.

(Homemade or store bought - all donations are welcome)

** No nut products please due to allergies **

Please contact Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org or call (310) 377-6771, ext. 306

Volunteers Needed for First Aid Table at Vacation Bible Camp

Requirements: Basic First Aid and CPR.

Job Details: May include cleaning scrapes/ scratches, handing out band aids, administering ice packs, sharing smiles and giving out hugs as needed!

Days coverage is needed:
Tuesday, July 30th 9am-12pm
Thursday, August 1st, 9am-12pm

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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 July 26
www.rhumc.org