The Cornerstone

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

August 2024

Vacation Bible Camp was "Fin-tastic!"

Our week-long "Scuba diving into friendship with God," VBC wrapped up on Friday, August 2nd. The week was full of faith, fun, and friendship while we learned God is a friend who's real!

We had Bible stories, science, crafts, games, skits and snacks but most of all we had hard working and fantastic volunteers who made it the best week of the year! Be sure to attend any of our three worship services on Sunday, August 4th or look to our web page and see the slide show of the amazing week.

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

The next month will bring a bit of a change of pace for me. On Wednesday, August 7, I will have surgery on my Achilles tendon and be out of action for a few weeks. I have been experiencing pain in my right heel, where the tendon attaches, for about a year. It has kept me from enjoying normal physical activity. I did several months of physical therapy but did not see meaningful improvement. An MRI made it clear that surgery was the only way forward.

The operation is scheduled for 2 p.m. I should be home that same day, but will be restricted from bearing weight on that foot for about six weeks. Obviously this will disrupt all kinds of things. Thyra and I are giving up a week's vacation in late August. But I hope I'll get to enjoy many more vacations in the years to come.

While I'm out we will have guest preachers to help cover a couple of Sundays in August and early September. On August 4, my friend Matt Seargeant, who just retired from Mesa Verde UMC in Costa Mesa, has agreed to be with us. Matt has a wonderfully dry sense of humor and a gifted magician. He and his wife Lori train companion dogs for persons with autism. I know you will make him feel at home. On August 11, our preacher will be another dear friend, Sandy Olewine. Sandy, April and I were all ordained together. She has served at Holman UMC in Los Angeles, as a UM Missionary to Jerusalem, at Santee UMC in San Diego, Pasadena 1st UMC, and as the Superintendent of our South District (San Diego/Orange County). She has also been a delegate to several General Conference meetings and been involved in helping lead us to a more welcome and inclusive future. A few weeks after I asked her to preach, Sandy was elected to serve as a bishop in the UMC, and will begin her appointment with the California-Nevada Annual Conference on September 1. So she is now officially Bishop Sandra K. Olewine, or Bishop Sandy, or just plain Sandy when she's among friends. I am deeply grateful, with the weight of all of the new responsibilities she has taken on, that we will get to have her here at RHUMC.

Our youth will be sharing tales from Sierra Service Project on the 18th. April will be our preacher on the 25th. Lee Carlile will preach on Labor Day Sunday. April will be in the pulpit for September 8. If all goes well I am hoping to be back in worship in person on September 15 – though possibly preaching from a chair – who knows?

I realize that many others in our church family have been faced with similar surgical disruptions to your lives. In fact, our Church Treasurer, Wade Welch, and our Staff-Parish co-chair, Kathy Platnick, will also be laid up for some of the same time. I hope that everyone will behave while we're out of action. Of course I will be available by phone, text or email, as well as checking in from time to time in person.

I am already grateful for the care and concern I know will be with me in the surgery itself and the recovery to follow. Thank you for being such a generous and loving family of faith.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

Update: A complication has emerged with Jonathan's planned surgery. It will be delayed, but it isn't known how long. When he returns from Canada on Sunday he will be meeting with his doctors.

April Herron

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Dear Friends,

It's always fun to see a favorite scripture verse come to life! Of the many things I love about Vacation Bible Camp, witnessing different gifts be put to good use is among my favorite. Some people prepare and serve the snacks. Some people work behind the scenes to manage registration and communication. Some people have a knack for crafts and others are happy for the opportunity to tell a Bible story. Energetic volunteers lead games. Those with technical capacity put up the sets or operate the sound and the lights. Some people offer science lessons and some demonstrate the choreography that goes with the songs. Out on the patio, nurses staff the first aid table and friendly folks welcome families as they drop off their kids in the morning.

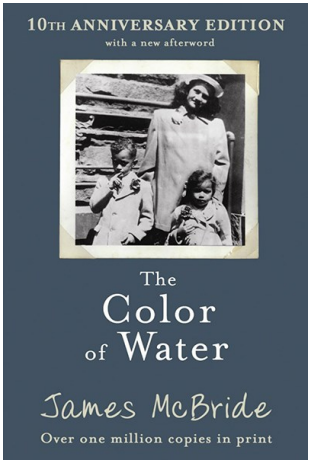
Our campers are preschoolers through fifth graders. Our youth volunteers range from 6th grade through college students. It is not uncommon for a young person to progress through years of being a camper and then several more years of developing their capacities as group leaders and activity directors. Along the way, their faith grows as well, and their understanding of the Bible deepens. Our adult volunteers range from parents of young children to grandparents and retirees. Most report that the experience is extremely fulfilling, even though fatigue can also be a factor!

Meanwhile, it's not like all the other functions of the church have gone on hiatus. Beautiful music is still presented during Sunday worship. Our buildings and grounds are still being maintained and improved. Knitters are still making prayer shawls. Groups that gather for mutual support and in the interest of spiritual growth and service continue to meet. Care is still being extended to those who are experiencing illness or other challenges. A variety of people exercising a variety of gifts are the ones doing all those things. And those suited to intensive bursts of adventure and helpfulness have gone away on a week-long service project requiring an array of skills and a spirit of openness and flexibility.

It's a beautiful thing to witness, and experience, the wondrous ongoing life of the church. Thank you all for sharing your gifts!

April

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.

RHUMC
Missions Committee

You’re Amazing!

Thank you to our RHUMC community for your generosity in giving to the communion offering basket during church services. Because of your commitment to provide for the less fortunate, the New Challenge Ministries Fresh Rescue Food Bank and Project Needs have each received a $1,000 donation from our congregation to provide food for struggling families in our area.

For more information on how you can help with this and other outreach opportunities, contact Dan or Felicia McClain, Missions Committee chairpersons, at mcclaindf@gmail.com. We would love to hear from you.

18801 Crenshaw Pl, Torrance, CA 90504
“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat.”
NEW CHALLENGE MINISTRIES, INC.
Fresh Rescue Food Bank
Fighting Hunger 24/7
Matthew 25:35
(310) 320-4171

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.

Saturday, August 17
Summer Concert and Tacos at 4:00 pm

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

Church Kitchen Remodel

Our church kitchen is one of the busiest places on our whole campus. During the school year it is where snacks for Kid Zone, our after school program, are prepared every day. It is where dinners for our Wednesday night Ignite youth program are served. On the first Tuesday of the month it is where the dinner for unhoused families is cooked to be served, later on, at St. Paul's UMC in North Redondo Beach. It supports memorial receptions and other luncheons.

The kitchen was completed in 1985, and has needed attention for some time. We had hoped to include the kitchen in our plans when we built the new educational buildings. But we just couldn't make it work.

Our return to normal activity after COVID has made the need for a new kitchen even more pressing. Some of the original equipment no longer works. Some of the fixtures would no longer pass code. The pilot lights in the old cooktop burns more gas than we ever use when cooking. The uses of the kitchen have changed in the 39 years since it was built.

Remodeling the kitchen will take it out of commission for a number of weeks. We have already begun moving out items we will need after we are done. We are waiting till after Vacation Bible Camp to start the major work of demolition. That will begin on August 12. We expect about a month for rough plumbing & electrical, and the pouring of a new epoxy floor. Once the floor has cured the new appliances and fixtures will be put in place, and plumbing and electrical connections finished.

The cost of equipment, new stainless steel counters, shelves and sinks is about $60,000. The cost of the other work, including new doors, windows and LED lighting, will be between $60-75,000. At present a little over $107,000 has already been given. Your contributions will be welcomed to help bring it to full completion.

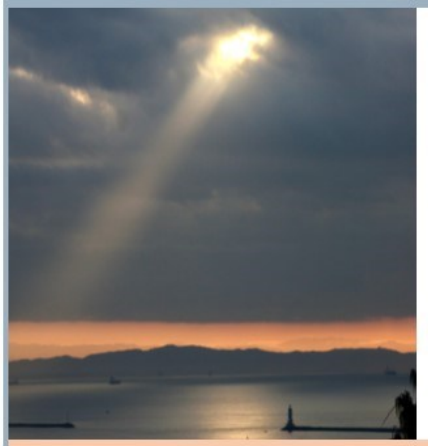
If you would like to do so, you can make out a check to RHUMC, and mark "kitchen" on the memo line. You can also give on line through the church's web site at rhumc.org. After clicking on the button that says "Giving" you will be taken to a secure portal through Vanco, our on-line giving partner. You will be asked to create an account if this is your first time. Under "Other Designated Giving," fill in the amount you would like to contribute, whether by checking account or credit card, the date of your gift, and designate "Kitchen." Add it to your basket and complete the checkout process.

We expect to be done by early October, and hopefully a little sooner. There is really no good time for us not to have a working kitchen. But we know we will be glad for it for many years to come!

Club Maintenance

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, August 10**, at 8:30 am. Don McCurry will be the coordinator for Club Maintenance activity in August.

NAVIGATING THROUGH LOSS



THURSDAYS

10:30 am to 12 noon

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 12

Meeting for 8 sessions

Gathering at Rolling Hills

United Methodist Church

A BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

RHUMC is partnering with Taking Time South Bay to offer grief support to the community. The group is facilitated by a licensed professional with the help of trained and experienced volunteers. Participants benefit from education, support, opportunities for reflection, and a sense of connection with others. The group size is usually 7 to 10 people, plus the leaders. Advance registration is required.

Adults who have experienced the death of a loved one within the last couple of years are encouraged to contact Claire Towle, LCSW, at 310-686-6714 or ctowle@takingtime.org to learn more about how the group can be helpful. You may also contact the church office at 310-377-6771 or send an inquiry to april@rhumc.org. Your donation of $100 supports the availability of the program.

ROLLING HILLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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SAVE THE DATE - All Church Women's Pot Luck Luncheon

Since our All-Church Women's Pot Luck Luncheon is always such a success, we are going to do it again! We hope everyone will join us in Wesley Hall on **Saturday, October 5** at 11:30 am. If you would like to help with the plans, please contact me so we can include you as we go forward. More details to follow, but please put this fun event on your calendar now!

Barbara Addleman baddleman@cox.net

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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesdays
August 14 & 28
10:00-11:00 a.m.
in the Aldersgate Room

Lauren Mahakian

Certified Dementia Practitioner, Speaker
Facilitator/Educator
Certified Validation Therapy
HCO#194700543

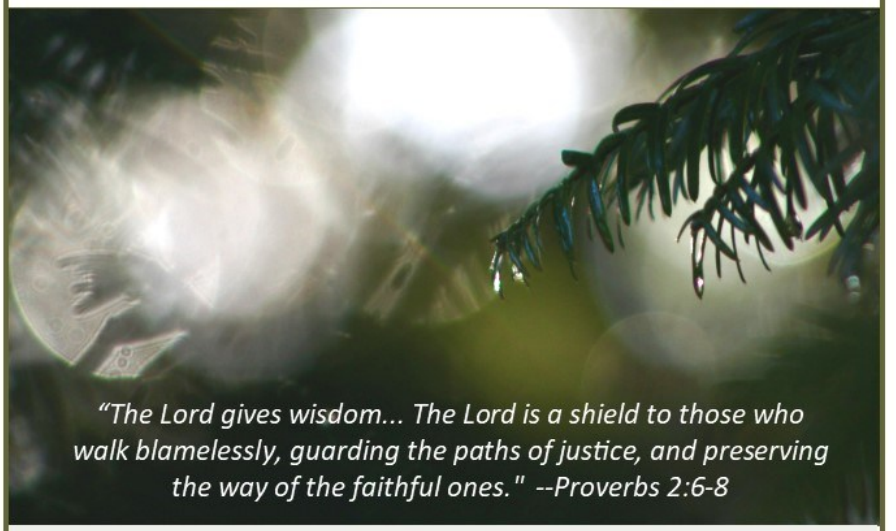
The discovery of memory loss can be daunting, yet in our experience, professional guidance and learning from others with similar experiences can be very helpful. Join PV News columnist, certified dementia practitioner, and founder/CEO of Family Connect Memory Care Lauren Mahakian at this community-based 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, August 25**. 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.

BIBLE STUDY OF PROVERBS

PATHWAYS TO WISDOM



"The Lord gives wisdom... The Lord is a shield to those who walk blamelessly, guarding the paths of justice, and preserving the way of the faithful ones." --Proverbs 2:6-8

FOUR TUESDAYS:
SEPTEMBER 10, 17, 24
and OCTOBER 1

CHOOSE:
10:30 AM - IN PERSON
7 PM - VIA ZOOM

According to the book of Proverbs, humans are capable of learning and growth. We can study and choose a healthy path or we can forsake the wisdom offered to us and wander into harmful places. This study will offer an overview of themes both personal and practical as presented by Proverbs.

April Herron will guide the class based on material from Dominick Hernández's, "Proverbs: Pathways to Wisdom." Books are available for $10 but NOT required. Please RSVP to 310 377 6771 or churchoffice@rhumc.org to communicate your intention to participate.

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Youth Ministries

Youth Events this Month

Youth Lock- In
Wednesday, 8/14 at 6:30pm to Thursday, 8/15 at 8:00am
Youth will play games throughout the evening at the church. Please bring a sleeping bag, pillow, PJs and toiletries. (Youth choosing not to spend the night should be picked up by 10:30pm). Dinner and breakfast will be provided; the suggested donation is $15 per youth. To attend contact Kristin by August 9.

SSP Sunday
Sunday, August 18 (8:30am, 10:00am, & 5:30pm)
Join us in worship as the youth participants tell us about their trip to Sierra Service Project in Chiloquin, OR this summer! All past SSP participants and adult counselors are invited to wear their SSP shirts to worship.

End of Summer BBQ
Sunday, August 18 at 12:30 - 2:30pm
Youth are invited to join us at the park for a BBQ lunch and games at Alta Loma Park (26126 Delos Dr., Torrance, CA 90505). Please let Kristin know if you plan to attend.

Youth Council Meeting

Monday, August 12 @ 7:00-8:00pm
All youth are invited to attend this meeting. We will be planning the fall calendar for youth ministries and Ignite. If you are interested in becoming a youth council representative please let Kristin know!

Service Opportunity

New Challenge Food Bank
Youth are invited to sign up to help at New Challenge Ministries on either Monday, 8/12 or 8/19. Space is limited, please contact Kristin for more information.

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

A huge thank you to everyone whether it was teaching, volunteering, donating snacks/monetary donations for snacks, decorating and praying for our week of **Vacation Bible Camp!**

We love and appreciate all of you!

WHAT IS

KID ZONE?

Kid Zone is an after-school program for grades TK-8th grade that offers a safe and healthy place for children to grow and play, allowing us to be part of your village and assist with any of the following:

- Pick-Up from most Palos Verdes and Torrance schools, public and private
- Assistance with homework
- Provide a snack
- Social and emotional growth
- Safe, comfortable environment to make friends and build confidence
- Organized games and sports
- Art, crafts and cooking

For more information, contact
Gabby Palacios at
Kidzone.midzone@rhumc.org
310-377-7302 or 323-610-2253

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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 August 23
www.rhumc.org