The Cornerstone

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

March 2025

Remember that you are dust and into dust you shall return.

Ash Wednesday - March 5

Our congregation's observance of Lent begins with our Ash Wednesday Prayer Vigil on March 5 from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Choose a time that suits your schedule and come be with God in prayer. Resources will be available in the sanctuary to guide you. Our worship service is at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary with music and singing, prayer and scripture.

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

After their graduations from medical school and seminary, my paternal great-grandparents, Pearl Smith and Jesse Chute, left their homes in southern Ontario, Canada, for what was then known as the "mission field" of southwestern India. Their families were farmers and active in their local Baptist churches. Jesse and Pearl met as they prepared for their journey and were married shortly after their arrival in India. Pearl was one of the first women physicians in Canada, and opening a hospital was the goal of their joint mission. Jesse was a preacher, but as much a builder of buildings and community in the village of Akividu, where they would live for the next 35 years or more.

Their four children were all born in India, returning to Canada to complete their schooling. Along with his parents, my grandfather traveled by ship from India to Southhampton, England, where they missed their connection on the *Titanic*. Instead, they made the trip from England to New York City on the *Lusitania*! After they finished their university studies, all four of the Chute offspring returned to India, working in education or medicine.

So it was while my grandfather was teaching chemistry at Wilson College in what is now Mumbai that he met my grandmother, an American missionary teaching English and music there. They were married at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Columba in 1928. My father was born a couple of years later, returning with his parents to Canada when he was about three.

Others in the family have been to India, and I've always wanted to go. By the time you are reading this, Thyra and I will be about to land in New Delhi. We're celebrating a milestone birthday for yours truly (later this month) and anticipating our 40th wedding anniversary this summer. We're looking forward to learning much as we go. We will be with a small tour group, visiting New Delhi, Varanasi, Agra, Jaipur, Udaipur, and Mumbai. I am looking forward to seeing the church where my grandparents married, which now houses a program for homeless street children.

I am grateful to April and Kristin for leading you all into our Lenten season without me! On the Sundays I am gone we will welcome back Matt Seargeant as guest preacher one week, and Molly Logan, daughter of Bob and Kathy, to lead our prayers the other. Molly is an ordained Presbyterian minister and once served as a valued member of our Kid Zone staff. I know you will be in good and caring hands. We return on March 14, and I will be back in the pulpit, so to speak, that Sunday. Keep us in your love and care as we go!

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

A pilgrimage can be a physical journey to a particular place of significance. It can also be a movement through time with a specific goal, intention, or prayer in mind. As James Howell says in his book, *Everywhere Is Jerusalem,* "the most important place of all is the place where you are, right now." That is because "holy happenings" can happen wherever you happen to be!

The season of Lent is a period of time, established by the church, in which we followers of Jesus, whatever our specific location, pay special attention to Jesus' journey toward the cross. We perceive that by paying attention to the actions, words, and choices of Jesus, we improve our ability to experience Easter and receive the new life God has for us.

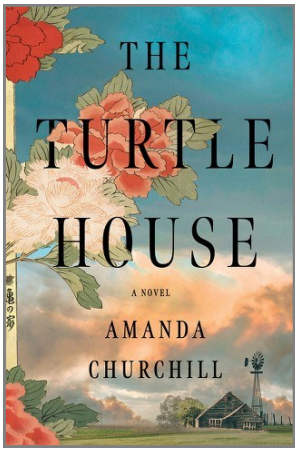
Lent encompasses 40 days each year, reminding us (among other Biblical references) of the 40 days and nights of rain that fell in the time of Noah, the 40 years that God's people wandered in the wilderness trying to make their way to the promised land, the 40 days that God gave Nineveh to consider its actions and repent, and the 40 days that Jesus spent alone, fasting and praying, before he began to travel, teach, heal, and call people to faithful living.

The day that Lent begins is called, "Ash Wednesday." This year, that day falls on March 5. Some of us will choose to spend time in the sanctuary that day to pray and contemplate the season ahead. We will have the opportunity to gather for worship at 7:30 in the evening. Whether in solitude or community, wherever we are, we could identify some daily practice or program we plan to pursue during the season of Lent. Some people devote extra time to prayer or service. Others strive to omit some habit or behavior that they feel gets in the way of their relationship with God.

Lent is what we, with God's help, make of it. May our hearts and minds be open to the guidance of the Spirit. May we be helpful companions to each other on the journey. May we grow in grace and faith.

April

March 31 Book Discussion: *The Turtle House* by Amanda Churchill



This month we will read and discuss the third book in our series on the theme of "Home."

The story of "The Turtle House" jumps back and forth in time and place, between World War II Japan and 1990s Texas, exploring the journeys of Mineko and her granddaughter Lia. The two women, each in their own location and era, are looking for belonging and purpose.

The author's interviews with her own real-life grandmother inspired the novel. Churchill says, "From what I've experienced, you don't leave home unchanged, for better or worse. I think my characters are all trying to create some version of a home that fits with who they are at their core. I think we're all capable of finding a home, if we're brave enough to fight for it."

The in-person discussion will take place on **Monday, March 31**, at 2:00 pm in the choir room. The evening Zoom discussion will take place on the same date at 7:00 pm. Please email April@rhumc.org to communicate your plans to participate. All readers are welcome.

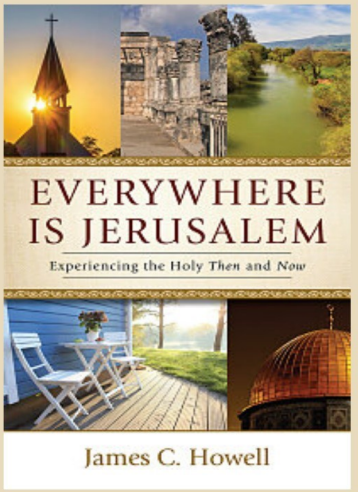
Good Friday Concert - April 18

Please plan now to attend our Annual Good Friday Concert at 7:00 p.m. on **Friday, April 18** in the Sanctuary, featuring the Chancel Choir and the Inner City Youth Orchestra of Los Angeles performing *Eternal Light* by Howard Goodall.

UMCOR Sunday - March 30

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) lives out a mission to alleviate human suffering. UMCOR provides humanitarian assistance in more than 80 countries when war, conflict or natural disaster strikes. On **Sunday, March 30**, we will have a special offering to help underwrite UMCOR's "costs of doing business." Funds raised will help UMCOR keep their promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go toward that project, not administrative costs. Donations may be made via check made payable to RHUMC with a notation of "UMCOR Sunday" on the memo line or via our website at RHUMC.com by clicking on "Giving" and listing UMCOR under Other Designated Giving. Checks may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your generosity.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY



SIX SESSIONS
ON TUESDAYS

MARCH 4
to
APRIL 8

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

"Everywhere Is Jerusalem" will take us on a spiritual pilgrimage to significant places in the ongoing story of the Christian faith. From Bethlehem to Jerusalem, from the Jordan River to Assisi, and from the Sea of Galilee to Montgomery, Alabama. Along the way, we will encounter connections between biblical stories and the places they happened. We'll learn how Christians throughout history have brought their faith to life worldwide, in their own cities and communities. We may even find God calling us to bring our own faith to life right where we are, right now.

Books are available in the church office for $15, or you can order from your favorite bookseller. Author James Howell is senior pastor of Myers Park UMC in Charlotte, NC and has written more than 20 books. Class sessions will also include video clips featuring Rev. Howell and the locations he discusses. This opportunity is open to anyone who is interested! Please email April@rhumc.org to communicate your plans to participate. Call the church office if you have questions.

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The Caring Congregation (TCC)

We are pleased to announce that our church has now commissioned our third cohort of "Congregation Care Ministers" or "CCMs." Our CCMs have a clear passion for walking along side folks as they go through the mountains and valleys of life, and they are excited to meet with you all. These folks will serve as an extension of the pastoral team at RHUMC. Prayer and visitation requests can be made by filling out a Google form on the website, emailing Kristin@rhumc.org or calling the church office.

RHUMC commissioned Bob Chamberlin, Carolyn Crowder, Jennifer Hong, Sue Thompson, and Dee Dee Whitesides as Congregational Care Ministers on Sunday, February 9, 2025 during the 8:30am and 10:00am worship services.

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, March 16** 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 do so on Sunday, March 30 - but this is not a requirement for participation. We are glad you are here.

Martha Circle - Like to Travel?

Join Martha Circle on **Monday, March 10** at noon for a preview of spring with a fantastic video presentation by Shirley Fehrman on Belgium and the Tulips of the Netherlands. It will be sure to be a feast for your eyes! All women of the church are invited – we love guests and will welcome you with open hearts. Please bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy chatting before the video presentation. Hope to see all our members and many new faces.

Questions – Contact Barbara Addleman at baddleman@cox.net, 310-541-6472 (Land line) or 310-940-5002 (cell).

RHUMC Music Committee

Friday, March 28 at 7:30 pm

presents

Marina Grozdanovic

A musical journey through France from the baroque to the impressionist era.

Marina Grozdanovic is an internationally acclaimed pianist, originally from Belgrade, Serbia. She has been said to "deliver the essence of the composer's vision with authenticity, vitality and transformative power." Some of her performances include concerts in Norway, London, India, and as a guest performer on Serbian National Television. As a resident of LA, she is known for appearing in the Encore Concert Series, Epiphany Music Guild, Music at Noon in Pasadena, and many others.

Marian Grozdanovic is a winner of many International piano competitions in New York, Italy, Yugoslavia, and more. She received her Bachelor of Music degree from University of Music Art, Belgrade, a Master of Music from Indiana University and a Doctorate in Piano Performance from USC.

Dr. Grozdanovic is an established piano pedagogue and faculty member at East Los Angeles College, with prize-winning students in numerous competitions, and currently is the founder and proprietor of Virtuoso Piano Studio, http://virtuosopianostudio.com.

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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesday
March 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.

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.

Taco Night

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

Club Maintenance - by Dave Larson

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance effort will be on **Saturday, March 8** at 8:30 am. As is typical, we will have a variety of tasks on our list, including miscellaneous jobs for the preschool. Please mark this date on your calendar and share in the ongoing work to keep our facilities in good repair. And please remember that a tasty lunch will be provided.

Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

The subject of hearing loss is increasingly important among our church family. A growing number of members and friends use hearing aids in everyday life, including when they come to worship. Our current hearing enhancement system utilizes earbuds and FM radio transmission to make our services available to persons with hearing loss. But the earbuds are uncomfortable for many, and are not easily compatible with newer generations of hearing aids.

But there is good news! The technology now exists to enable us to broadcast audio for the service directly to most newer hearing aids, by way of bluetooth transmission. This offers a much clearer sound and stronger signal in our sanctuary. We recently tested such a system and were impressed with its capability.

In order to ensure that the system will be helpful to the largest number of people, we need to survey the congregation to see which brands of hearing aids are in use among us. There are six main brands, and the new system requires a separate module for each. Each module has a limit to the number of users it can support, so we want to be sure we have enough to cover everyone.

Over the next three Sundays there will be a form in the narthex, right by the bulletins, which we are asking persons to fill out with the brand name of their unit. Once we have a picture of our potential users we will be moving ahead directly. When it is ready we will offer a number of user training sessions to introduce the system to anyone interested. Thank you to Gary and Sue Thompson, who have helped spearhead this encouraging project!

Sister Circle

In March, Sister Circle will welcome Tony Moretti, artist and author, as our Guest Speaker. We will meet on **Thursday, March 13** at 12:30 pm in the Aldersgate room with Tony sharing his very personal experiences that led to writing his book, *Team Vince*. As always, we invite newcomers to our group and anyone interested in joining us for Tony's presentation is certainly welcome. Just let us know so we can prepare adequate space and refreshments. You can text Jean Kinney at 310-961-0723 or email, jkinney1940@gmail.com with your intentions to attend or for more information about Sister Circle and our future programs.

In Memoriam

Mary Rambach 2/17/25

"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases. God's mercies never come to an end; They are new every morning, great is your faithfulness."

- Lamentations 3

Missions Committee – March Opportunities

Looking to Serve?
The RHUMC Missions Committee offers multiple ways to serve here in our own community. They are a great way to give back and find enjoyable and meaningful service with others in our congregation and broader community.

RHUMC Youth Ministry Support
The Youth Ministry leadership needs help on Wednesday evenings to cook and serve dinner to the youth group. The food can be prepared in your home and transported to Wesley Hall for dinner at 6:30 pm or it can be prepared in the newly renovated church kitchen. We typically serve 10-20 youth per week. Please contact Kristin Sutrave (kristin@rhumc.org) if you can help.

Habitat for Humanity
In the next few months, Habitat for Humanity (https://www.habitatla.org) will commence construction of some single-family homes in Long Beach that will need volunteers. In addition, the Habitat ReStore Bellflower, Los Angeles and Torrance stores need help with furniture assembly. To become registered and to get involved, go to the Habitat for Humanity Greater Los Angeles Website and fill out an application. For more information, contact Jerry Garner jgarner@jerryngarner.com.

Laundry Love
RHUMC sponsors a Laundry Love event on the fourth Wednesday each month. We provide soap, dryer sheets, and quarters for the washers and dryers. The homeless clients bring in their laundry, put it in the washer, and the RHUMC volunteers add the soap and quarters. We also provide peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, fruit, and water, and have meaningful conversations with the clients while the clothes are washing. For more information contact Carla Smith carla4health@gmail.com

New Challenge Ministry Fresh Rescue Food Bank/Palos Verdes Resale Thrift Shop:
(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. For more information, contact Felicia McClain at fleemcclain@gmail.com.

Second Sundays at Two

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

~ presents pianist ~

MARK ROBSON

"One of the great techniques," "an inquiring mind," and a performer capable of evoking an ***"exquisite engulfing pastel haze."*** *~ Los Angeles Times*

Consummate keyboardist **Mark Robson** is equally at home with Early Music on harpsichord and organ as with Romantic and contemporary piano repertoire. Mr. Robson served at Los Angeles Opera from 1991 to 2010 as an assistant conductor and on the faculties of USC, Cal State Fullerton, Chapman University, and Cal Arts as a vocal coach and piano teacher. He frequently assists the Los Angeles Philharmonic as a pianist, organist, harpsichordist, or synth player. Mr. Robson received degrees from the University of Southern California and Oberlin College, while several years of study and residency in Paris embellished his musical training.

If this is your first time attending a *Second Sundays at Two* concert, please email **ClassicalCrossroads@ClassicalCrossroads.org** to request a reservation for yourself and your guests. The concert will be livestreamed for those who cannot attend in person. Watch at concert time at **https://vimeo.com/event/4030680**.

Daylight Saving Time

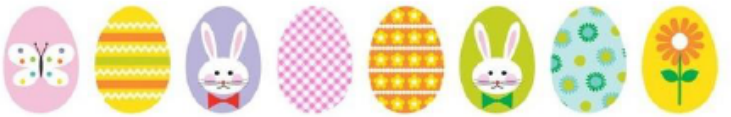
2:00 am - Sunday, March 9

Kid Zone After-School Program

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool - Easter Fundraiser

See's CANDIES

EASTER FUNDRAISER



Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool

JUST GOT SWEETER . . .

. . . We are hopping over to tell you about our:

EASTER FUNDRAISER!

All of our RHUMPS students and classes will benefit from this Easter fundraiser (*classroom essentials, playground toys, and more*), and we hope you'll all be hopping by! Please feel free to take orders from friends, relatives, neighbors and co-workers. We'll begin taking orders on Monday, March 10th and closing the fundraiser on Friday, April 4th. Please get your order/payment in on time as we won't be able to accept any late orders; rabbit's rules!

Every bunny likes to find a chocolate egg in their basket!

Stop by the church office to pick up an order form.

Children's Ministries

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 infants and toddlers up to 3 years of age in room #110 with Ms. Michelle and Ms. Clara at 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.

Youth Ministries

Ignite Mid-Week Youth Ministry

Wednesday nights in Wesley Hall

March 5- Ash Wednesday @ 6:30-8:15pm Youth will have dinner together then we will all go into the Sanctuary to join the congregation for the Ash Wednesday Service.

March 12- "Life Hacks" @ 6:30-8:00pm Dinner will be served.

March 19- Youth Sunday Rehearsal @ 6:30-8:00pm Dinner will be served. Youth will have the opportunity to practice their parts for the worship service.

March 26- Movie Night @ 6:30-8:30pm Dinner and popcorn will be served.

Service Opportunity

St. Luke's Homeless Meal: Saturday, March 8 @ 8:30-11:30am

Youth will help serve a meal to those with housing or food insecurity at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Long Beach. We also need volunteers to bake cupcakes ahead of time. Please sign up by 3/5.

Youth Sunday, March 23

All youth are invited to participate in leading worship on Sunday, March 23. Youth can read scripture, present a mini-sermon, usher, greet or pray! Contact Kristin ASAP if you would like to be involved.

Sierra Service Project 2025

Spots are filling fast; submit a $200 deposit as soon as possible to reserve a space on our service team! Our high school team will go to Del Norte County, CA on July 26 - August 3, 2025. Contact Kristin@rhumc.org for more information.

Kristin Sutrave, Director of Youth Ministries
Cell phone: 562-234-0161 email: 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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Come be a volunteer at our Vacation Bible Camp
August 4th – August 8th, 2025

VBC, takes place in churches around the world each year and it impacts lives.
But…it can't happen without volunteers like you and me.

Contact Debra at debra@rhumc.org
or (310) 377-6771 so she can meet with you to find out
your talents and how they can be used at Vacation Bible Camp
to bring joy to the children we serve!

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!**
August 4th – August 8th, 2025

April 7th – Priority registration opens for RHUMC, Kid Zone and RHUMPS families.

April 14th – Full registration opens for all campers.

debra@rhumc.org

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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 March 28
www.rhumc.org