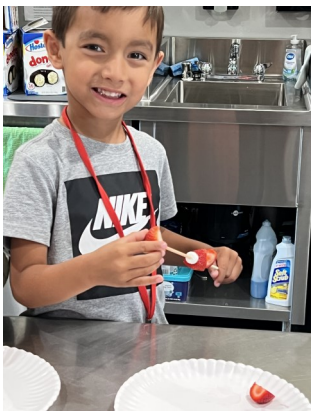
The Cornerstone

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

July 2025

Fun Times at Kid Zone Summer Camp



For more information on Kid Zone Summer Camp or our After-School Program restarting in the fall, contact: Gabby Palacios, Kidzone.midzone@rhumc.org 310-377-7302

Six years ago our congregation completed new facilities to serve children and families in our community. Our preschool and after school programs are among the best in the South Bay. Our facilities are unequaled. The investment we made in them is a gift to present and future generations.

At the end of construction in 2019 we owed $4.4 million. We have already paid off $1.2 million, leaving a current balance of $3.2 million. The larger of our two loans is currently $2.5 million, at an interest rate of 3.75%. That rate will adjust in September and will increase significantly. Our smaller loan is at 3.45% and does not adjust till 2028. We would like to pay down the larger loan before the rate goes up.

This month we will receive a generous gift from Jack and Marilyn Chevalier, church members of many years. Jack passed away in 2008 and Marilyn in 2021. The Chevalier Family Trust is contributing $1 million toward the retirement of our building debt.

Jack and Marilyn are not here to see the smiling faces of children at our preschool each week, or taking part in our summer camp program. But their generosity will touch the lives of children and families for years to come. My hope, and my invitation, is that the rest of us could match what the Chevaliers have done. Raising another $1 million by the end of the summer will retire the bulk of our debt and encourage our mission and ministry to grow in the years to come.

To help reach our goal, two church families – Tom and Betsy Coleman, and Larry and Julie Manth – have promised to match gifts of up to $5,000 per family. If we are able to raise $100,000 in smaller gifts, the Coleman and Manth families will contribute up to $100,000 each. That would get us almost a third of the way to the second million. They want to encourage as many as possible to participate, knowing the impact of those gifts will triple.

Ours is a generous congregation. You have always responded with courage and compassion to the needs of our community and world. I know that this is a significant invitation. It will take gifts of all sizes, large and small, to finish what Jack and Marilyn have begun.

Please read the article on page five for a fuller picture of the difference your gift can make. Thank you! As always, it is our confidence in the grace and goodness of God that sustains our life and work, and leads us into God's future.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends,

Eleanor Roosevelt wrote her first book in 1933. At the time, it was described by one reviewer as, “a book of general counsel and advice on pretty well everything, from dish-washing to high diplomacy.” “General counsel” sounded appealing to me, especially as the guidance offered would have emerged from the context of the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression. So, while visiting the Roosevelt home and museum in Hyde Park, New York, last month, I bought myself a copy of a recently printed edition of the book.

As is well known, the 1930’s presented extremely difficult challenges for our country. Eleanor Roosevelt was sensitive to the struggles of farm families and industrial workers alike. She dispensed practical wisdom that was applicable to all families, with special attention to the role of women in both domestic and public spheres. She communicated her thoughts in a way that comes across as desiring to instill courage and provoke a constructive response.

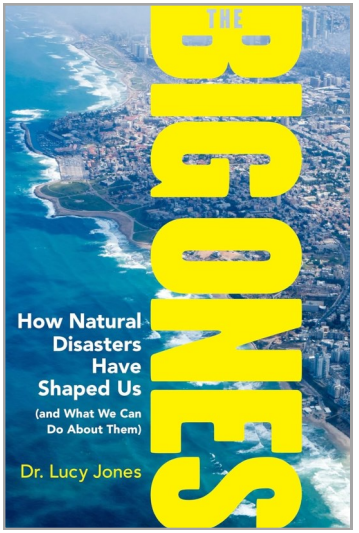
Of everything I read in the book, my favorite guidance was the idea that we could value and cultivate “freedom of mind, so that we may think of things which will lighten the burdens of others, and a freedom of time in which to do some of these things.” Her words offered an interesting echo to Paul’s words in his letter to the Galatians: “For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become able to serve one another.”

I appreciate the connection between freedom and the possibility of behaving in encouraging ways toward one another. My prayer for this 4th of July (and beyond) is that we can all find creative ways to exercise our freedom in Christ to be both thoughtful and helpful toward those who are experiencing tough times.

Together with you in faith, hope, and love,

April

August 25 Book Discussion

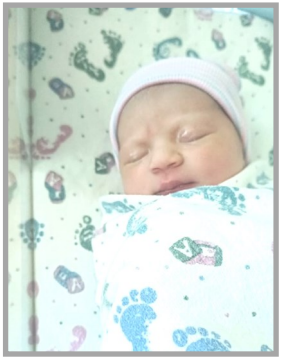


As one of the world's most recognizable seismologists, Dr. Lucy Jones has a unique talent for making even the most complicated of scientific concepts accessible to all audiences. In her 33 years as a seismologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, she developed the methodology used for earthquake advisories in the State of California, created the Great ShakeOut drill, encompassing over 60 million participants globally in 2019, served as Science Advisor for Seismic Safety for the Mayor of Los Angeles and wrote over 100 published papers on statistical seismology and integrated disaster scenarios. She was often deployed after earthquakes to comfort, counsel, and inform a rattled public.

In 2018, Dr. Jones published "The Big Ones," a book about significant natural disasters throughout the course of history and what we can learn from them about strengthening our ability to prepare and respond to future volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tsunamis, and related floods and fires. The book is unique in bringing theological frameworks into the discussion. Dr. Jones is able to trace the ways that our ideas about disasters are significantly influenced by the nature of our spiritual and religious beliefs.

Our discussion, led by April, will take place on **Monday, August 25**, at 2:00 pm in person at the church, and 7:00 pm on Zoom for those who prefer to participate from home. Please email churchoffice@rhumc.org to indicate your plans to participate. The book is widely available in libraries and from booksellers. Participants will obtain their own copies in the format they prefer.

With Gratitude from Kristin & Akshay Sutrave



Kristin and Akshay Sutrave would like to extend a great big "thank you" to the wonderful folks at Rolling Hills UMC for the generous gift for Kayla Shree Sutrave. They appreciate how the congregation has truly showered them with love and well wishes and can't wait for all of you to meet her. Thank you!

All Together Now!

Our Building Loan Reduction Campaign

The gift of Jack and Marilyn Chevalier provides us with an opportunity to pay down a substantial portion of the debt we took on to build our new education facilities. Since 2019 we have made great progress, reducing the amount owed by more than $1 million.

The Chevalier gift will pay off another $1 million. Our current loan is at 3.75%. The new rate, which won't be finalized until mid-September will likely be close to 7%. Our current monthly payment is $13,500. The new higher rate will result in a monthly payment of roughly $10,600 even after paying off $1 million.

But watch what happens if we are able to pay down more of the principal. Raising another $500,000 on top of the Chevalier gift lowers our monthly payment to $7,000. If we are able to raise another $1 million, the payment drops to $3,500 a month.

The Coleman and Manth families have agreed to match gifts from $1.00 to $5,000, up to a total of $100,000 by each family. Your contribution of $100 becomes $300 with the match. $1,000 becomes $3,000. $5,000 becomes $15,000.

Of course larger gifts will be important to help us reach our goal. But every contribution counts! Your support will make a real difference for the present and future mission of our church.

Below is a picture of what our payments will look like as we pay off loan principal:

Current Balance	Current Monthly Payment (@3.75%)
$2,500,000	$13,507

Chevalier Gift New Balance	New Monthly Payment (@7%)
$1,500,000	$10,602

Chevalier Gift, plus $500,000 New Balance	New Monthly Payment (@7%)
$1,000,000	$7,068

Chevalier Gift, plus $1,000,000 New Balance	New Monthly Payment (@7%)
$500,000	$3,534

You may use this link All Together Now! Pledge to let us know what you intend to do, and when. You may also give directly through VANCO by using this link All Together Now! Giving or the QR code on this page." It will be most helpful to receive contributions by mid-September to make the most impact.

RHUMC

Missions Committee

UMC Missionary Rev. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto to visit on Sunday, July 13

If you've ever wanted to connect with one of the missionaries whose work we support with our Missions Fiesta Sunday drive, you'll get the chance on Sunday, July 13. Rev. Claudia will be with us in worship to speak about her current ministry in Yokohama, Japan. She will also be available between and after services to engage in conversation with those who might like to increase their depth of understanding about the mission of the church in the context of Japan's culture and history.

The Rev. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto is a Global Missionary with the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, serving as senior pastor with the Yokohama Union Church since 2024. She has been a missionary for 30 years, beginning as a Global Ministries missionary associate in 1980-82 working in the Bott Memorial Children's Home in Machida, Tokyo, Japan. In 1992, she returned to Japan with her husband Toshi to work at the National Christian Council of Japan in Tokyo (NCCJ). At NCCJ, they primarily worked with peace, justice, human rights, and other Christian related social issues. They were called to Kobe, Japan in 2011, and in 2019, she was called to serve as Pastor of Kobe Union Church, where she is primarily involved with community outreach and church development.

We invite all members of the congregation to drop by the Aldersgate room on July 13 after the morning services and greet Rev. Claudia and share refreshments.

RHUMC Art Festival

Save the Date

All RHUMC Artists, Crafters, Hobbyists and Art Lovers, save the date of the *last Sunday in September* for the **"1st Annual RHUMC Art Festival."** Be thinking about sharing your art with our Church Family. More information to follow.

Piano Recital

AN EVENING WITH CAMERON AKIOKA

FRIDAY
AUGUST 15, 2025
7 PM - 8:30 PM

Praised by LA Opus as a pianist with "impressive aplomb and virtuosity," California native Cameron Akioka performs and competes frequently as both a solo and collaborative artist around the country. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate of Musical Arts degree at Northwestern University under the tutelage of James Giles. Cameron graduated with her Master's degree from USC as a student of Jeffrey Kahane, and received her Bachelor's degree in Piano and English from Rice University, studying with Jon Kimura.

Cameron has been featured as a soloist with the Downey Symphony and Peninsula Symphony Orchestra. In February, she was named a winner of the Musicians Club of Women Competition, and received the Silver Medal at the Seattle International Piano Competition. Other notable achievements include participating in the Piano Texas International Festival and performing on NPR's "From the Top" series.

Cameron's passion for chamber music has led her to participate in festivals such as Taos, Kneisel Hall, Music@Menlo and Yellow Barn. This summer she will attend the Music Academy of the West as a Solo Piano fellow.

In her free time, Cameron enjoys playing soccer and baking Japanese desserts. We are so proud to claim Cameron as one of our RHUMC members, as she grew up in our church!

ROLLING HILLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

26438 Crenshaw Blvd.
Rolling Hills Estates, CA 90274
rhumc.org 310-377-6771

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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesday
July 9 & 23
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.

Club Maintenance - by Dave Larson

The next opportunity to participate in the Club Maintenance event will be on **Saturday, July 12,** at 8:30 am. Thanks to all who helped out on Saturday, June 14 with a variety of tasks. Please mark the next 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. Questions? Contact Dave Larson to confirm participation at daveelarson@gmail.com.

Taco Night

Our next gathering for Taco Night will be after 3rd service on **Sunday, July 27**, and we hope you can join us**.** You'll have a choice of chicken, beef, pork or potato 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.

Blood Pressure Sunday

Blood pressure screenings will next be offered on **Sunday, July 27**, after each service. The morning screenings will be held in the church office conference room and after 3rd service in the Aldersgate room.

Staff Opening for Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has decided to restructure some of the positions held by our office staff. Catherine Dingman has served as both the Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor and as the Church's Finance Manager for several years. The Staff Parish Relations Committee has decided to expand the Finance Manager position to include additional responsibilities. As a result, we are now looking for someone to fill the role of a part-time Executive Assistant to the Senior Pastor.

This position involves serving as a liaison to members of the church congregation on behalf of the Senior Pastor and providing confidential administrative and clerical support. In addition, the Executive Assistant spearheads external communication efforts on behalf of the church, among other tasks.

We are looking for someone with excellent interpersonal skills who has the ability to deal with people with sensitivity and compassion, while also maintaining pastoral confidentiality and boundaries. Applicants should be at ease with website management and digital and social media as well as proficient with both Apple and Microsoft Office applications. We expect the job to require 20-25 hours per week. The hours are somewhat flexible, but this job is primarily an in-person position and will typically require being in the office Monday through Friday. A college degree and previous work with nonprofits is preferred. Compensation will be commensurate with experience. If you are interested in applying, please send your resume to rhumcapplications@gmail.com. You can also obtain a more detailed job description by contacting the church at the same email address.

Sister Circle

On **Thursday, July 10**, at 12:30 pm in the Aldersgate room, Sister Circle will have a special program by Claire McCurry. Claire will share her interest and experience as an Art Appraiser. We will learn more about how she chose this very interesting occupation and some of her challenging assignments. Visitors are always welcome.

SAVE THE DATE by Barbara Addleman

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 on **Saturday, September 27**, at 11:30 am in the Mission Room. If you would like to help with the plans, please contact me at baddleman@cox.net so we can include you as we go forward. More details to follow, but please put this fun event on your calendar now!

Youth Ministries

July Youth Events

Wed. 7/9 @ 7:30 - 9:00pm **Bonfire & S'mores**- Gather at Mrs. Johnson's home 24 Santa Catalina Dr. RPV, CA 90275.

Sat. 7/12 @ 8:30 – 11:30am **St. Luke's Homeless Meal**- Youth will help serve a meal to those with housing or food insecurity at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Long Beach. Please contact Jacob@rhumc.org if you would like to volunteer.

Wed. 7/23 @ 11:00 - 12:00pm **Hygiene Kit Assembling**- Joins us in the church choir room to help package the supplies collected by the congregation.

President's Volunteer Service Award

Attention: We have learned that the PVSA program has been paused by AmeriCorps/Points of Light. We will still collect applications in anticipation of the program resuming.

Applications for **PVSA are due by July 15, 2025.** Community service hours earned between July 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025 will count towards this year's award.

Applications and additional information can be found on the church website. Please contact Kathy Platnick with any questions at kasandersplatnick@gmail.com.

Sierra Service Project 2025

Our high school youth will be attending Sierra Service Project July 26 through August 3. We will be serving in Crescent City, CA. 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, Youth Ministries Pastor- Kristin@rhumc.org
Jacob Grijalva, Youth Assistant- 661-557-4777 Jacob@rhumc.org
Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/RHyouth **Instagram**: rhumcyouth_

Children's Ministry

VBC Snack Food Donation Requests

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

Camp starts Monday, August 4th and ends Friday, August 8th with over 46 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

VACATION BIBLE CAMP NEEDS YOU!

Help Us Get Ready for our Vacation Bible Camp

Sunday, August 3rd
decorating the Sanctuary immediately after the 5:30 p.m. service for our weeklong VBC.

Friday, August 8th
taking down decorations in the Sanctuary, Narthex and Wesley Hall immediately after camp ends at 12:15pm.

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 July 25
www.rhumc.org