The Cornerstone

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

October 2025

Celebration Sunday – October 26

Celebration Sunday for our annual giving campaign is October 26. Two events will take place that day which we hope all of you will attend. The first is worship, which will help us to focus on the values of compassion and community that we share as God's family.

The second will be the special Celebration meal which will follow in Wesley Hall after each of our Sunday services (brunch in the morning and dinner after 3rd Service).

As we give thanks for the blessing of life which God gives us, please plan to gather and celebrate with other members of our church family. Thank you!

All Saints' Day – November 2

Each year, on the first Sunday of November, we celebrate All Saints' Day with a special prayer of thanksgiving for members and friends of our church family who have died in the past year. If you would like to include someone in the service who has died since November 1, 2024, please call the church office with their name and the date of their death. All of us have been blessed by people who have gone before us, and we remember their contributions to our lives.

from the pastor *Jonathan Chute*

It hasn't exactly been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon – not for many months, it seems. We've celebrated our 65th anniversary with a flourish, hosted a wonderful lecture series on "How We Got our Bibles," welcomed back the choir to a beautifully refinished chancel area, renovated our Mission Room for an amazing "Festival of the Arts," put on one of the best ever Vacation Bible Camps, another successful season of Kid Zone Summer Camp – the list goes on.

But that's not all. By the end of this month a new gym floor will be getting installed in Wesley Hall. The carpet, which was installed in the spring of 2002, was supposed to be good for 15 years. We got a lot more out of it than that! But it's time, and the new floor will serve us for many years to come. Most of the work in the Mission Room and Wesley Hall was made possible by the generosity of Jack and Marilyn Chevalier. In addition to the $1 million directed to paying down our construction loan, another $400,000 has gone toward these improvements (along with several other gifts).

At the end of this month is our annual Celebration Sunday, when we invite our congregation to indicate what we look forward to giving to support our mission in the coming year. I have to say how encouraged I have been this past summer that even as so many responded to the invitation to raise another $1 million for "All Together Now," your giving toward the ongoing work of our church continued strong. It will be wonderful for us to have renewed space and facilities, but even more important are the resources – people and otherwise – who help lead us in worship and carry out the programs that mean so much to us over the year.

Further along this issue of the Cornerstone you will find an overview of how we "invest" your gifts in mission and ministry. Our Mission Budget is an expression of our values and our priorities as a community of faith. As we move into this season of grace and gratitude I give thanks for all you do to sustain and strengthen our work together. Thank you!

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

Mission Fiesta Sunday is coming on November 9, giving each of us the opportunity to show our generosity to the missionaries and local organizations we help and support as members of RHUMC.

Why do we place so much emphasis on missions every year?

According to the United Methodist Church, "The ministry of all Christians consists of service for the mission of God in the world. We seek to live lovingly and justly as servants of Jesus Christ by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, caring for the stranger, freeing the oppressed, being a compassionate presence, and working to develop social structures that are consistent with the gospel."

On Mission Fiesta Sunday, we take the opportunity to make a difference, both locally and globally.

- We contribute to global missions and missionaries including Heifer International, Red Bird Mission in Appalachia, and United Methodist missionaries Hannah Reasoner in Colombia, Rev. Claudia Genung-Yamamoto in Japan, and Katherine Parker in Nepal.

- Locally we support, both financially and with volunteers, Habitat for Humanity, Hungry to Help, Laundry Love and the New Challenge Ministries Food Bank. These caring organizations feed, house and care for thousands of needy, hungry and unhoused members of our local community.

You will receive a letter this month with more details. If you have any questions, contact Chris Campbell at Campbellchris123@msn.com.

FESTIVAL of the ARTS - by Jean Kinney

On Sunday, September 28, 2025, over thirty members of RHUMC joined together in our new Mission Room to share their hobbies and art. There were displays ranging from pottery and mosaics to pastel portraits. We had a bonsai expert with a tree that was over a hundred years old, a jewelry designer, a LEGO artist, an automobile photographer, and amazing photographs from around the world and most everything in between. There were beautiful paintings in oil, acrylics, tempera and watercolor with a broad range of subject matter all incredibly done.

The fine examples of needle art ranged from fashion design and construction, quilting, counted cross-stitch to needlepoint. The knitting and crocheting arts that were displayed were truly extraordinary. The rock and tee shirt paintings, not to mention the book nooks, flower arrangements and table design all captured the interest and appreciation of so many. What a wonderfully diverse and talented group of artists we have amongst us.

The Crafty Five team wants to acknowledge and thank them all for their time and generosity in sharing their amazing art with the rest of their RHUMC family. Our thanks and appreciation also go to all of those who came by to experience and support The Festival of the Arts!

RHUMC Thanksgiving Dinner

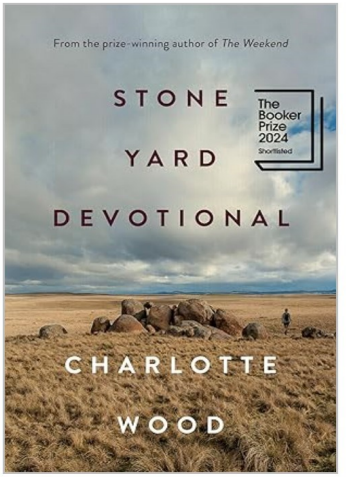
Saturday, November 22, at 6:30pm

A friendly reminder to save this date to celebrate with family and friends the beginning of Thanksgiving Week! We will be serving our usual turkey dinner and enjoying music from our Bell Choir led by Jan Johnson. Donations of $45.00 per adult and $25.00 for children twelve and under will get you a seat at the dinner. Reservations will be limited to 160, so see us on the patio between services or after second service starting Sunday, November 2, or call Peggy in the church office to get on the list. Net proceeds will go to help our kids attend the Sierra Service Project.

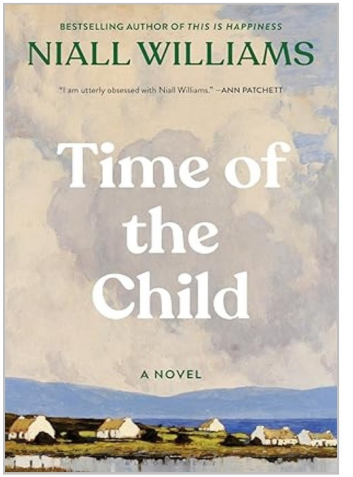
If you would enjoy helping with decorating Wesley Hall or cooking for the dinner, please see Suellen Fung or Doug Kemps, or contact Peggy to let us know. See you there!

2025 FALL BOOK DISCUSSIONS

WHERE IS GOD?



MONDAY, OCTOBER 6
STONE YARD DEVOTIONAL
by CHARLOTTE WOOD



MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17
TIME OF THE CHILD
by NIALL WILLIAMS

2 pm - In Person

7 pm - Via Zoom

Please email april@rhumc.org
regarding your plans to participate.

ROLLING HILLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Staff Parish Relations Committee News

Update on Personnel Changes in the Office

There are some recent changes to our incredible office staff that the Staff Parish Relations Committee wants you to be aware of. As previously reported, the SPRC has recently determined that it would be helpful to have Catherine Dingman serve in the role of Business Manager. Her new role moves her to working full-time on behalf of financial matters for the church along with giving her more time to monitor the church's employee records and help the SPRC with human resources matters. As a result, she will give up the portion of her previous job that included acting as Jonathan's executive assistant. The SPRC is grateful for her flexibility and looking forward to her future help.

The SPRC is pleased to report that Renée Carly has joined the church to serve in the role of a part-time Executive Assistant to Jonathan. Renée is a professional executive assistant who spent most of the last 20 years working for the legendary producer Walter Mirisch. She brings a wealth of executive assistant background to the job.

Please join us in welcoming Renée and thanking and supporting Catherine in her essential work on behalf of the church.

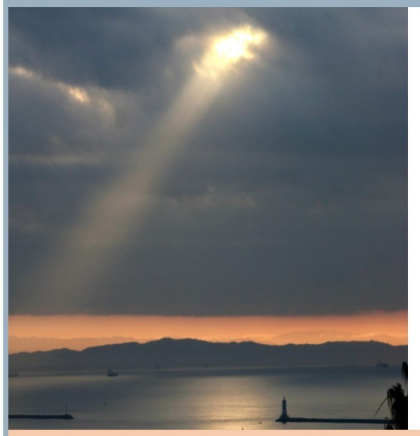
Benefits Changes for our Employees

Our church has a very active campus with its regular church activities, preschool and Kid Zone after-school program. Did you know that the church employs between 70 and 100 employees a year? We have around 50 full-time equivalent employees.

Were you also aware that our employees have no disability or unemployment insurance benefits? It turns out church employees are exempt from participating in the State's disability insurance program. The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to report that our employees have voted overwhelmingly to impose a small withholding charge from their paychecks to provide disability and unemployment insurance benefits to all church employees. It will take some time to get this implemented, but the SPRC is gratified for the decision of our employees to support one another in this important initiative.

On a slightly different note, the SPRC is also happy to report that we have taken steps to offer our employees a broader range of health insurance benefits under the Affordable Care Act. The SPRC is delighted to be able to support our employees in meaningful ways while being responsible stewards of the church's resources.

NAVIGATING THROUGH LOSS



THURSDAYS

10:30 am to 12 noon

BEGINNING OCTOBER 23

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 Taking Time at 424-634-1956 or Claire Towle, Clinical Director of Taking Time, at 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.

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Mission Budget 2025

Compassion, Community & Hope

Our Worship Life

At RHUMC we invest about 31% of our budget, or $562,288 in celebration and thanksgiving as we gather for worship. This includes support for our pastors, musicians, our sound and video team who help carry out three Sunday services as well as Christmas, Easter, memorial services and other special occasions. Worship brings us closer to God and helps us discover grace and hope for our lives. As we gather around the stories of our faith, join our hearts in prayer, and lift our voices in song, we grow in faith, hope and love. Your gifts enable us to bring stirring and hopeful worship to about 300 people in person each Sunday, and another almost 200 who join with us on line.

Caring for Our Community

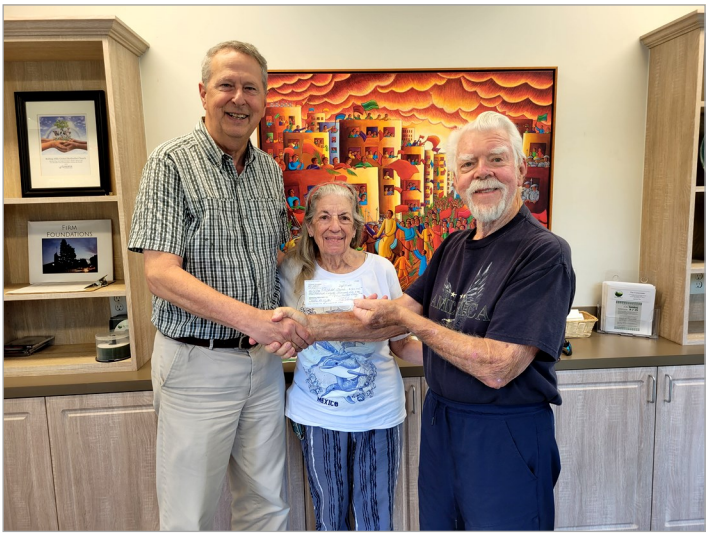
We also invest in efforts to offer support and care in the changing seasons of our lives. We welcome new life and new friends among us, as well as caring for those who have been faithful for many years. Whether in home or hospital, in times of illness or loss, our pastors and Congregational Care Ministers visit regularly with our church family and beyond, sharing Christ's gifts of healing and hope. That amounts to about 21% of our budget this year, or a little over $380,905. Your generosity makes that possible.

Local and World Outreach

We are partners in mission to carry out Christ's work with people near and far – in times of crisis, natural or human disasters. This year we have supported mission efforts with neighbors in the South Bay, with victims of the fires in Pacific Palisades and Altadena, with the ongoing work of missionaries in Japan, in Nepal, in Appalachia and Central America. We also do our part to help our United Methodist Church in educating, training and supporting clergy, and supporting local, national and international leaders. In 2025 that comes to about $290,213 or 16% of our annual budget.

Children and Families

Children and families are the largest single investment we make each year. About 32% of our budget makes this generous mission possible, providing the people and resources we need to carry out a successful Vacation Bible Camp, our wonderful Youth Ministry, our Kid Zone after school program, as well as Nursery and Sunday School for our weekly services, and the space and facilities in which to carry out those programs. In 2025 we will invest a little more than $580,426 in this important work.



Thank you Tom & Betsy Coleman for your generous donation. With your help we achieved our All Together Now Fundraiser goal.

Women's Luncheon - by Barbara Addleman

The annual Women's Luncheon took place on September 27 in the new and beautiful Mission Room. It was an enormous success with forty women attending who all brought delicious food to share. Our keynote speaker was Stevie Sterling Lorentzen who shared an inspirational part of her life when she spent time with her mother and sisters. We were all appreciative of her sharing with us this precious time in her life.

I also want to thank Marian Komori, Shirley Fehrman, and Chellie Powell for all the help they provided to make the day a success.

In Memoriam

Art Schneider	8/25/25
Kenneth Moore	9/14/25

"For I am convinced that neither death, not life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Romans 8

Sharing special moments together at our I Love My Church Sunday and RHUMC's 65th Anniversary Celebrations

Taco Night

Join us for Taco Night after 3rd service on **Sunday, October 26.** You'll have a choice of chicken, beef, pork or potato tacos served with rice, beans, a green salad and chips. We are offering this special meal at no cost in recognition of Celebration Sunday. 3rd service takes place every Sunday at 5:30 p.m.

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, October 12, at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

*Pianist **Robert Thies** is joined by*
*Long Beach Symphony Concertmaster **Roger Wilkie***
in a Performance of Beethoven's Kreutzer Sonata

Violinist
ROGER WILKIE

Pianists
ROBERT THIES

Growing up in Palos Verdes, **Robert Thies** first gained international recognition when he won the Gold Medal at the Second International Prokofiev Competition in St. Petersburg, Russia. The *Los Angeles Times* praised him as a pianist of "unerring, warm-toned refinement, revealing judicious glimmers of power."

A Southern California native, violinist **Roger Wilkie**'s professional career began with a six-year tenure in the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra. Currently, Mr. Wilkie serves as concertmaster of the Long Beach Symphony, a position he has held since 1990.

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 unable to attend in person. Watch at concert time at **https://vimeo.com/event/4030680**.

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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesday
October 8 & 22
10:00-11:00 a.m.
in the Mission 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, October 11,** at 8:30 am. Thanks to all who helped out on Saturday, August 23, to move furniture back onto the Chancel following the floor refinishing project. 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. Questions? Contact Dave Larson at daveelarson@gmail.com.

Blood Pressure Sunday

Blood pressure screenings will next be offered on **Sunday, October 26,** after each service. The morning screenings will be held in the church office conference room and after 3rd service in the Aldersgate room.

You're *Invited*

Parade of Trees Gala

Come Dressed In Your Festive Best!

Join us in supporting one of Los Angeles County's oldest nonprofit organizations serving the Harbor area!

Emcee	Date and Time	Location
San Pedro's own *John Bagakis*	Friday, November 14th 6:00pm to 10:00pm	Dalmatian American Club 1639 S. Palos Verdes St. San Pedro, CA 90731

Join us as we honor

Mike A. Gipson

Assemblymember

District 65

Join us as we proudly honor Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson for his outstanding leadership, advocacy, and unwavering support of Toberman's mission and the Harbor community.

Festive night of auctions, dancing, and impact!

Get your **tickets today**, and if you haven't secured your **sponsorship**, it's not too late! **Don't miss your Golden Ticket!**

Ticket Price: $150.00 by 10/8/2025
Regular Ticket Sale: $175.00

Every dollar raised fortifies Toberman's role as a trusted community anchor, delivering life-changing services for families, empowering youth, expanding access to critical youth mental health support, and advancing violence prevention and intervention that reaches far beyond traditional services.

Scan the QR code for tickets, sponsorships, and festive outfit inspiration.

Tickets/Sponsor/Golden Ticket ⟷ **Pinterest Ideas**

For more information, please call John Bagakis at 310.701.1894 or email development@toberman.org

Rolling Hills United Methodist Preschool Fundraiser

Wednesday, October 8 - Available from 4:00 pm-9:00 pm

The Habit Burger Grill
4-B Peninsula Center
Rolling Hills Estates, CA
310-377-2044

20% of the proceeds will be donated to RHUMPS.

Indicate RHUMPS when ordering so credit will be given.

the Habit BURGER GRILL

Online Orders:
habitburger.com
Promo Code: GIVEBACK

Youth Ministries

Ignite Youth Ministry

***Ignite* meets on Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00pm**

10/1 Bible Jeopardy
10/8 Cookies for a Cause
10/15 Game Night
10/22 Hot Topic
10/29 Ignite Halloween Party
Bring a pumpkin to carve and don't forget your costume!

Youth Opportunities to Serve

St. Luke's Homeless Meal

Saturday, 10/11 at 8:30am-12:30pm
Youth will help serve a meal to those with housing or food insecurity at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Long Beach. Youth are invited to go out after for lunch and fellowship.

RHUMC's Trunk or Treat

Friday, 10/17 from 3:00-5:30pm.
Help decorate the youth trunk display and hand out candy to kids.

Please contact Kristin@rhumc.org if you would like to help.

Youth Sunday School

We offer a youth Sunday school class on Sundays during our worship services.

Rev. Kristin Sutrave, Youth Ministries Pastor
Cell phone: 562-234-0161 Email: Kristin@rhumc.org
Natalie T. Contact: rhumcyouth@rhumc.org
Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/RHyouth **Instagram**: rhumcyouth_

Children's Ministry

Candy or Treat Donations Needed!

The Children's Ministries Department is looking for donations of individually wrapped candy (no nuts/peanuts), prepackaged cookies or chips, toys, or little prizes for our "Trunk or Treat" event on **Friday, October 17**, 4:00-5:00 pm in the upper parking lot.

A donation box is in the church office and by the preschool gate for collections and we thank you in advance for your kind donations.

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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	Renée Carly
Treasurer	Wade Welch	Business Manager	Catherine Dingman
		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 October 24
www.rhumc.org