The Cornerstone

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

May 2026

Mother's Day Celebration
Sunday, May 10th

Join us as we celebrate
all the influential women in our life.

Muffins, juice, and coffee on the patio
after the 8:30am and 10:00am service.

Muffins in Aldersgate after the 5:30pm service

from the pastors *Jonathan Chute*

It hasn't exactly been a quiet week here in Lake Wobegon. By the time you are reading this I will be back from a whirlwind trip to Canada. Thyra and I came up to open our cottage as soon as the ice was off the lake. We're having a screen porch added on, and we had to get the water and electricity up so the crew could work.

We've never been up quite so early, but we've been opening up for about 20 years now. So we think we know what to expect. How wrong we were!

High water had floated the dock at the landing - where we put in our little outboard. It was leaning over and completely useless. We loaded and launched from the beach. And when we got to the island we found the same sad situation. Our back dock, usually attached to land, was floating free, barely hanging on to the shore. We were able to get out and test it, stepping into about 6" of very cold water. The front dock was fine, but the ice had knocked over the rock crib that provided a base for the walkway out. We had our work cut out for us.

After a day, we had secured both docks - more or less. They'll hold till we're back up in July at any rate. There is only so much time you can stand reaching into 45° water with your bare hands to lift heavy objects! We had help from a dear friend on the second day, so our bodies don't hurt too much.

After seeing the crew get started on the porch we came to Toronto to spend time with Thyra's mother. Thank you for the prayers, and the expressions of care, from everyone. She is surrounded by lots of loving attention from her family.

From here, Thyra and Hannah are taking a trip to England, Scotland and Paris, to celebrate Hannah's graduation from med school. I will be returning home for the first of the retirement celebration events, "Concert and Confections" with the 3rd service ensemble. I can't wait to hear them for a solid hour of stirring, eclectic, amazing music.

Our lives are full of many good things. We face our share of challenges as well. Thank you for the gift and privilege of walking together through all that the days bring. There's much more to come.

Grace and peace,

Jonathan

April Herron

Dear Friends:

From my point of view, two amazing things happened on the same day this past month. Thing One was that I had an opportunity to meet The Rev. Bonnie Hawk for the first time. We took a walk in the botanic garden, which allowed me to quickly learn that she is a thoughtful observer and a good listener who is very sensitive to the work of the Spirit. Thing Two, just a few hours later, was that *Integrity* splashed down as planned, carrying four astronauts in good condition. Not only were both events eagerly awaited, I noticed that we and the Artemis II mission have had a couple of goals in common.

This became evident to me as I listened to the commentary on NASA's live stream. As the capsule fell into earth's atmosphere and ever closer to the Pacific Ocean, the voice on the audio said, "Our trajectory is perfect." A few minutes later, after the parachutes, and the splash down, and the time it took for the crew to get reoriented, another voice announced, "perfect communications established."

Here at Rolling Hills UMC, much effort has likewise gone into planning the trajectory for the arrival of a new pastoral team. Thanks to the good work of the Staff Parish Relations Committee, Bonnie is right on schedule. She is well set up for a perfect landing. And, already, communication is being well established, as we have enjoyed an opportunity to be face to face with one another and help make sure that the next phase of RHUMC's ministry gets off to an excellent beginning.

The gift of outgoing and incoming pastors being able to share in worship leadership is not something I experienced in my previous two changes of pastoral appointment. It felt good, and I am grateful to be able to anticipate that the transition will be a smooth one. Our job this month and next, as the RHUMC community of faith, is to celebrate the relationships we have built and the good work we have done together. As with the space crew, we are likely to experience a variety of emotions. That is as it should be. The future is in God's care.

Together with you in faith,

April

The

"WE LOVE JONATHAN & APRIL"

FAREWELL GIFT PROJECT

After many years of faithful service, Jonathan and April are retiring, and our congregation has been blessed beyond measure. As our celebration events draw near, those who wish to thank them with a gift are invited to participate in the Farewell Gift Project.

In lieu of individual gifts, your contributions will be pooled and presented as a unified gift from our entire church family – one gift for Jonathan, and one for April.

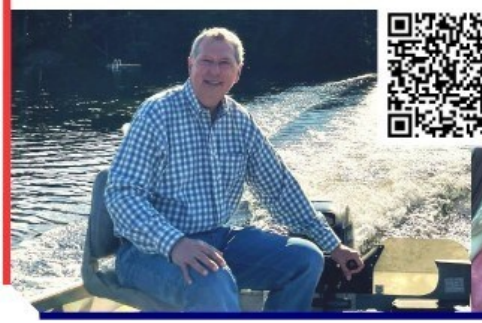
No need for *hush-hush*. Jonathan and April have been advised of our desire to do this, and have submitted. The Gift Team is talking with them individually to arrive at just the right gifts!

Ways to contribute:
- Use the QR code below.
- Online at www.rhumc.org
- By check payable to *RHUMC* with 'Farewell Gift' in the memo.
- By using the envelopes available at the farewell events.

Gifts will be accepted through June 20. Questions may be emailed to the Farewell Gift Team:

Tony & Margaret Moretti - tonyshindig@gmail.com
or Dave & Zoie Carney - dave@carneyfam.net

Thank you for honoring these two remarkable servants of God!



NAVIGATING THROUGH AGING

Thursdays

June 4 - July 23

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Aldersgate Room

8-WEEK SUPPORT GROUP

Taking Time: South Bay and RHUMC are partnering to offer an 8-week support group to address the adjustments and transitions that accompany the journey of aging. The key group goals are to foster social connections, review life, develop coping strategies, enhance independence and promote a sense of well-being, purpose and meaning.

This group will be supervised by a Licensed Mental Health Professional and facilitated by trained and experienced volunteers. The facilitators guide the members in discussions and provide coordination, support, hope, education, information and referrals.

RHUMC is partially sponsoring this support group. Requested Donation: $50 per person per 8-week series. Donations may be made by cash, check payable to Taking Time: South Bay or online at www.takingtime.org. Registration is required, please contact:
Claire Towle, LCSW – 310-686-6714 – ctowle@takingtime.org
Taking Time: South Bay – 424-634-1956 – info@takingtime.org
April Herron – 310-377-6771 – april@rhumc.org

ROLLING HILLS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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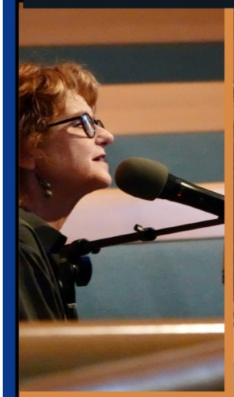
3RD SERVICE
20TH ANNIVERSARY

ENSEMBLE CONCERT



CELEBRATING
JONATHAN CHUTE & APRIL HERRON

SATURDAY, MAY 2
7:00 PM

Dessert Reception in Wesley Hall following the concert.

26438 Crenshaw Blvd.
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310-377-6771
rhumc.org

Celebrations of Love for Jonathan and April

The Pastor Transition Event Team is offering five gatherings
to celebrate Jonathan and April's many years at RHUMC.

1. **Concert & Confections - Saturday, May 2, 7:00 pm**
@RHUMC Sanctuary and Wesley Hall
The 3rd Service Ensemble will perform a concert celebrating their 20 years at RHUMC! Dessert reception in Wesley Hall following the concert.

2. **Trivia & Tacos - Sunday, May 31, 6:30 pm**
@ RHUMC Wesley Hall
Kristin Sutrave and the Youth will provide a Trivia night game all about Jonathan and April! The regular Taco Night dinner includes all the fixings.

3. **BBQ & Bye-Bye Bash - Saturday, June 13, 12:30-2:30 pm**
@RHUMC Patio
The entire church family and children are welcome to an old fashioned BBQ! Activities, games and entertainment! FUN! FAMILIES! FRIENDS!

4. **Goodbye Get-Together - Friday, June 26, 6:00 pm**
@ Greg & Jackie Geiger's house
This outdoor adult gathering will include appetizers, wine, beer and sodas.

5. **Final Farewell Fiestas - Sunday, June 28, 9:30 am, 11:00 am, 6:30 pm**
@ RHUMC Patio and Wesley Hall
9:30 am -10:00 am Fiesta #1 - Coffee cake between morning services
11:00 am-11:30 am Fiesta #2 - More coffee cake and goodbyes
6:30 pm-7:30 pm Fiesta #3 - The regular Taco Night dinner will also include a salad and dessert.

To RSVP for any of the celebration events, click on the link below:
https://rhumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events

Patty Koester: pattyk414@att.net; Michele Nelson: michele@rhumc.org;
Jan Johnson: janaleejoh@aol.com - 310-989-1559

Martha Circle - by Barbara Addleman

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Since we are meeting the day after Mother's Day, we thought it would be fun to share stories about our mothers. Please tell us a bit about your mom (no more than 5 minutes so all can have a turn) and if possible, bring a picture. Perhaps you even have one with you and your mother. It will be a wonderful way to get to know each other better. All church women are invited – you don't have to be a member of our circle. We love getting to know everyone in our church family better.

See you on **Monday, May 11**, at 12:00 pm in the Aldersgate room. Bring a brown bag lunch along with your story to share. SEE YOU THEN!

Request for Photos of Jonathan and April

The 5 LOVE Events Committee is looking for photos of Jonathan and April to display at the upcoming events. Do you have any photos of baptisms, weddings, church events, or other activities that have Jonathan and April in them? Please send them to Peggy at churchoffice@rhumc.org.

Sister Circle News - by Jane Harris and Jean Kinney

Last month, we had an exceptional program that we shared with anyone in the congregation who wished to join us. The program was entitled, "Wisdom of the Journey Ahead." Daniel Shrader did a masterful job of interviewing Jonathan Chute with very in-depth questions and our Senior Pastor's answers did not disappoint us. From the construction of the new educational structure, the major improvements of Wesley Hall, to the growth of programs, missions and membership have all happened under Jonathan's leadership and faith in his congregation to accomplish what needed to be done. We thank Daniel and Jonathan for such a memorable afternoon.

On **Thursday, May 14**, at 12:30 pm in the Mission Room we will have the opportunity to learn more about our own, multi-talented Charles Dickerson III. As our Director of Music for over 20 years, Chuck continues to surprise and delight us with his accomplishments and guidance. Again, anyone who would like to join us for what is sure to be another very enlightening program is very welcomed.

If you have questions, please contact Jean Kinney at jkinney1940@gmail.com.

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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesdays
May 13 & 27
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. 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.

Club Maintenance - by Dave Larson

The next opportunity to participate in a regular Club Maintenance event will be on **Saturday, May 9**, at 8:30 am. Thanks to all who helped out in April with a variety of tasks – good things were accomplished while we helped getting ready for Easter. 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 in May.

Taco Night

Join us for a **Trivia Game and Taco Night** after the 3rd service on **Sunday, May 31.** The trivia game will include questions about Jonathan Chute, April Herron, John Wesley and the Methodist Church led by Kristin Sutrave and the RHUMC Youth Group. A taco dinner with all its fixings will be provided. There will be lots of laughing and good times at this event! Memory books will be available for everyone to sign. 3rd service takes place every Sunday at 5:30 pm.

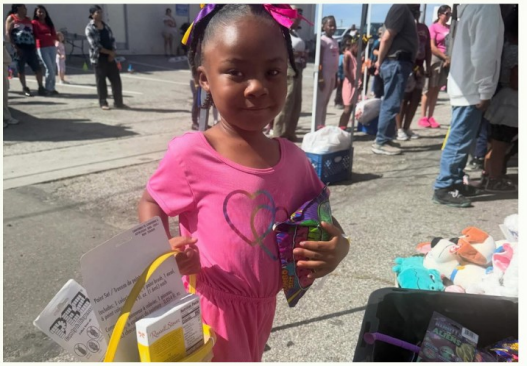
Please let us know if you plan to attend at https://rhumc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events

Blood Pressure Sunday

Blood pressure screenings will next be offered on **Sunday, May 31,** after each service. The morning screenings will be held in the church office conference room and after 3rd service in the Mission room.

RHUMC MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Thank You For Helping Us Give 75 Needy Children a Happy Easter



All are Invited to Donate Hygiene Items for the Unhoused in Support of Hungry to Help

Throughout May the Missions Committee and Youth Ministry will be collecting donations of hygiene items from the congregation for our partner Hungry to Help, which serves unhoused and low-income people in San Pedro, providing health care screening and aid on a regular basis.

Items needed include socks, men's underwear (L and XL), women's underwear (M, L, and XL), washcloths, wet wipes, feminine pads/tampons, nail clippers, towels, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, body wash, shampoo and conditioner, razors and any other hygiene items.

Items will be collected in the Narthex every Sunday in May. Financial donations are also welcome. You can write a check to RHUMC, with Hungry to Help in the memo line.

Hungry to Help's volunteers are mostly young doctors and medical students. It was founded by Ana Ahmad, a former RHUMC Youth Ministry member. We have a tradition of generosity with this annual drive, and we look forward to your participation. If you have any questions, contact Debra Shrader at teach2play@gmail.com.

In Memoriam

Harvey Kemp March 28, 2026

"Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

- Isaiah 40

Second Sundays at Two

Sunday, May 10, at 2:00 p.m.

~ presents ~

The USC Thornton Chamber Virtuosi

Lina Bahn & Seth Parker Woods

Louis Milne Solomon Leonard Abigail Park

The USC Thornton Chamber Virtuosi is the premier touring chamber music ensemble of the School of Music, featuring USC students performing alongside renowned faculty members **Seth Parker Woods**, cello, and **Lina Bahn**, violin. This year's edition features student clarinetist **Louis Milne**, violist **Solomon Leonard**, and cellist **Abigail Park**.

Free admission. 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 the concert at: **https://vimeo.com/event/4030680**.

The preschool is already starting to wind up the year! We're just about to rehearse for our graduation ceremonies which will take place on June 1st and 2nd. The classes are keeping busy and working on beautiful items for our Mother's Tea the first week of May.

Our office is beginning to enroll our children for our summer fun held in July and August. Lastly, we will hold our Meet & Greet for the upcoming 2026-2027 school year on June 8th through June 10th. With just barely two months to go, we are busier than ever!

Student Piano Recital

You are invited to attend a Piano Recital on **Saturday, May 9**, at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary. Students of Beth Howell, ages 6 to 16, will be playing classical and popular music for the enjoyment of all attending. Please join us! For more information, contact Beth at bethadamshowell@gmail.com.

Thank You for you Easter Egg Hunt Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated Easter candy for our Easter Egg Hunt and Craft event this year! With the nice weather we saw lots of families attend and search near and far for those brightly colored candy and toy filled eggs. We are so blessed to have such a caring community like RHUMC.

Kid Zone Camp

SUMMER CAMP: JUNE 8 to AUGUST 7

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

Children's Ministry

Vacation Bible Camp
Rolling Hills UMC

July 27th – July 31st 2026

Space is limited so don't hesitate

debra@rhumc.org
310-377-6771 ext. 306

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR VACATION BIBLE CAMP

Come be a volunteer at our Vacation Bible Camp
Monday, July 27th – July 31st

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

Youth Ministries

Ignite Mid-Week Youth Ministry

Wednesdays at 6:30-8:00pm
Join us for dinner, fellowship, & faith exploration.

May 6 – The final gathering of Ignite for the Spring. We will have a game night - all incoming 6th graders are welcome to join!

Our summer calendar will begin in June. Contact Kristin to be signed up for the monthly youth newsletter for updates.

Graduation Slideshow

Sunday, June 7, we will be showing a slideshow of our graduating seniors in the narthex. If you would like to be included in the slideshow please send Natalie a few photos and the name of the school you will be attending no later than June 3.

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, May 17, we will be celebrating this year's confirmation class. Join us at the 10:00 am and 5:30 pm worship services as seven of our youth officially join Rolling Hills UMC.

Tacos and Trivia

Would you like to help with Jonathan and April's celebration of ministry on **Sunday, May 31**? Youth are invited to speak during the intermissions in the trivia night. Contact Kristin if you would like to help.

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_

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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	Michele Nelson
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 May 29
www.rhumc.org