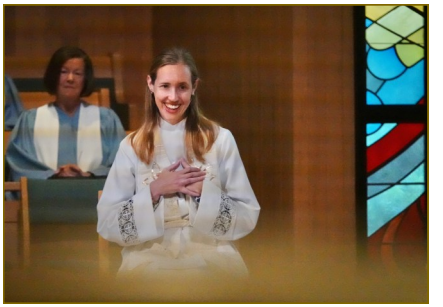
The Cornerstone

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

July 2026

from the pastors — *Bonnie Hawk*

Greetings,



Thank you to Bob, who captured this photograph during my visit with RHUMC during Eastertide. I hope you can see that my expression is all gratitude and wonder for the warm welcome that I have received. From the SPRC's initial invitation, the parsonage committee's incredible work, and our warm Sunday experience, Noah and I are thrilled to be a part of your community. We both thank you for making this transition so warm and joyous.

Now let's get down to business with a few frequently asked questions…

Will you change everything? No. It's my belief that a pastor's first job is to adapt to the church they've been called to serve. We don't get to come in and rearrange all the furniture (except in the pastor's study). And why would we? God has been at work at Rolling Hills long before I was born, and I believe you all have a lot to teach me about ministry. My first work is to listen, learn, and adapt.

Will you change some things? Of course. When churches don't evolve, they decline. The mainline church in America is already deep in a pattern of decline. While RHUMC may be a shining outlier to that trend, I'm well aware that the sustainability of the church relies on ongoing, thoughtful, creative change. My general principle is that new pastors adapt about 80% of the time, and then slowly and carefully they work for meaningful change 20% of the time. Admittedly, every pastor also has their own way of doing one or two things in worship–we can't help it.

(continued on next page)

What should we call you? Thank you for asking. Most of my ministry, I've usually been called Pastor Bonnie or Rev. Bonnie. But adapting to the Rolling Hills way, (see what I did there?), I also welcome you to just call me "Bonnie"-- especially informally. I tend to use "Pastor Bonnie" with children and "Rev. Bonnie" in writing. Bottom line: call me Bonnie, Pastor Bonnie, Rev. Bonnie, or PB. All will get my attention.

When do you start? My first Sunday with you will be July 12. I'll be in the Office around July 7 or 8, depending on when the moving truck arrives at the parsonage.

When can we get coffee, lunch, or have you and/or Pastor Sunny over to our home? I'm so honored to get to know the congregation more personally. My priority in July and August is to get to know groups of folks – I'll be hosting get-to-know-you events with some affinity groups like the choir, families with children, or residents of various senior living communities. I'll also be visiting groups that meet regularly – circles, Club Maintenance, etc. If you'd like to get together one-on-one or host a small group gathering/dinner, please contact Michele Nelson, our executive assistant who will help to get that on our calendars.

What if we miss Jonathan and April? You WILL miss Jonathan and April, and I'm glad for that. If you didn't miss your pastor of 11 or 28 years, the church would probably not be in very good shape. My earliest childhood experience of grief was not the death of a family member, but actually the move of a beloved pastor. I was in middle school, and had become very close to one of our pastors. I was heartbroken when she left, and it took me a while to come around to her successor. I ultimately more than "came around", and became a high school intern for the new pastor. But the first pastor is the one I chose to lay hands on me at my ordination. All this to say, the grief of losing pastors is real, and I have a lot of space for that grief in our work together over the next several months. We will do our best to honor Jonathan and April as we follow God's spirit into the future.

"This above all then, be ready for the gifts of God–and always, for the new ones."
- Meister Eckhart.

Peace,

(Pastor) Bonnie

Sunyoung Park

Greetings in Christ to Rolling Hills UMC!

As I prepare to step into my role as your new Associate Pastor this July, I am writing this letter with a heart full of gratitude and eager anticipation. It was my honor and joy to join you for all three worship services on Sunday, June 14, for the Q&A with Pastor April. Her warm introduction and her holding a handheld mic so I could focus on sharing my story were deeply appreciated. Although I did not get to greet you in person after worship, I felt your welcome and the connections we made. Also, many thanks to Pastors Jonathan and Kristin, and the lay members of the Annual Conference for their generous invitation to sit with them during the Annual Conference's plenary sessions.

I have spent the last few weeks praying for you, outgoing Pastors, your lay leadership, congregation, and the wider community we are called to reach together. I know that God has blessed Rolling Hills UMC throughout its history, and I am entirely confident that God is already preparing wonderful things for our shared future.

As your Associate Pastor, my primary heart for ministry is to support our Senior Pastor, Bonnie, in building a strong, nurturing faith community and helping each of you grow in your God-given spiritual gifts. Whether it is through worship, Bible study, pastoral care, community outreach, or simply sharing in the highs and lows of daily life, I am here to be a resource, a listening ear, and a fellow traveler in faith.

July will be a time of transition for us, but I am already looking forward to our first Sunday with you on July 12. I would love to learn about your stories, your loved ones, and what makes Rolling Hills UMC such a special place to call home with Pastor Bonnie.

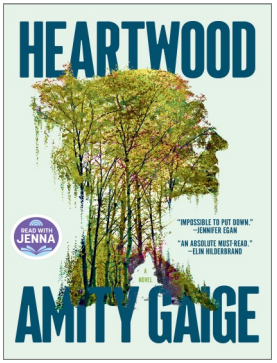
Until then, I will be holding you in my prayers. Let us be in an open posture of receiving God's abundant grace, enriching our time of transition with much love and peace.

Gratefully,

Sunyoung

Pastor Sunny

Summer Book Discussion - Join Us for a Good Summer Read



In the heart of the Maine woods, forty-two-year-old Valerie Gillis has vanished two hundred miles from her final destination. Alone in the wilderness, Valerie pours her thoughts into fractured, poetic letters to her mother as she battles the elements and struggles to keep hope alive.

In charge of the investigation is Beverly Miller, a Maine State Game Warden. Meanwhile, Lena— a seventy-six-year-old birdwatcher in a Connecticut retirement community—becomes an unexpected armchair detective. Roving between these compelling narratives, a puzzle emerges, intensifying the search, as Valerie's disappearance may not be accidental.

On **Monday, July 27**, readers are welcome to our discussion of *Heartwood* by Amity Gaige. Author Angie Kim offers a promising review: "*Heartwood* is a masterfully multi-layered novel. With eloquence, insight, and grace, Amity Gaige uses gorgeous prose and the perfect structure to create one of the most emotionally satisfying and heartwarming stories I've read in a long time. I loved this book."

The discussion will be led by RHUMC member Liz Gyori, with support from group participants. The in-person group will meet at 2:00 pm in the choir room, and the evening group meets at 7:00 pm on Zoom. All readers are welcome. Please email lizgyori5@gmail.com to let us know if you're planning to join.

Please Join Us in Supporting the People of Ukraine through this UMCOR Project

Our SLAVA Ukraine team has found a project to help the people of Ukraine that we think members and friends of RHUMC might like to support. Since the war's onset, the United Methodist Church in Ukraine has operated a dedicated NGO to provide aid to internally displaced persons (IDPs), the elderly, and families who have lost everything, regardless of their religious affiliation. They distribute food, clothing and hygiene kits, transport volunteer teams to high-need areas, assist displaced people with relocation and conduct support visits to homebound individuals. The old minibus that was the backbone of this ministry has become unsafe and was sold. A new minivan will cost $22,000, with $6,000 already in hand. Our goal is to raise the remaining $16,000. (As of 6/26/26, we've already raised $1,670 at RHUMC. THANK YOU to everyone who's contributed!!

Would you like to join us in raising funds for this critical need? Please make your check to RHUMC, and note in the Memo Line: *UMCOR: Advance #14053A for "Social Aid Vehicle."* We meet in-person on the Second Sunday of every month, after our 3rd Service, 7/12/26 from 6:45-7:45pm. Feel free to drop in. Questions? – Contact Vince Budrovich (email Vbudrovich@gmail.com or cell: 310-971-3227)

You are invited to a

VIRTUAL HOUSEWARMING

It was hard to say good-bye, and now it's time to say hello!

Many of you have been asking about welcome gifts for Pastor Bonnie and Pastor Sunny. The two pastors have identified items that would be helpful as they begin their lives with RHUMC.

We ask that you limit your gifting to one item so that all who wish to participate have the opportunity.

Welcome gifts for Pastor Bonnie

Welcome gifts for Pastor Sunny

Gifts will be delivered to RHUMC.

Sister Circle News - by Jane Harris and Jean Kinney

In July, one of our own members, Lata Eapen, will lead our program on "Building Consensus." We will meet on **Thursday, July 9**, at 12:30 pm in the Aldersgate room. We welcome visitors, potential new members and anyone who is interested in participating in this presentation.

Please join us for a very enlightening program, interesting activities and great fellowship.

New Community Service Opportunities Available with Meals on Wheels and Manes for Movement

The RHUMC Missions Committee encourages our congregation to express our faith in action by offering opportunities to engage with the needy in our local community. The committee has established two new partnerships with opportunities for community service: Torrance-Lomita Meals on Wheels and Manes for Movement.

Torrance-Lomita Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels, a private charity, provides community-based services that nourish and enrich the lives of our neighbors in need, especially the aged. Volunteers deliver food and friendship in the Torrance/ Lomita area once a week or more often--whatever works best for them. Members of the congregation are invited to serve in multiple capacities including drivers, runners, donation sorters, office helpers, and computer consultants. Commitment can be as little as 1 ½ hours per week. Contact Jackie Zuanich-Ferrell jzuanichferrell@yahoo.com.

Manes for Movement Torrance

Manes for Movement brings innovative therapy and recreational opportunities to the South Bay special needs community. Their mission is to help improve function and change the lives of children and adults with special needs through the use of Equine Assisted Therapies and Activities. Located in Palos Verdes Estates, Manes for Movement offers RHUMC congregants the opportunity to help with side-walking during therapy sessions, as well as general horse and barn care. Volunteer training occurs monthly, and volunteers can commit according to their own schedules. Contact Anita Garner Jgarn33@cox.net.

For further information about the RHUMC Missions Committee, contact Dan McClain mcclaindf@gmail.com or Felicia McClain fleemcclain@gmail.com.

It Takes a Village and Ours Showed Up - Kathy Platnick & Janet Westergaard

What an amazing two months we have had saying farewell to Jonathan and April. Five retirement events and a massive showing of love take the work of many hands—and our congregation rose to the occasion.

It is impossible to name every person who participated in and contributed to the festivities, but we would like to honor those who led the way.

Thanks to Jan Johnson and her team of Patty Koester and Michele Nelson for their work on planning every retirement event and recruiting volunteers to assist. None of this would have happened without Jan's incredible focus and leadership.

Thanks to our amazing staff–especially Peggy Roulette and Miguel Portillo–-for stepping up in countless ways to make these events a reality. Thanks to Paula Kuno for organizing and managing the 20th anniversary 3rd service ensemble concert. Thanks to Kristin Sutrave for creating and organizing the trivia portion of Tacos and Trivia. Thanks to Susan Welch and Silva Will for handling all the food arrangements for our huge all-church BBQ. Thanks to Greg and Jackie Geiger for opening their home. And thanks to the countless volunteers who set up, cleaned up, brought treats and generally made these celebrations so terrific.

We also want to thank Dave and Zoie Carney and Tony and Margaret Moretti for spearheading the "We Love Jonathan and April" Retirement Gift Project that raised such a generous sum to thank Jonathan and April for their service.

Lastly, we want to thank the entire Staff Parish Relations Committee for their enthusiasm and tireless work over the last three years managing the pastoral transition process and working with the Bishop to find the best new pastoral team for RHUMC. Those members are Janet Westergaard and Kathy Platnick, co-chairs, along with John Compton, Michelle Dexter, Liz Gyori, Dave Long, Lisa Pope, Logan Tootell and Silva Will, together with RHUMC's lay leader Patty Koester.

This village is blessed to have all of you.

A Word of Thanks from April Herron

Dear Friends,

Words cannot fully express my gratitude for your loving hearts and generous spirits. I am overwhelmed by all your kind thoughts, notes, farewell gestures, and gifts. We have shared so much in our years together, and now you have extended grace and good wishes for the transition into retirement. Thank you, amazing people of RHUMC. I treasure the time we spent together and the esteem with which we hold one another. I join you in trusting the future to God's good care.

April

A Word of Thanks from Jonathan Chute

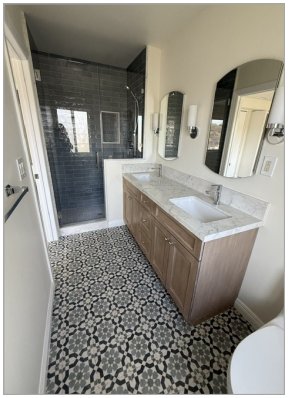
There are not words enough to express my gratitude for the grace and love that you have shared over these recent weeks. The celebration gatherings were lovelier than I could have imagined. I enjoyed every one of them and hope they were fun for everyone who was able to come. The work of the team that oversaw the whole series, and the many more who helped pull each one of them off, was incredible to behold. The 3rd service concert, Trivia and Tacos, the Patio Barbecue, the beautiful evening at the Geigers', and finally a Sunday never to be forgotten – I can't begin to thank you properly, or even to name everyone who made them all possible. Thank you for the extravagant generosity you have shared with my family and me over many years, and especially as we prepare for a new chapter in our lives. Thyra and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We love you more than I can say.

A Home Refreshed and Ready: The Parsonage Renovation

After years of faithful service as a rental property, our church parsonage has been given a well-deserved refresh - and it's looking better than ever, just in time to welcome Pastor Bonnie and her husband Noah.

When our previous tenants vacated in mid-March, a dedicated renovation committee sprang into action. Led by Dale Gehr, Doug Kemps, and Linette Woodland, with assistance from Bob Jones, Dave Long, Lisa Pope, and Wade Welch, the team set to work transforming the parsonage into a warm and welcoming home.

The upgrades have been extensive. A fully updated kitchen and refreshed bathrooms give the home a bright, modern feel, while new flooring and fresh paint throughout bring a sense of renewal to every room. Central air conditioning was added for year-round comfort, along with a number of other improvements to make the space truly move-in ready. And, due to the generosity of one family in our congregation, solar panels are being added to the roof to provide clean, renewable energy for years to come.



One special touch: knowing that Pastor Bonnie has a passion for woodworking, the committee arranged for (and Bonnie paid for) upgraded electrical work in the garage to give her a proper space to pursue her craft. It's just one of the many ways our congregation has tried to say, *welcome home.*

The committee is delighted to report that all work is on track to be completed by June 30, just in time for the arrival of our new pastor. We are so grateful for the countless hours of planning, coordination, and hard work that this team has poured into this project. Their dedication is a beautiful expression of the care and love our church family has for Pastor Bonnie and Noah.

We can't wait to welcome them through the door.

In Memoriam

Ron Thompson June 10, 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

Need a Nametag?

Let's help our new pastors get to know us. And let's get to know each other better. We are making clip-on nametags for you to keep in your car and wear to church. Just sign up on the clipboard in the entryway and collect your nametag the following Sunday. You can also contact the church office to request one. Until yours arrives, we will have stick-on nametags you can use.

All Church Women's Potluck Luncheon - *Save the Date*

Our All-Church Women's Potluck Luncheon is going to be extra special this year as we celebrate the 250th year anniversary of our nation. Not only will we be decorating in red, white and blue but we will have a special treat with entertainment by The Pennyroyal Singers led by Anne Destabelle. They will be performing their Patriotic Show for all of us to enjoy.

So don your red, white, and blue on **Saturday, September 19**, and join us in the Mission Room at 11:30 am with your favorite potluck dish. 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
July 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. 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 Club Maintenance event will be on **Saturday, July 11, at 8:30 am**. Thanks to all who helped out during our previous Club Maintenance sessions this year. 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 July.

Taco Night

Join us for Taco Night after the 3rd service on **Sunday, July 26**. You'll have a choice of chicken, pork or veggie tacos served with rice, beans, and chips. The requested meal donation is **$10 per person, $30 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 26,** after each service. The morning screenings will be held in the church office conference room and after 3rd service in the Mission room.

SUMMER CAMP 2026

June 8th to August 7th

*VBC 7/27-7/31
Kid Zone hrs 12pm - 6pm

KID ZONE
RHUMC

WHAT IS KID ZONE?

Kid Zone offers a safe, and healthy place for the children to grow and play, allowing us to be a part of your village and assist with any of the following.

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

Register Now

REGISTRATION FOR
2026 - 2027
SCHOOL YEAR

Spaces are limited. To secure your spot for next school year, we encourage you to register ASAP.

For more information:kidzone.midzone@rhumc.org (310) 377-7302

Preschool News

As RHUMPS has finished another wonderful year, we now go full speed ahead to prepare for Summer Fun! We have graduates returning to share in the fun and new families enrolling for the upcoming school year attending to get to know their new teachers while having a blast over the summer. We have fun themes weekly to explore with exciting visitors to entertain and keep the children smiling from ear to ear. We have a bubbleologist, reptiles and snakes, a blast of epic foam, a magician who can even get our teachers to giggle and one of our very own retired teachers to “cook” up special treats for all. May everyone at every age have a beautiful, safe and magical summer ahead!

ROLLING HILLS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESCHOOL

Children's Ministry

Help us get ready for our Vacation Bible Camp.

Sunday, July 26th - decorating the Sanctuary immediately after the 5:30 pm service for our weeklong VBC.

Friday, July 31st - taking down decorations in the Sanctuary, Narthex and Wesley Hall immediately after camp ends at 12:15 pm.

Got an hour or two?
Got a day or two?

We know your time is precious and
so are our children and that's why we need you!

We are still looking for **volunteers for Vacation Bible Camp**
to make it a week of faith and joy from July 27-July 31!

Could you help in the kitchen setting out snacks?
Could you greet children and parents with a smile as they arrive?
Could you assist our preschool science teacher?

If your answer is yes, please contact Debra DeLuca
at debra@rhumc.org or call 310-377-6771, ext. 306.

Children's Ministry

We are looking for donations
to keep our Vacation Bible Camp Volunteers
energized throughout the week of camp.

Monday, July 27 - Friday, July 31

Cut up fruit or vegetables, granola bars, cheese sticks, cookies, crackers, assorted chips or popcorn, muffins and small bottles of water.

Homemade or store bought - all donations are welcome
and can be dropped off at the church office.

**** No nut products please due to allergies ****

Please contact Debra DeLuca at debra@rhumc.org
or call (310) 377-6771, ext. 306

Thank you for supporting our VBC team and helping
to make the week of camp a success!

Summer Sunday School!

Summer is here so, join us for our Summer Sunday School rotations. Classes are offered at our 8:30 am, 10:00 am, and 5:30 pm church services.

Children ages 3 years (Potty trained) through 5th grade will leave the church with their Sunday School teachers after the children's sermon. They will walk across the patio to Wesley Hall and spend equal time in the following areas:

Mission Room – Bible story and/or skit
Wesley Hall – Craft and/or game
Kitchen – Cooking and/or snack related to that week's Bible lesson
(If your child has any food allergies, please be sure to let us know so, we can plan accordingly)

We are looking forward to spending the summer with YOU!

Youth Ministries

July Youth Events

Wed. 7/1 @ 6:30 – 8:30pm
Movie Night- Zootopia
We will meet in the youth lounge, dinner and snacks will be provided.

Wed. 7/8 @ 4:00 - 5:00pm
Hygiene Kit Assembling
Join us in the Aldersgate Room to help sort and package the hygiene kit supplies collected by the congregation.

Sun. 7/12 @ 6:45 - 7:30pm
High school only- S'more hang out
We will gather on the church patio following 3rd service.

Sun. 7/19 @ 11:15 - 12:00pm
Middle school only- Ice cream hang out
Let's gather on the church patio following the 10:00am worship service.

Summer Bible Study

Bible & Boba at 3:45-4:30pm

No Study Monday, 7/6-
Happy Independence day!

Monday, 7/13 Meet at Mochinut
550 Deep Valley Dr Ste 179
RHE, CA 90274

Monday, 7/20 Meet at Mochinut
550 Deep Valley Dr Ste 179
RHE, CA 90274

Sierra Service Project 2026

Our high school youth will be attending Sierra Service Project July 25 through August 2. We will be serving in Teec Nos Pos, AZ with the Navajo Nation. 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
Cell phone: 562-234-0161 Email: Kristin@rhumc.org
Natalie Telyatnikov Contact: rhumcyouth@rhumc.org
Facebook page: facebook.com/groups/RHyouth **Instagram**: rhumcyouth_

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	Bonnie Hawk	Associate Pastor	Sunyoung Park
Associate Pastor	Kristin Sutrave	Music Director	Chuck Dickerson
3rd Service Music	Paula Kuno	Organist/Pianist	Althea Waites
Preschool Director	Myra Ghabrial	Children's Ministry Dir	Debra DeLuca
Treasurer	Wade Welch	Kid Zone Director	Gabby Palacios
Church Office Admin.	Peggy Roulette	Executive Assistant	Michele Nelson
Custodian	Miguel Portillo	Business Manager	Catherine Dingman
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 24
www.rhumc.org