The Cornerstone

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

August 2026

Vacation Bible Camp was Amazing!

Our week-long "Rainforest Falls, Exploring the Nature of God," VBC finished up on Friday, July 31st. Filled with God's love, faith, fun, and friendship we made memories we will hold onto forever!

Every day we had Bible stories, crafts, games, science and skits. All our fantastic and hard-working volunteers made it the best week of the year by far! Make sure you take time to attend any of our three worship services on Sunday, August 2nd to see the joyful slide show of our incredible week.

from the pastors — *Bonnie Hawk*

Dear RHUMC Family,

In my first sermon, I gave tribute to Jonathan, and his wonderful legacy I have stepped into. I want to take this column to celebrate the women who have come before me as well - April, Kristin, Diane, and Martha.

This year, 2026, United Methodists celebrate the 70th anniversary of women's ordination. To be clear, women have been preaching for much longer than this. Mary Magdalene preached the first sermon on Easter morning, saying "I have seen the Lord!" John Wesley's mother, Susanna, was known to preach from time to time. Anna Howard Shaw was ordained by the Methodist Protestant Church in 1880. And in 1956, 70 years ago, women were granted full clergy rights in the UMC.

Also in 2026, one of our nation's largest denominations advanced a vote to fully ban women pastors. I am sorry to say that the question of women's leadership in the church remains unresolved for many Christians. Even some of the large non-denominational churches that are very popular in the LA region do not support women as clergy.

Why does this matter? Because we continue to live in a world where violence against women is endemic. And any theology which suggests that women are "lesser than," contributes to a culture that de-values women's safety, giftedness, and power. Separate but equal is inherently unequal. In the image of God we were created – *male and female.*

I am grateful that Rolling Hills UMC has a long history of embracing the gifts of women laity and pastors. As a teenager, I looked up to women pastors – it's because of them that I'm a pastor today.

Since arriving here, I have been thinking often of Martha Rowlett, who served as RHUMC's senior pastor from 1988-1998. To learn more about Martha, I had a conversation with Adriana Asnon, who first came to Rolling Hills UMC 30+ years ago. She was looking for a church, and found a home with Martha as the minister. Adriana was in the last Confirmation class that was confirmed by Martha at RHUMC. Adriana shared with me that Martha demonstrated an abundance of love, grace, and humility in her ministry. She welcomed the questions and doubts of youth, and Adriana is pleased to still call RHUMC home.

Martha Rowlett is turning 90 this year on August 22. She lives in North Carolina, and is receiving loving care and is enjoying her relationships with the caregivers who come to her home each day. She would LOVE to receive birthday cards from you. Send a card to:

Martha Rowlett
225 Lovely Lane,
Asheville, NC 28803

With gratitude for your love and our shared ministry,

Rev. Bonnie

Pastor Bonnie

Sunyoung Park

Grace and peace to you, Rolling Hills UMC family!

As I reflect on completing my first month here at Rolling Hills United Methodist Church, my heart is overflowing with deep gratitude. The warmth, grace, and radical hospitality you have extended to me have made Rolling Hills UMC feel like home faster than I ever could have imagined.

Thank you for every kind word in the receiving line, for the thoughtful welcome notes, and for visiting me in my office to say hello. More than anything, your gracious patience in repeating your names to me again means so much to me! I enjoyed visiting some of our members at the Canterbury with our dedicated Congregational Care Ministers, sharing dinner with the After Work Dinner group, and getting acquainted with the participants/members of Sister Circle, Shawl Ministry, and administrative committees.

One of my office routines is walking to Wesley Hall to refill my water bottle a couple of times throughout the day. Then I saw the children from the Kid Zone camp engaged in their programs. Sometimes, they even said “Good morning!” to me! What a blessing to be able to serve the Lord on this lively campus! Your committed faith, dynamic ministry to the wider community, and labor of love are what define Rolling Hills UMC. It is a profound privilege and blessing to stand alongside you in ministry.

As we continue our journey together, I am eager to listen to your stories, discern where the Holy Spirit is leading us as a faith community, and discover the unique ways we can grow deeper in discipleship.

Please continue to pray for our pastoral team and our lay leadership as we navigate this season together. Know that you are in my daily prayers, and my door is always open to you. Thank you for opening your hearts and allowing me to be a part of your faith journey.

With deep gratitude and joy for all that lies ahead,

Sunyoung

Pastor Sunny

p.s. The schedule of the Fall Bible Study/Discussion can be found in this issue of Cornerstone.

Navigating Through Aging: 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 support group will be offered on **Mondays, September 14-November 2**, 10:00 am-11:30 am in the Aldersgate room. 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. The 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 is $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
Church Office—310-377-6771—churchoffice@rhumc.org

All-Church Women's Potluck Luncheon – by Barbara Addleman

Mark September 19 on your calendar!

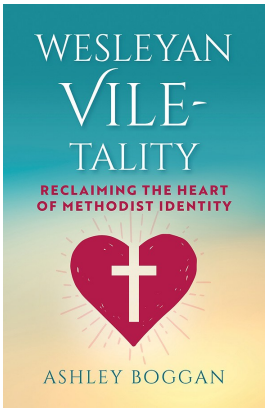
Our All-Church Women's Potluck Luncheon is going to be extra special this year as we celebrate the 250th year anniversary of our nation. Not only will we be decorating in red, white and blue, but we will have a special treat with entertainment by The Pennyroyal Singers led by Anne Destabelle. They will 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. One of the reasons for our luncheon is to introduce our various church groups that women may wish to join. If any group would like to make a short presentation let me know so we can include you in the program.

Please RSVP to Marian Komori at marian.komori9@gmail.com or 310-897-9985 (home) or 310-541-8243 (cell). Can't wait to see all of you – Barbara Addleman baddleman@cox.net

September/October Wesleyan Study & Discussion

Have you visited the **Aldersgate Room**, **Mission Room**, or **Wesley Hall** on our beautiful Rolling Hills UMC campus? These spaces are named in honor of **John Wesley**, the founder of the Methodist movement, and the enduring spirit of the movement that began in 18th-century England and later became the foundation of the United Methodist Church.



Pastor Sunny invites the congregation to join her for a six-week **Wesleyan Study & Discussion** this September. The series will begin with a PowerPoint presentation featuring highlights from her recent Wesley pilgrimage to England. Together, participants will explore key themes from Wesleyan scholar **Dr. Ashley Boggan's** thought-provoking book, *Wesleyan Vile-Tality: Reclaiming the Heart of Methodist Identity*, through engaging discussion and reflection.

Come with an open and curious mind! While not required, participants are encouraged to purchase a copy of Dr. Boggan's book through Amazon:
https://www.amazon.com/Wesleyan-Vile-tality-Reclaiming-Methodist-Identity-ebook/dp/B0DY2FNWFZ

If you would like Pastor Sunny to purchase a copy on your behalf, or if you would like to RSVP, please email her at **sunny@rhumc.org**. or call the church office at 310-377-6771 ext. 310.

Meeting Schedule

- **Tuesdays, September 15–October 20** (six sessions)
- **10:30 a.m. - 11:30 am** in the **Aldersgate Room**
- **7:00 p.m. - 8:00 pm** via **Zoom** (Zoom link will be sent out to participants)
  (It may go a little longer than 60 minutes depending on the liveliness of the discussion)

Women's After Work Dinner Group - by Marilyn Schafer

The Women's After Work Dinner Group meets at 6:00 pm monthly, 3rd Thursday of the month, at a different restaurant each month. It's a loose "come when you can" invitation for fellowship. We have no agenda beyond fellowship and support of one another. Typically each person pays their own check, but some restaurants result in splitting the bill. If you are interested, email Marilyn at marilyn.schafer@gmail.com for more information.

RHUMC MISSIONS COMMITTEE

YOU'RE INVITED TO MEET OUR MISSIONARY

KATHERINE PARKER

WHO WILL SHARE HER WORK SERVING THE PEOPLE IN NEPAL

Thursday, August 13th

10:00 a.m.

RHUMC Missions Room

Coffee and pastries provided

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.

THANK YOU!!! - by Chris Larson

Thank you for your overwhelming support for the nametag project. So far 435 and counting! In addition to helping our new pastors, I have heard so many comments from you about getting to know each other's names.

If you have requested a nametag, it should be on the table in the entryway. And if you haven't, please sign up for one.
Please take your nametag with you – we don't have the ability to store them. I highly recommend keeping it in your car & if you drive multiple cars, I will gladly make another. Just sign up & indicate duplicate.

Let's keep on wearing them now and into the future.

Update on Slava Ukraine Van Funding from Slava Ukraine Team

Thank you to all who have contributed to the Volunteer Van for use by the UMC in Ukraine! So far, our congregation has raised $3,430.25, and we have recently forwarded $3,200 to the Ukraine UMC via UMCOR. This past month we reached out to Rev. Dr. Fred Vanderwerf, *In Mission Together - Ukraine Partnership Coordinator*, to learn the status of the van. On July 22, Fred forwarded the following letter to us from the Ukraine Annual Conference District Superintendent, the Rev. Oleg Starodubets and his wife, the Rev. Yulia Starodubets.

***

Dear Fred,

Thank you very much for your message and for your encouragement. We are truly grateful that someone has taken an interest in our request for the ministry vehicle.

Unfortunately, during the past six months, no additional donations have been received for this project. Therefore, we still have the initial ***$6,000*** *that was raised, and our total fundraising goal remains* ***$22,000 USD****.*

As you have probably seen, we use every vehicle we have every single day in our ministry. Our team also uses our personal vehicles to serve wherever they are needed. Because of this, the need for a ministry minibus is still very real and very urgent.

Thank you so much for your willingness to help us continue looking for opportunities to meet this need. Your support and prayers mean a great deal to us.

With gratitude and blessings,
Oleg and Yulia

***

Our generous congregation has recently added over $3,200 to their funds, but they will still need over $12,000 to purchase their replacement vehicle. If you would like to donate for this urgent need, please make your check payable to **RHUMC** with a note in the Memo Line **"UMCOR: Advance #14053A for Social Aid Vehicle."** Our next in-person meeting is planned for the 2nd Sunday after 3rd Service – 8/9/26 @ 6:45-7:45pm in the Aldersgate room. Any questions? Contact Vince Budrovich - Vbudrovich@gmail.com - 310-971-3227.

Blood Pressure Sunday

Blood pressure screenings will next be offered on **Sunday, August 30,** after each service. The morning screenings will be held in the church office conference room and after 3rd service in the Mission room.

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

Dementia, Alzheimer's or Parkinson's

Wednesdays
August 12 & 26
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

The next opportunity to participate in a regular Club Maintenance event will be on **Saturday, August 8**, 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. Bob Chamberlin will be leading the effort in August.

Taco Night

Join us for Taco Night after 3rd service on **Sunday, August 30.** You'll have a choice of chicken, pork or veggie tacos served with rice, beans, and chips. The requested meal donation is **$10/person, or $30 for a family of 3+**. 3rd service takes place every Sunday at 5:30 pm.

In Memoriam

Bill Weisinger 7/25/26

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
And I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

- Psalm 23

Children's Ministry

A big thank you to everyone whether it was teaching, volunteering, donating snack items/monetary donations for snacks, decorating and praying for our week of **Vacation Bible Camp**!

We appreciate and love all of you!

3rd Grade Bible Presentation

Romans 15.4: For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope.

It's time to celebrate the tradition of presenting Bibles to our children who have completed 2nd grade and are now beginning 3rd grade as a gift from our congregation.

We would be happy to present a Bible to your child here at the church during one of our three worship services on Sunday, September 13th.

To ensure we include your child, please contact Debra DeLuca at the church office at (310) 377-6771 or at debra@rhumc.org.

Youth Ministries

Youth Events this Month

Park Day
Wednesday, August 5 at 3:30 - 4:30pm
Meet at Ryan Park (30359 Hawthorne Blvd, RPV, CA 90275). Bring a snack to share, we will provide the games! Please RSVP to Kristin if you plan to attend.

SSP Sunday
Sunday, August 9 (8:30am, 10:00am, & 5:30pm)
Join us in worship as the youth participants tell us about their trip to Sierra Service Project in Teec Nos Pos, AZ this summer! All past SSP participants and adult counselors are invited to wear their SSP shirts to worship.

High School Only- Music Night
Wednesday, August 12 at 6:00-7:00pm in the Youth Lounge.

End of Summer Beach Day
Saturday, August 29
Celebrate the end of summer with a day at the beach!
Please contact Kristin for more details.

Youth Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 11 @ 7:00-8:00pm
All youth are invited to attend this meeting. We will be planning the fall calendar for youth ministries and Ignite. If you are interested in becoming a youth council representative please let Kristin know!

Rev. Kristin Sutrave, Youth Ministries Pastor
Cell phone: 562-234-0161 Email: Kristin@rhumc.org
Ministry Assistant Natalie Telyatnikov email: 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	Rev. Bonnie Hawk	Associate Pastor	Rev. Sunyoung Park
Associate Pastor	Rev. 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 August 28
www.rhumc.org