

# PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



Sharing the Good News of Mission Hills United Church of Christ  
*An Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation*

April 2018

## Earth Day 2018



In 1969 at a UNESCO Conference in San Francisco, peace activist John McConnell proposed a day to honor the Earth and the concept of peace, to first be celebrated on March 21, 1970, the first day of spring in the northern hemisphere. This day of nature's equipoise was later sanctioned in a proclamation written by McConnell and signed by Secretary General U Thant at the United Nations. A month later a separate Earth Day

was founded by United States Senator Gaylord Nelson as an environmental teach-in first held on April 22, 1970. Nelson was later awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom award in recognition of his work. While this April 22 Earth Day was focused on the United States, an organization launched by Denis Hayes, who was the original national coordinator in 1970, took it international in 1990 and organized events in 141 nations.

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22. Worldwide, various events are held to demonstrate support for environmental protection. First celebrated in 1970, Earth Day events in more than 193 countries are now coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network.

On Earth Day 2016, the landmark Paris Agreement was signed by the United States, China, and some 120 other countries. This signing satisfied a key requirement for the historic draft climate protection treaty adopted by consensus of the 195 nations present at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## Earth Day (continued)

As you know, the United States was the only country to pull out of the Paris agreement. While that may have been a decision made by our President, it does not need to be a decision that guides the way we live. As persons of faith, we are under a biblical imperative to be stewards of all resources at our disposal. That includes our finances as well as our island home – planet earth.

We have made great strides – especially here in the Golden State – to roll back some of the environmental degradation previously inflicted on our land. It is up to us to continue to lead the way as we seek to preserve a planet that is healthy for all in the future.

One of the great threats facing our world today is the proliferation of plastic that is beginning to blanket our landfills and our oceans. This year the Earth Day Network (EDN), the organization that leads Earth Day worldwide, will focus on mobilizing the world to End Plastic Pollution, including creating support for a global effort to eliminate single-use plastics along with global regulation for the disposal of plastics. EDN will educate millions of people about the health and other risks associated with the use and disposal of plastics, including pollution of our oceans, water, and wildlife, and about the growing body of evidence that decomposing plastics are creating serious global problems.

From poisoning and injuring marine life to the ubiquitous presence of plastics in our

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### REGULAR CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday  
8:00 am to 3:00 pm

**Mission Hills United Church of Christ**  
4070 Jackdaw Street, San Diego, CA 92103  
(619) 296-2169; Fax (619) 296-2115  
**Website: [www.missionhillsucc.org](http://www.missionhillsucc.org)**

**MARCH  
AVERAGE  
ATTENDANCE: 129**

### STAFF DIRECTORY

Position	Staff Member	Phone Ext.	Email
Pastor	Rev. Dr. M. Scott Landis	ext. 302	Scott.Landis@missionhillsucc.org
Pastor Emeritus	Rev. Dr. Joe Sandven		
Director of Christian Education	Doug McMinimy	ext. 306	Doug.McMinimy@missionhillsucc.org
Administrative Assistant	Elizabeth Quinones	ext. 301	Elizabeth.Quinones@missionhillsucc.org
Sr. High Youth Leader	Jeremy Bloom		Jeremy.Bloom@missionhillsucc.org
Jr. High Youth Leader	Lauren Wong		Lauren.Wong@missionhillsucc.org
Director of Music	Max Chodos		Max.Chodos@missionhillsucc.org
Organist	Kristopher Abels		kjabels@gmail.com

Additional Staff: Sunday Nursery - Maria Fuentes, Claudia Fuentes

*General information*

*[info@missionhillsucc.org](mailto:info@missionhillsucc.org)*

*News subscriptions & submissions (due on the 20th)*

*[news@missionhillsucc.org](mailto:news@missionhillsucc.org)*

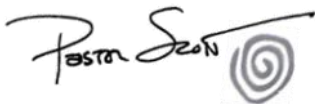
## Earth Day (continued)

food to disrupting human hormones and causing major life-threatening diseases and early puberty, the exponential growth of plastics is threatening our planet's survival. EDN has built a multi-year campaign to **End Plastic Pollution**. EDN's goals include ending single-use plastics, promoting alternatives to fossil fuel-based materials, promoting 100 percent recycling of plastics, corporate and government accountability and changing human behavior concerning plastics.

I encourage you to do an "Earth Day Audit" in your home. Notice the amount of plastic you have in your home, place of work, school, etc. How might you cut down personally so as to reduce the amount of plastic in our waste stream? How might you make different purchases to reduce the proliferation of plastic in our society? What might you insist upon from grocers, restaurants, department stores to let them know overall buying habits are changing?

Earth Day is April 22. This year it is on a Sunday. We will celebrate this important event through worship by emphasizing our critical role as Earth Stewards as an aspect of our faith. Until then, live as if "each day is earth day." Our lives depend on it.

Yours in the journey,



## April Birthdays

<b>Apr 2</b>	Charley Poor Danielle Carlin
<b>Apr 4</b>	Rowena Musico
<b>Apr 5</b>	M.J. Poor Susan Waller
<b>Apr 6</b>	Alyssa James
<b>Apr 7</b>	Steve McIntee
<b>Apr 8</b>	Samantha Brown Laurel Pfab
<b>Apr 9</b>	Paul Kondrick
<b>Apr 10</b>	Angela Sauberan Andrew Wolf
<b>Apr 11</b>	Joan Lindegren
<b>Apr 13</b>	Elizabeth Ahern
<b>Apr 15</b>	Jim Cage Barbara Snodgrass Don Taylor
<b>Apr 18</b>	Guy Halgren Linda Javier
<b>Apr 22</b>	Alyssa Huntington Tommy Huntington Craig Delaurier
<b>Apr 23</b>	Julia Bohnet
<b>Apr 24</b>	Andrew Rosales
<b>Apr 25</b>	Samantha Pettis
<b>Apr 27</b>	Anne Reichman Sue Lake
<b>Apr 28</b>	Stephen Lynch
<b>April 30</b>	Bettie Cain

Please contact the church office  
with corrections or additions to the  
birthday list.

# Happy Birthday!

## Meet Courtney Mys - MHUCC Minister of Visitation



We are happy to announce the appointment of Courtney Mys as our new Minister of Visitation. Courtney currently serves as Staff Chaplain of Sharp Grossmont Hospital and will serve in this capacity part-time. In her role at MHUCC she will visit our shut-in members coordinating with Pastor Scott, and be available for acute care when Pastor Scott is on vacation or sabbatical leave. We are thrilled to have someone with such skill and expertise serving in this capacity, but thought it might be nice to get to know her better.

Courtney was born and raised in Grand Rapids, MI and took two bachelor's degrees in geology and religion at Hope College in Holland, MI. She completed her Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) residency in oncology at UCLA and subsequent residency in pediatrics at UVa. Prior to moving to California, she was Director of Pastoral Services at Hoffman Homes for youth - a psychiatric residential treatment facility in Gettysburg, PA, and Lead Chaplain at Delaware Hospice. Beyond her professional accomplishments Courtney loves to travel having seen 46/50 states and 16 countries, is a certified scuba diver, and flipped two houses in PA and DE. Suffice it to say Courtney does not let any grass grow under her feet!

She will be an incredible asset to our pastoral care services in addition to preaching periodically and leading worship. Welcome Courtney!

## Stone Soup Luncheon-Sunday April 8



Join us as we welcome our Peppermint Ridge visitors. Bring a chopped vegetable, pasta or rice to the social hall before the church service to add to our turkey broth.

## Stump the Staff - April 8

It's the day you've all been waiting for. Here is your opportunity to ask questions of our staff - things you've always been wondering about but never got the chance to ask. Here's your chance. Staff members of our Music, Faith Formation, and Youth Ministries departments (as well as our Pastor) will be on hand to answer your questions extemporaneously. It's a fun day and a day to gain greater perspective on our mutual ministry. Come and try to "stump the staff" on the Sunday after Easter.

## Theology & Cinema - An Inconvenient Sequel - Truth to Power- April 14



Ten years after providing the world with a wake-up call regarding climate change in "An Inconvenient Truth," Al Gore is still at it, traveling the globe to influence policy and raise awareness about the sustainable-energy revolution under way.

Join us as we prepare for Earth Day 2018 by watching this film and considering what we can do as Earth Stewards to reverse a terrifying trend for our future. We begin at 5 with a pot luck and view the film at 5:30.

### Volunteers Needed

The Nominations Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on Ministries! Please let a committee member know if you are interested or have questions about a ministry.

*The committee members are Pam Adler, Eric Bernhard, Laurie Halgren, Marla McBride, Karen DeLaurier, and Carol Vaughan.*

### Mission Hills Dancers

Next dance session begins April 2 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. In this 4 week session we will be exploring American style Waltz. The American Style Waltz, in contrast to the International Standard Waltz, involves breaking contact almost entirely in some figures. This allows for more freedom in how you progress around the dance floor. Come experience how American Waltz can be a fun and beautiful partner and solo dance. The course will be taught by Christian McCullen, professional dance instructor. The cost for the four week session is \$50.00. If you have questions, please contact Carol Vaughan, 602-309-1134 or 619-487-9214 or the church office.

### Blood Drive at Mission Hills UCC

On Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> MHUCC will hold a blood drive in the parking lot from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Minimum Requirements, age: 17 and weight 114 lbs.



**Dan & Danielle welcomed Luca Steven Carlin  
on March 23rd at 3:15 a.m.**

**Weighing 8 lbs. 8oz. and 21" long**

**Congratulations to our new parents!**



Hope you find this of interest it was found in the history storage area of the church. It is the Church Clerk Annual Report from 1889. Think of our church ancestors and the work that they accomplished, and pray that we are as dedicated.

Church Clerks Annual Report.  
January 30<sup>th</sup> 1889  
To the members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cong. Ch. of San Diego Cal.  
Dear Brethren  
In our new constitution  
under the head of "Duties of the Clerk," section 12  
requires that he "present at the Annual Meeting  
a written report on the state of the Church, giving its  
history for the preceding year, and an account of the  
number received, dismissed and deceased."  
Our last Annual Meeting was held at a time  
when we were without a regular Pastor, but re-  
joicing that only one more sabbath would inter-  
venue before the coming of one.

Report to be continued next month!

## INQUIRERS' CLASS

Class will be held Sunday, April 22, 11.30 AM – 12:30 PM, in the Chapel. Pastor Scott will provide information on our denomination and the mission and life of Mission Hills UCC. If you are considering membership or would like to learn more, please join us. Contact church office, to register; or just drop in. Also, let us know if you need childcare during that hour.

## Desert Pilgrimage – October 2018



You are invited to participate in a unique pilgrimage offered by Pathways – Faith Formation Ministry. After more than a year of planning we are ready to accept registrations for those willing to explore their personal spiritual landscape as we travel to the desert of New Mexico. This one-week pilgrimage (October 20-27) includes exploring the spiritual sites of Santa Fe and Taos, spending time at Ghost Ranch Retreat Center – the summer home and inspiration of many of Georgia O’Keeffe’s desert landscapes, as well as two days at Christ in the Desert Benedictine Monastery where you can experience the rhythm of monastic life. We will hold two compulsory orientation

meetings prior to the pilgrimage to help pilgrims prepare (packing tips and spiritual expectations). Pastor Scott will serve as spiritual guide for this unique opportunity. We can accommodate only 16 pilgrims. Your deposit of \$500 (fully refundable for up to 30 days) is due by May 15. Total cost of the trip will be approximately \$1,500 which covers all expenses during the pilgrimage. Each pilgrim is responsible to arrange transportation to and from Albuquerque, NM. If you have any questions, please speak to Pastor Scott or Linda Wallis today.



## Sunday School News– April

During our Sunday school time in April, the kids will be learning and exploring the story of the Prodigal Son. I expect that for many of you, like myself, this story is a lifelong source of comfort and hope. Jesus' message that God never gives up on us, that it is never too late to return to God's loving embrace is one that I am so excited to share with our children. If I could have the kids remember one story from Sunday school, I think this would be the one.

April's going to be a fun month in Sunday school and I've got something very special planned for May and June!

Keep the faith,

Doug McMinimy



## Remember Our Homebound Friends

Our "Homebound Members" are our church members and friends who are not able to get to church very often, but who are still an important part of our congregation. Keep them in your thoughts and prayers. **Our Homebound Members are:**

♥ *George Abernathy*  
386 Sandy Street  
El Cajon, CA 92020

♥ *Peggy Boyce*  
3420 Kite Street  
San Diego, CA 92103

♥ *Roger Goodson*  
2093 Northwestern Pike #320  
Winchester, VA 22603

♥ *Helen Juarez*  
Magnolia Post Acute Care  
635 S. Magnolia  
El Cajon, CA 92020

♥ *Dale & Barb Kelly*  
148 W. Upas Street  
San Diego, CA 92103

♥ *Joan Lindegren*  
6251 Lismore Place  
Carlsbad, CA 92009

♥ *Jean Neill*  
The Montera  
5740 Lake Murray Blvd.  
La Mesa, CA 91942

♥ *Rev. Dr. John Rawlings*  
Oakmont  
955 Grand Ave.  
Pacific Beach, CA 92109

♥ *Holly Ward*  
4021 Alameda Drive  
San Diego, CA 92103

♥ *Jeanne Watson*  
2394 Juan Street,  
San Diego, CA 92103



## *Pathways...* to Faith Formation

### **GROUPS**

RETHINKING OUR FAITH is a group-selected and group-discussion of Scripture or book study. Sundays, 9am, Commons. Contact: Marybeth Holliday, mb92103@gmail.com

*Coming at new time!* HERSTORY (Women's Book Group) is reading Courtney Sullivan's SAINTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS. This best-selling author tells the story of two sisters who immigrate to America from Ireland---their hopes, sacrifices, love and a secret that drives them apart.. Newcomers always welcome!

Monday, May 14th, 1pm, Commons. Contact: Sharon Peterson.

LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY is a group discussion of upcoming sermon themes and text.

Tuesdays, 11am, Commons. Contact: Pastor Scott

CENTERING PRAYER is a gathering of those interested in group contemplative prayer.

Thursdays, 4pm, ♥space. Contact: Pastor Scott,

### **RETREATS AND PILGRIMAGES**

SHALEM INSTITUTE FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION PILGRIMAGE:

"Iona: Pilgrimage in Image and Word." May 31-June 10, 2018

Contact: <https://shalem.org/programs/pilgrimages/iona/>

### **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

USD: "Spirituality and Aging" is a panel presentation which will address these kinds of questions: How can I age well? What is God asking me at this stage of life? What now nurtures me spirituality and how is it different than what I needed in my youth? Join others over 55 to consider the impact of aging on our ever evolving spiritual journey. Co-sponsored by USD's Center for Christian Spirituality and San Diego Spiritual Directors.

Saturday, April 7, 10-12pm, University Center, Forum A. \$25. Public welcome.

Contact: ccs@sandiego.edu, call (619) 260-4656 or

<http://www.sandiego.edu/ccs/events/detail.php?focus=66614>

UCSD: Burke Lectureship on Religion and Society: "Building Beloved Community: Reconnecting Church and Community in the Midst of Racialized Chaos." Lecturer is the Rev Traci Blackmon, UCC Executive Minister of Justice and Senior Pastor of Christ the King UCC in Florissant, MO.

Thursday, April 26th, 6pm, Great Hall, Roosevelt College, UCSD. FREE

For more information, <http://history.ucsd.edu/news-events/burke/lectures.html>

4-DAY SILENT RETREAT: Join two Centering Prayer Groups, under the auspice of San Diego Contemplative Outreach, for their annual Retreat at Prince of Peace Abbey in Oceanside. Attend Daily Offices with the Brothers, stroll the gardens, browse in the library, join the group for periods of Centering Prayer--all for a refreshing time away with God.

Wednesday afternoon through Sunday lunch, June 6--10th. Cost is \$400 includes all meals and four nights lodging.

Contact: Sharon Peterson, shar.pete@att.net or 619-275-1313 for Registration Form and any questions.

# Mission Hills United Church of Christ April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 5:30 AM Easter Vigil 6:30 AM Easter Sunrise 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith 10:00 AM Easter Worship 11:45 AM Prayer Partners 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	<b>2</b> 7:00 PM Dance Classes Reserved 10:30 AM <b>Wspace</b> 11:30 AM Chapel Reserved 3:00 PM Chapel Reserved 3:30 PM SDWC Reh. 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	<b>3</b> 9:00 AM <b>Wspace</b> Reserved 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study 7:00 PM Partnership - Social Committee 7:00 PM Step Study	<b>4</b> 12:00 PM Contemplative Outreach ( <b>Wspace</b> ) 6:45 PM Ministry Meeting Night	<b>5</b> 4:00 PM Centering Prayer 6:30 PM SDWC Meeting (Library) 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM Knitting 4 Peace 1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room)	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM Sangha ( <b>Wspace</b> )
<b>8</b> 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Peppermint Ridge Luncheon 11:30 AM Parent Meeting 12:00 PM Pathways mtg. 3:30 PM SDWC Reh. 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	<b>9</b> 10:00 AM Material Aid 10:30 AM <b>Wspace</b> 11:30 AM Chapel Reserved 3:00 PM Chapel Reserved 3:30 PM SDWC Reh. 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	<b>10</b> 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 1:00 PM <b>Wspace</b> Reserved 3:30 PM CSCT Audition 7:00 PM Step Study	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 8:30 AM Preschool Board 12:30 PM Communities of Practice 4:00 PM Centering Prayer 2:00 PM SA C&M Mtg. 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)	<b>13</b> 1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM "JIT" My First Home Shopping Day 10:00 AM Sangha ( <b>Wspace</b> ) 5:00 PM Theology & Cinema
<b>15</b> <b>Birthday Sunday</b> 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 3:30 PM SDWC Rehearsal 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	<b>16</b> 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Classes Reserved 10:30 AM <b>Wspace</b> 11:30 AM Chapel Reserved 3:00 PM Chapel Reserved 3:30 PM SDWC Reh. 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	<b>17</b> 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 12:00 PM Feeding America 7:00 PM Step Study	<b>18</b> 1:00 PM Contemplative Outreach (Commons) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 6:30 PM Church Council	<b>19</b> 3:00 PM Knitting 4 Peace 4:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)	<b>20</b> 11:00 AM <b>Wspace</b> Rsvd. 1:00 PM Yoga 4:30 PM CSCT Reh. <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;">                         May PC articles due                     </div>	<b>21</b> 10:00 AM Sangha ( <b>Wspace</b> )
<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Inquirers Class (Chapel) 3:30 PM SDWC Rehearsal 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	<b>23</b> 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Classes (Chapel)	<b>24</b> 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 7:00 PM Step Study	<b>25</b> 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 4:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)	<b>27</b> 1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 7:00 PM CSCT HS Performance	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM Sangha ( <b>Wspace</b> ) 7:00 PM CSCT HS Performance
<b>29</b> 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 3:30 PM SDWC Rehearsal 6:30 PM Storefront (Faith Formation) 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	<b>30</b> 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Classes	<b>Every Sunday:</b> Adult Bible Study - 9:00am Worship - 10:00am Contemplative Service – 7:15pm				

For the most up-to-date calendar listings, visit: [www.missionhillsucc.org/calendar](http://www.missionhillsucc.org/calendar)

**No Matter Who You Are  
Or Where You Are On Life's Journey  
You Are Welcome Here!**

## **ALL ARE WELCOME AT MISSION HILLS UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

Our Church is a church without dogma where people are free to explore and deepen their faith in an environment open to questioning in the richness of our strong Christian heritage.

The United Church of Christ (UCC) is a progressive, inclusive Protestant denomination that celebrates diversity and community action.

UCC churches seek to unite people from all ethnic, racial and social backgrounds. Our churches and ministries are active worldwide, working in communities to promote social justice and better living standards.

### **Don't Miss a Minute!**

*Mission Minutes* are weekly emails in addition to the monthly newsletter to keep you informed of current Mission Hills UCC news.

To subscribe for *Mission Minutes* you must first subscribe to our monthly newsletter. Visit us online and select "Newsletter" from the left Quick Links. Make sure the "Mission Minute" box is checked at the bottom of your registration form to receive **weekly emails!**

4070 Jackdaw Street  
San Diego, CA 92103  
(619) 296-2169  
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If you wish to be removed from this mailing,  
please contact the church office.

Open and Affirming (ONA)



United Church of Christ