

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

December 2017



Amazing Advent(ure)

We have been emphasizing the theme of Journey throughout our fall calendar with activities and programs focused on both outward and inward journeys – which could also be called faith “advent”ures. I’d like you to think of this Advent season as an “Adventure” as you avail yourselves to the many activities occurring in the life of our congregation.

This year “Theology Uncorked” will take you on the journey of Mary and Joseph as they make their way from Nazareth to Bethlehem, to Egypt, and back to Nazareth once again. Their adventure was fraught with danger and many unknowns as they faced a world seemingly stacked against them. Their story parallels many in the throes of immigration today. Join us (see separate article) for one or all of these nights of fellowship, and discussion.

The four Sundays in Advent will focus on the traditional themes of hope, peace, joy, and love. Advent Sunday will feature a special communion service as we begin a whole new church year. The second Sunday in Advent (**December 10**) will feature the Voices of Our City Choir. This is the second appearance of the choir at our church in as many years whose mission is to transform the perception and experience of homelessness through the healing power of the arts. You will be inspired by their voices and their passion as they bring their message in song. Advent three (**December 17**) will be the day our children bring their message of joy by re-telling the Christmas story visually and in traditional carols. We experience the timely story, once again, through the eyes and ears of a child. Later that afternoon the chancel choir offers its Christmas Cantata through a lovely candlelight service. And finally on the **fourth Sunday in Advent** we begin the day with traditional worship at 10 a.m., and then shift the focus to Christmas Eve with the family service at 5 p.m. and our Lessons and Carols service at 10 p.m.

(Continued on page 2)

Amazing Advent(ure)... (continued)

The final worship services of the year will take place on **Sunday, December 31**. We will worship in the fellowship hall at 10 a.m. as we prepare to cross over in to 2018. This service will be interactive with times to share where we noticed God working in our lives in the past year and our intentions for the coming year. We will sing Christmas carols and other favorites on this special day. Our contemplative service will be held in the evening in the tradition of a "Watch Night service."

There are many other activities being held throughout Advent and Christmas. Please read the other related articles in this month's Pilgrim Congregationalist for details and watch for weekly updates in the Mission Minute. May you sense a profound presence of holiness during this time of preparation and fulfillment.

Yours in the journey,



Advent Booklet - Online

Though the liturgical color of Advent is blue - we're going green. This year if you would like to receive the MHUCC Advent Devotional Booklet online daily, just sign up by emailing info@missionhillsucc.org. Give us your email address and the story of the day will be sent to you each day. This will really stop you from reading the whole booklet in one sitting and instead get a little dose of your MHUCC family each day.

The days of Advent are days of anticipation. Join us in the journey to Bethlehem. May your days of waiting be blessed with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

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

**NOVEMBER
AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE:
180**

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

News subscriptions & submissions (due on the 20th)

news@missionhillsucc.org

The Ruth Dickinson Fund

During stewardship season we tend to focus on members' responsibility to give to the church in gratitude for the abundance with which God has blessed us. Doing so is an integral part of being an active member at MHUCC. You should also know there are ways in which we can assist members who may need periodic financial assistance.

- One means is through the "Pastor's Discretionary Fund." This fund, privately administered by the pastor, offers assistance for a variety of needs to members and friends of our congregation. Pastor Scott has sole discretion to use the funds in ways he deems necessary. He gives a periodic but confidential accounting to the church treasurer.
- In addition, the "Ruth Dickinson Fund for Eldercare" is a fund in honor of our former member to assist Senior Pilgrims in time of need. Funds may be used for medical equipment or treatment, or to assist with personal needs such as shopping, education or transportation. Members have used the funds for medical devices such as hearing aids, ambulation assistance, and for rideshares services Uber and Lyft. To request these funds please consult with Pastor Scott or Moderator Bruce Matthias.

In our efforts to "Be the Church" we want to do everything we can to help care for every member of our congregation.

December Birthdays

Dec 2	Roger Goodson
Dec 3	Larry Holt Robert Merrick Levi Sandusky
Dec 6	Judith Carter Robert Hubbard
Dec 9	Patrick Mrotek Monica Slev
Dec 10	Holly Ward
Dec 11	Lewis Poor Reba Quastler
Dec 12	Juanita Curtis
Dec 13	Carol Vaughan Carlos Wilson Travis Berry
Dec 15	Jane Haubert Eliana Nunez
Dec 18	Steffanie Fry Megan Merrick
Dec 19	Kennis Grace Mrotek
Dec 21	Pam Adler Marc Tarasuck
Dec 24	Chris McLay
Dec 26	Imre Quastler Pierson Sauberan
Dec 27	Joan Everds
Dec 31	Sarah Everist Kate Mullinger



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

Happy Birthday!

Theology & Cinema - December 9 - "Buen Dia, Ramon"



Determined to escape his poverty-stricken circumstances in Mexico, Ramon tries repeatedly to reach the United States before heading to Germany instead. There, he's forced to scratch out a living on his own until he forms a bond with a retired nurse. You will thoroughly enjoy this "heart-warming" movie just in time for the holidays. Join us for a pot luck dinner at 5 and viewing the movie at 5:30. Our Second Saturday Cinema takes place on December 9. Come join the fun!

Our New Christian Education Director – Doug McMinimy

We are pleased to announce our new Christian Education Director, Doug McMinimy who officially began his work on November 16th. Doug has been a member of Mission Hills UCC for just over a year coming to us from Bar Harbor, Maine where he was active in the Bar Harbor Congregational Church. Doug served two terms on their Christian Education Committee, taught Sunday school for 10-12 year old youth, started, directed and then co-directed the children's choir, directed 4 musicals with the children of the church, and gave children's sermons on occasion. For many years Doug has worked in laboratory science, but he sees his new position at MHUCC as an opportunity to do what he feels God is calling him to do which is, in part, serving the local church. Doug's other passion is photography. The part-time position at MHUCC will give him the opportunity to develop this vocation in his life.



Since coming to Mission Hills Doug has jumped right in participating in the lectionary bible study, the Sunday morning adult bible class, the Mission and Outreach ministry, and the Tijuana Build, in addition to preaching for this year's Laity Sunday and offering the children's message. Doug is responsible for the children and youth faith formation programs. In so doing, Doug will supervise our youth leaders and child care attendants. In addition, Doug will coordinate the church library.

We are thrilled to have Doug come forward and serve as our new CE Director! He is just the right person to help assist in this time of transition. Join me in welcoming him as he offers his unique skills, ideas, and passion to this important ministry to our children and youth.

To Our Wonderful MHUCC Family,

Thank you for the beautiful celebration of our time at Mission Hills UCC. From the very first notes from Kris's prelude, I knew we were going to have a very special worship service. Pastor Scott's beautiful blessing of our family means so much to me. It is moving to be prayed for, and to be gathered with the people I love so very much for this prayer made it a profound experience. The quilt you created is a gift I will treasure. I am amazed that our esteemed moderator, Bruce Matthias, pulled off such an elaborate and covert operation. He and his partner in crime, Carolyn Matthias, can certainly offer the CIA some tips on stealth maneuvers! Thank you for this beautiful quilt. I cannot wait to hang it in my new office in Moline. Thank you also for the generous financial gift. It will help in many ways as we transition to Illinois. Many thanks also for the beautiful reception. The hall looked so lovely and the food was delicious! What a special celebration – sharing delicious food and beverage with so many amazing people that have made such a difference in my and my family's lives. Thank you.

This community of faith has blessed me and my family in ways too numerous to name in this thank you message. I will take all that you have taught me and all the blessings and love into my new ministry setting at Hope UCC. Thank you and may God continue to bless each of you on your journeys (and we hope your journeys include a visit to Moline!).

With much love and many thanks,
Santina, Bob, Lewis, Charlie, and MJ Poor

Theology Uncorked

The journey of Mary and Joseph is often overlooked as our focus tends to be on the birth of Jesus. But the Christmas story is so much more than the “Silent Night” of Jesus’ birth. Mary and Joseph were migrants as they traveled to Bethlehem, dealt with the political logistics there, and eventually had to flee to Egypt to save Jesus and escape the wrath of Herod. Join us for three nights of fellowship and discussion as we look at the birth narrative in light of current proposed immigration policy in our country. Has much really changed? What can the journey of Mary and Joseph teach us today? Mark your calendars for the two remaining Tuesdays in this 3-week series— **December 5 (Quastler Residence) & December 12 (Wahlen Residence) at 6:30 p.m.**

That Special Gift

Give a meaningful Christmas gift. MHUCC is offering a special “Alternative Gifting” program. Give a financial gift to one of our three selected charities in the recipients’ name. You will receive a letter acknowledging the gift and information about the charity to give to the recipient. “Alternative Christmas” will be available in the social hall following church on December 3, 10 and 17. The three gifting choices are *Voices of Our City Choir*, *Trauma Intervention Program of San Diego* and *Just In Time*.

Mission Hills United Church of Christ December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Sunday: 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						
3 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 11:45 AM Confirmation Class 11:45 AM Prayer Partners 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	4 1:00 PM Peer Group (▼space) 7:00 PM Dance Classes	5 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 6:30 PM Theology Uncorked (Quaester Residence) 7:00 PM Step Study	6 11:00 AM ▼space Reserved 12:00 PM Contemplative Outreach SD - Leadership Meeting (Commons) 6:45 PM Ministry Meeting Night	7 10:00 AM ▼space Reserved 4:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Recovery International (Library) 7:15 PM SDWC Meeting (Library) 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room) 4:00 PM Uptown Volunteer Christmas Party (Private) (Fellowship Hall)	9 7:00 AM JTT Holiday Event/ Boutique 9:00 AM "JTT" My First Home Shopping Day 10:00 AM Sangha (▼space) 5:00 PM Theology & Cinema
10 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 11:45 AM Confirmation Class 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	11 10:00 AM Material Aid 12:00 PM ▼space Reserved 3:00 PM ▼space Reserved 4:00 PM ▼space Reserved 7:00 PM Dance Classes	12 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 1:00 PM ▼space Reserved 4:00 PM ▼space Reserved 6:30 PM Theology Uncorked (Wahlien Residence)	13 3:00 PM Special Deliver Christmas Party	14 12:00 PM Communities of Practice ((Chapel/Library)) 4:00 PM Centering Prayer 4:00 PM SA Church & Ministry Comm. 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 12:30 PM Grant Kinder Show (Fellowship hall) 1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room)	16 10:00 AM Sangha (▼space)
17 Birthday Sunday 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 11:45 AM Confirmation Class 4:00 PM Christmas Candlelight Service 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	18 7:00 PM Dance Workshop	19 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 12:00 PM Feeding America	20 6:30 PM Church Council <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> January PC articles due </div>	21 3:00 PM Knitting 4 Peace 4:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Recovery International (Chapel)	22 1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room) 6:00 PM Grant Babysitting Night (Fellowship Hall)	23 10:00 AM Sangha (▼space)
24 Christmas Eve 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 5:00 PM Worship 7:15 PM Contemplative Service 10:00 PM Worship	25 Christmas Day	26 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons)	27	28 4:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Recovery International (Chapel)	29 1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room) 6:30 PM Storefront	30 10:00 AM Sangha (▼space)
31 New Year's Eve 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 7:15 PM Contemplative Service						



4070 Jackdaw Street
San Diego, CA 92103
(619) 296-2169
www.missionhillsucc.org

A Traditional Church With A Progressive Theology
Proclaiming God's Extravagant Welcome!
An Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation

If you wish to be removed from this mailing,
please contact the church office.

Open and Affirming (ONA)



United Church of Christ

***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!**