

# PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

February 2018



## How Will Your Lent Be Different This Year?

For some this is a troubling season – dour and devoid of the joy and spirited nature of typical Sunday worship. Others find this a time

to “really get serious about my faith” and focus intently upon spiritual matters and the deeper questions of life. Still others ignore the season altogether – looking ahead to the celebration of Easter, and view Lent as something to hopscotch over into the glorious news of the resurrection. I wonder, how will Lent be different this year – For you? For me?

For starters – the beginning and ending dates are quite unique this year. While I’m not really sure what to make of it, the fact that Lent begins on Valentine’s Day and ends on April Fools Day must mean something. Are we being invited into a deepening relationship of love as we ponder the life and ministry of Jesus – a love so encompassing that we truly are to become “fools for Christ” as St. Paul suggests (1 Corinthians 4:10). Perhaps this says something about our commitment to the one who gave his own life in love. Perhaps it invites me to question whether this path that I am on is nothing but folly. Perhaps Lent will be different this year.

I invite you to make an intentional effort this year to explore what Lent means for you. Maybe read a spiritual book or one of the gospels in its entirety, or take some long walks in nature and have a good conversation or two with God. Maybe set aside a period for prayer/meditation each day. You might try prescribing to the United Church of Christ daily devotional at [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) to provide some guidance for personal reflection. Or make it a point to worship each Sunday (morning or contemplative service) and participate in your faith community with renewed vigor.

I believe Lent is a most interesting season because it invites the opportunity to do things differently – to experiment – to take on a new approach. I encourage you to accept Lent’s invitation and open your heart to whatever God wants to give you.

How will your Lent be different this year? Only you can answer that.

Yours in the journey,

## Pastor Emeritus to Preach

President's weekend will be the occasion for a special celebration at MHUCC. Our pastor emeritus, Joe Sandven, will be in the pulpit and bring an inspiring word to all those present. Joe has in mind a patriotic theme in keeping with the celebration of the weekend. The choir is preparing a stirring arrangement of the Battle Hymn of the Republic and spirited hymns will be sung. Rev. Joe has agreed to fill in while Pastor Scott is away visiting his new grandson in Oregon. You won't want to miss this special day in church – February 18<sup>th</sup>!

## Theology & Cinema - Second Saturday - February 10



Since we are close to Valentine's Day, we decided it would be appropriate to show a more romantic film this month. *Me Before You*, is a film that will steal your heart. Young and quirky Louisa moves from one job to the next to help her family make ends meet. Her cheerful attitude is put to the test when she becomes a caregiver for Will Traynor, a wealthy young banker left paralyzed from an earlier accident. Will's cynical attitude starts to change when Louisa shows him that life is worth living. As their bond deepens, their lives and hearts change in ways neither could have imagined. Join us for this heart-warming film fitting for the season on February 10 at 5 (pot-luck) and 5:30 film. Discussion to follow – tissues will be provided.

**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)**

**JANUARY  
AVERAGE  
ATTENDANCE: 125**

### 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

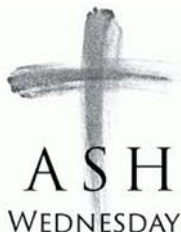
*General information*

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

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

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

## Ash Wednesday – Partnership Churches Unite in Worship



This year the San Diego Partnership of UCC congregations will worship at Christian Fellowship United Church of Christ – (1601 Kelton Rd., 92114) – on February 14 at 7:00 p.m.

A light dinner is offered just prior to the service at 6. All the Partnership churches will participate in the service and this year Pastor Scott will preach. The service culminates with the imposition of ashes and a call to discipleship as we enter the holy season of Lent. Please take time to join in this deeply moving and meaningful service with friends from area UCC congregations.

## Sunday School News

I am so excited to be the new director of Christian Education at MHUCC. This winter and spring, our Sunday school classes will be exploring the stories of the Bible and their relevance to our lives.

I look forward to deepening our children's connection to the fundamental ideas of our faith through creative dance, photography, guest speakers and good old fashioned reading and discussion. I look forward to spending time with and getting to know the amazing children of our church family as well as their parents!

Keep the Faith!

Doug  
McMinimy



## February Birthdays

<b>Feb 2</b>	Julia Fordham
<b>Feb 3</b>	Mike Groby
<b>Feb 5</b>	Betty Darling
<b>Feb 6</b>	Bill Rehm Gabriella Stryker
<b>Feb 8</b>	Denise Odom
<b>Feb 10</b>	Lalo Illades
<b>Feb 11</b>	Jason Sauberan Audrey Sauberan
<b>Feb 12</b>	Robin James
<b>Feb 13</b>	Grace Adkins Penny Valentine-Faith
<b>Feb 14</b>	Katelyn Berman
<b>Feb 15</b>	Elsie Brooks
<b>Feb 17</b>	Stan Johnson
<b>Feb 18</b>	Nora Stallone
<b>Feb 19</b>	Ryan Cage
<b>Feb 18</b>	Erik More
<b>Feb 22</b>	Evan Barnes-Wallace
<b>Feb 25</b>	Jane Illades Ava Lantis David Pitt
<b>Feb 26</b>	Cassidy Watelet
<b>Feb 28</b>	Angela Silva Otis Caldwell



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

# Happy Birthday!

## **GROUPS**

*New beginning date!* TGIF is for persons seeking deeper connections to others, ourselves and God through small group interaction (8 to 16 people). We will meet four times: the first two will focus on sharing our life experiences and faith journeys; the last two will look at our lives through the lens of Extravagant Welcome. Our goal is to build a sense of community so a commitment to all four sessions is important.

*Saturdays beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4:00pm* (final dates and time TBD by group), Commons.  
Contact and sign up: Dave Sommer, davesommer@att.net, (619) 980-3968

## **COURSES**

*New! Lenten Series: "The Desert in Word, Image and Meditation":*

As we begin our Lenten Journey from Ash Wednesday to Easter, join us as we consider themes from the desert. The role of the desert in Scripture and the spiritual insights of the desert mothers and fathers will be reviewed and used for meditation and discussion. Our understanding of the desert, in light of relevant environmental and socio-economic issues, will be made current. And we will engage desert imagery in various forms to deal with modern life's intrusion into both the serenity and spiritual aridity we find in ourselves and others. Suggested text and Lenten devotional: Chittister, IN GOD'S HOLY LIGHT: Wisdom from the Desert Monastic. Available in a variety of formats on Amazon.

Tuesdays, February 20 - March 20, 7pm, Chapel. Cost: freewill donations welcomed.

Contact: Richard Bonacci, r.bonacci@sbcglobal.net, (510) 495-4760

Sign up by contacting the church office so we can prepare handouts.

## **RETREAT and PILGRIMAGE**

*New!* NEW MEXICO DESERT PILGRIMAGE. Join fellow MHUCC pilgrims and friends as we journey to the deserts of New Mexico. We will experience being present at holy sites, participate in the Daily Office of Hours at a Benedictine Monastery, enjoy the Grand Silence, and recognize the metaphors of desert in our spiritual life.

Tentative dates are October 28-November 4th. And tentative cost is \$1,500.

Contact: Pat Wahlen, Al Mazur, Gail Rutherford, or Pastor Scott, all members of the Pathways Pilgrimage Committee.

## **OTHER OPPORTUNITIES**

*Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation Pilgrimages:*

"In the Footsteps of St Francis and St Clare: a Pilgrimage to Assisi," April 4-14th, 2018,

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

Contact: Shalem.org, then click "programs," drop down menu, click "pilgrimages."

*USD:* "Revolution of the Heart: the Counter-cultural Spirituality of Henri Nouwen" Friday and Saturday, February 9th, 6-9pm, and February 10th, 9-5pm. Cost is \$150 with scholarships available. Contact: sandiego.edu/Nouwen

*PLNU: Wiley Lectures:* Annual offering to community covering wide range of subjects all relevant to Christian life and ministry. This year features Shelley Rambo, Professor at Boston University School of Theology, who will focus on religious response to suffering, trauma and violence. February 14-16th, various times; free. Contact: pointloma.edu

## *Pathways... to Faith Formation (continued)*

*PLNU: Writers Symposium by the Sea:* Annual event featuring interviews with authors as diverse as Deepak Chopra and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. January 19-23rd, various days and times. Special showing of "I'll Push You: A Journey of 500 miles, Two Best Friends, and One Wheelchair" detailing a Camino de Santiago pilgrimage. February 23rd, 1:30pm, \$5 Contact: [pointloma.edu](http://pointloma.edu), click menu icon, click "events," scroll to "Writers Symposium"

## **Mission Hills Scholarship Fundraiser**

Join your friends and support scholarships to our members. The Mission Hills Scholarship Fundraiser featuring the San Diego Nite Band will be held on Saturday, February 3 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Suggested Donation \$25.

## **The Big Event**

It's a pass, TD and a Field Goal. Oh No! It's not the Super Bowl. It's homemade soup, fun, and support for our local homeless. It's "Souper Bowl" 2018, our annual fundraiser for the Uptown Community Service Center. Sunday, February 11, 2018. Come, enjoy, taste the soups, and vote for your favorite with your dollars. Cash, Check and Credit Cards accepted. Thank you for your participation and generosity in advance.

## **Uptown's 5K Walk for the Homeless**

The walk is on Saturday, February 24 from 8 - 11 a.m. Registration and the walk will start at 8 a.m. at University Christian Church, 3900 Cleveland Ave. The walk includes a tour of the Uptown Community Service Center and returns to University Christian Church for a continental breakfast and program, beginning at 10:00. Tickets for the event are \$25 per person or \$60 for a family. We hope you will consider not only walking for the homeless but also getting sponsors to support your walk. Sponsorship forms can be obtained from the church website. Anyone with \$100 or more sponsorship does not need to buy a ticket. Tickets will be on sale during Fellowship Hour.



Tim Wolf and Raydene St. Clair have a new grandson,  
*Hunter Jackson Wolf*,  
parents Andrew and Marissa Wolf, born January 2, 2018

Bruce & Carolyn Matthias have a new grandson,  
*Bennett Lawson Matthias*  
parents Ashton & Elyse Matthias born January 20, 2018.

Imre & Reba Quastler have a new grandson,  
*Quinn Francis McDonald*  
parents Jack McDonald & Julie Quastler born January 22, 2018

**Congratulations to our proud grandparents!**

# Mission Hills United Church of Christ February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Every Sunday:</b> Adult Bible Study - 9:00am Worship - 10:00am Contemplative Service – 7:15pm</p> <p>For the most up-to-date calendar listings, visit: <a href="http://www.missionhillsucc.org/calendar">www.missionhillsucc.org/calendar</a></p>						
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>New Members Join</b> 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 11:45 AM Prayer Partners 3:30 PM SDWC Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 7:15 PM Contemplative Service</p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>1:30 PM ↕space Reserved 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>11:00 AM ↕space Reserved 12:00 PM Contemplative Outreach (↕space) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 6:45 PM Ministry Meeting Night</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Board Meeting 10:00 AM ↕space Reserved 12:30 PM Communities of Practice 4:00 PM Centering Prayer 4:00 PM SA Committee International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>Cookie Decorating (Preschool)</b> 1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>9:00 AM "JIT" My First Home Shopping Day 10:00 AM Sangha (↕space) 7:00 PM Scholarship Fundraiser</p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p><b>Souper Bowl Sunday</b> 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Souper Bowl 3:30 PM SDWC Rehearsal 7:15 PM Contemplative Service</p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p><b>Lincoln's Birthday</b> 10:00 AM Material Aid 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>Ash Wednesday</b> 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 7:00 PM Partnership Churches Unite in Worship (Christian Fellowship UCC)</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>3:00 PM Knitting 4 Peace 4:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>11:00 AM ↕space Reserved 1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>10:00 AM Sangha (↕space)</p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Birthday Sunday</b> 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 3:30 PM SDWC Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 7:15 PM Contemplative Service</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p><b>Presidents' Day – Office Closed</b> 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Diabetes Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 12:00 PM Feeding America 7:00 PM Lenten Series 7:00 PM Step Study</p> <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p><b>March PC articles due</b></p> </div>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 6:30 PM Church Council</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>4:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>8:00 AM Uptown 5K 10:00 AM Sangha (↕space)</p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 3:30 PM SDWC Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 7:15 PM Contemplative Service</p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>1:00 PM Peer Group (↕space) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 7:00 PM Desert Spirituality Lenten Series 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>			



4070 Jackdaw Street  
San Diego, CA 92103  
(619) 296-2169  
[www.missionhillsucc.org](http://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!**