

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

January 2018

The Journey Continues



All through the Advent season we embraced the theme of journey as we made our way to Christmas. Wonderful articles in the Advent devotional booklet provided guidance as unique stories presented glimpses of others' life journeys thereby enlightening our own. I am so grateful to each one who helped me experience this theme through offering pages from their lives. The tales were inspiring and heartwarming. But – the journey continues!

Now that we have made our way to Bethlehem (metaphorically) and have witnessed the birth of the Christ child once again, we wait and watch for the visit of the Magi from the east who bring their own unique gifts. Their faithful journey continues to inspire reminding us that God always beckons us to pay attention to new light and truth constantly breaking forth into our lives.

As many of you know, Epiphany is my favorite day of the church year. Often overlooked, Epiphany is a day of illumination, insight, awareness and the invitation to “go home by another way” as the “Wise Ones” were warned to do. The guiding star associated with this particular day and season reflects an inner calling to notice the messages of God in dreams, deep longings, or a message from the most unsuspecting places.

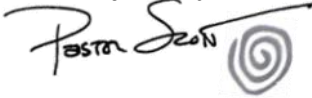
This year I decided to offer an intentional opportunity for folks to give particular attention to these messages (guidances) of God. Those desiring are invited to gather for a retreat “day away” to listen to Spirit’s call. Our day in Pine Valley will include special readings for the day, time to walk about in the lovely setting, space to be quiet and journal or use your creative spirit to listen and respond. If you are interested in this kind of contemplative experience, I invite you to join us on Epiphany – January 6. See the accompanying article for details or be in touch so I can answer your specific questions. The group will be limited in number, so please sign up soon if you would like to participate.

(Continued on page 2)

The Journey Continues... (continued)

The journey continues – it is a living, dynamic process. Join fellow pilgrims as we watch for the guiding star that still shines to guide our path.

Yours in the journey,



Theology & Cinema - January 13 - "Twelve Years A Slave"



This academy award winning film features the autobiography of Solomon Northup, a free black man who was abducted from New York state and sold into slavery in the mid-1800s. This historical drama is both shocking and compelling and will inform our discussion for our current "Be the Church" theme - Reject Racism. Chiwetel Ejiofor stars as Northup, and Brad Pitt plays an abolitionist. Please join us for a potluck at 5 and film at 5:30 Join us for an evening of fellowship and discovery.



Congregational sympathy is extended to the family of Pat Saville. Pat died peacefully on Tuesday, December 19. Our prayers are also for Cea Parrish whose mother died recently.

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

**DECEMBER
AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE: 143**

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
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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

Online Giving

Save time and resources with online giving. You can make one-time gifts or recurring payments. You can specify where you want to your payment to go: Pledge or Offering, Designated Funds (such as Organ & Music), Memorial Funds, Special Offerings (5 for 5), and short-term fundraisers such as the Souper Bowl and Youth Service Projects.

Visit our link to learn how to set up payments:

<http://missionhillsucc.org/online-giving/>

Endowment Proposal

At the congregational Annual Meeting, on January 28, the Stewardship and Investment Ministry will propose the creation of an endowment for MHUCC. Church Council has enthusiastically endorsed this plan in keeping with our overall stewardship goals. Recent bequests to our church have given us this wonderful opportunity to manage our funds differently in keeping with our church's mission. The Chair will move that we take \$300,000 currently in the Pilgrim Fund to create a separate fund to be permanently invested for growth and income and that 4% of the total in the fund be drawn annually and used as ongoing income in the budget. This will leave approximately \$400,000 in the Pilgrim Fund for any and all needs of the church that may arise.

The S&I ministry will host two meetings to further explain this plan: January 14 in the Library (second floor) and January 21 in the Commons. All are welcome.

January Birthdays

Jan 3	Faith Burtch Patrick Cage Kathy Livingston
Jan 4	Ed Hom Pat Saville Linda Sommer
Jan 5	Peter Livingston
Jan 8	Audrey Hanna
Jan 11	Susan Lehman
Jan 14	Eric Bernhard
Jan 16	Hal Jameson
Jan 17	Sue Lowery Craig Watelet
Jan 20	Doug McMinimy
Jan 23	Lois Myers Jon Pettis
Jan 28	Calvin Hollis Bobbi Jo Lewis Barbara Wiggins
Jan 29	Amy Brunton
Jan 31	Zoe Merrick Bruce Ramet



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

Happy Birthday!

Inquirer's Class

Class will be held **Sunday, Jan. 21, 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 just like to learn more, please join us. Call to the church office, to register; or just drop in. Also, let us know if you will need childcare during that hour.

Happy Holidays from the MHUCC youth forum!



On December 15th we participated in a partnership event with the UCC churches in the area where we slept over and did midnight broomball! We had a blast on the ice, some of us took a little longer to get up after falling down than others! We had a great time meeting new people and playing some ice-breakers, not to worry no one broke the actual ice. After falling asleep at the church we woke up to a wonderful breakfast and said our goodbyes. Here is a photo of the partnership group and your very own youth group!



Thank you for all the love and support you give us throughout the year!

Pathways... to Faith Formation

GROUPS

Rethinking our Faith is a group-selected and group-discussion of Scripture or book study. In December the group discussed the Borg/Crossian Book THE FIRST Christmas. In January they will return to Carolyn Sharp's OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS FOR TODAY which they began in November.

Sundays, 9am, Commons. Contact: Marybeth Holliday, mb92103@gmail.com

Herstory is a women's book group which meets the 1st Monday of odd months. Currently reading Weidecher's TREEFUL OF ANGELS.

Monday, January 9th, 7pm. Commons, Contact: Sharon Peterson, shar.pete@yahoo.com

Lectionary Bible Study is a group discussion of upcoming sermon themes and text.

Tuesdays, 11am, Commons. Contact: Pastor Scott, Scott.Landis@missionhillsucc.org

Centering Prayer is a gathering of those interested in group contemplative prayer.

Thursdays, 4pm, ♥space. Contact: Pastor Scott, Scott.Landis@missionhillsucc.org

New! 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 January 20th, 4:30pm (final dates TBD by group), Commons.

Contact and sign up: Dave Sommer, davesommer@att.net, (619) 970-3968

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, 2/20, 27, 3/6, 13, 20 at 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.

OFFERINGS

New! Forum: "Get Smart About Housing." San Diego is in the worst housing affordability crisis in its history. We see the effects of this in many ways: long commutes, to work, bad traffic congestion, young people moving away to more affordable cities and skyrocketing rates of homelessness. How did we get to this point? And what solutions are being discussed by local and state governments? Join in conversation with our resident Saxophonist and KPBS metro reporter Andrew Bowen as he addresses one of our city's most pressing challenges.

Sunday, January 14th, 11:30am, Commons.

Contact: Andrew Bowen, andrew.c.bowen@gmail.com

RETREAT and PILGRIMAGE

New! Epiphany Retreat "Reflecting on the Light Within: a Contemplative Day Apart"

Join us for a retreat in a lovely setting in Pine Valley. Our day will provide time for prayer, silence, guided meditation, fellowship---and eating; it will be an opportunity to reflect on your inner light with an eye to the Light of the World. We will gather at 10am (individually or carpool) and conclude with dinner in Alpine (optional).

Saturday, January 6th. Cost is \$20. Please bring your own lunch; snacks and beverages will be provided. Sign up by December 31st by contacting the church office.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO: "Revolution of the Heart: the Counter-cultural Spirituality of Henry Nouwen"

Friday and Saturday, February 9th, 6-9pm, and February 10th, 9-5pm.

Cost is \$150 with scholarships available. Contact: sandiego.edu/Nouwen

PLNU: WRITERS SYMPOSIUM BY THE SEA is an annual event featuring interviews with authors as diverse as Deepak Chopra and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

January 19-23rd, various days and times. Contact: pointloma.edu, click menu icon, click "events," scroll to "Writers Symposium" Column



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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!**