

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

June 2017



And then God spoke...

Each year I join with seven other faculty members in guiding 30 United Church of Christ clergy participants in a mid-career wellness program known as CREDO. The program invites clergy from throughout the United States to pause and reflect on their career to date and attend to specific areas (including spirituality, health, vocation, and financial fitness) that may need a little attention. In addition to teaching, one-on-one consultations, time for personal reflection and discernment, and social events, we all participate in daily worship that I am responsible to prepare.

I enjoy writing the liturgies for the various worship services as I try and anticipate the experiences that participants bring to the conference. Carefully selecting words for prayers, litanies, hymns, and meditations-there is nothing left to chance. My desire is for their experience in worship to be rejuvenating to their souls.

On the second night of our gathering we held worship at a beautiful outdoor amphitheater at the Barbara C. Harris Conference Center in Greenville, New Hampshire. I pulled out all the stops. The staff helped me arrange luminarias and dress the large stone altar with shimmering fabric, a beautiful Celtic cross, and several candles. Participants were each given a candle upon arrival as they took their seats on what was developing into a beautiful spring evening in New England. Taize music played as we prepared to read together the opening liturgy. And then God spoke.

Coupled with the magic of descending darkness and the emergence of new stars to complement the tiny lights we held in our hands, the loons on the lake before us began chanting their haunting call. I stopped the prayer and invited the participants to listen as God spoke in a language that cannot be inscribed on paper. No one missed the irony.

(Continued on page 2)

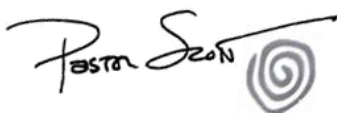
And then God Spoke... (continued)

I chuckled to myself as I thought about how long I had worked to write what I thought would be the perfect words for that service. While I'm sure my words may have spoken to some, God's words struck our hearts with a deep sense of awe.

I realize that those moments don't come often in our lives. I don't know when I will have the opportunity to be in that kind of setting, in that kind of gathering, with that level of anticipation ever again, but then, who knows? What I do know is, I don't have to be in that kind of setting to hear the voice of God.

We say often in our United Church of Christ that, "God is still speaking." I certainly heard her voice that night – loud and clear. Perhaps I need to pay closer attention in my daily life so that I don't miss that beautiful, haunting chant, that I can't capture in print, but clearly speaks to my heart. I invite you to join me as we listen with the ear of our heart.

Yours in the journey,



**REGULAR CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS**
Monday - Friday
8:30 am to 3:30 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

**MAY AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE: 145**

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		
Minister of Christian Education	Santina Poor	ext. 306	Santina.Poor@missionhillsucc.org
Administrative Assistant	Elizabeth Quinones	ext. 301	Elizabeth.Quinones@missionhillsucc.org
Sr. High Youth Leader	Jeremy Bloom		Jeremy.Bloom@missionhillsucc.org
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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

News subscriptions & submissions (due on the 20th)

info@missionhillsucc.org

news@missionhillsucc.org

Pentecost Sunday - June 4

Sunday, June 4th is Pentecost Sunday and there are some important things you should know as you prepare to come to worship:

- **Church will begin at 11am this week only.** The Rock and Roll Marathon will pass by our front doors on Ft. Stockton Street making it nearly impossible to get to church at our regular hour. Please make note of the time changes.
- **Pentecost Sunday is Confirmation Sunday.** Members of the 2017 Confirmation class will confirm the vows taken for them at their baptism and will officially become members of Mission Hills United Church of Christ.
- **Pentecost Sunday is Spirit Day!** We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit on that day and invite you to wear something red to join in the celebration.

We look forward to seeing you in worship on this special day in the life of our congregation.

Strengthen the Church Offering June 11

Sunday June 11th we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church offering

Where does the Strengthen the Church Money go?

- To seed brand new churches that bring hope to people on the margins who wouldn't set foot in church otherwise.
- To help established churches begin projects working with refugees and immigrants.
- To fund creative ideas experimenting with new ways Christian millennials are gathering.

June Birthdays

Jun 1	Lavinia Henley Adam Tomaselli
Jun 2	Timothy Berman Dale Lower
Jun 3	Kristin McKenney
Jun 6	Ann Dahlkamp Jackson Lantis
Jun 7	David Jay
Jun 9	Joan Rawlings
Jun 10	Erin Brown Christopher Steeley
Jun 12	Laura Hollis Allie Welch
Jun 14	Sue Mayberry
Jun 15	Betsy McIntyre Sharon Steeley
Jun 19	John Rawlings Scott Constance
Jun 20	Don Wells
Jun 21	Al Mazur Steve Moreen Susan Hansen-Fox
Jun 22	Steve Boyd
Jun 23	Barbara Christensen
Jun 24	Jami McLay Adam Fox
Jun 25	Bill White
Jun 26	David Stallone
Jun 28	Lynn Barnes-Wallace David Rickert
Jun 29	Dori Cage Glenn Ward Jeanne Watson



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Mission Hills United Church of Christ

June 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Pentecost Sunday Rock n Roll Marathon 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 11:00 AM Worship 12:45 AM Prayer Partners 2:00 PM CSCT Perf. 3:00 PM SDWC Reh. 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	5 1:00 PM Yoga Preschool 7:00 PM Partnership Program on White Privilege (Fellowship Hall)	6 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 7:00 PM Step Study	7 6:00 PM Upper Room Reserved 6:45 PM Ministry Meeting Night	8 7:00 AM CSCT Performance 1:00 PM Yoga- Preschool 4:00 PM SA Church & Ministry Comm. 4:30 PM Centering Prayer 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)	9 11:00 AM vspace Reserved 7:00 PM CSCT Performance	10 9:00 AM "JIT" My First Home Shopping Day 10:00 AM Sangha (vspace) 7:00 PM CSCT Performance
11 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Ecclesiastical Meeting 2:00 PM CSCT Perf. 3:00 PM SDWC Reh. 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	12 10:00 AM Material Aid	13 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 7:00 PM Step Study	14 Flag Day 1:00 PM Contemplative Outreach SD Meeting 6:00 PM Upper Room Reserved	15 1:00 PM Yoga- Preschool 3:00 PM Knitting 4 Peace 4:30 PM Centering Prayer 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)	16	17 Moving On Ceremony (Preschool) 10:00 AM Sangha (vspace) 10:30 AM Practical Spirituality (Chapel)
18 Father's Day Birthdays Sunday 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM SDWC Reh. 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	19 1:00 PM Yoga Preschool	20 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 12:00 PM Feed America 7:00 PM Step Study	21 6:00 PM Upper Room Reserved 6:30 PM Church Council	22 4:30 PM Centering Prayer 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)	23	24 10:00 AM Sangha (vspace) 10:30 AM JIT Career Horizons (Fellowship Ha) <div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 10px;"> Tijuana Building Project </div>
25 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 3:00 PM SDWC Reh. 7:15 PM Contemplative Service	26	27 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 7:00 PM Step Study	28 5:30 PM The Garden Club 6:00 PM Upper Room Reserved	29 4:30 PM Centering Prayer 6:30 PM Storefront- Personnel	30	<div style="border: 2px solid red; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; margin-top: 10px;"> Tijuana Building Project </div>
Open Minds Camp in Fellowship Hall						
Tijuana Building Project						

Celebration of Life for Don Green - June 10 at 1:00 p.m.



Family and friends of Don are invited to gather in the church sanctuary on June 10 at 1:00 pm to celebrate his wonderful life. You are asked to dress in "Aloha wear" in order to add to the celebration as we give thanks to God for all the gifts we have received in knowing Don. A reception will follow the ceremony where we can continue to share our experiences of Don and greet Carol and other members of the family. In lieu of flowers, you are asked to make contributions to the Old Globe Theater.

Confirmation Class 2017

For the past several months 6 young people have been attending classes with Pastor Scott in preparation to confirm the vows made by their parents in baptism. They have been studying the history, symbols, sacred practices, bible, and beliefs of our denomination, as well as learning about our particular congregation. Comparison has also been made with other Abrahamic faiths. Through field trips to a Jewish Temple and an Islamic Mosque, they have discovered firsthand similarities and differences in the way we worship and practice our faith. I ask that you be in prayer for our confirmands as they draw closer to Pentecost – Confirmation Sunday. Take time to meet them and ask them about what they are learning and why they want to become members of our beloved church. This year's class includes: Benjamin Lewis, Amelia Norkowski, Charley Poor, M.J. Poor, Evan Raffield, and Mason Sakai.

Feeding America Volunteers



Tuesday, June 20th is the monthly Feeding America food distribution that takes place in the MHUCC parking lot. If you are interested in this mission program and have some available time, please come and join the volunteers that make this outreach project possible. Any amount of time you have available would be appreciated. You would not need to stay for the full event.

We will be setting up for the distribution around 9 am, the truck usually arrives between 9:30 to 10:30 AM and then we get to work setting out the various food items delivered to be ready for our customers. The actual food distribution takes place between 12-2 pm. We strive to have everything picked up, put away, and concluded by 2:30 pm or earlier. Come if you can, stay for as long as you wish, and come away with a great feeling afterward that you have helped many people have access to healthy food. Thanks!

If you have questions on logistics, etc., please feel free to contact Larry Holt (619 733-8922) or Carol Holt (619 540-5624).

Ecclesiastical Meeting June 11

The Annual Ecclesiastical Meeting of MHUCC will be held June 11, 2017 immediately following worship. The business to be conducted at this meeting includes the Election of the 2017-2018 Church Council and Ministry Members, adoption of the 2016-2017 Ecclesiastical reports, financial update for 2017, and amendments to bylaws.

A quorum is necessary to conduct this business of the Church. Please plan to attend the Ecclesiastical Meeting on Sunday, June 11, 2017 immediately following worship.

2017 Bylaw Amendments

- The first bylaw amendment is a name change for Christian Education Ministry. Article 11.1.a shall be changed to read Faith Formation. The bylaw change is being renamed to clarify that this ministry includes all faith formation to more clearly reflect that the ministry includes children, youth and adult programs.
- The second bylaw amendment will rename the Women's Fellowship Scholarship fund and clarify who approves expenditure of funds. Appendix C Designated Funds will be renamed to The Women's Fellowship Legacy Scholarship Fund. Disposition of resources within this Designated Fund will be determined by a committee appointed by the Church Council each Spring.

Congratulations and Many Blessings to our Graduates!

High School Graduates:

Samantha Brown

Lauren Bernhard

Miranda Bernhard

Robert Merrick

Lewis Poor

Gabrielle Stryker

Adam Tomaselli

College Graduates:

Megan Rekalske

Jennifer Conrard





4070 Jackdaw Street
San Diego, CA 92103
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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!**