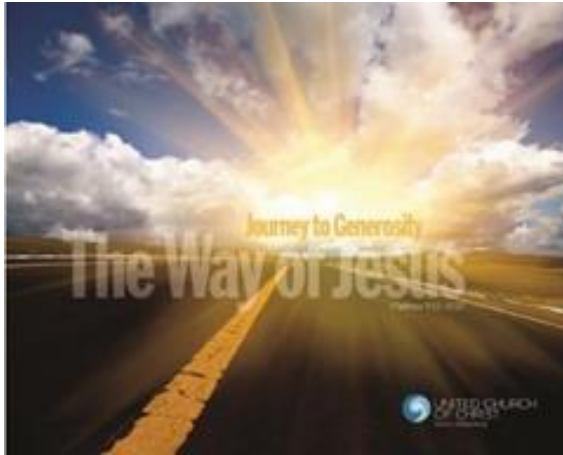


PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

October 2017



It's stewardship season! As you read that I bet some of you have already begun rolling your eyes as you think to yourself, "Here we go again," and are quickly switching to another article like I switch to another station when NPR begins another one of its solicitations. But before turning your attention to what you think might be items of greater interest, please take just a few moments and ponder the question, "How did I get to where I am today?" It's a simple question, but I bet the answer is not so much. We have many people, circumstances, and personal efforts to

which we can attribute overall success and our station in life. To focus on stewardship actually reminds us of that. Please read a little further.

Each Sunday, when the offering plates are brought forward, I offer an extemporaneous prayer, but one that typically offers gratitude in words like, "We thank you, O God, for the abundance with which you have blessed us. We pray that we might be faithful stewards of all the you have entrusted to us by giving us hearts of compassion - the mind of Christ.

Implied in that prayer is a sense of gratitude to God for all that we have been given AND that we as faithful disciples have a responsibility to share from that abundance to help meet some of the needs that we see around us – within our church walls, the surrounding community, and the wider world. By offering our gratitude in this simple prayer we are pausing for a moment, to recognize that

(Continued on page 2)

Lead article... (continued)

God's presence is with us in our individual and collective journeys, and that it is up to us to be both grateful recipients and gracious givers. In short, to walk the way of Jesus is to "Journey into Generosity" as this year's stewardship theme implies.

If you are like me, perhaps you too often approach giving from the perspective of fear or scarcity. I find myself wondering, "How much can I give and still have enough for . . ." While it's wise to be prudent, I wonder how many times my worry stands in the way of really listening to what God might be calling forth. Several years ago, I began the practice of tithing (giving 10% of my income). My personal discipline is to tithe to the church while giving additional gifts to other organizations that God has led me to support. Ever since I began doing that I can honestly say I always have enough for everything else I need. Maybe I cannot always get everything I want, but it is true. God has supplied all my needs. I see that as one of my spiritual practices and it brings me great joy to experience the benefits of that discipline.

That has been my "Journey to Generosity." Each one travels a different road with differing circumstances. I'm not suggesting that tithing is your path, but it might be. Our culture is changing, our church is changing, our lives our changing but the journey

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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

**SEPTEMBER
AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE:
128**

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
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)

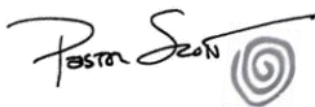
news@missionhillsucc.org

Lead article... (continued)

always beckons us to listen deeply to the call of God when it comes to the myriad opportunities to serve. Is God calling you to deeper generosity this year? Might God be inviting you to take a risk which may feel uncertain at first, but deeply satisfying in the end? That, my fellow pilgrims, is between you and God. What I do know is that God invites us on this wonderful journey – a journey of life, a journey of grace, a journey of opportunity, a journey of generosity. I am glad to be on that path with you.

When you think about that question, “How did I get where I am today?” do you see the blessings of abundance that are yours? Do you realize how you might be the agent of similar blessings in others’ lives as you travel the Journey of Generosity?

Yours in the journey,

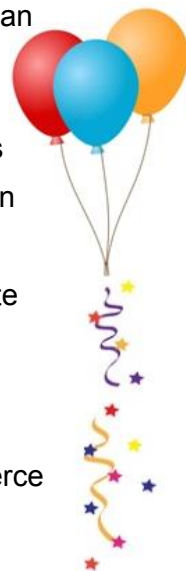


Congregational sympathy is extended to the family of Charlotte Albrecht. Charlotte died peacefully on Sunday, September 24.

Services will be held on Saturday, November 18th at 11 a.m.

October Birthdays

Oct 1	Elizabeth Quiñones
Oct 2	Rebecca McKenney
Oct 3	Alisson Watelet
Oct 4	Lori Barnes-Wallace
Oct 8	Janet Anderson
Oct 9	Suzi Valentine-Faith
Oct 10	Tim Wolf
Oct 11	Keely Bamberg Antoinette Byda Juanita Hill
Oct 12	Jennifer Berman Ed Lucas
Oct 13	Scott Landis
Oct 14	Woody James
Oct 15	Joan Anderson
Oct 16	Pat Wahlen
Oct 20	Shauntay Forte Marty Sutton
Oct 26	Jean Neill
Oct 27	Samuel Duke
Oct 29	Una Marie Pierce



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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Be the Church – Live and Share Your Strengths

Living Your Strengths, a 6-session class held each **Tuesday**
from Oct 10—Nov 14 from 6:30 – 8 PM.

Join MHUCC member & certified Strengths Coach Carol Vaughan as she leads you through this program that includes a strengths assessment, reading, discussion and personal and group reflection. Each aspect is designed with the goal of helping you gain a deeper understanding of your God-given strengths and why you naturally gravitate towards certain activities, what motivates you, and how you can be more effective and productive in all aspects of your life using your natural strengths. **So far, 85 people from our congregation have taken the class!** This class is a wonderful opportunity for our church community to understand how best to use our gifts together to move forward in our mission as well as how to use them in all areas of your life.



Tell Us About Your Journey...

It's October again and time for all of us to be thinking about our stories.



This year's Advent Book theme is JOURNEY. It was what Pastor Scott wrote about in our September PC; it is how we walk with our families, friends, communities facing hurdles and celebrating triumphs; it is spending time in nature; it is leaving home for college; it is the path of parenthood; it is the walk through grief's valley; it is the growing of a special relationship; it is the spiritual insight we gain from a sermon, walking the labyrinth or going on a pilgrimage; it is discovering our inner selves.

In brief, it is traveling from one place to another---and realizing that something happens - a shift in our consciousness or spiritual lives.

So, share your happening with your church community. Stories should be a page or so and submitted on or

before November 10th. Send your story to Sharon Peterson, shar.pete@yahoo.com, or the church office, info@missionhillsucc.org. Or we accept entries handwritten on anything!

Our First Pilgrimage

In last month's Pilgrim Congregationalist, Pastor Scott announced that we are planning a pilgrimage to the Desert Southwest (specifically New Mexico) for the Fall of next year, followed by an international trip in 2020. As he mentioned, you don't have to actually make the journey to participate, but we would like to start to get an idea of how many people are interested in traveling with us. While the details aren't finalized, we do have some additional information:

Dates: We are tentatively looking at traveling from October 27 - November 3, 2018

Cost: Our goal is to keep the cost under \$1,500 per person, including all lodging, meals and ground transportation in New Mexico. This does not include round-trip airfare to Albuquerque.

Itinerary: We plan to visit sacred sites in Santa Fe and Taos, as well as the Christ in the Desert Monastery (christdesert.org), Ghost Ranch (ghostranch.org), and the Sanctuary at Chimayo (elsantuariodechimayo.us), among others.

Please keep in mind that we want this to be a true "pilgrimage," and not just a "spiritual vacation." To that end we will travel together at all times, stay in the same lodging, eat together, and come together at the end of each day to pray and reflect on the journey. At the monastery, we will attend "offices," work and spend time in silence. Our goal is that, by doing so, we develop a closer connection to God and to each other; that we strengthen our faith; feel inspired by those who have gone before; develop a deeper appreciation of, and respect for, another culture; escape from distractions so as to reflect and receive God's guidance; and have time for intentional self-discovery.

To prepare for the trip, the Faith Formation Ministry will be leading two education sessions. The first, "Pilgrimage 101," which will explore the meaning of pilgrimage and why these journeys are made, will be offered this Fall. Next Spring, we will offer, as our Lenten Study Series, a program on Desert Spirituality. No commitment to the pilgrimage is required to attend these sessions. Everyone is invited.

At this time you are under no obligation, but if, after prayerful consideration, you think this is something you might be interested in, please contact Lavinia, laviniahenley@gmail.com to put yourself on a preliminary list of travelers. In order to make the necessary reservations (especially at the Monastery which fills up quickly), we will require confirmation, as well as a non-refundable deposit, by May of next year.

As Pastor Scott closed his PC article last month, we "offer this invitation in the spirit of possibility and adventure." Amen.

Herstory Book Club:
Acedia and Me: A Marriage, Monks, and a Writer's Life

Our next gathering will be November 13 at 7:00 P.M. in the MHUCC Commons.

"As a writer I must begin, again and again, at that most terrifying of places, the blank page. And as a person of faith I am always beginning again and again with prayer."

- Kathleen Norris

Our selection for our next meeting will be *Acedia and Me: A Marriage, Monks, and a Writer's Life* by Kathleen Norris, who has been described by the San Francisco Chronicle as, "one of the most eloquent yet earthbound spiritual writers of our time." As with her other books, the subject of this book is very personal for her. Kathleen Norris had written several much loved books, yet she couldn't drag herself out of bed in the morning, couldn't summon the energy for her daily tasks. Even as she struggled, Norris recognized her familiar battle with acedia, a word she had discovered in early Church text years earlier. Fascinated by this "noontday demon", so familiar to those in the early and medieval Church, Norris knew she

must restore this forgotten but important concept to the modern world's vernacular. An examination of acedia in the light of psychology, spirituality, the healing powers of religious practice, and Norris's own experience, *Acedia & Me* is both intimate and historically sweeping, brimming with exasperation and reverence, sometimes funny, often provocative, and always insightful.

Please bring a bite to share and look forward to a great discussion with your sisters! Please contact Santina Poor in the church office with questions or to let us know if you'll be joining us.

Neighbors in Need offering October 1st

October 1st is the Neighbors in Need offering. This is a United Church of Christ national ministry. This special mission offering is one of 5 for 5 at the national level, and we are a 5 for 5 church. The 2017 theme is "Protect the Sacred, In a Just World, Clean Water is Life" which connects the issue of clean water to the work that UCC congregations are doing to serve their community and address this injustice. Thank you for supporting Neighbors in Need!

Theology & Cinema - October 14 - The Shack



Ever thought of God as an African American Female who loves to cook? How about the Holy Spirit as an artistic gardener? The recent bestseller by the same name, *The Shack* will shake up your perceptions of the Trinity while at the same time explore a disturbing incident in Mac's life forcing him to question the very existence of God. This is a marvelous film that provokes thought and moves the heart.

Join us to view the film and enjoy a pot luck dinner together. We begin at 5 and will show the film by 5:45.

Inquirers Class

Class will be held Sunday, October 1, 11:30 AM - 12:30 pm, in the Chapel. Pastor Scott will provide information on our denomination and the mission and life of this congregation. If you are considering membership or would like to learn more, please join us. Call the church office to register, 619-296-2169. (Or just drop in). Also, let us know if you will need childcare during that hour.

Seven Friends Sign-Ups



Seven Friends is an opportunity to build stronger friendships in the church. Here's how it works. You complete the **Seven Friends Signup** form, indicating your preferences. The **Membership and Growth ministry** matches you up with 10 other people. The group decides what they want to do. This could be a movie night at church, a picnic, a potluck dinner in your home, breakfast at a restaurant, a game night with dessert; be creative. Your group will decide when to meet and how often to meet. We suggest meeting 6 times. As you do, you will enjoy getting to know each other better.

Sign ups can be done in the Fellowship Hall after church on **Oct. 1, and Oct. 8**. You can also request a form from David Sommer (davesommer@att.net). Complete the form, email it back to him and you are in. We plan to let you know about your group by **Oct. 29th**. If you have any questions you can talk to **Linda Sommer, Dave Sommer, or Pam Adler**.

Alternative Christmas Recipients

Mission and Outreach is accepting suggestions for our "Alternative Christmas" gifting opportunities. If you have any recommendations, please contact Claudette Toland or James Roth (j747r7@gmail.com) before Oct. 29 and we will be happy to consider them.

October Sunday School Rotation

The Story of Adam and Eve

	Week 1 October 1	Week 2 October 8	Week 3 October 15	Week 4 October 22	Week 5 October 29
Pre K- K Santina Poor	Pre K-K Curriculum	Pre K-K Curriculum	Pre K-K Curriculum	Pre K-K Curriculum	Pre K-K Curriculum
1st-2nd Lori Barnes Wallace	Bible Skills & Games	Art	Cooking	Science	Creative Drama
3rd-4th Loren Wilson	Creative Drama	Bible Skills & Games	Art	Cooking	Science
5th-6th Mike Groby	Science	Creative Drama	Bible Skills & Games	Art	Cooking

Classrooms:

*PreK-Kinder

Meets in Room 201 Every Sunday

Science:

Room 202

Bible Skills and Games:

Room 203

Art:

Room 206 - Nazareth Room

Cooking:

Fellowship Hall/Kitchen

Creative Drama:

Either Nazareth, Room 203, or Room 202



Partnership Picnic

Sunday, October 29th • 1:00 pm

The UCC churches in the San Diego Partnership will gather for a picnic!
See old friends, make new friends.

Potluck Lunch

Last name starting with

A-H ~ bring a main dish

I-R ~ bring a side dish

S-Z ~ bring a dessert

Beverages and paper products provided

Bring a chair or blanket & a reusable water bottle
Lawn games (volleyball & basketball courts available).

Admiral Baker Park—Gazebo #3

2400 Admiral Baker Rd # 3604
San Diego, California 92120

History Corner: Standing on the Shoulders of Our Predecessors

Rev. John C. Wiley



- In October 1941 Rev. Wiley came to Mission Hills from 1st Baptist Church of Jamaica in New York City.
- He saw a 4-fold purpose of the church: Worship, Education, Fellowship and Service
- During his nearly 12 years at Mission Hills, the church grew in numbers from 425 to 698
- With the growth, more space was needed, the new education and recreational building, including a chapel was dedicated in 1950.

Mission Hills United Church of Christ October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <p>9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Inquirers Class 11:45 AM Prayer Partners 3:30 PM SDWC Reh. 7:15 PM Contemplative Svc.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4:00 PM ♥space Reserved 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Classes</p>	<p>3</p> <p>8:30 AM Parent Classes (Preschool) (Library) 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:00 PM Contemplative Outreach SD - Leadership Meeting (Commons) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 6:45 PM Ministry Meeting Night</p>	<p>5</p> <p>4:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00 AM Knitting 4 Peace 11:00 AM ♥space Reserved 1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00 AM Sangha (♥space)</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 3:30 PM SDWC Reh. 7:15 PM Contemplative Service</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00 AM Material Aid 4:00 PM ♥space Reserved 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Classes</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 12:00 PM ♥space 6:30 PM Strength Class 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p>11</p> <p>4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>	<p>12</p> <p>4:00 PM Centering Prayer 4:00 PM SA Church & Ministry Comm. 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 AM "JIT" My First Home Shopping Day 10:00 AM Sangha (♥space) 5:00 PM Theology & Cinema</p>
<p>15</p> <p>NEW MEMBERS JOIN Birthday Sunday 9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Commons Reserved 3:30 PM SDWC Rehearsal 7:15 PM Contemplative Service</p>	<p>16</p> <p>4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Classes</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 12:00 PM Feeding America 6:30 PM Strength Class (Commons) 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p>18</p> <p>4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 6:30 PM Church Council</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:00 AM Organ Practice Penny 3:00 PM Knitting 4 Peace 4:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:15 PM SDWC Meeting (Library) 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>20</p> <p>1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p> <div style="border: 2px solid blue; padding: 5px; text-align: center; width: fit-content; margin: 10px auto;"> <p>November PC articles due</p> </div>	<p>21</p> <p>8:00 AM AGO Recital 10:00 AM Sangha (♥space)</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 4:30 PM Oktoberfest (Preschool - Parking Lot) 7:15 PM Contemplative Service</p>	<p>23</p> <p>4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Workshop</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 6:30 PM Strength Class (Commons) 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p>25</p> <p>4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>	<p>26</p> <p>4:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>1:00 PM Yoga - Preschool (Music Room) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00 AM Sangha (♥space) 7:00 PM Private Event (Fellowship Hall)</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 AM Rethinking Our Faith (Adult Bible Study) 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Partnership Picnic 3:30 PM SDWC Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 PM Storefront - Diaconate 7:15 PM Contemplative Service</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Halloween 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 6:30 PM Strength Class (Commons) 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p>Every Sunday:</p> <p><i>Adult Bible Study - 9:00am</i> <i>Worship - 10:00am</i> <i>Contemplative Service – 7:15pm</i></p>			<p>For the most up-to-date calendar listings, visit www.missionhillsucc.org/calendar</p>
<p>CSCT Tech Week</p>						



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!**