

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

September 2017

Yours in the Journey



Typically I end my pastoral article with the phrase that I have chosen for this month's title. "*Yours in the journey*" indicates at least two things: first, as members of Mission Hills United Church of Christ we have covenanted to walk together as we engage in the mission and ministry of our congregation. Drawing upon our own unique skills we form a community – the body of Christ – and seek to serve our constituents and those outside our church by offering grace, compassion, and care. And, second, this is a dynamic process. Journey implies ongoing activity inviting each of us to move toward some goal or destination involving healing, wholeness, or deeper awareness. John Muir's famous quote comes to mind.

Recently, you may have heard another word for "journey" in some of the emerging opportunities becoming available through the Faith Formation Ministry (FFM) of our church. "Pilgrimage" is a more intentional journey in which a person or group participates to deepen their spiritual lives and discover new meaning in their relationship with God. By engaging in a spiritual pilgrimage, we participate in an intentional "*journey of the heart,*" one that can help reveal who God is for us and how God is inviting us to deeper meaning as we discover more about ourselves, our world, and others. Pilgrimage can both deepen our faith and expand our awareness of the needs of the world in which we live prompting us to live differently because of what we have discovered.

In her book on the topic, Mecrina Wiederkehr, offers one of the best descriptions on pilgrimage that I have read.

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Yours in the Journey (continued)

A pilgrimage is a ritual journey with a hallowed purpose. Every step along the way has meaning. The pilgrim knows that life giving challenges will emerge. A pilgrimage is not a vacation; it is a transformational journey during which significant change takes place. New insights are given. Deeper understanding is attained. New and old places in the heart are visited. Blessings are received and healing takes place. On return from the pilgrimage, life is seen with different eyes. Nothing will ever be quite the same again.

Behold Your Life, p.11

People of all religions engage in some form of spiritual pilgrimage. Whether it's the Hajj, the annual Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca, the Kumbh Mela, the Hindu pilgrimage that occurs once every twelve years for spiritual cleansing, or an individual trek to the Holy Land in Israel to see the sites where Jesus lived and ministered, each are intentional journeys with a destination, and a purpose to deepen our faith. But pilgrimage means more than making one's way to a holy shrine or site. Pilgrimage is an act of the will involving some sort of physical movement and intention while the pilgrim moves deeper into his/her soul.

It is important to note, not all pilgrimages are spiritual. Some make long and arduous treks to learn more about family history. While others visit sites of deep importance like the monument in Washington D.C. honoring those who died in the Vietnam war or the

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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

**AUGUST
AVERAGE
ATTENDANCE:
134**

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

News subscriptions & submissions (due on the 20th)

info@missionhillsucc.org

news@missionhillsucc.org

Inquirer's 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). If you will need childcare during that hour, please tell the office.

Salsa and Tango

Fall is here. The kids are back in school. Let's greet the season by hitting a Latin Beat! Dancing returns to Monday night on, September 11 at 7 p.m. This six-week session features Salsa and Tango. It will be taught by Christian McCullen, a professional dance instructor. The cost for the series is \$65.00. The meeting dates are September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 9 and 16.

Classes will be held in the Fellowship Hall. Please contact the church office, 619-296-2169 or Carol Vaughan 619-487-9214 or 602-309-1134 to register and reserve your space or if you have questions.

Come join the beat!

September Birthdays

Sep 1	Lin Kondrick
Sep 2	Kristin Brown Bob Meinzer
Sep 4	Cameron Cage Meghan Janssen
Sep 5	Jessica Luedtke
Sep 6	Melanie Gillette Beverly Hom Dave Snodgrass
Sep 10	Andrew Bowen
Sep 12	Dorothy Stock
Sep 15	David Sommer
Sep 16	Barb Kelly
Sep 21	Leanna Selleck
Sep 22	Victoria Freiheit
Sep 24	Ryan Fox
Sep 26	Bob Murphy
Sep 28	Santina Poor
Sep 29	Courtney Mys
Sep 30	Carol Holt



Uptown Luau

Tickets will be on sale after church in the Social Hall for the Uptown Luau, to be held on Saturday, September 23 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Tickets for the dinner, entertainment, music and fun are \$60 (half of which is tax deductible). The event will be held in the lovely lawn area of Pioneer-Ocean View UCC, which has a beautiful view of Mission Bay, the ocean and the sunset. MHUCC will be providing 2 baskets for the silent auction, a Wine Lovers Basket and a Fun in the Sun Basket. If you would like to donate an item for one of the baskets, there will be a sign-up sheet for needed items at the ticket sales table. If you have questions about the event or the baskets come visit us at the Luau table in the Social Hall or email or call Karen DeLaurier or Joan Anderson.

Kick-Off Sunday

Come join us for Church at Pioneer Park on Sunday, September 10th followed immediately by our annual all church picnic!

Our annual kick-off Sunday will feature communion and the blessing of our cuddly critters. A modern-day rendition of the Last Supper will introduce an informal communion service in a lovely outdoor setting. You will be able to witness a dramatic presentation (similar to our Maundy Thursday experience) as a means of entering into the holy meal. In addition, you are encouraged to bring furry friends for a blessing. We will hold our blessing of the animals during worship. This is a service for everyone. Invite your friends. Come with chairs, blankets, (bring an extra for those who forget) and come with anticipation as we worship and begin a whole new program year. Let's get together and continue our desire to "Be the Church!"

Food Assignments by last name:

- A-C: Beverage or bread/rolls
- D-H: Main Dish
- I-M: Side Dish
- N-R: Salad or Veggie & dip
- S-Z: Dessert

Remember to bring your own place settings so we can minimize trash.

Herstory Book Club

MHUCC is excited to kickoff our new **Herstory Book Club** on Monday, September 25. This book club will be an opportunity for women to gather and discuss a literary selection, find its spiritual relevance, discover its impact and connection to our own experiences, and to enjoy each other's company, get to know each other, and laugh (and eat) together. Our first selection will be *Learning to Walk in the Dark* by Barbara Brown Taylor. For this first meeting we'll gather at MHUCC at 7:00 p.m. Bring a bite to share. Drinks and childcare will be provided. Please let Santina in the church office know if you will be attending or if you have any questions: info@missionhillsucc.com or call 619-296-2169. We hope you will join us for this opportunity – bring a friend!

Second Saturday Cinema

We have moved our Theology and Cinema nights this year to the second Saturday. We hope that this will allow more people to attend. Theology and Cinema is a great chance to get together with members and friends of MHUCC, enjoy a simple meal, and watch a contemporary film as we look for the theological themes in the movie which we discuss together.

Our first film this year (**Saturday, September 9**) will be "Hidden Figures." This is a terrific "feel good" movie about the difficulties faced by African American women employed as "computers" at NASA in the early Sixties. Their persistence is both heart-breaking and inspiring.

Join us at **5 pm** for a pot luck (bring something to share) and film at approximately 5:30. This is a great family movie so kids are welcomed as well. See you there!

Yours in the Journey (continued)

battlefields in Gettysburg. Each pilgrimage involves movement, intention, destination, and transformation. When the pilgrim returns home his or her life is forever changed. New knowledge and firsthand experience have a profound effect as life is now viewed differently.

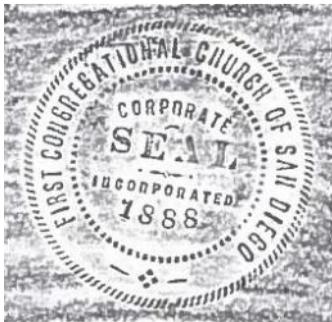
In the coming year, our church will be offering opportunities for folks to explore deeper meaning in their lives through a pilgrimage. The Pathways group – a segment of FFM – is exploring various possibilities and will offer our congregation a domestic pilgrimage to the desert southwest in 2018, and plans on a pilgrimage abroad in 2020 (site to be determined). The pilgrimage next fall will explore the spirituality of the desert mothers and fathers as we seek to expand our understanding of faith through selected readings, lectures, religious sites, and the stark beauty of the desert landscape. Mystics have sought refuge in the desert for many years drawing upon its unique beauty, silence, and brilliance of blue skies and star-filled nights to experience both awe and wonder. Our hope is to provide pilgrims an opportunity to explore each of these aspects through a variety of sites and a lot of personal silent exploration.

You need not go on a pilgrimage in order to participate. If you are unable to make the physical trek, you will be able to attend preparatory lectures and pray for those while on pilgrimage, as well as attend follow-up meetings to benefit from the new discoveries made. Our hope is that this new opportunity will present many new avenues of exploration for anyone interested in going deeper in their spiritual lives. I hope you will prayerfully consider these opportunities and listen to how and in what way God might be calling you to participate in a spiritual pilgrimage. And so I offer this invitation in the spirit of possibility and adventure.

Yours in the journey,



History Corner: Corporate Seals



Antique corporate seal embossers were recently found during a clean up and purging of the custodial closet! These are interesting relics from our parent church. Come and see them on display in the glass shelves across from the Meditation Room.



Mission Hills United Church of Christ September 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Every Sunday: Adult Bible Study - 9:00am Worship - 10:00am Contemplative Service – 7:15pm</p> <p>For the most up-to-date calendar listings, visit: www.missionhillsucc.org/calendar</p>						
<p>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</p>	<p>9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p>9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p>12:00 PM Contemplative Outreach SD - Meeting (Library) 5:00 PM Personnel Committee 6:00 PM Upper Room Reserved 6:45 PM Ministry Meeting Night</p>	<p>4:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)</p>	<p>9:00 AM New Parent Orientation (Preschool) 10:00 AM Knitting 4 Peace 11:00 AM *space Reserved</p>	<p>Back to School Breakfast (Preschool) (Parking Lot) 10:00 AM Sangha (♥space) 12:00 PM Fellowship Hall Reserved (Private Event)</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>8:00 AM *space Reserved 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 3:00 PM CSCT Auditions 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p>8:00 AM *space Reserved 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 3:00 PM CSCT Auditions 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p>6:00 PM Upper Room Reserved</p>	<p>10: AM *space Reserved 12:30 PM Communities of Practice (♥space) 2:00 PM SA Exec Mtg 4:00 PM SA Church & Ministry 4:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Recovery Int. 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)</p>	<p>4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal/Meeting 5:30 PM Partnerships Youth Event (POVUCC)</p>	<p>10:00 AM Sangha (♥space)</p>
<p>BirthDay Sunday 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>1:00 PM *space Reserved 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Classes</p>	<p>8:30 AM Parent Classes (Preschool) 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 12:00 PM Feeding America 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p>4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 6:00 PM Upper Room Reserved</p>	<p>3:00 PM Knitting 4 Peace 4:30 PM Centering Prayer 7:15 PM SDWC Meeting (Library) 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)</p>	<p>1:00 PM Yoga (Preschool) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal</p>	<p>10:00 AM Sangha (♥space) 5:00 PM UPTOWN LUAU 5:00 PM Yoga - Dinner Party (Gala Private Event) (Fellowship Hall & Upper Room)</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>4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 7:00 PM Dance Classes</p>	<p>picture day (preschool) (fellowship hall) 8:30 AM Parent Classes (Preschool) 9:30 AM Diabetes Support Group 11:00 AM Lectionary Bible Study (Commons) 7:00 PM Step Study</p>	<p>4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 6:00 PM Upper Room Reserved</p>	<p>4:00 PM Centering Prayer 7:00 PM Recovery International 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (Chapel)</p>	<p>11:00 AM *space Reserved 1:00 PM Yoga (Preschool) 4:30 PM CSCT Rehearsal 6:30 PM Storefront – S&I</p>	<p>10:00 AM Harmony & Health Foundation Meeting (Commons) 10:00 AM Sangha (♥space)</p>

October
PC articles due



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.

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