

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

February 2022

I'm thrilled to announce two new staff members: Saige Afalava as our Worship Technologies Coordinator and Trevor Norkowski as our Worship Technician. You likely already know both of them. Saige has been our alto section leader and multimedia coordinator, preparing the slides we have been using in worship. She will now coordinate all aspects of sound, video, and audio – everything that allows you to hear and see worship, including pre-production tasks. Trevor grew up in the church and is now in college, studying film and business. He will focus on the live-stream.



Saige and Trevor are going to bring a level of excellence to both our in-person and live-streamed worship service that many have been craving. As both move forward, our online congregation in particular will begin to notice significant improvements.



And it will get even better. An expert in the design of worship technologies is currently consulting with us on new equipment, placement of cameras, etc. He is developing a scope of work for us to pursue. I am excited with this progress.

Hopefully in the next few months we will also have a new Director of Ministry with Children and Youth to announce. We have candidates and are currently assembling an interview team. In addition, we are recruiting new and additional members of the Faith Formation Ministry to work with and support our ministry with kids and youth, in addition to adult activities.

Blessings,
Pastor David

Moderator's Message

A few people in the Church know this, but my middle name, Martin, is after Dr. King. So, I was very moved and stirred to thought by our worship service last Sunday. I have always found listening to Dr. King's speeches inspiring, in fact, I have listened to them to get pumped up before an important appearance in court and I used to be able to recite the well known portion of the "I Have a Dream" speech from memory. Usually, I feel positive in one way or another when I have heard his words.

After Church though, one question kept stepping forward in my head. What would Dr. King think of our Nation today if he were still around? To be honest, I do not think he would be impressed. Yes, since the '60's, there have been many great strides made in making our Nation a more just society. Having had an African-American President and now Vice President who is also female and of Asian descent, are signposts of progress that could not be reasonably hoped for in Dr. King's day. I am glad that some change has come.

But, parents of black children still have to teach them how to act if they are contacted by the police to try and minimize the chance they are shot. Asian-Americans are attacked in our streets to shouts of "China Flu." The gap between the wealthy and most everyone else just continues to grow and grow. It's been over 50 years since Dr. King was murdered and there is still so much injustice with us. Dr. King said, "...the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." But, over five decades and we still have so many serious issues, that borders on the absurd.

As a Church and as Christians, I think it is imperative they we remember that all of Dr. King's and so many others in the Civil Rights Movement efforts were inspired, nay, dictated by their faith. They sought a more just world because that is what Jesus would want. The only thing it takes for evil to win out is good people doing nothing. What can we do as individuals and as a Church to build on what Dr. King accomplished?

Peace and love,

Jon

Sunday 10 am Worship Service

Please join us for worship in person **or** watch our livestream on [Facebook](#) and our [YouTube](#) Channel.

A bulletin link is emailed at 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays and posted on [Facebook](#) Sunday morning if you wish to follow along.

On Mondays you can find closed caption video on our [website](#) and [YouTube](#).

Some Good Conversation

Have you ever craved a deeper and more meaningful engagement with people beyond chatting? Have you ever just wanted some good conversation? Join us on Zoom during the four Tuesdays in February, at both noon and 7 pm. We are experimenting with the time to see what appeals to people. We will watch brief video clips and then enjoy “some good conversation.” The clips that have been chosen are meant to amplify marginalized voices.

Zoom info

Tuesdays at Noon:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84343283676?pwd=MlliaExiSkcvRVZWTzBJakROSGMvQT09>

Meeting ID: 843 4328 3676

Passcode: 764621

Tuesdays at 7 pm:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83344825999?pwd=dCtUQVZDeUx3MnU5T0o3QXZXbUg2QT09>

Meeting ID: 833 4482 5999

Passcode: 969279

Some Good Conversation

TUESDAYS IN FEBRUARY @ NOON & 7 PM
via Zoom



Mission Hills UCC . missionhillsucc.org

Help Us Grow

1. Share Our Social Media Posts
2. Check In When You Come to Worship
3. Write Reviews on [Yelp](#) or [Google](#)



Let your friends and family know what is special about your church by simply “sharing” on your [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#) accounts.

Sunday Opportunities

Church is nothing without community, and MHUCC has the best! Want to be more engaged with ours? Please consider the following:

- Welcoming new visitors as well as members and friends:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f45a9a823a6f94-greeters>
- Being a Sunday Morning Liturgist:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f45a9a823a6f94-liturgists>
- Ushering on Sunday Mornings
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f45a9a823a6f94-usher>
- Providing Flowers for the Chancel
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F45A9A823A6F94-altar>

Mission Hills United Church of Christ

4070 Jackdaw Street, San Diego, CA 92103

(619) 296-2169; Fax (619) 296-2115

Website: www.missionhillsucc.org

STAFF DIRECTORY

Position	Staff Member	Phone Ext.	Email
Pastor	Rev. Dr. David Bahr	ext. 302	David.Bahr@missionhillsucc.org
Minister of Visitation	Rev. Courtney Mys		cdmys@yahoo.com
Youth Leader	Danielle Carlin		Danielle.Carlin@missionhillsucc.org
Administrative Assistant	Elizabeth Quinones	ext. 301	Elizabeth.Quinones@missionhillsucc.org
Director of Instrumental Music	Kristopher Abels		kjabels@gmail.com
Director of Choral Music	Angelica Eclar		angelicaella89@gmail.com
Worship Technologies Coordinator	Saige Afalava		saige.afalava17@gmail.com
Worship Technician	Trevor Norkowski		

Additional Staff: Sunday Nursery - Gloria Schacht, Amelia Norkowski

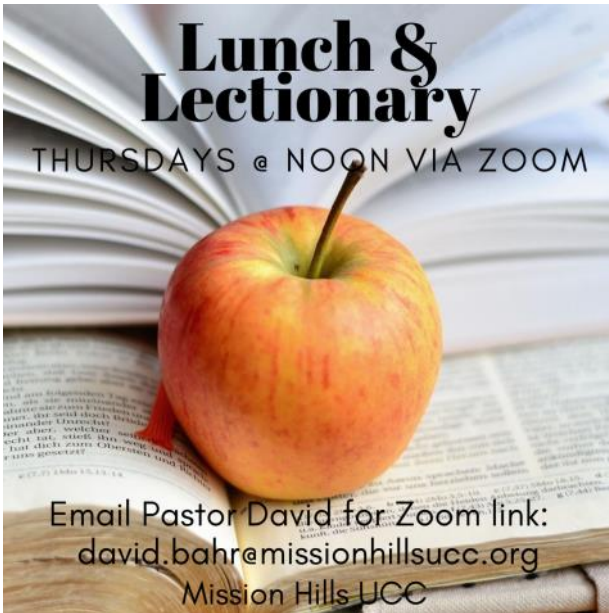
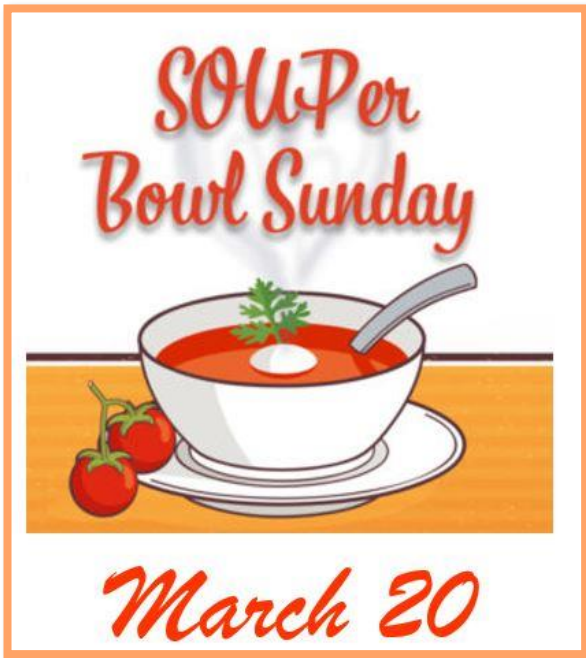
General information

info@missionhillsucc.org

News subscriptions & submissions (due on the 20th)

news@missionhillsucc.org

Church Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm



February Birthdays

- Feb 2 Julia Fordham
- Feb 3 Mike Groby
- Feb 5 Betty Darling
- Feb 6 Gabriella Stryker
- Feb 7 Kimberly Antos
- Feb 10 Lalo Illades
- Feb 12 Robin James
Lilian Antos
- Feb 14 Katelyn Berman
- Feb 15 Elsie Brooks
- Feb 18 Nora Stallone
- Feb 19 Ryan Cage
- Feb 20 Erik More
- Feb 22 Evan Barnes-Wallace
- Feb 25 Jane Illades
Ava Lantis
- Feb 26 Cassidy Watelet
- Feb 27 Susan Sato
- Feb 28 Otis Caldwell



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



Meeting Minutes

In order to enhance communication with the Congregation, here is a link to the minutes of the December Church Council Meeting:

<https://missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/DecemberCouncil.pdf>

Youth Group

Here is our pattern for youth group activities on Sundays:

- 1st Sunday: Youth in the service, participate in communion, and meet briefly after church (check in)
- 2nd Sunday: Youth group meet during the service. Gather in the courtyard after the 'children's message'
- 3rd Sunday: Youth participate in service. Liturgist, ushers, contribute music, meet briefly after church (check in)
- 4th Sunday: Youth group meet during the service. Gather in the courtyard after the 'children's message'

In January we learned about what it means to be a community, we discussed the following:

- A community, like a church or a neighborhood community, is different to a club or society, or a group of friends. In a club/society/friends/school group you are with people that are similar to you (same interests, ages, etc.). But the people in a community, like our church, can be very different to you. We explored all kinds of differences and discussed the fact that differences are good. Communities are stronger because they include diversity.
- Communities do things together. We focused on eating together (which fell a little flat since so many eating together opportunities have been lost during COVID). But it was fun to try out mindful eating and we had a good discussion.
- Communities uplift those in need. We brainstormed areas of need in our world, and started to research the ways that our church community (our local church, and the UCC denomination) are trying to meet those needs. These are the areas we identified (* indicates topic with most votes)
 - Socioeconomic separation: housing etc.
 - Climate change
 - Pollution, including pollution in space
 - LGBTQIA+ discrimination (*)
 - Animal homelessness
 - Racism (*)
 - Refugees
 - Inflation - need for minimum wage
 - Drugs/addiction
 - Mental health (*)

In February we are moving onto a new unit in our curriculum called "Practice Joy"!

Church giving

Our church thrives because of your prayers and support and we need that continuing support to fulfill our mission. Whether you are at home or in church please give as you are able. There are three ways to give:

- We are now passing the offering plate during worship
- We can receive donations by mail to the church office:
4070 Jackdaw Street, San Diego, CA 92103
- We can receive payment electronically via ACH or credit/debit card.
Refer to the church [website](#) for options.
- Scan the QR code and go directly to our giving page



History Corner

Edward E. Pumala served as our **first church Council Moderator** in 1951. Prior to that time, the Pastor presided over all meetings. Mr. Pumala was employed as the Camping Director and Executive Director of the San Diego Camp Commission. He helped to start the San Diego 6th Grade Camping program. Now in it's 75th year, this 6th Grade Camp teaches students to appreciate and respect nature, science, and our natural resources. The Cuyamaca Outdoor School is located in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and is California's largest and longest running 6th Grade Camp, serving over 11,000 students each year.

Mr. Pumala and his wife Ardis were members of our church from 1950-1956. They are buried at Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery.

