

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

May 2022

We just concluded a meaningful Holy Week and joyous Easter Celebration. Thank you to everyone for making it so special – especially all the musicians. WOW. We are blessed with INCREDIBLE musicians!

I recently heard a church expert offer the phrase, “Worship attendance is not decreasing. It is decentralizing.” It’s a fascinating idea and contains at least some truth.

People are often curious about numbers, so here you go:

Attendance at Maundy Thursday service in 2019 was 48. This year, there were 33 people. Attendance decreased. Or did it decentralize? At least 6 were live on Facebook and an additional 34 people have seen the service on YouTube either live or have watched the service since.

At 10 am on Easter, there were 193 in person compared to 213 in 2019. Close, but fewer. But in addition, at least 6 people watched live on Facebook and 50 on YouTube either watched the service live or since Easter. (It’s harder to capture post-live Facebook numbers compared to YouTube). In addition, we always cut the pieces of the service up into separate playlists on our YouTube channel so you can watch such parts as the sermon, prelude, anthem, or children’s message. Many people do.

By the way, there were 19 children on Easter plus a dozen youth who were proud of their efforts at both hiding the eggs and supervising the hunt. It was fun to watch them “take charge.”

But increasing *attendance* isn’t the goal. It is to increase *engagement* and then *participation* and then *commitment*. I’ll talk about that more at another time.

Blessings, Pastor David



Champ was our “donkey”



Going Deeper

If you're looking at a way to *engage* your faith and other people, we will offer a four-week discussion group on Zoom on Tuesdays at 7 pm ONLY. Come to one or all.

- 5/3 – Richard Rohr, Universal Christ
- 5/10 – Brené Brown, Grace is Not Attractive
- 5/17 – Walter Brueggemann, Change the Conversation
- 5/24 – Lisa Sharon Harper, Very Good Gospel

[Zoom](#) Info for Going Deeper Series:

Meeting ID: 829 1080 1625

Passcode: 930570

And of course, we always have Bible Study on Thursdays at Noon on Zoom – called Lunch and Lectionary.

Moderator's Message

This month, I am going to use this opportunity to speak to our Congregation for a practical, but very important topic... masks in Church.

At our last Church Council meeting, the topic that occupied the largest swath of time was the issue of mask wearing during our Sunday services. This isn't the first time that mask discussions have dominated our meetings and rightfully so. Our worship experience and the safety of our Members are very serious matters. More Council members spoke on this issue than any other and I have to say that everyone on every differing aspect of when and how we stop wearing masks during the Service made compelling and well thought out points. To be honest, even after another long discussion, we did not reach a consensus on how to decide how and when we will stop.

Much if not most of our World is decreasing if not entirely abandoning wearing masks. Some Churches never bothered and suffered the consequences. We did not. Fortunately, almost certainly because of precautions, we have had no outbreaks, Thank God. In our Church home, as in most, we have a large representation of our Senior community. By definition they are at greater risk of suffering from Covid. Conversely, by all accounts, our Church family is also predominantly vaccinated.

I have one particular question to ask. If we stop wearing masks during the Service, will you or someone you know and care about, NOT want to be physically present on Sunday? Keep in mind, anyone can keep wearing a mask if they wish and I am sure there will be some who will. But, are you going to stay home if the masks in general go away?

Please let me know if you would. You can quietly or not so quietly if you wish, tell me at Church. You can email me at lawdude@cox.net. I will keep all input confidential.

Thank you for taking the time to think about this and a special thanks in advance to those who let me know.

*Peace and love,
Jon*

Installation Service

We will formally install Pastor David with a special service on **Sunday, May 22 at 3 pm**. We will be joined by members of UCC congregations in the Southern Association. The service will be in person and live-streamed. Our own Bruce Ramet will offer the message.

Welcome to our new members

Next month we'll offer little bios so we can welcome Marilyn Owens, Mary Lou Chandler, and Susan White who will join MHUCC on May 1. If you are interested in learning more about membership, please speak with Pastor David.

Thank you for your generosity!

In March you contributed \$5,990 for One Great Hour of Sharing – supporting the UCC's efforts for disaster relief, refugee resettlement, and projects in the developing world for health and well being.

The Souper Bowl was a huge success, raising \$5,037 for Uptown Community Service Center.

And in April, you wrapped your arms around the people fleeing Ukraine with \$7,676 for our UCC Ukraine Appeal.

MHUCC Scholarships

Now is the time to prepare your application for the Mission Hills United Church of Christ College Scholarship. Members of the church who are planning to attend college this fall are eligible to receive this scholarship. You may pick up a copy of the application at the church office, or [online](#).

The church office must receive applications no later than **June 15, 2022**. For more information, please contact Suzanne Albrecht (suz1127@cox.net) or 619-987-0176.



We have new banners! The image on the left was used for our new outside banners, check them out next time you are at MHUCC!

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



Building a Sustainable Ministry with Children, Youth, and Families

Church life often includes lots of assumptions. Covid called most of them into question. As we rebuild after Covid and other changes of the past few years, we want to create a strong and sustainable program. Instead of assuming, we are beginning by asking – why do we have a ministry with children, youth, and families? Why is this important to the whole church? What is “Sunday School” in the modern era?

To that end, for the first step, our Faith Formation Ministry will be conducting a number of “focus groups” to listen and begin building a sustainable ministry with children, youth, and families. We ask for your help.

Parents and Guardians of Children and Youth – please choose either Sunday May 15 or 22 to join us after worship for one hour. We will provide care for children.

People who Care about Children and Youth – join us after worship on Sunday, May 29

Children and Youth – we will ask questions and solicit input during regular classes on Sundays June 5 and 12. Obviously this includes our humble request that parents bring their children at least one of those Sundays!

Listen for other activities as we focus on this important ministry during May and June.

The future for MHUCC holds much promise. We want to prepare ourselves to live fully and gratefully into it.

UCC Conference Annual Meeting

We need a delegate or two for the annual gathering of the UCC Southern California Nevada Conference. It will be on Zoom June 10 and 11. Contact the church office if you are interested.

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>
- Providing Fellowship Hour Refreshments
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f45a9a823a6f94-coffee1>

SAVE THE DATE

Uptown's "5K Walk for Neighbors in Need",
Saturday May 21. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The walk begins and ends at University Christian Church, 3900 Cleveland Ave. (across from the Hillcrest DMV). There is a rest stop and tour at the Uptown CSC in the middle of the walk. As in past years the walk is followed by a continental breakfast. Registration fee for the event is \$30 which is waived if you come with sponsorships. Save the date to join us for a healthy walk, conversation, food, fun and the knowledge that you are helping "feed the hungry and clothe the naked".



History Corner

The first church photo directory that is in our archives is from the year 1969, 53 years ago. Most of those pictured are no longer members but there is one familiar face. This young lady was active in the church Sunday School and Choir, along with her sisters. Her parents were members at the "Old San Diego Community Church" in Old Town but sent their girls to Mission Hills for Sunday School.

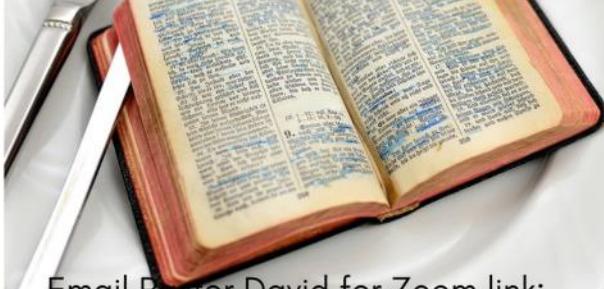
Do you recognize Julie? We now know her as Julie James and she continues to be a very active member. Thank you, Julie, for all you have given and continue to give to MHUCC.



Julia Watson

Lunch & Lectionary

THURSDAYS @ NOON VIA ZOOM



Email Pastor David for Zoom link:
david.bahr@missionhillsucc.org

Mission Hills UCC



If you wish to give to our mission and ministry,
you may use this QR Code to connect with our giving page.

We thank you for your generosity!

May Birthdays

- May 1** Dorothy Crockett
- May 2** Glenn Dunham
- May 10** Tina Stallone
Vic van Lint
- May 11** Georgia Rickert
Leo Stallone
- May 12** Fiona Case
- May 15** Rilla Baxter
Zac Nimke
- May 18** Jinx Jay
David Quiñones
- May 19** Daniel Antos
- May 21** Diane Edwards
- May 25** Laurie Halgren
Laura Borschel
- May 26** Dianne Ramet
- May 28** Mark Pyeatte
- May 30** Megan Rekalske



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

Happy Birthday!

Meeting Minutes

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

<https://missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/MarchCouncil.pdf>

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](#).

ZOOM Fellowship Time

If you are watching the worship service from home, perhaps you'd like to chat with others at the end of the service - catch up with old friends, meet some new people.

Join us immediately following the service by using the Zoom information below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86419475741?pwd=bUZ0VHRYTXNQZHIKU0c wdjgyL2l3QT09>

Meeting ID: 864 1947 5741

Passcode: 651063

Rock n Roll Marathon - June 5

The Rock and Roll Marathon will pass by our church again this year. Please make a note in your calendars, worship will begin one hour later **on JUNE 5**.

Mission Hills United Church of Christ

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Website: www.missionhillsucc.org

STAFF DIRECTORY

Position	Staff Member	Phone Ext.	Email
Pastor	Rev. Dr. David Bahr	ext. 302	David.Bahr@missionhillsucc.org
Administrative Assistant	Elizabeth Quinones	ext. 301	Elizabeth.Quinones@missionhillsucc.org
Director of Instrumental Music	Kristopher Abels		kjabels@gmail.com
Director of Vocal Music	Angelica Eclar		angelicaella89@gmail.com
Worship Technologies Coordinator	Saige Afalava		saige.afalava17@gmail.com
Worship Technician	Trevor Norkowski		
Sexton	Carlos Wilson		

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