

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

July 2022

Welcome to summer!

For the last six months, we've been busy gathering and mixing together various ingredients for Church Growth. These include:

1. Vibrant ministry with children, youth, and families
2. Memorable worship that is child-inclusive, values excellent and accessible music, varied enough to "attract people under 40 and keep people over 60," that connects to multiple cultural expressions while remaining grounded in traditional Protestant/UCC expectations.
3. Engaging online presence – website, social media, accessible content
4. Quality worship in person and online, i.e. can you see? Can you hear? Do you feel included?

Very few people walk into a church they haven't thoroughly researched online. Our focus isn't to build an online church but an online experience compelling enough for the person to walk in the door and become part of the congregation.

5. Earned reputation in the neighborhood and city for commitment to the community that attracts them to know about and even check out our church

All of this is dependent on:

6. Genuine hospitality with easy ways for people to connect – and people eager to help people connect
7. Meaningful service opportunities available immediately– and leaders to organize them.

We are making wonderful progress and hope to see our efforts grow the church, especially when school resumes. Our back to school preparations include a Blessing the Backpacks Sunday on August 28. We invite your children and grandchildren and neighborhood children to come to worship with their backpacks for a special blessing during the service.

Safe travels this summer!

Blessings,
Pastor David



Pride Service - July 13

You are welcome to St. Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday, July 13, at 7 pm for a Lighting Up the Cathedral with Pride worship service.

Pride Parade - July 16

We hope you can join our contingent! We are listed as the San Diego United Church of Christ Partnership Churches. Our contingent number is **112** in staging zone N. The check in point is PINK. (See map below) Our step off time is 11 am, so please be there anytime before that. If you come earlier, you can meet our sibling UCC members.

We will have a golf cart for anyone wishing to participate but not walk. Please speak with Anne Reichmann ASAP.



Moderator Message

Being someone that likes to look at things sometimes from a historical perspective, I re-read the similar message written by Jon Pettis (our talented outgoing Moderator) from a year ago in July 2021. It is amazing to read that and see how far our church has come since that moment in time. At the beginning of July last year plans were being made by the Pastor Search Committee to bring a promising candidate, Pastor David Bahr, (whose name was known only to the Search Committee at that time) out for a preliminary visit.

Our church had just recently reopened for live services and members were cautiously coming back in person. The church was working with a relatively new livestreaming system. Plans were being made to reactivate a live Sunday School program for children once again.

So much has happened with MHUCC since then. Then pastor candidate Rev. Dr. David Bahr made a very favorable impression on his initial visit to the church, was recommended, and a candidating weekend was set for August 7-8, 2021. He offered an inspiring sermon on how he would choose to change the world on Aug. 8th and the congregation voted that he be called as our next Pastor. His leadership and carefully crafted Sunday services have inspired and called us to actively live our faith.

Even before Pastor David began his MHUCC ministry in October, the church hired Angelica Eclar to be permanent Director of Vocal Music. We have a reenergized and exciting music program under Kris Abels' and Angelica's leadership and coordination. The church website has been redone and we have a fresh engaging digital presence to interest people in our church. The technology making it possible to livestream our Sunday morning services is in the process of being improved and we have the very capable team of Saige Afalava (Worship Technologies Coordinator) and Trevor Norkowski (Worship Technician) overseeing the technology every Sunday.

The children's Sunday School classes have continued under the interim leadership and coordination of David Sommer and the faithful instruction of Mike Groby and a rotating group of volunteer assistants. The church just recently found the ideal person to fill the newly created position of Director of Ministry with Children and Families -Artcel Ruiz who has just started sharing her heart for God with the children and the congregation. She will have a good framework to work with thanks to the thorough and thoughtful study undertaken by the Faith Formation Ministry on what all the different church members are wanting in the Christian Education offered at our church.

The church continues its outreach and involvement in the community in a number of ways (support of Uptown Community Service Center, continuing sponsorship of an El Nido apartment for families escaping domestic violence, the monthly food distribution in the church parking lot, and providing a monthly dinner to the Storefront Youth Shelter to name a few). Mission and Outreach Ministry is embarking on new monthly emphasis on special outreach programs.

We have much to be excited about as we look forward to this next church year from July 2022 through June 2023. But let us always be mindful that the strength of our church lies in our community and our love and support of one another in good times and bad.

Wishing you blessings this first full month of summer, Carol



We had a booth at Pioneer Park on July 4th, with crafts, games and conversations!

SUNDAY SCHOOL



On Sunday, June 26, our kids made delicious banana muffins and were shared with our congregation during Fellowship Hour.

They were so yummy!



Pictured on the left:
(from left to right)

Dave & Barbara Snodgrass, Chanel Asfaw, Pastor David, Laura & Walter Borschel at the Just in Time Empower Party on May 14th at Coasterra.

Thank you from Uptown Community Services



The Uptown Walk for the Homeless/Needy on Saturday, May 21, 2022 was a great success. There were 25 walkers who stretched out over many blocks. We had a quick tour of the Center and then returned to University Christian Church. The continental breakfast was prepared by the non walkers outside due to Covid caution and the construction underway at the University Christian Church. We were able to raise over \$7,000. Many thanks to all walkers and sponsors, see you next year!



Wedding Announcement:

The Conrard and Antos families joyfully announce the marriage of:
Jennifer Conrard and Cody Kallok

The couple was married on April 11, 2022 in San Diego, CA



Women's Fellowship Legacy Scholarship Recipients 2022

I am pleased to announce our Women's Fellowship Legacy Scholarship recipients for 2022:

Erin Brown, Amelia Norkowski, and Trevor Norkowski. They will each receive a \$750 scholarship. Scholarships will be awarded August 21st during worship.



Erin Brown will be completing her culinary education at Le Cordon Bleu Paris, studying Superior Patisserie. A long-term goal of hers is to open her own bakery/cafe in London in honor of her dad, Michael Brown.

Amelia Norkowski graduated from Grossmont High School this year and will be attending California State University San Marcos majoring in Business. Her future goals include opening a business in child care or animal service.



Trevor Norkowski will be transferring from Grossmont College to San Diego State University with a major in Film Production and a minor in Business.

~ Suzanne Albrecht, Scholarship Chair

Seven Friends outings in June:



Watercolor Society & lunch outing



In front of San Diego Automobile Museum in Balboa Park

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>

Padres Game Night - August 19

The Fellowship Ministry would like to know...are you interested in going to a Padres game? The Padres are playing the Washington Nationals on Friday, August 19 at 6:40. If we have enough interest (at least 30 people) we will get tickets. Tickets will be about \$20.

Please let Anne Reichman know if you are interested via email gammalan@aol.com or text 203-733-2333. Thank you!

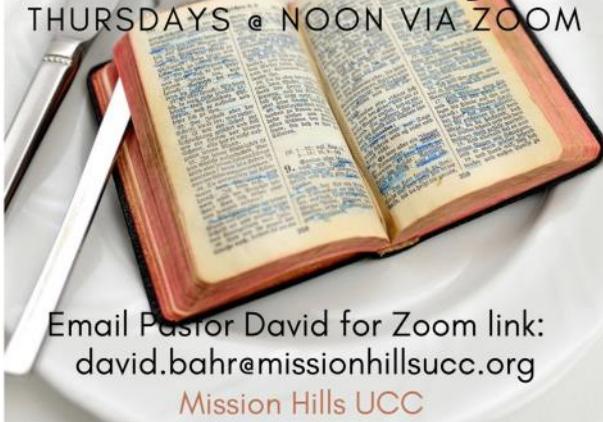


History Corner

Looking back at our oldest church photo directory (1969), we find some familiar faces. The family pictured here moved to Mission Hills in 1968 and joined our church the next year. They visited neighboring churches but found MHUCC to be the most welcoming. This is the Selleck family, Laurence and Leanna, and their children Sheri and Laurence IV. Sheri now lives in Jamul, CA, and Laurence IV lives in Amersham, England. Leanna has been a very active member of this church for the past 53 years!

Lunch & Lectionary

THURSDAYS @ NOON VIA ZOOM



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

Mission Hills UCC

Sunday 10 am Worship Service

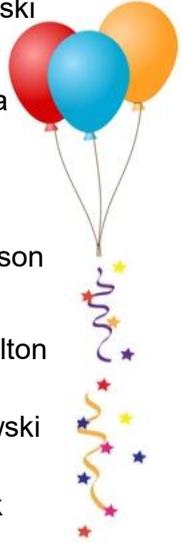
Please join us for worship in person or watch our livestream on [Facebook](#) and our [YouTube](#) Channel.

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](#).

July Birthdays

Jul 1	Robert Cox
Jul 3	Walter Borschel
Jul 7	Trevor Norkowski
Jul 8	Jessica Ripper
Jul 9	Debbie Fiegura Cea Parrish
Jul 11	John Hinojos Ben Janzen
Jul 12	Shannon Johnson
Jul 13	Laura More
Jul 18	Rebecca Hamilton
Jul 21	Julie James Amelia Norkowski
Jul 22	Gordon Adler Teresa Merrick Emy Yeazell
Jul 23	Randy Spicocchi Liana Dayhoff
Jul 24	Garland Parrish
Jul 29	Kelly Hutton
Jul 30	Sarah Watelet
Jul 31	Mitchell Barnes-Wallace Andrea Vickers



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 May Church Council Meeting:

<https://missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/MayCouncil.pdf>



Our July Mission Partner is Monarch School located in the East Village area of San Diego. A public school run in partnership with the nonprofit Monarch School Project, the school serves unhoused students and their families who live in San Diego County. Monarch has developed an innovative approach to learning where students gain the skills they need to improve their lives, develop awareness of their emotions, explore their passions and plan for a life of self-sufficient living. It is the only comprehensive K-12 school in the US developed specifically to serve unhoused students and their families.

July Donation Drive

In July we will collect clothes and money for Monarch School's "Butterfly Boutique" where students can "shop" for clothing, shoes and hygiene items. The greatest need right now is **teenage boy/male clothing, all sizes**. Clothing can be new or gently used and clean (no holes or stains). Items needed include jeans, basketball shorts, sweat-shirts, plain color t-shirts and boxer shorts (new only). Please deposit clothes in the donation containers in the church narthex. Monetary donations can be made by using the colored envelopes in the pews or online at <https://missionhillsucc.org/>. Monetary donations will be used to purchase clothing items for the donation drive.

Volunteer Opportunities

Monarch School has several volunteer opportunities. They generally ask for a weekly commitment of 1-3 hours. Sign up on-line: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdyP7IKhX4zKS-CZoFHMSTthJcXA3jk_kWY-dGBfUWUIN8iQQ/viewform

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'



Mission Hills United Church of Christ
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 (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
Director of Ministry with - Children and Families	Artcel Ruiz		Artcel.Ruiz@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