

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

September 2022

Our New Front Door

At the beginning of the pandemic, the church did a great job of quickly putting a system of cameras together, not knowing that live-streaming and recording worship would become permanent and absolutely essential. The time has come to move from temporary to intentional. That's what we've been doing for the last several months. A consultant spent time with our worship and property ministries, worship staff and technicians, listening to our challenges and presenting our hopes. We are almost ready to take the project to bid.

Last week you received a letter about our investment addressing three crucial components:

1. Sound quality in the sanctuary
2. Video quality at home – less like watching through a surveillance camera and more like being in the congregation
3. Recognizing that our online presence often determines whether a guest will come in person – to understand that online is our new front door and essential for our future

We invite you to make this happen. It affects every single one of us – both in person and at home. And how wonderful that our service is now available 24/7, not just if you can be present for one hour one day per week.

Please prepare for your own generous response to our need for \$80,000. Three gifts of \$32,000 have been received and we are ready for yours. Thank you in advance.

It is a blessing to be in bold ministry together,

Pastor David

Moderator Message

It's hard to believe (for me anyway) that September is here and with it (sniff, sniff) the ending of summer. For the hard core summertime lovers however, I will note that "...it ain't over until it's over" which for sticklers is September 22nd, the fall equinox. But we cannot deny that it's back to school time (and many schools started up again in August). Costco is stocking up on flannel shirts and jackets, Halloween and fall décor, and, sigh, even some Christmas wrapping paper and merchandise.

But the waning days of summer make me look back to many enjoyable parts of summer – going to the beach, barbecues, wonderful warm evenings with daylight until past 8 PM, etc. One big wonderful memory of summer was the return of the San Diego Pride Parade and once again being part of the group marching with our church and other UCC Partnership churches. It is such a joyous time and so particularly great this year to have a full parade after two years of Covid-19 preventing it. This year's Pride Parade rivals (for me anyway) the one some years back where there were thunderstorms and heavy rain throughout the parade. We all ended the parade course that year completely soaked. But I remember spectators still lining the streets of the parade route and thanking us all for carrying on despite the weather.

At this year's parade there was a slogan tee shirt on a spectator that caught my eye. The message on the front of the shirt read "Why be racist, sexist, or transphobic when you could just be quiet?" The shirt's words really resonated with me. Doing a bit of online research for the back story, I found the shirt was originally created based on words tweeted by an 18-year old young man, Brandon Male, who felt the sting of homophobia and felt the need to speak out against it. The shirts with this saying were further popularized by a gay rap music artist, Frank Ocean, who wore it at a music festival. With the caustic rhetoric that seems to be the norm in our world today, it would seem good if more people would take such a slogan to heart. It also reminds me of that adage many of us heard from our mothers as children, "...if you don't have anything good to say, don't say anything at all!"



But I don't believe the words on the shirt are suggesting that we should never mention or discuss sensitive or controversial topics. Quite the opposite, honest dialogue and discussion are healthy and needed. But I continue to hope for the day when people will be treated with respect and dignity regardless of sexual orientation. For what we all share is the need to be accepted and loved for our true authentic selves without the need to conform to some artificial standard of acceptability. May our church always reflect this in our actions and may everyone who crosses our doors know they are a child of God and be treated as one.

Wishing you blessings this fall, Carol

On Labor Day Sunday



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

Please bring a symbol of your labor to worship on Sunday, September 4. It could be a symbol of your employment or the thing you love to do that requires employment to pay the bills. What is your labor of love? If you are retired, it could be a symbol of what you used to do or bring something that symbolizes your labor now. There is no correct answer!

*Thank you to Amelia for serving as our Nursery Attendant.
Best wishes as she leaves for college!*



Parent Night Out



SEPTEMBER 9TH, 6 - 9 PM

**DROP THE KIDS OFF FOR
CRAFTS, FOOD & A MOVIE
WHILE YOU HIT THE TOWN
OR TAKE A NAP!**

missionhillsucc.org

Please RSVP for our first "Parent's Night Out" that will be **Friday, September 9, from 6pm-9pm**. Parents can go on a date or go home and take a nap. We will provide food and activities for kids.

For more information, please contact Artcel,
artcel.ruiz@missionhillsucc.org.

Please RSVP for this event: <https://bit.ly/3PFATzW>

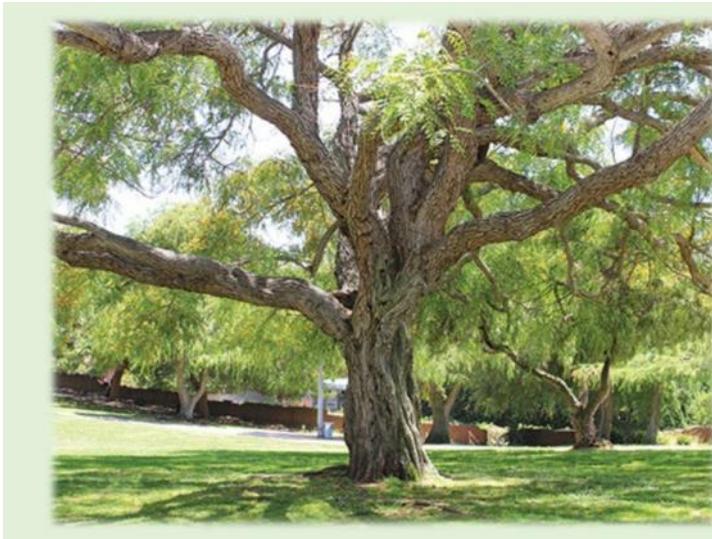
Pancake Breakfast



Join us starting at 8:30 on Sunday September 4, for our inaugural pancake breakfast. Menu will include pancakes with the fixings, sausage, and coffee, tea, and juice. A gluten free option will be available. Come and be part of the fun.

This will be a fundraiser kickoff for the Audio Visual / Streaming upgrade in the sanctuary. Donations of cash as well as credit cards will be accepted.

See you there!



**CHURCH
IN THE PARK
SEPTEMBER 11
10 A.M.
PIONEER PARK**

Bible Presentation

Many churches have a tradition of presenting Bibles to children entering third grade – complete with their name imprinted in “gold.” Do you still have your third grade Bible? Resuming the practice, our presentation will be on **Sunday, September 18**. We’ve missed a few years, so this year we will present Bibles to kids up to 5th grade. We have least TWELVE children in 3rd to 5th grade!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Exciting and great things are happening in the Ministry of Children and Families. For the first time ever, the School leaders and I met and had a wonderful time talking about our new curriculum, *An Illustrated Compassion: Learning to Love Like God*, schedules, and events that we are adding to our Sunday School classes.



To ramp up the visibility of our Children and Youth Program, we started having the Sunday school children participate in the Sunday services as liturgists and ushers. We also had our first “play” by having our children and youth act out the Parable of the Good Samaritan.



Look forward to seeing them more often serving and being part of our Sunday services.

*Artcel Ruiz,
Director of Ministry with
Children and Families*



New Member Inquiry

If you are interested in knowing more about joining MHUCC, join Pastor David for a gathering after worship on September 25.

Blessing of the Animals

We will hold this popular ritual in our parking lot on **Saturday morning, October 1, at 10 am**. Please help spread the word to all their human companions. If you would like to help plan the event, please contact Pastor David at david.bahr@missionhillsucc.org

Christmas Carol Camp

This event is for children to learn Christmas carols that are not taught in school or in families that do not attend a church. It will happen three Thursday afternoons in December. If you would like to help with the event, please contact Artel at artcel.ruiz@missionhillsucc.org

Green Manor Openings

If you or someone you know might think Green Manor is a good place for the future, the waiting list for one bedrooms – which opens only rarely – opens on October 11. Just go to the Green Manor office for applications. It is a waiting list.

Advent: A Special Time to Share Our Stories

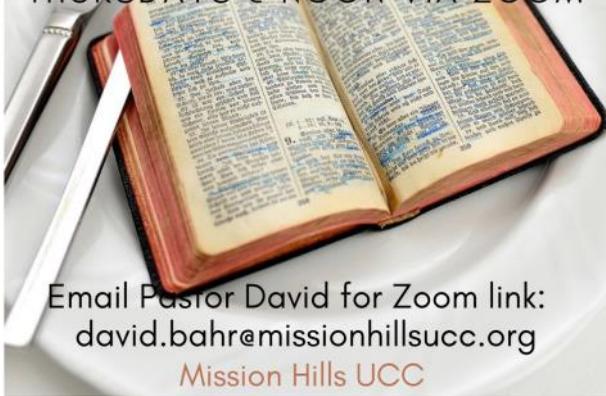
One of our MHUCC meaningful traditions has been a daily devotional for Advent. The theme this year is Telling of Our Stories. When has God been real in you and your life? How God showed up, blessed, lead or somehow touched you?

Please consider sharing your story. We are all different, as are our experiences, but we are all unified in God's great love. Your story could be a simple paragraph, a poem, a drawing, or the telling of a tale, or any form you can think of, to share how you have experienced God's presence. By sharing our encounters with the Holy, our hearts and are knitted closer together.

We will begin gathering stories in October. Please begin thinking about a story that you could share. For more information contact anyone Melanie Gillette, Al Mazur or Barbara Christensen on Faith Formation.

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](#).

September Birthdays

Sep 2	Kristin Brown Bob Meinzer
Sep 4	Cameron Cage Meghan Janssen Mary Lonsdale Baker
Sep 5	Jessica Luedtke Susan White
Sep 6	Melanie Gillette Dave Snodgrass
Sep 10	Andrew Bowen-Ataide
Sep 12	Dorothy Stock
Sep 14	Jennifer Frasca
Sep 15	David Sommer
Sep 21	Leanna Selleck
Sep 22	Victoria Freiheit
Sep 25	Patricia McQuater
Sep 26	Bob Murphy
Sep 29	Courtney Mys
Sep 30	Carol Holt



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 July Church Council Meeting:

<https://missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/JulyCouncil.pdf>

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>

History Corner

In 1974, the Mission Hills Congregational Church and the First Congregational Church officially joined together, becoming the Mission Hills-First Congregational Church.

We were happy to welcome many of the members from the “First” Church and are even happier that some of them are still active members. The Berry family (pictured here) was one of those new families. Charlie served in the Navy in San Diego and, like so many veterans, decided to stay. So, in 1963, Joan and the new baby joined him and began their new life in San Diego. They are still very active members of this congregation and are blessed with 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren!



CALIFORNIA WESTERN COMMUNITY LAW PROJECT

We are all familiar with the Uptown Community Services Center which offers mail service, clothing, showers, food, etc. to our unsheltered community. But Uptown also offers a location for various other important services, including the “Community Law Project.” This clinic is held every other Friday and provides free and confidential legal information. For example, how to file for child custody, how to get landlords to return security deposits, how to protect yourself from consumer scams, what to do if you’re being abused, etc.



As you can see in the photo, this legal clinic is very popular. If you know someone who may need these services or you would just like to learn more, go to www.cwclp.org.

Blessed Scholarship Sunday

“What an amazing time celebrating our young adults. So fun to see Karen and Kevin! So thankful for the technology to have Erin and Dave join us from the far reaches of our planet . We are all so proud of these accomplished young energetic hearts. What a privilege to see them grow up in our faith community and become rays of God’s light and love in our world. I so appreciate being part of a group of believers that support our treasured youth and support educational advancement so concretely. You all are my peeps forever”. - Melanie Gillette



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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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		Kris.Abels@missionhillsucc.org
Director of Vocal Music	Angelica Eclar		Angelica.Eclar@missionhillsucc.org
Youth Leader	Fiona Case		Fiona.Case@missionhillsucc.org
Worship Technologies Coordinator	Saige Afalava		
Worship Technician	Trevor Norkowski		
Sexton	Carlos Wilson		

Additional Staff: Sunday Nursery - Gloria Schacht, Jianna Ruiz

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