

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

October 2022

Are We There Yet?

We've had such a wonderful start to fall, beginning with the Blessing of the Backpacks, Labor Day Weekend, Church in the Park, and Bible Presentation Sunday where ten children received their first Bible – some of whom I'm told went home that afternoon and began reading it. We had a great time with the Parents Night Out – 14 teens upstairs and 11 children downstairs. The choir resumed on September 18 with a rousing anthem. After a year of starts and stops, have things started to return to “normal?”

I like statistics so I was curious about worship attendance compared to pre-Covid. The prevailing wisdom among churches is that worship attendance is down 40% - perhaps not so much if you count online worshipers. But in person worship is generally down across the board. How about Mission Hills?

Comparing numbers for Backpacks, Labor Day, and Bible Sunday, we had an average of 112 in worship. In pre-Covid 2019, the average for the same Sundays was 112. It's just a snapshot in time and the yearlong average will be lower, but I think it's a hopeful and encouraging sign. There is no doubt the world has changed and the church world has changed even more. But the faithfulness of MHUCC members through the pandemic has helped us emerge strong.

I doubt we can say “we're there,” but I do know we are moving forward. With the grace of God and following the teachings of Jesus, we have a direction to follow and a mission to serve.

By mid-month I will have been with you for one year. I'm so grateful our paths came together.

Blessings,
Pastor David



Moderator Message

The topic of our church mask rules was discussed at the recent September Church Council meeting.

The church has taken a careful and conservative approach to mask requirements since we have been able to meet in person during the Covid-19 pandemic. We have taken the position that we wish to do what is prudent and safe to help protect those who attend Sunday services who are the most vulnerable. The local Covid case numbers, hospitalizations, and deaths have been significantly dropping during September.

Part of our reconsiderations was the CDC ranking of San Diego County in terms of "Covid Community level or spread." The CDC currently and for some time ranks San Diego County as having Low Covid Community Level. This ranking is based on low Covid positive hospitalizations. In addition, the state of California is easing Covid-19 mask recommendations with the improvement in conditions. The state is generally rescinding recommendations that people wear masks in indoor public settings and now will recommend universal (regardless of vaccination status) mask wearing only if a county has a high Covid-19 community level. Both the CDC ranking of our county and the state wide easing of mask wearing recommendations led us to revisit the current policy our church has had requesting all attending services in the sanctuary to wear masks.

Pastor David spoke with other partnership UCC churches and found most of them have rescinded indoor mask wearing requirements. In discussion at the Church Council meeting, there was majority agreement to adopt a new mask policy somewhat modeled on that used by the La Mesa UCC.

Similar to La Mesa UCC, MHUCC will check weekly a website by Covid Act Now. https://covidactnow.org/us/metro/san-diego-chula-vista-carlsbad_ca/?s=40022750

This ranks and color codes the area's Covid risk level as either low (green), moderate (yellow), or orange/red (high). Our policy will be If this shows as green -- the wearing of masks indoors will be optional, if yellow -- masks would be recommended, and if orange/red -- masks would be required.

Thus, our mask policy will be based on an objective measure of current conditions and can be adjusted as conditions change. The website currently shows the level as green.

So starting Sunday Sept. 25th, mask wearing inside the church will be optional and up to an individual's personal choice. We will continue, as before, to have masks available for anyone who wishes to wear one. As our Church states, wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here just as you are. This attitude applies to wearing of masks as well. If people who attend our services and other events inside the church wish to wear a mask, that will be fully respected.

Wishing you a blessed Autumn season, Carol



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.

Advent: A Special Time to Share Our Stories

One of the meaningful traditions Mission Hills UCC has had over the years is to share stories of our lives with each other during Advent. The theme this year's Telling of Our Stories is thinking about how God showed up, blessed, lead or somehow touched you—When has God been real in you and your life. 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, we share our hearts and are knitted closer together.

Please begin thinking about a story that you could share. We will be asking you to submit your stories this month so we can distribute the Advent Booklet at the end of November. For more information contact anyone Melanie Gillette, Al Mazur or Barbara Christensen on Faith Formation.

October Mission Partner

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. In 2022, the Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!" offering focuses on economic justice. One-third of the offering supports [Council for American Indian Ministry](#) (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

Parents had the opportunity to drop off their children at the Mission Hills UCC on September 9th while they had dinner or just relaxed at home for three hours. The kids got to know each other by eating (pizza, veggies, and fruits) together, playing, and watching the latest Disney movie "Pinocchio." The night ended with a tasty snack of s'mores with the youth.

Another exciting event was presenting the Bibles to ten kids on September 18th. It was such a blessed time not only for them but also for their parents and the congregation. God wants to empower our children by choosing to reveal Godself through the Bible because "Every scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for showing mistakes, for correcting, and for training character, so that the person who belongs to God can be equipped to do everything that is good" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).



Return to Communion by Intinction

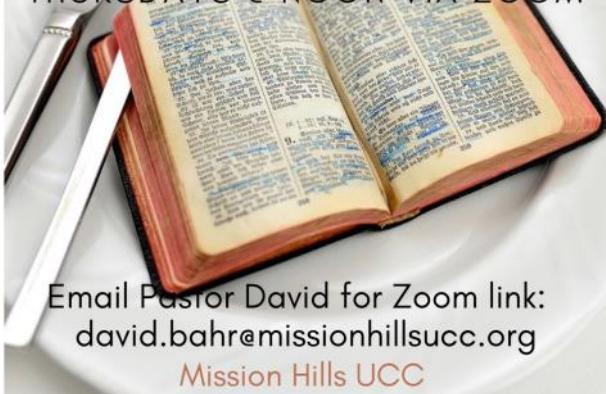
Starting this Sunday, October 2, we will be returning to our traditional method of communion: **Intinction**. The congregation will go forward, take a piece of bread and dip it in the communion cup. If you wish to continue to use prepackaged communion cups, they will be available from ushers as you enter the church.

Green Manor Board Members

Offer thanks and gratitude to Bruce Ramet and Betsy McIntyre for their many, many years of service on the board of Green Manor. Linda Wallis will join the board as a member of MHUCC. According to their bylaws, the majority of board members must be MHUCC members. Continuing church members include Dave Snodgrass, Tim Wolf, and Pastor David.

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](#).

October Birthdays

Oct 1	Elizabeth Quiñones
Oct 3	Allison Watelet
Oct 4	Lori Barnes-Wallace
Oct 6	Lorraine Boyle Marylou Chandler
Oct 8	Janet Anderson
Oct 10	Tim Wolf
Oct 11	Keely Bamberg Juanita Hill
Oct 12	Jennifer Berman
Oct 14	Woody James Jen Cieslak
Oct 15	Joan Anderson
Oct 16	Pat Wahlen
Oct 17	Ronald Wilson
Oct 25	Ronnie Williams
Oct 26	Jean Neill David Bahr
Oct 29	Una Marie Pierce



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 August Church Council Meeting:

<https://missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/AugustCouncil.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>

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.

History Corner

As our church begins fundraising efforts to improve our technology – both in the service and for our online congregation, it's fun to look back at similar activities many years ago.

In 1934, we were considering the purchase of the new "Dictaphone" type of Acousticans, to help members hear better in the sanctuary. And in 1946, we made a major purchase to modernize our office technology with the purchase of a "French Phone!" (\$1.50)



Would you like to have Seven Friends?

MHUCC has a long tradition of year-long groups that get together monthly. Each “friend” plans one activity. For example, one group went together to Marston House, the Mingei Museum, a member’s Mt. Laguna home, the Water Color Society at Liberty Station, the Prayer Chapel at Point Loma Nazarene University, and the patio of a home in Scripps Ranch.

What starts as a social gathering becomes a true friendship that lasts years beyond when the group ends and another starts. If you are new to the church, this is a great way to start getting involved. For more information, contact Linda Sommer at 2sommertime@att.net or see the woman with red hair after worship.

Knitting 2 Give

To all who enjoy knitting and those who would like to learn:

Knitting 2 Give is a group at Mission Hills UCC who knit scarves and hats for the homeless. Colder weather is coming so we need to get our knitting needles clicking. We will meet in the Commons, Friday, October 7th from 10:00 – 12:00.



Please call Joan Rawlings at 619-276-1253 or see me in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday Service.



**EXPLORE
BALLOT
ISSUES
WITH KPBS
REPORTER
ANDREW BOWEN**

Sunday, October 9th
@ 11:15am

www.missionhillsucc.org

Mark your calendars for this opportunity to learn about the upcoming issues on the November ballot with church member & KPBS reporter, Andrew Bowen.

Sunday, October 9th, at 11:15, following our 10 am worship service, in the Commons

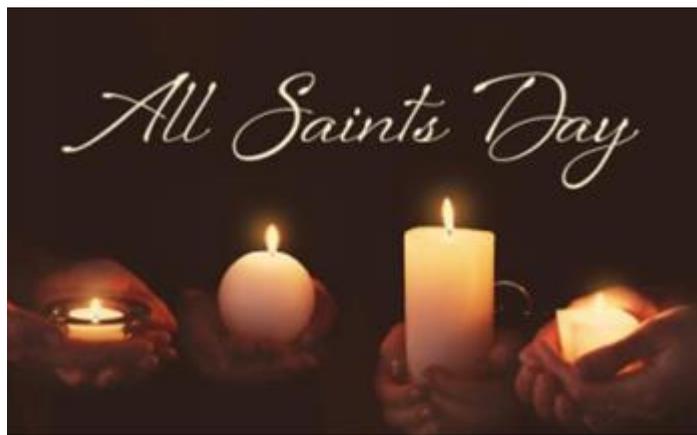
More about Andrew here:

<https://www.kpbs.org/staff/andrew-bowen>

Gratitude for Faithful Ministry

You are invited to a service to celebrate the ministry of the UCC in Pacific Beach on October 23, at 3 pm.

They have chosen to close the church after 65 years.



During worship on Sunday, November 6th we will read the names of members, family and friends who have died since November 7, 2021.

Please email the church office: info@missionhillsucc.org the name of the person and their relationship to you so that they can be included.

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 Artcel at: artcel.ruiz@missionhillsucc.org



Youth Group

The MHUCC Youth Group has made a great start to a new year at school and we are making exciting plans for our activities together. On October 1st and 2nd we are going for a sleepover at Pioneer Ocean View UCC in Clairemont. Our future plans include field trips to other faith communities, several community service projects, and an afternoon at Belmont Park. This is such a fun, open and accepting group of teens.

For more information, please contact our Youth Leader, Fiona Case:

fiona.case@missionhillsucc.org

Donations for Uptown

We continue to welcome donations of new or gently used casual clothing for Uptown! There is a constant need for men's new athletic socks and size medium underwear. Thanks for helping Uptown serve others.

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
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		
Sextons	Carlos Wilson & Gloria Schacht		

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