

# PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

November 2022

## No Room for Fear

The generosity of this congregation astounds me. And your fearless attitude toward God's provision is amazing. Many churches, especially right now, are driven by a fear of scarcity. What if there's not enough? But there's no need to fear.

It's not a reason to be unwise or imprudent. But when fear drives decision making, the result is diminishment.

Reality is reality and must be dealt with practically. But asking "what can we do less of" is not the place to start. Our ministry is thriving because you embrace faith. And so, I commend you and our leaders for believing in the abundance of God's provision that arises directly from the communion table.

With that said, this year's stewardship campaign will be a heavy lift. For example, our Personnel Ministry is recommending cost of living adjustments for all staff. They recognize the pressures of inflation upon the people on whom we depend. Of course, that is just as true for our generous donors. But there's no room for fear.

God's provision is amazing. We have not nor shall we be driven by a spirit of scarcity but a recognition of how blessed we are. So please search within your heart and home for a generous response to this year's stewardship campaign.

Blessings,  
Pastor David

Oh, and thank you for one full year as your pastor. It's such a sacred privilege.

From **BREAD** and **CUP** to **FAITH** and **GIVING**

## Moderator Message

As I write this, it is about a week before Halloween and it cannot be denied – the holiday season (Halloween → Thanksgiving → Advent → Christmas → New Year) is upon us. Time for reflection, a very busy time of the year for many, things to celebrate for many, and often it is a time to gather with family and friends. We certainly have much to be thankful for within our church and the source of the Christmas season – the birth of Jesus -- God's gift to mankind is truly cause for celebration. But the holidays are not all lightness and joy for everyone. For all too many people, the holiday traditions and celebrations can be forever changed by relationship changes or loss of a family member or close friend. The holidays can serve to sharpen and make very apparent a loss of a loved one whether recent or a while back. The Covid pandemic served to change holiday traditions for the last three years and many wonder whether it is safe/advisable to gather indoors again this winter.

I can speak from experience that loss of a loved one around the holidays can be particularly challenging and leave one uncertain as to what should be done in terms of celebrating and what do you really feel like doing.

In Mid-December 2017, Larry and I headed out to a Celtic holiday music concert on a Friday evening with friends and were in good moods looking forward to the evening and the holidays ahead. Between the start of that evening and the end of the next day we learned Larry's eldest sister suffered a stroke, had significant brain damage from the stroke and treatment for it, would not recover, and she passed by the next evening. Her husband and two sons were devastated as were we and the rest of the family. While it was good to have the extended family together that year, Christmas lost much of its joy and excitement. We felt a similar sense of impending loss several years later when a brother-in-law was in the last days of battling cancer over the holiday season and passed a few days into the New Year. Larry's brother lost his wife in Sept. 2021, found the holidays challenging last year, and told us what helped him so much in dealing with his grief and adjustment was the support of a grief group through his church.

I am particularly glad that MHUCC will be teaming with Mission Hills United Methodist Church to offer a 4-session grief group taking place on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, and Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. I hope and pray that those who could benefit will consider attending one or more of these meetings and feel the support and community of those who face similar mixed emotions over the holiday season. May we all support and provide community for those within our church family who may find the holidays a challenging time.



We Grieve Because We Love

**Grief Support Group**

A Four-Week Collaboration of  
Mission Hills United Church of Christ (UCC) &  
Mission Hills United Methodist Church (UMC)

Tuesdays at 2 pm

11/1 @ UMC 11/8 @ UCC  
12/6 @ UMC 12/13 @ UCC

Worshipful of Christ

Mission Hills  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## 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.

*We all have a story to tell.*

We need you to share that story.

It needn't be earth shattering or something suitable for the evening news.

The last date we can accept stories to include in the Advent Book is FRIDAY NOV 4. But please don't wait until then. Our Advent Book team needs them ASAP so we can pair them with scripture and scripture reflections and complete the final editing to be able to present them to you on November 28.

For more information contact Melanie Gillette, Al Mazur or Barbara Christensen or anyone on Faith Formation Ministry.

To submit your story, email it to Al Mazur at [aimazur621@aol.com](mailto:aimazur621@aol.com).

Thanks in advance for participating in this important part of our church's Advent experience.



During worship on Sunday, November 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@missionhillsucc.org) the name of the person and their relationship to you so that they can be included.



Our Thanksgiving Luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 20. We are pleased to announce that Chef Robin James will once again be our chef.

The breakdown for the rest of the meal will be:

A-G: Salads

H-O: Vegetables

P-Z: Dessert

***Please save the date and join us!***



We are excited for Mission Hills UCC to participate in a Prison Ministry called Angel Tree. Angel Tree is a ministry that equips churches to restore and strengthen relationships between incarcerated parents and their children at Christmastime and beyond. Members of the congregation purchase gifts, and as an expression of Christ's love, by providing Christmas gifts for the children on behalf of their incarcerated parents. When a child is given a gift, the parent creates a meaningful connection with their child/ren even while behind bars.

Look for the Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall after the Sunday service on Nov 13th. The tree will be loaded with paper Angels bearing the name of a child with age, gender, and gift wish. You will be able to pick out an "angel" ornament and purchase the gift that can help a child know s/he is treasured and loved. We, the church, will be able to embody the hope and grace of God to prisoners' families with the hope to continue to minister to the family throughout the year.

If you would like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Artcel Ruiz at 619.861.5309 or [artcel.ruiz@missionhillsucc.org](mailto:artcel.ruiz@missionhillsucc.org).

# SUNDAY SCHOOL



Our Sunday school children have begun serving as our liturgists during the Sunday services. We would like to convey to the kids that they play a very important role in the worship service.

We had such an amazing intergenerational experience during the Bonfire at Mission Bay! It was a beautiful day to spend time with church family with food, games, and great conversations.



## All Generations Advent Celebration

Mark your calendar and plan to join us to begin Advent on Sunday, November 27, from 5:00-6:30pm. We will eat together, some can make ornaments, we'll have games and activities while others put up the Christmas trees or just drink hot chocolate. We will finish the evening lighting the trees in the sanctuary and singing a carol or two. This is truly for all ages so we hope you will join us.

## New Year's Day

Worship on January 1<sup>st</sup> will be online only. Our six partnership churches are collaborating on a pre-recorded worship service. Please mark your calendars.

## 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>
- Providing Flowers for the Chancel  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040F45A9A823A6F94-altar>

## Our New Front Door

As we write this, we are mere dollars away from reaching our goal of \$80,000. Today we are at \$77,250.

*Thank you to everyone who contributed and believed we could do it!*

## History Corner



On **Veterans Day**, November 11<sup>th</sup>, we honor all military veterans who have served in the U.S. military, including many Mission Hills UCC members.

Our church minutes from the early 1940's show how the congregation was involved in various ways in WWII.

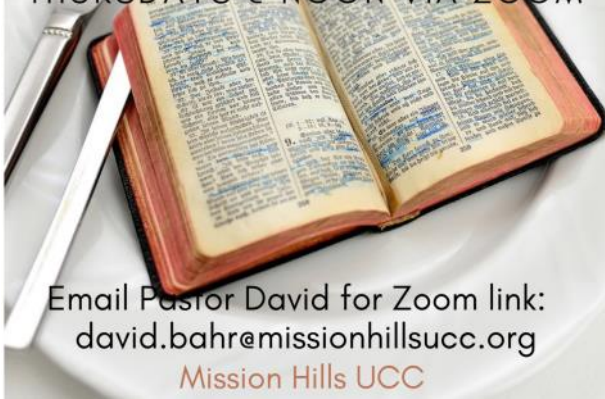
We obtained a “policy of War Damage Insurance on the church property in the amount of \$26,000.”

Our janitor was advised to “to obtain a shovel and buckets in accordance with the Civil Defense program.”

The church building was opened “one evening a week for the entertainment of soldiers.” Also, one room was made available for “a sewing project of the Red Cross.”

# 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](#).

## November Birthdays

Nov 1	Jeremy Bloom
Nov 5	Bruce Matthias
Nov 6	Valerie Dock
Nov 7	Michelle Gealy
Nov 9	Marybeth Holliday Logan Hollis Cameron Hollis
Nov 13	Heidy Jimenez Ben Case
Nov 14	Judith Sandven
Nov 15	Laurie Lindberg
Nov 16	Susan Shurin Gail Richmond
Nov 17	Ron Kennihan
Nov 18	Jeannette Exter
Nov 20	Quinn Sisco
Nov 23	Kenzie Leudtke Cole Leudtke
Nov 27	Suzanne Albrecht
Nov 29	Chad Berman
Nov 30	Lois Maki Lauren Wong



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 September Church Council Meeting:

<https://missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/SepCouncil.pdf>

## 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](mailto:artcel.ruiz@missionhillsucc.org)



## MHUCC Upcoming Events

### November

Tuesday, 11/1

Sunday, 11/6

Tuesday, 11/8

Friday, 11/18

Sundays 11/13 & 20

Sunday, 11/20

Sunday, 11/27

### Stewardship Campaign

Grief Group, MH Methodist, 2 pm

All Saints Day Worship Service

Grief Group, Commons, 2 pm

Parent Night Out

Just in Time Thanksgiving Dinner

Ornament Sign Up for Angel Tree

Commitment Sunday

Thanksgiving Feast

First Sunday in Advent

All Generations Celebration of Advent, 5-6:30 p.m.

### December

Thursday 12/1

Tuesday, 12/6

Thursday 12/8

Saturday, 12/10

Tuesday, 12/13

Thursday 12/15

Sunday, 12/18

Monday, 12/19

Saturday, 12/24

Sunday, 12/25

Thursday, 12/29

### Mission Partner: UCC Christmas Fund

Christmas Carol Camp, after school

Grief Group, MH Methodist, 2 pm

Christmas Carol Camp, after school

Angel Tree Party

Grief Group, Commons, 2 pm

Christmas Carol Camp, after school

Children's Pageant during worship, 10 am

Choir Concert, 4 pm

Blue Christmas Service, MH Methodist 6 pm

Christmas Eve Services at 4 and 10 pm

Christmas Day Service at 10 am

Wedding of Megan Merrick and Ryan Erickson

**For all events, visit our online calendar:**  
<https://missionhillsucc.org/calendar-of-events/>



## Youth Group - November Events

**Friday, November 11, 7pm:** Youth Group musical theater trip: Rock of Ages! Come and support our youth group members on their opening night!

**Friday November 18, 6pm – 9pm:** Youth group meeting. Topic to be selected by the youth, plus food, games and creation of pine cone holiday ornaments.

**Sunday November 27, 5pm – 6:30pm,** All Generations Celebration of Advent – creating holiday decorations for your home (advent wreath etc.)



For more information, please contact [Fiona](#) or visit our [Youth Page](#)

**Mission Hills United Church of Christ**  
 4070 Jackdaw Street, San Diego, CA 92103  
 (619) 296-2169; Fax (619) 296-2115  
**Website: [www.missionhillsucc.org](http://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](mailto:info@missionhillsucc.org)

News subscriptions & submissions (due on the 20th)

[news@missionhillsucc.org](mailto:news@missionhillsucc.org)

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