

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

January 2023

Beautiful Christmas Memories, Brand New Year

Thank you to everyone who made Advent and Christmas so special this year, starting with a fun and meaningful Advent Celebration, Christmas Carol Camp, Angel Tree Party, children and youth caroling at Green Manor, youth representing the church at Holiday in the Hills and raising money for Uptown, choir and chimes at the Christmas concert, the children's pageant, joint Blue Christmas service at the UMC, our beautiful candlelight services on Christmas Eve, and finally a joyful Christmas Day. Each service featured wonderful music and gratitude for the work of our live-streamers.



And now the work of Christmas begins. Twenty-five youth and adults are preparing for a 36-hour weekend house-build in Tijuana in February. During January they welcome contributions to pay for the house - \$6,500. Imagine a whole house for that amount. The project will be our January Mission Partner. In addition, they are hosting a "restaurant night" at the church, preparing and serving a meal on Saturday, January 21. Listen for opportunities to RSVP.



On Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend, join with other members of our Partnership Churches to walk together for the MLK parade at the Embarcadero at 2 pm. And then, on Sunday, February 5, our churches are beginning joint efforts toward racial justice, equity, and inclusion. We will meet at the UCC in La Mesa at 1 pm. If you have any interest in this area of ministry, now is the time to get in at the beginning. Please email or speak with me for more information.



(Continued on page 2)

The Work of Christmas (continued from page 1)

By Howard Thurman – pastor, mystic, author, and grandfather of the civil rights movement

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

Blessings, Pastor David



New Year's Day Service - Online Only

Worship on January 1st will be online only. Our six partnership churches have collaborated on a pre-recorded worship service. watch on [Facebook](#) or on our [YouTube Channel](#).

SOUPer Bowl 2023

The holidays may now be over as we come into this NEW YEAR 2023. But don't let go of that enthusiasm. Keep having fun and do something good for others. Since 2009 (except for a couple of Covid years) Mission Hills UCC has held a soup competition fundraiser for Uptown Community Service Center who serve unhoused people and very low income population of San Diego. Groups within the church form to make their best soup to win the much coveted "Golden Spoon Award" or the "Silver Spoon Award". You vote with monetary donations for your favorite soups. So before you put the cookbooks and recipes from the holidays away, look for that special soup recipe, get a group together and make this another SOUPer special fundraiser for Uptown.

The **2023 SOUPer Bowl Sunday** will take place on **Sunday, February 19**, directly following the church service. More details will follow in the coming weeks but if you have any questions or wish to include your group in the competition, please contact [AL Mazur](mailto:ajmazur621@aol.com) at ajmazur621@aol.com.

Moderator Message

Starting a new year always strikes me as a chance to reflect, chart a new course if needed, set goals and hopes, revisit those bucket list items that are always in the back of the head, and have a new calendar to consider ahead. While going through a desk drawer recently, I came across some pages saved from a small page-a-day Wisdom of the East calendar I had received as a gift some years back. Looking through them now, I found I still liked a number of them. But I also realized how similar they are to many beliefs and tenets of our Christian faith. I'd like to share a few of them here and attempt to pair them with what I find to be a similar statement or value from biblical scripture. Here goes:

"Prayer is not an old woman's idle amusement. Properly understood and applied, it is the most important instrument of action." Mahatma Gandhi

Compare to: *Mark 11:24* - Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

"The energy of the world flows from God at the center, and back to God."

The Upanishads

Compare to: *1 John 2:15-17* - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

"Western Civilizations these days place great importance on filling the human 'brain' with knowledge, but no one seems to care about filling the human 'heart' with compassion." Dalai Lama

Compare to: *1 John 3:17* ESV - But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

-And -

1 Peter 3:8 ESV - Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble.

Finally, *"Holding onto anger is like grasping a hot coal with the intention of throwing it at someone else – you are the one who gets burned."* - Buddha

Compare to: *Proverbs 14:29* - Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.

It is interesting and valuable I think to see how similar and close the themes and values are for both Eastern-based religions and belief systems and our Christian Bible. We can all hope and pray that the world can recognize and appreciate what are common values to many and learn to truly love and respect our fellow men and women.

Wishing you a blessed year ahead, Carol

Carlos Wilson

Our beloved Carlos Wilson died at his home on December 23. He lived a life rich with friendships until his last day - and with tremendous love in his heart for his family at Mission Hills UCC. We are grateful for his cousin Patty and all our members who cared for him and who are now making final arrangements. A celebration of life for Carlos will be held on January 14th at 11 a.m.

Mission Partner - Casas de Luz Mission Project



The MHUCC youth group families and friends will participate in building a home for a family in need in Tijuana, Mexico, on the weekend of February 4th. We will be working with [Casas de Luz](#), a non-profit that has built over 100 homes for families in Tijuana, as well as constructing two community centers. Our church has been involved in two previous house builds, the most recent being in 2017.



This is a fantastic opportunity for everyone involved in changing the lives of this family and their community. Our 26-person team is covering the cost of our rental van, food, accommodations, and insurance for our driver. But we also need to pay for the materials for our house (lumber, roof tiles, windows...). **We will be holding a variety of fundraisers – including a unique fine dining experience offered by the youth group on Saturday, January 21st.** We also welcome direct financial donations [here](#).

We are also collecting empty large sour cream or yogurt cups or similar items to use as paint cups. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to either Zoe Merrick, MHUCC youth group member and Casas de Luz high school intern, or [Fiona Case](#), MHUCC Youth Leader. We are all very excited to be giving back to our global community.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Ministry with Children and Families had a busy December, and what a great way to finish the month with a Christmas Carol Camp and a Christmas pageant!

The Christmas Carol Camp (December 1, 8, & 15) was attended by nine children from Grant Elementary School. Mary Lonsdale Baker, Shannon Johnson, and Pastor David led the music. Fiona Case and Carol Holt helped with the snacks, storytelling, crafts, and decorating of Christmas cookies. The camp kids and their parents enjoyed the pageant and wanted MHUCC to do another one, so watch out for our next pageant!

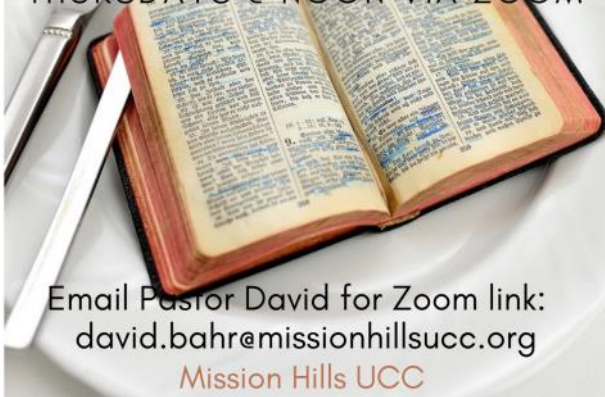


A big round of applause for our kids' performance on the Christmas Pageant; for three Sundays they worked hard practicing singing and acting. The Christmas Pageant was a huge success! Our church also went to Green Manor, where the kids and the youth got to sing to the residents. Two families from the camp came.



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](#).

January Birthdays

Jan 3	Patrick Cage
Jan 4	Linda Sommer
Jan 11	Susan Lehman
Jan 12	Tommy Antos
Jan 14	Eric Bernhard
Jan 17	Sue Lowery Craig Watelet Sharon Van Bruggen
Jan 20	Doug McMinimy
Jan 23	Jon Pettis
Jan 28	Calvin Hollis Barbara Wiggins
Jan 29	Amy Brunton Jere McLnerney
Jan 31	Zoe Merrick Bruce Ramet



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



Meeting Minutes

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

missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/NovemberCouncilMinutes.pdf

History Corner

The first Pastor of Mission Hills United Church of Christ was the Rev. John Doane.
On January 1, 1913, he shared this prayer with the congregation:

A Prayer for the New Year

For all the blessings of the passing years, we thank Thee, Lord.
For every budding hope we pray for blossom and fruition
throughout the coming year.

Lead us aright; teach us Thy truth, we pray.
Help us to love and serve Thee and our fellow men.
And keep us faithful – happy, if Thou wilt –
But faithful all the days.
Amen.

Mission Hills United Church of Christ
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STAFF DIRECTORY

Position	Staff Member	Phone Ext.	Email
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Director of Vocal Music	Angelica Eclar		Angelica.Eclar@missionhillsucc.org
Youth Leader	Fiona Case		Fiona.Case@missionhillsucc.org
Worship Technologies Coordinator	Saige Afalava		Saige.Afalava@missionhillsucc.org
Worship Technician	Trevor Norkowski		
Sexton	Gloria Schacht		
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

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>New Year's Day</i> 10 am – Worship Online Only	2 Office Closed	3 9 am – Diabetes Class	4 6:45 pm – Ministry Meeting Night (zoom)	5 12 pm – Lunch & Lectionary 6:15 pm – Chime Choir Rehearsal 7 pm - Choir Rehearsal	6 9 am – Zeta Rho 10 am – Knitting 2 Give	7 5 pm – Uptown Volunteer Event
8 8:30 am - Rethinking our Faith 10 am – Worship 11 am – Fellowship Hour	9 4:30 pm – CSCT Rehearsal	10 9 am – Diabetes Class	11 4:30 pm – CSCT Rehearsal	12 12 pm – Lunch & Lectionary 6:15 pm – Chime Choir Rehearsal 7 pm - Choir Rehearsal	13 4:30 pm – CSCT Rehearsal	14
15 <i>Birthday Sunday</i> 8:30 am - Rethinking our Faith 10 am – Worship 11 am – Fellowship Hour	16 Martin Luther King Jr. Office Closed	17 9 am – Diabetes Class 10:30 am – Feeding Mission Hills 5 pm – Commons Reserved	18 4:30 pm – CSCT Rehearsal 6:30 pm – Church Council (zoom)	19 12 pm – Lunch & Lectionary 2 pm – Knitting 2 Give 6:15 pm – Chime Choir Rehearsal 7 pm - Choir Rehearsal	20 PC Articles Due 9 am – Zeta Rho 4:30 pm – CSCT Rehearsal	21 6:00 pm – Fundraiser for Casas de Luz Mission Trip - Fine Dining Experience
22 8:30 am - Rethinking our Faith 10 am – Worship 11 am – Fellowship Hour	23 4:30 pm – CSCT Rehearsal	24 4:30 pm – CSCT Rehearsal	25 4:30 pm – CSCT Rehearsal	26 12 pm – Lunch & Lectionary 6:15 pm – Chime Choir Rehearsal 7 pm - Choir Rehearsal	27 4:30 pm – CSCT Rehearsal	28
29 <i>Annual Corporate Meeting</i> 8:30 am - Rethinking our Faith 10 am – Worship 11 am – Fellowship Hour	30 4:30 pm – CSCT Rehearsal	31 4:30 pm – CSCT Rehearsal				