

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

June 2023

Summer Concerts and More

The Mission Hills Town Council has held a summer concert series for 28 years and this year we are jumping in to participate in a big way – we are the sponsor of a new children's area, an addition this year along with an adult beer garden. We are the named sponsor – not only lending our support to this community tradition but receiving significant recognition. We are not the party responsible for providing the activities, although we will have a booth with our promotional handouts and activities. Plus, we have a new MHUCC corn hole game to lend some fun. We are asking individuals and families to spend one Friday evening representing the church. Let Artcel know when you are available. The first concert is June 23 and runs through August 18 – plus the big 4th of July celebration. We paid \$6,000 for this honor from the New Creation fund, money set aside to share the open and affirming witness of MHUCC – a goal we very much have in mind this summer.

Other special summer activities include:

- ◆ Music Appreciation Sunday on June 4 – remember to come at 11 am that day
- ◆ Confirmation Sunday on June 11 – a wonderful group of young people will commit to the church and their faith
- ◆ Annual Ecclesiastical Meeting on June 25 – we will elect new leaders and look forward to new developments this year
- ◆ Pride Parade on Saturday, July 15
- ◆ Church in the Park on Sunday, July 30 – we are moving this to the summer so we can invite folks at the concert series to join us
- ◆ All Generations Food and Fun at the Beach on Sunday, August 6
- ◆ And back to school with the Blessing of the Backpacks on August 20
- ◆ Plus Vacation Bible School, Sacramento Youth Trip, and more...

I hope you also get an opportunity to rest and have fun this summer. I will be attending annual gathering of the Southern California Nevada Conference as well as General Synod in Indianapolis. But what I am most looking forward to is moving into our new condo at the end of June. Whoopee!

*Blessings,
Pastor David*

Ecclesiastical Meeting - June 25

The Annual Ecclesiastical Meeting of MHUCC will be held on June 25, 2023 immediately following the worship service. The business to be conducted at this meeting includes the election of the 2022-2023 Church Council and Ministry members, adoption of the 2022-2023 Ecclesiastical reports, information on the audio-visual technology upgrade project, and church financial updates for 2023.

*A quorum is required to conduct the business of the church.
Please plan to attend this important annual meeting immediately following worship.*

Moderator Message

Ever since I was very young, I have always loved and anticipated the summer. For many who live in areas with either very hot and/or very humid weather, I can appreciate the viewpoint might be quite different. But the warmer weather, longer stretches of daily sunlight and possibilities of spending more time outside are always things I look forward to. This is true as well this year and I remain hopeful for more sunny days upcoming. When I look at the upcoming summer months on the church calendar, there is much to look forward to in terms of church events and activities. We will have wonderful music as usual in church on Sun. June 4th and get to show our appreciation for our vocal and instrumental music on Music Appreciation Sunday. The following Sunday we will have some of our youth members being confirmed in the church and a wonderful celebration lunch for all is planned following the worship service. Many of the youth group will be leaving the following week for a service mission trip to Sacramento. June 23rd begins the weekly summer concert series at Pioneer Park where MHUCC will be sponsoring the Children's Zone. The last week of June finds the return after many years hiatus of Vacation Bible School at MHUCC for children. Lots of fun activities are being planned for the students around the theme of nature and creation care. July 4th offers both a parade and concert at Pioneer Park. Saturday July 15th we will have the opportunity to participate along with the other UCC Partnership churches in the San Diego Pride Parade. It is always such a joyous event and so wonderful to proclaim our church's love and inclusion for all in a larger event. Finally, MHUCC will be having our annual Worship in the Park service in Pioneer Park on Sunday July 30th. There will be a multitude of activities and events to provide fellowship and time to get to know others better in a relaxed environment.

The arrival of June marks my final month of serving as your Moderator. It has been a very busy and event filled year that feels like it has gone by quickly. I had the good fortune of coming into this role after the Pastor Search had concluded and Pastor David had been our senior Pastor for some time and also after some of the worst of the Covid Pandemic was behind us. But there are always challenges and issues to deal with both big and small in this position. I have tried to deal with them as timely as I could and make decisions in the best interests of the church going forward. I have been so blessed and humbled by everyone's support and encouragement throughout my term and I so appreciate it. Thanks for all your support and good wishes. I have been fortunate to have a wonderful Vice Moderator -- Jere McInerney to work with. She has the great combination of boundless energy, being a thoughtful thinker, an unflinching optimist, and is a passionate supporter of this church. I know without a doubt she will be a great Moderator in the term ahead.

Wishing you blessings in the upcoming summer and beyond, Carol

Monthly Mission Partner - Strengthen the Church UCC Offering



The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your past support has allowed our churches to a place of refuge, comfort, and sanctuary for so many who experience difficulty finding a place of welcome in what can be a cruel world; the stranger and the outcast, the vulnerable and forgotten, the marginalized and the oppressed. Strengthen the Church is an opportunity for your gifts to

sustain not just our growing, renewing and birthing churches, but also to ensure that the holy ground they create remains the sacred space in which the extravagant welcome of our beloved Jesus is embodied for all; that they may find a place where they are loved, spiritually fed, and celebrated as the child of God they are.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. You can contribute by placing your cash gift or check in the special donation envelope in the pews or online. And once again, thank you, MHUCC, for your amazing generosity.

Youth Group June Events

- **June 11:** Five members of our Youth Group will be confirmed as members of the MHUCC church! They will confirm their baptismal vows – the vows that were made on their behalf when they were baptized, make a statement of faith (which we have been crafting together over the last 5 weeks), and will each read and explain a passage they have selected from the Bible. This special service will be followed by a reception.
- **June 17 – 24:** [Sierra Service Project](#) trip. We will be traveling to Sacramento over two days, leaving the morning of Saturday, June 17. We will break our journey for a picnic somewhere north of LA for lunch on Saturday and stay in the Best Western next to Pea Soup Andersen's, in Santa Nella (it's supposed to be an interesting place, and has a pool and free breakfast). We will be sleeping in a church in Sacramento, and will spend our days on construction/service projects. Wednesday afternoon water activity may be rafting down the American river – unless the water level is too high – in which case we will go to a lake that has swimming and kayaking. We will return in one day on the 24th, probably arriving pretty late.
- **June 26 – 30th, 8:30pm – 12:30pm:** Volunteer as a camp counselor/activity leader at the [MHUCC Wild Wonder Creation Care Vacation Bible School](#). Fun with little kids! Let Zoe or Artcel know if you are interested.

For more information, contact [Fiona Case](#), and visit the [youth page](#) online!

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Earth Day Sunday, the MHUCC kids had a field trip to Mission Hills Nursery. Ten kids came, along with their families, and they planted peas.



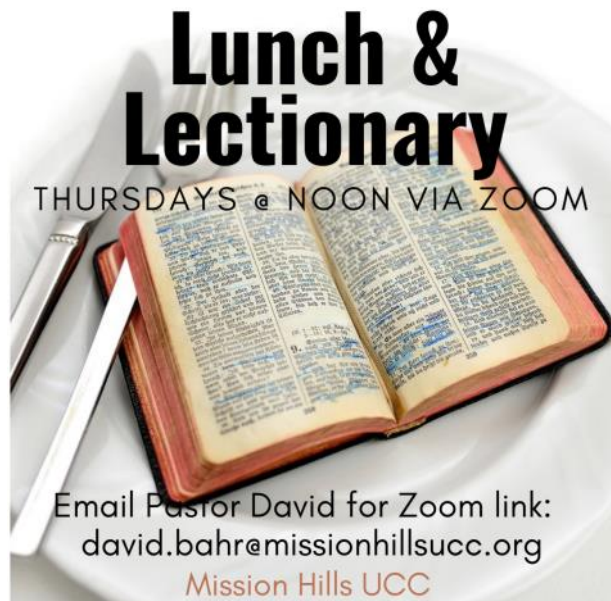
Evelyn Antos played Prelude for the first time and would love to do it again!



Vacation Bible School, Creation Care Camp, [registration](#) is now open.



May 21st: "Celebrity Sunday" - MHUCC celebrity chef, Robin James taught our kids how to make hummus during Sunday School to share with the congregation during Fellowship Hour, afterwards we had a Parents' Day Out, where the kids had fun jumping, climbing, and ziplining, while their parents had lunch next door.



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](#).

June Birthdays

- June 7** David Jay
- June 9** Joan Rawlings
- June 10** Erin Brown
Christopher Steeley
- June 12** Laura Hollis
Allie Welch
- June 14** Sue Mayberry
- June 15** Betsy McIntyre
Sharon Steeley
Cas Hom
- June 17** Laurie Fisher
- June 21** Al Mazur
- June 23** Barbara Christensen
- June 28** Lynn Barnes-Wallace
David Rickert
- June 29** Dori Cage
Glenn Ward



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 April Church Council Meeting:

<https://missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/APRILCOUNCIL.pdf>

History Corner

Lawrence R. Green was a long-time member of Mission Hills UCC, joining in the 1930s and remaining active through most of his life. He was known as a citrus grower, businessman, and philanthropist. He owned some 40,000 acres, much of it in citrus groves around Escondido. His philanthropic activities included Palomar Memorial Hospital, Escondido schools, U.S. International University, the Claremont College group, and many youth organizations. We most remember him for his support of Green Manor, our church's senior living apartment building. The building is named after Mr. Green.



Pictured on the left is a church directory picture of him and his wife, Georgia H. Green.

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STAFF DIRECTORY

Position	Staff Member	Phone Ext.	Email
Pastor	Rev. Dr. David Bahr	ext. 302	David.Bahr@missionhillsucc.org
Minister for Congregational Care	Rev. Janalee Borja		Janalee.Borja@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		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