

# PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

August 2023

## Enjoy Summer

Summer has never been my favorite season. I don't like being hot or feeling sticky. Growing up, it was always the on the hottest and muggiest days that we baled hay – the “small” rectangle ones you have to throw higher and higher up onto the trailer, not the round ones moved by tractors. And then we had to stack them in the attic of the barn, also known as Dante’s Inferno. I lived in Washington, DC for two years which, as you know, was built on a wet hot swamp. Cleveland summers were better than the rest of Ohio, but not by much. And we had no AC in the sanctuary. I wanted to move to Denver to escape the humidity, though we couldn't escape the heat. And no AC in the sanctuary where it could already be 90 at 10am some Sunday mornings.

But San Diego – wow! At least as far from the ocean as Mission Hills. We moved into our new home in Banker’s Hill last month and immediately discovered we had to replace the HVAC system, through fortunately, we haven't needed it yet. Yes, it's sticky some days and I wouldn't mind 10 degrees cooler, but now I'm just being greedy. Speaking of our new home, we hope to have an open house at the end of August – if we can finally get all the renovations finished! You are all invited.

Anyway, I'm enjoying summer and summertime activities like the Concert Series at Pioneer Park and the Pride Parade, with an umbrella, and I'm looking forward to Church in the Park on **July 30**. We moved it to make it an enjoyable summer activity and to be able to invite neighbors at the concerts to join us on Sunday morning. And we're having an all-generations beach party after worship on **August 13** at Mission Bay. I hope you will join us for this summer fun and fellowship.



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## Enjoy Summer (*continued*)

Some students have already returned to school but we will officially mark the school year with the blessing of the backpacks on Sunday, August 20. It's always one of my favorite worship services of the year.

Enjoy the rest of your summer! For the first time in my life, I am.

*Blessings,  
Pastor David*



## Moderator Message

***The only thing better than singing is more singing. Ella Fitzgerald***

I am not a singer but I do sing and singing in the MHUCC choir is just one of my many joys of our church. Last year, when Angelica invited the congregation at one of our Sunday services to “come join the choir” I did.

Through the choir I've enhanced relationships with other choir church members and met new choir members who are not part of the church membership. I look forward to our “just an hour long” practice sessions on Thursday evenings at 7:15 because I know we will laugh, share fun stories, learn new songs and SING. If you want to give it a try we are having **pick up choir on Sunday, August 13.**

Another opportunity for a wonderful musical experience is the Bell Choir. Believe me, you don't need to know how to read music. It's just knowing your right from your left. That's it. My bell music is all marked L and R and most of the time I do remember which hand is which.

Again, I promise a fun time, lots of support...and I think it's good for your brain. We practice after the service on Sunday. We'll start again mid September.

I think of these two musical opportunities as giving a gift to the congregation besides a gift to myself. I encourage you to reach out to Angelica or Kris or one of the choir members for more information. Come join us. I promise you joy.

Angelica Eclar: (951-260-9395) [angelica.eclar@missionhillsucc.org](mailto:angelica.eclar@missionhillsucc.org)

Kris Abels: [kris.abels@missionhillsucc.org](mailto:kris.abels@missionhillsucc.org)

*Love and blessings,  
Jere*

## New Governance and Ministry Structure

A task force of the Church Council has continued to make progress is proposing a new way to organize MHUCC with more people involved in ministry with fewer meetings and a less formal structure. We had congregational briefings in May and have continued to refine our plans. Come to one of our upcoming briefings following worship on August 27 and September 3 to learn more.

## Monthly Mission Partner: Jewish Family Services - San Diego



Founded in 1918, today [JFS](#) is considered one of San Diego's most impactful nonprofit human services agencies, providing compassionate care and supportive services to more than 70,000 people every year.

The diverse network of staff, volunteers, supporters, and community partners are committed to the pursuit of one shared goal: helping individuals and families in our community move forward.

**Welcoming the Stranger** is one of the many services offered by JFS.

A gift to JFS's *Welcome the Stranger* Fund ensures San Diego remains a welcoming place for those in search of a safer life—free from violence and persecution. Your support makes vital humanitarian response possible—empowering refugees to rebuild their lives and welcoming immigrants with compassion. 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.

## Thank you!

***Thank you, Mission Hills UCC, for your June contributions of \$1200 to the Strengthen the Church campaign.***

## Scholarship Sunday - August 20

*Join us during the worship service on Sunday, August 20, as we award educational scholarships to Amelia Norkowski and Jianna Ruiz.*

**Amelia** finished her freshman year of college at Cal State San Marcos. She will be continuing her education in the fall at Grossmont College. Her major is currently undeclared but Amelia is interested in pursuing a career working with children.

**Jianna** graduated in June from Montgomery High School in Chula Vista. She will be attending UCSD in the fall with a major in Pharmaceutical Chemistry. She wants to pursue a career in health care. Jianna is one of our Sunday morning Nursery attendants.

## M&O Forum on Immigrants and Children

Join us following worship on **August 20** to learn from an expert in the field.

Janine Young, MD, FAAP, is an academic general pediatrician at the University of California San Diego and Division Chief of Academic General Pediatrics, Newborn Medicine, and Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrics. Her career focus is health care and access to care for immigrants and refugees. She has written widely and presented talks nationally regarding topics that include the development of standard of care, Immigrant Health medical screening guidelines, the evaluation and treatment of unaccompanied children, pediatric female genital cutting diagnosis, treatment and prevention, and medical-immigration law partnerships.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL



On June 25th, we celebrated our Sunday School Teachers. We acknowledged and thanked them in front of the congregation, gave them goodie bags, and mentioned that they were all integral parts of our Children and Families Ministry.



Vacation Bible School/Creation Care Camp started June 26-30 with a theme of God's Creations. I was told that the last time we had VBS was a decade ago, and we were blessed to have restarted it again!

With thirteen kids, of which five kids were not from Mission Hills UCC, we—teachers, leaders, and youth—had a blast and felt that the week was a success. On our last day, Friday, we invited the parents and grandparents for a Pizza Feast, and we all had lunch together. They all had praises and appreciation for MHUCC and said that they would be bringing their kids back next year for our next VBS.



## What an amazing experience! Great work MHUCC Youth Group!

Five members of the MHUCC Youth Group traveled to Sacramento for a week of service with the [Sierra Service Project](#). They volunteered at the [Rancho Cordova Food Locker](#) helping to serve more than 400 families each day, and worked with local youth volunteers to build new steps so that two older and disabled trailer park residents could safely leave their homes.



### Upcoming Events:

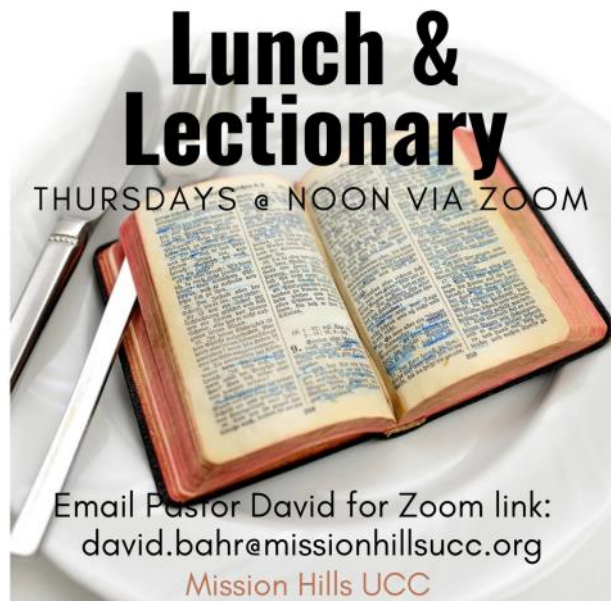
**Tuesday August 15, 9 – 11 am:** volunteer at the Feeding Mission Hills food distribution – Fiona cannot attend this one, report to Larry or Carol Holt when you arrive.

**Friday August 25, 5:30 – 8:30pm:** youth group social and planning meeting! Kickoff for our 2023-2024 program. Bring lots of ideas for activities you would like to do this year!

**Saturday September 16 from 12:30-2:30 pm:** volunteer at the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank Warehouse. More information (and signup forms) to come.

**October 20 – 22:** MHUCC family camp weekend at [Pilgrim Pines](#).

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



**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](#).

**August Birthdays**

- Aug 1** Linda Wallis
- Aug 2** Lucas Bowen-Ataide  
Alex More
- Aug 3** Dennis Stryker  
Marty Hom
- Aug 5** Daniel Carlin
- Aug 6** Sandra Pettis  
William Turner
- Aug 10** Melinda Murphy
- Aug 17** Marla McBride
- Aug 18** Charlie Berry  
Gail Rutherford
- Aug 19** Don Fisher  
Evie Gatzke-Winney
- Aug 20** Ellen Casey  
Marjorie Wahlsten
- Aug 23** Miranda Bernhard  
Rover Bernhard  
Steve Wallis
- Aug 26** Ken McIntyre  
Cindy VanSise
- Aug 27** Karen deLaurier
- Aug 28** Hannah More
- Aug 31** Tom Merrick



**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 June Church Council Meeting:

<https://missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/JuneCouncil.pdf>

### Mission Hills UCC - August Events

August	Mission Partner: Jewish Family Service of SD: Welcome the Stranger Fund
Friday, 8/4	Knitting 2 Give, 10 am - 12 pm, Commons MH Concert Series, 6-8 pm, Pioneer Park
Friday, 8/11	MH Concert Series, 6-8 pm, Pioneer Park
Sunday, 8/13	All Generations Food & Fun @ Beach – 12 pm, Mission Bay
Tuesday, 8/15	Feeding Mission Hills Food Distribution, 10:30 am
Thursday, 8/17	Knitting 2 Give, 2-4 pm, Commons
Sunday, 8/20	Scholarship Sunday Blessing of the Backpacks Topic: Immigrant Children Arrivals in San Diego by Janine Young, M.D., Prof. of Pediatrics UCSD School of Medicine, 11:15, Commons

### Uptown Community Service Center

Save Saturday morning, **September 9** for an Uptown's 5k Walkathon for Neighbors in Need. The walk starts at 8:00 AM at the University Christian Church in Hillcrest where the walk starts and ends. Walkers go to the Uptown Community Service Center. There will be a tour of the Uptown facility and a light continental breakfast before the return walk back to UCC. Donation is \$30.00.

**NEEDED: WASHCLOTHS for showers! ATHLETIC SOCKS! MENS' UNDERWEAR!** These are in great demand at Uptown. Can you help us provide them? (Our male clients generally wear a medium size and seem to prefer boxer briefs).

### We have a new tenant

San Diego Food System Alliance is leasing the office space upstairs in our church, room 201. They are a non profit organization that works on creating policy with agencies and organizations to build a food system in San Diego County that works for everyone. Check out their website for more information: [sdfsa.org](http://sdfsa.org)

*We're delighted to have them aboard!*

### New Outreach Project

For many years MHUCC has been collecting clothing and toiletry items for Uptown clients. It seems that 90% of the clients are men. In order to reach out and provide those needs to more women, we are forming a partnership with Rachael's Women's Center in downtown San Diego. The women need practical clothes for living on the streets. (They are in particular need of large sizes). **We will start collecting items on Sunday, August 13.** There will be a basket next to the Uptown basket in the hallway.

*If you can drop off clothing at their Eighth Street location once a month, please contact Emy. Your generosity is very much appreciated.*

~ Emy Yeazell

## History Corner



Pictured on the right is Mr. T. Donald Perkins an early member of our church (1930's-1970's). In 1925, he purchased the Goldfinch Pharmacy at the corner of Goldfinch and Washington Streets and changed the name to Ace Drug Store.

Does anyone remember this local business which had a soda fountain, cosmetics counter, post office, and a local branch of the public library!

(Photo from "Images of America, Mission Hills")

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### STAFF DIRECTORY

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Worship Technician	Trevor Norkowski		
Sexton	Gloria Schacht		
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**