

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

October 2023

On the Cusp

When I first read MHUCC's bylaws during my interviews, I had a feeling this would be my third church in a row to go through major revisions of its governance structure. The bylaws at my last church required 60 "slots to fill" and never enough people willing. Sixty seems small compared to MHUCC! They essentially changed the bylaws by not fulfilling its obligations. But when it came to actually intentionally adopting new bylaws, people weren't... let's just say that some folks were reluctant to get on board. At first. It was a big change. And not everything we envisioned worked. But when it came time to make a decision about being one of 14 churches providing a meal and overnight shelter for 20 women 26 night a year, whereas we couldn't get 60 people to commit to serving on a committee, 94 people volunteered – involving 40 jobs per month. Neighbors even joined in.

Since we first discussed it at our MHUCC Council retreat, I have been waiting for reluctance to emerge. Most churches do not easily embrace such a big change. There have been some excellent questions about "how" things will get done, but not fear. You continually amaze me with your enthusiasm about our church's future and how ready you are to welcome new ideas and approaches to set a firm foundation for those yet to come.

At the same time, we have been embracing some long lost traditions, including a weekend retreat at Pilgrim Pines. Registration closes on October 1, but one week out, we have 59 registered, including 18 kids who we hope will fall in love with Pilgrim Pines. The retreat comes two days after my two year anniversary as your pastor. I feel so incredibly blessed and grateful for your continued warm embrace. Thank you!

Blessings,
Pastor David

Moderator Message

Our church governance has been in place for many years. Last year, when I became vice-moderator and therefore tasked with heading the nominating committee to fill positions for the coming year, it was a challenge. Many of the positions were not filled from the previous year and there were a decreasing number in the congregation who were willing to make a three year commitment to serve on a ministry.

In February, at our retreat, the Church Council decided to explore a new governance structure that would give us more flexibility, encourage more congregational participation and still get the work done.

In order for that new structure to become a reality, a team came together and began their work. It's a shining example of our move from ministries to teams. This group came together to accomplish a specific task and that task is now nearing completion.

Accepting the fact that change is not easy for any of us, we wanted our governing structure to be more workable and at the same time ensure that avenues of communication were open and reliable, and that the work that needed to be done was in fact, accomplished. The team met nearly every week, thinking out loud, accepting some ideas and tossing out others. ...there was lots of "How would this work?" and also "What do you think about this?"

The team leaders had open meetings with the congregation to present ideas and accept feedback. That feedback was brought back to the team and incorporated into the structure. Council also provided valuable feedback. When we had a workable structure, we set about modifying the Bylaws to incorporate the new structure and to provide more flexibility to governance.

It's September, 7 months later, and I'm happy to report that our task is in the final stages. We accept that there may continue to be changes, but we're ready to move forward. This huge task would not have been possible without the unrelenting determination of Pat Wahlen, Karen DeLaurier, Carol Holt, and Pastor David. as well as Jon Petis, who is to be commended for his work on the Bylaws.

After the service on Sunday, October 8, there will be an important congregational meeting to vote on approval of the revised bylaws. Your participation is important. Please plan to attend.

I am grateful to all the members of the team and look forward to the months ahead as we move forward.

Blessing and love,
Jere McInerney

Congregational Meeting

If you haven't read them yet, please read to prepare for our congregational meeting following worship on October 8. We need quorum!

Links to four documents:

1. [New bylaws proposed by the Church Council](#)
2. [Current bylaws to compare](#)
3. [An explanation of the proposed bylaws](#)
4. [Description of our ministry structure not written into the bylaws](#)



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
FIRST SATURDAY IN OCTOBER
10AM
missionhillsucc.org

We will gather in the parking lot on **Saturday, October 7** to bless the animal members of our families.

Join us at **10 am** with your companions and invite a friend with theirs.

MHUCC's Fellowship/Membership and Growth Ministry will sponsor a Hymns and Beer evening soon, **Saturday, October 7, 6:30-8 pm in Fellowship Hall**. Come one come all, as Kris Abels, our Director of Instrumental Music accompanies our hymn selections on piano. We'll call out our favorite hymn title, then sing with gusto!

Snacks and munchies will be provided with a variety of juice and soda too! You're invited to bring your own beer to imbibe (if desired) as we sing our favorite hymns together.



Hymns
And
BEERS

FELLOWSHIP/MEMBERSHIP & GROWTH MINISTRY
OCTOBER 7
SATURDAY | 6:30-8 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL
MISSION HILLS UCC
missionhillsucc.org



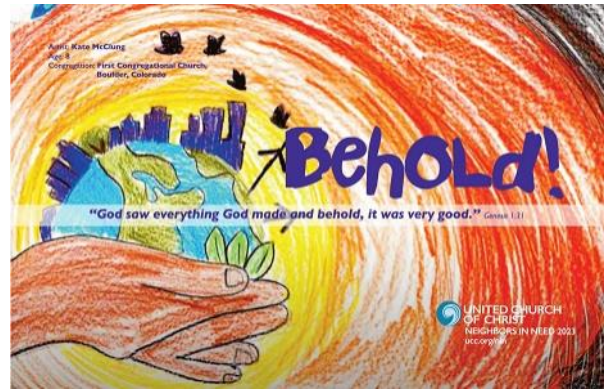
ALL CHILDREN WELCOME!
PUMPKIN CARVING & DECORATING!
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29TH 11:30-1PM

MISSION HILLS
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
missionhillsucc.org

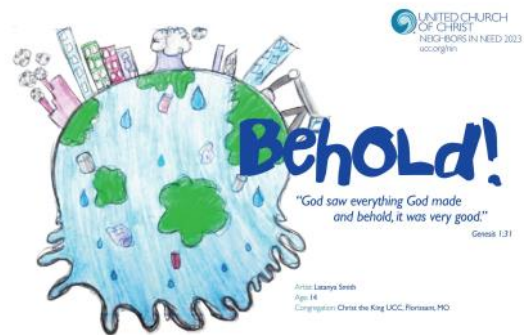
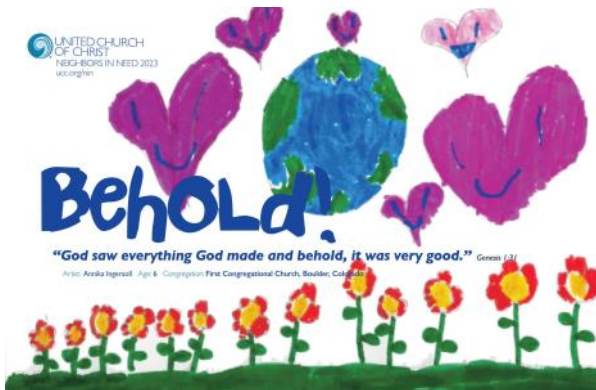
All Generations Pumpkin Carving and Decorating

Join us following worship on October 29 for some fun and fellowship for all ages. Kids can come in costume (no horror please). And adults too if you'd like. Invite someone you think would enjoy the festivities.

Monthly Mission Partner UCC Neighbors in Need



This year's focus is on environmental justice. Plastics, electronics, and other non-compostable wastes are being shipped across, and even tossed into, our waterways, launched into space, as well as buried in landfills. As people of faith, we believe these egregious acts are sinful and unholy. We must be better stewards of our planet! One-third of this offering supports the Council for American Indian Ministry and two-thirds goes to the Justice and Witness Ministries of the UCC to support congregations and other church settings in doing justice and environmental work, seeking peace and building vibrant faith communities that are welcoming to all.



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.

Children and Families Ministry

The Children & Families Ministry had an **Ice Cream Bar** and thank you to the Youth who served during the Fellowship time.



Ten kids came to our **Parents' Night Out** while their parents enjoyed two hours of spending time together and having dinner around the Mission Hills area. The kids had hotdogs, fruits, and veg-gies. They enjoyed face painting and making slimes.

Our kids enjoyed writing their own interpretation of the **Wedding Banquet** and they were so into their roles! The best part of it was that the whole church was invited to the wedding banquet.



Youth Group



Members of the MHUCC Youth Group volunteered at the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank Warehouse. We packed more 540 boxes of food that will be distributed to low income seniors. It was hard work, the boxes came by fast, but the camaraderie and sense of achievement made it worthwhile. We will definitely do this again!

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

Tour of SDRRN Migrant Shelter Operated by JFS

Those from MHUCC who would like to learn more about the services Jewish Family Service (JFS) provides immigrants arriving in San Diego are invited to sign up for a JFS Shelter Tour. Tours take place second Wednesdays of each month, from 2-3 pm.

We can sign up **10 members for the Wednesday, October 11th tour**. Register by calling the Church office before October 3rd. Please provide your email address when you register.

If more than 10 want to sign up, we have two more dates available:

November 8th tour has room for up to **4 members**. **Register** by calling the Church office **before October 31st**.

December 13th tour has room for up to **4 members**. **Register** by calling the Church office **before December 5th**.

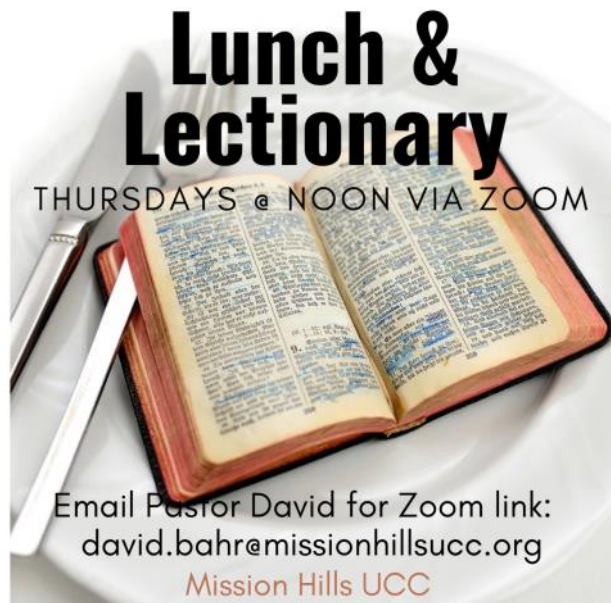
Carpooling from the Church can be an option. The Shelter is a 15-minute drive away.

Mission Hills UCC - October Events

October

	Mission Partner: UCC Neighbors in Need
Sunday, 10/1	World Communion Sunday Bylaw Briefings, 11:15 am, Commons
Friday, 10/6	Knitting 2 Give, 10 am - 12 pm, Commons
Saturday, 10/7	Blessing of the Animals, 10 am, Parking Lot Hymns & Beer night, 6:30 - 8 pm, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 10/8	Congregational Meeting
Wednesday, 10/11	JFS Migrant Shelter Tour, 2-3 pm Partnership 40th Anniversary Picnic at Mission Bay,
Sunday, 10/15	DeAnza Cove, 1-3 pm
Tuesday, 10/17	Feeding Mission Hills Food Distribution, 10:30 am
Thursday, 10/19	Knitting 2 Give, 2-4 pm, Commons
Fri. 10/20 - Sun. 10/22	MHUCC All Generations Weekend at Pilgrim Pines
Sunday, 10/29	Stewardship Begins Pumpkin Carving, 11:30 am, Fellowship Hall

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



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](#).

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/2023/09/AugCouncilMin.pdf>

October Birthdays

- Oct 1 Elizabeth Quiñones
- Oct 4 Lori Barnes-Wallace
- Oct 6 Lorraine Boyle
Marylou Chandler
- Oct 8 Janet Anderson
- Oct 10 Tim Wolf
- Oct 11 Juanita Hill
Antoinette Byda
- Oct 12 Jennifer Berman
- Oct 14 Woody James
- Oct 15 Joan Anderson
- Oct 16 Pat Wahlen
- Oct 17 Ronald Wilson
- Oct 25 Ronnie Williams
Steven Nugent
- 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!

History Corner

In 1983, our denomination initiated a nationwide project to bring together churches of varied ethnic, racial and cultural backgrounds. Partnerships of churches were formed throughout the country - our San Diego Partnership of UCC Churches is the only one still active. Through these 40 years, we have worshiped together and shared special projects and activities. To celebrate this 40th anniversary, we will have a celebration picnic at Mission Bay on Sunday, October 15 at 1-3 PM. Hope you can join us!

Pictured here (left to right) - Pastor Brandon Duran of Kensington Community Church, Pastor Kelly Ryan of The Table UCC of La Mesa, Pastor David Bahr of Mission Hills UCC, Pastor Iona Dickinson of University City United Church, and Pastor Mary Sue Brookshire of Pioneer Ocean View UCC. The 6th church in the Partnership is Christian Fellowship Congregational; their new Pastor is the Rev. Art Cribbs.



Please read the article by Rachel Chapman about the Partnership Churches, [here](#).

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
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
Sexton	Gloria Schacht		
Sunday Nursery	Gloria Schacht & Jianna Ruiz		
<i>General information</i>			<i>info@missionhillsucc.org</i>
<i>News subscriptions & submissions (due on the 20th)</i>			<i>news@missionhillsucc.org</i>

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