

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

February 2024

And Lent Begins

It was a glorious Christmas. How can it not be? It's Christmas! But at MHUCC, it's glorious especially because of the quality and many styles of music our musicians encourage from our congregation and choirs of singers and bells. Thank you to Kris and Angelica and everyone who made our Christmas glorious. And now, quick turnaround, it's Lent!

But first, January saw the return of the Fine Dining Event presented by our youth to raise funds for their next trip to build a house in Tijuana. What a fantastic event thanks to the youth, parents, and other helpers. Thanks to your generosity, we have received \$7,458 as of this writing. On February 11, which is also our annual Mardi Gras celebration with Dixieland musicians, we will bless the group of 22 youth and adults before their trip on the 17th.

January had two new initiatives: First, 15 Minutes for Gratitude has been a hit with about 20 people participating in at least one session. A short and simple mid-week reset from the comfort of your home on Zoom. Second, a long-desired group for men had their first meeting with ten guys – Tuesdays at 6:30 pm in person. Many thanks to Frank Ruiz and Bruce Matthias for bringing this to fruition. Plus, our new group of Conveners met for the first time (or rather, as I write, will meet) to begin putting our new governance structure into practice. And our new Council of 10 members also met for the first time.



San Diego UCC Partnership
Churches
**Ash Wednesday
Soup Dinner
and Worship**
Wednesday, 2/ 14
Mission Hills UCC
4070 Jackdaw St.
92103
Dinner @ 5:30 pm
Worship @ 6:30 pm
Livestream available on
YouTube and Facebook

For **Ash Wednesday, February 14**, MHUCC is hosting our six Partnership Churches starting at 5:30 pm with a simple soup supper and a service in our sanctuary at 6:30. For those who do not wish to go out at night, we will have a brief imposition of ashes and readings at Noon in the chapel. Our Lenten study group will be led by Ken Jensen and focus on our response to God's creation. It will meet on Zoom only on Monday nights at 7 pm. A link will be sent every Monday.

By the way, Easter is relatively early – March 31. Easter can fall anywhere between March 22 and April 25, but the last time it was March 22 was in 1818 and the next time will be 2185. The formula for

calculating Easter in the Western church, using the Gregorian calendar, is that it's the Sunday following the first full moon following the vernal equinox. Eastern churches follow the Julian calendar which means Easter this year will be May 5.

*Blessings upon you as we live into 2024,
Pastor David*

Moderator Message

It's in the Mission Minute....

Communication! It seems it's always a challenge in any organization. Comments like "If only I'd known" or "I wish someone had told me"....

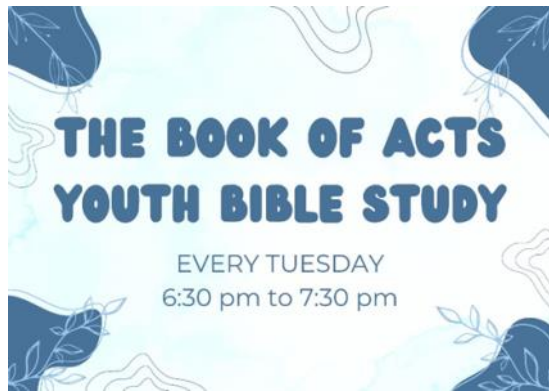
Hmm...we've all heard words or said them ourselves.

At our church, it shouldn't be a problem, because every Friday morning, in your very own inbox, you receive all the news for the weeks ahead. It's arranged in such a way as a mere click on a highlighted word will link you immediately to the referenced document. It couldn't be easier. It works because Elizabeth, our skilled and extraordinarily competent administrative assistant, creates the Mission Minute each week.

Many of those somebodies, that I wrote about last month, contribute articles about coming events. There's also a list of all the upcoming activities so you can mark your calendar.

So communication at Mission Hills UCC? We have the solution. Have you read your Mission Minute this week?

*Blessings and love,
Jere*



The Youth Group is continuing to study the Book of Acts. They are learning about how the Holy Spirit empowered the lives of believers, thereby forming and growing the first Church.

For more information, contact Artcel
artcel.ruiz@missionhillsucc.org

For additional youth activities go online:
<https://missionhillsucc.org/get-involved/youth/>

God's Earth, Our Call - Season 2 Coming!

Mondays beginning February 19th - March 18th
7:00-8:00 pm on Zoom

"It's not just land that is broken, but more importantly, our relationship to land." -Robin Wall Kimmerer, Braiding Sweetgrass

For the second year, this Lent, we will gather to consider our call with respect to the planet. We will not solve the climate crisis through science alone - we need transformed hearts and minds. Lent is a time for honest reflection on who we are and what we are called to be. What does our faith teach us about who we are in relationship to the earth and how we are to live? What action do we sense God calling us to do?

Our series will be led by a team, including Ken Jensen, Sue Lowery, Sharon Van Bruggen and Devon Buss. This series is meant for everyone - youth to adult - and will focus on practical application. Come be inspired by scriptures as well Native American author Robin Wall Kimmerer. Gain inspiration for new purpose and action. Even our simplest tangible actions have the ability to transform and heal us.

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 873 9813 9080

Passcode: 762631

Extraordinary Generosity

Through offerings to our mission partners and budgeted line items, in 2023, MHUCC contributed over \$90,000 to community and UCC ministries. For example:

- Between February offerings last year, the Souper Bowl, and the budget, Uptown received \$15,754 to serve people who are unsheltered in San Diego.
- Feeding Mission Hills received over \$20,000.
- Through special offerings and the budget, our contributions to the UCC totaled over \$33,000.
- Last year's Tijuana home build raised \$8,455 through donations and the Fine Dining Experience.
- Smaller but no less important contributions were made to Just in Time for Foster Youth, Jewish Family Service for their migrant family program, and more.

Plus in kind gifts like knit hats and gloves, clothes for Rachel's Women's Center, backpacks for Barrio Logan College Institute, Christmas gifts for children of incarcerated parents, and more. Thank you!

UCC WESTERN REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT



Long Beach, California

Save the Date!

JUNE 23 - 27, 2024

Join hundreds of UCC Middle and High Schoolers from the 8 UCC Conferences of the western half of the United States. We're gathering at California State University - Long Beach for a few days of workshops, service projects, music, worship, an adventure day at Disney and more!

- Sunday - Arrive & Evening Worship
- Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday- 3 days of Workshops, Service Project and an adventure day at Disney.
- Thursday - Morning Worship & Depart

Registration costs are still being finalized (somewhere around \$600) and will include housing, meals, and admission for one day at Disneyland. More info coming soon.

QUESTIONS? WANT TO VOLUNTEER?
Rev. Wally Hoeger | whoeger@firstchurchlb.org

JANUARY

MISSION HILLS UCC
CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY



BEATITUDES

Our children are continuing to learn the Beatitudes. Last Sunday, they learned the sixth blessing and promise of the Beatitudes, “*Blessed Are the Pure in Heart,*” found in Matthew 5:8. Beatitudes teach our children how to act and treat others. Jesus knew our relationships with each other are the most important thing about life.



CELEBRITY SUNDAY

Thank you, Dr. Dori, for being our “celebrity”! Dr. Dori has been an orthopedic surgeon for over 30 years, and she is passionate about serving her community, seeing others grow and improve, and pushing herself out of her “comfort zone” by taking on leadership roles and speaking in public.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Month	Event	Time
23	FEBRUARY	PARENTS' NIGHT OUT	6 PM - 8:30
10	MARCH	FIELD TRIP! HOT SPOT STUDIOS	12 PM - 2 PM
22	MARCH	PARENTS' NIGHT IN	6 PM - 8:30 PM
31	MARCH	EASTER EGG HUNT AFTER WORSHIP	

CONTACT ARTCEL RUIZ FOR MORE DETAILS
ARTCEL.RUIZ@MISSIONHILLSUCC.ORG

Would you like to volunteer with us?

Please contact Artcel Ruiz at Artcel.Ruiz@Missionhillsucc.org

SOUPer Bowl Sunday is coming on SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25

SOUPER BOWL 2024 SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH



FORM YOUR TEAM NOW!

FUNDS TO BENEFIT UPTOWN COMMUNITY
SERVICE CENTER 

SOUPer Bowl Sunday is less than a month away. For those newer to the church, **SOUPer Bowl Sunday** is a soup competition fundraiser for Uptown Community Service Center that serves our homeless population. Various Groups in the church make their best soup recipes for your tasting pleasure to win your votes (\$\$\$) for the Golden and Silver Spoon awards. It's always lots of fun and a delicious way to have some lunch after church on SUNDAY, FEB. 25. Be sure to mark your calendars. You'll be very glad you attended.

We do need some soup making groups for the competition. If your group would like to participate or if you have any questions about the event, please contact Al Mazur at ajmazur621@aol.com.

Organ Centennial Celebrations

MHUCC is blessed to have a fine pipe organ that helps lead the music in our worship services. It turns 100 in September of this year! We're planning a series of events to celebrate, please mark your calendars and join us.

- Feb 17th 4pm – **AGO Members Recital** - featuring members of the San Diego Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
- April 21st at 4pm – **Earth Day Recital featuring Dr. Alison Luedecke**
- June 23rd at 4pm – **Recital featuring our own organist, Kristopher Abels**
- Sept 22rd at 10am – **Anniversary Celebration during morning worship**. Performance of a new commissioned piece.

A reception will follow all events.



MISSION HILLS UCC ORGAN CENTENNIAL 2024

FEB 17 4PM – AGO
MEMBERS RECITAL

APRIL 21 4PM – EARTH
DAY RECITAL
FEATURING DR.
ALISON LUEDECKE

JUNE 23 4PM –
RECITAL BY
KRISTOPHER ABELS

SEPT 22 10AM –
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION DURING
MORNING WORSHIP.
PERFORMANCE OF
COMMISSIONED PIECE.

THE FIVE W's . . .

From a therapist years ago, “**Look at one thing and ASK:**

WHAT is this?

WHY would I want to keep this?

WHEN would I use it?

WHERE would I find it?

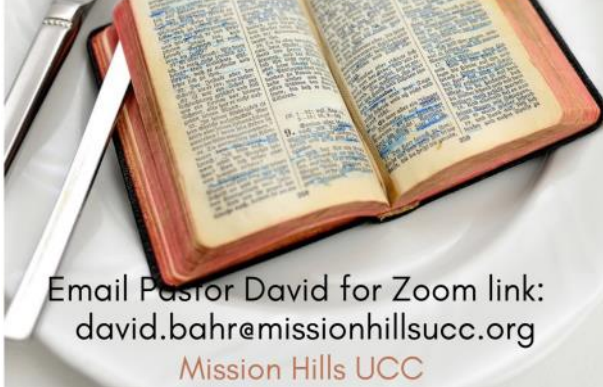
WHO else would have it?

AND...my additions: **HOW** does this serve me and empower me?

- Marla McBride

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 [Face-
book](#) Sunday morning if you wish to
follow along.

On Mondays you can find closed cap-
tion video on our [website](#) and
[YouTube](#).

February Birthdays

Feb 2	Julia Fordham
Feb 5	Betty Darling
Feb 6	Gabriella Stryker
Feb 7	Kimberly Antos
Feb 12	Robin James Lilian Antos
Feb 15	Elsie Brooks Jianna Ruiz
Feb 18	Nora Stallone
Feb 19	Ryan Cage
Feb 20	Erik More
Feb 22	Evan Barnes-Wallace
Feb 25	Jane Illades
Feb 27	Susan Sato



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 December Church Council Meeting:

<https://missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/DecCouncil.pdf>

Black History Month

"Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles which one has overcome while trying to succeed."

- Booker T. Washington

During worship in February we will learn and honor the great genius of Black achievements that have led to the kind of nation we seek – one that is open, inclusive, just, and compassionate. Through choir anthems, readings by youth and more, we will be inspired by those who have succeeded against the real obstacles our Christian faith still seeks to dismantle.

History Corner

ORGAN CELEBRATION BEGINS!

On Sept. 25, 1924, the first organ recital was played on our new organ. The organist that day was John Doane, the son of our first Pastor, the Rev. John Doane. Mr. Doane (Jr.) was, at that time, the organist of St. John the Divine in New York City. Accompanied by cellist Edythe Reilly Rowe, they played selections from 12 composers. Especially moving was the Funeral March and Seraphic Song from French composer Alexandre Guilmant. This piece was played in memory of the Rev. John Doane, who had passed away just 11 years earlier.

Now, 100 years later, we will have the first of 4 celebratory recitals.

February 17, 4:00 PM, THE SAN DIEGO AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS will present performances by ten of their members. Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear a variety of performers and pieces played on this historic instrument. And plan to stay for the champagne celebration following the recital!



**MISSION HILLS UCC
ORGAN CENTENNIAL
2024**

**AMERICAN GUILD OF
ORGANISTS MEMBERS
RECITAL
FEB 17TH AT 4PM**

MISSIONHILLSUCC.ORG

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
Director of Ministry with Youth	Fiona Case		Fiona.Case@missionhillsucc.org
Worship Technologies Coordinator	Saige Afalava		Saige.Afalava@missionhillsucc.org
Worship Technologies Assistant	Devin Buss		
Sexton	Gloria Schacht		
Sunday Nursery	Gianna Ruiz & Amelia Norkowski		

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

Mission Hills UCC - Upcoming Events

February	Mission Partner: Uptown
Friday, 2/2	Knitting 2 Give, 10 am - 12 pm, Commons
Sunday, 2/4	Youth & Family Brainstorming, 11:30-1
Sunday, 2/11	Mardi Gras Sunday
Wednesday, 2/14	Ash Wednesday Ash Wednesday Service, noon Partnership Soup Super, 5:30 pm Ash Wednesday Partnership Service, 6: 30 pm
Thursday, 2/15	Knitting 2 Give, 2-4 pm, Commons
Saturday, 2/17	Organ 100 Year Anniversary Recital, Sanctuary, 4:00 pm
Sat, 2/17 - Sun 2/18	Casas de Luz Home building trip in Mexico
Tuesday, 2/20	Feeding Mission Hills Food Distribution, 10:30 am
Friday, 2/23	Parent Night Out
Sunday, 2/25	Church Vocations Sunday Souper Bowl
March	Mission Partner: One Great Hour of Sharing
Friday, 3/1	Knitting 2 Give, 10 am - 12 pm, Commons
Sunday, 3/10	Baptism RJ Muñoz
Tuesday, 3/19	Feeding Mission Hills Food Distribution, 10:30 am
Thursday, 3/21	Knitting 2 Give, 2-4 pm, Commons
Friday, 3/22	All Generation Purim Party
Thursday, 3/28	Maundy Thursday
Friday, 3/29	Good Friday
Sunday, 3/31	Easter Sunday
April	Mission Partner: Feeding Mission Hills
Friday, 4/5	Knitting 2 Give, 10 am - 12 pm, Commons
Tuesday, 4/16	Feeding Mission Hills Food Distribution, 10:30 am
Thursday, 4/18	Knitting 2 Give, 2-4 pm, Commons
Sunday, 4/21	Earth Day Sunday Organ Concert, 4 pm

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