

# PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

March 2024

## An Abundance of Life at MHUCC

In February:

- The first of a series of recitals to celebrate the centennial of our organ brought 80 people to hear 8 organists from the American Guild of Organists
- Our Lifestages Group received completed surveys from 85% of our members over 50 and began hosting focus groups to discuss the findings for future programming
- 23 youth and adults built another house in Tijuana using more than \$9,000 received from offerings and the youth group's fine dining experience
- The Souper Bowl raised over \$7,000 for Uptown – Barbara Wiggins received the Golden Ladle; the Men's group the Silver Spoon
- New members were prepared to join in March
- We hosted 80 members of the San Diego UCC partnership churches on Ash Wednesday for soup and a service – and an amazing joint choir
- Lent began with a weekly Zoom group discussing God's Earth, Our Response
- The Children, Youth, and Families Ministry hosted a brainstorming session for programming in 2024
- Our new Conveners group began envisioning how we will implement our vision for collaboration across all areas of our ministry
- We celebrated Black History Month in worship with amazing music and selected readings
- The long awaited New Front Door project to improve sound and cameras was installed. We have appreciated people's patience as our tech team learn this more sophisticated system – and the patience of Saige, Devin, and Trevor to stick with the challenge

And coming in March:

- We'll have our first brunch with 20 and 30-year olds in the congregation on 3/17
- We'll cheer on our neighbors running past the church for the Mission Hills 5K on 3/23
- We'll celebrate the baptism of RJ Muñoz and receive new members on 3/10
- We'll have a presentation from the Lifestages group on 3/17
- We'll celebrate the music of women composers on 3/3
- We'll have a parent's night IN on 3/22 while the youth group fills Easter eggs
- We'll elect a new conference minister for the Southern California Nevada Conference UCC
- We'll hear some exciting developments from our members on the Green Manor board

And of course, Holy Week and Easter!

- Bring your own palm for our Palm Sunday procession along Jackdaw with the United Methodist Church on 3/24 – please be here by 9:30 am
- Maundy Thursday services will be held at Noon in the chapel and 7 pm in the sanctuary on 3/28
- We'll have a Good Friday reflection on Zoom at Noon on 3/29
- Easter will begin at 6:30 am in Pioneer Park with the United Methodist Church on 3/31
- Festival Worship with wonderful music and brass musicians will be at 10 am
- We need you to bring wrapped candy for our Easter egg hunt to be held after worship on 3/31

There is an abundance of life at MHUCC! Blessings, Pastor David

## Moderator's Message

### Our Podcast Pastor

Do you ever reflect on Pastor David's Sunday sermon during the week and try to recall a certain message, a phrase or thought that struck home? That happens to me, often in a quiet moment of thought during a neighborhood walk or while driving or stuck in traffic. Even though I know I can sit down at my computer at home and bring up Facebook or YouTube, I often don't.

I've recently discovered another way. Podcasts!!! Pastor David has a Podcast.

Podcasts are available anytime and are easily accessed on a cell phone. Pastor David started podcasting last summer so that people who missed a part of the ongoing story from Abraham to Moses to the Promised Land could listen or could go back and listen to the story from the beginning. I, for one, needed to hear it again from the beginning.

Fortunately for us, and the 250 listeners who have already tuned in, David has continued to podcast each week.

Podcasts are available on Apple or Google. When you log on to the app, just look for "**Sermons from San Diego**" and you can listen to David's talk during that quiet neighborhood walk, while sitting in traffic, or when you are just relaxing at home.

As disturbing as the events in our country and world can be, I have found that hearing Sunday's sermon, or other sermons from past weeks, resets my focus on Jesus and God's love. It reminds me that God is ever present. It renews my faith in the future. It's usually just 12-15 minutes. Hearing our Podcasting Pastor during the week makes a difference for me. I hope you'll find it's a blessing for you as well.

*Blessings and love,  
Jere*

## God's Earth, Our Call - Season 2

Mondays through - 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 Devin 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

## Monthly Mission Partner - One Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) special mission offering of the United Church of Christ involves you in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, you are part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery.

Through OGHS you engage in holistic development programs including health care, education, agriculture, food sustainability, micro-financing and women's empowerment. Because the UCC relates in mutual partnership to churches and organizations through Global Ministries and worldwide response & recovery networks, your contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing put you in the right place at the right time for the relief, accompaniment and recovery of the most vulnerable. You meet immediate needs and you address the underlying causes that create those needs in the first place.

You can make a donation by using the Monthly Mission Partner envelope in the pews or by going to our website at [www.missionhillsucc.org/give](http://www.missionhillsucc.org/give)

# Wandering Heart

Figuring out faith with Peter

## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

### San Diego Partnership Churches

All of our partnership churches will be studying the same scriptures throughout Lent and you are invited to join in the Bible Study that works for you!

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
<b>11:00 AM</b> UCUC - <b>In Person</b>	<b>4:15 PM</b> The Table - <b>Zoom</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b> Kensington - Hybrid- <b>In Person &amp; Zoom</b>	<b>12:00 PM</b> Mission Hills - <b>Zoom</b>
<b>11:30 AM</b> Pioneer Ocean View - <b>Zoom</b>		<b>6:00 PM</b> Christian Fellowship - <b>Zoom</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Pioneer Ocean View - YOUNG ADULT- <b>Zoom</b>	

**Contact each Church for Zoom links**

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Mission Hills UCC Children  
& Families Ministry



## KIM ANTOS

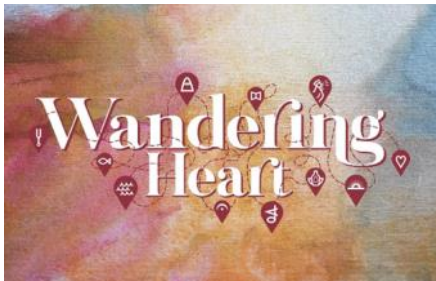


This new year brings Mission Hills UCC with new bylaws, which bring many changes to implement its new structure. One of these changes is adding the roles of Conveners that carry out our ministry in new and collaborative ways. Conveners' roles are on rotation, so other parents will have the chance to be in this position as well. With this said, I am thrilled to say that Kim Antos is the Children, Families, and Youth's Convenir.

Kim was born and raised in San Francisco. She has a Bachelor's in Mathematics and a Master's in Secondary Education and is in her 16th year teaching. Kim began attending MHUCC in 2006 when visiting from college, married her husband, Chris, at MHUCC in 2009, baptized all four kids there, and officially became a member in 2019.

Her role as a convenir is to help children, families, and youth while collaborating with other church teams and communicating with liaisons and the council. Her goal for us is to create programs that provide children, families, and opportunities to grow and deepen our faith, relationships, and impact.

Thank you, Kim, for saying yes! We are here to support you.



We have started the "Wandering Heart" curriculum for Lent. This engaging children's curriculum contains eight weeks of lessons (for each Sunday in Lent through the Second Sunday of Easter) that follow Simon Peter's journey with Jesus. The lessons include a variety of ways for children to connect to the gospel stories—retelling of the scriptures and engagement with the theme through crafts, books, and games.



For any questions, please contact [Artcel Ruiz](#), Director of Ministry with Children & Families

## MHUCC Youth Group



MHUCC youth group members, friends and families (ages 11+): Volunteer with our group at the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank Warehouse, located at 9850 Distribution Avenue, San Diego CA, 92121 on Saturday March 9 from 12:30-2:30 pm. This is such a fun and worthwhile activity. Here are photos from last time: <https://missionhillsucc.org/youth/volunteering-at-the-san-diego-food-bank/> If you are able to join us (and I hope you can), **you must register by March 2**. The food bank needs to know that they have enough people to complete the tasks for that shift.

You can find registration information and more upcoming events on our webpage: <https://missionhillsucc.org/youth>.

**Holy Week**  
at the San Diego Partnership Churches

- 3/28 • Maundy Thursday  
12pm & 7pm • Mission Hills UCC  
7pm • University City United Church
- 3/29 • Good Friday  
12pm • Zoom (Hosted by Mission Hills UCC)  
7pm • Kensington Community Church
- 3/30 • Easter Eve  
5:45pm • Pioneer Ocean View UCC



Easter Sunday, March 31st

Sunrise Service in Pioneer Park – 6:30 am

Festival Easter Worship – 10:00 am

Easter Egg Hunt – 11:15 am

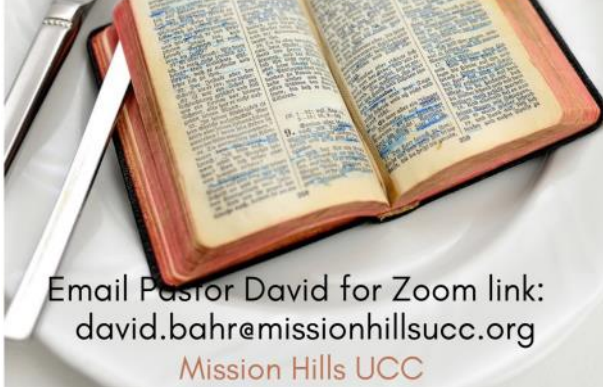


MISSION HILLS  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

[missionhillsucc.org](https://missionhillsucc.org)

# 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](#).

## March Birthdays

Mar 2	Lisa Striebing Martin Case
Mar 3	Karen Huntington
Mar 11	Jennifer Conrard
Mar 14	Christopher Antos
Mar 16	James Roth
Mar 17	George Waller
Mar 18	Kenneth Jensen
Mar 23	Luca Carlin
Mar 26	Joan Berry Larry Brunton
Mar 29	Karen Norkowski
Mar 30	Meg Conrard



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 January Church Council Meeting:

<https://missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/JanCouncil.pdf>

## Inquirers Class

Would you like to learn more about our church and what is involved in becoming a "member" of MHUCC?

Join us **Sunday, March 3**, following the church service, for a time of getting acquainted and learning more about the United Church of Christ and our congregation. We will meet in the Chapel (in front of the church office). The session will last approximately one hour.

## History Corner

### *Easter is coming - March 31!*



Here is a picture of an Easter service at our church in the mid-1940's. The Pastor was the Rev. John C. Wiley. Look closely for some interesting details - the organ screen (instead of the revealed pipes,) U.S. and church flags on display, the Hymn board displaying hymns for the day, and the hats – lots of ladies hats! You may also notice that the first few pews are filled with men only. According to notes on the photograph, the special guests that morning were the Knights Templar. (Now a modern day service organization but since the 1100's they were a Catholic military organization, best known for their role in the Crusades.)

**Mission Hills United Church of Christ**  
4070 Jackdaw Street, San Diego, CA 92103  
(619) 296-2169; Fax (619) 296-2115  
**Website: [www.missionhillsucc.org](http://www.missionhillsucc.org)**

### STAFF DIRECTORY

Position	Staff Member	Phone Ext.	Email
Pastor	Rev. Dr. David Bahr	ext. 302	<a href="mailto:David.Bahr@missionhillsucc.org">David.Bahr@missionhillsucc.org</a>
Minister for Congregational Care	Rev. Janalee Borja		<a href="mailto:Janalee.Borja@missionhillsucc.org">Janalee.Borja@missionhillsucc.org</a>
Director of Ministry with Children and Families	Artcel Ruiz		<a href="mailto:Artcel.Ruiz@missionhillsucc.org">Artcel.Ruiz@missionhillsucc.org</a>
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Worship Technologies Coordinator	Saige Afalava		<a href="mailto:Saige.Afalava@missionhillsucc.org">Saige.Afalava@missionhillsucc.org</a>
Worship Technologies Assistant	Devin Buss & Trevor Norkowski		
Sexton	Gloria Schacht		
Sunday Nursery	Jianna Ruiz & Amelia Norkowski		

*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**

## Mission Hills UCC - Upcoming Events

<b>March</b>	<b>Mission Partner: One Great Hour of Sharing</b>
Friday, 3/1	Knitting 2 Give, 10 am - 12 pm, Commons
Sunday, 3/3	Inquirers Class, Chapel, after worship
Saturday, 3/9	Conveners Meeting, 9 am - 12 pm
Sunday, 3/10	Baptism RJ Muñoz Organ Tour, after worship
Sunday, 3/17	Life Stages Presentation, after worship, Commons
Tuesday, 3/19	Feeding Mission Hills Food Distribution, 10:30 am
Thursday, 3/21	Knitting 2 Give, 2-4 pm, Commons
Friday, 3/22	Parent Night In, 6 pm
Thursday, 3/28	Maundy Thursday Service, noon, Chapel Maundy Thursday Service, 7 pm
Friday, 3/29	Good Friday Service, noon, Zoom
Sunday, 3/31	Easter Sunday Sunrise Service, 6:30 am, Pioneer Park Easter Service 10 am Easter Egg Hunt, 11:15 am
<b>April</b>	<b>Mission Partner: Feeding Mission Hills</b>
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
Saturday, 4/27	Community Bake Sale, 8 am - 12 pm
<b>May</b>	<b>Mission Partner: Just in Time</b>
Friday, 5/3	Knitting 2 Give, 10 am - 12 pm, Commons
Sunday, 5/5	Partnership Visit to Museum of Us, TBD
Thursday, 5/16	Knitting 2 Give, 2-4 pm, Commons
Tuesday, 5/21	Feeding Mission Hills Food Distribution, 10:30 am

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