

# PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

May 2024

## Pacific Islander and Asian American Heritage Month

Black History Month is always a meaningful month in worship featuring music and readings and inspiring stories. For the last two years, our worship staff team has wondered about celebrating the heritage of our Asian and Pacific Islander members – a growing segment of our church. So we're happy to announce:

On April 28 we began by singing Japanese and Chinese hymns, the choir sang a Korean folk song, and Susan Namba, a member of our partner church, Pioneer Ocean View UCC, talked with us about the history of the Japanese church started by First Congregational in the late 1800s.

May 5 will be special because it is Youth Sunday and they will lead the whole service, including sermons. We will also honor the heritages of India and Sri Lanka. The choir will sing a traditional Hindi melody and the Lord's Prayer that day will be a Sanskrit translation.

*Lord, you are our Parent who lives in heaven;  
Let your name be sung, and may we have love for it.  
May your reign also be established here on earth.  
May your will be fulfilled here, as it is in your own abode.  
Giving us our daily bread, maintain us day after day.  
Forgive us our offenses, which we have knowingly or unknowingly committed,  
just as we forgive the offenses of others.  
O Lord, do not lead us on the path of irreligion,  
and save us from greed, the propensity for sin and evil.  
This is all proper, for yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory  
in this world and in the next, everywhere, today, tomorrow and for all the ages.*

On May 12, we will celebrate the baptism of Hana Marrone and hear music from Southeast Asia, including Thai music played by Christopher and Supeena Insee Adler, noted experts in their field.

And on Pentecost, May 19, the focus will be on Pacific Islands like the Philippines and Samoa with special music by our members. Also that day, we will enjoy foods provided by our Filipino, Chinese, and Samoan members after worship. It will be a wonderful way to conclude our celebration.

*Blessings,  
Pastor David*

## Moderator's Message

### **Yes! You are Welcome Here**

I have long envisioned our beautiful church building as a gathering place for a variety of activities in our community. Center Stage Children's Theatre has used our hall and stage for many years. Some of our youth are graduates of the program and some are involved now. Last year I attended a production. A young girl who lives across the street was in the show. It was delightful. The productions bring audiences from throughout the county. This year, ***Alice in Wonderland*** will be presented on May 10, 11 and 12. Tickets are \$12-\$14. and are available at [www.centerstagechildrenstheater.org](http://www.centerstagechildrenstheater.org) I promise you'll have a great time.

There are a variety of community groups that use our space. Not only are we providing a venue but their rent provides revenue for the church. There have been birthday celebrations, as well as quinceañeras. Grant School has various activities, There are diabetes classes, anonymous groups, Zeta Rho Women's Study Group, the Mission Hills Garden Club. There is a community art fair in the works for the fall. Our tenants upstairs share our goal of feeding the hungry.

Recently I received an email from the Pioneer Philharmonic Orchestra, a newly formed organization in our community. They were looking for a space to practice. I met with the leader, who much to my surprise and delight is a ninth grade student at Point Loma High School. He has gathered a group of other teens who live nearby to form an orchestra. This enterprising young man followed through with all the paperwork and as a result, he and his orchestra began practicing in the chapel on Saturday afternoons. They will be continuing for a series of practice sessions. And in lieu of paying rent, they have agreed to play for the congregation. Who knows where this all will end. There are many possibilities. I do think it says something about our church, that a teenager would feel comfortable asking for a practice place and think we'd say "Yes, come on in." We are a welcoming congregation, in every sense, providing a gathering space for all. A recent email from the orchestra's director, again expressed his appreciation.

Blessings and Love,  
Jere

## MHUCC Scholarship

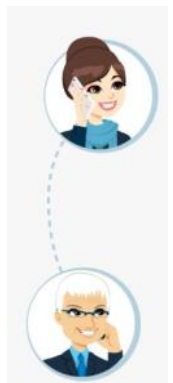


Now is the time to prepare your application for the Mission Hills United Church of Christ College Scholarship. Members of the church who are planning to attend college this fall are eligible to receive this scholarship. You may pick up a copy of the application at the church office, or [online](#). The church office must receive applications no later than June 10, 2024.

For more information, please contact, Suzanne Albrecht ([suz1127@cox.net](mailto:suz1127@cox.net)).

Do you attend Mission Hills UCC? Do you live alone, or only with someone incapable of making a call to 9-1-1 in an emergency? Would you like to connect with someone on a daily phone call or text message just to "check in"?

You are invited to The Commons after services on Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> to learn about the *Everybody Has Somebody Program*. It is basically a telephone tree for those, of any age, who live alone.



## Monthly Mission Partner - Just in Time

Our May Monthly Mission Partner is Just in Time. Just in Time's objective is to build a long "bridge" for youth as they leave the system with no stable adult relationships and no trusted community after 18. JIT's Theory of Change as foster youth transition from care suggests they will become self-sufficient with a sense of well-being and life satisfaction for the long-term, *breaking the cycle of foster care*. JIT helps them become Confident, Capable and Connected, with the combination of critical resources and essential relationships that every young person needs. This month you will hear stories from youth whose lives have been changed by JIT and will learn ways to donate time, treasure and/or talents to this important work.

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)



Visit [jitfosteryouth.org](http://jitfosteryouth.org) for more information or contact us!

Email: [ve.team@jitfosteryouth.org](mailto:ve.team@jitfosteryouth.org) | 619.677.2119

Address: 4560 Alvarado Canyon Rd., Ste. 2G, San Diego, CA 92120

Mail: PO Box 601627, San Diego, CA 92160

*Just  
in Time*<sup>SM</sup>  
FOR FOSTER YOUTH

## MHUCC Youth Group Upcoming Events

- **Sunday, May 5:** The Youth Group are leading the MHUCC Sunday Service starting at 10am.
- **Friday, May 17, 6:30 – 8:30 pm:** Bowling and pizza at SDSU Aztec Lanes (we will be joining the Sunday School kids for an all ages event).
- **Saturday, May 18, 11am – 4pm:** We will be supporting [Episcopal Community Services](#) by helping to set up their fundraiser at the Hyatt
- **June 23 – 28:** UCC Western Regional Youth Event. Our church will be subsidizing the cost of this event to make it affordable for all our families. Contact Artcel for details.
- **Saturday, July 20:** We will participate in the San Diego Pride Parade



## Children & Families Ministry

Our planet, Earth, is a wonderful place, but it requires everyone's help to make it thrive. Fortunately, we have Earth Day to celebrate and reminds us of the need to protect our environment and demonstrate the importance of maintaining the planet's health.

During Sunday school on April 21st, we discussed how we can all take part in activities to protect the planet and contribute to making a difference. Our children suggested various ways to do this, such as saving water, turning off lights when leaving a room, using reusable containers, and picking up litter and planting trees.

We are also creating a mini garden where we will plant cherry tomatoes, green peppers, and snap peas. By participating in activities like the ones mentioned above, we can all work together in making our world a happier, healthier place to live.

Thank you for participating and putting your soil in our planter for our mini garden!



### *Don't forget about our Upcoming Events:*

<b>MAY 17</b>	Family Night Out: Bowling
<b>MAY 19</b>	Celebrity Sunday
<b>JUNE 10-14</b>	Vacation Bible School
<b>JUNE 16</b>	Teacher Appreciation Day

*For more information contact [Artcel Ruiz](#)*

## Rachel's Women's Center Donations

Your support of Rachel's Women's Center, which is a day resource center for women who are on the street, has been very much appreciated. As a reminder, the women are on the street at night so clothing should be casual. The sizes that are needed are large and extra large. Shirts, t shirts, sweatshirts, coats, and long pants are most appropriate. Toiletries are also appreciated. The basket for Rachel's will now be located in the stairwell next to the basket for Up-town.



## New Members

**Thad Haddad-Winkle** moved to San Diego from Milwaukee last summer with his wife, Aida. He's an ordained UCC clergy person and is now working as the deputy director of Groundwork San Diego, a nonprofit doing watershed restoration in the Chollas Creek Watershed of Southeast San Diego. He



has lots of hobbies, spending most of his free time these days traveling, eating and cooking good food, cheering on the Milwaukee Bucks, and occasionally playing guitar or writing. Thad and Aida's "wolfpack" is rounded out with their little pup, Francis--named after Saint Francis, who taught that animals too help bring the divine light into the world. Thad enjoys getting to know new people, so if you'd like to grab a coffee or go for a walk sometime, let him know!

**Aida Haddad-Winkle** moved to San Diego from Milwaukee last summer with her husband, Thad. They met as students at Princeton Theological Seminary. She is now a resident physician at UC San Diego. She enjoys playing outside with their dog Francis, going on local and international adventures with Thad, and sharing meals with friends. Since moving she has started surfing and enjoys the many coastal hikes Southern California has to offer. MHUCC is the first church Aida has joined apart from her home church in Indiana. She is excited to get to know her new church family!

Hi! I'm **Cindy Anderson**. I'm a native Californian. I have two adult daughters and six grandchildren. And, I share a fur baby, Gunther, with Larry, my husband. I've dedicated 22 years to being a Special Ed teacher. I am in my first year of seminary and excited about following the path that leads me down. I'm looking forward being a part of this beautifully welcoming community of MHUCC.



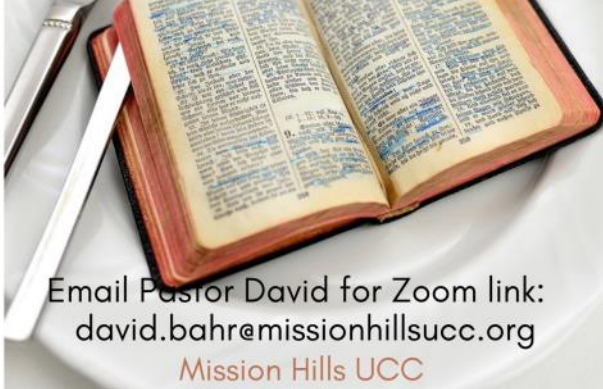
**Larry Spears**: I'm an Oklahoma native that's lived in California for over 15 years. I have grown son and daughter in law living in Washington state. The ocean brought me here and I stayed to start a life with my wife Cindy who we share a fur baby - Gunther. A ever growing standard poodle. I'm excited to begin our journey in this loving inclusive church.

Calling Mothers of all stages! Mission Hills UCC would like to invite you to our first Mom's Afternoon Tea where we will sip, snack, and get to know each other!

Reach out to Kimberly Antos with any questions.

# Lunch & Lectionary

THURSDAYS @ NOON VIA ZOOM



Email Pastor David for Zoom link:  
david.bah@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](#).

## May Birthdays

- May 1 Dorothy Crockett
- May 2 Glenn Dunham
- May 7 Cameron Davis
- May 10 Vic Van Lint
- May 11 Georgia Rickert
- May 12 Fiona Case
- May 15 Rilla Baxter
- May 18 Jinx Jay  
David Quiñones
- May 19 Daniel Antos
- May 21 Diane Edwards
- May 25 Laurie Halgren  
Laura Borschel
- May 26 Dianne Ramet



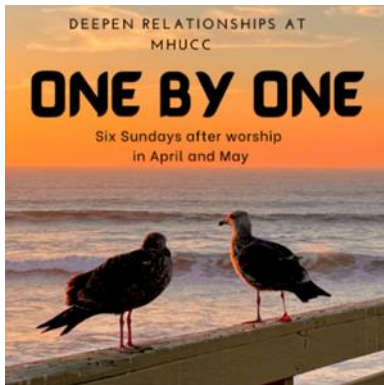
Please contact the church office with corrections or additions to the birthday list.



## Meeting Minutes

In order to enhance communication with the Congregation, here is a link to the minutes of the March Church Council Meeting:

<https://missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/MarchCouncil.pdf>



We have had some wonderful conversations in the first four weeks of our One by Ones after worship on Sundays. We have only two more opportunities. Join us for at least one and learn some new skills while meeting a new friend or going deeper with someone.

## History Corner

### *This month in history .....*

- 1924** - Louis and Bess Bangert have agreed to serve jointly as our church organists. Mrs. Bangert now receives \$65.00 per month, but she has “hinted” at a minimum of \$100 for both of them.
- 1944** - A city wide Protestant Federation of Churches is being planned. This organization will provide programs for the schools’ one hour per week release.
- 1989** - Barbara Wiggins gave us an evening of fun with our All-Church Talent Show. Pictured below (L. to R. Connie Eitzen, Diane Ramet, Barbara Wiggins, Bruce Ramet, Howard Wiggins)



**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	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 & 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

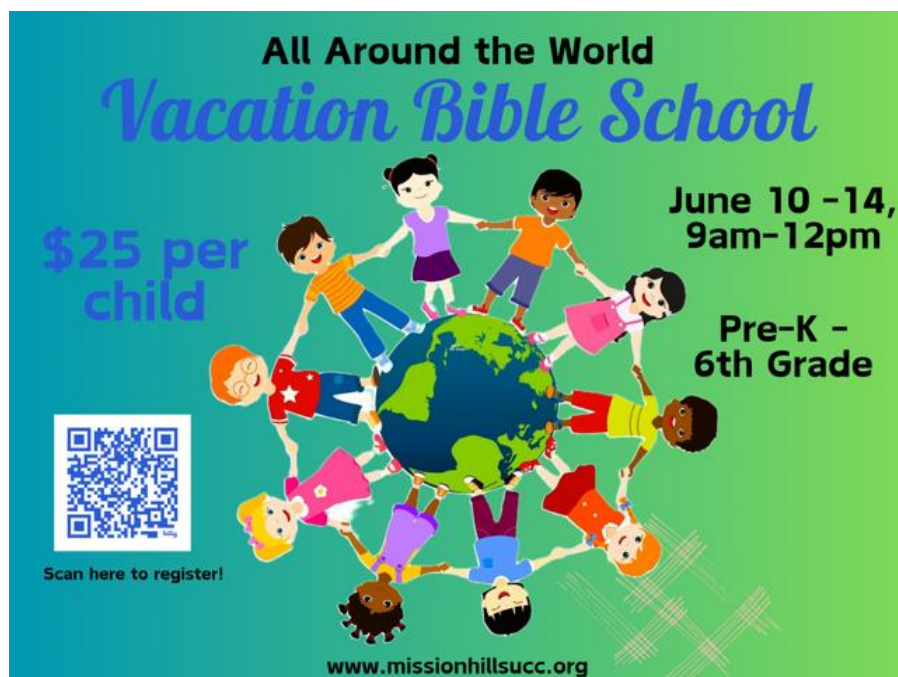
**May**  
Friday, 5/3                      Mission Partner: Just in Time  
Knitting 2 Give, 10 am - 12 pm, Commons  
Sunday, 5/5                      Youth Sunday  
Sunday, 5/12                     Baptism of Hana Marrone  
Thursday, 5/16                  Knitting 2 Give, 2-4 pm, Commons  
Friday, 5/17                      Kids & Family Bowling Night  
Sunday, 5/12                     Everybody Has Somebody Program, 11:30 am, Commons  
Tuesday, 5/21                    Feeding Mission Hills Food Distribution, 10:30 am

**June**  
Saturday, 6/1                    Mission Partner: Strengthen the Church  
Gathering of Conveners, 9-12  
Sunday, 6/2                      Rock n Roll Marathon, Service delayed to 11 am  
Friday, 6/7                      Knitting 2 Give, 10 am - 12 pm, Commons  
Sunday, 6/9                      Music Appreciation Sunday  
Mon, 6/10 - Fri. 6/14            Vacation Bible School  
Sunday, 6/16                    Sunday School Teacher Appreciation  
Tuesday, 6/18                  Feeding Mission Hills Food Distribution, 10:30 am  
Thursday, 6/20                  Knitting 2 Give, 2-4 pm, Commons  
Sun. 6/23 - Fri. 6/28            UCC Youth Event, Long Beach  
Sunday, 6/23                    Organ Concert, 4 pm  
Sunday, 6/30                    Ecclesiastical Meeting, after worship

### Every Week:

Sundays -            ReExamining Our Faith Book Study - 9 am - Commons  
Choir Practice - 9 am - Sanctuary  
Tuesdays -        Men's Group - 6:30 pm - Commons  
Thursdays -       Lunch and Lectionary Bible Study - Noon - Zoom  
Choir Practice - 7 pm - Sanctuary

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



**All Around the World**  
*Vacation Bible School*

**\$25 per child**

**June 10 - 14,  
9am-12pm**

**Pre-K -  
6th Grade**

Scan here to register!

[www.missionhillsucc.org](http://www.missionhillsucc.org)

The poster features a central illustration of a globe surrounded by diverse children of various ethnicities holding hands. The background is a vibrant green with a subtle pattern of white lines.