

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



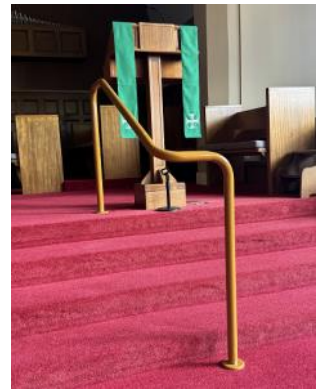
Sharing the Good News of Mission Hills United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

July 2024

Life Stages Unfolding

After conducting surveys and focus groups with older adults, our new Life Stages Team has been steadily at work rolling out new initiatives:

- 1) As a result of the surveys, a handrail to the chancel has now been installed.
- 2) Better signage outside the building for people in wheelchairs is in progress.
- 3) The “Everybody Has Somebody” initiative has begun. It is a way for people who live alone to have a buddy with whom they will call and check in every day. If you have been thinking about it for yourself or someone you know, let Pastor Courtney know. (Isn’t it great that she is back!)
- 4) A desire for more spiritual events and programming was expressed. Well, we just had our first half-day retreat led by Elisabeth Koenig. The team would like to know what additional experiences you would like to see (and participate in!).
- 5) People suggested a yoga class and a six-week class will begin on **Saturday, August 17**. Michelle Gealy read the survey results and stepped right up to offer her experience teaching at the YMCA.
- 6) A desire for some sort of brown bag lunch kind of series is set to inaugurate the Second Saturday Series on **August 10**, from 11:30-1:30. An interesting variety of speakers and topics have been lined up for the fall – every Second Saturday.



That’s an impressive list of accomplishments in such a short time. Thank you Team, including Wally and Laura Borschel, Sue Mayberry, Kim McDaniel, Mary Baker Lonsdale, Marilyn Miles and more. Dave Snodgrass and Bruce Matthias led the charge for handrails and signage. Thank you to everyone who participated in the surveys – a whopping 85% of people over 50 in our church completed a survey and at least 40 attended one focus group. Even better, there’s yet more to come.

A few things for your calendars:

Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, August 18. Let a student or teacher in your life know and invite them to come.

Scholarship Sunday, also August 18. We have SIX college students active in the church who will each receive \$1,000 this year.

Homecoming Sunday is September 8. And pull out your poodle skirts and saddleback shoes for an **All Generations SOCK HOP! on Saturday night, September 14.**

Finally, mark your calendars and plan to join us for our second All Generations Weekend at Pilgrim Pines, **Friday evening, October 18 through Sunday morning, October 20.**

Blessings
Pastor David

Moderator's Message

As we begin our first full year of our new governance structure, I am delighted to say that the initial six months proved to be very successful. Council is now 9 instead of 22 members focusing on the business of the church namely finances, personnel and buildings.

Our former Ministries have turned into teams. The Conveners of those teams now have the freedom to decide when to meet. Some are continuing to meet the first week of the month and some are meeting only on an as needed basis. Also, we have eliminated the requirement of a monthly report from each group. We had our first retreat for the Conveners in June and being together to focus on the programs of the church allows for group planning and synergy. The next conveners meeting will be at the end of August.

I am very excited about what lies ahead as our church grows, new members have stepped up to help lead, and so many members are involved in serving the church, the community and those in need.

Summer Soiree and Silent Auction



Summer Soirée & Silent Auction

Saturday, August 3, 2024 | 6:00p



Suggested donation: \$25
Children: free



The Summer Soiree fundraiser in support of our choir's participation at Carnegie Hall is happening on **Saturday, August 3rd**. Join us in Fellowship Hall and the Commons at 6:00 PM

Join us for an enchanted summer evening with excellent entertainment, Italian food (including vegetarian and vegan options), and an exciting silent auction offering the chance to win experiences, services, treasures and collectables.

Suggested donation is \$25 and all proceeds will go to support the MHUCC choir as they travel to sing at Carnegie Hall in November.

If you'd like to contribute go to our [giving site](#) and select "other" and designate "Summer Soiree". For information, contact [Angelica](#).

Scholarship Sunday-August 20

Join us during the worship service on Sunday, August 18, as we award educational scholarships to Amelia Norkowski, Jianna Ruiz, Saige Afalava, Hana Marrone, Devin Buss, and Trevor Norkowski.

Amelia will be finishing her General Education credits at Grossmont College and starting an online program at Grand Canyon University.

Jianna will be continuing her second year at UCSD. Her major is pharmacological chemistry.

Saige is attending San Diego Mesa Community College. She is taking classes in the Radiology Technology Department.

Hana is attending San Diego Mesa Community College with an associate degree in Business Administration.

Devin is attending UCSD and is pursuing a degree in Environmental Science & Ecology. He would like to become a professor and help others pursue degrees in Ecology and Environmental Science.

Trevor is attending Grossmont College and is pursuing a degree in English and Communication.

MHUCC Youth Group Upcoming Events

Friday, August 9, 1pm – 4pm: Volunteer at the San Diego Food Bank Warehouse in Miramar. Everyone needs to register by **August 2**. This is a hard deadline. I do hope you can join us – they asked us to provide 20 volunteers! Contact Fiona for sign-up details.



Friday, August 16: 6pm – 9pm: Youth Group Meeting in our youth room, board games and pizza!

Sunday, August 18: 10am service. An official welcome for 7th graders graduating from the Sunday School/Tweens to join the youth group (youth are also serving as ushers and readers)

Friday, September 20: 6pm – 9pm: Youth Group Meeting, provisional theme: the Muslim faith and Islamic traditions.

Friday, January 17: Preparation for our annual fundraising event – raising money for our Mexico trip in February

Saturday, January 18: our annual fundraising event – raising money for our Mexico trip in February

Saturday February 15 – Sunday February 16: Home building trip to Mexico with Casas de Luz.

Community Events

Youth Group will join the fun with the Sunday School kids, tweens, and adults!

Sunday August 11: Join the Sunday School kids, tweens group, and families for a pool party after church (contact Kimberly Antos for directions)

Saturday September 14: Sock-hop Event – let's dance!

October 18-20: Work party at Pilgrim Pines. A weekend in the mountains, with lots of opportunities to rebuild paths, renovate landscaping, etc.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

In September, we will be having an all-generations Sock Hop. We need people of all ages, talents, and abilities. If you are interested in helping, please join us for a meeting following worship on August 4th in the church library. Hope to see you there!

Any questions, please contact Kim Antos or Artcel Ruiz.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY

This August will be an exciting month for our Children & Families!

On **August 4th**, during Sunday School, as part of our kids' social justice project, they will, along with some volunteers, put together backpacks with school supplies for the 3rd graders of Barrio Logan College Institute. We will deliver the backpacks to BLCI on August 10th, along with ice cream for the students to enjoy.



Our children will be going back to school and what a way to celebrate this by having a Back-to-School Swimming Party on August 11th! We will have food/snacks, friendship, and fun at this party.

Speaking of going back to school, join us on August 18th for the beautiful tradition of the Blessing of the Backpacks. Join our church community in a heartfelt prayer for our students, teachers, and the exciting school year ahead.



MHUCC Food Distribution



Are you swimming in excess plastic bags??

If so, we would love to take some off your hands!

The MHUCC Food Distribution uses between 150-170 plastic grocery bags each month to bag groceries for our customers. We had a good supply of bags on hand for some time that kind folks had donated.

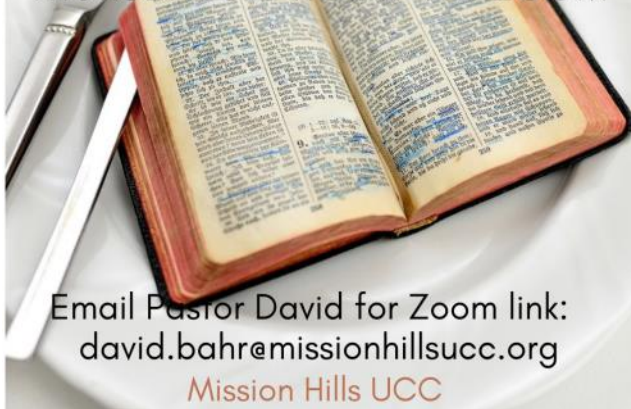
But we are almost out of our supply...

If you have some heavy duty plastic grocery store bags you could spare, we would greatly appreciate them. They could be dropped off at the church kitchen any time the church is open (Monday – Friday during business hours or Sunday mornings). If you have a big supply that you would like picked up or have other questions, please contact either Larry Holt [cell: 619 733-8922] or Carol Holt [cell: 619 540-5624] or via email: clholt@cox.net.

Thanks for your help.

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](#).

August Birthdays

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| 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 21 | Eliana Childress |
| 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/2024/07/JuneCouncil.pdf>

Migrant Shelter Tour



Jewish Family Service has space for **2-3 MHUCC folks** who would like to tour the San Diego Rapid Response Network Shelter on **August 13th, 2:30-3:30**.

Please call the church office on or before August 5th to register. JFS will notify you of the Shelter location via your email address.

Come see how Welcoming the Stranger works at the Shelter. Prior tour-takers have come back inspired and grateful for the work being done there.

For MHUCC events, visit our online calendar:

<https://missionhillsucc.org/calendar-of-events/>

History Corner - ORGANISTS IN MHUCC HISTORY

In the 100 years of our church organ, there have been 17 organists. Here are some interesting accomplishments of several of these musicians –

Thusnelda Bircsak served our church from 1941-1953. She composed several pieces of music for piano and voice in the 1950's. "The Humming Bird" sheet music is still available on Amazon.

Constance Virtue served our church in 1955-56. She developed the "Notagraph" as a new system of musical notation (a 7-line staff.) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constance_Cochnower_Virtue

Notagraph

by Constance Virtue, 1933



John Eitzen was our longest serving organist. He was at Mission Hills for 15 years, from 1974-1989. He also served at our parent church First Congregational from 1965 – 1974.

Kathleen Scheide served as our organist from 1991 – 1993. She is still a performing organist and harpsichordist and also composes for organ. <https://www.kathleenscheide.com/index.html>

Mission Hills United Church of Christ
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 (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. Courtney Mys		Courtney.Mys@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

News subscriptions & submissions (due on the 20th)

news@missionhillsucc.org

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