

# PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

September 2024

## Welcome Home!

Although people travel all year round, there is kind of a return to routine in the fall, starting with the return to school. We celebrated our annual Blessing of the Backpacks on August 18. It's one of my favorite ceremonies of the year. Another important marker of time is our annual Homecoming Sunday on **September 8**. We encourage everyone to mark your calendar and fill the sanctuary that day. This will also mark the return of our choir, now just months away from their trip to sing in Carnegie Hall at the end of November. Speaking of that, many thanks to all the volunteers who put together an awesome fundraising evening of food, entertainment, and silent auction. The entertainment made up of our talented members was so popular, I hope we can do a simple talent show every year!

We have added a Homecoming Dance this year – a 50's Sock Hop on **Saturday, September 14 from 5-7**, sponsored by our Children and Families Ministry. Find your poodle skirts and letter jackets and enjoy our DJ and diner-style food. Tickets are only \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door, and a maximum of \$25 per family. Any money beyond expenses will support our upcoming All Generations Weekend at Pilgrim Pines – **October 18-20**.

By the way, now is the time to register for Pilgrim Pines – deadline September 29. Our return to the UCC camp in the San Bernardino Mountains after more than a decade absence was a huge hit last year and I hope you will want to be part of this all-age and family experience. We try to keep the cost affordable – only \$150/person or a maximum of \$300 per family, including meals and lodging. The difference between the cost and our income is supplemented in two ways – the Men's Group is doing a pancake breakfast fundraiser before church on **September 29** and the rest comes from our Faith Formation Fund. This year we will have a van leave from church on Friday evening for those who wish to avoid driving, but you have to sign up sooner than later. And just talk to me if you would like some additional assistance to make it affordable enough for you.

The biggest thing this month is the culmination of our organ centennial during worship on **September 22**. The choir will debut a piece commissioned for Mission Hills along with organ, handbells, and saxophone. I can't wait to hear it! Our "mission partner" in September will be to ensure our organ's future for another 100 years – or maybe a decade!

If you have been away or haven't been regular for a while, please accept my invitation to come on Homecoming and worship with your church community.

*Blessings,  
Pastor David*

## Moderator's Message

*The best word I can come up with to describe our church is Vibrant.*

Artcel had demonstrated this so graphically on the bulletin board to the right of the entrance to Fellowship Hall. She begins with a summary of our journey for a deeper faith, deeper relationships and greater impact. While not exhaustive, you will see a snapshot of the many things we are engaged in by groups: children, youth, families and adults (see photo below). These lists are a testament to the vibrancy of our church.



If you haven't already, please take a couple of minutes to look at the bulletin board.

Great thanks to everyone of you who is making all this possible. And if you haven't had a chance to avail yourself of any of these activities, I encourage you to do so. ~ Pat Wahlen

## History Corner



### ORGAN CELEBRATION

***On Sunday, September 22 at 10:00 AM, we will conclude our celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our church organ.***

A newly commissioned choir piece will be performed and we will remember the words written by our first Pastor, the Rev. John Doane –

*“For the uplifting of human hearts upon the wings of sweet harmonies; for the comforting of the bereaved and sad; for the strengthening of the discouraged and forlorn; for the awakening of love and loyalty; for the inspiration of holy thoughts and unselfish service.”*

**You won't want to miss this special day in the life of our congregation.**

For all MHUCC events, visit our online calendar:

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

## Life Stages Work Group Rolls out the Second Saturday Speaker Series

**MISSION HILLS**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
Life Stages Team

# Aging at Home vs Finding the Right Facility for You

Mission Hills UCC  
**Second  
Saturday  
Speaker  
Series**

**14**  
SEPTEMBER

**11:30 - 1:30**

\*Bring a Bag Lunch

4070 Jackdaw St  
San Diego, CA 92103  
missionhillsucc.org  
[info@missionhillsucc.org](mailto:info@missionhillsucc.org)

Julie Derry

Jacqueline Silverman

The Life Stages Group is happy to announce the kick off of its new Second Saturday Speaker Series beginning September 14 with Julie Derry and Jacqueline Silverman presenting **Aging at Home vs Finding the Right Facility for You**.

*Julie Derry* is a Certified Senior Advisor TM with Aging 123 which provides cost-free personalized support to older adults and their families in finding Independent Living, Assisted Living, and Memory Care. Julie and Aging123 will understand your specific needs and guide you to the most appropriate options.

*Jacqueline Silverman*, a Certified Senior Advisor® with Aging Advisory Services, provides personalized assessments, resources, and advocacy to help older adults live safely and comfortably at home. Jacqueline guides you to better understand, plan for, and manage the changes associated with aging, empowering you to navigate challenges and age well with confidence.

You are welcome to bring a friend and brown bag lunch and enjoy this presentation in the Fellowship Hall., September 14, 2024, 11:30-1:30. Attendance is free, donations will gladly be accepted.

You can register to attend [here](#).

Questions? Contact: [Sue Mayberry](#) 858-349-5537 or [Marilyn Miles](#) 858-735-1881

## CHILDREN & FAMILIES MINISTRY

### **BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS**

The Blessing of the Backpacks was a wonderful success! The congregation came together offering prayers and blessings for our students, teachers/professors, and families as they prepare for the school year. It was filled with joy, community spirit, and hopeful anticipation for the year ahead.



### **ROCKS OF WORRIES**

Thank you to Jia and Devin for delivering yesterday's Children's Message on how we carry our worries every day. They gracefully reminded us that we don't have to bear those burdens alone—Jesus is always there to carry them with us and all we need to do is ask him.



### **SOCK HOP**

Join us in a roaring good time at our homecoming sock hop! September 14th starting at 5:00pm. Enjoy retro food, games, music, and fun. Fifties attire is encouraged but not required. Tickets are \$8 per adult in advance or \$10 at the door, with \$25 max per family. We hope to see you there! Buy your tickets at [missionhillsucc.org](http://missionhillsucc.org), under the "Give" section, click "Sock Hop."



### **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

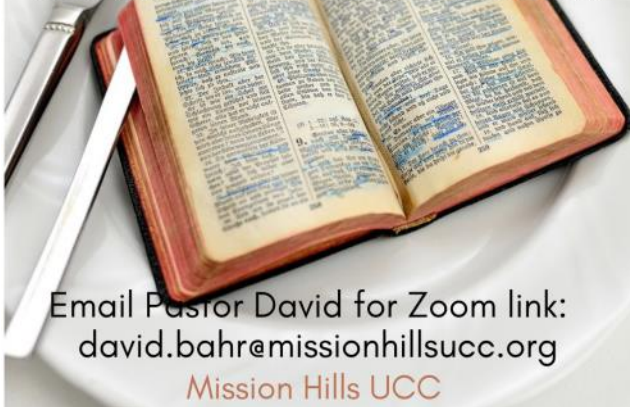
Join us for a weekend of fellowship, fun, and faith in the great outdoors! Coming to Pilgrim Pines is the perfect opportunity to connect with nature, build relationships and grow spiritually. All ages are welcome. Pack your gear, bring a friend, and let's enjoy God's creation together!

Register [here!](#)

*For more information, contact [Artcel.](#)*

# Lunch & Lectionary

THURSDAYS @ NOON VIA ZOOM



Email Pastor David for Zoom link:  
david.bahr@missionhillsucc.org

Mission Hills UCC

## Sunday 10 am Worship Service

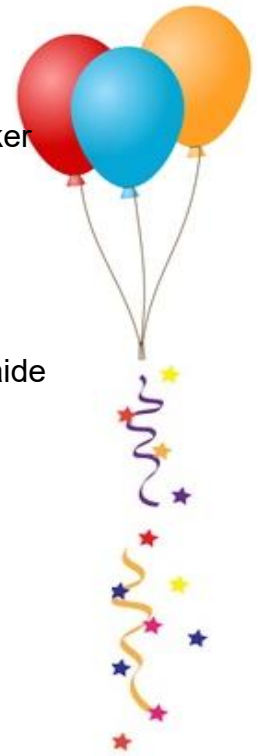
Please join us for worship in person or watch our livestream on [Facebook](#) and our [YouTube](#) Channel.

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](#).

## September Birthdays

Sep 2	Kristin Brown Bob Meinzer
Sep 4	Cameron Cage Mary Lonsdale Baker
Sep 5	Jessica Luedtke Susan White
Sep 6	Melanie Gillette Dave Snodgrass
Sep 10	Andrew Bowen-Ataide
Sep 12	Dorothy Stock
Sep 15	David Sommer
Sep 18	Mark Davis
Sep 21	Leanna Selleck
Sep 22	Victoria Freiheit
Sep 25	Patricia McQuater
Sep 26	Bob Murphy
Sep 29	Courtney Mys
Sep 30	Carol Holt



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

# Happy Birthday!

## Meeting Minutes

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

<https://missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/JulyCouncil.pdf>



## 40 Days of Prayer Before the Election

Prior to the 2020 election, Pastor David compiled a collection of prayers and poems to countdown, every day lifting a hopeful vision of the world, guided by our faith and a hunger for the world Jesus proclaimed.

Starting September 26, you will receive an email every day with a prayer or poem – a way to center ourselves, ease anxiety, and express our hope for a world that is open, inclusive, just, and compassionate. We will also have printed copies in booklet form and each day's prayer will be recorded and posted online.

## FAITH ON FOOT

Jesus was a walker. He and his closest followers walked for countless miles over the span of his ministry. One can imagine that many of his parables would have occurred to him and taken shape to the meditative rhythm of his footsteps.



The humble act of walking has a significant place in our Christian heritage. Christian pilgrims began to walk the European pilgrimage route known as the Camino de Santiago somewhere around 950 CE. Last year, 2023, almost half a million people from all over the world walked one of the half a dozen routes to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, known collectively as the Camino de Santiago. This summer, I walked the majority of the “French route” of the Camino, starting from Pamplona in North eastern Spain to the cathedral in Santiago in north western Spain, a journey of 720 Kilometers or 450 miles over 31 days.

On **Wednesday, September 4th at 6pm** at the home of [Melanie Gillette](#) (4352 Piedmont Dr. San Diego, Ca 92107) I'll be sharing thoughts about the ups and downs - both literal and figurative - of this journey, its impact on my faith and the words and the reflections that kept me walking 12 to 18 miles a day, day after day.

You are invited to come listen, ask questions, and perhaps share a pilgrimage experience of your own. Please bring a friend, your favorite beverage, a snack and your stories as we share pilgrimage experiences and the sunset.

~ Doug McMinimy

**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. 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	Gianna 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**