

PILGRIM CONGREGATIONALIST



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

November 2024

Imagine Together

What a great theme! And that's what we have been doing for three years:

We imagined a vibrant ministry with children, youth, and families. Of course, it also took strategy and planning and finding the right people – but it began in our imagination. And look what we have today.

Then we imagined meaningful ministry with older adults. Of course, it also took strategy and planning and finding the right people – but it began in our imagination. And look what is developing right now!

- We imagined making more community connections – and along came the summer concert series and more to come.
- We imagined more engagement with our MH churches – and what fun is our Palm Sunday Procession together and more to come.
- We imagined a better worship experience for people online and that system now exists.
- Returning to Pilgrim Pines.
- Using the asset of Green Manor to develop more low-income senior housing.

All of it took putting in the work to make it happen, but this congregation excels at making things happen! Whoever imagined our choir would sing at Carnegie Hall?!

One of the best examples was the imagination of the Church Council to make participation in our church more about engagement than election to formal structures. As we reimagined our bylaws, we had the idea of Conveners – someone who brings people together for a common purpose – and the idea was that these folks would meet every few months to plan together, not in separate committees. It was all in our imagination – in a good way! And in June, it began to make sense. For example, as we sat around discussing upcoming events, someone suggested we engage the SD Humane Society at our Animal Blessing. Brilliant addition. For Homecoming Sunday, we should add a sock hop. This is just the beginning of what happens when we IMAGINE TOGETHER!

There is life and energy and vibrancy because we put strategy and planning and finding the right people into our dreams – you. So, thank you for your part in making it happen – your time, talent, and treasure. Implementing imagination takes strategy, planning, and finding the right people. And financial support. So now, as we plan and prepare for 2025, I invite each of us to do our part, and during November, prayerfully consider what each of us are able to do.

Thank you for your imagination, involvement, and generosity!
Pastor David

Moderator's Message

Sitting in church on Sunday looking around, I saw so many people who have stepped up in one way or another to enrich and enhance our mission and what came to me was "Yes we can!" We are so fortunate to have an inspirational leader and people who are ready to serve and which in turns inspires us all to do more.

If you have not yet gotten involved or offered to help in any way, I hope you will so that you too might be enriched by the experience of serving.

Stewardship Campaign

'Imagine Together' is the interesting, compelling, provocative and imaginative theme of this year's Stewardship Campaign. Materials including pledge cards were mailed out on Monday, October 28th. We look forward to you joining us on Commitment Sunday, November 24th. Pledge cards will be turned in at the end of the service. The 24th also coincides with our traditional Thanksgiving Luncheon. This is no coincidence as Thanksgiving and Stewardship fit naturally together.

If you have not received your stewardship materials, please contact our church office.

Advent Book

Thank You for The Advent Book Stories



Thank you to all who participated in submitting stories for the MHUCC 2024 ADVENT BOOK. We look forward to presenting it to you starting on Sunday, December 1.

From a Visitor

Dear Pastor David,

I visited your service on Sunday. I was in town for a conference and am now spending some days of vacation before going back home. I just wanted to say thank you! The whole atmosphere of the church was so welcoming and so refreshing! I saw the LGBTQ flag on your website and thought your church would be worth a visit. Once I walked into the building and saw all those "Be the Church" banners I knew, it was a good choice to come to you. And I really liked your sermon, so much in fact, that I'm going to listen to parts 1 and 3 as well (I really like the book of Esther). If I was still in the area next Sunday, I would definitely come again!

Most of the stuff I see on social media about Christianity in the US are these evangelical/fundamentalist megachurches and so it was so nice to see that finding a progressive church was so easy for me (you guys were literally the third result on google maps). When I left, I really felt the refreshing nature of the spirit and it gave me hope again for the Christianity worldwide. And you helped me tear down my prejudices☐

Thanks a lot and be blessed!

Forum on the Future of the Preschool House

The contract between MHUCC and the preschool's board will terminate in July, 2026. This means that our church will soon need to make decisions regarding the future use of the preschool house. Do we wish to continue have another preschool use the facility or are there other ideas for the use of the property. We invite those with suggestions for the use of the property to participate in a forum that will gather input and ideas for review by the Church Council. Council members will review the ideas as part of their deliberations and decisions regarding the property.

The forum will be held on Wednesday November 13 from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm in the Commons. We welcome all those with ideas for the use of the property to attend. Pizza will be provided at 5:30 pm to ensure that everyone has a chance to eat dinner before the meeting.

**Join Us for Thanksgiving Luncheon to
Celebrate and Give Thanks for Our Church Family**



Sunday, November 24, following the Church Service

A special thank you to Chef Robin James, who will continue the delicious tradition of being our chef!

Chef Robin will prepare turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, and gravy.

Please bring a dish to share to complete our meal.

Suggested breakdown:

A-F: Desserts

G-N: Salads

O-Z: Vegetables

The Church will provide drinks and rolls.

Please save the date and join us!

MHUCC Youth Group

Travel with the MHUCC Youth Group

We are planning three different trips for the MHUCC youth group in 2025. Please let us know ([using this form](#)) which of these is potentially interesting to your youth (or you!). At this point, we are gauging interest and asking you to mark your calendar. We will send more details and registration forms later. Questions: please contact Fiona Case, fiona.case@missionhillsucc.org

[Home building in Mexico with Casas de Luz](#) Cost estimate \$80
Youth Group, families (over 14 years old), and other adults from our church
Saturday February 15 – Sunday February 1

[Youth Group Spiritual Retreat Camp in Julian](#) Cost estimate \$200 (scholarships available)
Youth Group, plus 2 or 3 chaperones
Friday April 11 – Sunday April 13

[Sierra Service Project, South Bay San Diego](#) Cost estimate \$715 (scholarships available)
Youth Group, plus 2 or 3 chaperones
Sunday August 3 – Saturday August 9

Upcoming Events

Friday, November 8, 6pm – 9pm: Youth Group Meeting. Our discussion topic is food insecurity & hunger-related issues with special guest Dr. Adam Pine, a professor at SDSU with research interests in urban policy, race, hunger, and the global food system. We will also make holiday ornaments which we will use to raise money for the San Diego Food Bank, and go to Lefty's for pizza!

Saturday, November 16, 9am – 12 noon: Marston Canyon Work Day, we will be clearing trails and removing invasive plants.

Sunday, November 17, 10am – 11am: the youth group orchestra will play during MHUCC Sunday Service.

Sunday, November 17, 12pm – 4pm: Sky Zone Trampoline Park

Pilgrim Pines 2024



Mission Hills UCC had another unforgettable weekend at Pilgrim Pines! It was filled with fun, meaningful connections, and profound encounters with God. We deepened relationships, made lasting memories, and got to know each other in new ways. It was truly a time of growth, joy, and community that we'll treasure for years to come.

Mark your calendars for next year: **October 17–19, 2025!** Don't miss it!

Sponsor a Child

This November, we are partnering with Interfaith Community Services (IFS), a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing homelessness and poverty. A highlight of our partnership is the Holiday Sponsor-a-Child Program, which gives us (Mission Hills UCC) the opportunity to brighten the holidays for children in need.

Through this program, you can purchase a gift, valued between \$25 and \$50, for a child aged 0 to 16. On **November 10th and 17th**, we invite you to select an "ornament" in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday service. Each ornament will provide the child's age and gender to guide your gift selection.

Please bring your unwrapped gifts, with the paper ornaments securely attached to the church by **November 24**.



Thank you for being such a wonderful part of MHUCC's Holiday Sponsor-a-Child Program! Your generosity will bring joy and make a real difference for the children and families at the Family Shelter this holiday season.

For more information, please contact [Artcel Ruiz](#)

San Diego UCC Partnership Picnic

Sunday, November 10th
12:30 pm gather, 1:00 pm meal blessing

Pioneer Ocean View UCC - The Point
2550 Fairfield St. 92110

Spend a fun afternoon
with your San Diego UCC Partnership friends.
Fried Chicken will be provided.
Bring a side dish to share and
a lawn chair or picnic blanket.
Also, if you have lawn games to enjoy,
feel free to bring them!

SD Partnership Picnic is Sunday, November 10 at
POVUCC. 12:30 gather, 1:00 meal blessing.

Spend a fun afternoon with your
San Diego Partnership friends.

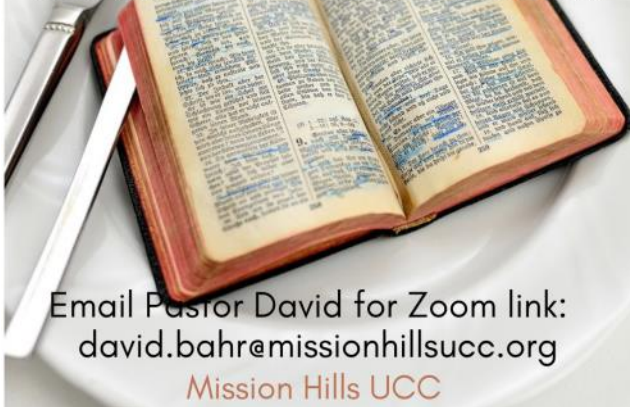
Fried chicken provided. Bring a side dish to share.

Volunteers needed for setup/cleanup.

POVUCC:
[2550 Fairfield St. San Diego, CA 92110](#)

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 our [YouTube Channel](#).

A bulletin link is emailed at 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays if you wish to follow along.

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

November Birthdays

Nov 1	Jeremy Bloom
Nov 4	Saige Afalava
Nov 5	Bruce Matthias
Nov 6	Valerie Dock
Nov 7	Michelle Gealy
Nov 9	Marybeth Holliday Logan Hollis Cameron Hollis Cindy Anderson
Nov 13	Heidy Jimenez Ben Case
Nov 14	Judith Sandven
Nov 15	Laurie Lindberg
Nov 16	Susan Shurin Gail Richmond
Nov 17	Ron Kennihan
Nov 23	Kenzie Leudtke Cole Leudtke
Nov 27	Suzanne Albrecht
Nov 29	Chad Berman
Nov 30	Lois Maki



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 September Church Council Meeting:

<https://missionhillsucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/SeptemberCouncil.pdf>

Civil Rights Pilgrimage



MHUCC and Pilgrim UCC in Carlsbad are collaborating on a week-long civil rights pilgrimage to Birmingham, Selma, Montgomery, and Atlanta in September of 2025.

Details and costs are still being assembled, but if you have any interest, please tell Pastor David and he will keep you informed.

Plans include walking the bridge in Selma and worship at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. This photo is from one of our stops: the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham where four little girls were murdered.

History Corner - Time to Vote!



60 years ago, in 1964, our church's Social Action Committee recommended NO on Proposition 14. This proposition would have created a State Constitutional right to refuse to sell, lease, or rent residential properties to other persons. This clearly discriminatory proposition was passed by 65% of the electorate. However, in 1966, the State Supreme Court declared Proposition 14 to be unconstitutional under the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. And this decision was affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967.

Mission Hills UCC –November Events

Friday, 11/1	Knitting 2 Give, 10 am - 12 pm, Commons
Saturday, 11/9	Second Saturday Speaker Series, 10:00 - 12:00, Fellowship Hall
Sunday, 11/10	All Saints Sunday Partnership Picnic, 12:30 pm, POVUCC
Wednesday, 11/13	Little House Meeting, 5:30- 7:30 pm, Commons
Saturday, 11/16	Conveners Meeting, 9 am – 12 pm, Commons Youth: Marston Canyon Work Day, 9a-12p
Sunday, 11/17	Staff Appreciation Sunday
Tuesday, 11/19	Feeding Mission Hills Food Distribution, 10:30 am
Thursday, 11/21	Knitting 2 Give, 2-4 pm, Commons
Sunday, 11/24	Commitment Sunday Thanksgiving Feast
Fri. 11/29 - Tue. 12/3	Choir Trip to New York

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

Mission Hills United Church of Christ
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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
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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

News subscriptions & submissions (due on the 20th)

news@missionhillsucc.org

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