

## Morgan Hill United Methodist Church **Good News**

### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Interfaith Service to be held January 15 at St. Catherine's Parish**



The Interfaith CommUNITY of South County is hosting an interfaith service to honor Martin Luther King, Jr.

January 15, 2018 at 7:00pm  
St. Catherine's Parish  
17400 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill

**"Touched again by the better angels of  
our natures to make all safe"**

ICSC is open to all faiths and denominations. Anyone interested in learning more about our interfaith group can contact us at [interfaithcommunity.org@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithcommunity.org@gmail.com).



### **Interfaith & Methodist Armchair Theologians**

There is now a choice of two Armchair Theologian groups meeting in the South County. All are welcome to attend either or both groups.



- First Tuesday of the month: Interfaith CommUNITY of South County (ICSC) Armchair Discussion Group
- Third Tuesday of the month: MHUMC Armchair Discussion Group

Both groups meet at 7pm, at the Hazen's home, 260 Forest Dr., Morgan Hill. For more information, contact John Braslin.

### **Chinese New Year begins February 16**

We wish Pastor Vilay and our neighbor congregation, Home of Christ Church, good luck in the Chinese New Year, which begins Friday, February 16, 2018.

This is the Year of the Dog, which is associated with social justice, empathy, innovation, and a good time for positive lifestyle changes.



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#### **UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

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- *1st and 3rd Tuesdays: Armchair Theologians meet, p. 1*
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## A word from our Pastor: *The Power of Inspiration*



*Pastor Patrick Davis*

Each time at the beginning of the "Hallmark" calendar New Year (albeit for Christians the first Sunday in Advent marks the New Year) my thoughts turn reflective and evaluative---What went well this past year and what did not go so well; what needs to change, what do I need to discard or pay more attention to, even modify or adjust.

But, this time, my thoughts went more to where I experience the "in-Spiriting" of God, or moments of God inspiration; as the word "inspire" comes from the meaning "to in-spirit."

Everyone wants to live an inspired life. A life moved by the spirit within. But what moves us differs from person to person.

Inspiration or to be "in-spirited" comes from:

- a beautiful sunset
- a rainbow arching over ahead (I actually had the experience of driving directly under a rainbow on 680 North once and it was an amazing "in-spiriting" experience)
- a home made meal with friends
- a long in-depth conversation
- seeing a new vista
- moving to a new home

- building a new home
- discovering a new friend
- enjoying the presence of a long time friend
- a neighbor's kindness
- listening to music
- reaching for your dreams
- a sunset on the beach
- or experiencing unconditional support



Ponder and add your own sources of "in-spiriting" to the list.

Inspiration can come from our faith, from reading a book, from listening to music, or discovering a new skill or talent.

We all need inspiration to get us through the times that are barren, dark, or heavy with burdens. Like a light piercing through the darkness, inspiration can lift us up and cheer us on when we feel we can't go on.

Inspiration is as needed as the air we breathe.

As we begin this new journey around the sun once again, may you discover the sources of your own "in-spiriting" and hold them ever so precious and near your heart and remember to return to them time and time again.

Enjoy your faith!

*Pastor Patrick*



## Finance report: New Beginnings

*By Tony Rangel  
Finance Team Lead*

We begin 2018 in a very different place than we started 2017. We completed our stewardship campaign, have an approved and balanced (almost) budget for 2018, and paid our 2017 apportionments in full and on time.

Conversely, at this time in 2017 we were still in the midst of a stewardship campaign, had no approved budget, projected a \$44,000 deficit and barely paid half of our apportionments.

Through your dedication, faith and God's grace, we enter 2018 with the ability to refocus our attention and energy on building our future, as those in the past did for us.

In December the Leadership team approved a conservative 2018 budget, a forecast really, that balances projected income with projected expenses with a very slight deficit of \$759.

### 2018 Budget Summary\*

Pledges & tithing	\$ 119,100
Non-pledge donations etc.	\$ 33,600
<u>Fundraiser (TBD)</u>	<u>\$ 800</u>
Income forecast	\$153,500
Program, building, staff, etc.	\$138,500
<u>Apportionments</u>	<u>\$ 15,000</u>
Expense forecast	\$153,500

*\* numbers are rounded*

We're forecasting total income of \$152,700, 78% of which will come from our membership pledges & tithing, and 22% coming from non-pledged donations, and usage and event fees.



Our expenses which includes church program and missions, building expenses (utilities, cleaning, maintenance, insurance, tax), and compensation-related expenses, total \$138,500. And, we've budgeted 10% or \$15,000 for apportionments.

As I previously mentioned, we have paid our 2017 apportionments in full and on time. In late November / early December, the Leadership team approved a \$10,000 payment toward apportionments, and in late December we paid an additional \$5,000 for apportionments, bringing our apportionment contributions to \$15,000 for 2017. This compares to only \$6,000 for 2016. Hallelujah!

As we begin our quasiquintennial or 125-year anniversary, it will be important to reflect on and celebrate the past, but equally important that we look to the future and create a vision for the next 125 years.

As part of the Finance team I'm hopeful that it includes creating a reserve fund and starting a building endowment fund that together, along with your good works and God's grace, continue the legacy of the last 125 years.

## You are welcome here!

As a Reconciling Congregation, we celebrate God's welcome to us and to all people, including any who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender and their families. At Morgan Hill UMC, your friendship is valued and safeguarded. You are accepted for who you are. You have a home!

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



## Meals at the Armory: Shelter from the cold, wet weather

Thank you to all who have been providing hot main dishes, fresh salads and fruit, and other nourishing elements of a good dinner to our neighbors at the Gilroy Armory shelter. By being part of the network of groups who provide the hot meals for 130 people each night, you are saving lives.

The Cold Weather Shelter Program at the Gilroy Armory is one of four shelter locations in Santa Clara County. Three of them, including the Gilroy shelter, accept guests by referral only, while the main shelter at Boccardo (San Jose) allows drop-ins. This year, Santa Clara County has approved the Shelter Program to run October 29, and end on April 15. We usually provide meals on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month.

Please consider volunteering to serve the meal, bringing food, or donating funds for purchase of food. We also need at least one more meal coordinator. Check with Jeannie Clayton or Denise Melroy if you can help.



See more information about the cold weather shelter program at [homefirstsc.org](http://homefirstsc.org), and more info about our support of the program at [www.mhumc.com/sheltermeals.html](http://www.mhumc.com/sheltermeals.html).

1 of 4 people  
in Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties  
is at risk for hunger.\*

\*Food Insecurity Study by Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, December 2017. "Risk" is missing meals or relying on food banks. See [details here](#).

## Reaching Out to help others

*By Wanda Garrett*

What do all these people have in common?

- Grandparents with several grandchildren
- Blended family of adults and children
- Young couple dealing with unplanned major medical expense
- Single man living in a rented room
- Single woman living with her dog in her RV

These are all examples of clients of Morgan Hill's Reach Out ecumenical community food pantry.

A family of up to 6 people receives two bags of groceries a month, including peanut butter, rice, beans, canned tomatoes, cereal, canned fruit, and more, plus fresh eggs, milk, hot dogs or ground turkey, bread, dessert, and fresh fruit. Much of the food is provided by another agency, purchased in bulk to

keep the cost low. The food we collect during our worship services is contributed to Reach Out, and is offered as "extras," to add variety to the basic selection.

In addition, people can come in anytime the pantry is open and get still-delicious day-old bread, as well as produce donated by local gardeners and markets.

Reach Out serves around 2500 people each month from the Morgan Hill area. The food pantry is open daily Monday through Friday (except holidays), 1pm-2:30pm, in a portable building in the southeast parking lot of St. Catherine Parish.

Each day, three volunteers assist the clients; most volunteers serve once a month. If you are interested in being a volunteer, please call Fran Hendriksen at 408-779-7442.

## News from the Youth



*Jeannie Clayton,  
Youth Director*

### La Posada highlight of Advent

The youth were part of several Advent activities during December. One of the favorites was La Posada. Led by a youth mariachi band, the youth (with families and friends) walked up and down Monterey Road, through downtown Morgan Hill, singing a song that asked for shelter for Mary and Joseph. As part of the tradition, they

were turned down at each stop—but when they arrived back to the sanctuary they found a safe place to have their baby. See photos on this page from this meaningful evening.

### Youth Group: study, mission, service, fun!

Youth group is for grades 4th through high school. Special service, mission worship and fellowship events are part of the way our group builds their faith foundations. Learning happens through Bible study, games and of course since it's the tween/teen age—Food!

Join us for the Connect Bible study group - meets Thursdays from 5:30-6:30pm.

### Serving our community

With the cold-weather season starting again, the youth are serving dinner at the Gilroy Armory homeless shelter on the third Sunday of the month (see calendar, next page).

The youth usually serve at the Sharing the Bounty community meal on the fourth Wednesday of every month, 5:30-7:30pm. In December we won't be serving because of a holiday schedule.

Youth serve as ushers the 4th Sunday of the month. Meet at the church at 9:45am.

### Join us!

Contact Jeannie @ 408-981-4034 or you can also go to [www.mhumc.com](http://www.mhumc.com) for a current schedule and list of events.



*Above and Left—  
La Posada featured  
a youth mariachi  
band accompanying  
our “candlelit”  
procession through  
downtown.*

*Photos by Jeannie  
Clayton*

## Sharing the Bounty offers food, fellowship



Each Wednesday evening, 6-7pm, we offer a hot dinner in our Fellowship Hall. Dinner is open to whomever needs it, no questions asked. Food is prepared by Martha's Kitchen, but servers and other helpers are needed for the meals. Contact Jeff Rangel or Denise Melroy if you wish to help.

## Youth Calendar

**Friday Jan. 5**—Youth bike ride! Meet at Jeannie's house at 1pm, bike the Coyote Creek Trail, then Starbucks!

**Sunday Jan. 7**—Serve at the Gilroy Armory Homeless Shelter. Meet at church at 5:30pm.

**Thursday Jan. 11**—Connect Bible Study, 5:30-6:30pm, Wesley Cottage.

**Monday Jan. 15**—MLK, Jr. Interfaith service. 7pm at St. Catherine's Parish. Youth will lead "Kumbaya" for children attending service.

**Thursday Jan. 18**—Connect Bible Study, 5:30-6:30pm, Wesley Cottage.

**Wednesday Jan. 24**—Youth serve at Sharing the Bounty, 5:30-7:30pm.

**Sunday Jan. 28**—Usher at Worship Service. Meet at the church at 9:30am



**Thursday Feb. 1**—Connect Bible Study, 5:30-6:30pm, Wesley Cottage.

**Thursday Feb. 8**—Connect Bible Study, 5:30-6:30pm, Wesley Cottage.

**Wednesday Feb. 14**—Ash Wednesday service, 7pm. Youth help lead.

**Thursday Feb. 8**—Connect Bible Study, 5:30-6:30pm, Wesley Cottage.

**Sunday Feb. 18**—Serve at the Gilroy Armory Homeless Shelter. Meet at church at 5:30pm.

**Sunday Feb. 25**—Usher at Worship Service. Meet at the church at 9:30am

## Children Led Christmas Eve

On the morning of Christmas Eve, December 24, our children (and families) led our Sunday morning worship service.

Using Bible readings and traditional carols, they showed how Mary and Joseph found the stable in which Jesus was to be born. The stable animals, angels, and shepherds were witnesses to the blessed event. The star led the magi to the stable to worship the new King.

Thanks to all who participated in this touching service.

*Photo by Jeannie Clayton*



## Weekly facility use

To schedule an event or arrange to use the church facilities, call Jeannie in the church office.

Sunday	8:30am Adult Sunday School (FH) 9am Meditation (W) 9:30am Choir practice (S) 10am MHUMC Worship (S) 11:30am Leadership Team (2nd Sundays) 2pm Good Grief! (1st, 3rd Sun) (W)§ 3-6pm HC Worship (S, FH) 6-7pm HC Choir (W)
Monday	7am Coffee on Main (KFH) 5:15pm Women's Workshop (2nd, 4th Mondays) (W)§ 7pm Divorce Recovery (1st, 3rd Mondays) (W)§ 7pm Recovery Workshop (2nd, 4th Mondays) (W)§ 7pm Sew it Seems (FH) 7:30pm Choir practice (S)
Tuesday	1-5pm Pastoral Support (by appt.) (W) Armchair Theologians (1st, 3rd Tuesdays (call John Braslin for time, location)
Wednesday	8-9:30am Staff (P) 10am-noon Office hours (W) 5:30-7:30pm Sharing the Bounty (FH)
Thursday	4pm Helping Children Cope with Divorce (1st, 3rd Thursdays) (W)§ 4pm Circle of Care (2nd, 4th Thurs) (W)§ 4-5:30pm Youth Connect (FH) 6pm Women's AA (Library) 7pm Confident Parents Skills (1st, 3rd Thursdays) (W)§ 7pm Men's AA (FH)
Friday	9:30am-12:30pm Office hours (W) 7pm HC Prayer (S)
Saturday	8-10:30am Open AA (FH)



SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			

## Birthdays



### JANUARY

2: Ollie Richardson  
4: Claire Bascombe  
4: Steve Cole  
5: Jeff Rangel  
20: Barbara Finkemeier  
21: Michael Odneal  
24: Austin Rangel  
24: Justin Rangel  
28: Janet Braslin

### FEBRUARY

6: Nicolas Odneal  
12: Janet Ohene-Nyako  
13: Robert Ringo  
17: Michael Bascombe  
18: Barry Morgan  
25: Gayla Althoff  
27: Eugene Davis

### Abbreviations

(W) Wesley Cottage (FH) Fellowship Hall  
(S) Sanctuary (KFH) Kitchen, Fellowship Hall  
(CH) Carriage House § Recovery Works Couns. Ctr.  
(P) Parsonage (HC) Home of Christ Church

## Morgan Hill United Methodist Church

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**Next newsletter deadline:  
February 22, 2018  
For March Issue**

Pastor: Rev. Patrick E. Davis  
Dir. of Youth: Jeannie Clayton  
Church Admin: Jeannie Clayton  
Adult Ministries: Trish Catalano  
Children's Ministries: Jeannie Clayton  
Church Historian: Mary Ringo  
Finance Team Lead: Tony Rangel  
Historic Restoration Coord: Mary Richardson  
Interfaith Coord: Dan & Margaret Hazen  
Lay Leader: Megan Richardson  
Lay Member Ann. Conf.: Trish Catalano  
Mission/Outreach Team Lead: Jeff Rangel  
Membership Care Coord: Janet Braslin  
Newsletter & Website Editor: Wanda Garrett  
Prayer Team: Megan Richardson  
Special Events Coord: Pete Hanlon  
Staff-Parish Rel. Team Lead: Ashley Saffell  
Treasurer: Wendy Ringo  
Trustees President: Eugene Davis  
United Methodist Women Pres: TBD  
Worship Team Lead: Darcy Foster



**Opening  
Hearts,**

**Opening  
Minds,**

**Opening  
Doors**

## Top United Methodist News Stories of 2017

**Story by Joey Butler**

Jan. 8, 2018 | NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UMNS)

For the second consecutive year, the work of the Commission on a Way Forward in addressing the church's debate over homosexuality was considered the top news story by church communicators. Second was the denomination's response to a number of natural disasters worldwide in 2017.

### **Commission on a Way Forward**

The 32-member commission has been meeting throughout the year to seek a way through the denomination's impasse over how LGBTQ individuals are included in the church. The bishop-appointed commission serves in an advisory capacity to the bishops, and in November, the bishops reviewed the three possibilities the commission is currently considering. The bishops also have called a special General Conference in February 2019 to take up the bishops' legislation based on the commission's work.

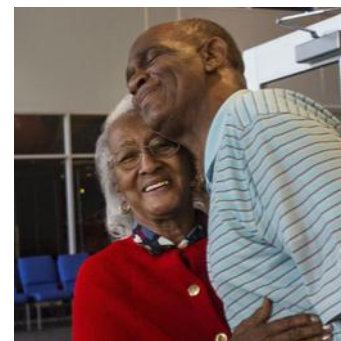


*The Commission on a Way Forward met in Berlin Sept. 18-20. Photo by Maidstone Mulenga.*

### **United Methodists respond to natural disasters**

The United Methodist Church, through churches, annual conferences, The United Methodist Committee on Relief and individuals, stepped up again and again to help after natural disasters around the globe. United Methodists were there in the aftermath of devastating hurricanes in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico; earthquakes in Mexico; wildfires in the western United States and a deadly mudslide in Sierra Leone. They prayed, assembled cleaning buckets, offered shelter, donated financial resources and brought their muscle and know-how to disaster response. A group of United Methodists even developed an app to facilitate hurricane response in Texas and now Puerto Rico. United Methodists also continued rebuilding in West Virginia and Louisiana after 2016's floods and the Carolinas after 2016's Hurricane Matthew. Response even continues to Superstorm Sandy, which happened five years ago.

Read more at [www.umc.org/news-and-media/way-forward-commission-tops-2017-news-stories1](http://www.umc.org/news-and-media/way-forward-commission-tops-2017-news-stories1)



*The Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell greets volunteer Mary Jackson at the doorway of the food and clothing distribution center at Windsor Village United Methodist Church in Houston, Texas, after Hurricane Harvey devastated the area. Photo by Kathleen Barry, UMNS.*