

Good News

Morgan Hill United Methodist Church

Aug. 7: Guest performer Tiffany Hoover to share “Ruth,” “St. Theresa”

By Wanda Garrett

During our August 7 worship service, we are very happy to have with us again Tiffany Hoover, who will share her portrayals of two women of faith: Ruth (from the Old Testament story) and St. Teresa of Avila: A Catalyst of Christ. As she embodies these women in her monologues, we can get a deeper look into their response to God’s call in their lives.

Tiffany will also have time for question-and-answer, to address topics such as social justice, spiritual callings, spiritual practices, and empowerment of those marginalized in society.



Summer sermon series: Compassion

By Pastor Linda Holbrook

We hear about compassion in our everyday lives, and we like to think of ourselves as compassionate people. Jesus had compassion for the people he encountered and Jesus calls us to do the same. Donald Mc Neill, Douglas Morrison, and Henri Nouwen in the book “Compassion,” write:

Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter places of pain, to share in the brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out with those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with those who are weak, vulnerable with the vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. Compassion means full immersion in the condition of being human.

Beginning in July we will start a sermon series on Compassion. On **July 10th** we will examine what compassion is. We will look at a story that shows Jesus’ compassion, and will look at how we can be compassionate.



On **July 24th** we will examine self-compassion. Sometimes we are kinder to our friends than we are to ourselves. Sometimes we think if we are kind to ourselves, we are being selfish. We will explore the benefits of showing ourselves compassion and the first steps in how to develop self-compassion.

On **August 14th** we will have a guest preacher, Haley Feuerbacher. Haley will share her story and the work she is currently doing with compassion.

Dr. Haley Feuerbacher is a storyteller, creator, adventurer, spiritual activist, and theologian. She completed her Ph.D. at Southern Methodist University in Religion and Culture and Women’s and Gender Studies, where she served on faculty. She has also taught at The Seattle School for Theology & Psychology and served for several

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WEDNESDAY WITNESS: A Call to Social Holiness

A Live Virtual Mini-series
engaging United Methodist to
advocate on current issues.

JULY
06
3 PM

Voting
Rights

JULY
20
3 PM

August Recess/
Reconciliation

[Register here](#) to join the conversation!

VIA
 zoom
 Facebook Live



CHURCH & SOCIETY
The United Methodist Church



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 Finance Team Lead: Geoff Ullmann
 Lay Leader: Megan Richardson
 Lay Member of Annual Conference:
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 Prayer Team: Megan Richardson
 Membership Care Coordinator: Megan
 Richardson
 Mission/Outreach Team Lead: TBD
 Newsletter & Website Editor:
 Wanda Garrett
 Nominations & Leadership Development:
 Rev. Dr. Linda Holbrook
 Staff-Parish Relations Team Lead:
 Denise Melroy
 Treasurer: Wendy Ringo
 Trustees President: Darcy Foster
 Youth Minister: Grace Brawn
 Youth Representative: Adrianna Saffell
 Worship Team Lead: TBD

**Next Good News deadline:
August 27, 2022**

For July-August issue

**We are a Reconciling
Church. All are welcome!**

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Pastor's Prose: Finding joy and gratitude in times of crisis



Pastor Linda Holbrook

I remember at one time summer was described as the “lazy days of summer.” And to match the lazy days of summer I wanted to write a light and fun message.

But in the world we live in, those lazy days of summer seem like a fairy tale and so long ago. My sensitives are overloaded with so much going on in the

world. And I would guess that I am not alone in being overwhelmed. We need to ask ourselves how we take care of our emotions and mental health with so much going on?

Some of the world events include:

The war in Ukraine goes on with many lives being lost. It is difficult to keep focused on the war when we see the January 6th hearings, and Supreme Court decisions. I find myself watching the hearings with great interest. I suspected that there was much more going on than we knew on the day, but I am shocked by what I am hearing from the witnesses. As we celebrate our Independence Day, it is becoming obvious that more lives could have been lost that day and how close we came to losing our democracy.

The Supreme Court overturned Roe. Trish sent the statement written by Bishop Dyck to everyone and I hope you took the time to read her statement. The psychological impact on women, and the economic impact on our country will be significant. I feel like the clock is being turned back.

The new Methodist denomination adds to the stress of what is going on in the world. I have heard harsh words from some of the people leaving the UMC. It makes me realize how far apart we are in what we think Christ is calling us to do. I keep reminding myself to have compassion for all, even those who are leaving the UMC.

And in the midst of all the issues in the world I had my own personal crisis. Fourteen years ago, I adopted a kitten. She was a Calico and I named her Caramel. (I had another cat at the time named Licorice.) Caramel was a great companion. Almost every evening she would snuggle next to me as I read or watched TV.



Caramel

Over Memorial Day weekend she got sick. I thought it was an infection that could easily be treated. When I took her to the veterinarian on Wednesday June 1st, I learned it was not an infection, but total kidney failure. She was humanely euthanized. It was quite a shock to me.

My theology tells me that God is always present. I look for Christ in every situation. With the death of my beloved cat, Caramel, I saw Christ. When I knew I had to euthanize Caramel, I texted a friend to tell her. She texted back and asked if I wanted her to come and be with me. Before I could answer yes, she called. She told me she was not to allow me to go by myself. She came with me. Christ was in her as she gave me comfort and support in that sad time.

The vet that did the procedure was the kindest and most compassionate person. The office is still requiring masks and even with the mask I saw the kindness on her face. She gave me a hug at the end. Christ was in her as she made Caramel as comfortable as possible.

Now it may be more difficult to see Christ in the major events in the world. I see Christ as many countries in the world come to Ukraine's aid. Even with the war now lasting months and with the war continuing for many more months, the countries are maintaining their support. I keep praying that the world sees an answer to do

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Pastor's Prose: Finding joy and gratitude in times of crisis *(from p. 3)*

more and end the fighting. In the meantime, let us keep this war in our prayers and keep the focus on the lives being lost and the damage being done.

John 8:32 says that you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. The January 6th committee was set up to bring the truth to light. The hearings are bringing new facts so that we can learn the truth. We definitely want to prevent January 6th from happening again, and we want to protect our democracy. As we celebrate July 4th, we know that our democracy is not perfect, but it is a good form of government.

I met an attorney a few days ago, and I saw Christ in her. She reminded me that the Supreme Court has made bad decisions in the past and those decisions get overturned. I thought of the Dred Scott decision where the Court said African Americans had no rights. She gave me hope. Hope is so important in our Christian lives. Hope means that wherever we are today, the future can be different. The future can be more just, more peaceful, and more infused with love.

Finally, the new Methodist denomination has many people who feel that they understand where God is calling them. And while I view their interpretation very differently, I believe these people are being sincere and authentic. Since this is a new development (the new denomination began May 1st), one of the things we need to do is to have patience.

I don't know how I could be dealing with all the things going on without my faith. My belief that God is always with us, that Christ walks with us, that the Holy Spirit sends us hope and inspiration makes me feel supported in all the suffering in the world. I find myself being grateful for the people in my life who have been Christ to me. I find myself finding joy in the beauty of nature, the love of the people around me, and beginning a second year at Morgan Hill. It is with gratitude and lots of prayer that I start this second year with all of you at Morgan Hill. Thank you.

Grace and Peace,

Linda

Summer sermon series: Compassion *(from p. 1)*

years as a youth minister and then as campus minister for a United Methodist Reconciling college ministry. Passionate about the power of joy and compassion for personal and systemic transformation, Haley is currently the founder and executive director of the Center for Courageous Compassion. The Center for Courageous Compassion is a nonprofit organization that is fighting compassion fatigue and burnout by creating sustainability in our activism and ministry with survivors of abuse and trauma through liberating our compassion and courage from exhaustion and exploitation, re-wilding our joy, and transforming trauma in ourselves and our systems. In addition to this life-giving mission, Haley is also a running coach at Fleet Feet Monterey, a yoga facilitator at M8 Wellness, a surfing and outdoor enthusiast, and an author, with her first book, *Single (M)Other*, available later this year through Wipf & Stock.



Dr. Haley Feuerbacher

On **August 21st** we will finish the sermon series with the topic of Compassionate Living. This Sunday we will discover how we continually develop habits that help us to live like the disciples of Christ we are called to be.

If you have stories of compassion in your life, please send me an email and share your story.

Finance Update: Expenses, income close to budget

By Wendy Ringo, Treasurer, and Geoff Ullmann, Finance Chair

May budget report: For the month of April, our income was close to budget, but the expenses were over budget by almost \$4000. Those additional expenses were primarily due to HVAC repairs.

For the year so far, our income is ahead of expense, however we have not yet paid our church tithe for any of 2022. When that is paid for the first half of the year, we will be close to matching expense to income.

Your continued contributions are very important for the mission and ministry of our church. See our giving options on our "Giving" web page, www.mhumc.com/about/giving/.



Youth News: Beach Boardwalk on July 27



*By Grace Brawn, Youth Minister
gracebrawn@gmail.com, 408-242-7317*

Join the Youth at the Boardwalk!

The Youth Group is planning a trip to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk on **Wednesday July 27**. All youth entering 6th grade through 12th grade are invited to join us and get to know our group. You can even bring a friend!

We will be providing all-day ride passes, some game tickets and a meal. If you are interested you need to sign up with Grace Brawn so she can handle permission slips and arrange transportation.

Youth Group is open to youth grades 6 through 12.

We meet twice a month. On the 3rd Sunday of each month, we join with Advent Lutheran's youth group, meeting with them after their worship service (10:45am). Advent Lutheran is at 16870 Murphy Ave. in Morgan Hill.

On the 4th Sunday of each month, after our church service, about 11:30am-12:30pm, we meet in the upstairs youth room of our Wesley Cottage.



Sunday School Room refresher, July 14

By Denise Melroy

Let's freshen up the Sunday School room! We will be painting the Sunday School room at **9am on Thursday, July 14**, and would love for you to join in our painting party.

All hands are welcome and no talent is necessary! If we have enough painters, we will also paint Pastor Linda's office.



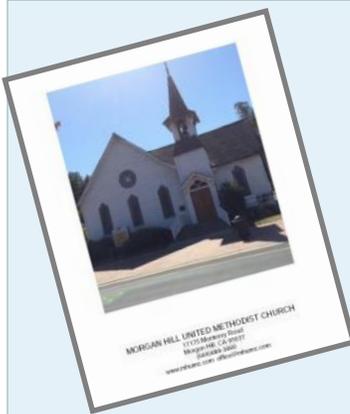
Lessons from our Sunday School children

By Megan Richardson

In our June 22 Sunday School class, our children did a craft project that they had a lot of fun with. They created "paper dolls" of many colors and styles.

This was to emphasize that we are all one divine family (children of God) and we should be accepting and kind to each other in spite of our differences.

Our children are amazing, and we learn a lot from them! If you are interested in being a teacher or helper for Sunday School, please contact Jeannie Clayton.



New Church Directory is available

By Denise Melroy

We have an updated church directory completed. We are happy to give out copies, both paper and electronic.

Please email Denise at dkmelroy@gmail.com if you would like a copy and let her know which you would like, paper or electronic (PDF) or both. We would like to avoid making any unnecessary paper copies to help save a few trees!

Mini Car Show at MHUMC

By Geoff Ullmann

One Thursday at the end of a car club ride I brought a few of the members over to the church for a tour. In this little sub-group, we had two Triumphs, a Jaguar, and a Porsche Cayenne. They look real pretty next to our Fellowship Hall!

The group that went through was most impressed with the pressed-tin ceiling and walls, and the old organ and its history.



If you encounter a book you think others in our church family would enjoy, that relates to the mission & ministry of the church, please submit your book recommendation to the church office for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter.

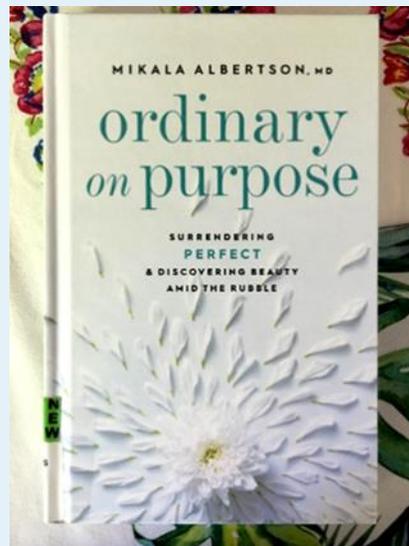
Good Reading

“Ordinary on Purpose: Surrendering Perfect & Discovering Beauty Amid the Rubble” by Mikala Albertson, MD

Book recommendation

Author Mikala Albertson, MD took me on a journey from her past to present in her new book, “Ordinary On Purpose.” I was enticed with her Mona Lisa smile approach to writing, serious yet playful. This book, which I found at the Morgan Hill Library, is a wonderful adventure. It is truly a love story of “surrendering perfect and discovering beauty amid the rubble.”

Try this good reading,
Janet Tuttle



Welcome New Members Susan and John Armstrong

We have transferred our membership to MHUMC after being at Atascadero UMC for 25 years.



Susan and John Armstrong with Pastor Linda as they transfer their membership June 5, 2022.

When we moved last August, we had lived in San Luis Obispo County for 52 years where we taught school and raised our family. In a small world blessing, we’re very happy to be in church again with Evelyn Kane whom we knew at Trinity UMC in Los Osos!

We live in the south part of Morgan Hill and are enjoying exploring Santa Clara County; we especially appreciate the many wonderful parks and hiking trails. Our son lives in Merced and our daughter in San Jose. Our granddaughter, Alexa, likes to come to church when she is visiting us.

We are very happy to be an official part of the MHUMC family.

Full Choir on Summer break

By Wanda Garrett, Choir Director

Many thanks to our fabulous choir, providing the offertory “special music” this year! We are small but mighty!

We are taking a break from Monday evening rehearsals for July and August. During the summer, ensembles and solos will provide the special music. Rehearsals will be Sunday morning at 9:15am. Check [“Choir Notes”](#) for details.



United Women in Faith Assembly

by Wanda Garrett

Every four years, United Women in Faith (formerly United Methodist Women) gather to celebrate, inspire, nurture, and renew as a sisterhood in faith. In May of this year, a group of about 2000 came from around the world to Orlando, FL, and even more joined online, for a 3-day event. California-Nevada Conference was represented by about 85 women in person, and about 75 online.

Morning and evening “Community Gatherings” included uplifting music, inspiring speakers, worship experiences, and performing arts integrated throughout.

Speakers included these women:

- **Rev. Sung Yeon Choimorrow**, Exec. Dir. National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum. She noted that systemic racism against Asian-American Pacific Islanders has roots in our nation’s immigration control from the 1800’s. She advocates for all to live as children of God with dignity.
- **Rev. YaNi Davis**, theological poet and ordained minister with The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She blended storytelling, poetry, and rap, challenging us to act on our faith.
- **Janet Wolf**, Theologian in Residence for the event, is a United Methodist pastor, poverty rights organizer, author, and more. She works with the Children’s Defense Fund on transformative justice. She said, “We are in a ‘manna’ economy with an abundance of God’s love, not Pharaoh’s scarcity economy.”
- **Deb Haaland**, U.S. Secretary of the Interior. She was the first Native American to serve as a cabinet secretary. Her focus is on equity and inclusion in policies related to economy and environment. She encourages and commends our faith approach to justice.

Woven through the event were opportunities to connect with other women and to learn more about leadership, self-care, artistic expression, and relationship with God and other people. In addition, we learned more about what it means to be part of United Women in Faith – an inclusive sisterhood that is grounded in faith and doing God’s work.



El Camino Real District United Women in Faith at Assembly 2022



About 85 women from California-Nevada Conference gathered at the United Women in Faith Assembly, May 2022.

Heavenly music: Organs at MHUMC

By Geoff Ullmann, Wanda Garrett, Willard Tallmon, and church historical documents

Music has been a big part of the worship services at Morgan Hill United Methodist Church since its early days. Our historical pipe organ, although not currently operational, adds beauty and character to the sanctuary.

As told by Willard Tallmon (1908-1986):

In 1918 Rev. L.P. Walker, our pastor, saw an ad in the Conference paper offering a used pipe organ for \$250.00.

Geoff confirmed the organ was from the Methodist Church in Santa Rosa, CA. Based on a chalk date on the back of the organ façade (what is visible now), the organ was built before June 1, 1900.

Mr. Tallmon continues: *Morgan Hill Church officials decided to buy the old organ. It arrived at the Morgan Hill Railroad Depot as freight, then was moved by borrowed truck to storage in the hose shed behind the Church. An elderly, experienced organ installer from Los Gatos agreed to supervise the installation.*

Over the period of about two months, early in 1919, the wall behind the pulpit was cut and the organ installed, extending back into the Sunday School room, taking a fair amount of space therefrom.

The Church was fortunate to have as a member an experienced organist and music teacher, Mr. H.V. Pillow. He became our first organist.

As installed, the air for the organ came from a large bellows, the handle of which extended into a narrow passage to one side of the organ. There was room for one man or two small boys to get in to pump the bellows. A weight at the end of a string was thumped by Mr. Pillow to signal it was time to start pumping.

The older teenagers did the pumping at first, but after a few weeks tired of the job and passed it on to the younger ones. There was a compensation for working back there – you were free to leave during the sermon but had to be back by the time the sermon ended and the signal weight was dropped. I don't recall that the organ was ever without air when needed, but there were close calls.

In late 1920 or early 1921 an electric motor-driven blower was put in to replace the bellows. Again, Paul Walker was the installer. The teenage pumpers had to rejoin the congregation and listen to the sermon.

During the pastorate of The Reverend Russell Oaks, 1950-1954, the pipe organ was rebuilt, and dedicated to the memory of Lillian Lenfest (1861-1944).

Around 1980, the pipe organ was replaced with a new Rogers Cambridge 220-II electronic organ. (The pipes remained as decoration.) This state-of-the-art instrument had two 61-key keyboards and a full 32-key pedalboard. It included 25 reprogrammable stop presets. The notes were created with transistor-based analog oscillators, giving it a warm sound.

In 1987, the Rogers organ was dedicated in memory of Donald J. Ward (1907-?), John E. Acton (1867-1955), and Jerome H. Parrish (1907-1985). Mr. Acton's home, built in 1911, has been repurposed as the Morgan Hill Historical Museum.

The Rogers organ is still operational and receives periodic maintenance from a factory-certified technician.



Birthdays and special days



7/4 Dan Hazen
 7/9 Koiwa Ohene-Nyako-Mattia
 7/17 Charlotte Saffell
 7/21 Carol Frazer

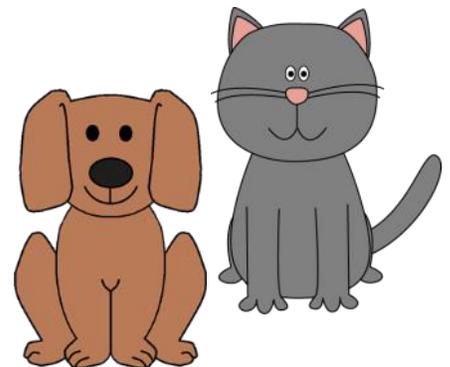


8/4 Chuck Foster
 8/15 Evelyn Kane
 8/18 Trish Catalano
 8/21 Rachel Odneal
 8/25 Ashley Saffell
 8/29 Wanda Garrett
 8/30 Jeannie Clayton
 8/31: Debbie Ullmann



Other upcoming special days

- July 4: [Independence Day](#)
- July 7: [National Strawberry Sundae Day](#)
- July 29: [Islamic New Year](#)
- July 31: [Uncommon Instrument Awareness Day](#)
- August 3: [National Watermelon Day](#)
- August 8: [International Cat Day](#)
- August 14: [Love Your Bookshop Day](#)
- August 26: [National Dog Day](#)



See all holidays and special days at nationaltoday.com/

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!

[Reconciling Ministries Network - www.rmnetwork.org](http://www.rmnetwork.org)

