

Good News

Morgan Hill United Methodist Church

Sermons: What Do You Want to Hear

By Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook, Pastor

It is summer and each summer I ask you what are the sermons you want to hear. If you have questions that come up from reading the Bible or from a situation you find yourself in or a question that arises as you pray, please put that down on paper and send it to me. Over the last two years, you have suggested several deep topics. You have also asked about theological topics. I am looking forward to see what you are interested in hearing this summer.

This is your turn to suggest topics for sermons. Please send me an email with topics you would like to hear a sermon on. If you aren't sure how to word your request, put down as much as you can and we can talk further to clarify what you want.



I will be using these topics over the summer so please send me your ideas.

Welcome Haley Feuerbacher: Minister of Young Generations



Dr. Haley Feuerbacher (she/her) is a community organizer, writer, minister, and theologian who brings queer, ecofeminist, survivor-centered, and engaged approaches to faith and justice. She is excited to join the staff of Morgan Hill United Methodist Church to create brave, joyful spaces for kids and youth to explore faith, identity, and belonging through curiosity, compassion, creativity, and connection.

Her ministry is rooted in mental and holistic wellbeing, post-traumatic thriving, embodied spirituality, and the wisdom of wildness—where joy is a prophetic witness, transformation is sacred, and justice and liberation are the heartbeat of faith. At the heart of her work is the calling to be about the brave and messy art of coming alive together.

Haley holds a Ph.D. in Religion and Culture and a graduate certificate in Women's and Gender Studies, with over 20 years of experience as a minister, educator, and spiritual activist. She is the founder of The Rewilding Ministry, an ecojustice nonprofit that creates survivor-centered sacred spaces that transform religious, spiritual, and other forms of trauma into radical joy, sustainable justice, and wild spirituality for people and planet. She also co-leads The NliveN Movement, a trauma-informed running and walking community that integrates movement, mindfulness, and meaning-making to help people reconnect with their bodies, stories, and each other.

Haley is passionate about creating mindful adventures and making memories doing sweaty and sacred things that scare her a little bit in the outdoors: running, surfing, kayaking, rock climbing, writing, creating rituals and art, and storytelling. She lives and plays on a mountaintop in Boulder Creek with her partner SB, her son Christian, and their wild pack of pets.

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Administrative Asst.: Bettie Anderson

Children's Education: Jeannie Clayton

Finance Team Leads: Marilyn Pifer,

Wendy Ringo

Lay Leaders: Denise Melroy, Megan Richardson

Annual Conf. Rep: Trish Catalano

Prayer Team: Megan Richardson

Membership Secy: Jeannie Clayton

Mission/Outreach Co-Chairs: Cathy Coates, John McCotter

Newsletter Editor: Bettie Anderson

Website Editor: Denise Melroy

Nominations & Leadership Dev. Chair:

Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook

Staff-Parish Relations Chair:

Carol Frazer

Treasurer: Wendy Ringo

Trustees President: Darcy Foster

Youth Minister: Haley Feuerbacher

Worship Team Lead: Denise Melroy

Next Good News deadline:

June 25, 2025

For July-August Issue

We are a Reconciling Church. All are welcome!



Prayer Shawl Ministry

On May 11th as part of the worship service, we will bless prayer shawls. As prayer shawls are created, prayers and blessings are woven into the shawl. When prayer shawls are finished, they are blessed by the congregation, and then given to individuals. When someone receives a prayer shawl, the shawl provides comfort, solace, hugs, and covering during difficult times and during joyful and contemplative times. If you know someone who needs a prayer shawl, please take a prayer shawl after the blessing on May 11th, and get it to the person who needs it.

Pastor's Prose: Choose What is Right

By Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook, Pastor



I sometimes hear something or read something that I think that is something to remember. So, I will write down that thought. Sometimes it is a thought to journal about later. Sometimes it is just a phrase that is memorable. Most of the time I have a notebook

handy. When I don't have a notebook, I grab whatever I can. A few days ago, I came across a piece of paper with a saying I had written down a few weeks ago.

The thought was, "the coming times will be rough and we will each have a decision to make whether to do the right thing or do the easy thing." Lately, I have been thinking a lot about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. I know it means loving those who are tough to love and being compassionate in our everyday life. Being a disciple also means knowing when to say "no" and when to speak truth to power.

Being a disciple means knowing who we are and not changing who we are when pressured to do something that is against our nature. A story came to mind that I read a few years ago. The story is from the book *"The Signature of Jesus: The Call to a Life marked by a Holy Passion and Relentless Faith"* by Brennan Manning. (PRH Christian Publishing; Reprinted edition (July 6, 2004).)

There is a story of an old man who used to meditate early every morning under a big tree on the bank of the Ganges River. One morning, after he had finished his meditation, the old man opened his eyes and saw a scorpion floating helplessly in the water. As the scorpion was washed closer to the tree, the old man quickly stretched himself out on one of the long roots that branched out into the river and reach out to rescue the drowning creature. As soon as he touched it, the scorpion stung him. Instinctively the man withdrew his hand. A minute later, after he had regained his balance,

he stretched himself out again on the roots to save the scorpion. This time the scorpion stung him so badly with its poisonous tail that his hand became swollen and bloody and his face contorted with pain.

At that moment, a passerby saw the old man stretched out on the roots struggling with the scorpion and shouted,

"Hey, stupid old man, what's wrong with you? Only a fool would risk his life for the sake of an ugly evil creature. Don't you know you could kill yourself trying to save that ungrateful scorpion?"

The old man turned his head. Looking into the stranger's eyes he said calmly, "My friend, just because it is the scorpion's nature to sting, that does not change my nature to save."



This old man knew he had a choice to do the easy thing to let the scorpion continue to float down the river. The right choice was to do what was his nature; to save. Even an evil, ugly creature in this old man's eyes deserved to be saved. He knew who he was. His nature was to save.

I believe we will all face choices in the next months and we will have to decide to do the right thing or to do the easy thing. The better we know who we are, the decision we make will be closer to our nature. So, reflect on what it means for you to be a disciple and then when the decision comes along you will be ready. Choose what is right.

Dinners With Jesus

By Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook, Pastor

Jesus is full human. That means that Jesus needed nourishment from food just like all of us. In the New Testament there are stories of Jesus at the table with sinners and outcasts, with Pharisees, with his disciples, and with others. I hadn't really thought about how many stories there are about Jesus and meals until I was searching and found all sorts of times where Jesus shared a meal. In almost every case Jesus continues teaching over the meal. Over the next couple of months, we will look at three meals Jesus has based on stories in Luke. We will look what Jesus says at each meal and what is the meaning of what Jesus is saying for us.



Good Luck to Wanda on Her New Journey!

As we bid farewell to Wanda, who is embarking on a new journey to Washington, we reflect on the profound impact she has had on the Morgan Hill United Methodist Church community. Her dedicated service in numerous roles including Worship Chair, Choir Director, Website Editor, Photographer, Finance Chair, Recording Secretary, and Newsletter Editor, to say the least, exemplifies her unwavering commitment and love for our congregation. While we feel a deep sense of sorrow at her departure, we also rejoice in the excitement of her new chapter, knowing that her warmth and support will continue to enrich the lives of her future church family. Wanda has undeniably left an indelible mark on our hearts! Many blessings to her on her new journey!



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY
MAY 11TH

M₃ O₁ T₁ H₄ E₁ R₁ S₁
D₂ A₁ Y₄

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
JUNE 15TH

Finance Update: Doing Well

By Wendy Ringo, Finance Team Co-Chair

As of March 31, 2025 our finances are doing well. Our pledged income & non-pledged income is \$10,000 above budget, and our expenses are about \$5,900 below-budget.

In the **General Fund** (main checking account), the balance was about \$40,779.20, plus \$20,000 in a CD.

In the **Designated/Pass Through** fund, the account balance was \$10,426.11.

Our **Building Fund** account balance was \$4,038.20.

The **Parsonage Rental Checking** account balance was \$9,634.

The **Parsonage Rental Money Market** account balance was \$37,810.41.

The **MHUMC Endowment** continues to receive contributions and earn interest and dividends. The finance team will be reconciling the 3/31/25 statement in the coming month. The last statement received in December 2024 showed a balance of \$27,453.

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/giving/.



Trustees: Planning for 2025

By Darcy Foster, Trustees Chair



Recent Accomplishments

1. The addition of 4 solar powered cameras that cover the entire facility. Camera feeds tie in to a phone of the trustees.
2. There is currently a sub-group that is committed to create adequate funding for the repair and painting of the church. The group is moving forward with lead repair work. Several vendors are being contacted to bid on the actual painting of the sanctuary.
3. Blue curbs have been painted after the hanging of a new handicap sign on the north side of the church.
4. Sanctuary lights have been replaced with the appropriate sized lights, bringing much more light to the facility.

Projects Being Planned for 2025 Include (not in priority order)

1. Paint the church (asbestos/lead testing done now; project targeted for spring 2025)
2. Replace steeple (to be done when scaffolding is up for repainting)
3. Sanctuary ceiling fan replacement
4. Replace the remaining old flooring in the Fellowship Hall
5. Memorial garden
6. Stained glass windows - shore up

If you can help with any of these, please contact one of the Trustees. You can help cover the cost of the work by giving to the Building fund at www.mhumc.com/giving/.

New To MHUMC: Welcome Rachael and Aeris Dibb



Rachael Dibb and newly Baptized Aeris Dibb joined MHUMC on April 6th

Aeris and I moved to here in February from San Jose. There we attended Willow Glen Bible Church, however before that we were long-time members of the first United Methodist Church of San Leandro. We moved to Morgan Hill on a Saturday and went in search of a home church Sunday, we started with the most beautiful one right downtown and sure enough, we felt right at home and the search was over! We immediately felt welcomed, and we are so grateful to be a part of our beautiful congregation!

District Union: Help with Grant/Loan

The District Union is an organization of the El Camino Real District. They have funds to give grants and loans to churches to begin ministries, reach out to new communities, and to assist in making repairs on church facilities. Morgan Hill UMC has gone to the District Union three times. In 2021, we obtained a loan to repair the parsonage so we could rent it out. In 2023, we received a \$40,000 grant and a \$40,000 loan to get a new roof on our sanctuary. And now we applied for a \$10,000 grant and a \$10,000 loan to help with the funding of the outside painting of the sanctuary. We will be planning and starting this project in a few months. Listen for updates.



Palm Sunday April 13th



During the opening hymn, Pastor Linda led children and adults in a parade around the sanctuary, waving palm branches and shouting "Hosanna!"

Pastor Linda talked briefly with the large group of children present about the meaning of Palm Sunday, before they ran off to Sunday School.



For the Palm Sunday episode of "Good Morning Morgan Hill," intrepid reporter "Katie Cupcake" (Denise) hosted a discussion about individual spiritual practices. Greg has a small plaque in his car that prompts him to see God in everyone he encounters; Cathy described spiritually connecting to nature with "forest bathing" on hikes, Bennett described using the



sign of the cross or other physical gesture to remind themselves of the presence of God at various times and circumstances; Matthew shared his new practice of a monthly non-electronic Sabbath, turning off all electronic items for a whole day to pause from life's chaos and busyness.



Lessons From Our Sunday School Children

By Megan Richardson, Sunday School Teacher

In March, our lesson was from 1 Thessalonians 5:11 “Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up.” We talked about how to do this in our lives and it included complimenting and letting people know how much we appreciate them. Our craft was making a “Thank You” poster for our Mission Team to honor the Morgan Hill Library volunteers and librarians for Librarian Appreciation Day.



Palm Sunday was celebrated with a Palm Parade in the sanctuary. In class, we focused on everything that happened to Jesus during Holy Week. Our craft was symbolic of the triumphal entry into Jerusalem, turning over of money changers tables in the temple, the last supper, betrayal by Judas for money, the rooster that crowed as Peter denied Jesus three times, the crucifixion and burial in the tomb before the resurrection.

The Easter egg hunt was a huge success! We hid 800 eggs and the kids had great fun followed by fellowship time with yummy treats. Thanks to all who contributed to make this a special event!



Mission & Outreach Team: Making a Difference in Our Community

By Cathy Coates and John McCotter, Mission Team Co-Chairs



On Thursday, April 10th, the Mission Committee planned to surprise the Morgan Hill Library Staff with goodies. This was being done during National Library Week (April 6th-12th) to show appreciation for the Library staff and volunteers. The Sunday school children had constructed a "Thank You" poster and one of our resident artistes, Denise Melroy, had designed over 50 decorated bookmarks.



"Our tactic of surprising the library staff and volunteers with goodies went off splendidly! I am so proud of our congregation! We had just the right combination of ready to eat foods and grab-and-go treats.

To use a British expression, the staff was "gob smacked" (stunned)! They also loved the hand made bookmarks, and the poster made by the Sunday school children. Thanks to Denise, who helped bring stuff over. Cathy took pictures to share. Thanks to all who participated!"
~ John McCotter

Bread for the World Campaign

By Susan Armstrong, Mission Team



The MHUMC Mission and Outreach team continues to plan and carry out projects to bring the love of Christ to our community and world. Our next project addresses hunger and malnutrition in the world. Rather than asking for monetary funds, we are inviting you to join us in an Offering of Letters through Bread for the World.

Bread for the World is a Christian advocacy organization urging our national legislators to do all they can to pursue a world without hunger. The mission of this organization is to educate and equip people to advocate for policies and programs that can help end hunger in the U. S. and around the world.

Nourish Our Future is the 2025 campaign for Bread. We will be advocating to secure programs to feed this generation and those to come. Specifically, we will be writing to our national legislators asking them to support a bipartisan WIC bill, SNAP and other aspects of the Farm Bill.

Continued on page 10

Bread for the World Campaign *(continued from page 9)*

The Mission Team would like you to take part in this letter writing campaign to Congress in the coming weeks. Sunday, June 1, will be Bread for the World Sunday. On that day, there will be several ways you can participate:

- Stay after worship that day, sit down and write a letter to your US Representative or Senator.
- Take home information that day, and write a letter at home.
- Email a message that day from a computer we will have at church.
- Email a message from your home computer, tablet, or phone during the week.

The following Sunday, June 8, we will dedicate the letters, or a card noting an email was sent, as part of our Sunday morning offering. We hope you will join us to advocate for renewing food and farm programs, which will help build healthy, equitable and sustainable food systems.

Learn more here: <https://www.bread.org/>



Sharing the Bounty

By Nancy Domnauer, Mission Team

We are grateful that the Sharing the Bounty Program at Morgan Hill United Methodist Church, in collaboration with Loaves and Fishes Family Kitchen of San Jose, is serving free, hot, take-out dinners on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 to 6:00 pm from our Fellowship Hall. Any person in our community that would like a hot meal is welcome.



If you'd like to volunteer to help serve the meals on any upcoming Wednesday, please email Nancy Domnauer at: bonjour2nancy@gmail.com.

To learn more about Loaves and Fishes Family Kitchen, please visit <https://www.loavesfishes.org/>

EASTER FLOWERS

Beautiful flowers for Easter, courtesy of Bill Tindall. Many thanks for adorning the sanctuary for the Easter celebration!



In Memory of Ken Kawakami—March 20, 1943 - April 3, 2025

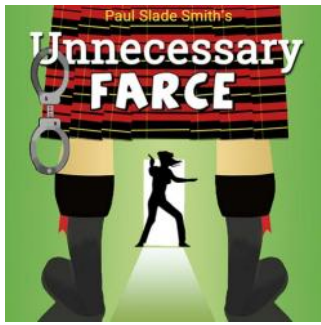


Kenneth Nobuo Kawakami, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly at home on April 3, 2025. He was born in Honolulu, HI. to Noboru Kawakami and Chiyoko (Clara) Kawakami on March 20, 1943. He got involved with HAM radio in middle school which sparked his interest in electronics. Graduated from Honolulu's McKinley High School in 1961, attended Purdue University School of Electrical Engineering for BSEE (65) and MSEE (67), was recruited by Hughes Aircraft in the Los Angeles area upon graduation. Moved north in 1970 to work at Litton Industries in San Carlos as a Research Scientist in Microwave Engineering. He designed microwave components and subsystems for military and commercial markets and later helped grow Microwave Technology (MWT) from a startup. Ken's knowledge of systems and subsystems was extensive and he is acknowledged as one of the premier experts in the Microwave Field. He was never too busy to help young engineers and excelled at

teaching. Legally blind in 1998, he continued to work until he retired from Teledyne Microwave Solutions in 2017 doing complex equations in his head. He had a deep interest in Quantum Mechanics. He was a past member of IEEE and Association of Old Crows.

Ken was a great listener and a gentle soul. He was a quiet, somewhat shy man who used his guitar as an entree in social settings. He was accomplished in classical guitar, folk songs and on the electric guitar for '50's-'60's rock and roll music. Our camping group sang many a song accompanied by his guitar around the campfire through the years.

Upcoming Events



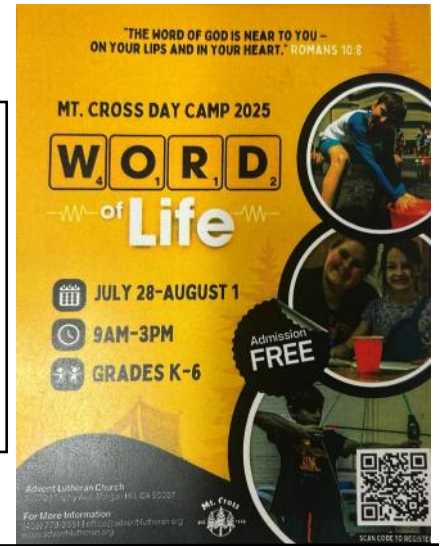
April 26 — May 17



June 20 — July 19

South Valley Civic Theatre—
for more information,
go to svct.org.

Advent Lutheran Church—
for more information
go to
advent-lutheran.org



Birthdays and Special Days



John Braslin	May 2
Haley Feuerbacher	May 8
Denise Melroy	May 8
Nancy Sager	May 8
Abe Morris	May 10
Kevin DeWett	May 22
Greg Huffman	May 24



Bill Clayton	June 1
Lynn Morgan	June 6
Del Foster	June 8
Grace Brawn	June 14
Carolyn Saffell	June 19
Helen Paratore	June 24
Annabelle Rose Mattia	June 30
Wendy Ringo	June 30

Other Upcoming Special Days

May 1	May Day
May 11	Mother's Day
May 19	Frog Jumping Jubilee Day
May 26	Memorial Day

June 6	National Donut Day
June 15	Father's Day
June 19	Juneteenth
June 23	Pink Flamingo 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

