



Good News

Morgan Hill United Methodist Church

Stewardship and Consecration Sunday

By Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook, Pastor

In October we will hold our annual stewardship campaign. While much of the campaign focuses on our financial giving, so we know how many programs and mission work we can support in 2026, stewardship is much more than just our financial resources. Stewardship is about everything we have; our time, talents, skills, and material resources. And each year, we all make choices of how we use our time, our talents and skills, and our resources.

Our theme this year is "The Impact of Giving." We will look at what giving does for the individual, the community, and to prepare for our future. Each week we will have videos so we can hear from people who want to tell us what our giving has done. These messages are a reminder of how we can have an impact on others' lives.

What portion of your time, talent, skills, and material resources you decide to give to the church is a decision between you and God. Luke 12:34 says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." I am certain that people in this church understand how welcoming this church is, and our giving helps our church continue in offering fellowship and support to everyone.

Whatever you give in 2026 will be appreciated. While the Bible says a tithe is standard, you may or may not be able to give that standard. Pray about what you can give. John Wesley, the founder of the United Methodist Church said, earn all you can, save all you can and give all you can.

You will be receiving in the mail a card to complete with what you can give in 2026. The stewardship campaign will formally kick off on October 12th and Consecration Sunday will be October 26th. If you have any questions, please reach out to Pastor Linda to discuss.



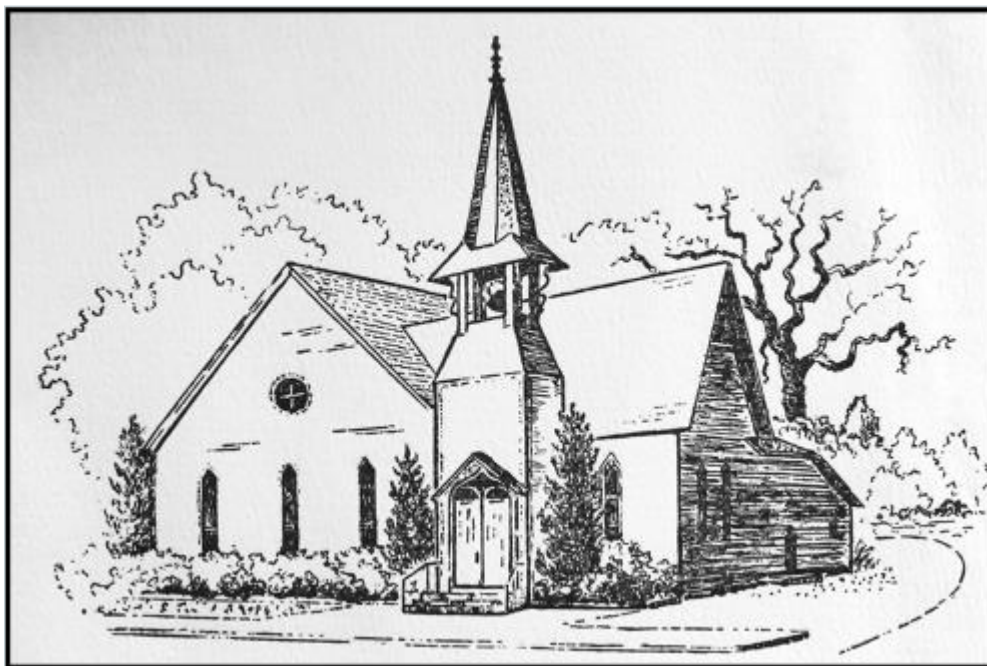
Wesley
Wisdom

"Earn All You Can, Save All You Can and
Give All You Can."

Giving for Wesley was a means of expressing generosity rooted in gratitude for God's generosity and a means of fulfilling the great commandment to love God and neighbor. He was convinced that if the Methodists would give all they can, then all would have enough. Stewardship is gift-full living so that all God's children have a place at the table of abundance.

Pumpkins on 3rd
Thursday, October 23, 2025
4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Downtown E. 3rd Street, Morgan Hill





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Wendy Ringo

Lay Leaders: Denise Melroy, Megan
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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

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Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook

Staff-Parish Relations Chair: Carol Frazer

Treasurer: Wendy Ringo

Trustees President: Darcy Foster

Worship Team Lead: Denise Melroy

We are a Reconciling Church.
All are welcome!



Next Good News deadline:
October 25, 2025

For November/December Issue

Pastor's Prose: God is With Me Always

By Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook, Pastor



As I am writing this article, I am preparing for the trip of a lifetime. I leave September 12th to go on a private jet around the world. It is not really around the world, but that is the way it was advertised by Road Scholar. We will visit

Stonehenge in England, the pyramids and Sphinx in Egypt, Petra in Jordan, the Taj Mahal in India, Angkor Wat in Cambodia, a Buddhist Temple in Indonesia, and a Muslim Mosque in Oman. All of this in 21 days. The only place I have been before is Stonehenge. So, I am excited to see so many new sites. And I realized after describing the trip several times, that all these places have some religious themes.

This is not my first major trip nor will it be my last. I have been to six continents so I plan to visit Australia to check off all seven continents. There are many places left to visit on all the continents. My bucket list is long, and I look forward to checking off many places on my bucket list.

Ever since I was a child, I have loved to travel. I remember studying the states of this country in school and set a goal to visit all the states of the United States. I accomplished that. Alaska was my last and I visited Alaska in 2012.

I visited a number of states a year after I graduated from college. A friend and I traveled by car from Florida where I was living across the southern states, all the way to California, up to San Francisco and back across the country. I learned on that trip that I enjoyed traveling by car. We had an overall plan, but no details of a specific



place on a certain date. We didn't make reservations and took detours when we saw something that might be interesting. There have been other cross country trips, but in the interest of one article I will reserve those stories for another time.

Two life-changing international trips were an African Safari and a trip to Antarctica. The trip to Zimbabwe, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Zambia was memorable because of all the animals I saw. One of the places we stayed was surrounded by animals. A staff member had to escort you to your room after dusk. One of my closest encounters was with an elephant. I was ready to walk up the stairs to where the jeeps were parked for a drive searching for the animals, and a staff member stopped me to let the elephant walk by on the sidewalk about three feet away.

My trip to Antarctica was amazing because of the scenery and because of the animals. We saw thousands of penguins, birds, whales, and walrus. We had experts on the ship with us who gave lectures. Two of the experts were penguin counters. By their count we saw approximately 32,000 penguins. We also got to launch a weather balloon.



I love to travel for several reasons. I am always excited to see new sights and sites. I try to plant the beauty of each location in my memory. God's creation is amazing. I also love to travel to meet new people and hear their stories and to begin to understand the culture of a particular location.

(continued on page 4)

Pastor's Prose: God is With Me Always (continued from page 5)

By Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook, Pastor

I traveled to Mexico to build houses. I learned that the American companies who were there would hire 12- and 13-year-olds to work in factories. The labor was very cheap. And the young boys and girls went to work because their families needed the money. The long-term effect was the boy and girls didn't finish their education and so could never have a better job. The benefit was to American companies in the short run and the disadvantage was to Mexico in the long run.

When I went to Mozambique in Africa, we stayed in the village of Chicunque. There was no electricity to all the houses. Each morning the staff put on a huge pot of water to heat for our showers. A pick-up truck with a loud speaker on top went through the village to announce where polio vaccines would be given. Everyone we met had either had malaria or someone in their family had had malaria. One of the leading causes of death for young girls dying in childbirth was the cultural norm to have a baby as soon as possible because men wanted to marry girls and women who could prove they were fertile.

I find that some of my values get challenged by my trips. When I went to Nepal, the definition of spirituality came into question. As a Christian I thought we needed to set aside one day a day to focus on God. In Nepal, the majority of the people were Hindu. They don't set aside one day a week. Instead, they stop by the many shrines along roads and pray at each shrine. The spirituality was very different than mine, but neither is less relevant and significant to the other.

There are so many other stories and I imagine that many of you have stories about trips you have taken. I constantly remember three things no matter where I go. Everywhere I go is part of God's wonderful creation. God is present long before I arrive (whether there are Christians there or not). And God is with me always, everywhere, and in everything I do.

I know the LORD is always with me.
I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. Psalm 16:8 NLT

Help restore Morgan Hill's Historic Church

The Capital Campaign is to financially support the repair and painting of the outside of the Sanctuary.

There are three ways to give:



**CAPITAL
CAMPAIGN**

- Buy a Brick – <http://www.engravedbricks.com/campaign/MHUMC>
- Make a contribution on the GoFundMe page – <https://gofund.me/009a1ff7>
- Write and check or give cash to the church – designate 'for capital campaign'

Please share our GoFundMe page —
<https://gofund.me/009a1ff7>

Vacation Bible School

By Haley Feuerbacher, Minister of Young Generations

Loving God, Others, and Ourselves from the Inside Out Vacation Bible School

At Inside Out VBS, we discovered that If you passed by MHUMC in the evening in early August, you may have heard the sounds of nearly 20 adults, teens, and children singing, cheering, chanting, topling cardboard “tables,” sharing insights, and laughing.

The sounds of joy, the sounds of the Spirit, of belonging, of coming alive together. God moves through all our emotions: that we can feel them fully, follow them wisely, and use them for love. Through games, art, storytelling, worship, service projects, and nightly rituals, we practiced loving God, others, and ourselves from the inside out.

Whether we were getting soaked with water games, making magic by walking on cornstarch-filled water, overturning the tables of injustice with sacred anger, creating Joy Mobiles, learning breathwork, or making spice blends for Sharing the Bounty, God’s love was alive in us!

In the following weeks, our children shared what they learned with the church, including a body-breathing practice for regulating emotions and a captivating video of the camp, created by Jenn Oliphant. Our Young Generations Ministry also led the congregation in two beautiful songs, accompanied by Brenden and Jenn Oliphant on ukulele.

We are deeply grateful to those who donated snacks and supplies, to the families who brought their kids, to the children who made so much magic and meaning throughout the week, and especially to our VBS leaders and facilitators who gave their time and gifts to nurture sacred joy: Trish Catalano, Jeannie Clayton, Bennett Harnett, Rev. Dr. Linda Holbrook, Christian Kroboth, Brenden, Claire, Oliver and Jenn Oliphant, Megan Richardson, and Janet Tuttle.

God moves through all our emotions. Feel them all, follow them wisely, and use them for love!



Lessons From Our Sunday School Children

By Megan Richardson, Sunday School Teacher



We celebrated our diversity by having the kids write and use stickers in their journals. Then we had a party and games to finish up. (June 29th)



We had a lesson about how we're all created in the image of God (Imago Dei), but we have special gifts to support each other. Below is a picture of Pando, an Aspen grove that is the largest living organism on earth located in Fish Lake National Park, Utah and thought to be over 10,000 years old. Every Aspen is genetically identical and the root system supports all offshoots nurturing growth.



This class emphasized recognizing your strengths and not allowing anyone to put you down. Following a lesson about Lydia, who had her own business dying purple cloth and who started the first Christian Church in Europe, the kids decorated mirrors to reflect who they are and what they like most about themselves to set examples in life.



The kids decorated their own Aspen tree with roots connecting the grove. They then focused on Who they Are, What They Are Good At and What The World Needs.

Autumn Adventures With Young Generations

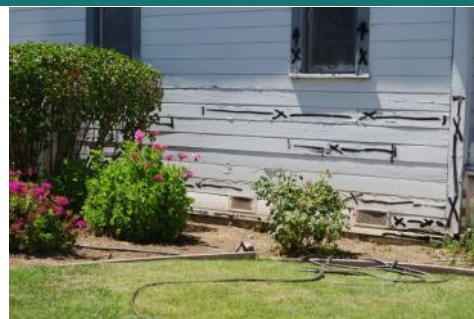
By Haley Feuerbacher, Minister of Young Generations

This fall, MHUMC's Young Generations Ministry is embracing the season of change! Join us for these upcoming events:

- **Sunday School (ages 3–18):** In September we'll explore Paul's letter to the Philippians and the power of radical gratitude - a gratitude that heals, transforms, tells the truth, and takes action—through stories, art, nature, scavenger hunts, and service. Children begin worship with the congregation before heading to Sunday School after Children's Time. All young people are welcome, wanted, needed, and celebrated!
- **Calling All Young-at-Heart Adults!** Just one caring adult can help buffer stress and nurture resilience in kids. Give one Sunday a month and join our Young Gen Teaching Team to help facilitate Sunday School! Interested? Contact Haley at feuerbacherh@gmail.com.
- **It's Time for Some Fall Cleaning!** We are inviting the whole church to bring back Miracle Hour—an hour of service to clean up the church and grounds - on **Saturday, Sept. 20, 10:30–11:30am**. In just one hour, we'll work together to make our church safer, cleaner, and more welcoming. All ages and abilities welcome!

Coming Soon: Stay tuned for fall fun, including the launch of our Youth Collective and other life-giving activities. To receive our Young Gen newsletter The Glimmer, email Haley at feuerbacherh@gmail.com

Painting Project Progression





Mission & Outreach Team

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

The Mission's Committee is happy to report that the Wednesday night suppers are proceeding apace. Various issues in keeping this program going have been addressed. The diligence of people like Matthew Hendrickson, Nancy Domnauer, Susan and John Armstrong in propelling this ministry forward should be recognized and appreciated. However, more volunteers are needed. It only takes two hours a week.

Nancy Domnauer represented our church at the Food Insecurity Conference held recently. This is a county-wide effort to coordinate how food is distributed to the hungry. More information about this conference will be forthcoming.



There will be another offering of letters in support of the modern WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program being presented to congress. Time and other details will be provided.

Our church will once again be participating in the Community Solutions Christmas drive. This is where we provide Christmas gifts for various families in need. Last year we sponsored five families and will do so again this year. We will start collecting gifts in November. More details to follow.

Sharing the Bounty

By Nancy Domnauer, Mission Team



We are grateful that we have served over 720 meals through our Sharing the Bounty program since beginning this program in April. This program, in collaboration with Loaves and Fishes Family Kitchen of San Jose, serves free, hot, take-out meals on Wednesday evenings.

We serve meals via take-out format from 5:00 to 6:00 pm from our Fellowship Hall. Each week we serve approximately 35 meals to people in our community. We encourage people who have not already volunteered to do so. This is a good way to meet our neighbors and have a positive impact in the community. Many have volunteered and we are grateful for all those who have given their time.

If you're available to volunteer on any Wednesday from 4:30 to 6:30 pm, please contact Nancy Domnauer at: bonjour2nancy@gmail.com or the church office.



If you can't physically volunteer, but would like to make a financial donation, please send your gift to the church office or place in the offering plate on Sunday.

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

Finance Update

By Marilyn Pifer, Finance Team Co-Chair

Finance Team agrees to cover unbudgeted activities

The Finance Team met on August 15. As of the end of July, our finances remain in good shape. We are blessed that MHUMC's year-to-date income is slightly more than our budget target, thanks to our faithful and generous church community. This gives us confidence that we can meet unbudgeted expenses without worry. While the Capital Campaign is key to completing the repainting of the church, we are drawing on some reserves that have built up in the General Fund and our Parsonage account to meet some unexpected necessary maintenance that came to light in the course of the painting.



The Finance Team also committed to reimbursing some expenses that have been shouldered by individual members. Supplies that we must provide for Sharing the Bounty will now be covered up to about \$200 per month through the end of 2025. We are fortunate to have Nancy Domnauer shepherding that program, and are grateful for the work that Matthew Hendrickson has done to arrange for buying these supplies in bulk at lower cost.

Additionally, in order to have lovely flowers each week for our worship service, the Church will now reimburse floral expenses of up to \$40 per week through the end of 2025. Janet Tuttle will bring a signup list so all can choose a date or dates to bring a floral arrangement in honor of a loved one, on a special day, or simply as the Spirit moves. Look for the signup soon, and remember to turn in your receipts.

The information we will gain from covering these new expense categories will, we hope, help us add a realistic budget for each in 2026.

Church Endowment keeps growing

Since its establishment in August of 2023 with an initial deposit of just over \$13,000, our very young Endowment Fund has grown well. Through the two years that the Endowment has been managed by the California-Nevada United Methodist Foundation, we have added nearly \$20,000 to the original sum. This is due both to additional contributions and to investment gains. The Endowment Committee will meet early this fall to decide whether we can make small grants from the interest earned, as we did last year, for the benefit of the Church and the community.

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 Update

By Darcy Foster, Trustees Chair

Recent Completed Accomplishments—Painting the Church Project



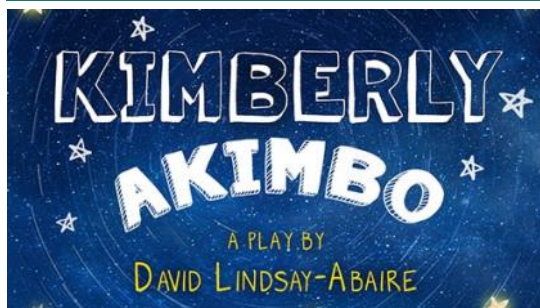
- Asbestos/lead testing
- Brush clean church
- Lead abatement
- Scaffolding
- Minor carpentry work
- Painting the church
- Installation of Spire

If you would like to contribute to preserving and repairing the church, you can help cover the cost of the work by giving to the Building fund at www.mhumc.com/giving/.

Happy 90th Birthday Carol Frazer!



Upcoming Community Events



August 29 - September 14
SVCT's Limelight Theater
16300 Condit Road, Morgan Hill



Find more
information
and tickets
at svct.org



Kids show! October 3 - 18
SVCT's Community Playhouse
17090 Monterey Road, Morgan Hill

Upcoming Birthdays



September 13	Sophia Grace Mattia
September 16	Jeff Sage
September 17	Cole Clayton
September 19	Matthew Hendrickson
September 24	Theresa Sage
September 25	Mary Ringo
September 25	Naomi Saffell
September 27	Darcy Foster
September 29	Betty Lewis



October 4	Alice Odneal
October 10	Vince Catalano
October 21	John Armstrong
October 22	Ellie Davis
October 31	Stephen Davis



Other Special Days

September 1	<u>Labor Day</u>	October	<u>LGBTQ+ History Month</u>
September 8	<u>National Ampersand Day</u>	October 5	<u>World Communion Sunday</u>
September 7	<u>Suicide Prevention Week</u>	October 11	<u>I Love Yarn Day</u>
September 14	<u>National Pet Memorial Day</u>	October 13	<u>National M&M Day</u>
September 22	<u>Fall Equinox</u>	October 31	<u>Halloween</u>

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

