



Good News

Morgan Hill United Methodist Church

Painting the Outside of the Sanctuary

By Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook, Pastor

We love our historic buildings. Whether we have been here for 20 years or just a couple of months, we are taking care of these beautiful buildings. Our sanctuary was built in 1894 and it has been used continuously for worship with the exception of the recent pandemic. Our cottage and carriage house were the original parsonage and carriage house for the horse and cart.

It is our turn to take care of the physical state of our buildings. Two years ago, we obtained a grant and a loan to put a new roof on the building. This year we are taking care of the painting on the outside of the sanctuary.

The project will start the week of July 20 with putting up scaffolding on the front of the building and around the side. The next step involves taking care of the spots where the paint has peeled. Because the paint contains lead, extra care needs to be taken in some ways. (Lead paint is safe to the touch. If you try to scrape off lead paint, it releases small particles into the air which cause other problems.)

We can't power wash the building because of the lead paint. The force of the power washing would displace some of the paint. The alternative to power washing is to hand brush the entire building. And this needs to be done by professionals who know how to deal with lead paint.

Then our painters will come in and put a primer on followed by two coats of paint. (And if anyone asks, we are not changing the color.) Finally, the scaffolding comes down the week of August 17th.

We are funding this project through a grant and loan from the District Union, money from the parsonage account, and a capital campaign.

The building will look amazing and we will rededicate the sanctuary when it is complete.

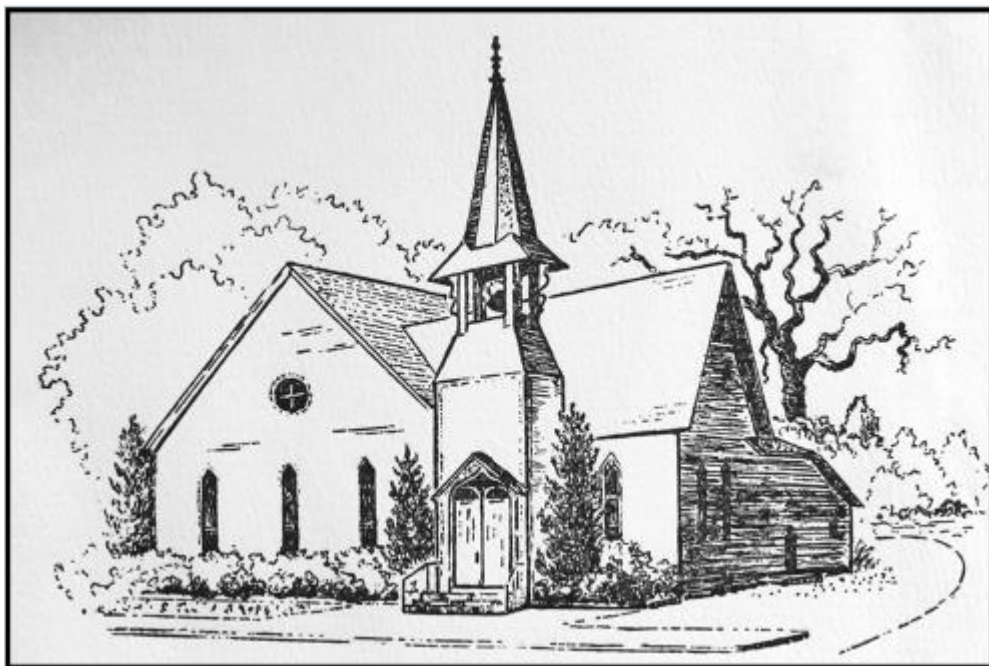


Wesley
Wisdom

"The world is my parish,"

Wesley's statement, "I look upon all the world as my parish," means that he believed he had a responsibility to preach the gospel wherever he went. He viewed the entire world, not just a specific geographical area, as the appropriate place for his ministry.

The quote reflects Wesley's commitment to reaching all people with the message of salvation, regardless of their background or location. This broadens the traditional understanding of a parish as a local, geographically defined area.



IN THIS ISSUE

- Painting the Outside of the Sanctuary, p. 1**
- Pastor's Prose, p. 3**
- Minister of Young Generations, p. 6**
- Mission & Outreach, p. 8**
- Sharing the Bounty, p. 9**
- Finance Update, p. 10**
- Trustee Update, p. 10**
- Birthdays and Other Upcoming Special Days, p. 12**

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

- GoFundMe, p. 4
- Engraved Brick Campaign, p. 5
- Vacation Bible School at MHUMC, p. 8
- Sharing the Bounty, p. 9
- South Valley Civic Theatre, p. 12
- Word for Life, Mt. Cross Day Camp 2025, p.12
- You are Welcome Here!, p. 12

REFLECTIONS

- Lessons from Our Sunday School Children, p. 7
- In Memory of Linda Valenzuela, p. 11
- In Memory of Kathy Liebschutz, p. 11

Morgan Hill United Methodist Church

17175 Monterey Hwy
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

669.888.3880

office@mhunc.com

www.mhunc.com

Leadership Team

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook
 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

We are a Reconciling Church.
All are welcome!



Next Good News deadline:
August 25, 2025

For September/October Issue

Pastor's Prose: Come In. You Are Welcome Here.

By Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook, Pastor



This summer feels so different for me from other summers. I usually think of writing about recharging my soul on the beach or enjoying the “lazy days of summer.” This year feels so much more intense. What is

happening in this country has touched me deeply since January, and not in a good way.

As I was preparing something for a retreat I am attending in July, I came across this statement by Martin Luther King, Jr., from his book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*.

“Some years ago, a famous novelist died. Among his papers was found a list of suggested plots for future stories, the most prominently underscored being this one: “A widely separated family inherited a house in which they have to live together.” This is the great new problem of [hu]mankind. We have inherited a large house, a great “world house” in which we have to live together – black and white, Easterner and Westerner, Gentile and Jew, Catholic and Protestant, Muslim and Hindu – a family unduly separated in ideas, culture and interest, who, because we can never again live apart, must learn to live with each other in peace.”

This was written more than a half century ago, and yet, it is the same problem we are struggling with today. Morgan Hill United Methodist Church is a place where we live together in this home we have. This is a place that stands out as very different from many parts of the world where conflict is real and violence is increasing. Here, at Morgan Hill United Methodist Church, we welcome everyone who comes in the door.

We accept everyone for who they are. Belonging in this place is a given.

What I see happening in the world beyond the church bothers me because it is not about having peace, or even trying to find peace with people. When I have watched pictures of people being chased through fields or people going to an immigration hearing to have their case dismissed and then being arrested or people standing in front of a Home Depot and being taken away, it breaks my heart.

The promise of arresting and deporting criminals (which everyone agrees with) has become a story of fiction unless every person who looks different than a white person is considered a criminal. It seems that this administration wants to make this country something it never was; a white male dominated culture.

The country and the world need people like us who know how to say “Come in. You are welcome here.”

From the beginning this land had natives here long before white Europeans showed up.

Soon after the first Europeans showed up people from Africa were imported to be slaves. So, now is not the first time we have to consider how to live with people in peace, and not the first time we need to ask what kind of country we are and aspire to be.

This year I am using a book by Sister Joan Chittister for my devotions. Earlier in June the entry said, “When we stop seeking services for immigrants, we have stopped searching for God. Without that commitment, we only look as if we are searching for God. To find God we must welcome everything.”

Morgan Hill United Methodist Church lives up to Joan’s words and to the commands Jesus gives us to welcome everyone and help them be part of our community. Let us reaffirm our discipleship and have courage to help everyone be welcome not only at this church, but in this country. The country and the world need people like us who know how to say “Come in. You are welcome here.”

Help restore Morgan Hill's Historic Church

Please share our GoFundMe page —

<https://gofund.me/009a1ff7>

Please consider a donation if you are able.

Help Restore Morgan Hill's Historic Church



Devon Foster is organizing this fundraiser.

 Donation protected

\$10,000 goal

0%

Share

Donate now



This fundraiser is located near you



Become the first supporter
Your donation matters

GoFundMe protects your donation

We guarantee you a full refund for up to a year in the rare case that fraud occurs. [See our GoFundMe Giving Guarantee.](#)

Morgan Hill United Methodist Church has been part of the Morgan Hill Community since it was founded in 1893. The Sanctuary was built in 1894 and is the second oldest building in Morgan Hill. Over the years many families from Morgan Hill have worshipped at the church, and the church has participated with the community in many events. The building holds a prestigious place in the community with its location on Monterey St.

Two years ago, a new roof was put on the sanctuary. This summer the church is painting the outside of the sanctuary. This is a large project since the building hasn't been painted in a number of years so the paint contains lead. To keep the people working on this project and the community safe a lead abatement company has been hired to remove the paint.

Morgan Hill United Methodist Church is joining in the renewal of Morgan Hill with this painting project. We invite you to assist with this project so that this historic building will be part of the pride of Morgan Hill.



Morgan Hill United Methodist Church Engraved Brick Campaign

Morgan Hill United Methodist Church is embarking on a congregational fund raiser to help repair and paint the exterior of the sanctuary. We are arranging to offer custom engraved bricks which will be placed near the front door. Please consider purchasing one or more to mark a special event, a milestone, record your membership, honor someone you know, be in memory of a loved one, a wedding gift anniversary, birthday or any other occasion. Two sizes are available to choose from; 4"x8" and 8"x8".

ORDER FORM: Pick up a form at the back of the church or at the church office.

Payment Options:

- Cash
- Check—please add "BRICKS" in memo line

ONLINE: Visit <https://www.engravedbricks.com/campaign/MHUMC> to order, preview, and pay online with your debit/credit card, or PayPal.

Questions? Please send an email to darcy@ix.netcom.com

Minister of Young Generations

By Haley Feuerbacher

Young Generations Ministry

MORGAN HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*A Sacred Space for Belonging,
Becoming, and Brave Faith*

Young Generations Are Getting Wild—in the Best Way!

This summer, our children and youth are getting wild in the most Spirit-filled ways! In June's Sunday School, we explored how the Holy Spirit gives us power and permission to imagine boldly, create bravely, and live wildly—expressing a kind of sacred wildness that looks like freedom shaped by love.

Each week, we embodied the Spirit's gifts of imagination, creativity, wildness, and justice through stories, games, art, and connection. From learning about Pentecost and how the Early Church imagined and created a radical mutual-care community, to planting wildflowers and herbs, journaling, creating affirming art, and celebrating Juneteenth and Pride, our young people are leading the way in shaping a wild and powerful faith that makes a difference.

Coming up in July, we'll dive into the story of Lydia and explore how the intersections of our identities help us see God in unique ways. We'll discover how each of us is uniquely gifted to lead and be a vital part of the Body of Christ!

Big News: VBS is Almost Here!

Mark your calendars for **August 4–8** for this year's Vacation Bible School: **"From the Inside Out: Exploring Feelings with Faith and Fun!"**

This one-of-a-kind VBS is rooted in the belief that all emotions are sacred and created by God. With curriculum support from two trauma-informed mental health professionals, we'll help children learn to embody, express, and grow from their feelings in healthy and Christlike ways.

Each evening will be filled with sacred stories, wild worship, music, active games, arts and science, snacks, faith-in-action projects, and emotional skills rooted in love and Spirit.

For Ages 3-Entering 5th Grade

Schedule:

August 4–7 from 6–8pm

August 8 – Special Outdoor Family Movie Night: *Inside Out*

We Need Your Help!

We're looking for volunteers to help us prep the week before and to lead during VBS. Youth in **6th–12th grade** are invited to serve as **VBS Mentors**—a vital role in guiding and supporting our younger campers.

To volunteer in any capacity, email **Haley at feuerbacherh@gmail.com**. We can't wait to grow, play, and love ourselves, others, and Christ from the inside out together!

Lessons From Our Sunday School Children

By Megan Richardson, Sunday School Teacher



We studied about Jesus on the Road to Emmaus and walking with the disciples in their journey before and after the resurrection. We also discussed how Jesus walks with us in our daily lives. Because Jesus and the disciples wore sandals, we made our own from cardboard, beads and pipe cleaners.

We celebrated Juneteenth with a brief history lesson and discussed how we might have felt as newly liberated slaves. We also talked about groups who are being oppressed in the world today and how we can help. Our craft was a tree with hearts in Juneteenth flag colors to represent we are all children in God's family. We also did scratch pictures showing different aspects of life's celebrations.



A few kids drew a scene of the Road to Emmaus on our wall mural.

Mission & Outreach Team

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



The Mission Committee has decided to make honoring our local librarians an annual event each April.

The Wednesday night dinners for those who need them are a success. However, more volunteers would be very helpful. Another way to assist would be helping to shop for supplies. Please contact Susan Armstrong.

There has been a desire for the church to have some kind of presence downtown during the Independence Day celebrations. If interested, contact Nancy Domnauer.

The next Missions Committee meeting will be July 20th.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



August 4-August 7, 6-8pm

Special Family Outdoor Movie Night on Friday, August 8

Sacred Stories ● Wild Worship ● Active Games ● Crafts & Science
 ● Faith-in-Action Projects ● Inside-Out Feeling Skills ●

Sharing the Bounty

By Nancy Domnauer, Mission Team



Did you know that since April, we have served over 400 free, hot, take-out meals to people in our community through our Sharing the Bounty program?

We're grateful that Morgan Hill United Methodist Church is in collaboration with Loaves and Fishes Family Kitchen of San Jose for this program.

The Wednesday evening dinners are served via take-out format at 5:00 to 6:00 pm from our Fellowship Hall. Each week we serve approximately 35 meals to people in our community.

Each week we'd like 4-5 people to staff the program. If you'd like to volunteer for a 2-hour shift to help serve the meals on an upcoming Wednesday this summer, please email Nancy Domnauer at: bonjour2nancy@gmail.com



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

Finance Update

By Marilyn Pifer, 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. Engraved bricks, Capital Campaign, <https://www.engravedbricks.com/campaign/MHUMC>
2. GoFundMe, Capital Campaign, <https://gofund.me/009a1ff7>

Projects Being Planned Include (not in priority order)

1. Painting the Church Project
 - Asbestos/lead testing (done)
 - Brush clean church
 - Lead abatement
 - Scaffolding
 - Minor carpentry work
 - Painting
2. Replace steeple (to be done when painting complete)
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/.

In Memory of Linda Valenzuela

January 21, 1942 – January 19, 2025

Linda R. Valenzuela, age 82, of Morgan Hill, California passed away on Sunday, January 19, 2025. After ten years of battling Alzheimer's / Dementia, church member Linda Valenzuela passed away. Linda loved serving God by pushing the dessert cart, with her beautiful smile, at the Sharing the Bounty dinners.



In Memory of Kathy Liebschutz

June 22, 1940 - March 29, 2025



Kathryn Marie Liebschutz, 84, of Leonardtown, MD passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 29, 2025 at her home, with her loving family at her side.

She was born June 22, 1940 in Brooklyn, NY, as the only child, to the late Walter A. Gloger and Marie Kathryn (nee: Forbeck) Gloger.

Kathryn, aka Kathy, was born and raised in New York and Greencastle, Indiana is a graduate of Depauw University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. Shortly thereafter, while taking flying lessons, she met the love of her life, Lynn Carl Liebschutz, whom she married on June 18, 1966 in upstate New York. Together they celebrated over 58 wonderful years together.

While living in California, she worked as an elementary school librarian before embarking on a 30-year career as a Chaplain at San Jose Airport.

She introduced and pioneered having therapy dogs in the airport, being the first person to have one nationwide. She was an active volunteer for much of her life, always looking for ways to inspire and assist people in need. Kathryn relocated to southern Maryland in 2008 to help with family care.

She traveled extensively abroad and within the United States with her husband and her children. She loved spending time with her family, whether it was vacationing, sharing a meal, or just a small boat ride. She enjoyed cruises, with her favorite being the family cruise to Alaska. She also enjoyed her trips to the British Isles, the Mediterranean, and Europe. She loved learning different cultures and traditions, meeting new people wherever she went. She grew bountiful gardens, in which she cooked delicious meals using her fresh produce. She was a skilled baker even to the extent of briefly running a catering business and enjoyed making homemade breads. She was also a talented seamstress and knitter. She made many beautiful quilts and prayer shawls. She was active within her church and community outreach. In St. Mary's she volunteered with the Soup Kitchen and at Three Oaks, serving on the Board of Directors, and heading the Transitions Foundation. She was kind-hearted, forgiving, and good natured. She could always find the good in others and believed everyone deserved a second chance.

Upcoming Community Events



"The Prom"
June 21—July 13
South Valley Civic Theatre
for more information,
go to svct.org.



Mt. Cross Day Camp 2025
July 28—August 1
Advent Lutheran Church
for more information,
go to advent-lutheran.org

Upcoming Birthdays

JULY

August

Dan Hazen	July 4	Chuck Foster	August 4	Rachel Odneal	August 21
Koiwa Ohene-Nyako	July 9	Bettie Anderson	August 14	Ashley Saffell	August 25
Charlotte Saffell	July 17	Evelyn Kane	August 15	Wanda Garrett	August 29
Carol Frazer	July 21	Trish Catalano	August 18	Jeannie Clayton	August 30

Other Upcoming Special Days

4th of July

National Hot Dog Month

July 15 National Pet Fire Safety Day

July 26 National All or Nothing Day

August 3 National Friendship Day

August 10 National S'mores Day

August 20 Individual Rights Day

August 28 Rainbow Bridge Remembrance

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

