

# Good News

Morgan Hill United Methodist Church

## Holy Humor Sunday

By Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook, Pastor

The early Christian Church celebrated Holy Humor Sunday on the Sunday after Easter. Easter was the biggest miracle ever, and it was too important to only have one Sunday to celebrate. Holy Humor Sunday services not only give Christians an opportunity for ongoing celebrations of the greatest miracle in human history - Jesus' resurrection - it also gives each of us an opportunity to celebrate, and give thanks for, our own smaller resurrections in this world and this life.

From time to time in our earthly lives, many of us have been dead - from illness, depression, physical injuries, emotional wounds, the loss of loved ones, financial losses - and yet have come alive and endured while looking forward to the Great Resurrection.

In 2024 for the first time, Morgan Hill UMC celebrated Holy Humor Sunday. Almost everyone brought a joke or story to share. Some were about friends and/or relatives and some were fictional stories. All were appreciated. It was evident that the jokes and stories were appreciated by the laughs that echoed throughout the sanctuary.

This year Holy Humor will be April 12<sup>th</sup>. Please bring jokes and stories to share. We all look forward to celebrating the miracle of Jesus resurrection, and laughing out loud.

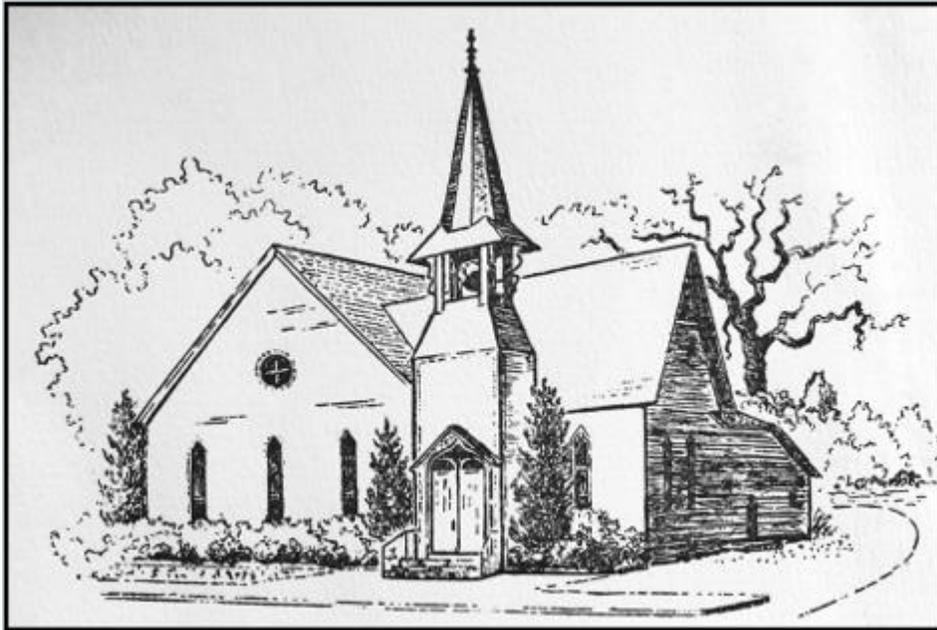


Wesley  
Wisdom

John Wesley defined "love thy neighbor" as a core aspect of "social holiness," emphasizing active, unconditional love shown through charity, justice, and meeting community needs.

### Key Wesleyan Aspects on Loving One's Neighbor:

- **Active Benevolence:** Using all available resources to help the poor and vulnerable.
- **The Three Rules:** Framework for living included "do no harm," "do good," and "stay in love with God".
- **Overcoming Bigotry:** In Wesley's "Against Bigotry" sermon, he urged Christians to avoid being too attached to their own, and instead pray for others and rejoice in their work.
- **Social Holiness:** Wesley famously stated that there is "no holiness but social holiness," meaning personal faith must manifest in love for others.
- **Methodology:** He taught that believers should "do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, and all the places you can."



**IN THIS ISSUE**

- Holy Humor Sunday, p. 1
- Pastor's Prose: Love Your Neighbor, p. 3
- Mission Committee News, p. 10
- Sharing the Bounty, p. 10
- Trustees Update, p. 11

**UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES**

- Holy Week Schedule and Events, p. 4
- Here Comes Peter Cottontail, p. 5
- Spring Forward, p. 5
- Studio Youth Collective, p. 6
- Rewilding Flyer, p. 7
- Upcoming Community Events, p. 12
- Upcoming Birthdays, p. 12

**REFLECTIONS**

- Wesley Wisdom, p. 1
- Approved Goals 2026, p. 5
- Watch Word Reflections, p. 8
- Lessons From Our Sunday School Children, p. 9
- Ted Block Guatemala Work Project, p.11
- You are Welcome Here!, p. 12

**Morgan Hill United  
Methodist Church**

17175 Monterey Hwy  
Morgan Hill, CA 95037

669.888.3880

[office@mhumc.com](mailto:office@mhumc.com)

[www.mhumc.com](http://www.mhumc.com)

**Leadership Team**

- Pastor: Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook
  - Administrative Asst.: Bettie Anderson
  - Minister of Young Generations: Dr. Haley Feuerbacher
  - Children's Education: Jeannie Clayton, Megan Richardson
  - Finance Team Leads: Wendy Ringo, Marilyn Pifer
  - Lay Leaders: Denise Melroy, Megan Richardson
  - Annual Conf. Rep: Trish Catalano
  - Prayer Team: Megan Richardson
  - Membership Secy: Janet Ohene-Nyako
  - Mission/Outreach Co-Chairs: Cathy Coates, John McCotter
  - Newsletter Editor: Bettie Anderson
  - Website Editor: Bettie Anderson, Denise Melroy
  - Nominations & Leadership Dev. Chair: 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:  
April 25, 2026  
For May/June Issue

## Pastor's Prose: Love Your Neighbor

By Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook, Pastor

The retreat I attended at the beginning of February was wonderful in so many ways. The retreat was the Gathering of Spiritual Leaders. It was held at Asilomar Resort, which is in Pacific Grove on the Pacific Ocean. I found time to take a walk on the beach. I also had a room with a fireplace. We were there two nights and each night when we finished the activities, I went back to my room and lit a fire. I pulled up a chair in front of the fireplace and just gazed into the fire. I was reminded of how much I like wood burning fires.

The retreat was good not only for the location, but also for the content. There was a Bible study leader each morning. She focused on David (King David from the Bible) and the complicated life of David. She also spoke to the restoring love of God. The key note speaker was Father Greg Boyles. He has spent his ministry working in LA with gang members. He started Homeboy Industries and is the author of several books recounting his ministry.

They both spoke about God's love for everyone.

Whether a person is a Christian or not and no matter what the person has done is his/her/their life, God still loves that person. This restoring love of God can heal us, and bring us back to our core of goodness.

Father Greg Boyles, the author of *Tattoos on the Heart*, spoke of two kinds of churches. He said there are churches that fear the world and there are churches that love their neighbor. (Morgan Hill UMC is a "love your neighbor" church.)

The fear the world churches are those churches that only admit certain people. They read the Bible to say that some people are

better than others; some people and some behaviors are condemned by God and unredeemable by God. (And they decide that they can judge for God those people who are unacceptable.) The fear the world churches believe that by accepting everyone, they will be exposed to ideas and people that are not like them, don't love God the same (right) way, and are unholy in the sight of God. Many times, these churches don't welcome immigrants or African Americans or LGBTQia persons. They justify not accepting everyone by reading the Bible in a certain way. We have talked about White Supremacy and Christian Nationalism. Certainly, White Supremacy and Christian Nationalism are part of the fear the world mentality.



I served one church that seemed more like a fear the world church. While most people said everyone is welcome, when it came time to select leaders, several said that certain people couldn't fill any positions because they hadn't been members long enough. Fear the world church construct rules to keep people in certain places. Some things are not open to everyone, not because of Spiritual gifts, but because they are lesser than other members.

Churches that are love your neighbor churches model themselves after Jesus, who welcomed everyone. When anyone walks in the door of a love your neighbor church, they are greeted with a warm welcome. There are not questions about where you came from or your sexual orientation because that doesn't matter. The love your neighbor churches form a vibrant community that supports one another and empowers one another (and that means everyone).

Morgan Hill UMC is certainly a love your neighbor church. Everyone is welcome, and everyone is invited to be a contributing member. God has

(continued on page 4)

## Pastor's Prose: Love Your Neighbor (continued from page 3)

By Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook, Pastor

given each of us spiritual gifts and skills and talents that are needed in our community. If you are unsure of the gifts you have, we will confirm the gifts you have. If you want to do more in our community, please let me know. Our call is to continue to ensure that we welcome everyone and continue to be the love your neighbor church.

### Holy Week, Schedule and Events



**Holy Week** is the week beginning on Palm Sunday through Easter.

This year Palm Sunday is March 29<sup>th</sup> and Easter is April 5<sup>th</sup>.

- Palm Sunday** We celebrate Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem. The crowds waved palms and sang "halleluiahs." We will have a parade with the children to recall that entry try. This day begins the last week of Jesus' earthly life.
- Maundy Thursday** The word Maundy comes from the word commandment. We are to follow Jesus' commandments. We will celebrate Holy Communion just as Jesus had the last Supper with his disciples.
- Good Friday** On the day that Jesus was crucified we recall the event by walking the stations of the cross. The church will be open from 2 pm to 6 pm for individuals, and everyone is invited to come and reflect of the path to the cross.
- Easter** Alleluia! Christ is Risen! Our worship service tells with story of Jesus' resurrection in song and word.
- Easter Egg Hunt** Our children come together for a traditional easter egg hunt after the worship service.
- Holy Humor Sunday** The early Church knew that Jesus' resurrection was the most momentous thing that had happened in the history of the world so they celebrated with humor (joy). Everyone is encouraged to bring jokes to help us laugh and be joyful to honor the Easter miracle.

## Here Comes Peter Cottontail...

Each Easter, our children take joy in our after-church egg hunt. Help our young ones celebrate the joy of Christ's resurrection and God's gifts and promises of spring by donating **filled plastic eggs** for our hunt! We will have a designated donation bin in the Fellowship Hall starting on Sunday, March 8.

Ideas of what to fill eggs with:

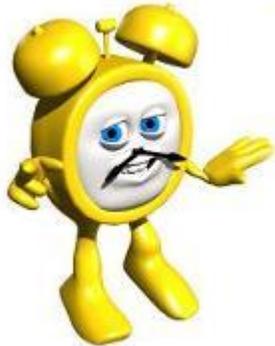
Candy that:

- Is allergy-friendly
- Won't melt in heat/sun
- Is wrapped
- Examples: Starburst, small packs of jelly beans, fruit snacks, hard candies

Stickers and temporary tattoos

Small toys

Erasers



## SPRING FORWARD

## SET YOUR CLOCKS ONE HOUR AHEAD MARCH 8TH

## Approved Goals for 2026

*Leadership Team*

1. Create the position of front porch greeter to welcome everyone on Sunday morning and fill the position.
2. The Morgan Hill UMC endowment will be \$45,000 by the end of 2026.
3. Plan and hold quarterly social multigenerational events outside of worship.
4. Create a plan to put new roofs on the Cottage and the Carriage House.
5. Expand marketing for Vacation Bible School by advertising more widely in Morgan Hill and the surrounding areas
6. Launch Studio Youth Collective (youth and young adults) to establish a sustainable, justice-oriented youth and young adult community rooted in belonging, creativity, and post-traumatic faith.
7. Create a committee and process to check on members (and regular attendees) of our congregation when they are absent over consecutive weeks.

## STUDIO YOUTH COLLECTIVE LAUNCHES WITH REWILDING DAY!

This spring, Studio Youth Collective is coming to life! On **March 21**, we'll gather at Henry Cowell State Park for **Rewilding Day**, a nature-based retreat for middle schoolers, high schoolers, and emerging adults! This is more than a one-day event. It's the soft launch of something we've been dreaming into existence.

### What Is Studio Youth Collective?

Studio Youth Collective is a creative, justice-centered, queer-affirming space where young people can explore identity, imagination, belonging, and spirituality without shame.

We call it "Studio" on purpose. A studio is where artists experiment and performers practice. Where mistakes are welcome, creativity is expected, and we discover our voice. Where presence and process are what matter - not perfection.

*Studio Youth Collective is a space where young people practice the brave and messy art of coming alive together.*

### What Is Rewilding Day?

Rewilding Day invites youth and young adults to spend a full day in the redwoods, along river banks, and on mountaintops reconnecting with what makes them come alive.

Together we will:

- Explore & Play with hiking and wild games
- Create & Gather with foraging and nature crafts
- Reflect & Share with journaling, contemplation, and story circles

In a culture shaped by anxiety, comparison, and constant performance, we are creating space to slow down, breathe deep, and remember who we are...together. Rewilding means coming back to our truest self - not the version shaped by pressure or survival, but the wild, growing us: free, connected, and held by love.

### Why This Matters

Nearly a quarter of Morgan Hill's population is under 18, yet there are few sustained, explicitly queer-affirming and justice-seeking spaces where youth and emerging adults can explore identity, build real community, and address trauma in life-giving ways. Studio Youth Collective exists to help change that story - not just for individuals, but for our wider world. **Rewilding Day is our beginning!**

### How You Can Be Part of It

If you are a youth or young adult, register to attend this free event by using the QR code on the flyer or emailing Haley at [feuerbacherh@gmail.com](mailto:feuerbacherh@gmail.com).

Everyone of all ages can support Studio Youth Collective, too, by:

- Sharing the flyer with youth and young adults in your life
- Encouraging young people to attend
- Praying for this new ministry
- Volunteering to support future gatherings
- Helping spread the word that something new is growing

If you have ever longed to see a generation raised without church trauma...

If you believe diversity is an expression of sacred wild creativity...

If you want young people to come alive in ways that ripple outward into justice and healing...

This is that moment. And Rewilding Day is just the beginning. Help us come alive, be the glimmer, and change the story of trauma in this world!



# REWILDING DAY



*A nature-based retreat for youth & young adults*

**March 21, 11am-5pm**  
**Henry Cowell State Park**

Spend a day in the redwoods reconnecting with what makes you come alive! This is a playful, spacious, nature-filled retreat for youth and young adults who want to slow down, breathe deep, and remember who they are...together.

Rewilding means coming back to who you really are...Not the version shaped by pressure, performance, or survival, but the wild, real, growing you: free, connected, and held by love.

*Why Rewild?*

Because coming alive isn't an individual project; we come alive with and for each other.

When we grow what gives life in ourselves, we learn how to grow it in the world



**Explore & Play**  
 Hiking + Forest games



**Create & Gather**  
 Foraging + Nature crafts



**Reflect & Share**  
 Journaling + Story



**RSVP by 3/19/26 by following the QR Code**  
 Questions? Email Haley (feuerbacherh@gmail.com)

## Watch Words Reflections

**Pastor Linda:** My watch word is **laughter**. I picked this word because I felt like so much around me was serious. I wanted to be reminded that there can be humor as well as seriousness in life. I have reminded myself to pause from serious things, and find laughter. I have laughed at emails, at TV shows and encounters I have.

My internet went down on a Saturday night. I called the next morning to report the outage. They ran some tests and told me it was my router. They would ship a new router to me and it would arrive on Tuesday. In this conversation, I told them that I worked at home and so having internet was crucial.



Tuesday came and went with no router. First thing Wednesday morning I called. They checked and the weather had delayed the delivery of the router until Friday. I told them once again that I worked at home. This time the representative said "your supervisor must be upset." I didn't laugh out loud, (I thought that would be rude) but a huge smile came to my face and I said to myself, "yes, and my supervisor is God. God is certainly not happy I can't access the internet." Now that is a laugh.

**John McCotter:** My word to face this year is **OPTIMISM**. I refuse to surrender to the negativism that surrounds us—even when each week I must sit through a listing of the previous week's atrocities.

I believe that anything I put my awareness on gets stronger. If all I focus on is hatred and injustice, I strengthen them. No, I do not feel such things are to be ignored and should opposed. But having a morbid fascination with them serves no purpose other than finding another way to keep us in a constant state of upset.

Life is more than television news, which makes its money by creating fear, which, like a cliff-hanger, brings viewers back, which in turn attracts advertisers. There is beauty and kindness in this world. It has been here for eons and will still be here when today's upsets are long forgotten. I plan to focus on those, even though they aren't newsworthy. I refuse to let anyone destroy my optimism.



**Trish Catalano:** I chose the word **JOY** because everything has been feeling so heavy. I have been working on trying to understand what exactly joy is. I thought I would find a definition and that would be that, instead I found something much more complicated. I am now trying to figure out what brings me joy, yes beyond Mickey Mouse so that I can include more of those things in my life to help offset all of the heavy things in life.

**Donna Spurlin:** My word is **reconstruction**. I've started reconstruction with a cancer free life diagnosis from our Lord. A new direction in life after 73+ years with my move to CA from IL. New reconstructed life as a widow of 2 years after just shy of 46 years as a wife because life hadn't settled since his death when I got my cancer diagnosis. With many, many setbacks I'm finally in my new place so reconstructing & rebuilding what a good "new" friend said, "my new nest."



# Lessons From Our Sunday School Children

By Megan Richardson, Sunday School Teacher



Our theme for the new year is “WONDER-fully MADE” by centering wonder as a sacred way of knowing and growing in faith.

The mantra for January was “Wonder, Ask, Seek: God is with me!” We discussed what strikes wonder in us and it’s okay to question. We decorated Wonder Boxes then explored the church courtyard looking for items that brought us wonder or awe.

February’s mantra was “I am the image of God. I am here for love!” We are made to give and receive love, so we made valentines to share our love with someone we care about.



We also discussed that animals were deemed “good” by God and therefore deserve our protection and love. We made animal blessing cards using Milagro charms (Spanish for miracle) and added to our mural tree.

## Mission Committee News

By Cathy Coates, Mission Team Co-Chair

- The Share the Bounty Wednesday Night dinners have served over 1600 hungry people thus far.
- Susan Armstrong says that another round of letter writing to legislators will occur in the Spring.
- We are delighted that Rachel Dibb has joined the Missions Committee.
- We hope to take part in UMCOR's emergency hygiene kit program this year. John and Cathy found the guidelines (they are very strict) for sending kits of emergency supplies to United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) our denomination's emergency response organization.
- April 19-26 is Library Week. As we did last year, we plan to honor our local library staff with gifts of all kinds of treats. Be on the lookout for information on what to bring and when.

## Sharing the Bounty

By Nancy Domnauer, Mission Team



Our Sharing the Bounty program is part of a group of Morgan Hill churches that provide meals for local people in need. Please explore the newly launched website which describes the programs in town, <https://feedingmorganhill.org/>.

Since April 2025, the Sharing the Bounty dinner program at Morgan Hill United Methodist Church has served over 1,600 meals. We are especially grateful to work in collaboration with Loaves and Fishes Family Kitchen of San Jose as they cook and deliver the meals. The Missions Team would like to thank everyone who has volunteered and supported this ministry.

We encourage you to volunteer for a 2-hour shift on any Wednesday in the coming weeks. If you would like to volunteer or donate snacks, please email Nancy Domnauer at: [bonjour2nancy@gmail.com](mailto:bonjour2nancy@gmail.com) or telephone the church office at (669) 888-3880.

Each week, Morgan Hill families and children receive free, warm, nutritious dinners that bring sustenance and comfort. The meals are a way to show love and support for our neighbors in town.

If you can't physically volunteer but would like to make a financial donation please send your gift to the church office or place it in the offering plate on Sunday. You're also welcome to donate pre-packaged snacks (such as chips, nuts or similar).

Thank you everyone!



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



# Trustees Update

By Darcy Foster, Trustees Chair

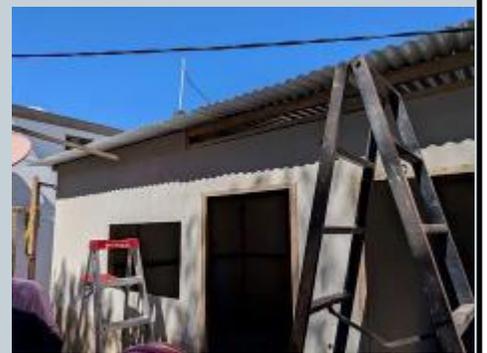


We recently did repairs to some pipes to correct a water leak. Superior Plumbing did a fantastic job! Here are some pictures of their work.



Ted Block, former MHUMC member, joined a work project in Guatemala last month. Through the organization Common Hope, they built a home in Antigua. He wrote that it was an amazing experience and he learned so much. He had the opportunity to meet families who had been previously supported and found

that to be incredible. They also had a chance to hike overnight in the mountains near the active volcano Acatenango. He sent photos and I'm sharing a few here. Ted sent greetings to Pastor Linda and all the congregation!



# Upcoming Community Events



## Machado Heritage Society Spring Craft Fair

(March 14-15)  
Local Artisan Crafts



## Poppy Jasper International Film Festival

(April 8-15)  
Visit Morgan Hill



## Downtown Wine & Art Stroll

(April 25)  
Visit Morgan Hill



**Tickets available for High School Musical!**

Teen show runs through March 14. Don't miss it!  
<https://www.svct.org/>

**NextGen**

**FEATURING**  
the winner of the 17<sup>th</sup> Navaroli Young Musician Competition  
**SORA CORRO**  
performing Grieg's Piano Concerto in A Minor

**Also including performances of**  
John Rutter's *Gloria*  
Jean Sibelius' *Finlandia*  
Vaughan Williams' *Serenade to Music*

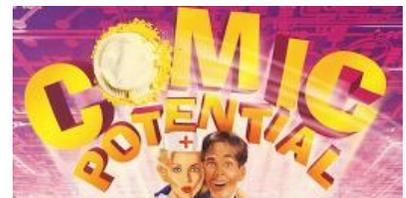
March 14, 2026 @ 3pm  
Gilroy High School Student Center

Tickets available now!  
<https://southbaysingers.org/attend>

Visit:  
<https://southbaysingers.org/attend>  
Or

Scan the QR Code!

Join us on Saturday, March 14, 2026 at 3:00 pm at Gilroy High School Student Center  
<https://southbaysingers.org/attend>



**Up next: Comic Potential**  
Opening April 24th  
<https://www.svct.org/>

# Upcoming Birthdays



- March 5 Edith Ohene-Nyako
- March 13 David Tuttle
- March 19 Bill Tindall
- March 24 Jonathan Kroboth



- April 4 Tim Richardson
- April 9 Sophia Odneal
- April 19 Marilyn Pifer

See all holidays and special days at [nationaltoday.com/](http://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)

