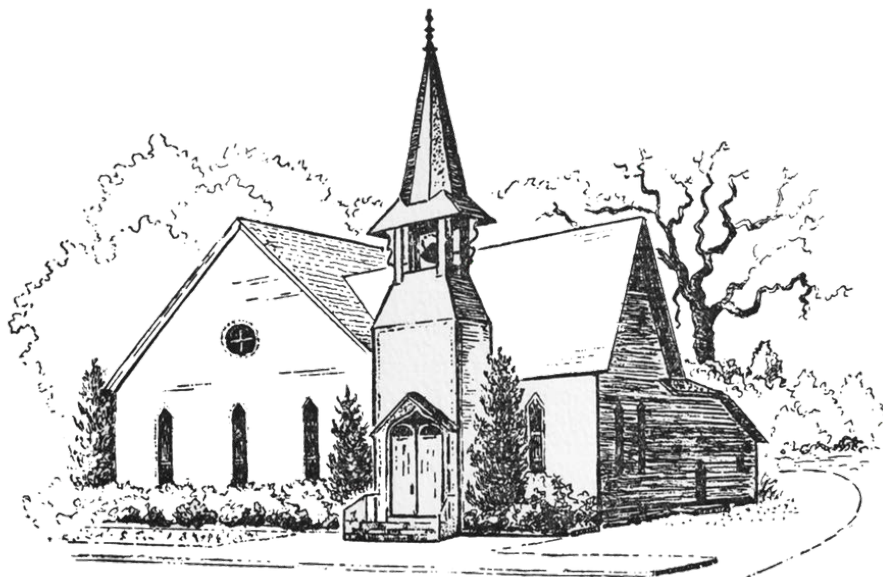




GOOD NEWS

**Worship Fully. Love Boldly.
Welcome All.**

The Newsletter of Morgan Hill United Methodist Church



NOURISHING OUR SOULS

Radical Self Care

By Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook

A few months ago, we (Haley and Linda) started offering some radical self-care tools to assist everyone in navigating for “such a time as this.” Almost all of us (or maybe all of us) have experienced personal losses and injuries. In addition to our individual problems and trauma, our country has faced numerous challenges.

Radical Self Care is nurturing your inner being, connecting to community and God and Jesus, and learning what practices can provide you with assistance in remaining your peace and love in spite of all the challenges.

Dr. Aviva Romm says “Radical self-care is the practice built on the fundamental beliefs that you belong on this planet, that you are a precious resource, that you have the right to health and peace of mind, and that the whole world is better for you having it.”

Radical Self Care reclaims us for sacredness, ties us to community and God and Jesus, and liberates us from old weary patterns to find new paths for transformation.

See page 10 for details of September and October self-care practices.

Continued on page 11

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Prose.....2

Quilt Show.....5

Youth & Young
Generations.....7

Stewardship 2026.....9

Self-Care Events.....10

Leadership Team.....11

Book of Hebrews.....12

Carol Swartz
Memorial.....13

Birthdays.....13

Church Events.....14

Church Vandals.....16

PASTOR'S PROSE

Overview of the Bible

By Rev. Dr. Linda A. Holbrook



Haley Feuerbacher and I were talking a couple of weeks ago. She told me that in the children's Sunday School class they were beginning a study of the Bible, how to understand the Bible, and the books within the Bible. This is to help our children become Biblical literate. I decided that I would use my pastor's prose to give the adults an overview of the Bible just in case the children ask a question.

Now you may already know everything that I write here, and if so, that is good. You might learn something in this article and that is ok too. And if this article causes you to have some questions, please pass those along to me.

The Bible is our sacred text. I have a great love and respect for this book that gives us guidance on how we should live. There is great truth in the Bible, but that doesn't mean that everything in the Bible is factually true. The entirety of the Bible is about the nature of God and the relationship of God with human beings.

The structure of the Bible consists of two parts; the Old Testament or the Hebrew Scriptures, and the New Testament.

The Old Testament is made up of several parts. First is the Torah. The Torah or Pentateuch is the first five books of the Bible. That means the books of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

The second part of the Old Testament is the prophets. The prophets include Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, Hosea, and many others. One of the difficult parts of the Old Testament is that the books of the prophets are not all together and they are not chronological. For example, Amos is the first prophet to have a book named after him, yet his book is not the first book of the prophets.

The third part of the Old Testament is the writings. The writings include the Psalms, Proverbs, and Job. The writings also

Continued on Page 3

STAY CONNECTED

September & October at a glance

STUDIO/STUDIO:INSPIRE

RENEW | CREATE | GROW

- Wednesdays 5-7:30 pm
- Second Sundays 5-7:30pm

RADICAL SELF -CARE

RECLAIM SACREDNESS

- Taize Service - Sept. 23 - 7pm
- Japanese Tea Service - Oct.TBD

COMING UP

- Quilt Show - Oct. 24-25
- Worship Time Change Oct. 25 9:30am
- Stewardship Sermons Begin Oct. 25
- Stewardship Commitment Nov. 8



PASTOR'S PROSE - Continued

include the books that were read at festivals such as Song of Solomon, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Esther, and Lamentations. And the writings include the historical books of Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Chronicles, and Kings.

The New Testament is also composed of several parts. The New Testament begins with the gospels (the good news); Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Next comes the Book of Acts of the Apostles. The book of Acts is the story of the early church. The author of the Gospel of Luke is also the author of the Acts of the Apostles. Then comes the Letters of Paul. The letters of Paul begin with Romans and end with the letter to Philemon. The letters to the churches are ordered in terms of length, with the letters to individuals last. The final part of the New Testament is the general letters and Revelation.



A question that you might be asking is why these books and not others.

Our Scripture is called a Canon. The word canon means rule. Canon means the accepted books of the Bible. The Bible came together when various groups of authorities decided what was included. They had criteria for what to include.

The Old Testament is thought to have been brought together in three parts. The first part that was included in the Canon was the Torah, included about 400 BCE.

Next came the Prophets. They were included about 200 BCE. Finally, the writings were included about 100 BCE. The New Testament was brought together by Bishops in the church. As early as 367 AD Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, gave a list of exactly the same books as what would become the New Testament canon. This was later confirmed by various councils of Bishops.

The various councils established criteria to be included in the book in the New Testament.

HOW BOOKS WERE INCLUDED

- The book had to have apostolic authority.
- The book had to be written by an apostle or by an associate of the apostles.
- The book also had to have been accepted and in use by the church at large.

There are differences between the Jewish and Christian canons, and between the canons of different Christian denominations. The differences between the Hebrew Bible and the Protestant Old Testament are minor, dealing only with the arrangement and number of the books. For example, while the Hebrew Bible considers Kings to be a unified text, the Protestant Old Testament divides it into two books. Similarly, Ezra and Nehemiah are considered to be one book in the Hebrew Bible.

Continued on Page 4



PASTOR'S PROSE - Continued

One of the differences in some of the Christian traditions is what is called the Intertestament books. They are called the Apocrypha or the Deuterocanon. Many of these books are included in the Romans Catholic Bible.

THESE INCLUDE

- Tobit
- Judith
- 1 Maccabees
- 2 Maccabees
- Wisdom (of Solomon)
- Ben Sira
- Baruch, includes Letter of Jeremiah (Additions to Jeremiah)
- Additions to Daniel
- Additions to Esther

INCLUDED BY OTHERS

- 1 Esdras (see Esdras for other names)
- 3 Maccabees
- 4 Maccabees (in appendix but not canonical)
- Prayer of Manasseh
- Psalm 151

Two other things that are important to understanding of the Bible are translations and the concepts of literalism and inerrancy. First, there are many translations of the Bible. Some translations are completed by committee. When a committee translates the Bible, they get together and discuss and argue over the words and phrases. Some translations are completed by one person. When one person translates, that person decides what words

and phrases to use. The seminary I attended and many seminaries use the New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. It is a committee translation.

Some people use the terms literalism which means to take the Bible literally at face value and inerrancy meaning containing that the Bible contains no errors. United Methodists believe the Bible was inspired by God, and some of the verses are to be taken symbolically or metaphorically instead of literally. Also, since parts of the Bible were copied by hand long before typewriters or computers, individuals likely made mistakes when copying text.

In addition, there are so many writers of parts of the Bible that there are discrepancies about the same situation. The writers were of different times and were writing to different audiences. Our task in reading and understanding the Bible is to take into account the context of the text we are reading and who the text was written to.



John Wesley said the Bible is twice inspired; once by God when written and second, when a person reads the text. So, let the Bible hold a place in our hearts and let us continue to learn from the complexity of the Bible.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

A special weekend you won't want to miss!

A vertical poster for a quilt show. The background is a light cream color with a subtle, large-scale quilt pattern. At the top, the words "PIECE BY PIECE" are arched over a circular logo containing a square quilt block design in blue, red, and cream. Below the logo, the text "QUILTERS OF MORGAN HILL" is centered, followed by the tagline "FROM PATCHWORK TO COMMUNITY". The year "2026" is prominently displayed in a large, bold, red serif font, flanked by horizontal lines with diamond-shaped ends. Below the year, the words "QUILT SHOW" are written in a very large, bold, blue serif font. A wide, red ribbon banner with a folded end on the left contains the text "OCTOBER 24 & 25, 2026" in white, with "11 AM - 5 PM" in a smaller white font below it. Underneath the banner, the venue information "MORGAN HILL METHODIST CHURCH", "17175 MONTEREY ST", and "MORGAN HILL, CA 95037" is listed in a blue serif font. A dashed horizontal line precedes the text "Part of the" in a small italicized font, followed by "MORGAN HILL OPEN STUDIOS" in a bold red serif font. Below this, a small blue four-pointed star icon is centered between two horizontal lines. The words "FREE ADMISSION" are written in a large, bold, red serif font. At the very bottom, there is a horizontal strip featuring a row of various quilt block patterns in blue, red, and cream.

Questions?
Contact Haley at
feuerbacherh@gmail.com

Fall 2026 AT STUDIO

SEPTEMBER

Creating Home

Where do you feel safe enough to be brave?

SEPT. 9 **KINDLE - STUDIO LAUNCH: FORT NIGHT!**
Build blanket forts - Play Fortnite-inspired games - Create community commitments
What makes somewhere feel like home?

SEPT. 16 **CREATE - MINI WORLDS**
Expressive arts workshop on miniaturism + making dioramas

SEPT. 23 **FLOW - OPEN DOORS**
Create an identity-affirming public art display for Morgan Hill

SEPT. 30 **BREATHE - HOME WITHIN**
Mental Health Workshop to learn to create a safe home inside yourself with identity-affirming self-portraits

OCTOBER

Fear & Courage

What is fear trying to tell us - and what becomes possible when we get brave?

OCT. 7 **CREATE - MASK-MAKING WORKSHOP**

OCT. 14 **FLOW - SOCIAL JUSTICE NIGHT**

OCT. 21 **BREATHE - IMAGINE BRAVE**

OCT. 28 **KINDLE - HALLOWEEN PARTY!**

WEDNESDAYS
5-7:30PM
Open Studio 5-6
Programming 6-7:30pm

SECOND SUNDAYS
STUDIO: INSPIRE
5-8:30PM

ALL IDENTITIES ARE WELCOME. WANTED, NEEDED, AND CELEBRATED HERE!
Bring your questions, your story, your gifts, your dreams, your whole self.

MORGAN HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 17175 MONTEREY RD., MORGAN HILL

Studio Launches Wednesday, September 9th!

A New Place for Youth & Emerging Adults is Coming Alive: Beginning Wednesday, September 9, Studio Youth Collective will become a weekly gathering for youth and emerging adults - a trauma-responsive, queer-affirming sacred space where young people can practice the brave and messy art of coming alive together and changing the story of trauma for their world.

Over the past several months, Studio Youth Collective has been quietly taking shape at Morgan Hill UMC. We've experimented, gathered, listened, created, and dreamed about what young people in the South County area want and need. And this fall, that vision becomes a regular reality!

Studio is more than a traditional youth group. It's part community, part creative studio, part spiritual laboratory, and part place to exhale. Like any good studio, it's a space to practice, connect, create, play, rest, ask brave questions, explore faith, care for one another, make meaningful change, and be sacredly and bravely messy in the process!

Wednesday nights begin with Open Studio from 5:00–6:00pm, an informal drop-in hour to hang out, eat or serve a meal with Sharing the Bounty, study, chat, create freely in our maker space, jam to music, or simply be. From 6:00–7:30pm, we'll move through four weekly rhythms:

- **KINDLE:** Events for play, adventure, and connection
- **CREATE:** Creative and expressive arts workshops with guest artists and facilitators
- **FLOW:** Evenings focused on social justice, with conversation, ideation, and action for community care, change, and advocacy
- **BREATHE:** Conversations and workshops on mental health, wellbeing, identity, and meaning-making

Each month, those rhythms will help us explore one big question together. In September, Creating Home asks, Where do you feel safe enough to be brave? In October, Fear & Courage asks, What is fear trying to tell us, and what becomes possible when we get brave? Check out our calendar for more details on the schedule and lineup!

Studio welcomes middle schoolers through emerging adults/college students of all religious, spiritual, questioning, and secular identities. Young people do not need to attend Morgan Hill UMC - or any church - to belong here.



STUDIO:INSPIRE

*A Young People's Ministry for Creating
Faith Outside the Lines Begins
Sunday September 13th!*

This fall, we're also introducing Studio: Inspire, gathering on second Sundays from 5:00–6:30pm, beginning on September 13! This is our space for Faith Outside the Lines - a queer-affirming, trauma-responsive, justice-hearted ministry for spiritual seekers and progressive Christ-followers who want room to question, deconstruct, reclaim, reimagine, and rediscover a wild, liberating, alive faith that changes everything!

This isn't a place for answers. It's a place for questions.

LESS "here's what to believe." More "let's wonder together."

LESS glossing over the hard stuff. More courageous truth-telling.

LESS shame. More liberation.

LESS "fitting in." More sacredly wild.

LESS talking about faith. More living it.

LESS "believing the same things." More following the most loving things.

We'll play, create, explore the Bible and other sacred texts, get outside, worship, practice, question, laugh, move, and discover a faith that breathes us into life so we can breathe life into the world.

*That's what it means to be inspired...
to be in-Spirited.*

So think about the young people in your life: the artist, the activist, the gamer, the athlete, the question-asker, the young person who loves church, the one who isn't sure what they believe anymore, and the one who simply needs somewhere they can show up as their whole self.

*Tell them about Studio.
There is room for them here.*

Come alive. Be the glimmer. Change the story.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



July Mantra - "God is Worthy, I am Worthy,
You Are Worthy. This is Worship"

We explored what worship is and why people worship.

- Discovered that worship shapes the worshiper by directing our attention toward what is life-giving.
- Experienced different ways of worshiping through art, music, movement, prayer, nature and silence.
- Practiced noticing the sacred worth of ourselves, other people and creation.
- Discovered that serving others, acting for justice and removing barriers to belonging can also be an act of worship.



The kids made figures to represent themselves and their sacred worth. Then, we added what we also observed about them.



August Mantra - "The Bible is a Library of
God's Love and God's People"

We explored the Bible as an ancient and diverse library whose poems, stories, letters, histories and parables communicate truth in different ways.

- Distinguished factual, historical, poetic, symbolic, moral and experiential truth.
- Compared Gospel accounts of the same parable with conflicting details.
- Evaluated interpretations by their impact on humanity.
- Responded to scripture through curiosity, creativity and careful listening.



The kids made Tiny Suitcase Libraries to help them remember who they are, who God is and how sacred their world and neighbors are.

After a lesson using critical thinking with the method of Then-Text-Now, the kids read two different texts of The Lost Sheep parable and how it applied to their lives today. They made miniature dioramas to depict the parable.

Welcome to Our Two New Young Generations Staff Members

Anna Baker-Olson

Anna Baker-Olson (she/her) is our new Young Generations Ministry Associate who will be facilitating Sunday School for all children and youth. In addition to her role with us, Anna is also an instructor and Ph.D. student in Social Psychology at University of California Santa Cruz.

Alex Villanueva

Alex Villanueva (they/them) will be serving as our Studio Youth Collective Associate Curator, working with youth and emerging adults on Wednesday evenings for our new program! In addition to their work with us, Alex is earning their graduate degree at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

Please help us in welcoming these two excellent new staff members to our community!



We are thrilled to announce the our new sign at Morgan Hill United Methodist Church, a proud participant in the Morgan Hill History Trail!

This exciting addition not only highlights our church's rich history but also invites you to embark on a journey through time and community. With the inclusion of a QR code, you can easily access fascinating insights about our church's legacy and its pivotal role in shaping the local landscape.

STEWARDSHIP 2026



Each fall we take time to examine stewardship; what stewardship means and how we can support Morgan Hill UMC through our stewardship. This year our stewardship sermons begin on October 25th and our commitment Sunday will be November 8th.

Our theme this year is Faithful, Hopeful, and Loving. We are called to be faithful in the midst of our everyday lives and to grow in our faith through study, being a part of a community, and through our inner spiritual lives. We are called to be hopeful, always remembering that Christ gives us hope that even in the darkness, there is light. And we are called to be Loving with everyone we meet. Christ calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves, and this love is lived out in our actions.



As we prepare to reflect on our own stewardship, be thinking about how you are doing with your faith, your hope, and your love.



SUMMER SELF-CARE EVENTS AT MHUMC

July Yoga



Members and friends gathered outdoors at MHUMC for an evening of yoga as part of our Self-Care Series--a chance to slow down, breathe, move and enjoy time together.

August Sound Bath



An evening with members and friends gathering to enjoy a sound bath meditative experience in which sound vibrations guide our bodies, minds, and spirits to release, reset, and rejuvenate.

FALL SELF-CARE EVENTS AT MHUMC

Taizé Service

Wednesday, September 23 at 7 pm.



Taizé worship is named for the small village in Burgundy, France. The monastic community created a style of worship that is known for repetitive prayer set to simple musical lines and also known for silence.

The duration of repetitive songs during prayer is not to be timed nor the number of repetitions calculated beforehand. The assembly is to immerse itself in the simple but profound harmonies and let itself be carried by this sung prayer.

Silence gives time for individuals to reflect on the music, their own lives, and other things they are feeling.

Ceremonial Japanese Tea Service

October Date TBD



A Japanese tea service, known as chadō or chanoyu (“the way of tea”), is a mindful ritual for preparing and serving powdered green tea (matcha). Rooted in Zen Buddhism, the practice highlights grace, nature, and deep care between the host and guests.

The Core Principles include creating a balance between the people, the tools, and the natural season, treating each guest and object with dignity, cleaning both the physical tools and the inner mind, and finding the calm peace that comes for the ceremony.

OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Providing visionary leadership and faithful oversight, ensuring our ministries and mission continue to grow in love and service.

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 Editors, Denise Melroy, Bettie Anderson
 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

The Leadership Team meets the second Sunday each month after Worship. All are invited to attend!



THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

I am introducing a new regular article in each newsletter; a brief review of one of the books of the Bible. This time I am writing about the book of Hebrews in the New Testament. If you have a suggestion of a book, please reach out to me and let me know. And if you have questions on the book of Hebrews after reading this, please let me know.

Hebrews is one of the most impressive works in the New Testament, and at the same time one of the books where little is known about the author or the audience. We only occasionally hear any verses from the book of Hebrews; maybe some verses from Hebrews on All Saints Sunday.

Hebrews has what is called a high Christology, meaning Christ is better than the Jewish system. Jesus Christ is higher than angels, prophets, Moses, and the old high priests.

Christ is the reflection of God's glory. He is the exact image of God and rules over all. Jesus is a priest higher than all previous priests. As a high priest, Jesus knows human pain and temptation because he lived as a human.

That makes Jesus a sympathetic High Priest. And people can now approach God with confidence through Jesus.

Another way that Jesus changes the old system is through the ritual of sacrifice.

The old animal sacrifices in the temple had to be repeated over and over. Jesus gave His own life just one time to take away sin forever.

One of the chapters that is familiar is Chapter 11.

This chapter begins with reminding us that faith is believing even when things are not seen.

This chapter lists Old Testament heroes like Abraham, Moses, and Rahab who trusted God through hard trials without seeing the final outcome.

Chapter 12 might also sound familiar with the phrase "a great cloud of witnesses." We might hear these words on All Saints Sunday. This chapter also reminds us to run the race before us with perseverance.

The author of Hebrews is unknown. Around the second century some wanted to attribute this book to Paul. (You may remember we mentioned that one of the criteria of a book to be included in the New Testament was written by an apostle or an associate of an apostle.) Later scholarship decided that Hebrews was not written by Paul because of the style of the language in the book and also because of some of the content. (For example, the Book of Hebrews frequently refers to Jesus as the high priest and that role for Christ appears nowhere in Paul's writings.)

The audience of Hebrews is also unknown. Many of the situations addressed in this book could have come from almost any Christian community. However, one of the communities that had the first knowledge of this book were the Roman Christians. So, it is possible that the community addressed here is from Rome.

Likewise, the time of writing is unknown. It is likely written between 60 and 80 AD.

CAROL SWARTZ MEMORIAL PRAYER AREA

Our memorial bricks find their permanent home



The engraved bricks purchased during our Painting the Church campaign are now being incorporated into the Carol Swartz Memorial Prayer Areas. From the beginning, the vision was for these bricks--filled with dedications, memories, blessings and message of love--to become part of a special place for prayer and reflection on our church grounds. The brick pathway now leads into the memorial area, where the butterfly bench provides a quiet place to sit, remember, pray and reflect.

CELEBRATING OUR CHURCH FAMILY

September

- 13 Sophia Grace Mattia
- 16 Jeff Sage
- 17 Cole Clayton
- 19 Matthew Hendrickson
- 24 Theresa Sage

September & October Birthdays

- 25 Mary Ringo
- 25 Naomi Saffell
- 27 Darcy Foster
- 29 Betty Lewis

October

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



Happy Birthday!
Wishing you a blessed year ahead!

ALL-CHURCH PICNIC

A beautiful day of food, fellowship & fun!



GATHERED IN COMMUNITY

Good Food - Good Friends - Good Memories

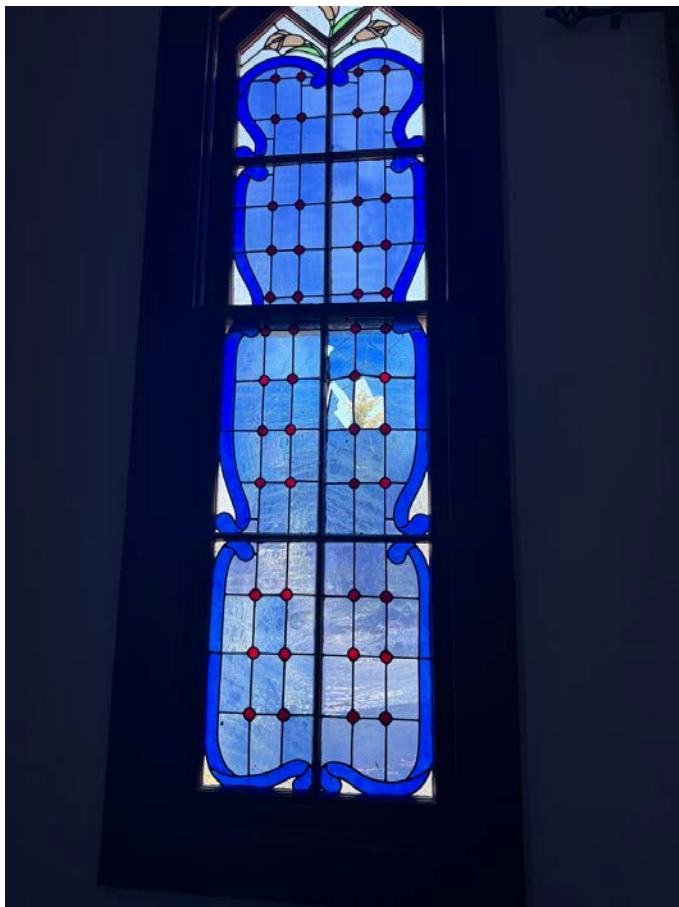
REWILDING TOGETHER

Youth & All-Church Rewilding Days



CARE FOR OUR HISTORIC CHURCH

Recent Vandalism Damages Stained-Glass Window



One of the historic stained-glass windows at MHUMC was recently damaged by vandalism. The photos above show the damage from both inside and outside the church. Information about repairs will be shared as it becomes available.

JOIN US - SUNDAY 10 AM

Worship Fully. Love Boldly. Welcome All.

Morgan Hill United Methodist Church www.mhumc.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

