

The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo

United Church of Christ

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Screening of "In Plain Sight" anti-human-trafficking film on Jan. 11. See full story on p. 5

A Word from Penny

Dear CCSM, I can hardly believe that it's time to write about Lent already. I have very much enjoyed our series on *Testify to Love* as we've discussed the justice issues that impact all of us.

During Lent, which begins February 18 with Ash Wednesday, we will turn again and look at different tables we sit at in our lives.

On a personal note, I have enjoyed almost eight years of sharing fellowship at tables with you. I am humbled and honored by the congregational vote on January 25 in support of my family moving down to San Mateo.

Here's how Annlee put it: *With grateful heart I say "Thank you, CCSM" for your continuous generosity and support of our family. From the first warm welcome nearly eight years ago to Sunday's vote to start a pastor housing endowment, you have embraced Penny, Mercy and me and made us feel at home. Now we will be able to make our house-home in San Mateo. I am excited at the prospect of living in San Mateo County.*

I join in my thanks to you. I feel so blessed to be part of this special congregation. Every year it seems to get better and better.

Penny



Epiphany 2015: Testify to Love

Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public. —Cornel West

2/8: **Searching for Love.** Mark 1:32-39

2/15: **Love is More Powerful than Fear.** Mark 9:2-9

LENT 2015 • Room at the Table



ASH WEDNESDAY • February 18, 7 pm

Setting the table, preparing your heart.

LENT 1: Sunday, February 22 • *The Table of Rest: What would it be like to stop?* Penny Nixon

LENT 2: Sunday, March 1 • *The Table of Grace; family worship.* Penny Nixon

LENT 3: Sunday, March 8 • *The Upside-down Table: Things are not as they appear* • Penny Nixon

LENT 4: Sunday, March 15 • *The Table of Joy: Drink to Life!* Penny Nixon

LENT 5: Sunday, March 22 • *The Table of Forgiveness: Forgive yourself first* • Laura Barnes. ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING Offering.

PALM/PASSION SUNDAY March 29 • *The Table of Memories: Endings and beginnings* • Jorge Perry Bautista

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE • April 2, 7 pm

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE • April 3, 7 pm, College Heights UCC

EASTER: Sunday, April 5 • *EASTER: THE RESURRECTION TABLE!*

Children, Youth and Families



Godly Play Stories for February

We continue our exploration of the great parables and teachings of Jesus this month. In your Parents Pages (which the doorkeeper will hand you when you pick up your child), you will have a description of the parable and some open ended questions you can ask your child about the story for the day.

February 1 The Parable of the Good Samaritan

February 8 The Parable of the Mustard Seed

February 15 The Parable of the Great Pearl

February 22 The Parable of the Good Shepherd

March 1 Family Worship, with our 2nd-3rd graders leading our service that day

Parents: please pick your child up from their Godly Play classrooms at 11:45am, which will give them time to hear the story, engage in their chosen art response, and have time for prayer and the closing feast. We ask that you do not interrupt the classroom if you need to pick your child up early, but to please touch base with the doorkeeper when you arrive and let them invite your child to join you in the hallway. *Thank you for supporting Godly Play!*

Godly Play Best Practices Day

Saturday, February 21 at CCSM, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

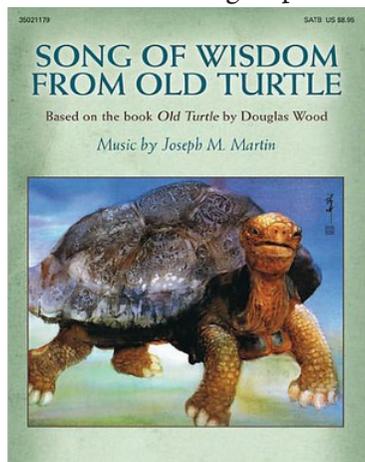
Hosted by Rev. Dr. Laura Barnes (510 388 1111)

We invite you to join experienced Godly Play practitioners for this annual gathering facilitated by **Di Pagel**, Godly Play Foundation trainer, to explore best practices. This is a time to experience Godly Play as a community, and share resources and challenges with other leaders. If you plan to attend, simply register by email with Pastor Laura at lbarnes@ccsm-ucc.org. **Registration closes Tuesday, February 17.** Thank you!

Didgeridoos in Church? Only at CCSM...

CASTING CALL! Anyone who is interested in being a part of our inter-generational musical, *Song of Wisdom From Old Turtle* (performances on **May 3**) please join Carl Pantle and Julie Berk after worship on **Sunday, February 8**. We'll read the musical score with the Chancel and Joyful Noise Choirs together with the narration to see what parts are best for those who want to participate. Children and youth grades 5-12 are encouraged to come! Here is a short Youtube video of this wonderful music!

[youtube.com/watch?v=mLHNtvtHrYY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLHNtvtHrYY)



"God has no hands but our hands, no feet but our feet, no face but our face."

Summer Camps are HERE!!!

This summer we will be hosting TWO camps here at CCSM:

Community Camp (for our neighbors), **July 13-17**. This camp will be offered to the children in our neighborhood and our Mid High and Senior High youth will be involved in leadership and service that week.

Peace Village (for CCSM, Peninsula Temple Beth El and Muslim Garden School friends), **July 27-31**. This camp is for campers in grades 3-8 (entering Fall of 2015) and for Senior High youth leaders.

More on both of these camps in the next issue of the Pine Tree—this is a **SAVE THE DATE** announcement!

The children and youth of CCSM are invited to join us again this summer for our wonderful **NCNC Summer Camping Program** up at Camp Cazadero. For more information on the camp itself, please go to: facebook.com/CampCazaderoUCC. To register your child, please go to the conference website at: ncncucc.org/outdoor-ministries/

- **Annual Gathering Youth Program, June 11-14**, at Sonoma State University (grades 7 to 12)
- **Adult Spiritual Retreat, June 12-14** at Cazadero (age 18 and up)
- **Cazadero You & Me Camp, July 10-12** (grades K to 3 with adult companion)
- **Cazadero Sr. High Camp, July 12-18**, (grades 9 to 12)
- **Cazadero Counselor in Training Camp, July 19-25**, (grade 12 or HS graduate)
- **Cazadero Junior Camp, July 19-25** (grades 3 to 6)
- **Cazadero Jr. High Camp, July 26-Aug 1**, (grades 6 to 9)

Penny is going to Israel!

I am so excited to have been invited by the Jewish Community Relations Council, in cooperation with the Jewish Community Federation, to join a group of distinguished elected officials and community leaders from the San Francisco Bay Area on an in-depth study tour of Israel this coming **March 19 – March 29, 2015**.

Although this takes place during the last two Sundays of Lent, the Board of Ministries encouraged me to go.

Here's some information about the organization in their own words: "The JCRC represents more than 70 Jewish organizations and synagogues in public affairs and community relations matters. We care deeply about maintaining a strong relationship between Israel and the United States, and strongly support efforts that will bring about a lasting, just peace, and security for Israelis and Palestinians. While we have a point of view, we believe that the most effective study tour exposes participants to a full picture of Israeli society, from left to right, religious to secular, Jewish, Arab, Muslim, and Christian. You will be informed by the realities experienced by Israel's diverse citizenry, on the ground, and experience Israel beyond the media headlines."



Jorge and his mom preparing the feast for Las Posadas

Youth Service Trip to Costa Rica

The youth of CCSM thank everyone who supported us by participating in our envelope



project. We have raised over \$2000 towards our goal of \$10,000. There are eight Senior High youth and two adults (plus Pastor Laura) who are hoping to go on this trip in June.

We will be working with two local agencies: Hogar Belen (Bethlehem House for young mothers and their children) and Hogar Un Buen Samaritano (House of the Good Samaritan for men with HIV/AIDS). We will be hosted by Ruta Verde (The Green Way), a local family-owned firm that specializes in youth tours and environmental awareness education. We will visit a local coffee farm, Doka Estates, to learn about coffee agriculture and production, along with the importance of fair wage payments. We will also tour the Arenal Volcano National Park where we will learn all about the critical need for us to all care for our rainforests due to the fragile nature of the world's ecosystems.

Our next fundraiser will be on Sunday evening, March 15 at 5pm. We will host a Costa Rican meal and offer many intriguing auction items such as group sewing lessons, salsa dance lessons and valuable parking spots here at CCSM. Make plans to join us! Thank you for your ongoing support of our youth programs!

How the Jewish Community Creates a Values-Based Advocacy Agenda

A workshop by Abby Porth

Sunday, February 8, 11:45 am-12:45 pm, Fireplace Room

There is an old adage that with two Jews there are three opinions. The Bay Area Jewish community defies this stereotypical phenomenon, and through civil discourse within the diverse Jewish community, develops consensus positions and a unified advocacy strategy on the most important social justice and Jewish security issues of the day. It is compelled to do this work through the spiritual wisdom of our tradition, such as "darchei shalom," or pursuing paths to peace with our neighbors, "b'tselem Elohim," or the understanding that we are all created by the spark and in the image of the Divine, and "lo ta'amod al dam reycha," or the imperative to not stand idly by. The Jewish community interprets these imperatives through its work – from confronting poverty to advocating for comprehensive immigration reform, from service projects to compassionately administer to the homeless to interfaith/cross-cultural education about Israel. Join us in hearing about this approach, including some case studies in how the local Jewish community has developed consensus around issues in which there are divergent views within the community.



ABBY MICHELSON PORTH is the Associate Executive Director of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC). Her work encompasses the organization's external affairs. In 2010, Abby pioneered the JCRC's "Year of Civil Discourse Initiative," which provided skills training and programming aimed at elevating and making more meaningful intra-community discussions about controversial issues. That program, which touched over 1,000 Jewish clergy, community leaders, and members has now been replicated in Jewish communities around the country.

HIT THE ROAD!

You have been so generous in helping raise funds for various community projects, we thought you might like to meet the people you help.

- **Any Wednesday, 9:30am**, do a ride-along with a Peninsula Food Runner.
- **Thursday, February 12**, meet farm workers in Pescadero at Puente, the community service center for the South SMCnty coast. Carpools will leave about 2:00pm. (Note: This trip is now FULL.)
- Tour the county's recycling center and watch all the amazing machinery on **Thursday, February 19, at 9:30am** at Shoreway Environment Center, 333 Shoreway Road, San Carlos (or the church parking lot at 9am). See the Greening of CCSM at work.
- **Sunday, February 22**, visit the InnVision Shelter Network (IVSN) local shelters. Our own Lynnelle Bilsey, staff at IVSN, will guide us to several shelters, including First Step for Families, The Vendome, Maple Street, and Haven House, leaving the CCSM parking lot entrance by carpool at 12:15 and returning by about 3:30. Thank you, Lynnelle, for this special "Encounter" opportunity! See, learn, and understand.
- Also **February 22 (and other fourth Sundays)**, worship and deliver lunches at the Open Cathedral (SF Night Ministry) in San Francisco. Carpools leave our parking lot about 1:00PM (or traveling by BART).
- Hit the road and join the team learning about border issues in Tijuana, **April 17-21**.

For more information or to save you a spot, please email msj@ccsm-ucc.org. All ages welcome.

MSJ



Ministry of Service & Justice

Supporting Refugee & Immigrant Youth in our Community

The Refugee Foster Care program places unaccompanied refugee and immigrant minors, who have been separated from their families because of war, persecution and/or trafficking, into loving foster homes. In the Bay Area, these youth are placed into foster homes by Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County. These newly arrived youth are generally in the 15-17 year age range and attend local public high schools. The greatest need is for foster families willing to welcome a child into their home and family, although there are many other ways to get involved.

For more information, please contact Karen Boncher, Refugee Foster Care Outreach Coordinator at Catholic Charities: 408-325-5202/kboncher@catholiccharitiesscc.org.



WHEELS ARE ROLLING

You might spot the first eleven CCSM bicycles on the streets of San Mateo. The Wheels team carried our donated bikes to the Helds' garage, restored them to safe operational level, lubricated and aligned, cleaned and test drove them, and are now distributing them to those less fortunate than us in the neighborhood.

Tony Gallo reports, "Everyone brought different skills to the garage; we all learned, we worked as a team, and got to know each other better as we served our community. The weather was perfect to boot. Our helping 11 families in the neighborhood is truly the face, hands, and feet of God at work."

Thanks to all of you who donated those bikes for a great cause, to Peter and Gail for loaning us space, Tool Men (Peter Held, Mark Meyers, Tony Brown, Jim Shawl, and Warren Long), Pizza Princess (Kathy Gallo), Chief Washer (Linda Skromme), and the Big Wheel (Tony Gallo) for all their work. And thank you Gary Moore at Talbots Cycles who gave us a great discount on over \$300 worth of parts and Manny Santamaria who helped us find the private donor from the Silicon Valley Community Foundation who gave \$2,000 towards helmets and locks. Let's keep those Wheels rolling! Let the office know or email msj@ccsm-ucc.org if you have a bicycle to donate or are eager to join the Wheels team.

ONE MAN CAN DO A LOT!

An entire van-load of blankets and pillows was donated to InnVision via CCSM. George Snode (the smile in the choir) arranged for Hilton Hotels to ship all that bedding to CCSM; we passed it on to InnVision's shelter network. Thanks to George many previously-homeless families will sleep in comfort tonight.



Human Trafficking

by Tina Carter

For more than two years, a group of clergy and other interested leaders have gathered together in response to the growing awareness that human beings are being commercially and sexually exploited right in our backyard. The group consulted with a panel of experts from local anti-trafficking organizations to become more educated on the issue of modern day slavery. These faith leaders have been compelled to stand with and for the victims of this heinous industry, many of whom are children. In keeping with the value of human dignity inherent in the faiths represented by the faith leader coalition, the leaders share a strong commitment and desire to use their influence to promote a safer, more just San Mateo County by shedding light on the issue of human trafficking through a large community event hosted on January 11th at CCSM.

The event, sponsored by Silicon Valley Community Foundation, featured an eye-opening documentary entitled *In Plain Sight* highlighting six



extraordinary women (and the organizations they lead) who work passionately to care for survivors and stop sex trafficking in the United States.

As a first effort, the gathering was a tremendous success, with over 350 people in attendance. The insightful contribution by those on the program helped set the stage for the documentary, and for the meaningful dialogue that followed. The event culminated with a sobering candlelighting moment as guests transitioned to Kloss Hall for an informative reception featuring twelve local agencies.

To learn how you can make a difference in 10 minutes, 10 days, 10 months, visit baatc.org/take-action.html.

Photos of the In Plain Sight event were taken by Jack Owicki



Lively reception in Kloss Hall



San Mateo County Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Lee speaking at the event

LEARN MORE ABOUT PRAYING AT CHURCH

Prayer Ministry Team Gathering

9:30 - 10:15 a.m., February 15 and 22 (you only need attend one of these two dates) in the Fireplace Room

Join a discussion and brief practice of prayer before service with Dakota Brown and Rev Jerri.

We need your help to grow the Prayer Ministry. We need more people to pray after service with others in our church. Join us; refresh your own prayer practice and lend a hand to others who need an extra kind word. Please come and bring a friend.



Screening the film in the sanctuary



Before we ask your neighbors to vote, consider getting your "too much stuff" to the rummage sale. Hustle, the sale is March 13-14.

RUMMAGE SALE INFO

DONATIONS: We're thankful for all offers, but we cannot take: Exercise equipment + Skis + Stuffed animals + Over-stuffed furniture (like sofas, big chairs). Donations go behind the screens on the Kloss Hall stage, any time the church is open. Tax-deductible receipts are available from office. Last day of donations is March 8.

PICK-UP: Please call Jim Granucci (650-302-9911) and leave him a message with the person's name and phone number (or email).

SORTING happens every Tuesday, 9-4:30 (can email kibbie@kyros.org)

DATES:

Major sorting, **Sunday-Thursday, March 8-12**, all day

Sale for Members, **Thursday, March 12**, 6-8PM

Sale for Community, **Friday, March 13**, 9AM-4PM

Saturday, March 14, 9AM- 2PM

Clean-up, **Saturday, March 14**, 2PM

MORE INFO: kibbie@kyros.org, 580-1797 or Donna Lindsay, RelEduc@sbcglobal.net, 345-8397

San Mateo County Commission on Aging, Adult Abuse Prevention Committee's

Making the Invisible Visible Project

Comes to CCSM

"Could It Happen To You? A Story of Elder Abuse"

Sunday, March 1, 11:45 a.m., Kloss Hall

by Melodie Lew, AAPC Chair

On March 1, after the Sunday service, the San Mateo County Commission on Aging, Adult Abuse Prevention Committee (AAPC) will present its *Making the Invisible Visible* (MIV) Project in Kloss Hall. The MIV Project uses an innovative and powerful approach to promote elder financial and emotional abuse awareness and education in order to prevent elder abuse.

In 2013, AAPC began working with Eyal Rabinovitch, who is a member of the Theatre of the Oppressed, an organization which uses theatre to promote social and political change. Our effort follows a forum theatre format and involves a 30-35 minute skit on elder financial and emotional abuse followed by a 50 minute facilitated interactive dialogue with the audience. The audience is invited to see how they might change the situation just presented to them, and what obstacles might interfere with this. The short play is a real-world composite created by the troupe itself from its members' own experiences.

Eyal Rabinovitch has been our director and highly skilled post-play facilitator. The troupe itself is composed of volunteers with very little or no acting experience and Eyal has developed them and created an exciting and very moving experience for both the troupe and audience. The main protagonist is CCSM's own Lynn Nieberding, while I have assisted with production and stage managing.

This MIV play entitled, "Could It Happen To You? A Story of Elder Abuse," covers elder financial abuse perpetrated by a son on his mother and touches on emotional abuse as well. Humor is used often which helps to lighten the heavy topic

We encourage folks to stay after the service on March 1 and see this valuable awareness raising presentation in Kloss Hall.



From Your Moderator

by Jim Berthelsen

2015 promises to be another exciting year at CCSM. We are truly becoming the Peninsula's Progressive Christianity "hub" as more and more community activities take place in our facility.

The Winter Congregational Meeting was held on Sunday, January 25th. Status updates were provided by Veril Phillips (proposed four-way covenant with Jerri Handy as she prepares to minister at Las Memorias), Doug Henton (over 250 survey responses are being reviewed and summarized by the Organization Design Task Force), and Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon (a new justice initiative in formation at CCSM).

We reviewed 2014 financial results, approved the 2015 operating budget, and established "Ministry of Service and Justice" as the official name for "MSJ". See Jim Lindsay's Stewardship and Budget Update (below) for more details on 2014 and 2015 finances.

With Penny's long-term commitment to CCSM and announcement that she and her family will be moving from the East Bay to San Mateo in 2015, we also approved creation of a "Minister Housing Endowment Fund." We will allocate up to \$400,000 of our endowment to establish this fund to provide current and future ministers with mortgage loan financing towards purchasing a local residence.

SFO will create a "Minister Housing Endowment Lending Policy" document for review and approval by the Board of Ministries before any dollars are lent from the fund. An update on approved policy specifics and any loan disbursements from the fund will be provided to the congregation at the June Annual Meeting.

I am grateful for Penny's long-term commitment to CCSM, the many ways you support this beloved spiritual community including its outreach programs, and the opportunity to serve as your Moderator.

Thank you!

Stewardship & Budget Update

by Jim Lindsay

Thanks to the wonderful generosity of the congregation, 2014 pledge income exceeded the budgeted amount. This additional income, along with a couple other revenue sources that exceeded budget plus a few expense categories that were less than budgeted, resulted in an end of year net income of just over \$11,000. What an amazing accomplishment!

The weekly Ministry of Service and Justice (MSJ) plate collections in 2014 were \$41,285. When combined with Our Church's Wider Mission giving from the budget the total was 8.3% of 2014 revenue. When in-kind giving by the church, such as the Easter boxes, Thanksgiving boxes, Adopt a Family Christmas gifts, the monthly food collections for Call Primrose and the dinners for the Home and Hope guests are added, the total grows to 9.4% of 2014 revenue.

The 2015 budget that was approved at the Congregational Meeting has another record pledge amount of \$568,000, which matches what has already been received in pledge commitments. Total revenue for 2015 is projected to be \$770,312 and total expenses are \$770,253 producing a balanced budget for this year.

Anyone wishing a copy of the final 2014 financial results or the 2015 budget can request one from the church office. Thanks again for making 2014 so successful.



A beautiful view of our sanctuary as a packed house viewed the anti-human trafficking film "In Plain Sight" on January 11. Photo by Jack Owicki.

AN ASSORTMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES AT CCSM

Some Pick A Parties Are Still Open!

Tea with Classical String Accompaniment

Monday, February 16 (a federal holiday) 3:30 - 5:30 pm, Kloss Hall

Enjoy English tea, tea sandwiches, and tea cakes while listening to beautiful classical music performed by talented CCSM musicians including Marge Boyd (cello), Gabby Oberes-Padre (harp), and the Yeh Family Trio (Chris on violin, Caroline on cello, and Maddy on violin and viola). Your servers will be girls from CCSM's very own Girl Scout troop. Guaranteed to be a lovely way to spend a winter afternoon on a three-day weekend. Please consider purchasing extra tickets for your non-CCSM friends. Hosted by Marge Boyd & Jerri Handy, Oberes-Padre Family and Yeh Family. \$15.

Sign up with Carol Henton: carolhenton@aol.com or call the office to reserve a spot: 650-343-3694.

Barn Dancing

Saturday, February 28, 4-6 pm, Kloss Hall

Join hosts Penny Nixon, Annlee McGurk (and Mercy), Cheryl Rosenthal and Chira Shimmietta (and Sophia), for a barn dance. Put on your cowboy/cowgirl boots and c'mon out—or we'll have to lasso you ourselves! Chiara will lead us in line dancing, two-stepping and a foot-stomping, balloon-bursting fun dance too. Everyone can do it and kids will love it. For all ages. Refreshments and non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Come by yourself, with a friend, or with your whole family. \$20 per adult, \$40 per family.

Daytime Book Club: *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

Wednesday, February 18 (Ash Wednesday), 1:30 – 3:00pm

Fireplace Room

One of Rev. Penny's recommended readings, this story (which was recently made into a movie starring Jeff Bridges) is a short yet thought-provoking read. Although penned close to 25 years ago, it's



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surprisingly timely, especially for us living in the heart of Silicon Valley. Lowry's book is prone to eliciting strong reactions to the story; come join Elrae Bilsey, share your thoughts, and engage in an interesting and lively discussion of the book.

Music and Art Guild

Friday, February 20 • 10a.m. carpool from CCSM parking lot

The Music and Art Guild at CCSM invites art lovers to join them on an outing to the new Anderson Galleries of the Cantor Art Center at Stanford University. Lunch will be available at the Cantor Museum. Details TBA.

Blanketeers

February 21 from 1-4 in the Buckham Room

A hearty and heartfelt thank you to Linda Skromme for her enthusiastic and thoughtful leadership of the Blanketeers for the past 14 years! We truly appreciate all the time, commitment and generosity you gave to your position, Linda!

Everyone is welcome to join us as we make quilts and blankets for Home and Hope and the Veterans. Questions? Email Susan Henry – susanelaine555@gmail.com.

Calling All Chefs!

Souper Sunday Top Chef Contest

Sunday, March 8

Categories are:

- 1) Old Church/Guild Cookbooks,
- 2) Vegan,
- 3) Hearty/Kitchen Sink,
- 4) Chowder/Cream Based.

Be prepared to bring a crockpot (1 gallon) of your favorite soup and a small ladle. CFE will provide tasting cups and spoons. Please email your intent and your recipe to Dawn Graves by February 22. twinquilt@comcast.net

← Each week the staff prays over the prayer requests you write on the pew cards. Each and every request given to us is prayed for. Please let us know if you have a need for prayer.

Wise & Wonderful Seniors (WiWos)

Ever wonder what Wise and Wonderful Seniors do on the second Wednesday and fourth Thursday of each month? Here is the lineup for 2015.

WiWos are great fun and you don't need to be Wise or Wonderful to join the group... you don't even need identify as a senior. Wherever you are on your life's journey, you are welcome to join us for any or all of these activities.

2nd Wednesdays in the Buckham Room, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

2/11 A Parker Palmer experience. Poetry and image support knowing our own wisdom. Facilitator: Rev. Faye Orton Snyder. Bring notebook and pen.

3/11 What is a member portal? Bring your ipad, tablet, smartphone or notepad and pen. Veril Phillips will be supporting us through an hour of learning how to access our online church directory. We'll have some extra tablets, etc, available.

4/8 Out with the Old. A time for sharing with Pastor Jerri and send-off to Mexico.

5/13 In with the New. A time to regroup and look ahead.

4th Thursdays: Please sign up in church office to make reservations. This helps us to create carpools—more fellowship, less cars. Each 4th Thursday we gather at CCSM at 10:30 a.m., and leave at 10:45.

2/26 CuriOdyssey. \$6 parking per car at Museum, and lunch at Poplar Creek. 1700 Coyote Point Dr.

3/26 Barbara's Fish Trap, north of Half Moon Bay on Hwy 1.

4/23 Paul's Diner, 4000 S El Camino Real; free parking on north side of building.

PRAYING LIKE JESUS

Sunday, February 8, 9:15-10:00am in the Fireplace Room

Come share a Sunday morning discussion about the Lord's Prayer. Julie Lenden and Pastor Jerri will facilitate a lively discussion on a progressive approach to this prayer we often pray together in worship. It is a great opportunity to see and hear that prayer with new eyes and new ears. *Praying Like Jesus* is a short book by James Mulholland and easy



to read. If you wish to read it beforehand, that would be wonderful, but it's not necessary.

Joys and Concerns

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE...

90+ and homebound birthdays this month: **Joyce Everson** 2/3

Our Global Ministries personnel **Diane and Terry Hunter, Swaziland; Ben Ewert, Thailand; Gary Luallin, Ghana; Marilyn Cooper and Glenn Hebert, Ecuador; and Bruce Van Voorhis, Hong Kong** as they serve along side our mission partners around the globe.

With great joy, **Stephen and Brianna Lind** announce the birth of their baby girl, **Clara Leslie Lind**, born on January 26. The baby's name is Brianna's grandmother's and mother's names. **Betsy Woodward and Phil Lind** are the proud grandparents.

Russ and Rebecca Johnson are thrilled to announce the arrival of **Mitchell James Johnson!** He was born on January 23. They are all doing well and very relieved that the nearly 48-hour labor is over. Welcome to the world and to CCSM, Mitchell!

For the birth of **Beatrice Ethel Morgan**, born January 19, to **Matt and Jen Morgan**. She is named after her maternal and paternal great-grandmothers and, of course, is beautiful. **Genel Morgan** is the proud grandma.

Pat Pepper is so thankful for the cards and calls she has had while recuperating from knee replacement surgery. She is now at daughter **Sarah's** house and would welcome a visit. She hopes to return home in a few weeks.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT...

Syd Lambertson passed away on Saturday January 10, 2015. Family and friends had visited him often in the last weeks of his life. **Ann** and the children, **Lori, Bob, Martha, John and David** are all so grateful for your many visits and support. The memorial service will be held at CCSM February 7, 10:00 am.

PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT...

Deborah Brodhag, daughter of Tom Banks, was diagnosed with adenocarcinoma in her lung. Tom is requesting prayers for her and the family.

Chuck Charlton has entered hospice care. Please pray for him and the family as they walk this journey together.

Louise Coughlin, mother of **Phyllis Lunardi**, needs our prayers.

Angela Castro, friend of **Janelle Bradford**, dealing with chronic pain.

Dazore Bradford, daughter of **Janelle Bradford**, facing challenges of college. She has been experiencing anxiety. Pray for peace of mind and heart.

Larry Handy (brother of **Jerri Handy**), **Michelle** (friend of **Gail Evans**), **Chris Williams** (family member of **Jeanne Back**), and others remain in our prayers as they walk their unique journeys with cancer.

THE PASTORAL STAFF WANTS TO THANK YOU FOR SHARING YOUR JOYS AND CONCERNS WITH US. There are many that we pray for each week; some we can share with the congregation and some we are asked to hold in confidence. Please know that all of your joys and concerns are important. You may contact the church office or email Rev. Jerri Handy jhandy@ccsm-ucc.org, if you need support during the week.



Global Ministries Highlight

by Jerri Handy

The process of being appointed as Mission Personnel with Global Ministries involves attending Mission Conference. Marge Boyd and I were there in August of 2014 as part of our preparation for serving with Las Memorias.

Mission Personnel gather retirees, furlough-ers, and newly appointed folks together to share hopes for their place of service. Having retirees present was so helpful for answering questions about worries and fears, as well as gaining friendships. We learned a great deal in our workshops on cross-cultural relationships, long distance relationships with churches and family, the nuts and bolts of reporting emergencies impacting our International Mission Partner, sharing stories of the work and presence of God when we talk to or write updates for Global Ministries or blogs, infectious disease concerns for our particular places of service, and of course time to talk, walk, laugh, cry and pray together.

What I found to be so encouraging was the number of 25-30 year olds, both female and male, who were embarking on a year as interns in so many places in the world. These young people understand the meaning of PRESENCE... walking alongside mission partners, reciprocal sharing of skills and understanding of the world and God at work in that particular part world. These young adults were courageous, funny, strong people of faith. Their desire to be the hands, feet and face of God in the world strengthened my faith, gave me courage. I still pray for Lauren and Scott. I committed to them that I would be praying for them this year of their service. I also met Andi and Lindly, a lesbian couple who had finished one term of service and were ready to go back out again.

I encourage you to get acquainted with someone serving as Mission Personnel... pray for them, email them and hear stories of God at work in the part of the world where they serve. If you are, or know of, a young person who would like an opportunity to serve as a Global Ministries Intern, check out the website—you'll see Matthew in the photo. I am praying for him too. http://www.globalministries.org/global_mission_interns

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Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

YOUTH COOK-YOU EAT!

Tuesday, February 17 at 6PM • Kloss Hall

\$5 suggested donation - bring the whole family!

Bring the neighborhood! Hand-cooked pancakes (some with fresh blueberries and maybe some with sprinkles!) Turkey sausage, fresh fruit, juices and coffee/tea.



Ash Wednesday Service • February 18, 7 p.m.

Begin your Lenten Journey at the Ash Wednesday service. In keeping with our Lenten theme of *ROOM AT THE TABLE*, joining us in worship will be College Heights UCC, Peninsula MCC, Belmont UCC and San Carlos UCC. Come to a service of music and reflection which will begin in the sanctuary and conclude out in the memorial garden on the labyrinth. An introspective, meaningful ritual to prepare each of us for spiritual deepening during Lent.



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The Pine Tree

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