

The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo

United Church of Christ

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A Word from Penny

There's no place like home! Annlee, Mercy and I are so happy to have found a home in San Mateo. We are the new owners of a charming house on 23rd Avenue, a house built in 1936 and full of character. We'll move in early July and will be glad to have the remainder of the summer to get settled. We cannot thank you enough, CCSM. Without your generous support and help this would not have been possible. We had a wonderful connection with the owner (she has owned the house 47 years). She was married at CCSM and her children christened here, and loves our music concerts. It definitely felt like we were led to this exact house.

And speaking of home, I am continually grateful for CCSM. This week a Pew Study released the most extensive survey on religion since 2007.

It found that Christians are declining, both as a share of the U.S. population and in total number. In 2007, 78.4% of U.S. adults identified with Christian groups, such as Protestants, Catholics, Mormons and others; seven years later, that percentage has fallen to 70.6%. Sadly, within Christianity, the biggest declines have been in the mainline Protestant tradition and among Catholics. Mainline Protestants represented 14.7% of U.S. adults in 2014, down from 18.1% in 2007. In the UCC, the last seven years have seen dramatic decline. For example, only 4% of UCC churches now have over 200 in worship. Only seven years ago it was TWICE that many.

In the midst of all this, CCSM continues to thrive. This week over 15 people are coming to explore membership, we are reorganizing for the future, and most of all, people experience ongoing transformation. I attribute our swimming upstream to the openness of the congregation and our willingness to evolve. Let's continue to work together to keep our spiritual community alive and thriving.

Peace, Penny

Make New Friends During Ramadan

CCSM shares common values with the Pacifica Institute: to encourage dialogue between various cultural, spiritual, ethical and belief traditions to find a common ground where compassion can be restored and collaborative action can be initiated.

They are inviting CCSM families to be involved in multi-faith understanding. Ramadan is the holy month for Muslims where fasting and sharing meals with friends and neighbors takes place, as well as remembering and helping needy people. Ramadan Family Dinners aim to create a friendship among local Muslim families with Christians and Jews, as well as other faith houses.

Ramadan 2015 is **June 18-July 17**, and it's a special time for Muslims. **You are invited to a Pacifica Institute member's home for fastbreak dinner.** This invitation extends to you, your significant other, and to families. ("Families" could be friends, a couple, parents and children, etc.) Are you available any Fridays or Saturdays during that month? Weekend nights work better, but weekdays are possible. Muslims break fast at sunset, around 8.30 pm during summer.

In the CCSM spirit of seeking to understand and to build bridges across faiths, our goal is to have 7-10 families sign up to share a meal with a Muslim family connected to the Pacifica Institute here on the Peninsula. Please let Penny know if you are interested.



SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

- May 24:** Pentecost: *Dry Bones Live Again*. Penny preaching.
- May 31:** *Second Helpings*. PSR President David Vásquez-Levy, guest preacher
- June 7:** Baptism and communion. *Wisdom of the Mustard Seed*, Mark 4:26-33. Penny preaching. Annual meeting. New members class.
- June 14:** Spring Concert: *Wisdom of Old Turtle*
- June 21:** *Wisdom from Storms*, Mark 4 :35-41. Penny preaching
- June 28:** *Wisdom*. Bonnie Rambob preaching

Summer Church School

Our summer church school will begin on **Sunday, June 21**. The children will be divided into two classes. Pre-K – 1st grade will meet upstairs in Godly Play Classroom #1. 2nd – 4th Grade will meet upstairs in Godly Play Classroom #2. Children will stay in their current classes for the summer and move up to their next grade at Homecoming Sunday. The children will enjoy an interfaith curriculum this summer.

There will be no church school for the mid high (grades 5-7) over the summer. Bonnie will be in touch directly regarding leadership opportunities for the current 5th graders through teens.

SUMMER IS A GREAT TIME TO TRY OUT TEACHING! If you are interested in teaching in one of the classrooms this summer, please email Michelle O'Brien at mobrien@ccsm-ucc.org.



The Confirmation Class joining the church on May 17, 2015



BONNIE'S BACK

Thank you, CCSM community, for the warm, extravagant welcome you have extended to me. I am so excited to become part of the ministerial team as the **Transitional Minister of Intergenerational Education**. Until mid-June, I am at CCSM for worship on Sundays and staff meeting on Mondays. I am available via email during the week at brambob@ccsm-ucc.org; however, during finals week and the move to Sacramento the last week of May, please understand if it takes a day or two to respond. I begin my full time role on June 15,

which means I will be in San Mateo Thursday through Monday each week. In the months ahead, it will be lovely to become reacquainted with those whom I knew during my internship, and to meet for the first time with many new friends in our community.

I am very grateful to the Children, Youth and Family ministry team and our wonderful Director of Children's Ministries, Michelle O'Brien, for patience and guidance as I catch up with the many happenings in the lives of children, youth and families at our church. They continue to provide outstanding programs for our children and youth in the form of Sunday morning Godly Play and mid-high gatherings during the worship service, a mission trip for our youth to Costa Rica, support for our confirmands, and much more. Although we will not be able to co-create a regular Peace Village camp this summer, our children (preschool-fourth grade) will experience elements of Peace Village in their summer Sunday morning educational programs, June 21-August 30. We can use more volunteer teachers during the summer, which can be a great time to explore one's gifts and talents for teaching children. Please contact me or Michelle O'Brien, (mobrien@ccsm-ucc.org) if you are interested in finding out more. During the summer, mid-high (those finishing 5th-7th grades) will not have regular programming, but will be called upon for various leadership roles. I'll be getting information out about that in the next couple of weeks.

I am really looking forward to collaborating with CYF and other ministries as we explore many possibilities for educational programming in our church, including opportunities for multigenerational learning. I am so honored to be alive together with you at this vibrant, rich, transitional moment in the arc of CCSM's history. Thank you so much for having me.

—Bonnie



CCSM welcomes New PSR President David Vásquez-Levy on May 31

Rev. Dr. David Vásquez-Levy serves as President of Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, California—a progressive, interdenominational Christian seminary committed to preparing spiritually and theologically rooted leaders for social transformation. A committed pastor, a nationally recognized immigration leader, and a sought after speaker,

Vásquez-Levy leads at the intersection of faith, higher education, and social change.

David will be our guest preacher on Sunday, May 31, giving a sermon titled Second Helping based on the story from 1 Kings 19:1-8. **Immediately following the service, we are also delighted to announce the presentation:**

On the Move: Conversation on Faith and Migration

Migration is at the core of the biblical narrative. Adam and Eve must leave the garden of Eden; Abraham and Sarah venture out with nothing but a promise; Moses guides the people across the sea and into freedom; Jesus begins his life as a refugee hiding from Herod. Join David Vásquez-Levy for a conversation about the sustaining power of religious narratives that speak to our own stories of change—migrations across national or physical boundaries or beyond personal boundaries of belief and experience.

Annual Meeting 2015

Don't forget to mark your calendar for CCSM's Annual Meeting, **June 7 after church**. Vote for the new Board of Ministries slate, as well as the new moderator. Lunch will be served. Please join us! Childcare is provided.



Wear Red on Pentecost Sunday, May 24!

PRIDE 2015

San Mateo Pride is almost here! We're looking for volunteers to participate in 2015 Pride with CCSM. The event is June 13, 11am- 6 pm.

San Mateo Pride is a family-friendly event and is a great way to give voice to our progressive values and get involved in the community.

Contact Janelle Bradford: angelique.smpci@gmail.com or Joliene Gatlin: joliene.wade@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE!

ALL CHURCH PICNIC Sunday, July 12

Be sure and save July 12 for the annual All Church Picnic, to be held immediately after church at Ryder Park. The park has a great picnic area, children's playground (plus water play area!), access to the Bay Trail and more. CCSM provides the BBQ; side dishes, salads and dessert will be assigned alphabetically by last name. This is really a super event – a good time to meet and greet, and maybe even take part in a tug of war!





MSJ ON THE BORDER



Ministry of Service & Justice

Literally. The recent MSJ trip to the Mexican-American border included several hours with the US Border Patrol between the high “walls” that separate the two countries. Notice the rainbow-shaped marks on the 14-mile fence. Those were efforts to blowtorch holes to get drugs or people into the US. In the other pictures the Patrol explain all the surveillance efforts necessary along the fence and even under the fence to discover drug tunnels. Because of this California barrier, transportation of undocumented people has generally moved east to Arizona and beyond. Most of those labor- or sex-trafficked from Tijuana into the US supposedly come with visas. Though the eight CCSM-ers got lots of information, we returned with even more questions.

Namaste!

("I bow to the divine in you")



In spite of the agony in Nepal, villagers still greet the divine in each other. Sunday you gave \$2573.25 toward earthquake relief efforts

in Nepal. Those funds were then matched by rummage sale proceeds to total over \$5,000. Our donation went to the Nepal Youth Foundation, which has effective, community-based response throughout the country.

In the first week after the earthquake, the Nepal Youth Foundation (NYF):

- ♦ delivered food, tarps, tents and clothing to 1,847 families in six districts affected by the earthquake
- ♦ purchased medical supplies and equipment for three major hospitals, reaching more than 3,100 patients
- ♦ temporarily converted two nutritional clinics in Kathmandu and Pokhara into recovery centers and cared for 115 earthquake victims, including mothers and their newborns
- ♦ used school buses to transport 100 earthquake victims from area hospitals back to their homes
- ♦ delivered new sleeping gowns and baby clothes to 100 new mothers, and delivered used clothing to an additional 200 families
- ♦ delivered 35 water filters to families



- ♦ opened a day-care center for 50 children whose families have been displaced by the earthquake. The children are receiving psychological counseling and a hearty mid-day meal.

If you would like to add to CCSM's gift, go on-line to <http://www.NepalYouthFoundation.org>, write a check to the church earmarked for NSF, or donate through the CCSM website (<http://www.ccsm-ucc.org/giving/>). You are the hands of God in this far away country!

Las Memorias: Healing with Love

Located on the outskirts of Tijuana in one of its most impoverished areas, Las Memorias is the only place in Baja California that helps poor people with HIV/AIDS with nowhere to else to go. Founded 14 years ago, Las Memorias is currently home to 103 people, about half of them deported from the U.S. Among its services the shelter provides medicines, transportation to health-care centers and education about the disease and any related addiction problems. Of the over 2,000 people who have lived in Las Memorias since it was

open, 600 have died. But 1,400 have been released due to improvements in their health—in spite of there being NO doctors, nurses, or specialists on site. Patients are cared for by other residents who were once as sick as the newcomers. The impact of love changes the dying into the thriving.

Jerri will serve as the first chaplain and counselor for this precious group. Please keep them all in your prayers.



June Brown (in her MSJ-CCSM t-shirt) feeds the newest Las Memorias resident; Sergio (in orange) introduces Austin Mader-Clark and Jorge Perry Bautista to the self-trained “pharmacist”; Kristine Poggioli hugs the doorman Oscar (a spunky deportee who misses his mom in the US); and other residents at various stages of recovery.

Minister Housing Endowment Update

by Jim Berthelsen

At the January Winter Congregational Meeting we unanimously supported establishing a Minister Housing Endowment. With accelerating housing costs on the Peninsula, its primary purpose is to enable our Senior Ministers to live in our community. It was established using funds from the church’s existing endowment.

An ad-hoc Minister Housing Committee was appointed by the Executive Committee to develop a lending policy and oversee the first transaction, which will assist Penny and her family in financing the purchase of their new home. The policy was reviewed and approved by The Stewardship, Finance and Operations Ministry (SFO) and the Board of Ministries at their March meetings.

Serving with me on the Minister Housing Committee are John Adams, Carol Henton, Jim Lindsay, Dave McClure, Sandy McNabb, Teri Shugart and Chris Yeh. It has been a pleasure to work with this competent and dedicated team in developing a program we hope will serve CCSM and our ministers well for many years to come.

We know you join us in welcoming Penny, Annlee and Mercy to San Mateo!

The Healing Journey: Grief Support Group

Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted. —Matthew 5:4

If you are grieving the death of a loved one, whether recently or some time ago, please join us. We will have the opportunity to share our sorrow, develop resilience in the midst of challenge and build a community of compassion and hope in Christ. This group will begin late June.

For more information contact the facilitator: Rev. Dr. Janet Bower, Pastoral Counselor, 650-483-2136 or jbower@ccsm-ucc.org

Remembering Joan Daschbach

We are saddened to announce that Joan Daschbach, long-time member, passed away on Tuesday May 12 at Yesteryear House in San Mateo. Her son, John, was with her when she died. Joan had just celebrated her 87th birthday on May 5 and had been visited by many close friends and relatives. We will miss her loving and generous spirit and her gifts of wisdom that she shared with all of us.

Joan was a much-loved member of the church. She taught 2-3 grade Church School for over twenty-five years, and lovingly greeted each child at the door. Joan's class was known for special art projects, Mother's Day books, and the Valentine Ministry at Pilgrim Plaza. More than that, Joan was a mentor to many high school students and a role model for church adults who saw her as an example of how we should be God's hands and feet in this world. Joan was very supportive of non-profits bettering peoples' lives here and abroad. She volunteered for Sisters of Mercy in San Francisco, for Samaritan House, Mission Hospice, Homework Central and more.

A few years ago, you might have found Joan at the church reception desk, along with her beloved Sheltie, Molly. Recently, her favorite moments were spent in the company of children. Lani Leydig and daughter Erin Stallings often brought little Linus and Henry to visit. Amy Ridlehuber Kingsley brought her daughter Hannah to see Joan, and, just before she died, Joan was able to hold little Clara Lind, daughter of Stephen and Brianna Lind.

Joan was a very altruistic and giving person who was loved by many. Her smiling spirit will remain with us. Joan's memorial service will be held Saturday, June 20, 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. Please send cards to John Daschbach, 13430 W 85th Drive, Arvada, Co 80005.

Gratitude Overflowing

There are really no words to express how grateful Jerri and I are for all that CCSM has meant to us these past six plus years. The commission service, party, gifts, and expressions of support and love have touched us deeply and our lives have been made richer by this amazing faith community.

John O'Donohue is a favorite writer/poet of ours and he says this:

When love awakens in your life, in the night of your heart, it is like the dawn breaking within you. Where before there was anonymity, now there is intimacy; where before there was fear, now there is courage; where before in your life there was awkwardness, now there is a rhythm of grace and gracefulness; where before you used to be jagged, now you are elegant and in rhythm with your self. When love awakens in your life, it is like a rebirth, a new beginning.

We would add to that:

Where CCSM awakened in our hearts, it was like home and family. We take the dawn, the intimacy, the courage, the rhythm of grace, the blessings for new beginnings that you have bestowed on us into our future, truly blessed.

Thank you for the many tangible signs of your care and love that go with us and know that we carry all of you in our hearts, so much the better for having known and spent time with you.

Until we meet again,
Marge and Jerri

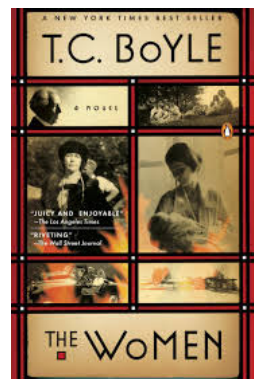


Joan Daschbach and Clara Lind

First Tuesday Book Group

Tuesday, June 2 • 7:30-9:00 pm • Fireplace Room

In June, we will discuss the T.C. Boyle book, *The Women*, about the life of Frank Lloyd Wright, a fascinating book about a very talented architect. T.C. Boyle tells the story of this colorful and outlandish character through the experiences of the four women who loved him. Come join us for a stimulating discussion. We have varying opinions about the books and new book lovers are always welcome.



Please email Susan Stoehr (s_stoehr@hotmail.com) to be added to our email list and/or email Betsy Woodward (betsdce@comcast.net) if you have questions. To read ahead, here are the books for the fall of 2015:

Sept. 1: *Against the Tide*, Elizabeth Camden

Oct. 6: *The Ghost Map*, Steve Johnson

Nov. 3: *The Rosie Project*, Graeme C. Simsion



This photo is from our fun new Pick-A -Party San Francisco's Mission District Mural Walk. We had a great and educational time. – Lisa McCally

JOYS AND CONCERNS



Time Out for Lunch

Our groups meet once a month for lunch in someone's home. We currently have three groups of eight women and meet four times, then change groups. We'll be starting new groups in July and welcome new women. It is a great way to make new friends. If you have questions or would like to join, call Diane Kalliam (415 469-7750) or email at dkalliam@gmail.com.

Former Choir Director Pat Hudson Dies



We received a note from Sue Moss, Pat Hudson's daughter (and faithful Chancel Choir member for many years), that Pat died in Port Townsend, Washington on April 21, aged 87. She passed peacefully at her daughter's home, surrounded by her children, and fittingly drifted away listening to a

Bach Prelude. Pat was the Director of Music here at CCSM for 29 years. She began conducting church choirs at 17 years old and spent over fifty years in choral music (off and on). She was also on the faculty of the Crystal Springs School and worked with the AAUW Women's Chorus. She conducted the Mills College Community Chorale before moving to the Northwest in 1988. After directing music at the Vashon Methodist Church, she became the conductor of the Vashon Island Chorale until her retirement in 1999.

Somehow during all this, Pat found over twenty years to own and operate Potcarrier, a Southwest American Indian Art store in Burlingame, CA and Vashon Island, WA.

Pat's legacy here at CCSM is still felt and the Hudson Choir Room is named in her honor.

PRAYERS OF JOY...

Judy Hemmer passed her Guide Dog Acceptance course and is being matched with a new companion. We offer continued prayers as she trains and prepares to adopt her new dog.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT...

Our hearts go out to the people of Nepal as they face incredible suffering after the devastating earthquakes. Prayers for recovery and for healing of the trauma of loss of life, limb, homes and livelihoods.

Joan Daschbach, long-time member, passed away on Tuesday, May 12, 2015 with her son John at her side. We are grateful to God for her loving and generous spirit and her gift of wisdom that she shared with all of us. Joan's memorial will be held Saturday, June 20 at 10:00am in the sanctuary.

Margi Stone passed away April 24th surrounded by her loved ones. Her indomitable and positive spirit blessed so many. A celebration of her life was held on May 1st.

Pat Hudson, CCSM's music director for 29 years, passed away in Port Townsend Washington on April 21 at the age of 87.

"Chick" Nixon, Penny Nixon's former sister-in-law, passed away on April 10th. She was serving a prison sentence for a crime she did not commit and died of cancer while still incarcerated. Please pray for comfort for Chick's family.

Margaret Reshatoff, a long-time member of CCSM, passed away peacefully on April 1, at the age of 95. Our prayers of comfort extend to Margaret's daughter, Carol Wright, and Margaret's loved ones.

PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT...

Bill Coye, our former choir director, is recovering at home after being hospitalized from a large pulmonary embolism. We pray that Bill and Lynne Marie feel God's healing presence and our well-wishes.

Dave Hemmer, **Judy Hemmer's son**, received stents in his heart and is now recovering at home in Portland. Prayers are requested as Dave regains his strength.

Barbara Karesh, sister of **Jon Karesh**, is undergoing tests for heart palpitations. We pray the medical staff is able to diagnose and treat the causes of her discomfort.

Janelle Bradford's family are experiencing family trials and challenges. We ask that God strengthen them and uplift their spirits.

Please pray for: **Cathy Latta, Chuck Charlton, and Rae and Tom Banks** as they face health challenges. Please pray for **Janice Kennedy** (cousin of Margaret and Gordon Smith), **Kate Engelberg** (Holly Allen and Camille Grant's friend), **Deborah Brodhag** (daughter of Tom Banks), **Paula** (sister-in-law of Kirsten Smith), **Randy** (nephew of Stan Higgs), **Bill Daniels, and others** as they walk their unique journeys with cancer.

Continuing prayers for **Ruth Black, Betty Brookes, Marjorie Griffin, Penny Gahagen, Martha Grannis, Lorraine Gustafson, Martha Imai, George Kromhout, Rosalee Lower, Jim Lowrie, Phyllis Mead, Adrienne Mitchell, Genevieve and John Parsons, Fred Petri, June Schutte, Betty Stout, Eva Thomson, Virginia Weir.**

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 care@ccsm-ucc.org if you need support during the week.



On May 1, some of us participated in Puente's Dia de los Niños (Children's Day) enjoying activities with the kids. This is Elaine Kaufman spreading neon bubbles and Cammy Caverly handing out books, toys, and school supplies.

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CCSM College Scholarships Available

The Ministry of Children, Youth and Families is soliciting candidates for three church scholarships: the **Arthur J. Younger Fund**, the **Bracamonte Memorial Fund**, and the **Macon Banks Memorial Scholarship**. Applicants need to be high school seniors who plan to continue their formal education in the fall of 2015. The selection criteria include being an active member of CCSM and demonstrating interest and involvement in school and community activities. All youth who fit the criteria and apply will be considered for all three of the scholarships.

Please email completed applications to Holly Allen, or bring them to the church office no later than **Friday, June 5, 2015** and place them in the mailbox for the Ministry of Children, Youth and Families.

If you have questions about the scholarship, please email or call Holly Allen: hollyallen1@yahoo.com, 650-218-9212.



Smile! Clare Naegle's 97th Birthday Lunch

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