

# Midsummer News

The Congregational Church of San Mateo

United Church of Christ

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## AUGUST SERMON SERIES: HOLY HOLLYWOOD



### AUGUST 2: LORD OF THE RINGS.

Stephanie Smith, Guest Director of Music

Sermon: *MY PRECIOUS*

Special Guest: Franc D'Ambrosio



### AUGUST 9: THE HUNGER GAMES.

Stephanie Smith, Guest Director of Music

Sermon: *THE LAST SUPPER*

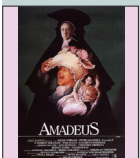


### AUGUST 16: INSIDE OUT.

Family Worship/Back to School Sunday.

Sermon: *JOY, SADNESS, ANGER,*  
*AND SO MANY MORE*

Costa Rica report



### AUGUST 23: AMADEUS.

Sermon: *THE SHADOW OF GENIUS*

Musical guest: Brett Ruona singing Kyrie  
from Mozart Requiem in C Minor



### AUGUST 30: DEAD MAN WALKING.

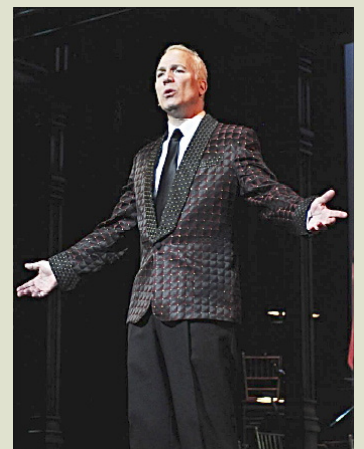
Sermon: *SOMETIMES FORGIVENESS IS IN*  
*THE SMALLEST GESTURE*

### SPECIAL GUEST:

### FRANC D'AMBROSIO

Franc D'Ambrosio is best known as the "Phantom" in Andrew Lloyd Webber's Tony Award winning Musical, "The Phantom Of The Opera." He was awarded the distinction of the "World's Longest Running Phantom" with over 2,300 performances of the lead role, a title he held for a decade. D'Ambrosio's resume also includes an Academy Award Nominated film, an Emmy Award Nominated television show, four time Tony nominated Broadway show, Two Grammy Considerations, and a National Theatre Award Nomination. Early in D'Ambrosio's career, D'Ambrosio was awarded the role as the opera singing son of Al Pacino in Coppola's seven time Academy Award nominated film "Godfather III." D'Ambrosio's performance so impressed Luciano Pavarotti that it led to an invitation for him to study with the legendary tenor at his home in Italy. After his impressive run as "The Phantom Of The Opera," Barry Manilow selected him to create and star as the male lead in the pre-Broadway tour of "Copacabana," which earned D'Ambrosio his National Theatre Award nomination for Best Male Performer in a Musical.

D'Ambrosio currently tours extensively with his critically acclaimed one man shows. In 2011 he co-starred in the production "Love Changes Everything," a celebration of the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber. He continues to be involved in more award-winning musicals and shows around the world, as well as teaching young artists each summer in Italy and participating in numerous lecture series.



**STEPHANIE LYNNE SMITH**, our own former Interim Music Director, is an active concert pianist, playwright, and actor. She holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance and a Master of Music Degree in Chamber Music Performance. As the Artist-in-Residence for the Shari Carlson Studio San Francisco, she produced her first play, *High Anxiety: One Woman's Journey*, which premiered in 2014 to sold out audiences. Smith recently moved to Portland, Oregon to return to performance. She continues to teach and perform in the Bay Area, and tours as pianist for Broadway singer Franc D'Ambrosio and as pianist and slide guitarist with Bugs Bunny at the Symphony.



## FALL SERMON SERIES

Based on David Brooks' *The Road to Character*. Take time to read the book, and visit the blog. <http://theroadtocharacter.com/the-conversation-blog/>

#1 New York Times bestselling author of  
*The Social Animal*

### The Road to Character



DAVID  
BROOKS

## Young(ish) Adult Happenings

Twenties and thirties young adults, join us this summer for the following:

**Wednesday, July 22:** See the Movie *Inside Out* with Penny. Meet at 6:15 at the Downtown San Mateo theater.

**Tuesday, July 28:** Curry Up with Joliene — join Joliene for dinner and/or drinks at this happening restaurant. Meet at 7pm at Curry Up, 129 S. B Street, San Mateo.

## Children, Youth and Families



### Holy Hollywood for Kids: August Church School

Children's Ministries is hosting two Godly Play classes during the summer, one for children finishing PreK-1st grade and the other for children who have finished 2nd -4th grade. Both meet in the Betsy Woodward Building immediately following the children's moment in worship.

- August 2** VeggieTales: *Dave and the Giant Pickle*
- August 9** VeggieTales: *Duke and the Great Pie War*
- August 16** Pixar's *Inside Out*. Family Worship. Children worship in the sanctuary.
- August 23** VeggieTales: *Daniel*
- August 30** VeggieTales: *Bully Trouble* (PreK-1st), *Minnesota Cuke* (2nd-4th)

## 45 Minutes: Mid High Summer Program

Students going into 6th-8th grade meet in the Fireplace Room each Sunday right after the children's moment until the end of the service for a time of story-swapping with one of CCSM's "elders" and game-playing.

### August 16: Back to School Sunday

To celebrate the first week of school for students in the San Mateo school district, CCSM will host a special Back to School themed Sunday. Following a special family worship service, kids of all ages will find lots of fun on the lawn and loggia as we usher in a new school year together. We will be inviting the whole surrounding community to celebrate as well, so please mark your calendars and tell your friends!



Dominic Pang

### CCSM'S YOUNGEST ORGANIST!

On **July 26**, we welcome Dominic Pang, our newest and youngest student organist, in his CCSM debut! Dominic is eleven, and as a pianist, has performed a Beethoven piano concerto movement with the Auburn Symphony, as well as performing in young musicians' programs at Carnegie Hall when he was 8, 9 and 10. Dominic has studied organ since mid-April and will be playing Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor as well as movements from Boëllmann's Suite Gothique for our morning worship!

### KIBBIE GOES TO GUATEMALA

In 2014 tens of thousands of families with children and over 60,000 unaccompanied children from Central America journeyed across Mexico with hopes for a safer life in the US. At our border they were taken into immigration custody. Many have been released and are fighting to win asylum. Others are still detained, some have been deported. Their stories have prompted an interfaith group to investigate what we can do. Kibbie Ruth leaves August 7 with this pilgrimage to Central America and asks your prayers for courageous listening, compassion, and wisdom on the trip.





# STREET REQUIEM

**AUGUST 30, 2PM AT CCSM**

STREET REQUIEM, composed in 2014 by [Dr Kathleen McGuire](#) (former Bay Area conductor) with Australian collaborators Jonathon Welch AM and Andy Payne, is a highly accessible, uplifting, multicultural, multi-faith and secular work mourning those who have died innocent on the street as result of poverty, war, illness, violence, hate crime or homelessness.

In light of recent race-related violence in the US, this work is particularly timely. It should also speak strongly to the Bay Area's LGBTIQ community, given the number of deaths we see on our streets each year as a result of hate crime. Our performances will raise public awareness as well as funds for a very worthy cause.

The performance here at CCSM on Sunday, August 30 at 2pm will feature world-renowned opera superstar [Frederica Von Stade](#) and the chamber orchestra accompaniment will be provided by members of the [Community Women's Orchestra](#) with Carl Pantle on the piano.

All proceeds from the California performances will benefit Singers of the Street (SOS). Founded by Kathleen McGuire in 2010 and now led by Ashley Moore, SOS is a San Francisco choir of singers at risk of homelessness. SOS, dedicated to raising voices for justice, healing and joy, will celebrate its 5th anniversary just a week after the concerts. SOS is a project of [Welcome](#), a communal response to poverty.



## HALF-DAY CHURCH RETREAT • Saturday, August 29, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

**Lunch included • childcare available**

### **The Bond of Peace: Building Authentic Teams**

We live in a time when teamwork and collaboration are essential skills. At home, work, and in our own CCSM community, so much is done through teamwork, and its success rests on the authentic relationships between the members of that team. Those relationships, in turn, form the foundation of a cohesive and unified body and ensure the "bond of peace" we read about in Ephesians 4:2-3: *Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*

Sounds great, right? Easy? Not so much. How do we foster a "bond of peace" within our teams in real and practical ways? How can we be more intentional about creating authentic relationships with those with whom we share a common purpose?

Join us for a lively facilitated workshop that will focus on these themes through the lens of Patrick Lencioni's\* work on building cohesive teams.

\*Patrick Lencioni is the best-selling author of the New York Times best-selling book, *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* (and many other business communication titles including *The Advantage* and *Death by Meetings*.)



### **Facilitators:**

#### **Alicia Santamaría**

As principal of adelante coaching+consulting, Alicia's mission is "facilitating people, teams, and organizations forward." A trainer, coach, facilitator and organizational consultant, Alicia has over 20 years of professional experience across a variety of sectors, including work at the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center and for the City of San Mateo. She is also a core faculty member for the Presidio Institute's Cross Sector Leadership Fellows Program and a trainer at CompassPoint Nonprofit Services. She is also adjunct faculty at the Notre Dame de Namur University School of Business and Management, where she develops and teaches courses on leadership and organizational development topics. A trained mediator and experienced conflict resolution practitioner, Alicia holds a master's degree in communication. She is an accredited Associate Certified Coach through the International Coach Federation.



#### **Holly Allen**

Holly Allen leads the San Francisco-based product development team at Wiley Publishing Company. Her work at Wiley is focused on developing products that teach teamwork, leadership, and other soft skills within organizations. She has worked with best-selling business authors in creating content for corporate and non-profit training programs and assessments to improve the workplace. Her career in publishing educational materials for adult learning spans 29 years.



# SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES 2015 @CCSM

Sunday Mornings  
9:30-10:15 a.m. • Buckham Room  
July 12-August 16

Join us for our annual **Summer Speaker Series** featuring talks from friends of our community about issues that matter today. All are welcome.

## **July 26—Brian Mathews: Capture, Compute, Create: The Future of Making Things.**

If God didn't create it, a designer, engineer, or artist did. This talk is about the future of making things and how new design technologies can help everyone imagine, design, and create a better world. Design is a type of problem solving, and our world is full of design challenges: global warming, loss of habitat, human welfare, preservation of cultural heritage, and aging infrastructure to name a few. We'll see real world examples of designers using technology to make blockbuster visual effects, buildings that create their own energy, airplanes that evolve like Darwin's birds, and nano-structures that cure cancer.

As Autodesk VP and group CTO, **Brian Mathews** helps shape the technology strategy for Autodesk's platforms serving the manufacturing, architecture, building, construction, media, and entertainment industries—including the last 19 Academy Award winners for Best Visual Effects. He also heads the Reality Computing, Product Security, and Sustainability Solutions business units. Mathews earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University. He holds a variety of patents covering data compression, computer graphics, cloud architecture, printing, and design collaboration. For a flavor of what he'll cover in the talk you can read: <http://www.wired.co.uk/magazine/archive/2013/10/features/biology-is-the-new-software>



## **August 9—Katie Rivers: Rebuilding South Sudan: Can the World's Newest Nation Live in Peace?**

**Katie Rivers** of Rebuild South Sudan, an organization founded by South Sudanese Lost Boy, Michael Kuany, shares about the challenges her organization faces as they work with one rural South Sudanese village to overcome the devastating effects of war even while war rages on. Rebuild South Sudan is dedicated to empowering and encouraging the South Sudanese through economic development and education. Rebuild South Sudan holds out hope, in partnership with the South Sudanese, that conflict can be transformed and that a traumatized nation can find a way forward.

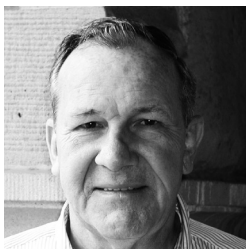
**Katie Rivers** lives in San Francisco with Church of the Sojourners and has been working with Rebuild South Sudan since 2011. Her own experiences of loss, grief, and moving forward drive her to support a nation in need of deep healing and restoration. Michael Kuany's story has taught her about struggle, adversity, and hope. Her professional background in administration, sales, and marketing combined with a passion for communications and community development have equipped her with the necessary tools to further pursue the causes of peace and education in South Sudan.



## **August 2—Mike Armacost: Big Foreign Policy Challenges for the Next President.**

Mike's talk will focus mainly on the need for candidates to address the multiple challenges we face in the Middle East, and to indicate how they intend to manage our distressed relations with Russia and China.

**Michael Armacost** was educated at Carleton College and Columbia University, and has taught courses at Pomona, Georgetown, Johns Hopkins, Stanford, and International Christian University in Japan. During 24 years in government service, he did stints at the Pentagon and NSC Staff as well as State, and served as Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, and Ambassador to the Philippines and Japan. Subsequently, he served seven years as President of The Brookings Institution. Since 2002 he has been a Distinguished Fellow at the Shorenstein Asia/Pacific Research Center at Stanford.



## **August 16—Gary White: Climate Change: An Update.**

Addressing climate change is the number one challenge of our time. We all must first understand the issue and then take action to correct it. Al Gore's Climate Reality Project NGO gives us the latest word on this crucial topic.

**Gary White** has been a climate advocate at the corporate level, leading sustainability efforts at a variety of Silicon Valley high tech firms. Now retired, he applies his time to advocating for climate justice in other realms of life. In preparation for this talk, Gary will attend a special training event in Toronto. The event will be hosted by the Climate Reality Project and the lead presenter is none other than Al Gore.

