

The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo

United Church of Christ

225 Tilton Avenue • San Mateo, California 94401

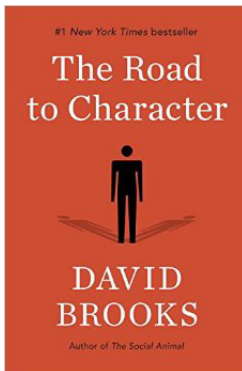
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Vol. 64

Issue #7 • August/September 2015

A Word from Penny

David Brooks' book *The Road to Character* came to me as a message sent from spirit. I heard about his book on NPR and then read a NY Times review of it. I was intrigued by it, but promptly forgot to add it to my already overflowing "books I need to read" list.



Then, as I was driving to a retreat center last April to plan for the summer and fall, I heard a brief interview by him and was reminded of my interest. My cell phone rang as the interview ended and it was a close friend who had just finished the book and told me it was a must-read. I got to the retreat, opened my email, and there was an email in my inbox from someone else who was in the middle of the book, encouraging me to read it. So I left my retreat room, walked to a nearby bookstore and there it was, front and center. I spent the rest of the afternoon and evening reading the book cover to cover. I was skeptical at first, often finding myself at odds with the author's NY Times columns, but I was pulled in by his wisdom and by his ideas which had a resonating ring of truth.

As I thought about how to tell the story of why I have chosen this book as the centerpiece for our fall series, I came across Brooks' note as to why he wrote the book and that pretty much summed it up:

I guess I wrote this book to save my own soul.

About once a month I run across a person who radiates an inner light. These people can be in any

—Continued on page 6—

Sunday Celebrations

- August 23:** *Amadeus*. Sermon: THE SHADOW OF GENIUS. Penny Nixon preaching. Musical guest: Brett Ruona singing Kyrie from Mozart Requiem in C Minor.
- August 30:** *Dead Man Walking*. Sermon: SOMETIMES FORGIVENESS IS THE SMALLEST GESTURE. Penny Nixon preaching.
- September 6:** Labor Day. Bonnie and Raj Rambob joint sermon. Jorge Perry Bautista returns from Bolivia

FALL SERMON SERIES:

THE ROAD TO CHARACTER

September 13

Homecoming

Topic: RÉSUMÉ VIRTUES AND EULOGY VIRTUES.

Sermon: *Adam 1 and Adam 2*. Penny Nixon preaching.

September 20

Topic: THE SHIFT.

Sermon: *Joseph and the Big Me*. Penny preaching.

September 27

Topic: DIGNITY.

Sermon: *Joseph Rises Above his Dreams*. Penny preaching.

October 4

World Communion Sunday

Family Worship

Topic: SELF-CONQUEST.

Sermon: *Daniel Takes Some Heat*. Penny preaching.

October 11

Topic: WHAT TO DO WITH SUFFERING.

Sermon: *Mary's path to purpose*. Joliene Wade Gatlin preaching.

October 18

Pick-A-Party Sunday

Topic: THE SUMMONED LIFE.

Sermon: *Moses the Reluctant Leader*. Penny preaching.

October 25

Topic: RADICAL HONESTY.

Sermon: *James and the Giant Truth*. Penny preaching.

November 1

All Saints Day

Topic: FOR THE GREATER GOOD.

Sermon: *Esther, an Unlikely Saint*. Penny preaching.

November 8

Topic: SELF-MASTERY.

Sermon: *Paul: Progress, Not Perfection*. Penny preaching.

November 15

Topic: FROM AMBITION TO MEANING.

Sermon: *Jacob Wrestles his Way to Maturity*. Penny preaching.

November 22

Thanksgiving Service

Family Worship

Topic: SELF-ACCEPTANCE AND GRATITUDE.

Sermon: *Hagar's Perfect Eyesight*. Penny preaching.



Children, Youth and Families



News from Church School

After listening to parents, to the leaders of the Children, Youth and Family Ministry, to fellow staff members and to teachers—we are going to try something new for church school, starting in mid-September. Rather than replace Michelle O'Brien's position with a new Director of Children's Ministry, we are going to hire three **Lead Teachers/Storytellers**—one for each of our church school classrooms: PreK-1st grade, 2nd-3rd grade and 4th-5th grade. The hope is to provide a consistent teaching presence for the children, to grow in our ability to engage the Godly Play curriculum, and to remove the implicit obligation parents may feel to teach in church school.

Though we are working toward hired Lead Teachers/Storytellers for our three preschool and elementary classrooms, we still have many children's ministry opportunities. Our church is full of ways to share your gifts and talents with our children. Each classroom will need a Doorkeeper each week. We will need help with Advent and Easter Festivals, the Christmas Pageant, Peace Village and other ideas that might have been waiting until now to be born. To give Bonnie an idea of how you would like to be involved in Children's Ministry at CCSM, please complete this survey, [My Children's Ministry](#). It will only take 2 minutes—that's a promise.

If you know of any great candidates for our Lead Teacher/Storyteller positions or for any questions or concerns related to church school, please contact: Bonnie Rambob, brambob@ccsm-ucc.org.

Full job descriptions are posted on the CCSM website at: ccsm-ucc.org/children-and-youth/

Seeking a Passionate, Creative, Dynamic Director of Youth Ministry

Very recently, the Board of Ministries approved a proposal to begin the search for a Director of Youth Ministry—thrilling news for our nearly one hundred Mid High and Senior High youth members and their families. This person will be part-time, at least to start, and will collaborate with our Minister of Intergenerational Education to offer mid high (6th-8th grade) and senior high (9th-12th grade) youth programs that build webs of relationships, inspire moments of awe, and offer community service/leadership opportunities – all under the umbrella of a vibrant, vital Christian faith and for the purpose of co-creating the kingdom of God on the earth. As we glide into the fall season, watch for exciting developments on the Mid High and Senior High Youth front.

A full job description is posted online at ccsm-ucc.org/children-and-youth/. Please contact Bonnie Rambob with any questions, brambob@ccsm-ucc.org.

PARENT CONNECTIONS... coming soon!

Many parents have asked for spaces to build community with one another and to converse together about the joys and challenges parents face in raising kids, kids in all stages of development, in today's world. Plans are underway to provide this important family ministry.

First topics for meetings are: *Screen Time—How much is too much?* and *Family Communications*.

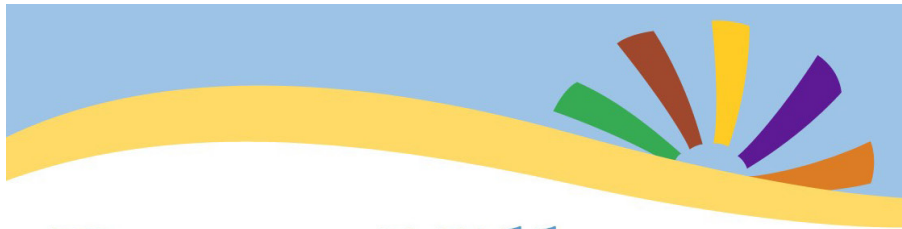
Our Toddler Room Won't Be the Same without Nicole

Nicole Tocchini, our toddler teacher, has been approved to take her engineering exam. Though we will miss her, she is excited and we are excited for her to pursue her career goals! **Her last Sunday with us will be August 30.** She has done a beautiful job of making our little ones feel safe and welcome at church.

Beginning on September 6, our toddlers will move to the nursery room with Lili Gonzalez, another wonderful caregiver. The move will allow our youngest ones to be close to their parents in the sanctuary, just in case, and there will be a great big box of toys just for them. Lili will have a helper with her each week to assure great care and a fun playtime.



Two-fisted sweets eating



Peace Village

SAN MATEO December 28-31, 2015

Peace Village is a multi-faith, peace-camp, for campers ages 7 - 13. Campers learn from one another, from teen staff, and adult instructors. Campers learn skills in non-violent conflict resolution, media-literacy, about other faith-traditions, and make friends.

SAVE THE DATES

Space is limited. If you are interested in Peace Village for your child/ren get on the email list at: <http://www.villagerelations.com/sanmateopeacevillage>

Registration will be open early September 2015

If you have any questions email raj@villagerelations.com

Interested in being a Group Leader?

Go to the page address above and you'll know what to click.

Sponsoring Organizations/Contacts:

- Muslim Garden Preschool - Abeer Elafifi
- Peninsula Temple Beth El - Rabbi Callie Schulman
- Congregational Church of San Mateo - Rev. Bonnie Rambob

PEACE VILLAGE RETURNS

DECEMBER 28-31, 2015

Accepting Applications for Teen/Young Adult Youth Leaders

The Peace Village Planning Team is in motion. Partner communities Peninsula Temple Beth El, the Muslim Children's Garden School and CCSM are planning for an amazing winter Peace Village. At the intersection between 2015 and 2016, we will learn and practice ways to bring Peace and Light into the world, highlighted by many religious traditions!

If you are in high school or college and would like to participate in an amazing leadership opportunity, please follow the link to apply: villagerelations.com/sanmateopeacevillage/ Any questions? Check with Bonnie: brambob@ccsm-ucc.org or 530-306-4793.

Autumnal Equinox Labyrinth Walk

Wednesday September 23, 8 pm

Join Penny and Annlee as they lead a ritual on the evening of the [Autumnal Equinox](#). At this equinox, day and night are approximately equal in length. The evening will focus on balancing light and darkness in our lives. An evening of introspection, community, and walking the beautiful labyrinth in moonlight in our sacred memorial garden. Please rsvp to pnixon@ccsm-ucc.org.



Pick-A-Party 2015

A garden party? A barbeque? A clambake? A musical soiree? What type of Pick-A-Party will you host this year?

CCSM's 17th annual "Pick-A-Party" fundraiser, set for **October 18th**, is officially underway! To offer a party, think of something you enjoy doing and then build a party or activity around your idea. While dinner parties are popular, there are many wonderful ways to throw a party.

• Submit your party offering online at ccsm-ucc.org/Pick-A-Party/ or via paper form after worship or at the office. The deadline to submit a party is **Sunday, September 27th**, although we prefer parties be submitted early if possible.

• We will distribute the list of parties on **October 11th** so you can decide in advance which parties you wish to purchase.

• **October 18th is Pick-A-Party Sunday.** Parties will be offered for purchase in Kloss Hall at 9:45 am.

Pick-A-Party is a great way to enjoy the fellowship of CCSM members and friends while supporting our church financially.

Questions? Contact us at CCSMPickAParty@gmail.com or 650-571-7563 (Carol) or 650-346-6114 (Jennifer).



AN ASSORTMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES AT CCSM

Music and Art Begins Sept. 18

Noon • Buckham Room

The Music and Art group will resume its monthly meetings on **September 18** at noon in the Buckham Room. Carl Pantle, Music Director, will present this first program. Bring your own sandwich/salad; dessert and drinks are provided. Newcomers and guests are most welcome. Be sure to reserve your place at the table by calling Zelta Adams, 650-341-1644 or Pat Pepper, 650-343-4286.

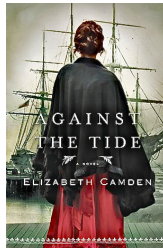


(their minimum day). There are four sites: Martin Luther King Center, Unitarian Universalists church, Sunnybrae School, and San Mateo Park School. Each site is unique and wonderful. Please join us. It will become your favorite day of the week! Please talk to Betsy Woodward, 650-571-9359, Lani Leydig or Holly Miner volunteer@smhwc.org if you wish to tutor.

First Tuesday Book Group

Tuesday, September 1, 7:30-9:00pm • Fireplace Room

You still have time to add the book *Against the Tide* by Elizabeth Camden to your summer reading list! Read about Lydia, who grew up in an orphanage and is finding her way as a translator in the Navy Shipyard in Boston. As she struggles to make ends meet, she is pursued by Alexander Banebridge, who engages her as a translator and also leads her down many adventurous and dangerous paths.



Please bring your opinion of the book to our group. We are a diverse group of people who LOVE TO READ! Each discussion is lively and thought-provoking. You are welcome to join us this time or any time. October's selection will be *The Ghost Map* by Steven Johnson and November's book is *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion.

Please contact Susan Stoehr to be added to the email list (s_stoehr@hotmail.com) or Betsy Woodward for questions. (betsdce@comcast.net)

Return of Sisters in Spirit (SIS)

SIS (Sisters In Spirit) returns this September 20 for another season of sharing, sisterhood and exploration of spirituality and consciousness (among other topics). We do this through the examination of the works of contemporary authors, writers and thought-leaders. This fall we will examine the book *The Untethered Soul* by Michael Singer. Dates for meeting are: 9/20, 10/4, 10/18, 11/1, 11/15, 11/29 and 12/13 (last meeting we will enjoy early holiday celebration together, such as over brunch or other festive activity—TBD).



Meeting location is 2nd floor library, time noon-1:30pm. Feel free to bring bag lunch. For more information, contact Rebecca at: rebrue@earthlink.net or (650) 483-0756. Please join us!

Homework Central begins September 8!

If you are searching for a **meaningful volunteer opportunity**, there are some students in North Central San Mateo who are looking for you! They are hoping you will assist them with their homework, become a friend, and learn about their lives. These 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students are struggling academically but they really want to succeed. With your patient help, they can! What does it mean? You commit to coming once a week for two hours. You sit down with 2-3 students and help them complete their homework... math, reading, spelling and maybe a little science sprinkled in there. You will become attached to your new friends and they will become attached to you.



So why not share an afternoon a week with a few students and lend your skills to some younger folks? On **Tuesday, September 8**, Homework Central begins its 17th year of tutoring 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students from four San Mateo schools. Tutoring occurs from 3-5pm Monday, Tuesday and Thursday or 1-3pm on Wednesday

Meditation Group Resumes after Summer Break

The meditation group will once again gather weekly from September 6 through December 20 on alternate Sundays, from 12:10 to 1:00 p.m. Look for the specific dates in the church bulletin each Sunday. The meeting will take place in the Church Library on the second floor, alongside the Choir room. Instructions will be provided. The sitting will be 20 minutes and a 30-minute DVD on Mindfulness will be played. All are welcome. For information, contact Bob Jarmusz, (650) 787-8324 or bobjarmusz@gmail.com



OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Connect and Care



At CCSM we have growing group of members who have been active in the church and are no longer able to attend worship and fellowship opportunities. They still love our church and consider CCSM their spiritual home.

Connect and Care is a ministry at CCSM that connects people who are mostly homebound or in care facilities. Our Connect and Care Team will visit our members quarterly, and deliver plants at Easter and Christmas. Some Connect and Care team members connect through personal visits, cards, phone calls and emails. Some matches are short term, until our loved member is able to return to church. Other matches last longer, depending upon mutual needs, usually at least one year.

If you would like more information or to participate in any of the opportunities to serve on this page, please contact **Janet Bower** at JBower@ccsm-ucc.org or **650-483-2136**

MID-DAY OFFERINGS

Yoga with Kate Wednesdays

**Starting Wed., September 16, 9:30-11:00am
Buckham Room**

Returning this fall is our very popular yoga class with CCSM member and yoga teacher Kate Joyce. This spiritual practice is a gentle class for people with wide-ranging physical abilities/limitations to participate fully. The class will also incorporate the week's scripture reading(s) and sermon topic. Come join Kate on Wednesday mornings!

Class is free but optional donations directly to Kate are welcomed.



Monday Sitting Meditation with Penny Resumes

Starting Monday, September 14, 12:30pm

Come sit in silence in the upstairs library with experienced and beginner meditators. Sit in a chair or bring your own cushion. Penny leads a brief reflection, then we meditate together. A nice group comes out each week.



Often, we hear how enriching it is, both for our team and for our beloved homebound members, to connect with one another. Please contact Janet Bower (see info in box) if you are interested in being a part of Connect and Care either as a team member or as a beloved member who is visited.

A training will be provided for the Care and Connect Team in the fall. More details will follow. Ongoing support will also available from Janet Bower and our Care, Fellowship and Extravagant Welcome Ministry (CFE).

We hope that through Connect and Care, all will be more deeply connected.

Grief Support Group

People who grieve well, live well.

A new grief support group will start in late September. If you have lost a loved one, whether recently or some time ago, this group is designed for you. Together, group members will share their sorrow, gain new resources to develop resiliency, and experience a caring and compassionate community. Rev. Dr. Janet K. Bower, a pastoral counselor at CCSM, will facilitate. Please contact her to register or for more information. Group size is limited; pre-registration is required.

Home Communion Servers

We are aware that some of our members are unable to attend worship and miss being able to participate in Holy Communion. We would like to send out teams of people to deliver home communion, at least quarterly at mutually agreed upon times, to those who desire it. For those interested in participating as a home communion server, a training will be provided in the fall. In addition, a CCSM communion kit will be given to each server.

Please let Janet Bower know if you would like to be a part of the heartwarming experience of sharing home communion, whether it be as a server or as one desiring to be served.

Wise and Wonderful Seniors

Our Wise and Wonderful Seniors will be gathering again soon. If you are over 55 and wish to be a part of the fellowship and fun, upcoming events will begin in late September.

Rides to Church

If you, or someone you know, needs a ride to church or if you are willing to give rides to church, please let Janet Bower know—we would like to match drivers and riders by neighborhood. We want to ensure all are welcome at CCSM and have the opportunity to enjoy our worship and fellowship.



Some picnickers at the All Church Picnic

A Word from Penny —cont. from p. 1—

walk of life. They seem deeply good. They listen well. They make you feel funny and valued. You often catch them looking after other people, and as they do so their laugh is easy and musical, their spirit is infused with gratitude. They are not thinking about what wonderful work they are doing. They are not thinking about themselves at all.

An encounter with such a person can brighten your whole day. But I confess I often have a darker thought: It occurs to me that I've achieved more career success than I ever imagined, but I have not achieved THAT. I have not achieved their generosity of spirit, or their depth of character or their inner light.

I wrote this book because I wanted to be a bit more like those people. I wrote it because I want to have moral adventures that will end up making me deeper and better. I know reading or writing a book can't make you incandescent in that way, but I wanted to describe people who had made that journey from shallowness to depth, from fragmentation to integrity, from self-concern to service. I thought I could at least describe the path people took toward that sort of goodness. Then I could try to make my own journey in that direction. I could find others who would take this journey with me.

I also wrote it because I wanted to shift the conversation a bit. We live in a culture that focuses on external success. We live in a fast, distracted culture. We've lost some of the vocabulary other generations had to describe the inner confrontation with weakness that produces good character. I am hoping this book can help people better understand their own inner lives, their own moral adventures and their own roads to character.



God Talk: Progressive Christianity in Conversation with Process Theology

Join Penny and Bonnie for a series of interactive presentations on viewing the core tenets of the Christian faith through the lenses of Progressive Christianity and Process Theology. For example, how does each lens understand Jesus and his role in the world? How does each lens view the Cosmos? If you wonder about if or how Christianity might meet the existential and pragmatic challenges of our moment in history, come let us explore this evolving Christian religious tradition together. Each evening begins with a Safeway Potluck (pick something, anything up from the store before you come). Childcare available.

Friday, September 18, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Friday, October 23, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Friday, November 20, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

In *The Road to Character*, Brooks focuses on the deeper values that should inform our lives. Responding to what he calls the culture of the Big Me, which emphasizes external success, Brooks challenges us, and himself, to rebalance the scales between our “résumé virtues”—achieving wealth, fame, and status—and our “eulogy virtues,” those that exist at the core of our being: kindness, bravery, honesty, or faithfulness, focusing on what kind of relationships we have formed.

"About once a month I run across a person who radiates an inner light."

—David Brooks

Incorporating his use of inspirational leaders, along with some of our biblical and spiritual ancestors, we will explore internal struggle as a path to internal strength of character. *The Road to Character* provides an opportunity for us to rethink our priorities, and strive to build rich inner lives marked by humility and moral depth.

In this sermon series, I hope to call us all to the same thing.



Mercy and Penny enjoying some Maine lobster!

Hear, Write, Share —new discussion group forming

Hear, Write, Share is an opportunity for you to respond to a series of sermons Penny will be giving based on David Brooks' *The Road to Character*. More details about this ongoing discussion group will be available in September. Dorothy Kogl, facilitator, kogl@att.net

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Joy...

Annlee, Penny and Mercy offer prayers of gratitude for a new home and for the extravagant welcome from our church family. A special thanks for the "food angels" who brought muffins and dinners, and to our "garden angel."

Prayers for Andrew Lind, son of Betsy Woodward and Phil Lind, who has moved to Nepal and is serving on the Earthquake Response Team. Andrew's wife, **Margherita**, will be joining him for ten days.

Prayers for **Dominic Grant Borghello, son of Diana and Jim Borghello, and grandson of Nancy and Craig Parsons**, who was born on August 5th. Both mom and baby are doing well. Big sister, Alexis, is thrilled to have a baby brother.

Prayers of thanksgiving for **Fava, Judy Hemmer's** new guide dog.

Prayers of Comfort...

Betty Brookes, a faithful member of CCSM and lover of music, passed away on June 8, 2015 at the age of 94. Please pray for her family.

Bor Kim Woo, Clayton Lee's grandmother, passed away June 19th, at the age of 106. Clayton's family is grateful for their grandmother and her life well-lived.

Karen Jolliffe's two nephews Stuart Jolliffe and Todd Jolliffe passed away within two weeks, one from a heart attack and the other from ALS. We ask for prayers for Karen, her brother and her family, that they may feel God's comforting presence as they mourn.

Prayers of Healing and Support...

Prayers for **Janet Bower**, who had successful lower jaw surgery on Aug. 12 to repair complications due to an infection. Janet will be on medical leave for the next month and is looking forward to returning to ministry in mid-Sept.

Prayers for **Vera Pitts**, who continues to have severe pain. Vera has enjoyed the many cards she has received from friends at CCSM and is ready to receive visitors, one at a time, please. Vera is working towards her rehabilitation at Carlmont Gardens.

Prayers for **Janet Smith Roberts, sister of Gordon Smith**, and former member of CCSM. Janet is being moved to the memory care unit at her residence in Madison, Wisconsin.

Prayers for **Sharon Tobin's son John** as he is experiencing multiple health issues.

Prayers for **Scott Ohl** and his shoulder that needs to heal, for Scott's friend in the Philippines, and for his friend Tom's move.

Prayers for **Betty Stout's** continued recovery at San Bruno Skilled Nursing Hospital. Cards may be sent to her home at 201 Chadbourne Ave., Apt 245, Millbrae 94030.

Prayers for **Trish Green and Janelle Bradford** as they move to Southern California after being evicted from their apartment.

Prayers for **all who are seeking employment** or who are underemployed and facing financial hardship. Also prayers for all who are having difficulties affording housing due to the high cost of living in the Bay Area.

Prayers for all who are recovering from surgery and facing physical, emotional and/or spiritual challenges during their time of healing: **John Duty, Betty Stout, Pam McCarthy-Hudson and Carol Glasmann**.

Prayers for **Emily Tomasi, niece of Phyllis Lunardi**, as she prepares for surgery on Sept. 4th to remove her thyroid and some lymph nodes due to thyroid cancer.

Gabby Oberes-Padre, daughter of Ramil and Michelle, had a successful scoliosis spinal surgery on June 22.

Prayers for **Kay Harris' sister Penny Sullivan** as she continues to struggle with cancer. She has exhausted treatment options and will be signing up for hospice soon.

Prayers for **Shawn, a friend of Genel Morgan and Sharon Tobin**, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Prayers for Shawn's strength and healing as he undergoes treatment.

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 **Cathy Latta, Rae and Tom Banks, Ruth Black, 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, 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 jbower@ccsm-ucc.org if you need support during the week.

SEPTEMBER MINI-MSJ CALENDAR

Wednesday, Sept 2, Day of Partnering (San Mateo Main Library)

Saturday, Sept 19, Beach Clean-up (Ryder Park)

Sunday, Sept 20, Affordable Housing Forum (Buckham Room)

Sunday, Sept 27, Home and Hope arrives (Kloss Hall)

Let's Collaborate!

At the **Day of Partnering** event, find out about a myriad of local services related to mental health, drugs and alcohol, youth, elderly, immigration, and education. Be part of the CCSM team exploring what neighborhood needs are being addressed—and where the gaps are. Because this is a special invitation-only event, please let us know of your interest (kibbie@kyros.org or 650-580-1797). **Wednesday, September 2, 8:30-Noon, San Mateo Main Library**

Let's Make Trash Extinct!

Join the largest volunteer event on the planet! (It's true—and could include YOU.) Our beaches need a pick-me-up. So young and old, come to Ryder Park **September 19** and **clean up the beach from 9am to noon**. Please let Kibbie know you are coming so she can register you (kibbie@kyros.org or 650-580-1797). Should we picnic together afterwards?



Let's Think!

San Mateo County's housing crisis isn't just a news headline. Precious members of CCSM have been forced to leave the area because of cost or evictions by new apartment owners. Join the **affordable housing conversation after church**

September 20. Featured speakers and discussion leaders include Don Horsley, SM Cnty Supervisor, Josh Hugg, Exec. Director of the Housing Leadership Council of SM County, and Jennifer Martinez, Executive Director of PIA/SFOP.

Let's Pitch In!

Help pitch the tents, feed families, sleep-over, or play with the children. Starting **Sunday, September 27, Home and Hope** (a rotating housing shelter for families) returns to Kloss Hall for a week. Contact Donna Lindsay, releduc@sbcglobal.net to help out.

MSJ



Ministry of Service & Justice

FROM KIBBIE'S HONDURAS EXPERIENCE...

On the Radio Progreso in Honduras, my message was:

I have witnessed a tragic cycle here. Many migrate north in hopes of a better life--to escape difficulties and violence here. Yet their departure breaks apart family strength and creates a vacuum more easily filled with corruption, multinational exploitation and other forces that further destroy this beautiful land and compromise the dignity of the people--which leads to more violence. I grieve the United State's involvement in creating and further fueling this cycle of tragedy. Yet I rejoice in the resiliency, determination, and courage of the people here.

You Walked With Me...

...in the "torch" protests against corruption in Honduras that has resulted in the collapse of health care in an already struggling country. Those fortunate enough to have jobs pay for medical care, but it is barely available. For example, a woman needing a C-section must go to La Farmacia to buy the necessary supplies, including gloves and scalpel. The major chant at the march was "no more militarization, more hospital medicines" (it rhymes in Spanish). We take so much for granted in the U.S.

—Kibbie Ruth, *International Religious Delegation, Root Causes (of immigration) Pilgrimage*



STREET REQUIEM

SUNDAY, 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 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.



The Worship & Spiritual Life (WSL) Team Presents the CCSM Map Connection Project

You may remember seeing a map back in the spring (made by Caleb Gatlin) of where CCSMers live. We wanted to show both how dispersed around the Bay Area our people are—and also how many of us are concentrated in relatively small geographic areas. It was fun to see—but what of it?

We think we can use this map to help strengthen the CCSM community, but we need your help. **We need you to wear your nametags and put a color dot on them to show what neighborhood you belong to. Then, on September 13, Homecoming Sunday, we hope that we can start making connections with people we might not already know but who are our neighbors in the most basic sense.**

Starting during the August 23 announcements two WSL members (Teresa Rose & Julie Lenden) will be presenting a series of brief skits. These will orient you to the process we've designed to facilitate dotting our nametags. No worries if you miss a skit—we'll fill you in.

Meanwhile, please join us in this project:

- Meet Your Neighbor*
- Discover Connections*
- Build Community*



CCSM members and Singers of the Street members picnic together at the All Church Picnic at Ryder Park



BBQ masters at the All Church Picnic

September 13 is Homecoming Sunday

Make sure to attend church on our annual Homecoming Sunday! The full choir will be back in church, our new sermon series will begin, and we'll celebrate the start of a new church year with a big BBQ.

Enjoy festive music on the lawn, plus balloon animals for the kids. This is your chance to catch up with all the friends you've missed over the busy summer months, and meet some of the many new faces that are becoming regulars at CCSM.

Invitation to celebrate Sukkot at Peninsula Temple Beth El Sunday, September 27, 5 p.m. 1700 Alameda des Pulgas, San Mateo



CCSM is invited to join PTBE's Interfaith Friendship Committee (IFC) as they celebrate the fall harvest holiday of Sukkot. Each year the IFC celebrates one night of the eight-night holiday by inviting interfaith friends to join in for a festive potluck meal, to share in fellowship and honor the bounty of the season. This year a few UCC friends and friends from the Pacifica Institute have been invited to join in the Sukkah. It's a wonderful night of good food, interesting conversations, and inevitably some good music.

Sukkot is the holiday and the Sukkah is the structure in which we dwell (i.e. You are invited to join in the Sukkah for the celebration of Sukkot). Technically, Sukkot is the plural form of Sukkah, which translates to "booths" or the impermanent structures that the Israelites would build to dwell in during the long days of the harvest.

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The Pine Tree

A newsletter for the families & friends of the
Congregational Church Of San Mateo, U.C.C.

The Pine Tree (USPS 433-380) is published monthly in the interest of Christian Fellowship by The Congregational Church of San Mateo, 225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo, California. Periodical class postage paid at San Mateo, California. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Pine Tree, 225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo, CA 94401.

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DATES for your CALENDAR

September

- 9/1 First Tuesday Book Group
- 9/2 Day of Partnering (MSJ)
- 9/13 Homecoming (*Road to Character* series begins)
- 9/14 Monday Sitting Meditation with Penny resumes
- 9/16 Yoga with Kate on Wednesdays begins
- 9/18 God Talk interactive presentation
- 9/18 Music and Art
- 9/19 Beach Cleanup at Ryder Park
- 9/20 Affordable Housing Forum
- 9/23 Autumnal Equinox Labyrinth Walk
- 9/27 Home and Hope
- 9/27 Sukkot—Peninsula Temple Beth El
- 9/27 Deadline to submit Pick-A-Party

October

- 10/4 World Communion | Blessing of the Animals, San Mateo Park
- 10/18 Pick-A-Party Sunday
- 10/23 God Talk interactive presentation
- 10/24 NCNC-UCC Church Day
- 10/25 Pick-A-Party Second Chance
- 10/31 Halloween Organ Concert

November

- Fill a Bag/Box— November
- 11/1 All Saints Day Kids Christmas Sale and Daylight Savings
- 11/8 Youth Fall Event
- 11/20 God Talk interactive presentation
- 11/22 Thanksgiving Sunday (Family Worship)
- 11/29 Forum on Human Trafficking (1st Sunday of Advent)

December

- 12/5 CCSM Holiday Party
- 12/6 Masterworks Chorale Concert
- 12/13 CCSM Christmas Concert
- 12/20 Franc D'Ambrosio Christmas Concert at CCSM
- 12/20 Christmas Pageant, Soup and Caroling
- 12/28-31 Peace Village (8:30 – 4:30)

PLEASE NOTE: The Half Day Church Retreat scheduled for August 29 has been postponed. Stay tuned for a new date.

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