

# The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo

United Church of Christ

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Issue #9 • November 2015

## Sunday Celebrations • 10:30am

### FALL SERMON SERIES: THE ROAD TO CHARACTER

#### 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.

#### ADVENT SNEAK PEAK

The theme for Advent this year is "Unopened Gifts"... stay tuned – it's going to be a special season this year.

Nov. 29: 1st Sunday of Advent. Jorge preaching.

Dec. 6: 2nd Sunday of Advent. Bonnie and Penny preaching.

Dec. 13: 3rd Sunday of Advent. CCSM Christmas Concert.

Dec. 20: 4th Sunday of Advent. Christmas Pageant.



## Interning at CCSM

by Joliene Wade Gatlin

I feel very blessed to be the PSR intern at CCSM this year. This community is a wonderful place to be and I have enjoyed getting to know more and more people here and learning from the fantastic staff at CCSM.



### Educational Series

As I started my internship over the summer, I was able to help put together our 2015 Summer Speaker Series. We engaged six speakers who shared their expertise about a variety of topics important to our world: developments in Alzheimer's and memory research, economic trends in the Silicon Valley, foreign policy challenges for our next president, the work of Rebuild South Sudan, global climate change, and advancements in creative technology. CCSM is blessed to have among us a variety of skills and types of knowledge that help us live into the world. Learning from experts in our community grows our sense of how we move and work in the world. The series inspired me to continue developing my own areas of knowledge so that I can take up the work of making a difference.

### Worship

I have also started to contribute my own voice at CCSM as part of worship and through my blog on our Facebook CCSM.UCC page. I preached twice in July and once as part of our current sermon series, "The Road to Character." I also participate in worship by reading scripture, poetry, and leading

—Continued on page 4—



The annual rush to sign up for Pick-A-Parties on October 18. See details on p. 3. It's not too late to sign up for Second Chance Pick-A-Parties! Go to [ccsm-ucc.org/pdfs/Pick\\_a\\_Party\\_2015\\_2nd\\_Chance.pdf](http://ccsm-ucc.org/pdfs/Pick_a_Party_2015_2nd_Chance.pdf) or find it on the [ccsm-ucc.org](http://ccsm-ucc.org) home page.

photo by Chris Yeh



# Children, Youth and Families

## Youth Ministry with Patrick Kane



Our youth ministry programs have kicked off for the school year with the goal of bringing these ministries in line with the three priorities of CCSM. In order to create a beloved community we have started holding regular youth fellowship meetings—weekly for the senior high, twice-monthly for the mid-high. Consistency and regularity are key components for building the kind of community where our youth are free to share, question, and grow together in faith.

Being a part of CCSM’s beloved community, the mid-high youth came together as a team and helped run a family worship service, bringing their interpretation of the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to life. The middle schoolers loved having representatives of older generations come speak to their class, sharing stories about their lives at that age. They were able to take some of the lessons learned from this summer’s “45-minutes” speaker series, and share the lessons of the elders with the entire congregation.

We’re also focused on being a part of CCSM’s priority of being a voice of progressive Christianity on the Peninsula. We’re eagerly awaiting Peace Village this December, welcoming our friends of different faiths into our home here in San Mateo. Some of our older youth will help run the day camp, while some of our younger youth will attend

as campers, learning about their own faith as well as the traditions of other religions.

The youth of CCSM have been making friends from other UCC congregations in the area, attending a Halloween party hosted by First Congregational Church of San Jose, as well as the high school overnight Fall Youth Event in Santa Cruz run by the Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC.

The youth of CCSM are very passionate about the social justice work of CCSM, and are excited to take on more of a role in that work. Some of the youth have been helping out with the Samaritan House dinners hosted here at CCSM, and are always excited to be a part of setting up and serving dinner for the Home and Hope shelter.

As we move forward with our year, we’ll be looking to expand our service work, making our youth a more integrated part of the work that CCSM does.

## Fall Church School: Road to Character series

Let’s be on this journey together.

Date	Adults’ Road: Sermon Themes	Kids’ Road: Godly Play Stories
Nov. 8	Self-Mastery: Paul—progress, not perfection	Paul’s Discovery
Nov. 15	From Ambition to Meaning: Jacob Wrestles to Maturity	Jacob: climbing a character ladder
Nov. 22: FAMILY WORSHIP	Self-Acceptance: Hagar’s Perfect Eyesight	Families worship together in the sanctuary



Frolicking happened at the Parent Kid Hangout in October.

## Homework Central seeks new tutors

There are still spaces for new tutors at Homework Central, especially on Thursday afternoons, from 3:00-5:00. Please talk to Betsy Woodward (650-571-9359) if you would like to join our tutoring team.





# PEACE VILLAGE RETURNS

## DECEMBER 28-31, 2015

This year, the interfaith peace education camp for kids ages 7-13 will be held December 28-31, 2015. What a way for kids, youth and adults from local Muslim, Christian and Jewish communities to end 2015 – as friends learning together about peace. Your child/ren will not want to miss it!

REGISTER NOW! [Click here <villagerelations.com/sanmateopeacevillage>](http://villagerelations.com/sanmateopeacevillage) for more information and on-line registration. Scholarships are available. For information, contact Bonnie, [brambob@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:brambob@ccsm-ucc.org).

Please register today as space is limited.

# Calling for Peace Village Group Leaders

If you enjoy spending time with children, learning about peace, building an interfaith youth community, being amazed at different religious traditions, acquiring community service hours and earning a work stipend during a school break – you may be the perfect candidate for a position as a Peace Village Group Leader. This opportunity is open to current high school and college students. Click [HERE <villagerelations.com/peace-village-san-mateo-group-leaders>](http://villagerelations.com/peace-village-san-mateo-group-leaders) to apply.

### Peace Village Group Leader Mandatory Training Dates:

- ♦ Nov. 15, 1-5 PM at Peninsula Temple Beth El
- ♦ Dec. 13, 1-5 PM at CCSM
- ♦ Peace Village: December 28-31, 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM at CCSM, PTBE (and may include other field trips)

# News from Tina Carter



To my CCSM Family,

For the past year plus I've had the pleasure of serving in the role of Events/Communication Coordinator. While serving I've met some lifelong friends, worked on meaningful projects, and watched CCSM grow into being a Spiritual Hub for the community and beyond... Wow!

As I move into a new level of responsibility with Stanford Health Care I will no longer have the bandwidth to continue in my current role at CCSM, but rather I will work on special projects as the need arises.

What does that mean to you besides missing my often untimely laughter? Once again Pearly will resume the facilities/scheduling responsibilities, and our newest member to the team, Todd Whitley, will handle Connections.

I'll always remember the help and support of my colleagues and friends. I've enjoyed being a part of this amazing group, and I'll miss our team spirit and enthusiasm that made each task or project easy to achieve. This is not goodbye but rather, I'll see you later. Best wishes to one and all!

**For reservations and room rentals: please contact Pearly Masters at 343-3694, not Tina Carter. Thank you!**

# Introducing New Communications Coordinator Todd Whitley

I am Todd Whitley from Dallas, Texas. I'm in the Bay Area to study social transformation at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. I retired in 2014 from a 26-year career in corporate communications and began doing faith-based social justice work there in our community in association with my home church, Cathedral of Hope UCC, and in partnership with other local faith-based and secular organizations.



I am excited to work among the compassionate and talented staff of CCSM to help us communicate even better with each other, help broaden the message about the good work "y'all" are doing in your community, and promote your influence that extends well beyond San Mateo, to a world in great need of justice and love.



# Another Successful Pick-A-Party this year!

Pick A Party continues to demonstrate its success as a CCSM fundraiser, raising close to \$25,000 this year! While it is a huge support to our general operating budget, it also creates fellowship and fun for the congregation. Thanks to ALL who participated and a special shout out to Carol Henton and Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh for their leadership.

Many parties still have open seats. To sign up, review the second chance party listing, [http://www.ccsm-ucc.org/pdfs/Pick\\_a\\_Party\\_2015\\_2nd\\_Chance.pdf](http://www.ccsm-ucc.org/pdfs/Pick_a_Party_2015_2nd_Chance.pdf) and look for Carol or Jennifer after worship in Kloss Hall.

## Interning at CCSM: Joliene

—cont. from p. 1—

prayer. As an introvert, this work is a challenge but has been so rewarding. I believe this work not only helps me to master my own voice, but to give voice to the biblical and poetic authors that we learn from each week. As so many of you have shared the ways that our worship services resonate with you, I have been grateful to continue growing in relationship with so many of you. It is always a profound experience to learn from one another and our tradition in worship and share the ways that our time together influences our lives. An extension of this has been my blog on Facebook. Responding to our the sermons not only helps me to internalize the work we are doing in our current series, but allows me to continue interacting with this community as we walk this path together.

### Developing a Young Adult Ministry

As new faces continue to walk into our doors, I am privileged to begin the work of creating a space for a growing demographic in our church—people in their 20s and 30s. We've started gathering twice a month to explore local food establishments in San Mateo and build a sense of community. As we are getting to know each other and build friendships, we are also doing the work of creating community for people new to the church. As our neighborhoods experience changes brought on by the tech boom, I see more young(ish) adults searching for progressive, engaged spiritual communities like CCSM. As we build this group together, we create a foundation for the continuing future of our church and the relationships and kinds of care that make CCSM such a unique place—one that values its internal relationships as much as its relationship with the greater community. As this group continues to develop, I see it expanding into different kinds of gathering and work in the church and neighborhood.

### Church Day

Speaking of our greater community, one of the big projects I've been working on lately was Church Day at CCSM. Church Day is a conference event that offers a variety of workshops for both ministers

and laity within Northern California Nevada Conference. While many ministers renewed their boundary training, ministers and church members gathered to worship and attend educational workshops. Eight workshops were offered from topics as diverse as the conflict in Israel/Palestine, building church websites, engaging new members, San Francisco Night Ministry, and racial sobriety. CCSM is lucky to have a wonderful facility that can hold this kind of gathering for our conference (120 people came!) and I was grateful to work with Nicole Lamarche and Barbara Broadbent to create a day of learning and community. It was good to see familiar faces of ministers who have been in community with CCSM in other ways, as well as to get to know folks in the UCC who are new to me. It was a big event that required much planning, but helped accomplish a wider sense of community and education that helps us all to be better citizens of the world.

My time at CCSM is teaching me a variety of aspects of ministry, from helping to move equipment around and getting spaces set up to developing transformative worship and community. I feel very supported by everyone at CCSM, from our ministers to our children! I have a drawing on my desk given to me by one of our youngest members when I helped out in Church School. It reminds me that generosity happens in big ways and small ways and often in places least expected.

I am so grateful to all of you for creating space for interns to learn from such a great church.

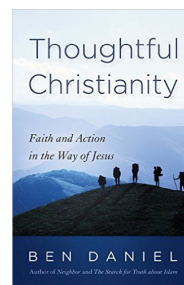


**Home & Hope's 3rd Annual  
Walk 5k, Run 10k  
The Journey Home:  
November 8, 2015 at 1pm  
at Seal Point Park  
[journeyhome.homeandhope.net](http://journeyhome.homeandhope.net)**

Meet the author of:  
**THOUGHTFUL  
CHRISTIANITY:  
FAITH AND ACTION IN THE  
WAY OF JESUS**

**Reach and Teach Bookstore  
Saturday, November 14, 4pm  
144 W. 25th Ave., San Mateo**

**for more info:  
[reachandteach.com](http://reachandteach.com) • 650 759 3784**





# Forgiveness Films and Book Discussion @ CCSM

Mondays: December 7, February 1, March 7, April 4 • 6 - 8 pm, Buckham Room



On the first Monday night of the month through April, we'll gather for two hours to talk about the meaning of forgiveness—90 minutes to watch a film & 30 minutes for group discussion.

We'll talk about developing forgiveness muscles and deepening our spiritual practice through wisdom and practices of Judaism, Christianity, Islam and Buddhism. We'll use readings, films, and personal reflections, and we'll study the role of forgiveness and reconciliation in the wake of injustice on a larger and/or institutional scale.

We will: describe in our own words what forgiveness is and is not; explain how a grievance story is created; cite examples of how forgiveness promotes health and well-being; identify scriptures and practices regarding forgiveness; describe their progress in apply forgiveness in our own lives and ministries; and listen and support others in their journeys toward forgiveness. A book recommendation for this group is *Forgive for Good* by Dr Fred Luskin.

Our first film on Nov. 2 was *The Power of Forgiveness*. Thanks to all of you who came out for that and joined in the discussion.

Upcoming films include:

**Dec. 7:** *The Cats of Mirikitani* (2006). Documentary about a homeless Japanese artist put in an internment camp during WWII and what it takes for him to let go of his anger and resentment.

**Feb. 1:** *Amish Grace* (2010). Documentary about the 2006 shootings at an Amish schoolhouse that depicts the difficulties and complexities of the spiritual practice of forgiveness.

**March 7:** *Forgiving Dr Mengele* (2006). Documentary: Eva Mozes Kor and her twin sister, Miriam, were able to survive Auschwitz; much of their family did not. Kor returns to Auschwitz on a quest to heal her wounds with an astonishing and controversial act of forgiveness.

**April 4:** *A Man Named Pearl* (2006). Documentary about the life an African American man who turned obstacles into breathtakingly beautiful possibilities in a magical garden. Both his life and his garden serve as inspirations to his family, community, and the thousands of visitors who come to experience Pearl's world each year.

To sign up, contact Dakota Brown 415-244-3696 or [dakotaorange2004@yahoo.com](mailto:dakotaorange2004@yahoo.com)

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE AT CCSM

Janet Bower, Acting Minister of Congregational Care



It is so exciting to know of all wonderful acts of kindness are done here at CCSM to promote congregational care at CCSM.

Some of our Congregational Care work is visible. We provide Fellowship opportunities throughout the year including Affinity Groups, the Annual Church Picnic, Homecoming Sunday, the Holiday Party, Caroling, Souper Sunday and the Annual Congregational Meeting Luncheon. We also offer an Extravagant Welcome through the Welcome Table, Coffee Connections in Kloss Hall and

our New Member Exploration and Joining events. I have the pleasure of gathering our mature adults (Wise and Wonderful Seniors) twice a month for food, fellowship and outings.

Some of our Congregational Care work is less visible. We visit people in homes and hospitals, make phone calls, deliver meals, send emails, write notes, deliver flowers during the holidays, serve home communion and offer transportation to and from church for those who need it. We connect those who are homebound with those who enjoy caring for others (Connect and Care). Along with our other pastors, we provide crisis counseling and spiritual care for those needing extra support for a brief time. As a Pastoral Counselor, I provide longer-term counseling at no, low or affordable cost as a part of my private practice. I also facilitate on-going support groups for those who have lost loved ones through death (Grief Support Group) and for women who are transitioning out of marriage relationships (Women's

Relationship Support Group).

In the very near future, our congregational care enthusiasts will be promoting the development of new affinity groups based on interests, developing a training program for those interested in providing spiritual care for those needing a companion during life's transitions, identifying mental health and health providers who can serve as a resource for those requesting assistance, hosting a health fare for the community, offering topical classes related to spiritual and emotional health, expanding the support group ministry based on identified needs and hosting neighborhood gathering for recent members.

Words cannot describe how delighted I am to serve as Acting Minister of Congregational Care and to work closely with the Ministry of Congregational Care, Fellowship, and Extravagant Welcome (CFE), led so well by Deb Flaherty and Sue Bullis. Together, with dozens of caring people, we do make a difference and lives are being transformed by God by our connections.

# THERE AIN'T NO JUSTICE

# MSJ

Or so the title of a 1939 British movie claimed. At CCSM, we disagree!

## **Justice has no hands but our hands:**

✧ This fall the Wheels program moved from the Helds' garage to its own location across the street. Tell your neighbors to bring their unused bicycles to CCSM so they can be transformed into safe "rides" for our wheel-less neighbors.

✧ This fall when Samaritan House suddenly had to move its Dining Room from Fifth Avenue, CCSM began feeding those hungry neighbors right here on Tuesdays and Thursdays (now over 100 dinners a night). When one boy showed up



Ministry of Service & Justice

for dinner, he said, "Oh, I know this place." He had been in Kloss Hall as a guest at our temporary Home and Hope shelter. Now he shows up every night for the hot meal and friendly welcome of the Dining Room—a bright spot in his day before he returns to the family car to sleep.

## **Justice has no voice but our voice:**

✧ Penny regularly speaks to the press, including at the CCSM vigil for those killed in the Oregon shooting. About 50 people attended the beautiful service, covered by three television stations and other media.

✧ Jorge appeared on Spanish television station and spoke at a vigil outside of San Mateo City Hall, urgently asking the Council to respond to the housing crisis.

✧ Kibbie spoke at an airport press conference about the unaccompanied minors immigrating into the US and also at a vigil at the huge Detention Center in Contra Costa County (pulling herself together after bursting into tears when she first saw all the barbed wire holding the immigrants captive).

✧ You also add your voice whenever you tell others what matters to you and name injustice in the world.

✧ This fall, Kibbie taught pastoral boundaries to 60 clergy colleagues from the Northern California Conference here at CCSM. That six-hour training hopefully reduced the possibility that ministers themselves inadvertently contribute to injustice.

## **Justice has no future but our future:**

Building empathy in children is crucial for justice to flourish.

✧ Like CCSM's adults, our youth have opportunities to serve, whether a soon-to-be Eagle Scout working on a church project or the youngsters who helped at the beach clean-up day. Most recently, high schoolers have helped direct people to the Dining Room in Kloss Hall. Once inside, you would have spotted Lauren Back reading to an enthralled two-year-old last Thursday.

✧ And like our CCSM adults, our youth have opportunities to give. Thousands of dollars are generously given in the Sunday offerings and donated directly to worthy charities here and globally. The children are learning to give donations too. In October, as they gathered up front for their special time in the worship service, the children brought up books for the Samaritan House children. In November, please bring new socks for the homeless in San Francisco and our county. On Sunday, just hand your "offering" to a child who then can add your socks to the collection box in the chancel.

Maybe it's true that "There ain't no justice," but at CCSM we are trying to change that. Want to know more? Email [msj@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:msj@ccsm-ucc.org).

## From Jorge



It is great to be back with CCSM! I returned from my trip to Bolivia and Peru two months ago, but for most of this year I have not been as active in church while I cared for my mother during her radiation treatments for breast cancer. She is doing

great now and has been back to her full self since the summer. Thank you all for your support and prayers.

### **I want to share two profound moments for CCSM and its relation to the community.**

First, I have been meeting every other week at CCSM with Peninsula Interfaith Action (PIA), a group mostly made up of latin@s from the community affected by San Mateo's housing crisis. At the end of one of the gatherings, while we were cleaning up, a Salvadoran woman gave me what looked like cornbread wrapped in plastic and said, "Para

**A Salvadoran woman gave me what looked like cornbread wrapped in plastic and said, "Para usted, Pastor Jorge."**

usted, Pastor Jorge. Gracias por todo lo que haces por nosotros." (For you, Pastor Jorge. Thanks for everything you do for us.) But

it wasn't cornbread—it was a different kind of quesadilla, like pancakes with cheese in the batter. It was creamy and delicious. I was moved by this gesture. They haven't felt very supported by clergy in San Mateo as they struggle with housing, and though I feel I haven't done much for the group, my presence and allowing them to gather at CCSM not only welcomes them, but provides moral support in their struggle. Also, it was a big moment for me because I began to imagine what it would be like to be a pastor for the latin@ community—and that is receiving many cakes.

Another profound moment with PIA came night after the meeting when I shared with them about Peace Village. I asked if they were interested in registering any of their children or if they knew of any other families that may be interested. I told them that if they couldn't afford it we have scholarships for them. With much enthusiasm, four families responded, so we now have eight children from the neighborhood who will participate in this year's Peace Village. The families expressed how happy they are to have this opportunity for their children to keep busy in a healthy way; though they often want their children involved in programs during the school break, they can't afford the cost, and then their kids end up just running around the streets.

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**Music and Art: Guest Angela Kraft Cross**  
**Friday, November 20 at noon • Buckham Room**

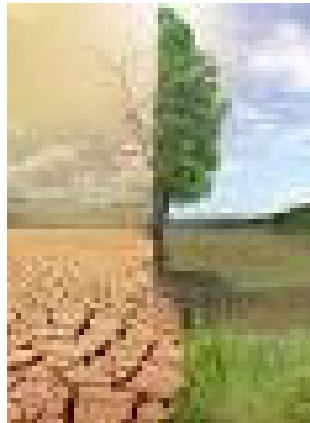
CCSM's own artist-in-residence Angela Kraft Cross will present the program entitled "The Widor Project." Next Spring Angela plans to record four of French composer Charles-Marie Widor's symphonies on a special organ in France. You won't want to miss this special event.



Bring your own sandwich/salad; dessert and beverages are provided. After a brief business meeting we will move to the sanctuary for the organ music and lecture. Newcomers are most welcome. Reserve your space by calling Pat Pepper, 650-342-4266 or Bonny Armacost, 650-315-2999.

**Climate Change: A Crisis**  
**Sunday, November 15, Noon-1:15pm**  
**Buckham Room**

Perhaps you have questions about climate change and its environmental impacts. You want to lower your carbon footprint and take collective action to help address the planetary challenge of our time.



To help educate us and sort out the actions we can take, CCSM is sponsoring a presentation by Gary White entitled "Climate Change: A Crisis." Recently trained by Al Gore and his Climate Reality Project organization, Gary will give an updated and abbreviated version of the presentation the former Vice President gave in the 2006 award winning film, "An Inconvenient Truth." He will make the case that human-induced climate change does in fact exist, walk us through the newest technologies that will enable the world to shift to renewable energy, and share a list of personal and political actions one can take to help resolve this urgent crisis.

We hope to see you all at this special event. You are welcome to bring family and friends as well.

**Organ Recital with Dominic Pang**  
**Sunday, November 15, 4:00pm**

Eleven-year-old organ virtuoso will delight us with a recital as part of our Gifts of Music series.

Tickets and more information are available at [ccsm-ucc.org](http://ccsm-ucc.org) and on [Facebook.com/CCSM.UCC](https://www.facebook.com/CCSM.UCC).



**7th Annual Interfaith Choral Concert:**

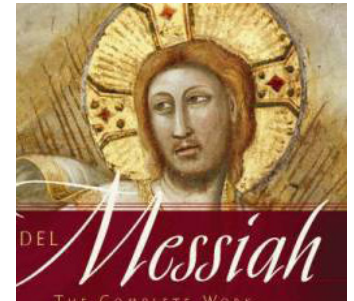
**The Messiah**

—a Benefit for Home and Hope—

**November 22 • 5pm**

**The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew**  
**1 South El Camino Real, San Mateo**

We are looking forward to a very exciting concert this year, with the *Messiah* sing-along concert being the culminating event of St. Matthew's 150 yr anniversary celebration! We have come full circle, as the very first concert took place at St. Matthews 7 years ago. Our goal this year is to raise \$10,000 from this concert for Home and Hope. Looking forward to seeing you there!



**SAVE THE DATE! January 8**  
**Epiphany Party at CCSM**

CCSM's annual Holiday Party is always a fun time—great food, music and fellowship! And...it's usually the first Saturday in December, right? Well, we're changing things up a bit. With so much going on before Christmas, we felt that a party would be just what everyone needs in January, so mark your calendars: Friday evening, January 8, 7pm. We're calling it an "Epiphany Party." Details to follow.



**FROM JORGE** —continued from page 6

They are eager to find ways to involve their children in programs that are educational, help them be better people, and get them off the streets.

These two moments brought a lot of joy and a smile to my face. It inspired me to continue to be creative and to keep dreaming of the various ways we can continue to connect with the community. Great things are coming to CCSM and I am so excited to be a part of it, and hope each one of you are too!

Peace,  
Jorge Perry Bautista



## Stewardship 2016

Dear CCSM Community,

In the fall of 2013, we began to dream about becoming a spiritual hub on the Peninsula – a center of activity where people from San Francisco to San Jose could gather to explore their own spirituality, connect with each other, serve in our community and beyond, and grow a better world, together.

This inspired notion grew out of our vision whereby this spiritual hub would be known as a strong voice for Progressive Christianity, a beloved community, and a leader in Social Justice.

Today, every where we look, we are reminded of just how far we have come in such a short period of time since we committed ourselves to these shared intentions.

New opportunities to explore spirituality through meditation, yoga and sermon discussion groups have emerged. Neighborhood fellowship groups are being formed, a website portal is being developed, and a model for congregational care is being implemented, creating new ways to connect with and care for each other. Our already vibrant programming for Children and Youth, Music, Seniors, and Young Adults are all expanding in breadth, depth and reach.

CCSM as a spiritual hub is becoming a reality, as we continue to grow our neighborhood presence in exciting and impactful ways. In partnership with Samaritan House and the Masonic Lodge, we now serve an average of 90 dinners per weeknight. Furthermore, we are building connections with our surrounding Latino community to learn how CCSM can play a more vital and relevant role in it.

Thank you for your commitment to our shared vision and for choosing to use the gifts you have been given for the benefit of CCSM and the lives we impact beyond our campus.

In 2016 we look forward to the continued opportunity to explore, connect, serve and grow, together!

With deep gratitude,

Jeanne Back  
Moderator

Jim Lindsay  
Stewardship, Finance and Operations Chair

*Many individuals and families came out for the vigil in response to the shootings at Umpqua Community College in Oregon.*





# JOYS AND CONCERNS

## Prayers of Joy...

**Rebecca Ruedy** joyfully announces her engagement to **Michael Whelan**, partner of fifteen years. They plan to marry next June at CCSM. Congratulations!

For **Tina Carter** and her ministry as Events and Communication Coordinator at CCSM. We appreciate her many gifts and abilities, including her organizational skills, creative communications, faithful spirit, eye for design, inspiring prayers and collegiality. Blessings to you, Tina, as you transition. We will greatly miss you!

Happy Birthday to a very special person celebrating a very special birthday on November 22, **Martha Grannis**. Martha, may the upcoming year be filled with joy and peace!

**Janet Bower** is grateful for the prayers and well-wishes she has received during her recovery from two surgeries. Janet has returned to ministry at CCSM as the Acting Minister of Congregational Care and is available for pastoral needs.

## Prayers of Comfort...

**Keith Lenden's dad, Jim Lenden**, passed suddenly and unexpectedly on October 28th after a fall. Keith fortunately had a wonderful visit with him last week. He is survived by Keith's mom Joanne, five kids, their spouses and a dozen grandkids. Please keep the Lenden family in your prayers.

**Amy Helms, Bonnie Rambob's** very dear friend, was in a head-on collision on October 28, and passed away due to traumatic injuries. She was 46. Please keep Amy's family and friends, and Bonnie, in prayer during this tragic time. Bonnie's best friend, Laurie, died six years ago at the age of 44 so the loss is especially difficult. May each loved one feel God's abiding presence and love.

**Marge Boyd's father, Don Boyd**, passed away peacefully at the age of 101 on Oct. 28, surrounded by his daughters, Marge and Bev. **Jerri Handy** is tending to her mother who has congestive heart failure and is in a rehab unit until she can return home, and for her father who is undergoing tests to assess his decline. Tender mercies to Marge and Jerri in this difficult time.

**Ralph Plumhoff, Susan Stoddard's brother**, passed away suddenly on Sept. 18 from esophageal cancer. Our prayers are with Susan and Julien during their time of mourning and remembering.

**Ruby Wam Liu, mother-in-law of Elise Leung**, passed away on October 5 at the age of 95. May God's comforting

presence be with the family.

**Cecelia Perkins** is mourning the loss of her father, **Mike Perkins**, who passed away on Oct. 20, just 14 months after the passing of her mother. May Cecelia feel comforted by the love of her church family and sustained by cherished memories of her parents during this difficult passage.

Our substitute custodian **Oscar Rosa's nephew, Alejandro Tejera Flores**, was murdered by gunmen in the night in his home in El Salvador. He leaves a wife and three children. Oscar requests prayers for the shocked and grieving family.

Prayers are needed for the **village of Jalle in South Sudan** where the school is being built. A cattle raid by a nearby tribe turned violent and more than 30 people were murdered; the village is in deep mourning. Please pray especially for the wife and 4 children of **John Mayen**, who was in charge of many aspects of building the school and who was very involved in the recent teacher training.

For the **hundreds of people in Afghanistan and Pakistan affected by the devastating earthquake**. Prayers of comfort for those who have lost loved ones, are recovering from injuries and are without shelter.

## Prayers of Healing & Support...

**Carl Pantle**, our beloved Minister of Music, is recovering from a serious car accident on Oct. 25. He is resting at home after being released from the hospital. We are praying that his headaches subside and that he has a speedy recovery.

**Mary Ann Notz** had skin cancer surgery on Oct. 21 and a heart procedure on Oct. 27. Mary Ann requests prayer for her healing and renewed health.

**Betty Stout** is in need of prayer as she recovers from her falls and transitions to a new residence. Betty has moved to a small board and care in San Mateo.

**Linda Mallette** is home after her third knee replacement surgery on Oct. 27. Prayers of gratitude that she is doing great; continued prayers for her rehabilitation.

**Carolyn Shaw** had cervical spine surgery on Oct. 19 and is at Brookside in San Mateo for rehabilitation. Carolyn will not be able to drive for 5 weeks and would appreciate calls and cards.

**Peter Held** is home after a brief stay in the hospital due to a bike accident. Please keep him in your prayers as he heals from painful rib and shoulder injuries.

**Jean Folsom, Kit Dunbar's mother**, was diagnosed with breast cancer and will have a lumpectomy on Nov. 6. Prayers of

gratitude for early detection, and prayers for a complete recovery.

**Kathy Cheva** had thyroid cancer surgery Oct. 5 and **Cheryl Rosenthal** is asking for prayers for her recovery.

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

**Bill Selenger, long-time friend of Gordon and Margaret Smith**, is enduring treatments for cancer. Prayers for Bill's recovery and restored health.

**Diana Baker, friend of Carol Boes**, is being treated for lung cancer. May God's healing touch provide strength and peace in knowing she is lifted up in prayer by many.

**Kathleen Erwin, Maureen Martin's cousin**, is completing her cancer treatment. Maureen would like prayer for Kathleen's full recovery.

**Lillian Comer, Gaila Moore's 46-year-old cousin**, is being evaluated for a heart transplant. Gaila's family requests prayers for Lillian's full recovery, age 46, as she undergoes tests and is hospitalized.

Prayers for **Emily Tomasi, niece of Phyllis Lunardi**, as she recovers from surgery to remove her thyroid and some lymph nodes due to thyroid cancer.

Please pray for **Kate Engelberg (friend of Holly Allen and Camille Grant), Paula (sister-in-law of Kirsten Smith), Janice Kennedy (cousin of Margaret and Gordon Smith), Randy (nephew of Stan Higgs), Bill Daniels, and others** as they walk their unique journeys with cancer.

Continuing prayers for **Shirley Kavanaugh (mother of Janet Bower), 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 and Travis Woodmansee**.

*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](mailto:jbower@ccsm-ucc.org) if you need support during the week.*

## DATES for your CALENDAR

Please check CCSM's calendar at [ccsm-ucc.org/calendar/](http://ccsm-ucc.org/calendar/) for a more complete listing, but here are some highlights:

### November

- 11/7 Youth Fall Event
- 11/12 MediCal/Care Discussion - 6pm
- 11/15 Climate Change: A Crisis - noon  
Peace Village training - 1pm  
Organ Recital with Dominic Pang - 4pm
- 11/20 God Talk interactive presentation - 6:30pm
- 11/22 Thanksgiving Sunday (Family Worship)  
New Members Luncheon - 11:45am  
Interfaith Choral Concert - The Messiah - 5pm
- 11/29 Forum on Human Trafficking (1st Sunday of Advent)

### December

- 12/6 Masterworks Chorale Concert
- 12/7 Forgiveness Film Series
- 12/13 CCSM Christmas Concert  
Viva La Musica Concert - 3:30pm
- 12/20 Christmas Pageant, Soup and Caroling  
Franc D'Ambrosio Christmas Concert at CCSM
- 12/24 Christmas Eve services
- 12/28-31 Peace Village (8:30 - 4:30)

### January

- 1/8 Epiphany Party



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## The Pine Tree

A newsletter for the families & friends of the  
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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I/We plan to give in 2016 an annual total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Increase my/our 2015 Pledge by \_\_\_\_\_

Renew my/our 2015 Pledge \_\_\_\_\_

Please send envelopes (✓one): [ ] weekly [ ] monthly [ ] none

I/We plan to give online at [ccsm-ucc.org](http://ccsm-ucc.org) via credit card (Visa/MC) or EFT/debit

A gift to CCSM is in my/our will or trust

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

If you like, you can clip this out and return it to the church office as your pledge card, or go to [ccsm-ucc.org/giving](http://ccsm-ucc.org/giving) to find out more or give online. Look for the Stewardship Letter on p. 8 of this newsletter.