

The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo

United Church of Christ

225 Tilton Avenue · San Mateo, California 94401

650 343-3694 · email: info@ccsm-ucc.org · website: www.ccsm-ucc.org

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A Word from Penny

Our religion and science series during Lent has sparked a variety of interesting conversations. We've heard reflections from scientists about how they integrate their understanding of God and faith into their lives. We've sung hymns and joined our voices together in liturgies that incorporate our current scientific and cosmological knowledge. We've sung well-known hymns and imbued them with new meaning. The choir has sung a classical Kyrie every Sunday, each one from a famous mass. My hope is that we've experienced progressive Christianity and spiritual community as embracing and uplifting the incredible scientific knowledge of our modern era. I also hope that while we remain grounded in our Christian tradition, we are open to our own notions of faith and God evolving so that they might be more deeply integrated into our own lives. As our guiding principle says, "We welcome change and innovation and eagerly experiment with new ways of being faithful. We strive to be rooted but not stuck."



As we approach Easter, the age-old question of the veracity of the resurrection will rise once again. To ask if the resurrection actually happened, or if one can "prove" it, is to fall into the same trap of conflating science and religion. As we have talked about all during Lent, science and religion are in partnership, each adding great worth to life, but they do not ask the same questions nor seek the same goal.

For me, resurrection is real. Come on Easter and you'll know why...

Peace,
Penny

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

March 20, 10:30am • Sanctuary

A palm processional with our children, inspirational music, and Penny and Bonnie preaching together.

Holy Thursday Service

March 24, 7 pm, Kloss Hall

Penny will facilitate an intimate service reminiscent of the last supper where we share conversation, a light meal, sing, and participate in communion together. An informal but deeply meaningful service as we explore what it means to be followers of Jesus. RSVPs to Penny encouraged so we can plan for food. All welcome.

Good Friday Service

March 25, 7 pm • College Heights UCC

CCSM will once again join with College Heights UCC, Peninsula MCC, and Island United Church in Foster City as we hear reflections on the seven last words of Jesus and experience the meaning of the evening through music. (1150 W Hillsdale Blvd, SM)

Easter

Early Service: 8am:

Come and celebrate resurrection at our service led by the youth.

Easter Celebration: 10:30am

Our Easter service is always one of the year's highlights. Come early to get a seat and be prepared to experience resurrection!

April Sundays

- April 3** Forbidden: How does our spiritual compass direct our moral compass? Bonnie preaching.
- April 10** What is Love? Joliene preaching. Special Guest Musicians: Belle Voce
- April 17** From Charity to Advocacy and Deep Solidarity. Special Guest Preacher Joerg Reiger (see more inside). Special Music: CCSM Chamber Singers
- April 24** Children's Pageant
- May 1** No Degrees of Separation. A service where we will talk about the importance of destigmatizing mental illness.
- May 8** Mother's Day
- May 15** PENTECOST
- May 22** Spring Concert :The Durufle



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

YOUTH LED SERVICE EASTER MORNING

The youth of CCSM will be leading our early Easter service on **March 27 at 8:00 am**. We will be starting a discussion around what we would like to see as part of the service, and lining up youth to be leaders in the service over our next few church school and fellowship meetings. If you'd like to be involved, please get in touch with Patrick! pkane@ccsm-ucc.org

SPECIAL SESSIONS!

GOD & SCIENCE FOR 10-12 YEAR-OLDS

Sunday, April 10, 12-3 PM, Fireplace Room

(NOTE DATE CHANGE)

Children (10-12 years old) are invited to participate in a fun and provocative discussion about how science relates to faith and God. They will not only have an opportunity to hear how many scientists have been inspired or impressed by God's presence in nature and in the universe, but they will also have access to the internet for their own research on scientists.



Finally, guided and supported by our 4th-5th grade Lead Teacher, Sandra Sotogronadona and Bonnie Rambob, they will conclude with their own presentations, using Godly Play methodology. All of this topped with fabulous healthy snacks. Please sign up with Sandra, sandra_casa@hotmail.com. We have space for 12 participants.

Young Actors—Check This Out!

EARTH DAY PAGEANT AND NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP

Worship Performance, April 24

Rehearsal: 9-11am, April 23

We are looking for 8 to 10 aspiring actors, K-5th grade, for our Earth Day Pageant. We will perform an adaptation of *The Wartville Wizard* (by Don Madden), which is about a neat and tidy man who lives in a town where the citizens are not so neat and tidy and throw their litter on the ground. Mother Nature gives the man the Power Over Trash and it magically returns and sticks to whoever throws it! There will be no lines to memorize, just your enthusiasm and willingness to participate are necessary. If you are interested in participating, please contact Trisha Violette at mviolette@att.net.



Directly after the service on April 24, we will do a Neighborhood Clean Up event.

PARENTS: We could also use help behind the scenes with costumes, and props, and helping the kids with their queues the day of the pageant. Let Trisha know how you can help.



SENIOR HIGH (9th-12th grade) youth fellowship every Sunday, 12-2pm in the Youth Room in the WCE building. We have games, discussions, and some faith exploration particularly relevant to this Lenten season. Please join us on Sundays!

MID HIGH (6th-8th grade) youth fellowship meets on the first and third Sundays of each month, from 6-7:30 pm in the Youth Room. Please come join us for fun and fellowship - friends always welcome!



The 5th graders receive their very own blessed bibles on Feb. 21.

SPIRITUAL SUMMER CAMPS

CAMP CAZ

Everyone who goes to Camp Caz, loves Camp Caz! The Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC provides safe, fun and spiritual residential summer camp programs for children as young as first grade (with a parent) up to adults – all in the beautiful natural world. Check out the camps and registration information at: ncnucucc.org/yomc/ Scholarships are available—just contact Bonnie, brambob@ccsm-ucc.org.

PEACE EDUCATION INTERNSHIP FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS OF FAITH

If you are passionate about co-creating peace, enjoy leading groups of kids (1st-8th grade), and are open to making new friends from different religious traditions—there is the perfect opportunity for you in San Mateo: *Peace Village San Mateo*, July 25-29, 2016. Peace Village Interns will form a team of Group Leaders who staff the program. A stipend is provided as well as lunch every day of the program. **Mandatory training dates are April 17 and May 22, 1-5 PM.** To apply online for this incredible opportunity, go to: villagerelations.com/sanmateopeacevillage or get a paper application from Bonnie or Patrick.

PEACE VILLAGE · JULY 25-29 REGISTER NOW

In a world with religious violence and in the U.S. with hateful speech, perhaps there has never been a more important time than now to raise our children to live as friends in a diverse community. The Peace Village planning team comprised of representatives from Muslim Children's Garden School, Peninsula Temple Beth El, Pacifica Institute and CCSM are engaged in planning a vibrant, dynamic interfaith peace education camp for children finishing 1st-8th grade. Every layer of the Peace Village community is collaborative and cooperative, from the youngest villagers to the high school group leaders to the adult volunteers. In developmentally-appropriate, interactive, fun ways, villagers learn how to practice non-violent communication; they learn about the well of peace found in multiple religious traditions; they learn media literacy; they practice yoga and meditation and they express their hearts through music, dance and art. Peace Village is a community of faith houses and peoples—CCSM is part of the village. The village is ready and waiting for your child/ren.

To register online: villagerelations.com/sanmateopeacevillage. Have questions or need a scholarship? Contact Bonnie, brambob@ccsm-ucc.org

PENNY TO WALK THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

May 28-June 5

The 2016 Camino Peace Pilgrimage will consist of 14 people from many religious traditions and spiritual backgrounds walking 100 miles/160 km of the ancient Spanish Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route together. Each day will include various spiritual practices (yoga, meditation, prayer), hearing each other's stories, and about 10-15 mi/16-24 km of walking. There will also be short periods of time set aside for silence as we walk the Spanish countryside and northern coast.

The selection committee accepted Penny's application with these words: "Congratulations! You have been selected by Heartbeat to participate in the Camino Peace Pilgrimage. The Selection Committee was overwhelmed by the number and caliber of applications that arrived from all over the world and from a wide range of religious traditions. Heartbeat is thrilled about who you are and what you will bring to this group. We are deeply honored to have you participate and look forward to walking with you."



VISIT US AT
CCSM-UCC.ORG



Ministry of Service & Justice

“BRUSH THOSE TEETH”

How many times have we said that to our children (or ourselves) and heard excuses, excuses? But what if you didn't even have a toothbrush? Because many of our homeless and poorer neighbors lack the necessary supplies, they have poor dental health. Let's bring toothbrushes and toothpaste to church in March—so there's no reason our neighbors need to suffer toothaches.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO IRISH TO BE GREEN

As CCSM launches into greenness (beyond our recycling), let's celebrate our beloved environment all month in April.

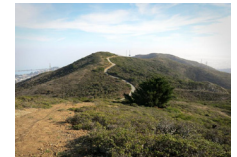
SUNDAY, APRIL 10, AFTER CHURCH: CLIMATE REALITY WITH GARY WHITE

Our own specialist on the climate crisis, scientist Gary White, will update us on the worldwide climate progress made in the post-COP 21 era. Trained by Al Gore and his Climate Reality Project, Gary educates and motivates people to respond to the climate crisis. The presentation is an updated and abbreviated version of the now famous slideshow Gore gave in the award winning film, "An Inconvenient Truth." Get in the spirit to celebrate the 37th Earth Day...come learn the "truth."



SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 10AM-1:30PM: SAN BRUNO MOUNTAIN PICNIC

Explore San Bruno Mountain's less-traveled canyons and learn about their history and ecology on this docent-lead hike. The hike is on footpaths surrounded by coastal scrub, riparian woodland and coastal grassland and includes a visit to an Ohlone Indian shell mound. Join the adventure and help MSJ decide about possibly "adopting" the mountain, one of the largest open spaces in urban America. Should CCSM assist in preserving natural habitat and nurturing this area's unique ecosystem which is home to 13 rare and endangered plants and three federally-listed endangered butterflies?



SUNDAY, APRIL 24: EARTH DAY PAGEANT AND NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP (See the story on page 2.)

SATURDAY, APRIL 30: REBUILDING TOGETHER

Team up with our Masonic neighbors across the street and rehabilitate homes or a community facility while revitalizing our San Mateo community. More details will follow.

CHOOSE YOUR PASSION

Relieving homelessness? Volunteer for LifeMoves, Home and Hope, Open Cathedral (SF Night Ministry), or Blanketeers.

Feeding the hungry? Volunteer for Peninsula Food Runners, Samaritan House, or Call Primrose.

Serving seniors? Volunteer for San Mateo Village, Ombudsman Program, or CCSM Caring Ministries.

Improving education? Volunteer for Intercommunal Preschool, Homework Central, or Puente Children's Day.

Helping kids? Volunteer for Samaritan House Kids' Closet, CCSM's church school or youth programs.

Offering hospitality? Volunteer for the "catering team," worship greeters, or coffee hour hosting.

Tinkering? Volunteer for Wheels repairing bikes or our building and grounds team.

You can change the world AND have fun by participating with one of CCSM's many teams. For more information, send an email to msj@ccsm-ucc.org or text 650-580-1797.

CELEBRATE TAX DAY

Last chance to join the trip to the Mexican border on Friday, April 15.

Your taxes will already be in. Due to a cancellation, there is an extra seat on the bus now. Come visit Jerri Handy's Las Memorias, build a house for a poor family in Tijuana, travel between the fences with the Border Patrol, stroll through the Chicano Park murals, and be home Sunday night. Email msj@ccsm-ucc.org for details. Cost is less than \$500.



Las Memorias, the HIV/AIDS hospice where Jerri Handy is serving

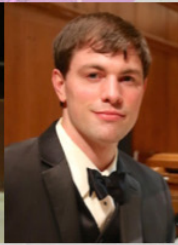
Gift of Music Series

march 13

april 17

may 15

may 22



An Afternoon of Flute & Organ Music

Featuring Allison & Thomas Lohmuller

The Fab 4 Piano Concert

Armacost, Cross, Norkvesta, & Parker

Spring Organ Concert

Angela Kraft Cross

The CCSM Chancel Choir

Directed by Carl Pantle

Tickets available at the door. Suggested donation: \$10 per person or \$20 per family

MASTERWORKS Chorale

So Sings My Heart

MARCH 19, 8:00PM
MARCH 20, 2:00PM

Masterworks Chorale invites the CCSM community to join us for a lovely concert of living composers, *So Sings My Heart*.

Use the code "CCSM group" when buying tickets at masterworks.org

and get the group discount price of \$25 for adults. Students are \$10.

More information is available on-line or on the flyers in the Narthex.

ADD YOUR VOICE... OUR JUSTICE SYSTEM NEEDS REFORM—NOW!

The Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act (S. 2123) has passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, now ready for a full Senate vote. If enacted, this act would address years of unjust and inflexible sentencing laws that mete out punishments that do not fit the crimes committed. Mandatory minimum sentences have contributed to an overwhelming increase in the federal prison population since 1980. These penalties are unwarranted, exacerbate racial disparities, and perpetuate dangerous and expensive prison overcrowding. The act would also provide for the automatic sealing and expungement of records of non-violent juvenile offenses and prohibit juvenile solitary confinement.



Urge Congress to support the bi-partisan Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act and move Criminal Justice Reform in the right direction. Sign the petition and **ADD YOUR VOICE!**

[click here: http://p2a.co/u6yHVzP](http://p2a.co/u6yHVzP)

MUSIC AND ART: YEMEN, BEFORE THE CURRENT WAR

Friday, March 18, noon • Buckham Room

Members and guests will be treated to a special slideshow: "Yemen, Before the Current War." Dr. Carol Munch, friend of Mary Ann Notz and Dr. Angela Kraft Cross, is a well-traveled, retired ophthalmologist with a passion for photography. You will "tour" not only the capitol city of Sanaa, but the island of Socotra, the Galapagos of the Middle East. Bring your own sandwich/salad. Beverages and dessert are provided. Reserve your space by calling Pat Pepper at 650-343-4286.



Our Wise and Wonderful Ones enjoying lunch together in February

DINNER WITH 20/30S AT CCSM

March 20, March 30, April 15

Join us for a meal with friends! If you're in your 20s or 30s, we'd love for you to join us for fellowship and conversation. Contact Joliene Wade Gatlin for more information (joliene.wade@gmail.com). Here are some dates to put on your calendar:



Sunday, March 20 after worship: Lunch at a nearby restaurant (TBD). We will walk somewhere close by.

Wednesday, March 30, 7:00 pm: Dinner at Curry Up Now, 129 S B St, SM

Friday, April 15: Dinner with Penny (more details to follow)

BROWN BAG LUNCH BOOK DISCUSSION: KAREN ARMSTRONG'S *THE SPIRAL STAIRCASE*

Palm Sunday, March 20 • 11:45-12:45 Fireplace Room

How's your faith? The question continues to reverberate in the chambers of our inner lives. Karen Armstrong's autobiographical book, *The Spiral Staircase*, illuminates an honest, authentic, sometimes treacherous spiritual journey. Come, spiritual journeyers, to this conversation about Armstrong's responses to the question of faith. How does her spiral staircase connect to your own, or does it? Join Alexandra Gillen and Bonnie Rambob in a facilitated book discussion. Let Bonnie know if you plan to come, brambob@ccsm-ucc.org



PICK-A-PLANT, MARCH 20

Stop by the loggia on your way to coffee hour on Palm Sunday, and pick up an Easter plant to take to one of our members who can't make it to church regularly. We'll supply the name and address, and we ask members of the congregation to re-connect with someone you haven't seen in awhile, or better yet, meet someone new. What a wonderful way to spread some Easter cheer!

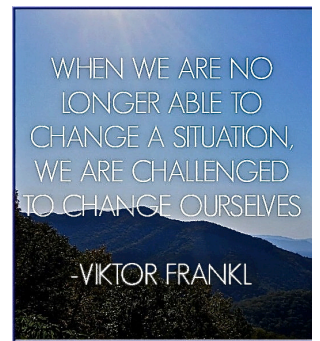


SISTERS IN SPIRIT (SIS)

April 3, 17, May 15,
29 • Noon-1:30pm •
Library

SIS continues this spring for sharing, sisterhood and exploration of our own spirituality. We do this through reading and discussion of works by a wide variety of authors from both traditional and contemporary spirituality and psychology, as well as from cutting edge "cross-over" fields of science, neuro-biology, cosmology and more.

We have just completed examination of the thought-provoking work *Scarred by Struggle, Transformed by Hope* by Joan Chittister. We practice a brief opening and closing sitting meditation at each session and we share facilitation of the gatherings. On April 3, we will begin exploration of Victor Frankl's timeless work *Man's Search for Meaning*. Please join us or drop in to check us out! For more information, contact Rebecca at rebrue@earthlink.net or (650) 483-0756.



NO HOMEWORK TONIGHT

Annual fundraiser for Homework Central
Friday, April 8 • 6:00-9:00 pm at CCSM

Silent Auction, Music and Program! Delicious Appetizers and Desserts a la Chef Greg Graves! Come celebrate 18 years of providing homework assistance and family support to our neighborhood children.

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTERS

Second Tuesday of the Month, 7:30-8:30pm
Fireplace Room

Are you a knitter or would like to learn? The prayer shawls we make are for those in need in our congregation and are lovingly shared by our ministers. For more information, please contact me, Kit Dunbar, at billorkit@yahoo.com or look for me Sundays.

SAVE THE DATE! Dakota Brown's
ordination, Saturday, April 23, 1pm

SCHOLARSHIPS



The Ministry of Children, Youth and Families is soliciting candidates for three Church scholarships.

The **Arthur J. Younger Scholarship**, established by Mrs. Arthur Younger in 1978, is designated specifically for the benefit of youth in the church. Each year a portion of the income from the endowment is used for scholarships.

The **Bracamonte Memorial Fund** was established in 1985 by the Memorials Committee with money donated by Dorothy Bracamonte, in memory of her husband Reginald. Scholarships from these funds are awarded specifically to youth.

The **Macon Banks Memorial Scholarship** was established by Tom Banks in 1999 in memory of his wife Macon Banks. Macon was very active in social justice concerns and very involved in the Christian Education program. Preference will be given to students demonstrating involvement in social justice issues.

The selection criteria include:

- being an active member of the Church
- being a high school senior or recent graduate planning to continue their formal education in the fall of 2016
- having a good academic record
- demonstrating interest and involvement in school and community activities
- submitting an application by the due date
- scholars must be present during a church service to receive their scholarship.

Application packets are available to all eligible high school seniors or recent graduates. Applications are available from the senior high youth leader, on-line at www.ccsm-ucc.org/youth, in the church office, or by request. The packet includes an application and a letter of recommendation that must accompany the scholarship application. The completed scholarship applications will be reviewed and recipients chosen by the Ministry of Children, Youth and Families. **Applications are due by March 31, 2016.**

Please request and email completed applications: Warren Long: longlake15@sbcglobal.net, or submit to the mailbox for the Ministry of Children, Youth and Families at the church office no later than March 31, 2016.

If you have questions about the scholarship, please contact Warren Long: longlake15@sbcglobal.net or (650) 341-7809.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Joy

Dominic Grant Borghello, son of **Diana and Tim Borghello**, brother of **Lexi** and grandson of **Nancy and Craig Parsons**, was baptized on February 28. We welcome Dominic to our church family and rejoice in the many ways he has blessed his family.

Out of over 2,000 Samaritan House volunteers, two from CCSM were chose to receive Sammy Awards for outstanding volunteer service. **Jan Borison** was honored for being a Toy Shop Team Captain and **Bill Melis** was honored for picking up bread for the Samaritan House kitchen and delivering meals to those who are home-bound

Bonny and Mike Armacost celebrate their 57th anniversary on March 7. Congratulations and blessings!

Prayers of Transition

Matt and Jenna Stevens have been worshipping with us for some time. They have new opportunities on the East Coast and will be re-locating there very soon. Our heart-felt blessings and love are extended to you, Matt and Jenna, as you settle into a new community.

Andy Schlickman has moved to Chicago. We send Andy our blessings as he resettles back to Windy City. May God's peace and grace be with Andy and his family.

Prayers of Comfort

Herb Stanger, stepfather of **Dawn Graves**, passed away on January 26 at the age of 92. Please remember to hold Dawn's mother Donna and their family as they grieve and celebrate his life.

Alice Morison's sister, **Patricia Avery**, had a stroke and passed away with her daughter at her side on February 1 in Maui where she resided. Alice requests prayers of peace for their family during this time of mourning.

Prayers of Healing and Support

Linda Hodges had her long-awaited hip replacement surgery on March 1. Although the surgery was longer than expected, Linda is recovering well.

Julie Berk had an emergency appendectomy on March 2. We send her blessings of healing and love as she rests at home.

George Vail is recovering at home after shoulder surgery on February 2. George is right-handed and would appreciate prayers during the next six weeks as he learns to care for himself in new ways. May God provide healing in the days to come.

Lauretta, Len Flaherty's mother, fell three times this week in her retirement home near Boston. She has been moved to a rehabilitation facility. Please remember Lauretta and Len during her recovery.

Tom Don, Sarah Iya's father, was diagnosed with an aggressive form of prostate cancer. We pray for God's comfort for Tom and Sarah as he undergoes tests and awaits the prognosis and treatment.

Jim Schroeder, Kiara Pray's grandfather, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Prayers of healing for Jim and prayers of support for the Lee-Pray family are lifted up.

Mary Ann Notz will have a triple bypass on March 8. We offer prayers for peaceful assurance as she anticipates her surgery and recovery.

Tom Lohmuller is healing from his wrist and hand injuries. He is back to playing the organ and asks for continued prayers for a full recovery. We are grateful to God for Tom's giftedness for music and worship leadership.

Lisa K is on hospice and **Sandee Schlickman's** dear friend **Mike** is nearing the end of his journey with cancer. We pray that God may give the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Joann Bottini, a close friend of **Gordon and Margaret Smith**, faces both neck and back surgery the 1st week of April. Joann is remembered in prayer as she prepares for surgery and then mends from her procedures.

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**), **Bill Daniels, Emily Tomasi**, and others as they walk their unique journeys with cancer.

Continuing prayers for **Vera Pitts, Al Chamberlain, Lynn Blackie, Tom Lohmuller, Anne McEntee, Ruth Black, Marjorie Griffn, Cathy Latta, Martha Grannis, Lorraine Gustafson, Martha Imai, George Kromhout, Rosalee Lower, Jim Lowrie, Phyllis Mead, Adrienne Mitchell, Genevieve and John Parsons, Fred Petri, Janet Smith Roberts** (sister of **Gordon Smith**), **June Schutte, Betty Stout, and Travis Woodmansee**.

From charity to advocacy and deep solidarity

GUEST PREACHER DR. JOERG RIEGER
SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Join us on April 17 for our special guest preacher, Dr. Joerg Rieger, Professor of Constructive Theology at Perkins School of Theology, SMU. He received his MDiv in Germany, his ThM from Duke Divinity School, and his PhD from Duke University.



For more than two decades he has worked to bring together theology and the struggles for justice and liberation that mark our age. His work addresses the relation of theology and public life, reflecting on the misuse of power in religion, politics, and economics. His main interest is in movements and developments that bring about change and the positive contributions of religion and theology.

Author and editor of more than 20 books and over 125 articles, his most recent book is *Faith on the Road: A Short Theology of Travel and Justice* (2015). Rieger and his wife, organizer Rosemarie Henkel-Rieger, have co-authored *Unified We are a Force: Growing Deep Solidarity between Faith and Labor*, forthcoming from Chalice Press in April.

Join Fatih Ferdi Ates as he leads a presentation on the Jesus of Islam. Many Christians don't realize that Jesus is one of the key prophets of Islam. How does Islam view Jesus? Where are Islamic views of Jesus convergent with those of Christianity's? Come on **Sunday, March 13 after worship** to explore these questions.

Fatih Ferdi Ates is Executive Director of (BAYCC)/Pacifica Institute San Francisco and East Bay Branches. He serves as a board member of San Francisco Interfaith Council and also Vice Chair of United Religions Initiative. Fatih has taught on a wide-range of topics including: Community-building; Islamic Spirituality and Sufism; Ethics and Environment. He's led inter and intra faith outreach efforts; and spoken at various interfaith events, panels and conferences. He lives in El Cerrito with his wife and daughter.

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A newsletter for the families & friends of the
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