



# The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo

United Church of Christ

225 Tilton Avenue • San Mateo, California 94401

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## A Word from Bonnie

Spring is the time of budding life and also of next chapters. As you know, my transitional role as Minister of Intergenerational Education is nearing the end. My last Sunday is June 12. Though I am looking forward to setting up home and family in a more permanent way in Sacramento, I will miss you. The people of CCSM have a special place reserved in my heart. Thank you for “growing me up” as a minister and for the opportunity to serve in your midst. How blessed I am!



As part of the coverage for my responsibilities going forward, the Board of Ministries voted to hire a part-time Director of Children's Ministries who is experienced and trained in curriculum and instruction. For the past couple of weeks, we've been in conversation with our own Cynthia Starborn about extending her Storyteller role into the part-time Director of Children's Ministries and she accepted!

Cynthia will overlap with me starting on May 1st. Her new role is a 25-hour weekly commitment through June 2017 with the possibility of renewal. As Director of Children's Ministries, Cynthia will continue to lead the PreK-K Godly Play class and will direct the Church School program up to grade 5, which includes leading our early childhood/elementary Faith Formation Team of wonderful Storytellers. She'll also work with Patrick Kane, our Director of Youth Ministries, other church staff, and the broader church community to provide programs for kids and parents. She will coordinate the Time for Children in the worship service as well as assist with Family Worships. Since Cynthia is very familiar with our Godly Play programming and the overall cadence of things in the CE building on Sundays, the transition should feel smooth... though please don't expect things to remain the

—continued on page 2—



Proclaiming resurrection on Easter Sunday

photo by Drew Henry

## SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

- April 17** *From Charity to Advocacy and Deep Solidarity.* Special Guest Preacher Joerg Rieger (see more inside). Special Music: CCSM Chamber Singers.
- April 24** Children's Pageant: *The Wartville Wizard.*
- May 1** *Zero Degrees of Separation.* Destigmatizing mental illness. Penny Nixon preaching.
- May 8** Mother's Day / Baptism. Penny Nixon preaching.
- May 15** PENTECOST and Graduation Sunday—*Can These Bones Live?* Penny Nixon preaching.
- May 22** Spring Concert: The Duruflé Requiem. Chancel Choir.

## CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

### INTRODUCING CYNTHIA STARBORN: NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

I am honored and delighted to be stepping into service as your Director of Children's Ministry here at CCSM. Ever since I started teaching the preschool/ kindergarten Church School class this past November, I have been touched by the warmth and soulfulness of the children, families, and community here. It is a dream come true to be able to support you all in an expanded way, and to be able to build on the strong foundation already laid by Rev. Bonnie Rambob.



My vision for this upcoming year centers around the value of connection. "For wherever two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." (Matt. 18:20)

Overall, through all of our children's programs here at CCSM, I want each child to be supported in making many types of valuable connections:

- connecting to God/Creator in the way that is just right for him/her
- connecting meaningfully with both children and adults at church
- connecting consciously with the larger community

I also want parents and families to feel connected here at CCSM, and to feel like they can easily connect what their children are learning and doing at church to their spiritual practices and activities at home.

Last but not least, I want to connect with each of you, so that I can serve you better, and connect with your hopes and dreams for the children of CCSM! If you have a child in preschool through Grade 5, and/or if you are interested in supporting the children of our church, feel free to introduce yourself around church, and to drop off a family photo (to help me learn your names) in my mailbox in the church office.

Yours in connection,  
*Cynthia Starborn*  
Director of Children's  
Ministry

*One of our children experiencing the fullness of life on Easter Sunday. While Bonnie shared a beautiful story of the lotus flower, he wanted a full-body experience of the lotus. What an example to all of us.*

*photo by Drew Henry*



### A Word from Bonnie, cont.

same. Our Children's Ministries will be enhanced by Cynthia's vision, gifts and skill. Please read her letter of introduction on this page.

I am grateful for the next two months to be with you.  
In God's grace,  
Bonnie



### Young Actors—Check This Out! **EARTH DAY PAGEANT: THE WARTVILLE WIZARD**

Worship Performance, April 24  
Rehearsal: 9-11am, April 23

We are looking for 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](mailto:mviolette@att.net).

**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.

After worship, there will be a **Neighborhood Cleanup** time for all! See more information on p. 4.

### SUMMER CHILDREN'S MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

We are looking for kind, welcoming adults who would enjoy leading a class or assisting in Summer Church School, **June 19 – September 4**. Spending time with children is a lovely way to enrich one's spiritual life. Please contact Bonnie, [brambob@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:brambob@ccsm-ucc.org) to see if this ministry might be a good fit for you.

# ~ Bullis Graduate School Scholarship ~

**WE ARE VERY PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE** the creation of a new scholarship for graduate students through the generosity and vision of Sue Bullis, a dedicated CCSM member.

The Bullis Graduate School Scholarship is established to promote further service in the world by assisting qualifying graduate students with their education. The scholarship provides an annual grant of \$10,000. Qualified applicants with demonstrated financial need must have a record of community service and provide a statement of purpose demonstrating their plan to use their graduate education in further service to the world.



**Additional information and an application packet are available through the church office or on the CCSM website** ([ccsm-ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Bullis-Graduate-School-Scholarship-info-packet-20161.pdf](https://ccsm-ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Bullis-Graduate-School-Scholarship-info-packet-20161.pdf)). Applicants affiliated with CCSM and currently in graduate school or intending to attend graduate school in the 2016-17 school year are encouraged to apply for the Bullis Graduate Scholarship.

The deadline for applications is **April 30, 2016**.

## 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: [nncucc.org/yomc/](http://nncucc.org/yomc/) Scholarships are available—just contact Bonnie, [brambob@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto: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—here is the perfect opportunity for you: *Peace Village San Mateo*, **July 25-29**. 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](http://villagerelations.com/sanmateopeacevillage) or get a paper application from Bonnie or Patrick.

### PEACE VILLAGE • July 25-29

**Register NOW. Early Bird Special till 4/15.**

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, Peninsula Sinai Congregation, 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, the well of peace found in multiple religious traditions, media literacy, yoga and meditation, and to 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: [villagerelations.com/sanmateopeacevillage](http://villagerelations.com/sanmateopeacevillage). Have questions or need a scholarship? Contact Bonnie, [brambob@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:brambob@ccsm-ucc.org)



Ministry of Service & Justice

## SPRING CHECKLIST: HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- DONATE DIAPERS?
- HELP "TEAMUP TO CLEAN UP" THE NEIGHBORHOOD?
- REPAIR A POOR NEIGHBOR'S HOUSE WITH REBUILDING TOGETHER?
- RAISE YOUR AWARENESS ABOUT CRIMINAL JUSTICE OR THE ENVIRONMENT?

Check off as many boxes as you like and read about the details below.

### ANOTHER SERIOUS NEED... DIAPERS

Local service agencies were thrilled with the hundreds of toothbrushes and other supplies you donated. Lots of healthier smiles now. Thank you! Those agencies are also repeatedly desperate for DIAPERS for their homeless clients. Though MSJ (your ministry of service) usually asks for "gently used" donations, this time brand-new is better! The high demand includes any size from preemie to adult. Bring along a package to worship, and the children can bring your donation forward to the chancel. Thank you!

### SPRUCE UP THE NEIGHBORHOOD

**Sunday, April 24,** after the children's delightful presentation of *The Wartville Wizard* during worship, be inspired to join San Mateo City's TeamUp to Clean Up. Our First Annual Earth Day Neighborhood Clean-up will take place right after a lunch for participants. The City of San Mateo will provide us with tools, supplies and gloves—and out we will go into the neighborhood block by block.



For more information please contact Trisha Violette or Kristin Byrd by sending an inquiry to [msj@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:msj@ccsm-ucc.org) or look for signup tables on the logia. (Information on the City of San Mateo's Team Up to Clean Up program is found here: [cityofsanmateo.org/teamup](http://cityofsanmateo.org/teamup).)

### REBUILDING TOGETHER

**Saturday, April 30,** volunteer to re-build a run-down house with Rebuilding Together. Illness, aging, inflation, or job loss can force a homeowner to make difficult trade-offs between foregoing repairs or losing their homes. On National Rebuilding Day (April 30), Rebuilding Together will rehabilitate homes for low-income homeowners and neighbors, including seniors, people with disabilities, and families. CCSM members will join our neighboring Masons (who are old pros at this effort) to upgrade a house in San Mateo, helping to sustain home values and restore pride for the residents, so that they can live independently in warmth and safety.



Free lunch and dinner celebration at Oracle afterwards! The Masons have already taken care of most of the challenging work, so we will paint, build a fence and work in the yard. No experience or talent necessary—only enthusiasm required.

Email [msj@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:msj@ccsm-ucc.org) to register or get more info.

### SENTENCING REFORM IN CALIFORNIA

**SUNDAY, MAY 1, AFTER CHURCH · BUCKHAM ROOM**

Criminal felony sentencing in California has undergone so many significant changes during the last five years, the reforms can be hard to understand. After church grab your coffee and move to the Buckham Room to hear our own **Jon Karesh**, a San Mateo County Superior Court judge, expertly talk us through these changes as well as the benefits and drawbacks of these reforms. First "realignment" in 2011, in which sentences for many felonies are now served in the local county jail instead of state prison; then the reform of the Three Strikes law in 2012; and most recently Proposition 47 in 2014, which reclassified many felony theft and drug offenses as misdemeanors.

Jon Karesh was born and raised in San Francisco. He went to college and law school at UC Berkeley. After working for a time in a large downtown San Francisco law firm, Jon moved to San Mateo County to take a job as a deputy district attorney. After serving as a deputy district attorney for more than 12 years, he was appointed to the position of San Mateo County Superior Court Judge in 2001. Since taking the bench, Jon has tried close to 100 criminal and civil jury trials. Jon has been a member of CCSM since 2007.



Jon Karesh

# 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.



The family of beloved CCSM member Jim Lowrie invites you to attend his memorial service, Saturday, April 30 at 2pm at CCSM.

## 20s/30s at CCSM

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:

**Friday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.:**  
Dinner at Penny's (email Joliene for more info)

**Sunday, April 24, after church.**  
Lunch and neighborhood clean-up (see p. 4 for more details about the neighborhood event)


CCSM-UCC.ORG/GIFTOFMUSIC

# Gift of Music series

march 13	april 17	may 15	may 22
			
<b>An Afternoon of Flute &amp; Organ Music</b> Featuring Allison & Thomas Lohmuller	<b>The Fab 4 Piano Concert</b> Armacost, Cross, Norkvesta, & Parker	<b>Spring Organ Concert</b> Angela Kraft Cross	<b>The CCSM Chancel Choir</b> Directed by Carl Pantle

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

## PENNY TO WALK THE CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

Many of you already have heard that I will be walking El Camino in Spain for a week at the end of May. I am a participant in the interfaith peace group that will walk the Camino Del Norte for six days, from Santander to Ribadesella, on the Northern Coast of Spain.

Each year I take “a study leave”—two weeks spread out over the year. The church leadership always encourages me to take my study leave because they know that I need to be spiritually renewed and fresh in order to be able to give of my best self to the congregation week after week. My intention for this time away (May 26-June 6) is to do a re-set. For some reason, that is the word that keeps coming to my mind. This last year has been filled a lot of new things—a new house, a new school for my daughter—and it is time for me to take a step back and make sure that I am in alignment with my own priorities and values. It is time for me to examine the deep places within and by taking space from the details and noise of daily life. It is an opportunity for me to connect with people from different faiths and glean their wisdom on this path of peace.

I am honored to have been chosen for this pilgrimage and on this trip, to study with Phillip John Newell, a leading expert in Celtic Christianity. I studied with him in Iona, Scotland a number of years ago and his teachings resonate with me.

Between now and the end of May, you may see me out walking some of the trails in San Mateo, training for our 16-mile-a-day walk!



The transcendent music of Easter

photo by Drew Henry

## MUSIC AND ART

Friday, April 15, noon  
Buckham Room

The program will be jointly presented by local talented pianist, organist and composer, Karen Hutchinson and Aleece Carson, Minister of Music at Jones Methodist Church, SF. They will relate the history and development of African American music in the US. You will not want to miss this interesting presentation. Bring your own sandwich/salad. Beverages and dessert are provided. If you are new to the group, please reserve your space by calling Pat Pepper @ 650-343-4286 or [pjpepper@astound.net](mailto:pjpepper@astound.net).



## BANK LOAN REPAID! AND...

by Jim Lindsay

Good news – in March we prepaid the remaining balance on the Wells Fargo Bank loan that helped fund the Sacred Space remodel in 2013. The loan was scheduled to mature in May 2017 but thanks to everyone continuing to make payments on their capital campaign pledge we were able to pay off the loan early. But that is not the end of the story. **We still have \$515,000 that was borrowed from the endowment fund that needs to be repaid.** So if you have an outstanding balance on your capital campaign pledge, please continue paying if you can. And if you did not make a pledge and want to contribute to the repayment of the endowment fund, you can send a payment to the church marked “Capital Campaign.” Thanks again to everyone for your generous support of the church and its mission.



## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD...

Our heartfelt prayers for with all affected by the violence in **Pakistan** and **Belgium**. We remember those who lost loved ones, those who are recovering from injuries, those who served as first responders and all who are working towards peace and solutions.

### PRAYERS OF JOY...

Three very special people have very special birthdays coming up this month: **Thelma Kromhout** turns 97 on April 15th, **Martha Imai** turns 101 on April 23rd and **Clare Naegle** turns 98 on April 30th. May the upcoming year be especially blessed with peace and joy.

**Matias Emilio**, son of **Pablo and Silvana Quintanilla**, was born March 16, weighing in at 9 pounds, 13 ounces and measuring 21" long. Although challenges were anticipated, Matias was born in "100% good health and is very resilient." Pablo and Silvana are ecstatic and so grateful for our prayers and spiritual support.

Prayers of joy and gratitude for **Lee Mullery's** recovery. Her giant cell arteritis is in full remission. With the Mullery family, we thank God for healing and love.

**Joseph Dunbar**, son of **Kit and Bill Dunbar** and brother of **Parker Dunbar**, received the Jefferson Union High School District 'Student of the Month' Award for March 2016. We are so very proud of Joseph and so very pleased for his family.

**Everly**, **Genel Morgan's** cousin's 10-month-old baby was born with a congenital bowel problem. Everly has had successful corrective surgery and is now resting happily at home in Hawaii. We pray for complete healing for little Everly, and peace for her family.

### PRAYERS OF COMFORT...

**Jim Lowrie**, father of **J.W. Lowrie**, passed away quietly at home while taking a nap on March 16. Jim was baptized and joined CCSM on April

10, 1938. Jim was a respected, humble and well-loved leader at CCSM for many years. The memorial will be held **Saturday, April 30 at 2:00 at CCSM**. Our prayers for God's comfort go out to the entire family and Jim's friends.

**Al Chamberlain** peacefully passed away surrounded by his loving family on March 9 after experiencing a sudden decline in health. Jean Chamberlain and Family want to say, "thank you for all the warm, thoughtful messages we have received." Al's memorial service was held on Saturday, April 9 at CCSM. May God's loving presence be with his wife, Jean, and his family.

**Julie Begin**, wife of **Stephanie Workman** and family member of **Jay and Kris Cornwall**, passed away suddenly on March 25 in Tucson. Julie, who was 44, was a kind soul and a friend to all. Our prayers are with Stephanie, Jay and Kris during their time of loss and grief.

### PRAYERS OF TRANSITION

**Rebecca Smith Johnson and Russ Johnson** have moved to Connecticut. Rebecca and Russ will be greatly missed. We wish the Johnson family our heartfelt blessings as they relocate and settle into their new neighborhood.

### PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT...

**Linda Hodges** had gallbladder and gallstone surgery, after an episode of pancreatitis. Please remember Linda in prayer as she recovers from three surgeries and an illness.

**Tim Latta**, wife of **John Latta**, mother of **Cathy** and grandmother of **Lily**, had knee replacement surgery on April 7 in Texas. Please keep Tim and her family in prayer as she heals and regains full use of her knee.

**Mary Ann Notz** had her long-awaited double bypass on March 30 and will be resting at home the next six weeks. We offer prayers for a speedy recovery.

**Genel Morgan** is having knee replacement surgery on April 13. Genel is asking for strength for the surgery and rehab, and for quick healing. May God's healing touch be upon you, Genel.

**Joann Bottini**, a close friend of **Gordon and Margaret Smith**, had both neck and back surgery. Joann is remembered in prayer as she prepares mends from her procedures.

**Sheila, Sharon Tobin's** twin sister, faces cancer surgery soon. Sharon is requesting prayers for strength for Sheila and her family, and prayers for Sheila's complete recovery.

**Charles Votaw**, high school friend of **Caroline and Bob Reinke**, has been diagnosed with liver cancer. Please pray for Charles as he faces a difficult prognosis. May God bless his days with love, peace and joyful memories.

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, Tom Don**, and others as they walk their unique journeys with cancer.

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

# Ordination Celebration!

SATURDAY, APRIL 23, 1:00-2:00 P.M. AT CCSM

Announcing the Ordination Celebration of Dakota Ann Brown in the life of Congregational Church of San Mateo, United Church of Christ. EVERYONE is welcome. Child care available. Reception to follow. Love distributed generously at the door. Please come and help this church celebrate our ministry in the world!



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## The Pine Tree

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

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### Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On **Saturday, April 30th from 4-7pm**, CCSM will be hosting a **Town Hall Meeting/Community Event** for our neighbors in North Central San Mateo. One of the main objectives of this event is to gather people who are being affected by the high cost of living in San Mateo, but haven't had the space to voice their struggles or know where to join others in the struggle. Many people may feel alone as they experience high rent increases, so we are hoping to create a space not only to have their voices heard but to hear each other, and hopefully realize they are not alone. In this past year I have participated in public meetings hosted by the San Mateo City Council to discuss the housing crisis, with the goal of hearing stories from the people about steep rent increases. Too often the voices of the Latin@ community are not heard, or the Latin@ community struggles to fully understand what is being said because of the language barrier. Often they end up checking out when they are given the opportunity to share their voice, because they feel they are not smart enough, or not capable of articulating their struggle, or believing that their voice really can make a difference. They usually want to refer someone who is "educated" or white, those who "have more power," to speak for them.

*Post Office use only*

At our own Housing meeting on the 30th we want to create a space that will empower and help our Latin@ neighbors to start believing in the authority of their voice, and to articulate their ideas rather than deferring to "professionals" or "educated" folks to do that for them. Our hope is that by providing this space people would come out of the woodwork and be empowered to find their own voice. And we hope that by providing the space to do this they can feel like CCSM is paying attention, creating together an agenda for equality and true partnership with one another.

I hope many of you are able to attend the event to observe and witness a community coming together that is too often not given a space to do so. Equally important, come out that night and have tacos and share a meal with the neighbors. I look forward to seeing you there.

Peace,

Jorge P. Bautista



**Save the Date:**  
**Jorge's Ordination • Sunday, May 22**  
**2:00 pm at CCSM**

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