

The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo

United Church of Christ

225 Tilton Avenue • San Mateo, California 94401

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Vol. 65

Issue #6 • Fall 2016



SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

RECALCULATING... FINDING OUR WAY AGAIN

— Sermon series with Penny Nixon preaching —

- September 11** HOMECOMING • Sermon: *Recalculating... Resistance is Not Futile!*
- September 18** NEW MEMBER JOINING • Sermon: *Recalculating Worth*
- September 25** Sermon: *Recalculating What Is Possible*
- October 2** WORLD COMMUNION / FAMILY WORSHIP
Sermon: *Recalculating "Enough"*
- October 9** Sermon: *Recalculating Beauty*
- October 16** PICK-A-PARTY • Sermon: *Recalculating Partnership*
- October 23** Sermon: *Recalculating Anger*
- October 30** ALL SAINTS • Sermon: *Recalculating Memory*
- November 6** Sermon: *Recalculating Imagination*
- November 13** Sermon: *Recalculating choices*
- November 20** THANKSGIVING / FAMILY WORSHIP
Sermon: *Recalculating Gratitude*



Recalculating... finding our way again

This fall I am excited about a new sermon series *Recalculating... Finding Our Way Again*. It seems that we have wandered off course in some ways in our culture and in our country. But I believe that we can find our way again with wisdom from our sacred scriptures and wisdom from one another.



I love it when my GPS is on and I am trying to find my way and I take a wrong turn—I hear Siri say, “Recalculating...” I always end up getting there but not always by the most direct route. Perhaps it isn’t Siri but the Spirit who is saying “recalculating” and prompting us, as people of faith, to return to a path where love and justice abound.

I hope you’ll make your spiritual community a priority this fall—we truly need each other.

Peace,
Penny

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULE

Please mark your calendars now for the following dates:

Sunday, August 21, 10:30am: BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS during the Children's Moment. Students of ALL ages are invited to bring their backpacks to church to receive a special blessing. Teachers of all levels—whether in Church School or in other school settings—are also invited to attend and receive our blessing.

Sunday, September 11, 10:45am: REGULAR CHURCH SCHOOL RESUMES. Cynthia will continue to teach our PreK/K class, Shannon will continue to teach our grades 1-3 class, and Sandra will continue to teach our 4th and 5th graders.

Sunday, September 11, 11:30am-1:30pm: HOMECOMING FESTIVAL outside the church, for children, youth, and their families.

Sunday, September 18, 11:45am: Volunteer Fair in Kloss Hall. Stop by the Church School booth to learn more about our program, meet our teachers, and find out more about our many volunteer opportunities.

We look forward to seeing you and your child(ren) at an upcoming Church School event!



Matias Emilio, son of Pablo and Silvana Quintanilla, was born March 16, 2016. Pablo and Silvana say, "We really appreciate the support of this community!"

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Jack Joseph Held, son of Stephen and Laura Held, grandson of Peter and Gail Held, born on June 19, 2016. Jack is a fourth generation CCSM-er!

FALL PROGRAM FOR PARENTS

by Rev. Nicole Lamarche

Greetings CCSM! We are excited to be creating more opportunities for parents this fall. It is a challenging time to raise children of faith and kindness. At least for me, it feels too difficult to do alone! We need one another as fellow travelers on the spiritual adventure of parenting. We hope that this community will continue to be a place where you are nurtured, supported, educated and equipped as parents with progressive Christian values.

See you soon!

RECLAIMING CONVERSATION DISCUSSION FOR PARENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 9:30 A.M.

Parents, join us for sharing and discussion about the book Reclaiming Conversation by Sherri Turkle. In this digital age, what are best practices for our kids? How do we not conform to the over-screened world around us?

Childcare, coffee and light refreshments will be provided. RSVP is helpful! revlamarche@gmail.com

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION: SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 9:30 A.M.
BUCKHAM ROOM

Come as you are for a session to connect with other parents. What is surprising you as a parent right now? What feels the most challenging? What difference could our faith community make in your life?

Childcare, coffee and light refreshments will be provided. RSVP is helpful! revlamarche@gmail.com

PARENTING TEENS IN TODAY'S WORLD

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 6 PM

Come participate in a discussion led by Penny of the joys and challenges of parenting teens. This is for Mid High and Senior High parents. We'll share laughter and maybe a few tears, share our wisdom and hopes, and provide support and encouragement to one another.

THE SEXUALITY CONVERSATION

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 11:45 AM
CE YOUTH ROOM

Honest, accurate information about sexuality changes lives. It dismantles stereotypes and assumptions, builds self-acceptance and self-esteem, fosters healthy relationships, improves decision-making, and has the potential to save lives. Stay after worship for this interactive workshop using Our Whole Lives, a comprehensive, lifespan sexuality education curricula based in the values of self worth, sexual health, responsibility, justice and inclusivity. Childcare and handouts will be available. Please RSVP! revlamarche@gmail.com

CHURCH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: CAROL GLASMANN

We are delighted to have Carol's loving support as a volunteer assistant in the Nursery one Sunday morning a month... and sometimes more! Please read the interview to learn more about Carol, and please join us in thanking her for her ongoing service to the youngest members of our congregation.



Q: *What made you decide to volunteer in the Nursery?*

A: **I decided to volunteer because I needed to be more connected to the church.**

Q: *How long have you been volunteering in the Nursery?*

A: **I have been a volunteer for a year.**

Q: *What is the best part about volunteering in the Nursery?*

A: **The best part is meeting the little ones and watching them grow.**

Q: *How has your faith been influenced by your experience as a Nursery volunteer?*

A: **I have learned not to take my faith for granted.**

Q: *What is your favorite memory from your time as a Nursery volunteer?*

A: **My favorite memory is playing with the little ones.**



photo by George Snode

2016 Pride Celebration

got questions?

CCSM 101: INQUIRER'S CLASS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 28TH, 11:45 A.M.

We hope you've been enjoying CCSM's extravagant welcome. We are hosting an inquirer's class on Sunday, August 28th at 11:45am, right after worship. Lunch and childcare will be provided. The class will end at 1:30 PM.

If you want to take the next step in your journey with CCSM, come enjoy lunch, conversation, and a presentation on who we are and how you might fit in. Hope to see you there! RSVP to Penny at pnixon@ccsm-ucc.org or 650 343-3694.

WHAT IS THE JOYFUL NOISE ALL ABOUT?

- It is about singing.
- It is about playing instruments.
- It is about learning how to read music.
- It is about helping one another.
- It is about experiencing the joy of making music with others.
- It is about fun and fellowship with friends.
- It is about sharing our joy and love of music with our beloved CCSM congregation.

We invite all children, members and friends who love music and love to sing to come and share in our Joyful Noise. We are open to children of ALL ages, however, we primarily cater to children between the ages of 5-13. Our first rehearsal this fall is scheduled for Sunday, September 18th at 9:45 in the Youth Room.

For more information, contact Joyful Noise (choir) Director Julie Berk at teacherjulie@pacbell.net or 650 400 9808.



photo by Len Flaherty

Enjoying fellowship at the 2016 Church picnic

GRATITUDE FROM BONNIE

Dear People of CCSM,

I don't think there are words in the dictionary to describe how filled-up I am because I know you and because you gave me the incredible opportunity to minister among you. This expression of gratitude has been delayed. The day after my last Sunday at CCSM, my parents, sister, nieces, Raj, our two sons and I flew out of LAX for a once-in-a-lifetime, month-long trip to Eastern Europe. We road-tripped through Poland, Lithuania, Slovakia, Hungary, Czech Republic,

I felt a connection to you, my CCSM family, throughout our journey.

with a brief stop in Vienna. Our journey included a search for my father's European ancestry which was silenced for an unknown reason when his family immigrated to Canada in the early 1900s. As with many journeys, we are left with more questions than answers.

I mention all this because I felt a connection to you, my CCSM family, throughout our journey. While I visited the Solidarity Center in Gdansk, Poland—the shipyards where Lech Walesa and other activists stood up to a system of oppression—you held a vigil in solidarity with the victims in Orlando. I attended mass at St. Elizabeth's Cathedral in Kosicé, Slovakia wearing the beautiful peace stole the 4th-5th grade Godly Play class made for me. The floor in the cathedral is stained by the spilling of consecrated wine, revered as Christ's blood in the Roman Catholic tradition. The legend goes that if one stands in the center of the stain, once can hear Christ moaning. I did stand there. I thought of you with a prayer of thanks for the ears you have for hearing the suffering in the world. I whispered the words, "God has no hands but our hands, no feet but our feet, and no face but our face." There were many other moments of connection, too many to mention here.

Primarily, I am writing to thank you for your generosity, materially and spiritually—my "purse" has never been so full. Thank you for your monetary gifts to me and my family. I am full of gratitude for knowing you, for the privilege of serving with you and for the opportunity to continue the holy work, with you from our respective places, of creating more peace, more love and more justice in this world.

Love from Sacramento,

Bonnie

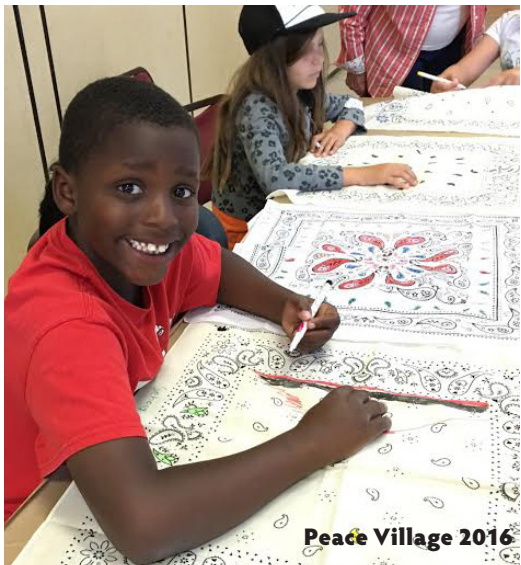
with a brief stop in Vienna. Our journey included a search for my father's European ancestry which was silenced for an



Bonnie in Slovakia wearing her 4th-5th grade stole



Bonnie & family at the Baltic Sea, Gdansk, Poland



PEACE VILLAGE GRATITUDE

Peace Village was a great and holy week. We had 30 campers who were Jewish, Muslim and Christian. We were hosted each day by a faith community in the area. The Yaseen Foundation in Burlingame, Peninsula Sinai Congregation in Foster City, San Mateo Buddhist Temple, and CCSM gave us places to play, learn, and made everyone lunch. Each day we learned how we are different in language and style of worship and we also learned how we are the same in our quest to share love in the world. The classes included different cultural styles of songs and dance as well as classes on art, non-violent communication, and navigating the media by understanding how rumors and misinformation can affect our faith communities.

Thank you to everyone who helped, and a BIG thank you to the many mid-high and high school counselors who helped out all week.

GETTING TO KNOW US!

REV. DAKOTA ANN BROWN, ACTING MINISTER OF CONGREGATIONAL CARE

My Job Haiku

Invisible Hand
Holds the Past, Future and Now
Unfolds Forgiveness



Hello, my Beloved CCSM Community! In the coming months I will be of service to all of you by providing home and hospital visits, making supportive phone calls, and returning compassionate emails. Additionally I will focus on trying to understand how we as a community provide formal and informal care to each other outside of the visits already being done by the clergy staff. I hear from many of you that you have gone to visit someone, given a ride, or brought someone a meal. And it is because we are such a caring community I will begin to offer training this Fall for those of us who would like to do more of this but are not sure exactly how to go about it.

ZOE MULLERY, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

My Job Haiku

Flurries and fragments
of spirit information
gathered, given form



Yes, I gather all those bits and pieces... birthdays and baptisms, membership and marriage, vigils and volunteering. This week's usher captain, who wrote the postlude music, where the plate offering will be donated and next week's sermon title... there are a lot of details for each bulletin, each Pine Tree, and managing the database. You could say I'm swimming in details. Sometimes I have a fine, strong stroke and swim like a champ, and other times I am dogpaddling with my nose barely out of the water.

My goal this fall is to master more of our (relatively) new database system, and be less dependent on Veril Phillips to fix my problems.

I'm here for you in the office every Monday. Please feel free to communicate with me if I can be of service to you.



A visitor to
CCSM's
Community
Day last June

photo by Drew Henry

CYNTHIA STARBORN DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN MINISTRIES

My Job Haiku

Teaching Godly Play
Supporting Church School magic
Welcoming families



I look forward to supporting children and families with engaging curriculum and activities this fall. In Church School on Sundays, we will continue to offer Godly Play classes to students in prek-grade 5. We will also enjoy a number of special events.



PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY

SUNDAYS AFTER SERVICE 11:50AM - 1:00PM
BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 25TH

Join us for these important conversations about Progressive Christianity.

"A religion is as much a progressive unlearning of false ideas concerning God as it is the learning of the true ideas concerning God." (Rabbi Mordecai Kaplan)

What are the main differences between fundamental, evangelical, conservative and progressive Christianity? What are the major influences on and history of progressive Christianity? How does progressive Christianity view the traditional doctrines of the church? Is progressive Christianity still really Christian? Why is progressive Christianity important and does it really make a difference what I believe? Why is CCSM so committed to progressive Christianity? Is progressive Christianity just another version of religious liberalism?

- September 25 *The Authority Conversation*
- October 2 *The God Conversation*
- October 9 *The UCC & Progressive Christianity Conversation*
- October 16 *The Jesus Conversation*
- October 23 *The Sexuality Conversation (Nicole & Penny)*
- October 30 *The Culture Conversation (Jorge & Penny)*
- November 6 *The Justice Conversation*
- November 13 *The Sin and Evil Conversation*

THANKS TO JANET FROM PENNY AND ALL OF US...

I am so grateful to Janet for her pastoral presence at CCSM over the years. Since she began coming to CCSM eight years ago she has been a constant source of compassionate presence and wise counsel. She has stepped in twice when we needed her skills and expertise as our acting minister of congregational care. She has been a great team player and has been a faithful presence, often doing behind the scenes ministry. She has visited people in home and hospital, made the sanctuary look beautiful, worked with CFE to make CCSM a warm and welcoming place, enjoyed lunch with the seniors, responded graciously to all the blue cards, comforted many in times of crisis and grief, and much, much more.

We will be blessed to have Janet continue her support groups as well as continue to see people for pastoral counseling in her private practice.

On Sunday, July 31st, we sent Janet and Todd forth with our blessing in this new phase of “easing into retirement” which will allow them more time to travel and more time with their family.

As we move forward, Jeanne Back (our moderator) and I will be working with the board of ministries to discern what staffing structure best serves all the needs of CCSM in the future. We will continue to communicate with you about our process as well as continue to seek the congregation’s input and wisdom.

EASING INTO RETIREMENT

By Janet Bower

What a lovely farewell celebration! I hold in my heart you—and the many comments and notes I have received in the past several weeks. It has been such an honor to serve as Acting Minister of Congregational Care during two interim seasons. I deeply appreciate your trust and the opportunity to serve among this amazing faith community.

It is painful for me to leave parish ministry, yet after 30 years, I am looking forward to spending more time with Todd, my family and friends. My transition will be easier as you keep the CCSM caring vision alive.

Please remember this is a caring church. Pastoral care and congregational care are continually being provided in visible and invisible ways. Deeply appreciate all that has been done and all that is being done to relieve suffering and provide connection.

As a young girl I remembering traveling with my family to Washington by car to see close family friends. Along the way we toured an enormous marble cave in the Siskiyou Mountains. We walked into the dimly lit caverns and followed its twists and turns. After quite some time we entered a vast area. The guide turned off the artificial light provided by the flood lamps. We stood in utter darkness and silence. It was eerie. Suddenly the guide lit one single match and the entire cavern lit up. We could see the intricacies of the cave and one another.

When I think of the impact of a simple caring act, I think of the experience I had as a young child. When one person takes the time to connect with another it is enlightening. Loneliness and isolation transform into companionship. Burdens seem lighter. The loving compassion of Jesus can be sensed. Meaning and purpose can be

discovered. A new normal can be found. Hope can be rekindled.

As I pass the baton, I am hopeful. Rev. Dakota is insightful, compassionate, gifted—and quite funny. She will be a wonderful pastor for pastoral care and caring ministries. Sue Bullis and Dawn Graves, CFE co-chairs, have learned leadership from the the stellar Deb Flaherty, a masterful care provider, organizer and event planner. Support them and appreciate them.

Remember we can all do simple things to lighten the darkness in the world just as Jesus served as the light of the world.

Pastoral care will continue to be my passion. I will continue to lead support groups that are always open to you. I will see clients in my private pastoral counseling practice. It is such a privilege to be with someone when they are going through a challenging time and are in need of spiritual encouragement.

You will remain in Todd’s and my hearts. We will always be grateful to God for this caring, faithful community. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to serve with you. And thank you for bringing so much joy into my life the past eight years.

We can all do simple things to lighten the darkness in the world just as Jesus served as the light of the world.



Janet's top 4 reasons to be easing into retirement

CCSM WELCOMES DAKOTA BROWN

We are pleased to announce that Rev. Dakota Brown will assume Janet's responsibilities as acting minister of congregational care. Dakota has seven years experience working in a health care setting—two years' experience as a hospital and hospice chaplain, and five years working in the emergency department in San Francisco. She has also worked for the past ten years as a lay leader in her local faith communities and is currently serving as the Moderator of Golden Gate Association of the UCC Northern California Nevada Conference, a role which oversees the administrative needs of 34 local churches, a position requiring strong and compassionate leadership skills. Dakota already knows CCSM and has worked with Janet so this should be a smooth transition. Please be assured of CCSM's unwavering commitment to caring for one another.

Dakota is already deeply involved in the caring ministry—seek her out and get to know her. You'll be blessed!



SUMMER SPEAKER SERIES WISDOM

Assemblyman Rich Gordon kicked off our Summer Series on politics with a reminder that politics and governance are very different. Politics is battle (just think the current rhetoric). Once elections are over, effective governance is built on vision, collaboration and genuine relationship—with the priority of truly listening to others and finding common goals. Even if not in agreement, “enemies” can create a partnership built on mutual respect.



In her discussion of the politics of poverty, **Dr. Jennifer Martinez** explained the “engines” that drive impoverishment. Long systemic patterns, attitudes and behaviors cripple hope for quick, easy solutions to reduce poverty. The engines are: specific, historical processes of “dispossession” of land, labor, capital, culture (like Native Americans losing their land and culture to the settlers), and uneven power relations and political marginality/exclusion. The culture of the dominant power (e.g. middle class) is normalized and centered; everything else is “marginal” and problematic.

Assistant County Manager Peggy Jensen reminded us that only 38% of those working in the county live here. More housing is clearly needed, yet lack of land and funds, environmental restrictions, and community opposition get in the way of progress in building. Commercial development creates higher revenue with lower cost than housing development. Fortunately, our county officials take this housing/jobs gap very seriously and plan to formulate researched strategies by next June.

Hope you were able to hear those who spoke after this article was written. Who knew that conversations about politics could be so inspiring!

OUR NEW MINISTER OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

by Julien Phillips, Co-Chair, Latino Ministry Team



Jorge Perry Bautista

Since the June 12 congregational meeting when our congregation voted to call Jorge Perry Bautista as our Minister of Community Engagement, I have heard two predominant messages: First, “I’m so happy our church is doing this” (or similar phrases). Second, “So what does Jorge do?” I thought it might be helpful to respond to this question.

In a sense, there are two parts to Jorge’s work. Like other members of our ministerial team, he calls on members of the congregation (and occasionally others) in the hospital, at their homes, and elsewhere to provide pastoral care. He participates in weekly worship services and occasionally is called on to preach. He plays a part in the membership class. He connects with members and visitors at many of our gatherings. He contributes in weekly staff meetings.

That said, the largest part of his job is to explore the potential for establishment of a Latino ministry in our church. That is the charge that the Executive Committee gave him in January, and that is the project to which our Latino Ministry Team is contributing.

During this exploration, Jorge engages in a broad range of activities. He spends parts of most days in various parts of the Latino community in San Mateo on outreach—meeting people, learning about their social and spiritual needs and interests, building relationships, and communicating about CCSM.

In this connection, he has contributed actively to Faith in Action’s work on housing issues, and he is preparing to lead a program to help community members develop the confidence and skills to

express their needs and concerns in public forums.

On a recent Saturday, Jorge led a community gathering on our lawn where we were able to get acquainted with some of our neighbors and hear about their social and spiritual interests. He is just beginning a weekly Bible study. He is also beginning a weekly gathering for prayer and worship, for singing, suppering, and socializing. These are likely to start

“So what does Jorge do?”

very small. Over time they will be an indication of our neighbors’ interest in participating in some kind of church activities at CCSM.

Jorge is also devoting part of his time to learning from others’ experience in developing Latino-oriented ministries linked to established churches. The UCC has assigned a coach to work with him. In addition, he has recently returned, full of ideas, from a national conference of about 50 Latino ministers engaged in similar work in various denominations.

During this exploratory period, Jorge’s salary (and program costs) comes from a variety of sources. Faith in Action pays one-fourth of Jorge’s salary, and another portion is funded by grants (the national UCC, our local UCC conference, the Atkinson Foundation, and the San Francisco Foundation). CCSM is also blessed to have the New Initiatives Fund which allows us to fund new avenues of ministry such as this Latino Ministry.

Our Latino Ministry Team members are helping Jorge in various ways with the community outreach and with various events. (Betsy Woodward, Cristina Summerville, Sandra Soto-Grondona, Valerie Wong, Mike Mullery, Veril Phillips, Javier Ruiz, and I.) In addition, we are beginning to talk with people in our own congregation about their perspective on development of a Latino ministry in CCSM: what would make such a ministry an important and valued part of our church, what challenges they anticipate and what concerns they may have.

If you have special enthusiasm for this initiative, we want to learn what you are hoping for. If you have concerns, we want to know what they are. If you think CCSM should develop such a ministry in a particular way or with certain ideas in mind, we would like to hear your thoughts. So please take initiative to talk with any of us on the Latino Ministry Team.

In the fall we anticipate holding one or more open forums to share more about our work and to hear the thoughts of others in our congregation. By the time of the annual Congregational Meeting in January our Latino Ministry Team anticipates that we be able to report on what we are learning during this exploratory phase.

ORDINATION OF JORGE PERRY BAUTISTA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20TH, 2:00 PM

Five years ago I joined the UCC and started seminary. Now I have finished seminary, and completed the ordination process in the UCC. I am finally going to be ordained in the life of the United Church of Christ! It has been quite a journey and I am so proud to be ordained in the UCC.

All of you are invited to the service on Saturday, August 20th at 2 PM. Your presence will be a great blessing to me. Most importantly, thank you all for the support and love each one of you have given Rebecca and me these past few years.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Peace, Jorge

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photo by Drew Henry

SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

MSJ

ENOUGH!

Instead of the historic exclusion of LGBTQ in our community, CCSM welcomes everyone. Enough exclusion! All people are enough, just as they are. To celebrate being enough, you are invited to join the new justice group launching this fall. **A team is eager to gather any LGBTQ or LGBTQ allies who are interested in doing service projects, going deeper spiritually (to get rid of the toxic theology that harmed us) or just having fun!** If you are interested in helping with the design of this new cluster within CCSM, please email Kibbie at msj@ccsm-ucc.org or George Snode at g_snode@yahoo.com.



HOMWORK CENTRAL TUTORS NEEDED!



Ministry of Service & Justice

If you are searching for a meaningful volunteer opportunity, there are some students in North Central San Mateo who are looking for you! They are hoping you will come each week and help them with their homework. In the process, you will learn about their lives, look forward to coming and become friends. These 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students are struggling academically but they really want to succeed. Can you commit to volunteering once a week for two hours? Ask Mary Ann Notz, Karen Stern, Kristy Everson or Anne Lambertson. They are regular tutors and they can tell you why they come!

Tutoring is from **3-5pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday** and **1-3pm on Wednesday**. The four centers are: Martin Luther King Center, Unitarian Universalist Church, Sunnybrae School, and San Mateo Park School. Each site is unique and wonderful. Please join us. It will become your favorite day of the week! Please talk to Betsy Woodward, 650-773-5775 or Phil Lind, 650-773-5776 if you wish to tutor.

ONE HUNDRED

Thanks to you, one hundred children and youth living on the coast started school with new backpacks, which they selected from the Puente “store” set up in the elementary school gym. As they walked around the gym, they also “bought” pencils, notebooks, and other supplies they needed. Instead of receiving pre-packed bags, their being able to go on a shopping spree helped them feel more like privileged children who got to pick out what they wanted for school. Thank you for your generosity!



SUPPLIES DRY UP

Local shelters are running low on towels, so please donate any spares you may have during the month of August, so our homeless neighbors can dry off. You may bring them to worship (so children can carry them forward as they come up for their special time in the service) or drop them off in the church office. Don't worry about condition. Any donations that look too worn will go to the Humane Society for the homeless animals there. Thank you!



MAKE BEACH TRASH EXTINCT!

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
9AM-NOON, RYDER PARK**

Join the largest volunteer event on the planet! (It's true—and could include YOU.) Our beaches are trashed. So young and old, come to San Mateo's Ryder Park to pitch in. Then join the free barbecue afterwards. Please let Trisha Violette know you are coming so she can give you details and register you (mviolette@att.net or 650-678-6528).



Satisfaction at the 2016 CCSM Church Picnic

AN ASSORTMENT OF OPPORTUNITIES AT CCSM

FIRST TUESDAY BOOK GROUP

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 7:30 PM • FIREPLACE ROOM

Book lovers, welcome back to our first Book Group of the fall. Our book for the evening is *The Girl in the Spider's Web* by David Lagercrantz, fourth in the series featuring Lisbeth Salander and Mikael Blomkvist. In this book, we find the pair drawn into the case of enigmatic computer scientist Franz Balder and his autistic son. The usually anti-social Salander is emotionally drawn to the son and helps him communicate in new ways. Please read and share your opinions. Also bring suggestions for our October and November books.



We are a diverse group of people who LOVE TO READ! Each discussion is lively and thought-provoking. You are welcome to join us at any time. Please contact Susan Stoehr to be added to the email list. (s_stoehr@hotmail.com) or Betsy Woodward for questions. (betsdce@comcast.net)

WHAT'S YOUR PASSION?

VOLUNTEER FAIR, SEPTEMBER 18

Remember the buzz in Kloss Hall last February? At the Volunteer Fair after church September 18, the buzz will return as CCSM highlights various service opportunities for individuals, families and children. While you nibble on coffee hour goodies, explore the display tables offering possibilities from serving dinners to pastoral care.



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP: SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

STARTS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27
7-8:30PM • CCSM LIBRARY

Come join Spiritual Conversations, a book discussion group starting soon. The book to be discussed will be announced in the near future.

Facilitators: Richard and Dorothy Kogl, kogl@att.net. All are welcome.



SAVE THE DATE:

6TH ANNUAL WILLIAM J. BULLIS FUNDRAISER AND SILENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15, 4:00 - 7:00PM • CCSM

The William J. Bullis Annual Scholarship Fundraiser aims to provide \$15,000 tuition grants to financially disadvantaged, aspiring chefs. It was founded to honor the memory of William J. Bullis, a senior at Mills High School and an aspiring young chef who overcame his physical disability to discover his passion for cooking. Tragically, his life was cut short in the San Bruno Fire of 2010. Together we are keeping his dream alive by helping others like him fulfill their culinary dreams. Tickets and info at <http://bullis-22064379152.eventbrite.com>. For information call Sue Bullis at 650-455-1454.

PICK A PARTY -- COMING SOON!

OCTOBER 16TH (DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PARTIES IS OCTOBER 1ST)

Our annual church fundraiser, which combines fellowship, fun and fundraising, is set for **October 16**. Mark your calendar and join us to purchase parties and other enjoyable activities.



Long before that day, however, is the need to collect party offerings from many of you. The deadline for submitting a party description is **October 1**. Ideally, we hope to hear from those who will host a party by the middle of September.

If you have questions, contact Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh at jjacobyeh@yahoo.com or Carol Henton at carolhenton@aol.com.

Let's make Pick A Party another HUGE success this year!

FALL MEDITATION GROUP RESUMES

The meditation group will resume on the second and fourth Sunday of the month, beginning **September 11** through **December 11** with a break for the holidays. We come back on **January 8, 2017** through **May 14**.



We meet in the church library on the second floor, next to the Choir Room from 12:10 to 1:10pm. The format is a 20-minute meditation followed by a 30-minute DVD on *The Science of Mindfulness: A Research-Based Path to Wellbeing*.

Longtime meditation students and beginners are welcome. The essentials are: a body, breath, mind. Mindfulness meditation aids one in becoming more aware and awake to all three dimensions.

For further information, contact Bob Jarmusz: (650) 787-8324 or bobjarmusz@gmail.com



THE MUSIC SCHOOL @CCSM

CLASSES RESUME FOR FALL ON SEPTEMBER 19TH!

The Music School of San Mateo (based here at CCSM and founded by our own Cari Parker and Mary Ann Notz), is a

The Music School
SING, MOVE, PLAY, & MORE...

joyous integration of music and movement for children from 16 months through third grade. Since 1983 children throughout the Peninsula have participated in our unique educational program.

We believe that children learn best by active play, clapping, singing and chanting, drumming a beat, moving and dancing, finding a melody on a xylophone, and by playing, rhythmic singing, and music theory games. And it's so much fun!!

We would love to invite your children to participate in the JOY of making music. For more information, you can contact Julie Berk directly at teacherjulie@pacbell.net or 650.400.9808, and please visit our brand new, updated website at www.musicschoolsanmateo.com.

MUSIC AND ART

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 AT NOON • BUCKHAM ROOM

All meetings are held on the third Friday of each month so you can mark your calendars now to reserve the dates. Bring your own sandwich/salad; beverages and dessert are provided.

We will soon announce the program plans for the fall and early 2017. New members and guests are always welcome, but be sure to RSVP to Susan Duty, phone: 650-533-6828 or email: susanjd52@gmail.com so we can have a space at the table for you.

LEARN TO SING

VOCAL BOOT CAMP WITH CARL

WEDNESDAYS, AUGUST 17 AND 24 AT 7 PM

Learn the basics of singing in a safe group environment. Learn about intervals, reading music and how to use your voice. Most of all, have fun!

8/17: ESSENTIALS OF MUSIC THEORY. We will cover basic note reading, focusing on the Bass and Treble Clefs. Review note values and some ear training. A great intro for the first timer, or a review session for anybody who has gotten a little rusty over the years.

8/24: VOCAL BEAUTY BOOT CAMP. Been a while since you've covered the basics of singing? Never sung before? Come get a boot camp style lesson on basic vocal technique. We'll cover breath, posture, and other basic building blocks for beautiful singing.



ADA COMPLIANCE AND SERVICE ANIMALS

by Pearly Masters, Church Administrator

Some members have wondered what the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations are regarding service animals at church. The following information is taken from the Pacific ADA Center.

Under the ADA, a

service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability. "Emotional support,

therapy, comfort, or companion" animals are not considered service animals under the ADA.

Please contact Pearly if you have questions or would like more information.

SILICON VALLEY PROGRESSIVE FAITH COMMUNITY

TO THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE OF CCSM!

It's hard to know where to begin telling the story, but like a lot of beautiful stories, it starts with hope. Somewhere in the year 2012 when this congregation called me to plant a new church, Penny gave me a small orange rock with the words hope inscribed on both sides. I didn't yet understand how much hope would be my companion as the Spirit accompanied me when it was just one, then two, then three and now more. This fall, Silicon Valley Progressive Faith Community was taken in-care as a new congregation in the Santa Clara Association of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Our future is still very uncertain, but we give thanks that where there was nothing, now there is a community grounded in love! The covenant we created for me to innovate out of CCSM, will come to a close this year, as the new congregation will call me as pastor and leader.

We are a radically inclusive, deeply spiritual, unapologetically progressive, theologically diverse church for this place and this time! Thank you for prayers and support for this spiritual startup, for me, for all who have been touched by our message of a Greater Love who longs for personal and social transformation for all of creation.

Peace,

Rev. Nicole Lamarche



Kids at SVVFC building love

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS FOR OUR WORLD...

We remember with broken hearts the people who lost their lives in **Orlando, Florida, France, London.** We stand for **Minneapolis.** We stand for **Baton Rouge.** We stand for **Dallas.** We pray for the children of **Ama Ghar,** an orphanage in Nepal. Our heartfelt prayers for all affected by the violence in **Istanbul, Bangladesh, Baghdad and Saudi Arabia.** We remember those who perished, those who lost loved ones and those who are recovering from injuries. May solutions to terrorism be found and God's peace prevail. We stand for **Love** and against violence for all people of all faith and no faith tradition. We ache for their loved ones and for all who are recovering from wounds and trauma around the world. May God give us the motivation to bring about change that promotes safety and well-being for all.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY...

July 2, the **Peninsula Jewish Community Center** in Foster City had to be evacuated due to a bomb threat. Given the history of anti-semitism in our nation, this is particularly troubling. Penny sent a letter of concern and offering our solidarity and support.

PRAYERS OF JOY...

Jorge Perry Bautista is now ready for ordination in the United Church of Christ. All are cordially invited to celebrate his call to pastoral ministry on **Saturday, August 20** at 2:00 at CCSM.

Art Domingue celebrates the 50th anniversary of his ordination during worship at 10 a.m. **Sunday, Sept. 11** in the Squaw Valley Chapel. He and Joanne would love to invite anyone from San Mateo to come. A catered lunch will follow. Please RSVP to Joanne at P.O. Box 218, Tahoma, CA 96142 or jogriff@aol.com. Also, Joanne is putting together a memory book for Art. If anyone would like to share an anecdote from his interim time with the wonderful people of CCSM, please send along to her.

Special birthday wishes to **Jo Buckham**, who turned 93 August

8th, and to **Betty Drisko**, who also turned 93 on August 11th. Much joy and blessings to you both! **Katherine Boaden**, a beloved CCSM member, also had a very special birthday this summer.

Deborah Chang and her wife **Carla Hammons** celebrate their 25th anniversary. Their union was first blessed on August 10, 1991 at the MCC church in New York City by Karen Ziegler. We wish them many more happy years together.

Dave and Sally McClure celebrated 50 years of wedded bliss. Congratulations with a wish to celebrate many more years together.

Former member and choir member **Melinda Moore & Sandi Jensen** are proud parents of **Sawyer Leighton Jensen-Moore**, born August 9, 8 lbs, 1 oz. Blessings to the whole family!

We celebrate **Lily Marie Tileston**, born July 20, 2016 to **Kali & Trevor Tileston** and grandparents **Nancy Lane & Fred Tileston**. Blessings to the Tileston family.

Phyllis and Andrew Berwick's 60th anniversary is on Sept. 2. Phyllis and Andrew met in college at University of Oregon. Best wishes for a continued happy life together.

Cynthia Starborn has found a magical new home in the area! Cynthia is also celebrating the publication of an inspirational short story (#270) in the anthology 365 Moments of Grace, available on Amazon at <http://amzn.to/28QWaEN>

Annlee McGurk celebrated the 100th anniversary of her family farm in Lodi. We wish the McGurk family well as they uphold an American tradition.

Brett Ruona and Brad Bailey were married on July 2nd. It was a beautiful and joyful ceremony. Many blessings on your married life together.

Sarah Long, daughter of **Susan Lake and Warren Long**, sister of **David Long** and granddaughter of **Harriet Lake**, is the first recipient of the Sue Bullis Graduate School Scholarship. Sarah, congratulations and God bless as you complete medical school.

Rev. Dr. Kibbie Ruth was recognized by the Southern Eastern

Conference as being the first woman minister to be ordained into a call in their conference. Well done, good and faithful Kibbie!

Jack Joseph Held, son of **Stephen and Laura Held**, grandson of **Peter and Gail Held**, was born on June 19, weighing in at 9 pounds, 6 ounces. Jack is a fourth generation CCSM-er. Congratulations parents and grandparents!

Congratulations to **George Snode and John Smilanic** who were married on June 18th. George and John have been together 15 years and had a beautiful wedding.

Lorna Groundwater is grateful for the many prayers and good wishes for her husband **Dr. Jim Groundwater** as he recovers from three broken ribs.

Rev. Dakota Brown was elected Moderator of Golden Gate for the Northern California Association of the Northern California Nevada Conference of The United Church of Christ. We are proud of Dakota and wish her a fulfilling tenure as CCSM partners with her.

Prayers of joy and gratitude for **Lee Mullery's** recovery. Her giant cell arteritis is in full remission. Also gratitude for the entire extended Mullery family who all survived a hurricane together in Belize!

Our substitute custodian, **Oscar Rosa**, became a grandfather! **Thiago Rosa** was born June 4, 2016 to **Susana Rosa** (Oscar's daughter) and **Sergio Vasquez**. Oscar, God bless your precious grandchild.

Good news! **David Long**, son of **Warren and Susan Long**, is making steady progress and will receive rehabilitation at the University of Washington Harborview Hospital in Seattle, after sustaining a serious fall. Thank you to Team David for your prayers. To follow David's progress and to leave messages for Warren and Susan, please visit www.caringbridge.org. You will find David under support4david.

PRAYERS FOR COMFORT...

Betty Stout, a beloved long-time member of CCSM, passed away suddenly on June 19. We ask for God's gracious blessings to be upon Betty's

JOYS AND CONCERNS CONT.

family and friends during this time of remembering all who Betty was and all that she accomplished with joy. Betty's memorial service will be held on **September 24th**.

Len Flaherty's mother, **Lauretta Flaherty**, died peacefully on August 4 surrounded by family members in Weymouth, MA following a stroke. Len and Deb will return to New England for the memorial. Please keep Len, Deb and family in your prayers.

Rebecca Ruedy's father **Jack (John) Ruedy**, 89, passed away peacefully after a long battle with illness at his home on Monday, August 1. Jack was a long-time member of UCC-Church in Bethesda, Maryland. May God's peace accompany the family during this time.

Prayers for the family of **Mosher Alan El Din**, friend of **Pam McCarthy-Hudson**. The family traveled back to Egypt for Mosher to pass among his family and to be buried with his mother and father in the Muslim tradition. May Mosher, his wife and three children find peace.

Jean Kraft, aunt of our organist **Dr. Angela Kraft Cross**, passed away July 31st at age 93 in Washington. She is a much beloved member of her family. Angela was able to play at her aunt's memorial service.

Prayers for **Kristi Spence** and her family as they mourn the tragic loss of her 17-year-old grandson **Austin Wylie** who lost his life to suicide on July 13th. Prayers for her entire family during this time of unexpected and unspeakable grief.

Esther May Handy, mother of **Rev. Jerri Handy**, passed away Sunday July 3 at home. She was surrounded by loving family and friends.

Sandee Schlickman's mother-in-law, **Margaret Schlickman**, died July 1 at the age of 86. Prayers for the Schlickman family.

Bill Lind, brother-in-law of **Bill Daniels**, passed away on June 28. Prayers for Bill Daniel's sister, **Pat**, in her time of grief.

Helen McClure, Dave McClure's sister-in-law, passed on June 11 after a four-year struggle with cancer. Please keep Helen's husband, Bob, and Dave's family in prayer.

Thomas LaRatta, beloved piano teacher of **Dr. Angela Kraft Cross, Vija Norkvesta and Bonny Armacost**, died Sunday, June 5, after a brief illness. CCSM has been enriched by Thomas' expertise and inspiration as many, many others have been over the years.

Dr. Robert Kraft, beloved father of our organist **Dr. Angela Kraft Cross**, passed away on May 29, after a long journey with Alzheimer's. Please keep Angela and Robert in prayer as they remember a gifted man and receive God's comfort that he is at peace.

Rev. Dr. Brett Fenwick, beloved friend of **Dave and Sally McClure**, died May 23 after experiencing brain cancer. Dave was a devoted friend and caregiver to Brett.

Eileen Benson, cousin of **Gloria Knight** and former CCSM member and choir member, passed away peacefully in Redwood City on May 24 at the age of 94.

PRAYERS FOR HEALING...

Both **Bob and Caroline Reinke** were in urgent care August 7. Bob has pneumonia and has been having trouble sleeping because his ribs are very sore. The antibiotics seem to be helping and he is a bit better. Caroline fell on the concrete and hurt her right knee and left hand, hit her head hard, and skinned her chin and cheek. Please keep them both in your healing prayers.

Dorothy Scott's grandson, **Lee Shaffer**, age 28, suffered a heart attack on August 2. He is at John Muir Hospital in the East Bay and needs our prayers for healing.

David Meissner was hospitalized for a recent illness and is home. Prayers for a quick recovery and good health.

Pico Soriano, CCSM member who does our big flower arrangements, was struck by a car while walking on July 30. He suffered multiple broken bones—ribs, legs, arms, elbows—and was in the ICU for over 2 weeks. He remains at Stanford Hospital in a great deal of pain. He can take visitors but he may be in therapy, tired, etc. So for this week I'm sure cards and calls are very welcomed vs. an on-site

visit. He requests prayers from the congregation.

Sarah, daughter of **Dawn Graves**, is recovering from ankle surgery. We wish her a quick recovery.

Maureen Martin, CCSM member and member of the Executive Committee, had surgery. Please keep her and the entire Martin family in prayer.

Tara Strausbaugh, Donna Summer's granddaughter, and her husband **Brandon Badders** were in a serious motorcycle accident on June 28th. Please keep Tara, Brandon, and family in prayer as they recover from their injuries.

Janet, mother of **Jennifer Bock Hughes**, is in need of prayer of healing as she faces a serious neurological condition.

Harry Dehlinger has returned home from the hospital. Harry and Olga-Barbra Dehlinger are in need of support for daily tasks such as rides to church and doctor appointments. All support and companionship is helpful.

Please pray for **Kate Engelberg** (friend of **Holly Allen** and **Camille Grant**), **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 **David Long, Dorothy Scott, Joann Bottini, 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, 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 dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org or call 415-244-3696 if you need support during the week.

CCSM'S HOMECOMING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

CCSM's Homecoming welcomes members and friends with fellowship and food. We'll enjoy a delicious barbecue from Armadillo Willy's and homemade side dishes by our talented members. Additionally, we'll have music and fun activities for the children.

Please come and invite your friends to be a part of CCSM's extravagant welcome!



TALK TO ME!

RECLAIMING CONVERSATION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27, CCSM

10:00 AM TO 1:00 PM

LUNCH INCLUDED

Join Penny Nixon and Zoe Mullery as they team up to bring you a lively and engaging morning focused on Sherry Turkle's book *Reclaiming Conversation: The Power of Talk in a Digital Age*.

Renowned media scholar Sherry Turkle investigates how a flight from conversation undermines our relationships, creativity, and productivity—and why reclaiming face-to-face conversation can help us regain lost ground. We live in a technological universe in which we are always communicating. And yet we have sacrificed conversation for mere connection. The book is not an anti-technology screed by any means, but a call to intentionality and wisdom in the ways we (and our children) use technology to communicate, and to be thinking well about the practices that support genuine community and intimacy.

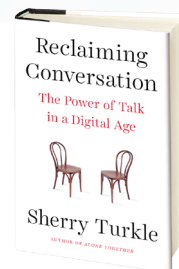
Please RSVP to pmasters@ccsm-ucc.org.

We'll also use *Reclaiming Conversation* as our August Book of the Month. We have copies in the church library for you to sign out. However, you're welcome to come to the conversation whether or not you've read the book.

Turkle's Reclaiming Conversation is one of the most important books I have read since Michelle Alexander's The New Jim Crow. Turkle exposes a troubling social and cultural decline in the art of conversation and the capacity for empathy. She is not anti-technology but does not shy away from challenging all of us to take another look at the kind of control our devices have in our lives and what that is doing to our relationships and to our own humanity. I hope you will take time to join in this important conversation.

—Penny

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The Pine Tree

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

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

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