

The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo

United Church of Christ

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Vol. 65

Issue #7 • September/October 2016



Pick A Party

Congregational Church of San Mateo

PICK-A-PARTY: CCSM'S 19TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER!

Will you host a party for this year's Pick A Party fundraiser? We hope so! The more parties we have to offer will mean more fun and fellowship for CCSM members—and more funds (\$\$\$) for CCSM's important programs. A party could be a meal or a fun activity, either inside or outdoors. We've enjoyed such varied and unique parties in the past; let's see what interesting party ideas we can come up with this time!

Parties will be offered for purchase in Kloss Hall on **Sunday, October 16**. So think about your party idea, then contact us at CCSMPickAParty@gmail.com or [submit your party offering online](#). Don't delay, we'd like to hear from you by **September 25**.

—Carol Henton and Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS RECALCULATING... FINDING OUR WAY AGAIN Sermon series with Penny Nixon preaching

- September 25** Sermon: *Recalculating What Is Possible*
- October 2** WORLD COMMUNION / FAMILY WORSHIP Sermon: *Recalculating Sustenance: What is Enough?*
- October 9** Sermon: *Recalculating Beauty*—Joliene Wade Gatlin
- October 16** PICK-A-PARTY • Sermon: *Recalculating Conversation*—Zoe Mullery and Penny Nixon
- October 23** FAITH AND HOUSING WEEKEND. 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*



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

NEWS FROM CHURCH SCHOOL

By Cynthia Starborn

On September 11th, we kicked off the Church School year with the Godly Play story of Noah's Ark and with special animal crackers for our feast. Afterwards, we enjoyed a wonderful Homecoming celebration, complete with food, fellowship, and some very popular children's entertainment, including balloon artists, tinsel artists, henna artists, and face-painting.

This fall in Church School we will be doing more Godly Play stories from the Old Testament, and we will talk about how each story can help us "find our way" in life. We look forward to seeing you soon in Church School!



CHURCH SCHOOL REFLECTIONS

By Joan Kilroe



I first began volunteering as a nursery "teacher" in Church School back in 2006. We used to be all alone in our individual classrooms back then, and it could get quite "interesting!" As I was working full time back then, taking care of toddlers all week, I asked Betsy Woodward [former Minister of Christian Education] if I could switch to Sunday School teacher for a different age group, and she placed me in the

preK/kindergarten classroom. Again, we often were alone in individual classrooms back then, and I will never forget the day in September, Homecoming Sunday, when I had 16 children in my classroom! (Betsy did come in to help out as soon as she was able.) This was back when we did traditional Sunday School classes, rather than Godly Play, and I always was totally astounded by the insights offered by my young charges after hearing the various stories I read for the day. Suffice to say, I learned a lot more than I ever taught.

I will never forget one Sunday as I walked along the sidewalk approaching church, and one of my little ones came running along the sidewalk shouting "Teacher, Teacher!" and gave me a big hug. Watching these little ones grow by leaps and bounds is always such a satisfying part of the job. Just think, Calvin Mader-Clark was one of my early little ones, and now he towers over me. As to how the time spent with the little ones impacts our faith, I'm often reminded of our "mantra" that God has no hands but our hands, no feet but our feet, and no face but our face, and I realize that we play a vital role in how children will come to view God and his creation by watching us during their most formative years.

Please join us in thanking Joan Kilroe for her longtime volunteer service in Church School. These days, Joan is a regular volunteer in the Nursery, and this coming year, you may occasionally see her helping out with our older classes, too!

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION: SPIRITUAL SUPPORT FOR PARENTS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 9:30AM
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, 6PM
BUCKHAM ROOM

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, 11:45AM
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



Peace Village 2016!

PASTORAL CARE AT CCSM

Caring for one another is part of CCSM's spiritual DNA. At the last two congregational meetings there were some conversations about care at CCSM so we wanted to address that openly with the congregation. Much of the care goes on behind the scenes by both the pastors and by church members. We hear stories and anecdotal information, so we decided to try and track just how much care we all are providing to and for one another. Well, easier said than done! But here is our best attempt to let you know what has been going on the past two months (and these were summer months). We tried doing this by figuring out our various "points of contact"—home visits, hospital visits, phone calls, emails, prayers with people etc.

On average, 13 blue cards are submitted per week. Every card is answered with a phone call, an email (usually more than one) and or a personal visit or appointment. We also have had 13 hospital visits and 13 home visits by pastoral staff,

and 22 home or hospital visits by members of the congregation to other members of the congregation who are homebound. There have been 50 Cards sent by the pastoral care team and the Month of Sundays groups for special birthdays, condolences, congratulations, anniversaries, or cards for prayer for healing and recovery. There have been well over 150 pastoral phone calls and 20 in-person meetings with the pastoral care team at church or in public. And we didn't even make it through a week of trying to track all the emails! So July and August were busy months with lots going on.

We will also be launching our **CCSM Companion Ministry** in the next few weeks, so stay tuned. And remember, if you need support or know someone who does, please let the pastoral care team know. We want our care to be as extravagant as our welcome!



conversations on progressive christianity
SUNDAYS | 11:50 AM | BUCKHAM ROOM

SUNDAYS AFTER SERVICE, 11:50AM - 1:00PM • BUCKHAM ROOM

Join Penny for these important conversations about Progressive Christianity beginning September 25.

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? Childcare available. Email cstarborn@ccsm-ucc.org to reserve.

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|--------------|--|-------------|--|
| September 25 | <i>The Authority Conversation</i> | October 23 | <i>The Sexuality Conversation (Nicole & Penny)</i> |
| October 2 | <i>The God Conversation</i> | October 30 | <i>The Culture Conversation (Jorge & Penny)</i> |
| October 9 | <i>The UCC & Progressive Christianity Conversation</i> | November 6 | <i>The Justice Conversation</i> |
| October 16 | <i>The Jesus Conversation</i> | November 13 | <i>The Sin and Evil Conversation</i> |
| | | November 20 | <i>Toxic Theology No More!</i> |

AUSTIN MADER-CLARK JOINS CCSM TEAM

We are so pleased to announce that Austin Mader-Clark, former CCSM moderator, has joined the CCSM staff team as our part-time interim Director of Operations. The BOM approved this position a few months ago knowing that we are preparing for Pearly's partial retirement. Pearly will eventually transition to focusing solely on financial management.

Austin is slowly taking oversight of the facilities as well as helping us integrate our new software. She will be helping us organize the day-to-day administration of the church. We have great confidence in Austin, not only because of her previous work experience in information systems management and publishing, but also because of her fine leadership over the past years here at CCSM. She agreed to step in to help us with the transition in Pearly's reduced hours.

You'll be hearing more from Austin in the next Pine Tree about her responsibilities but for now, WELCOME, AUSTIN!



A SAD FAREWELL TO MUSIC DIRECTOR CARL PANTLE

We are very sad to let the congregation know that Carl Pantle has had to leave his position as CCSM Music Director. This was not his (or our) desire, but he was evicted from his rental house in Oakland and had to move in with his parents who live in Oakley, California. He has to give up his Bay Area jobs because he does not have transportation.

We will miss Carl—he inspired us so many times with his music during worship. Please keep Carl and the choir in your prayers. If you want to write a note or card to Carl, please drop it by in the office and we will make sure he receives it.

We are very grateful that Lynnelle Bilesey and Tom Lohmuller have graciously agreed to step in until we can find a permanent person. We'll be keeping you posted as we go along. We are blessed to have so much talent here at CCSM.

Dr. Wolfelt's Tenets of Companioning the Bereaved

by Dr. Alan Wolfelt

Companioning is a way to care for our loved ones while still caring for ourselves. Companioning is:

- Being present to another person's pain; it is not about taking away the pain.
- Going to the wilderness of the soul with another human being; it is not about thinking you are responsible for finding the way out.
- Honoring the spirit; it is not about focusing on the intellect.
- Listening with the heart; it is not about analyzing with the head.
- Bearing witness to the struggles of others; it is not about judging or directing these struggles.
- Walking alongside; it is not about leading.
- Discovering the gifts of sacred silence; it is not about filling up every moment with words.
- Being still; it is not about frantic movement forward.
- Respecting disorder and confusion; it is not about imposing order and logic.
- Learning from others; it is not about teaching them.
- Compassionate curiosity; it is not about expertise.



Henna hands from Homecoming Sunday

THINGS TO DO IN AND AROUND CCSM

20/30s at CCSM

DINNER BY JORGE AND A GAME OF SCATTERGORIES

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29
7:30PM • BUCKHAM ROOM

It's been wonderful to see the growth of our 20/30s at CCSM over the last year! We have a wonderful group of young people who offer each other support and friendship. Come get to know other young adults in the congregation! If you're an adult under 40, we'd love for you to join us for fellowship, fun, and conversation.

Our next gathering will be a meal prepared by Jorge! Join us for a meal and a game of Scattergories at church. Bring Your Own Beverage. If you would like to contribute something to the meal or have any questions, contact Jolien Wade Gatlin for more information (jgatlin@ccsm-ucc.org). RSVPs are appreciated, but last-minute additions are always welcome. Feel free to bring friends!

Spiritual Conversations

SIX TUESDAYS 7:00-8:30PM
IN THE LIBRARY
STARTING SEPTEMBER 27

Spiritual Conversations begins its fall series with a discussion of the book *Becoming Wise* by Krista Tippett, which is organized around five topics: Words, Flesh, Love, Faith, and Hope. She features a wide range of people—poets, scientists, religious leaders as well as less well known wise people whose lives embody beauty, courage, and goodness. Award-winning journalist Tippett is the host of NPR's "On Being" program. She holds a Masters of Divinity from Yale and received the National Humanities Medal from President Obama.

For questions and to sign up contact facilitators Richard and Dorothy Kogl at kogl@att.net or 650-579-7272.

MUSIC AND ARTS

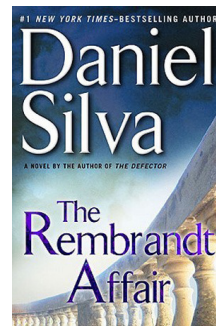
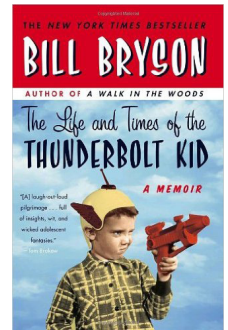
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, NOON •
BUCKHAM ROOM

Join the lovely ongoing Music and Arts group and enjoy a walk through Spain. Our own Senior Minister, **Penny Nixon, will tell of her travels on The Camino.** She'll show a few photos and talk about her June pilgrimage on the northern coast of Spain and what she learned about the spirituality of walking. Bring a sandwich and an open heart.

First Tuesday Book Group

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 7:30-9:00PM, FIREPLACE ROOM

The book group is alive and well, so please come join us for spirited and energetic discussions! This month's light-hearted, fun selection is *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid: A Memoir* by Bill Bryson. Using the superhero persona as a springboard, Bill Bryson re-creates the life of his family in the 1950s in all its transcendent normality—a life completely familiar to us and, as he reminds us, a happy time. You will laugh as you read!



Then on Tuesday November 1st the book to discuss is *The Rembrandt Affair* by Daniel Silva—a thriller with Gabriel Allon as protagonist, focusing on Israeli intelligence. His team seeks a lost Rembrandt whose previous owners have included both Holocaust victims and terrorists. Fascinating!

We'll ring in the new year with *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana: Five Sisters, One Remarkable Family, and the Woman Who Risked Everything to Keep Them Safe* by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon.

All are welcome to join us. Please read the book and bring your opinions and thoughts. We always have divergent views that spice up the conversation. To join the email blast, send your email to Susan Stoehr: s_stoehr@hotmail.com. Or direct questions to Betsy Woodward: betsdce@comcast.net

Wise and Wonderful Ones

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 10:30 TO 11:30AM
BUCKHAM ROOM

Join our Wise and Wonderful Ones group for introduction to meditation practice with Bob Jarmusz. We hope to see you there!



Wise And Wonderful Ones gathered to start the holiday season off with crafts. Autumn leaves and Christmas Crafts!



Ronnie Errichson admires her balloon ring on Homecoming Sunday

6th Annual William J. Bullis Fundraiser & 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 [bullis-22064379152.eventbrite.com](mailto:bullis-22064379152@eventbrite.com). For information, call Sue Bullis at 650-455-1454.



WILL'S DREAM
FOUNDATION

News from our Minister of Community Engagement

DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS,



Jorge Perry Bautista

Before I update you on some upcoming events the Latin@ Ministry Team is putting together to ally with our neighbors, I want to thank all of you for helping me get ordained in the life of the United Church of Christ. I do not take this ordination lightly. From the moment I started my internship at CCSM, from becoming your minister-in-training, and now being your Minister of Community Engagement. I offer my thanks and gratitude for your patience and ongoing support as I have gone through various stages of growth and development, striving to be the best I can be and to be what the God of my understanding wants. Thank you all for being in my life, for your friendships, love and acceptance. I am richer for knowing each one of you. I am truly honored and humbled to be a part of CCSM as an ordained minister. Much love and blessings to all of you.

A couple of community events are coming up as a way to continue to ally with our neighbors. First, we are having a **COMMUNITY EVENT SEPTEMBER 25 FROM 2-5PM**, to celebrate the fall season with a **taquero (tacos), drinks, face painting, sidewalk chalk, and a jumpy house**. Our hope is to continue to build relationships, hear stories, and be in conversation with our neighbors. Please join us and be in community not only with one another but also with our neighbors in North Central San Mateo!

Our second community event is **DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CELEBRATION**. Technically this celebration runs from Oct. 21 through Nov. 2 and is one of Mexico's most celebrated holidays, but we will celebrate it on **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 4-8PM IN KLOSS HALL**. We will have sugar skulls to decorate and an altar to celebrate the lives of loved ones. This event will be a day for us to commemorate our loved ones, so be ready to leave a message in the Book of the Dead and bring mementos of the dearly departed to help build Kloss Hall's community altar. This altar will stay up until November 6th, so we can spend time with our loved ones during the week. Also, before this event we will have an **educational piece on Sunday, October 23, before church from 9:30-10:15am**. I will share about the customs surrounding Dia De Los Muertos and what to expect on Oct. 27, so we can all have a good experience. October 27 will be a fun and memorable time for everyone, and once again we will share this moment with our neighbors, and maybe some of us will make new friends. I hope most of you are able to celebrate this holiday, and hope to see you there as well.

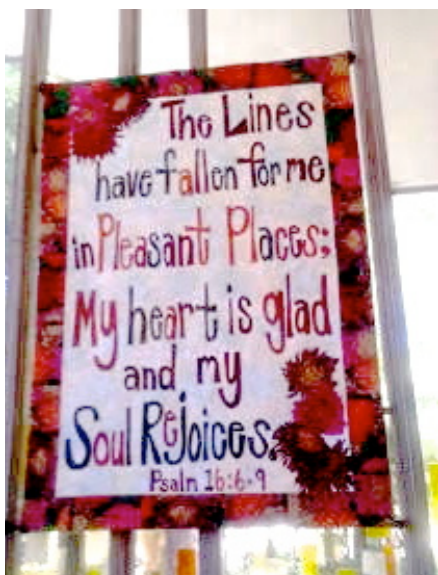


Peace,

Jorge P. Bautista



New members who joined September 18, 2016. Back Row, left to right: **Margie Mader-Clark, John Ebnetter, Kristen and Ed Mangum.** Front Row: **Don Ruthroff, Annlee McGurk, Mary D'Anna, Jennifer Hu, Jelle Zijlstra.** Not pictured: **Jonathan Kronn.**



FORMER CCSM PASTOR ART DOMINGUE CELEBRATES THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINATION

<< This photo depicts a quilt made by a member of Art's congregation. It depicts a Bible quote selected by Art to sum up his feelings about his 50-year career as a pastor. He explored its meaning in his sermon, "A Fifty-Year Retrospective." More than a hundred people attended the service, which was followed by a lovely lunch and program featuring testimonials, a humorous skit and a special song composed by Betsy Woodward and performed by the 10 members of CCSM in attendance.

Art and Joanne fifty years ago! >>



SOCIAL JUSTICE OPPORTUNITIES

MSJ

FOR THE KIDS!

Our fall collections focus on children and enhancing their educational experience. Our gathering healthy snacks for students' recess break at Sunnybrae Elementary School continues through September (though your donations to them will always be welcome). Sixty-seven percent of its students qualify for federally-subsidized lunches; many miss breakfast altogether. So please bring dried edamame, protein bars, cereal, crackers and cheese, shelf-stable milk, string cheese, little fruits, etc. to keep the children fueled up to learn.



In October CCSM starts collecting youth and children's books. New ones will be given as holiday presents to kids in Samaritan House programs; used ones will be delivered to East Palo Alto to fill school libraries there. So clean off your shelves or watch for deals at stores. Let's encourage reading with our love and generosity.

START NOW: QUILTS FOR HOLIDAY HOMELESS

OCTOBER 22 AND NOVEMBER 19, 1:00-4:00PM
BUCKHAM ROOM

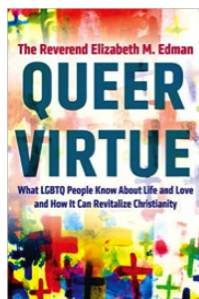
Each month Blanketeers get together to make quilts for those in need. Everyone is welcome! You don't need to know how to sew (but ability to use scissors may help). Please join us for fun conversation and preparation of the quilts we give at Christmas. Contact Susan Henry for more information (susanelaine555@gmail.com).



QUEER VIRTUE: AN ASPECT OF PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY

OCTOBER 30 AND NOVEMBER 6, 9:30-10:15AM
FIREPLACE ROOM

As an openly lesbian Episcopal priest and professional advocate for LGBTQ justice, author Reverend Elizabeth Edman has spent her career grappling with the core tenets of her faith. She believes what LGBTQ people know about life and love can revitalize Christianity. Rather than asking what Christianity has to say about queerness, Edman turns the lens around and asks what queerness can tell us about Christianity. One reviewer wrote, "Edman writes with the tender hand, approachable intelligence, and wise humility of that super-smart, big-hearted priest you always want yet rarely find. She takes words we think we know—'scandal,' 'pride,' 'queerness'—and encourages us to consider them in a new light. And at a time when narratives about Christianity are often hyper-individualistic and oversimplified, she reminds us of a vibrant gospel that's richly relational, comfortingly complex, and inherently hopeful." Are you enticed?



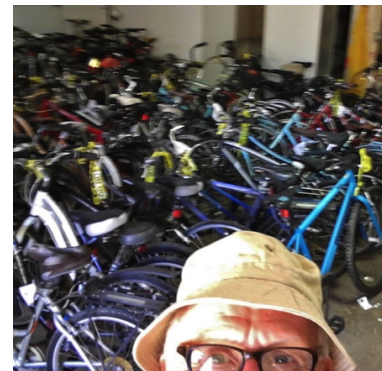
Then read *Queer Virtue* (copies upstairs in the library) and join us for conversation.

FIFTY BIKES? FIFTY BIKES!

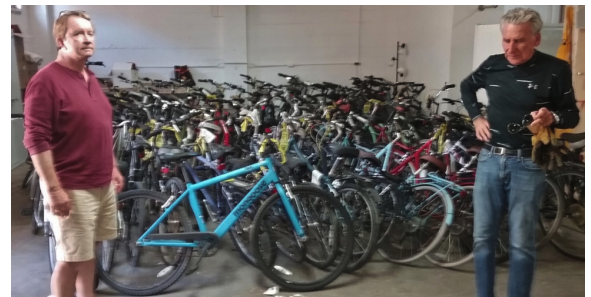
Stanford University Police Department recently donated dozens of bicycles to our Wheels program, thanks to some clever advocacy by Wheels Team Leader Tony Gallo. What a gift! However, those bikes need to be spruced up for delivery to various neighbors who have no transportation. Please keep a lookout for announcements of Saturday and Sunday repair days—every age and skill set welcomed to pitch in. Tony Gallo (argallo3119@gmail.com)



Ministry of Service & Justice



<< Len Flaherty comes up for air after moving dozens of bikes from Stanford. Peter Held must be on the floor exhausted.



After the move of bikes to the Masonic basement, Tony Brown is dazed, while Fred Tileston prays for more helpers to repair the bikes before donation to farm workers and neighbors.

CALLING ALL NURSES

With the help of Samaritan House, CCSM is creating a pop-up flu vaccination clinic for the neighbors. Even if you are not a nurse, you can help with the paperwork.

If interested, send Karen Jolliffe or Kibbie an email (karen.jolliffe@ucsfmedctr.org or msj@ccsm-ucc.org).



NEWSWEEK REPORTS SECOND-HAND CLOTHING CRISIS

The old-fashioned kind of recycling, donating and reselling of secondhand clothes is basically a myth, since the market is now glutted. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 84 percent of unwanted clothes in the United States went into a landfill or an incinerator. Even natural fibers go through a lot of unnatural processes on their way to becoming clothing—being bleached, dyed, printed on, scoured in chemical baths. Those chemicals can leach from the textiles and into groundwater, and burning the items in incinerators can release those toxins into the air.



According to the Council for Textile Recycling, charities overall sell only 20 percent of the clothing donated to them at their retail outlets. Goodwill and others “bale up” the remaining unwanted clothing into huge shrink-wrapped cubes and sell them to textile recyclers. Yet only 0.1 percent of those baled clothes are recycled into new textile fiber. The rest is sent to less affluent countries. However, CNN says that old clothing sent to Africa from the “U.S. is creating a post-colonial economic mess”; even the very poor don’t want our castoff clothing. As “fast fashion” is speeding up trends and shortening seasons, American consumerism continues to escalate. The result: a justice challenge for both the environment and its inhabitants. Link to full Newsweek article.

SOLUTIONS?

1. Reduce our compulsive shopping.
2. Reuse our current wardrobe items creating new combinations or adding accessories.
3. Recycle! Swap, don’t shop. Come Wednesday, October 26, for an MSJ CLOTHES SWAP in the Buckham Room, 6:00-8:30. Gently used clothes and accessories may be delivered earlier in the week or brought to the swap. Bring as much as you want; take as much as you want. Remaining items will be donated to charity (donation receipts available). Clothing consultant, Mary Lou Manlove, will join us for this fun recycling event.

Photos Needed!

We are in dire need of a photographer (or many) to help us document and celebrate all the amazing things happening here at CCSM. In order to keep our Pine Tree, Facebook, and website interesting we need a constant flow of good photos.

If you are ever at an event and are able to take a few photos, please send them to Zoe or Pearly in the church office (zmullery@ccsm-ucc.org or pmasters@ccsm-ucc.org) or share via Google drive or Box. If you have an eye for photography and are willing to consider yourself an unofficial documentarian of any event or gathering, please be encouraged to do so.

We really need good photos that capture the spirit of an event. If it is a meeting of seated people, think about catching someone’s responsive facial expression. Photos are best when they have some action or expressiveness to them (and of course are high resolution and in focus).

Thanks for your help.



SPLIT DECISIONS

Split decisions on the Supreme Court are delaying justice—this year for young immigrants (DACA) and parents of American citizens (DAPA). The ruling ran against our multi-religious mandate to love our neighbor and our nation’s historical commitment to welcome the stranger. Failure to act will continue to force millions of our undocumented neighbors to live in fear of deportation. Our judicial system cannot uphold justice and rights for all who call America home because of the Senate’s continued delay in filling the Supreme Court vacancy.

To people of faith, this is not a political issue, but a moral one. Whether you care about immigration, women’s rights, civil liberties, labor, or criminal justice reform—the ninth Supreme Court seat needs to be filled to support justice for all who call America home. You can add your voice

in calling on our elected leaders to fulfill their moral obligation by moving promptly through the confirmation process. [Add Your Voice!](#) Go to tinyurl.com/addyourvoice



(Credit: Reuters/Larry Downing/Salon)



Constant Contact All Star Award!

Our weekly Connections newsletter won the Constant Contact All Star Award, which is given to a small percentage of users of Constant Contact whose readers actually click on, open and read the communications sent at a high rate. We’re mentioning this to say thank you for reading and actively responding to the news you receive weekly from CCSM. If you’re not on the Connections email list and you’d like to be, sign up through MyCCSM on our website or email Zoe at zmullery@ccsm-ucc.org.





a benefit for Home and Hope

*Grant
us
PEACE*

MULTI-FAITH CHORAL CONCERT

October 9, 2016 | 5pm

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church

1310 Bayswater Ave, Burlingame, CA

**WITH CHOIRS FROM: ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN MATEO, U.C.C. | THE EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW | FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF
BURLINGAME | ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

No admission fee | Suggested donation at the door

Childcare available: ages 2-6yr | Reception to follow with refreshments

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Welcome home, church family. Prayers of gratitude for **our church community** as we return from summer and are now able to worship together this fall, and for all the children and adults returning to school—may you be blessed with a year of profound personal growth and knowledge. Praying for **peace** all around the world. Praying for all those who continue to be affected by the events of **September 11, 2001**. Prayers for our country's **political climate**. May we listen respectfully to viewpoints different than our own. Prayers for people struggling with **loneliness**. May we remember God knows us by name. Prayers of love for Colombia, Italy, and all those affected by **earthquakes**. Prayers of support and love for the people in **Louisiana**, fires in **California**, **France**, and **Bolivia**. May God bless everyone with the help they need to quickly rebuild their communities, receive food, and shelter. Prayers for people looking for **jobs**. May we find work that will sustain us. Prayers for people who are seeking **sobriety**. May we know serenity.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

Shirley Robertson turned 90 on September 11th, **Ronnie Errichson** turns 94 on September 24, **Lorraine Gustafson** turns 102 on September 26, and **Phyllis Mead** turns 92 on September 27. We rejoice and celebrate with them on their special days this month!

PRAYERS OF JOY

We celebrate the gifts of **Carolyn Shaw** who is having an art exhibit at Peninsula Museum of Art is Burlingame Sept 22-Oct 31.

Bob and Caroline Reinke thank everyone for their "Extravagant Caring" and prayers. They are both feeling much better.

Rebecca Ruedy and Michael Whelan were married on August 26, 2016 in Redwood City. We wish them a wonderful life together.

Tom Don, Sarah Iya's father in England, had excellent test results following chemotherapy and celebrated the wedding of Sarah's brother with all of them in Virginia.

Art Domingue celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination Sunday, Sept. 11 in the Squaw Valley Chapel. Please contact Joanne for well wishing and cards at jogriff@aol.com.

David Long, son of **Warren and Susan Long**, continues to make steady progress. Thank you for the love and support from this church. To follow David's progress and to leave messages for Warren and Susan, please visit www.caringbridge.org. You will find David under support4david.

Rebecca Ruedy wishes to say thank you for the kind notes and expressions of sympathy surrounding the loss of her father Jack Ruedy on August 1st. Jack was a long-time member of UCC-Church in Bethesda, Maryland.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT

We only recently learned that CCSM member **Beverly Ryman** passed away two years ago, on August 3, 2014 at The Peninsula Regent surrounded by her children. Beverly was an avid adventurer and fun-loving spirit. We are sorry to hear of her passing so long after the time and remember her as a giving spirit in our church community.

Rosalee Lower, mother of **Melinda Adams**, passed away August 22nd after a long illness. Please keep the Adams family in your prayers.

Please pray for the family of **Don and Laura Geddis**, who live in Hillsborough and are friends with members of CCSM. Don was driving his two daughters, **Kayla**, 13, and **Kendra**, 10, when they were rear-ended by a drunk driver. Tragically, Kendra did not survive. Kayla suffered critical injuries. We offer loving prayers for this family in this time of unspeakable grief.

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 family and friends. Betty's memorial service will be held on September 24th.

PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT

Continued prayers for **Ann Fyfe**. She had hip replacement surgery two weeks ago. She is recovering nicely but would welcome prayers of continued healing and freedom from pain.

The **Women's Recovery Association** and all the women and families they serve could use prayer for continued donations of food, housing essentials, and clothing. Thank you God for all that you provide.

Pico Soriano has moved to a skilled nursing facility as he continues to recover from injuries after being hit by a car. Cards and calls are welcome. San Bruno Skilled Nursing Facility, Attn: Pico Soriano, 890 El Camino, San Bruno 94066, (650) 583-7768.

Sandee Schlickman's friend Mike had a stroke and is in critical condition. May Mike not feel afraid or in pain.

Harry Dehlinger has moved from the hospital to Millbrae Skilled Care, 33 Mateo Avenue, Millbrae, 94030, (650) 689-5784. Harry's children say Harry is confused; however, please go see him if you are able. **Olga-Barbra** is in need of emotional support and help for daily tasks such as rides to visit Harry, to church and to doctor appointments. All support and companionship is helpful. 650-589-528

Please pray for **Mark** (friend of **Judy Hemmer**) **Janice Kennedy** (cousin of **Margaret and Gordon Smith**), **Bill Daniels** and others as they walk their unique journeys with cancer.

Continuing prayers for **Jim Groundwater**, **David Long**, **Dorothy Scott**, **Joann Bottini**, **Anne McEntee**, **Ruth Black**, **Marjorie Griffin**, **Cathy Latta**, **Martha Grannis**, **Lorraine Gustafson**, **Martha Imai**, **George Kromhout**, **Phyllis Mead**, **Adrienne Mitchell**, **Genevieve and John Parsons**, **Fred Petri**, **Janet Smith Roberts** (sister of **Gordon Smith**), **June Schutte**, and **Travis Woodmansee**.

Please share your prayers with the pastoral care team: Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon, Rev. Jorge Bautista, Rev. Dakota Brown, and Intern Joliene Wade Gatlin. You may connect with us in the following ways: in person, by filling out a blue prayer card at Sunday service, by filling out a ccsm-ucc.org/MyCCSM online prayer request, or by contacting us via staff emails listed in the bulletin, website, or this Pine Tree newsletter.

You may also contact the church office or contact Dakota at dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org or 415-244-3696 if you need support during the week, and Dakota will make sure one of the pastors contacts you as soon as possible.

Seeking to practice what I preach

Election season is in full swing. On the local level, in our own city of San Mateo, there has been a tremendous amount of effort to get “rent stabilization” and conditions for evictions on the ballot in November. The campaign was successful and enough signatures were collected that the ballot measure has been approved. It is now “Measure Q.”

Each ballot measure has a pro and con argument attached to it and each argument has five signatures in the voter pamphlet to be mailed early October. I was asked to be one of those signatures for the supportive side. After careful thought and prayerful discernment, I agreed.

Knowing that at CCSM there are many opinions, and that we do not take a stand as a church, I signed it only as an individual. My name will appear Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon, Religious Leader and San Mateo homeowner. The church’s name appears nowhere and I used my home address and phone number. I have done everything possible to make it clear that I am signing this as an individual.

In July, I preached a sermon on why I involve myself in and speak out about “politics.” It was only a few weeks later that I was challenged to “practice what I preach.”

Measure Q is an imperfect measure in many ways. I have lived in cities with rent control (NYC and SF) and I understand the economic and social pros and cons. I fully understand the reasons many will disagree with Measure Q, and I respect their opinions. However, I feel led as a religious leader to help stem the tide of constant displacement and unjust rent hikes that are tearing at the fabric of our community and further marginalizing the most vulnerable.

I am also cognizant that the housing crisis needs to be

addressed from a variety of angles and demands multiple solutions. In fact, just this week, I helped convene over 40 clergy to meet with the county on what congregations across San Mateo County could do to help mitigate this crisis.

I believe the housing crisis in the Bay Area is the most threatening social issue we face – it is affecting every area of life. It is bringing into sharp relief the issues of race and class, who matters and who doesn’t, and it is demanding that we decide what kind of community we want to be.

I am always happy to have personal conversations with anyone who has questions or simply wants to share their point of view.

Peace,




Penny Nixon

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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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