

# CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 65, #9 | NOVEMBER 2016



*Candles lit at the prayer service at CCSM after the election results. "Today is a day of contemplation, re-centering and grounding ourselves in faith, hope and love." Over 100 people gathered to pray and encourage one another in hope.*

## A Word from Penny

**I**t was the best of times, it was the worst of times. Depending on who you are, one of those statements is true. This is how my sermon began this past Sunday after the election. CCSM is a big tent and there are a range of feelings and reactions within our congregation—not just about national issues but about local ones too. If you weren't there, I hope you will listen to the sermon online because it is difficult to paraphrase in a brief article.

Wherever you are on your journey, please know this—I am everyone's pastor in this congregation.

Politics is not the goal or the focus of the church; that is not why we exist. We exist for life, for justice, for love, for community—for the well-being of all; we hold ourselves captive to higher principles for the common good; we speak of a divine source and experience spirit. And we are meant to be a voice for the voiceless, a resistance to violence, a beacon of hope, a proponent of an alternative lifestyle. Like poets, artists and musicians, we are to offer a different picture of life, to remind ourselves and humanity of truth and beauty, of possibilities and transcendence, of a power greater than ourselves; we are to proclaim liberation and act

—cont. on page 3—

## SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

### ADVENT 2016: GOD IN THE STILLNESS

**November 27 • ADVENT 1:** *Special Music:* CCSM Chamber singers. *Advent Reflection:* Jorge.

**December 4 • ADVENT 2:** *Special Music:* Chancel Choir. *Advent Reflection:* Joliene.

**December 11 • ADVENT 3:** *Special Music:* Carillon Bell Choir. *Advent Reflection:* Penny.

**December 18 • ADVENT 4:** *Christmas Pageant, Special Music:* Joyful Noise Children's Choir. *Advent Reflection:* Dakota.

**December 23 • LAS POSADAS,** 5:30-9:00pm

**December 24 • CHRISTMAS EVE**  
5 pm: Family Worship  
11 pm: Candlelight Service

**December 25 • CHRISTMAS DAY**  
*Reflection:* Kibbie



# The advent of Advent

As a parent, I feel an equal mix of panic and excitement as November rolls on toward December. The holidays are coming! And of course my kid looks forward to this time all year. There is a crush of activities and expectations and things to buy and do. School productions, packages to send, sugar to fend off.

But before all of that comes, I am inclined to create a sacred space in our house. This year, I am feeling the need to build an altar for the season of Advent. It is easy to forget that our Christian tradition sets aside a time to allow us to reflect and to wait. What wants to born among us in this time of darkness before the dawn? How can we illumine the possibilities in our midst?

You can use a nativity set, an Advent wreath, or simply set up a table with a few candles with art added by the kids. I love that we can choose to surround ourselves with visible signs that the Spirit is among us in our hearts, in our homes and in our lives.

Blessings to all of you!

Nicole



# Kids Love to Read

In October, CCSM collected hundreds of new and gently used books for the children and youth served by Samaritan House. Eager girls sit on the chancel steps reading some of the donated books before the service started.



The Third Annual Halloween Organ Concert on October 28 featured Phantom of the Casavant (Angela Kraft Cross), Mr. Skully Bones (Tom Lohmuller), and young organists Count Chasula (Chase Olson) Mad Hatter (Ryan Chi), Sherlock Holmes (Ethan Chi) and the Dark Lord Hugo (Dominic Pang).



## A Word from Penny...

—cont. from p. 1—

in the world as if love were the most potent force in the world. We are to help people see and believe the good in themselves and others.

There is a movement afoot to invite those who want to be allies in public places to wear a safety pin clearly and visibly wherever they go. It signifies that you are an ally, a safe person, expressed by this meme.

Glad we're on the journey together,

Penny

*If you wear a hijab, I'll sit with you on the train.*

*If you're trans, I'll go to the bathroom with you.*

*If you're a person of color, I'll stand with you if the cops stop you.*

*If you're a person with disabilities, I'll hand you my megaphone.*

*If you're an immigrant, I'll help you find resources.*

*If you're a survivor, I'll believe you.*

*If you're a refugee, I'll make sure you're welcome.*

*If you're a veteran, I'll take up your fight.*

*If you're LGBTQ, I'll remind you that you are beautiful and beloved, just as God made you.*

*If you're a woman, I'll make sure you get home ok.*

*If you're tired, me too.*

*If you need a hug, I've got an infinite supply.*

*If you need me, I'll be with you. All I ask is that you be with me, too.*



## Our 2017 "5-5-5" Stewardship Campaign is Underway!

PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE TO FIND OUT MORE AND TO MAKE YOUR PLEDGE:

[ccsm-ucc.org/stewardship-2016](http://ccsm-ucc.org/stewardship-2016)

### ***Have you heard about "Recalculating 5-5-5"?***

For stewardship 2017, we are challenging ourselves spiritually to:

- increase our pledge by **5%**,
- volunteer **5** more hours to CCSM in the coming year, and
- attend CCSM **5** more Sundays in 2017.

This is a personal spiritual commitment that we invite you to embrace.

# YOUR HANDS CAN...

## ADOPT-A-FAMILY AT CHRISTMAS

**Sunday, November 27**, look for the Adopt-A-Family Christmas tree on the loggia and Anne Fuller's smile. Once again she is leading CCSM's effort to fulfill the holiday wishes and needs of local families who are struggling through difficult times in their lives. The small tree will be decorated



with over 70 paper ornaments. Each ornament represents a wish or need of one of the family members. Please select a wish from the tree, register your selection on the clip boards next to the tree, then purchase the requested gift, and return it unwrapped to the church by **Sunday, December 11**. Later LifeMoves (formerly InnVision/Shelter Network) will distribute the gifts to the delighted parents who will wrap them for their family.

## KEEP BRINGING IN SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS

Just imagine how much a clean pair of tube socks would mean to homeless in San Francisco and San Mateo County. Let's keep those socks coming so there's enough to supply our neighbors on the streets throughout the winter. Bring your donations to worship for the children to bring up to their "offering" bin in the front, or drop your donations off in the office or back of the narthex.



## ENJOY CHILDREN FOR 40 MINUTES

A special deal on children! If you are willing to miss 40 minutes of one worship service to greet and enjoy our children, you will receive a CD of the entire service and a link to watch Penny deliver her sermon on-line. (No, you may not take a child home.) All you have to do is welcome a small class of delightful children and be with second adult in the classroom until church is over. Take advantage of this special by emailing [kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org).



# God has no hands but *your* hands...



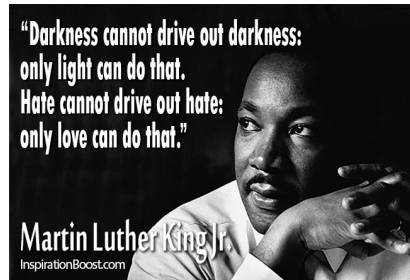
## FEED THE HUNGRY (EVEN IF YOU HATE TO COOK)

Volunteer to serve dinners at Samaritan House's Dining Room (across the street at the Masonic Temple) on **Wednesdays** (and sometimes **Tuesdays**) from 4-6PM. Send a note to Barb Karlin ([bkarlin1@comcast.net](mailto:bkarlin1@comcast.net)) if you can join the CCSM team.

## VOLUNTEER TO HELP WITH ONE OF THE MANY PROJECTS ON MLK DAY

Martin Luther King insisted, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is what are you doing for others?" On the **MLK National Day of Service, January 15**, volunteers from diverse faith traditions will meet for breakfast and head out to read, garden, knit baby hats, make blankets, sing, mix up dry soup packages, and more.

Sign-up opportunities will be published in December—for now **SAVE THE DATE** and email [kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org) about your interest.



# Let's Raise the Roof!

Supporting First Congregational Church of Berkeley after their devastating fire

**Two fundraising concerts: Saturday, 11/19, & Sunday, 12/18**

You may have heard about the devastating fire at First Congregational Church of Berkeley on September 30. Everyone was evacuated safely, praise God. But the church sustained major property damage. Please raise up your prayers for this church, and all who are impacted by the fire. Dick Hom, the National PAAM Moderator, and Roy Mosley, Conference Moderator, are organizing two fundraising concerts to benefit FCCB.

The first concert will be in San Francisco on **Saturday, November 19 at 6pm at First Congregational Church UCC, 1300 Polk St., San Francisco.** The second concert will be in the East Bay on **Sunday, December 18th at 6pm,** hosted by Faith Community Church UCC and held at **Lake Park Methodist, 281 Santa Clara Ave. in Oakland.** Join us for an evening of uplifting and spirited music, fellowship and light refreshments and bring your family and friends!

For tickets, please contact Roy Mosley: (415) 742-0538; [roymosley@comcast.net](mailto:roymosley@comcast.net). \$25 donation or \$20/each for 2 or more.



## WANTED: HELP WITH THE PINE TREE MAILING

If you are reading this mailed edition of our “The PineTree,” you need to know how it gets into your hands. Each issue is copied, assembled, labeled, and mailed by a small yet dedicated team of volunteers. This team needs new helpers to ready the almost 300 copies each month.

If you have the TIME (about two hours, usually

the third Tuesday morning of each month) and the TALENT (inserting papers, applying address labels, counting), please contact Susan Campo phone: 650/544-0272 or [scampo312@gmail.com](mailto:scampo312@gmail.com).

This is a great way to help in a very easy way, meet some new people, and contribute to our church community.

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## ROLL OUT BICYCLES

Twenty-five CCSM bicycles have already rolled out to Puente. But there are more to repair. Contact Tony Gallo ([argallo3119@gmail.com](mailto:argallo3119@gmail.com)) if you are willing to help—even if you don't know how to ride a bike!

# Wheels

## BE AN ANGEL... HERD SHEEP

December 18 our children will teach us the Christmas story in their own style—but a lot of grown-ups are needed to help the children get on their costumes and appear “on stage” at the right moment. Don't miss out helping with this delightful event. Let Kibbie know if you'd like to be part of the action, [kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org).



## WHO'S THE SECRET SANTA?

Mysterious boxes from Amazon often appear in the church office. The first box might have been the one full of backpacks for Puente; the latest one was full of tube socks for the homeless. This very sly Secret Santa never leaves a single clue! Whoever you are, wherever you are... Thank you! (If you give me a hint, I will give you an in-kind donation receipt—but still keep your secret.)

With appreciation, Kibbie and those who you have blessed





# Update from the Latino Ministry Team

Did you see the altar in Kloss Hall on Sunday, October 30? It was a focal point of the celebration of Dia de los Muertos, where members of CCSM and of the neighborhood community, including many Latinos, celebrated together on October 27. The traditional holiday, translated Day of the Dead, pays tribute to deceased family and friends through the placing of pictures, decorated skulls, and other memorabilia on the altar. The CCSM celebration also included face painting and an exhibition of folkloric dancing by members of ALAS (Ayudando Latinos a Soñar) -- one of CCSM's partners in social justice.

This was just the most recent community event sponsored by the Latino Ministry Team (LMT) at CCSM. About 80 people from the neighborhood participated in an event last June that involved free tacos, face painting, and lots of conversation. Jorge Perry Bautista, CCSM's recently ordained Minister of Community Engagement, handed out business cards and refrigerator magnets at that event. The next day two participants worshipped at CCSM as first time visitors. Through his contacts in the neighborhood during the summer and early fall, Jorge enlisted a core group of six people to share in development of experimental activities. One of the next events will offer useful information about financial planning.

The Latino Ministry Team is chartered by the Board of Ministries to work with Jorge

in exploring the potential for establishing a Latino ministry here at CCSM. We don't know exactly where this will lead, but we hope to find growing interest in formation of a progressive Christian community of Latinos who learn and worship together in a combination of Spanish and English. This community would work in full partnership with our current CCSM community as we live out our three priorities -- to become a leading voice for progressive Christianity, to strengthen our commitment to social justice, and to deepen and grow our beloved community.

Jorge's street ministry, his leadership of community events that capture the cultural heritage of many Latinos, and his co-leadership at CCSM of a recent funeral for a Latina in the neighborhood have significantly raised the awareness among our neighbors of CCSM's inclusiveness and extravagant welcome. (The funeral was attended by more than 100 people.) Equally, we value the numerous contributions Jorge brings to CCSM through his regular participation in worship, calling on members of CCSM as part of the pastoral care team, leading portions of the conversations on progressive Christianity this fall, speaking on behalf of social justice before local governmental bodies, and in so many other ways.

The Latino Ministry Team wants to keep you up to date on this ministry because it is so vital to our future. Please feel free to discuss any aspect of this ministry with any of us.

**Latino Ministry Team (Mike Mullery, Julien Phillips, Veril Phillips, Javier Ruiz, Sandra Soto-Grondona, Cristina Summerville, Valerie Wong, and Betsy Woodward)**



CCSM's Dia de los Muertos celebration with the ALAS dancers from Half Moon Bay





## From Jorge

### DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS,

Our Dia De Los Muertos celebration was a great success. We had over 70 people attend from CCSM and outside of CCSM. Together we decorated sugar skulls, got sugar skulls painted on our faces, and were blessed by ALAS folklorico group from Half Moon Bay with a dance, and most important we got to meet new friends. Kloss Hall was full of diversity, music, kids running around, and laughter. And together we celebrated our loved ones that have passed to the next life. It was a beautiful sight to see.

I want to thank Dawn and Sara Graves for helping make this happen. They spent countless hours preparing to make Dia De Los Muertos a huge success. Without their inspiration and imagination this would have not happened.

Now, our **fourth annual Las Posadas event** will be celebrated this year on **December 23 from 5:30-9pm.** Please join us as we continue the annual celebration of Mary and Joseph's search for lodging. Last year we had over 80 people attend the celebration and this year we expect more people to attend, not only from CCSM but also from our neighboring communities. As always, we will have food, drinks, music, and a piñata. All are welcome and keep an eye out for more information, as we get closer to the date. Look forward to seeing all of you there.

Peace,

Rev. Jorge P. Bautista



CCSM member Valerie Wong at our Dia de los Muertos celebration

## Music & Art

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16**  
**PAT PEPPER'S HOME**

We will meet on December 16 at noon, 325 West Bellevue, San Mateo. Special Christmas music will be on the program with pianists Bonny Armacost, Mary Ann Notz and Cari Parker. A carol sing-along will follow.

Do bring your own sandwich/salad; beverages and dessert are provided. Guests and new members are welcome and should make their reservation by calling Susan Duty, 650-533-6828 or email [susanjd52@gmail.com](mailto:susanjd52@gmail.com).



ALAS Folklorico dancers in Kloss Hall for Dia de los Muertos at Iglesia San Mateo Unidos en Cristo, also known as CCSM



# Come Caroling With Us!

DECEMBER 4 • 11:30AM

Share the tradition of singing Christmas carols and visit people in our church community. Bring Christmas Cheer as a gift this year!

Contact Rev. Dakota Brown, [dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org) if you would like a visit OR would like to sing.

# Soup Lunch for the Whole Church

DECEMBER 4 • 11:30AM

Soup is not just for carolers anymore; everyone is invited to share in a yummy soup meal after church service. Come share in holiday fellowship and food.



# Christmas Party for Church Volunteers and Seniors

DECEMBER 14, 2:00-4:00PM

The Wise & Wonderful Group and all church volunteers are invited to a group Christmas party. We will enjoy food and drinks made by the church ministers and staff.

Bring a White Elephant gift to exchange, but it's not required to attend. We'd love to see you there!

# Holiday Gift Basket Silent Auction

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 • BUCKHAM ROOM

The silent auction for holiday gift baskets will return by popular demand! CFE will prepare a delicious soup lunch in Kloss Hall following the service. Carolers are invited to have a look at the amazing baskets and place your bids or request a friend as your proxy before departing for the annual caroling event.

Gift baskets will be created by the various ministries, affinity groups and members of the CCSM community. If you or someone on your Christmas list is interested in the Giants, sewing, music, cooking, gardening, biking, reading, etc., you will find the perfect gift basket at this auction. Kids too will have a chance to join in the fun. There have been some amazing kid-themed baskets at previous auctions.

The more baskets, the more fun the auction will be. Please draw on your creative talents and put together a basket to raise funds for CCSM's budget shortfall. If you have questions, please contact Pearly Masters 650.343-3694. More details will follow.





# CCSM Job Opportunities: You Can Help!



We are in the process of recruiting candidates for two job opportunities: **Director of Music** and **Director of Children's Ministries**. Both of these positions are half-time and their specific job descriptions are posted on our website in two places. You can find them on the website at [ccsm-ucc.org/job-opportunities/](http://ccsm-ucc.org/job-opportunities/).

We are advertising these positions in multiples places as appropriate including; the UCC Northern California Conference website, the Pacific School of Religion, Craig's List and choral.net. Additionally, Penny is reaching out to her extensive West Coast network for leads.

If you know of anyone that you think might be a potential long-term fit for CCSM and these roles, in particular, please contact Penny. If you have a suggestion for where else to advertise, please pass that information along as well.

While we are looking to fill the Director of Music Ministries position soon, we will begin interviewing for the Director of Music in earnest in December. We anticipate that this position will take some time to fill, however, so we are beginning our lead generation efforts now.

Going forward, interviewing teams will be assembled for both roles. For the Director of Music this team will include (at a minimum) a Music Ministry team member, a Music staff member, a Chancel Choir member, a Personnel Committee member (or HR professional) and Penny. For the Director of Children's Ministries the team will include (at a minimum) a CYF member, a member of the Board of Ministries/Executive team and Penny.

We will keep you posted as we move forward. Thank you!

## Bella Voce musicians kick off the fall at Sterling Court

by Cathy Doyle and Carole Melis

The residents of Sterling Court in Burlingame were treated to a performance by the women's singing group, Bella Voce, on Sunday, November 6, followed by a short recital by Bella Voce accompanist Brian Villa Connor. As they enjoyed songs ranging from "Song of Peace" and "How Can I Keep From Singing" to "Java Jive" and "Sentimental Journey," the audience members were clearly engaged, smiling, some of them tapping their toes and some even singing along. Following Bella Voce's performance, acclaimed pianist Brian Villa Connor played a short recital, with selections ranging from Rachmaninoff to a newly composed work by Brian.

For all those affiliated with Bella Voce, it was a fulfilling experience to share our music with such an appreciative group. We look forward to many such performances in the months and years ahead, as we seek to fulfill an important part of our mission: to reach out to the community in order to enhance the experience of those without access to choral music in

their daily lives. Bella Voce is supported by CCSM, which provides rehearsal space in recognition of the group's commitment to community outreach. Bella Voce is led by Cathy Doyle, who founded and previously was Artistic Director of the Peninsula Girls Chorus, and includes a number of CCSM singers.

Bella Voce rehearses Thursdays from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. If you are interested in joining, please contact Carole Melis for more information at [clmcomm1@gmail.com](mailto:clmcomm1@gmail.com).



# New Paint in the Parking Lot

When parking in the center stalls, please follow this simple reminder – **pull forward until the stop line of the stall to your left is even with your left shoulder.** This will put your front bumper even with the stop line in front of your car and will ensure that there is room for cars to pass behind your car.



# Transgender Day of Remembrance

COMMUNITY SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 17 • 4:00-6:00PM • KLOSS HALL  
RECEPTION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

CCSM is pleased to host this year's Transgender Day of Remembrance Service for San Mateo County. Speakers from the San Mateo County Commissioners will address the audience on raising awareness around transgender issues within society and the workplace. It is important to learn and share information, investigate ways to be more welcoming and connecting with transgender or gender non-conforming peoples in our world. There will be a quiet candlelight vigil in the sanctuary (same time) for those seeking an alternate remembrance venue. All are welcome. Please come.



*Michiko "shops" at the women's clothing swap in late October and carries out a huge bag full of treasures. Over twenty-five members and neighbors joined in the recycling event to reduce the 87% of donated clothing that ends up in a landfill.*

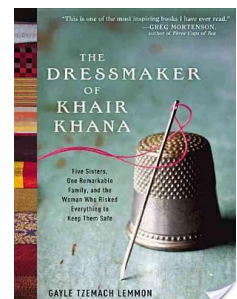
# First Tuesday Book Group

Tuesday, January 3 • 7:30-9:00pm

Fireplace Room

Our first selection for 2017 is *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana: Five Sisters, One Remarkable Family, and the Woman Who Risked Everything to Keep Them Safe*, which tells the incredible true story of an unlikely entrepreneur who mobilized her community under the Taliban. Author and former ABC News reporter Gayle Tzemach Lemmon spent years on the ground reporting Kamila's story, and the result is an unusually intimate look at the daily lives of women in Afghanistan. These women are not victims; they are the glue that holds families together; they are the backbone and the heart of their nation. (from Goodreads)

All are welcome. 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](mailto:s_stoehr@hotmail.com). Or direct questions to Betsy Woodward at [betsdce@comcast.net](mailto:betsdce@comcast.net).





# Joys and Concerns

## CCSM Pastoral Care Team

**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 are invited to share your prayers, your hopes, and your lives. 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](http://ccsm-ucc.org/MyCCSM) online prayer request,
- by contacting us via staff emails listed in your bulletin, the website, or the Pine Tree newsletter.

You may also contact the church office or email Dakota at [dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org) or call 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.

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### PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

We pray, God, that you will help us plant kindness where there is none. Guide us, God, to continue to share love with those who may have never known that different types of people can live together without fear. God, we pray that you will plant us firmly in this work, for when there is fear there is much work to be done. May we pray to be bound by love stronger than we could ever imagine. We pray to embody kindness, do justice, and walk humbly with all people of this earth. We pray in the name of all that is good, keep this faith and keep it moving. May we remember that kindness, compassion, civility and equality for all people are the prayers that we turn today. Our best day is today. Help us to rise up, and do this work in your loving name. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF JOY

**Martha Grannis** turns 91 on November 22nd. Happy birthday, Martha!

**Pico Soriano** has returned home after being hit by a car in July and spending many months in the hospital. Welcome home, Pico!

Prayers of joy for **Gracy Carpenter** who traveled with her small UCC congregation in Wyoming, which is starting a Godly Play program for their children. This was inspired by CCSM's children's programs and authentic culture of Christian education. Please hold them in prayer as they embark on this amazing spiritual journey for their community.

**Janet and Todd Bowers'** daughter Dr. **Jennifer Dawson** received

the Society of Satellite Professionals' prestigious 2016 Promise Award in recognition of her potential to play a leadership role in the industry. Congratulations!

Congratulations to you, **Jorge**, on your Día de los Muertos celebration! Beautiful altars and community gathering. We are blessed to have your voice among us.

Announcing the engagement of **Krystal Burns and Leslie Herndon**. May they be blessed in love and patience for a lifetime.

Prayers of gratitude for **Don Ruthroff and Jonathan Kronn** who celebrated their third wedding anniversary on October 25—their first anniversary living in the same country.

Continued prayers for **David Long**, and for **Warren and Susan**, as David continues to make steady progress. To follow David's progress and to leave messages for, please visit [www.caringbridge.org](http://www.caringbridge.org). You will find David under support-4david.

### PRAYERS OF COMFORT

We are saddened to say goodbye for now to our friend **Harry Dehlinger** who passed away the evening of Saturday November 12th, 2016 at Mills Peninsula Hospital. His loving wife **Olga-Barbra** and youngest son Michael were at his bedside. We send our love and prayers to Olga-Barbra and to their son **Steve Dehlinger**, daughter-in-law **Kate Dopheide**, and son **Michael Dehlinger**.

Prayers for **(Tony) Trawut Nubdee**, friend of **Stan Higgs** and **Judy Hemmer**, who passed away. May Tony be surrounded by God's eter-

nal love in the life hereafter. May we all offer our support to Stan and Judy during this sad time.

### PRAYERS OF HEALING

Prayers of healing for **Elrae Bilesey**, suffering from a painful bout of shingles.

Prayers for a successful outcome for **Jordan**, who had major surgery. Prayers for the Transgender people who paved the way for God's people like Jordan who are becoming their authentic selves.

Prayers for **MaryLou Fallon** (mother of **Tracy Fallon**) who fell and broke her arm and painfully dislocated her shoulder. Prayers for her speedy and painless recovery.

Prayers for a smooth recovery for **Don Ruthroff's** 92-year-old mother who had surgery for eye cancer.

Continued prayers and support for **Donna Stanger** (mother of **Dawn Graves**), **Janice Kennedy** (cousin of **Margaret and Gordon Smith**), **Bill Daniels**, and others as they walk their unique journeys with cancer.

Continuing prayers for **Lee Shaffer** (**Dottie Scott's** grandson), **Mike** (friend of **Sandee Schlickman**), **Sheri** (sister of **Dawn Graves**), **Mark** (friend of **Judy Hemmer**), **Travis Woodmansee**, **Jim Groundwater**, **Anne McEntee**, **Ruth Black**, **Marjorie Griffin**, **Cathy Latta**, **Martha Grannis**, **Martha Imai**, **George Kromhout**, **Phyllis Mead**, **Adrienne Mitchell**, **Genevieve and John Parsons**, **Fred Petri**, **Janet Smith Roberts** (sister of **Gordon Smith**), and **June Schutte**.

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## Office Closed

**DECEMBER 26 - 30**

If you have an urgent pastoral need, call the church office and go to Dakota's, Jorge's, or Penny's voicemail and your message will be forwarded to the pastor currently available.



[FACEBOOK.COM/CCSM.UCC](https://www.facebook.com/CCSM.UCC)

# CCSM PINE TREE

A newsletter for the families and friends  
of the Congregational Church of San Mateo, UCC

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## A Special Advent this year GOD IN THE STILLNESS

We're going to approach the Advent season a little differently this year. After the swirl and craziness of the past months, we know that all of us need to slow down, take a deep breath, and re-center ourselves. Since that is not always easy to do in the midst of the holiday season, it is important that we be intentional about it. So our theme this Advent is GOD IN THE STILLNESS.



Each Sunday of Advent we'll have our living Advent wreath and sing more carols than usual. We'll provide an Advent reflection about the power of stillness from different Advent stories, and space for stillness and silence. Most of all, instead of one big chancel choir concert, each week will feature inspirational Christmas music from one of our talented musical groups: The CCSM Chamber Singers, the Chancel Choir, The Carillon Bell Choir, and the Children's Joyful Noise Choir. And not to worry, we'll still have our pageant, but even that week we will enjoy some stillness too. This is a time of soul searching for all us and Advent is a perfect time for contemplation so that we may be still enough and open enough to find all the modern day "stables" so that God might be born anew among us.