

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 66, #1 | JANUARY 2017



CCSM in abundance at the train station on MLK Day when Penny received San Mateo County's Martin Luther King, Jr. Award on behalf of the whole congregation.

A Word from Penny

On Monday morning, January 16, surrounded by 50 people from the CCSM community, I received the Martin Luther King Jr award on our behalf, given by San Mateo County to CCSM. We were chosen as this year's honorary organization for our work in LGBT rights and our work in housing. It was a cold, crisp morning and MLK's spirit at the CalTrain station was palpable. Many others from CCSM volunteered for the MLK day of service with other faith communities.

I felt honored that we were chosen and that I was privileged to represent the dedicated CCSM community. I also felt humbled. To be recognized as an organization carrying on the legacy of Dr. King is a heavy mantle to wear. The dream he so eloquently articulated over half a century ago and imprinted on the soul of so many in our nation is as fragile today as it has ever been.

The social issues that are arising in our country reflect the painful realities of racism, bigotry, Islamophobia, homophobia and anti-Semitism. Already, signs of hate and fear are affecting our neighbors, and potential new policies will strip people of protections and benefits that their families depend on.

And so, our work continues. Our work for peace and justice done

—cont. on page 3—

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

ETIPHANY 2017: WHAT UNITES US



January 29 *Congregational Meeting. Diverse, Evolving? Where Are We Going Now?* Penny Nixon preaching.

February 5 *Communion/First Sunday Food Collection. Let Justice Roll Down...* Penny Nixon preaching.

February 12 *New Members Joining. What's the Good News?* Penny Nixon

preaching.

February 19 *Gifts for the Beloved Community.* Jorge Perry Bautista preaching.

February 26 *Family Worship / Fifth Grade Bible Sunday. The Bible Goes Viral.* Bonnie Rambob preaching.



Congregational
Church of san mateo

225 TILTON AVENUE, SAN MATEO, CA 94401
650 343-3694 | CCSM-UCC.ORG

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Women's March Discussion for Teens



DURING WORSHIP ON JANUARY 29

Joliene Wade Gatlin will lead a discussion in the Library with Mid High and Senior High young women about her experience at the Women's March in D.C. and how we express ourselves and seek justice as young women in 2017. Send your girls to participate in this important conversation! They'll gather after the children leave on Sunday morning.

5th Grade Bible Night with BONNIE RAMBOB!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 6:30-8:30PM IN THE YOUTH ROOM

What is the Bible all about, really? When it says so many weird things, why do we still read it? Bonnie Rambob returns to CCSM to lead the 5th graders on a time-traveling adventure through the ancient formation of the Bible and exploring the Bible's impact on people through the ages up to today.



Fifth Grade Bible Night comes just in time for fifth graders to receive their own special Bibles in the worship service on February 26. Fifth-graders, please sign up with Kibbie.

Attention, Parents!

PARENTS OF THE LITTLE ONES:

Sound from the sanctuary is now wired into the nursery next to the office. So, when you need to take a break, change a diaper, or feed your infant or toddler, you don't have to miss the music, sermon, or other parts of the service. Thanks to Mike Harris and his team.

PARENTS OF SCHOOL AGE CHILDREN:

Remember to **fill in the Children's Information Form** you were emailed so we know if your child has an allergy or doesn't want his or her picture in the Pine Tree or on Facebook. If you didn't get the form in your inbox, please email kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org and she'll send you one.

PARENTS OF YOUTH:

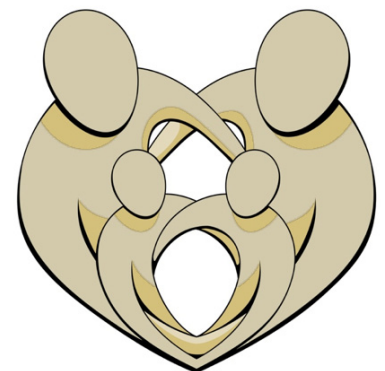
Add the youth group meetings to your calendars: High School meet right after church until 2:00PM, Mid-High on first and third Sunday nights, 6-7:30PM.

Also add the Mid-High class in the Youth Room every Sunday after the Children's Moment in worship—except first Sunday, when they stay in the service and hang out with Patrick on the back row of the balcony.

ALL PARENTS

Have coffee with Kibbie before church on the **first Sundays of the month**. At 9:30AM in the Fireplace Room, join the conversation about dreams for your children, challenges of being a parent, hopes for their experience at CCSM—whatever is on your mind. And bring the kids; childcare is provided.

Sign up to be the second adult in a classroom. It's delightful to be with our children. After the Children's Moment, you just follow the children, greet your group as they enter their room, enjoy their activities, and help us follow the "two-adult" safety rule until the children are released back to their parents. Please go to SignupGenius (tinyurl.com/CCSMsignup) to sign up for your choice of date and age group.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

What did you call the children's classes when you were growing up? Sunday School? Church School? Godly Play? Is that time really "school"? Does that label encourage children to come and enjoy being at CCSM? Is "Godly Play" an accurate term? We use those materials; however, they are greatly enhanced and adapted by our Story Tellers. Actually, what is that time after the Children's Moment in the worship service? It is an extension of the worshipping community in the sanctuary.



Starting January 29, three candles will be lit from the sanctuary's community candle. The children will carry those candles into "Children's Church," where they will continue their worship and learning experience—first in Kloss Hall with music (thank you, Shannon McEntee) and then on to their three rooms for their scripture and prayer. The light from the sanctuary will go with them, so that young and old might remember we are all one body, just in different rooms (until reconnecting over juice and snacks during fellowship time).

PLEDGE UPDATE

As of January 23, families and friends (214 units) have pledged \$566,110. Thank you! However, we still haven't reached our goal and normally we have another 25 more pledging units. We realize this is a busy time of year, but please contact Pearly Masters with your pledge – pmasters@ccsm-ucc.org or 650.343.3694. Alternatively, you may record it on MyCCSM. Your pledge allows us to pay our staff and continue to fund the many ministries and programs you value.



Gratitude

The CCSM staff would like to thank the congregation for their generous STAFF LOVE OFFERING. We all feel blessed to serve such a wonderful congregation.

A Word from Penny...

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in love. Our work to build the beloved community. Our work to proclaim an inclusive and liberating gospel and an extravagant welcome.

At the train station that morning, I ended my remarks with talking about "engaging our core." My workout trainer, when I begin to reach the point of fatigue, says to me, engage your core. It works every time! In the days and months ahead, let's engage our core—our core values of respect, dignity, love, equality, listening and hope. Fortunately, we stand on the shoulders of courageous saints who have gone before us, and like them, we remember we are not alone.

Peace,
Penny



Congregational Church of San Mateo

CCSM 101 class, Wednesday, February 1, 6pm

WE WANT YOU...

...to feel an extravagant welcome among us,

...to feel at home here,

...to work for justice, love and mercy with us,

...to pursue your spiritual journey with the encouragement of others on the path.

And, if you aren't a member already, we want you to learn more about CCSM and join us!

Come Wednesday, February 1 to the Buckham Room for dinner, conversation and our **CCSM 101 class**. At CCSM, membership is a commitment you make to this spiritual community — a statement that you take your spiritual life seriously and that CCSM is a key place where you want to explore and live out your faith with those on a similar journey. Together we embrace our guiding principles, not as a creed, but as a practice. Later, if you would like to join CCSM, we will officially welcome you into the membership on **February 12** during the service.

Please contact Kibbie (kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org) if you'd like to come.



Top: Dakota and Seneca at the San Francisco Women's March

Bottom: Joliene on the bus in Washington DC on the way to the Women's March

Guiding Principles Input Gatherings: An Update

Thank you to everyone who has logged onto myCCSM to join your **Neighborhood Group**, which is the easiest way to receive the information about the Guiding Principles input meetings in your neighborhood. If you haven't already joined your Neighborhood Group, it's not too late! For help registering, please contact Caleb Gatlin (calebirie@gmail.com) or Veril Phillips (veril.phillips@gmail.com). If this doesn't work for you, please call Alexandra Gillen (650-347-4226), and she will ensure that you are registered manually.

Penny's January sermon series is on **CCSM's "Guiding Principles"** and in February she will preach on **CCSM's "Three Priorities."** These sermons will give us common ground for our discussions, so we are planning for the input meetings to start late February and go into March. WSL is in the process of identifying meeting hosts, dates and locations. If you have signed up for a Neighborhood Group, you will receive an electronic invitation to a neighborhood input gathering in February, and details about the meetings will be published in

late February.

The neighborhood meetings are meant to be a place for CCSMers to engage over the core values of our church. There is no prior expectation about any changes. The Guiding Principles belong to the congregation, and so we invite your input to ensure that they are in sync with who we are and who we are becoming.

Your input is valuable and we look forward to your participation!

Thank you,

The Worship and Spiritual Life Committee (WSL)



WANT SECONDS?

Come to Second Hour on Sundays after church



Remember the banner on our lawn that read, “More than an hour on Sunday”? Its meaning was lost on some neighbors who had had

dreadful church experiences. They thought the banner warned that the worship service would be torturously long!

Well, now we do gather for more than an hour on Sunday. The hour from noon to 1:00PM, right after church and fellowship, is now officially called **Second Hour**—a time for educational classes, forums, discussions, debates, maybe even a movie. Childcare always available upon request.

January 29, of course, is the Congregational Meeting in the sanctuary.

Here’s the line-up for February in the Buckham Room:

February 5

Strolling through Some Strange History of SF

With their new guidebook hot off the press, CCSM members and authors of *Walking San Francisco’s 49 Mile Scenic Drive* Kristine Poggioli and Carolyn Eidson are offering a lively 45-minute virtual tour of San Francisco’s historic 49-mile loop. Come see the sites, hear about their adventure, and learn some of the quirky, unknown, and most-likely-true San Francisco history they discovered along the historic route. Copies of the book—signed by the authors—will be available for purchase, with a portion of the proceeds donated to CCSM. (Editor’s note: these women are delightfully fun and funny.)

February 12

Reaching Out to Our Latin@ Neighbors

Jorge Perry Bautista and the Latino Ministry Team will sketch the background, vision, plan, and activities to date. Most importantly, this is an opportunity for members of the CCSM community to ask questions, express encouragement or concerns, and suggest ideas.

February 19

Coffee Conversation about ICE in our Community

Schools have hosted special sessions to calm their families’ fear of ICE; citizens have accompanied immigrants to court hearings and visited those in detention; civic leaders have rallied to advocate for Muslims and other minorities. Before you attend, please read the information and view the videos sent in Penny’s Connections—this Second Hour will not be a presentation but conversation as we struggle with the question of what might we do as individuals or as the Body of Christ.

February 26

Lunch and Showing of Award-winning Documentary “13th”

Although the U.S. has just 5% of the world’s population, it has about 25% of the world’s prisoners, and more than 60% of the U.S. prisoners are people of color. Couple that fact with the 13th constitutional amendment, which abolished slavery except as “punishment for crime,” and slavery seems to live on—evolved into our modern system of mass incarceration, one in which many prisons are run by for-profit companies where prisoners can be paid a pittance to work for corporations. The 13th amendment “loophole” allowing forced labor for criminals has enabled resentful white society to imprison black citizens on minor charges and put them to work. Join us for lunch, viewing the documentary, and discussion afterwards.

Home & Hope Coming March 19-26

Home & Hope, our rotating homeless shelter, returns to CCSM the week of March 19-26. For information, contact Donna Lindsay at releduc@sbcglobal.net.



LMT: CONGREGATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON DEVELOPMENT OF A LATINO MINISTRY

As part of our work, the Latino Ministry Team has interviewed 32 current congregational members in order to hear their perspectives on possible establishment of a Latino/a ministry as part of CCSM. This was not a random sample. Rather, we identified people whom at least one of us thought of as reasonably widely acquainted in the congregation.

Two-thirds of the people we talked with were supportive of establishing such a ministry—many of them very enthusiastic. About a quarter were neutral on the idea. Generally, they said that exploring the potential is a good idea and that they would be fine with such a ministry, if the exploration finds sufficient interest. Five people were opposed to the idea.

Strikingly, **almost all of the interviewees in their 20s and 30s favored establishment** of such a ministry. A majority of members in the 40 to 70+ age group were also supportive, but almost all who were neutral and all who were negative were in this group,

Those who support establishing such a ministry, assuming sufficient interest among Latinos, pointed out that San Mateo's Latino population is already substantial, and it is growing. Moreover, the neighborhood nearest our Church is predominantly Latino. Some emphasized the need for CCSM to respond to these changing demographics, and some said that Latinos need a progressive Christian option. Some felt that the added diversity of our congregation would make it more interesting for everyone and more attractive to potential members. Several anticipated that a Latino ministry would attract more youth and families to CCSM.

A few of those opposed to establishment of a Latino ministry expressed the view that **our Church has more important priorities**. Most



assumed that Latinos generally are Catholic or conservative Protestants, and therefore few would be attracted to CCSM. Even if we were to find sufficient interest among Latinos, **some questioned whether Latinos would feel comfortable in the CCSM community**.

If CCSM does establish a Latino ministry, what are interviewees' hopes for it? Above all, people expressed the desire that it be a **part of our congregation as a whole**, not a separate congregation that just uses space at CCSM. Many expressed a desire for **shared worship services**, at least some of the time, and a few suggested a **common coffee hour** even if services are separate. (A number also anticipated that some services might be at a different time, perhaps even on a different day.) Many said that CCSM should **create opportunities for sharing meals, for participating together in common social and cultural activities, and collaborating in social-justice efforts**. A number of people emphasized that all **children should be together in church school and youth groups**.

Nearly all of those we interviewed asked for more communication about our exploration of a possible Latino ministry, as our work continues, and some asked for opportunities to participate in building relationships. Some are eager to hear our Church's vision for a Latino ministry as part of CCSM

as a whole. If at some point CCSM is asked to support establishment of a Latino ministry, some interviewees asked for a clear plan and for metrics to monitor progress.

We on the Latino Ministry Team are grateful for those who took the time to talk with us, and eager to talk with others who are interested. Please express your encouragement, ideas, and concerns to any of us.

Should we establish a Latin@ ministry as part of CCSM?

—Latino Ministry Team

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

Exciting announcement!

Penny and the music interview team are thrilled to announce that **Lynnelle Bilsey has been chosen as our Director of Music.** Lynnelle brings a wonderful combination of ministry, spirituality, dedication, experience and talent to her work. She will be working 15 hours per week in addition to directing the bell choir. We are so happy that she is now in the permanent position.



Also, the music interview team has chosen **Tom Lohmuller as our Associate Music Director.** He will continue in his current capacities, playing the piano and organ, directing the chamber singers, singing in the choir and supporting Lynnelle as needed. Tom has been a delightful steady presence, offering his many gifts to CCSM over the past few years. Lynnelle, Angela and Tom make a great team and we are so blessed to have such remarkable talent in our midst. We will welcome them officially with a reception at Coffee Hour on February 12.

Thank you,

The Music Interview Team (Jim Schwandt, Louisa Shaul, Gary White, Angela Kraft-Cross, Penny Nixon)



Wise & Wonderful Ones



FEBRUARY 8, 10:30-12, BUCKHAM ROOM
Movie and Snack

FEBRUARY 22, 10:30-12, BUCKHAM ROOM
Speaker Nicole Fernandez from San Mateo County's Aging and Adult Services will talk to us about signs of elder abuse. Learn how

25% of elder abuse is financial. Join us and understand how to help your friends and family and learn more about county programs before they are needed.

Contact: Rev. Dakota Brown, dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org
or 415-244-3696

Meditation Group



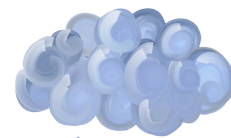
The meditation group continues on the same schedule from 2016. We meet at 12:10pm on the second floor of the church, next to the choir practice room, on the second and fourth Sunday of each month. Join us for 20 minutes of silent meditation following

either a discussion on mindfulness or a DVD on the topic of mindfulness meditation.

For further information, contact Bob Jarmusz (bobjarmusz@gmail.com)

A belated thank you

to all who donated a gift basket for the silent auction in December and to all who purchased those baskets. All 34 donated baskets were purchased and \$2,195 was raised for the operating budget of the church. It is the generosity of many that continues to make CCSM a thriving congregation.



Help Them Stay Warm

Valerie McEntee says this wonderful rain is a nightmare for those living on the streets of San Francisco. Can we help? Of course! In the month of February, please bring blankets, waterproof gear, gloves and coats to keep those Night Ministry neighbors toasty.

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 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 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.

SPECIAL JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

We wish them a joyful new year!

June Schutte turned 96 on January 6th.

Mary D'Anna turned 95 on January 18th.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD O God, who would fold both heaven and earth in a single peace:

let the design of thy great love
lighten upon the waste of our
wraths and sorrows:
and give peace to thy Church,
peace among nations,
peace in our dwellings,
and peace in our hearts:
In your Name we pray. Amen.

PRAYERS OF JOY

Brianna and Stephen Lind, along with big sister **Clara** and proud grandparents **Betsy Woodward and Phil Lind**, are excited to announce the births of twins—one boy and one girl—on January 16: **Julian** and **Nora**, 5 lbs and 5.3 lbs. It was a long labor, but mom and babies are home and doing well. Welcome to the world, Nora and Julian, and prayers for rest for Stephen and Brianna!

Prayers of joy and welcome for **Owen Lee Zibrowski**, born on January 15. New great-nephew of **Lori Shepard**, born to **Sally and Chris**.

Welcome to **Miranda Elise**, a healthy baby girl, born on Friday January 13 to the brother and

sister-in-law of **Eleanor Lewis**.

Everly, the young cousin of **Genel Morgan**, is home from the hospital. We continue to pray for healing of a chronic condition. Prayers for her family that they will continue to stay connected in love as they support Everly.

Joyful prayer for **Ahsha Safai**, the son-in-law of **Veril Phillips**, as he was sworn in as San Francisco City Supervisor for District 11 on January 11.

Lucas Scott Shaffer, welcome to the world! Newest great-grandson of **Dottie Scott**, born January 8 to **Lee and Vanessa Shaffer**.

Prayers of joy for **all the women** and their supporters who traveled to the Women's March in Washington, and to all the women who marched locally. May you remember this church walks with you.

Thelma and George Kromhout celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary on December 27th. Congratulations, may they continue to be a blessing to each other.

Congratulations! **Alexis Renee** (granddaughter of **Gordon and Margaret Smith**) was born December 5, 2016 to **Michelle and Miguel Morgado**.

Congratulations! The newest grandchild, **Liam Thomas McCally**, joined the **Leydig** family on November 23! Mom **Ashley**, Dad **Ryan**, and Big Sister **Liliana** are delighted. Ashley and family are now settled in Arizona and

enjoying life in the desert.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT

James "Jim" Raymond Houston (April 4, 1923 - January 1, 2017), father of **Trisha Violette**, father-in-law to **Marc Violette**, and grandfather to **McKinnon and Joshua Violette**, passed away peacefully in his home a few minutes after midnight on January 1 after a long battle with heart failure. The family was blessed to have him for so long, but he will be dearly missed.

PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT

Prayers of healing for **Caroline Reinke** who is healing at home after surgery on her knee on January 20.

Prayers of continued healing for **Priscilla Storms** who has returned home from the hospital.

Continued prayers, visits, and rides to church are needed for our friend in God **Olga-Barbra Dehlinger**. She and her children continue to miss the loss of their father and husband Harry, and to find the support Olga-Barbra needs to be comfortable without Harry.

Continued prayers for **Elaina** (friend of **Angela Lee**) during chemotherapy. Prayers for good results in her blood test, that the pain in her body is not serious, and for continued hope and faith in her healing.

Prayers for **Mark**, friend of **Judy Hemmer**; may his cancer be

JOYS AND CONCERNS, CONT.

forever healed.

Prayers for the sister-in-law of **Mel Thrash** as she understands what to do next for her health. May she feel the love of all who know her and from the prayers of this church.

Prayers of love and healing for **Jon Karesh's** friend, recovering from a heart attack and pneumonia. We send him prayers of healing. May he feel the love of family and friends all around him.

Prayers for **Julie's** three children, ages 12,14, 16 as they lost their mother three days after Christmas from a stroke after battling cancer for eight years. May she rest in peace and may her children always feel her love.

Prayers of healing and support for the cousin of **Julie Lenden**, who was recently diagnosed with cancer and treatment/recovery is harder than expected. May our prayers of healing fill her spirit with the strength she needs each day.

Prayers of healing for **Alexandria Christakos** (friend of **Pico Soriano**) who has been

diagnosed with cancer. May healing come fast and easily for her in the new year.

Continued prayers of healing for our beloved **Betsy Woodward**. She is making good progress at home. Please no visits at this time. Meals are being organized by **Deb Flaherty** (flaherty.dwr@gmail.com). Let's surround Betsy and Phil with love and light during this time and let them know that are held by their beloved community.

A NOTE OF THANKS FROM BETSY:

Dear loving congregation, Thank you so much for flooding me with get well and thinking of you cards after my stroke, I felt completely surrounded by your love and prayers and my wall of cards was quite a sight for all to see. The doctors and therapists all commented on them. I still have them on my bedroom and hallway wall. They bring me hope and strength. I am recovering every day. My left side is still weak but I am beginning to manage stairs and I have therapists coming several times a week to give me exercises to

strengthen my body. My left arm is still not functioning. Phil has a big job caring for me, so we really appreciate the meals—both delicious and taking one job off his plate.

An incredible example of the CCSM loving community.

Love,
Betsy

CONTINUED PRAYERS OF LOVE AND HEALING

Please pray 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 **David Long**, **Lee Shaffer** (**Dottie Scott's** grandson), **Mike** (friend of **Sandee Schlickman**), **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**.

Caregivers' Support Group



One of life's greatest blessings, and challenges, is caring for loved ones when they have difficulties caring for themselves. It is such a gift when family and friends provide support, love and assistance with daily needs. Being a caregiver, however, means living in the midst of unpredictable and ever-changing circumstances. It can be exhausting and stressful.

Rev. Dr. Janet Bower, Pastoral Counselor, facilitates a Caregivers' Support Group for any caregiver who would benefit from gathering together with others in a safe, caring and confidential environment. The group meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month in the afternoon.

For more information about the group, please contact Janet at janetkbower@gmail.com or 650-483-2136.



The 20s/30s group enjoying fellowship together

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CCSM PINE TREE

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

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CCSM Congregational Meeting

Dear Friends:

Our annual winter Congregational meeting will be held in the Sanctuary on **Sunday, January 29** immediately following worship. Childcare will be provided.

At the meeting we will hear brief reports on:

- The Latino Ministry
- 2017 Operating Budget
- Care at CCSM
- CE Building Renovation Project
- Affordable Housing

Also, we have two planned items of new business for the Congregation to discuss and vote on:

Affirming Kibbie Ruth as our Minister For Next Generations.

While we searched for a new Director of Children's Education, Kibbie graciously offered to perform the duties of this role in an "acting" capacity to ensure that our young people were properly supported. Kibbie's passion and dedication to our children and youth, coupled with her phenomenal organizational skills, made it clear that our search was over—we just needed to persuade Kibbie of this notion! To our delight, she is thrilled to serve in a larger capacity as our Minister For Next Generations, working with education and CCSM's young people. The motion before the Congregation is to affirm Kibbie in this permanent role.

Using the month of February as a period of prayerful discernment and discussion about becoming a Sanctuary Church.

The Ministry for Service and Justice (MSJ) has requested that the Board of Ministries (BOM) add this topic to our agenda given the recent groundswell of support within the Congregation around this issue. This motion is meant to provide the opportunity and structure needed to get informed, have open discussions, and deeply reflect on what type of leadership role CCSM would like play in the Sanctuary Movement.

Please plan on attending if you are available. I look forward to seeing you there!

With gratitude,

Jeanne Back, CCSM Moderator

