

# CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 66, #2 | FEBRUARY 2017

## SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

### EPIPHANY 2017: WHAT UNITES US

**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.



### Lent 2017: Curiosity, Compassion, Courage: The Path Forward

- March 1:** **Two Ash Wednesday Services.**  
**7:00-7:30am** in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to an early morning service led by the youth. It's early enough to still be able to make it to school or work on time.  
**7:00pm** with St. James African Methodist Episcopal in Zion, 825 Monte Diablo Ave, San Mateo. MOURNING THE SINS OF OUR NATION. Worshipping with our neighbors at St. James AME. Our choirs will be singing together. Imposition of ashes offered. Pastor Marlyn Bussey preaching.
- March 5** LENT 1. Communion / Special music with Bella Voce. *Temptations in a Post-Truth World.* Penny Nixon preaching. Mark 1:12-13.
- March 12** LENT 2. *By Any Means Necessary.* Penny Nixon preaching. Mark 2:1-12.
- March 19** LENT 3. *Unlikely Allies.* Penny Nixon preaching. Baptism of Jack Held. Mark 2:13-17.
- March 26** LENT 4. *Asking the wrong questions: When religion becomes irrelevant.* Jorge Perry Bautista and Penny Nixon, joint sermon. Mark 2:18-22; 23-28; 3:1-6.

## A Word from Penny

This Lent I want to explore *Curiosity, Compassion and Courage*. Based on an insightful article by Otto Scharmer ([tinyurl.com/otto-article](http://tinyurl.com/otto-article)) the themes of **curiosity** (open mind), **compassion** (open heart) and **courage** (open will) will be woven into each Sunday as we use stories from the Gospel of Mark. Mark's gospel is all about *Who has the power?*—such an important question during these times. The atmosphere in our country is clouded with fear, hate, anger,

—cont. on page 4—

**April 2** LENT 5. Healing service with communion. *Who's in your boat?* Penny Nixon preaching. Mark 4:35-41.

**April 9** PALM SUNDAY. *Untying a Colt.* Penny Nixon preaching. Mark 11:1-11.

**Thursday, April 13**  
7pm HOLY THURSDAY

**Friday, April 14**  
7pm GOOD FRIDAY  
Our annual ecumenical service with Many Journeys MCC, College Heights UCC and Island United Community Church.

**Sunday, April 16: EASTER**  
**Experience Resurrection!**  
Services 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.



Congregational  
Church of san mateo

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

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

## Train Day Roars Back

Saturday, March 11, 1:00-4:00pm

Trains will rumble and toot around the Buckham Room and Kloss Hall. Fun for all ages from those who play Thomas the Train on the floor to those who rode the rails when younger.



*"I've got love, love, love, love down in my heart" sang the children before they made Valentines and delivered them to residents of the affordable housing project next door.*

## 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.



## Parents!

**IF YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS, QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS:** Have *Coffee with Kibbie* before church on the first Sundays of the month. Next one is at 9:30am on March 5 in the Fireplace Room.

Join the conversation about dreams for your children, the challenges of being a parent, your hopes for their experience at CCSM—whatever is on your mind. And bring the kids; childcare is provided.

**IF YOU HAVE A LITTLE ONE:** Sound from the sanctuary is now wired into the nursery next to the office. So, you can take a break, change a diaper, or feed your infant or toddler, and not miss what's happening in the service.

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

And, 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.

**IF YOU NEED CHILDCARE** to attend any function at CCSM:

Please email [kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org) to reserve childcare. We love your children and don't want them to hamper your enjoying CCSM adult events.

**IF YOU DIDN'T GET YOUR FAMILY'S COPY OF THE PINE SEED** (the junior version of the Pine Tree newsletter), make sure to email [kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org) to get your name on the list of monthly recipients. The March edition will come soon.



# Suggestions for Lenten Practices

Penny Nixon

Each year the season of LENT provides me an opportunity to have my annual spiritual checkup. Lent encourages me to take the time and space to lovingly examine my own spiritual well being. I ask myself things like: *What habits have I slipped into that keep me from connecting with spirit? What relationships have I neglected that I need to honor? What things am I allowing to have power over me that prevent me from being fully alive? Where have I lost my way, blurred my vision, or by sheer inertia, dimmed my light in the world? Is my life in alignment with my most deeply held values? Am I whole, spiritually healthy, and in touch with my joy and passion?*

I have often found it helpful to commit to concrete actions or practices that provide awareness and space to answer some of the questions above concerning my spiritual health. I invite you to journey this Lenten season by adopting a practice/s that will open new possibilities for your own spiritual growth and well being. Here are a few suggestions for you to consider or simply to read in order to spark your own ideas.

- **Read the Gospel of Mark** with your family or friends.
- **Observe an alcohol-free Lent**, releasing any habits of alcohol that do not serve you and committing to being fully present each day. When you want a glass of wine, say a prayer instead.
- **Eat less meat.** Reduce your ecological footprint. Try being vegetarian for Lent, or partially vegetarian.
- **Intentionally practice kindness.**
- **Commit to practicing non-violence** in your speech. Be aware of any words or thoughts that do not promote peace.
- **Spend 10 minutes a day** in stillness, in silence.
- **Read a devotional** (in print or online) each day to help center you.
- **Set aside one evening meal a week** where as a family (or friends or the people you share a meal with) you talk about something important and meaningful about how to be kinder, more peaceful, more loving.
- **Focus on forgiveness** and choose one person who you will actively seek to forgive by writing a letter, sending an email, making a phone call (even if the person is deceased you can write a letter and read it aloud)
- **Unclutter your life**—a room at a time, get rid of “stuff” that you do not use or do not need. Take it to Goodwill and let others enjoy it.
- **Commit to a weekly walk in nature** or in a park where you intentionally appreciate the surrounding beauty and breathe in that beauty for your spirit.





# SECOND HOUR Sundays

## Looking in the Mirror: The Inner Work of Allies

4-PART SERIES MARCH 5,12,19, 26, 11:45 A.M.

Join Penny for a 4-week series on looking within concerning questions of race and class. How do we become effective and supportive allies as people who may not be on the front lines? Are there ways our socialization and skin color affect how we show up to the justice issues of our day?

How do our own stories come in to play? Are we willing to unearth and face our “unconscious biases”? Penny is looking for people ready to do some hard but important inner work together in a safe and supportive environment.



photo: Harry Cutting



## CCSM joins MUSLIM CHILDREN'S GARDEN for lunch

AFTER WORSHIP APRIL 2

Enjoy an international party with the families of the Muslim Children's Garden while we break bread together, share stories and enjoy the children's singing—both ours and theirs. Delicious lunch will be catered! All ages are invited for the fun, so make sure you add the date to your calendar.

### A Word from Penny...

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prejudice and division. Many of us are trying to find a way to make a difference, and many of us are participating in different forms of resistance. In our resistance, in our work for justice and in our solidarity efforts, we must do our internal work (curiosity), connect with others' experience (compassion), and be willing to act (courage).

I've been captivated by the Gospel of Mark and I hope you will be too. In fact, we are encouraging families to read the gospel of Mark together during Lent. We'll provide a PDF of a version of Mark that is child-friendly. I've made a commitment to read it with my daughter—I hope you'll join me. Mark is the earliest gospel and moves at break-neck speed. There is a lot in the stories that is left to our imagination as Mark's style is succinct but dramatic.

During March, I'll offer a 4-week series on **Looking in the Mirror**. Much of our justice work at

CCSM is being allies, yet in order to be effective allies we have to do our own internal work. We have to look at the issues of race and class and the issues of privilege if we are going to partner with groups of people seeking justice. It is deep, internal work. I hope that you will embrace the courage to join in this work by attending the series where in a safe environment we'll have open and honest discussions.

In an effort to build bridges in our neighborhood, we will be worshipping at St James AME in Zion Church on **Ash Wednesday, March 1**, as well as sharing lunch with our neighbors at the Muslim Garden School after church on **Sunday, April 2**.

My prayer is that this Lent will be an inspiring and deepening time for each of us.

Peace,  
Penny

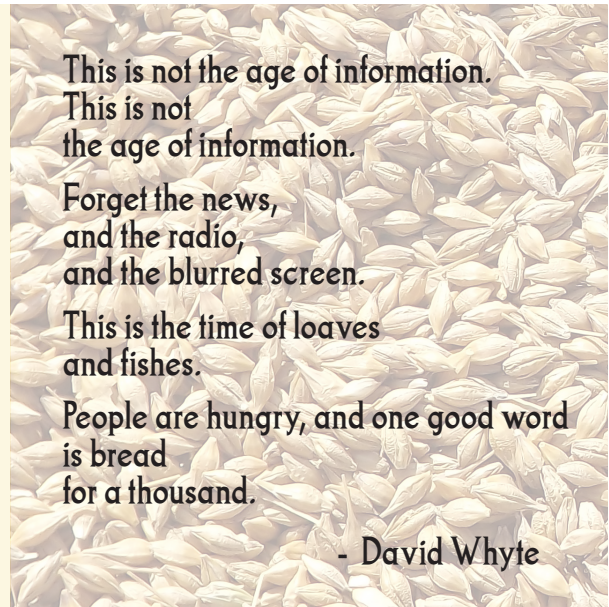


# Music & Art

FRIDAY, MARCH 17 AT NOON • BUCKHAM ROOM

The poet David Whyte is known to work a magic similar to that of the poet, Rumi. Each invites us to contact a deeper, wider, more accessible space inside—a space where transformation can occur Unusual among poets, Whyte's readers compete to spend a week with him overseas. Adelaide Nye gained this good fortune in 2016—in Ireland. She will share Whytes' approach to "Conversational Reality" as experienced deep in the Irish countryside.

Please bring your own sandwich/salad. Beverages & dessert are provided. Guests and new members are welcome. Do make your reservation with Susan Duty, 650-533-68928 or email:susanjd52@gmail.com



# First Tuesday Book Group

TUESDAY MARCH 7 • 7:30-9:00 PM • FIREPLACE ROOM

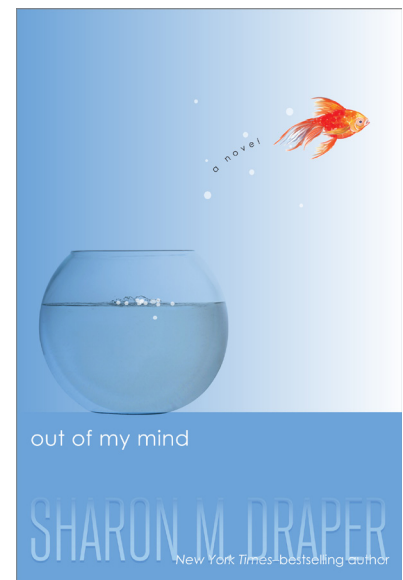
Our March book is *Out of My Mind*, by Sharon Draper

"Eleven-year-old Melody has a photographic memory. Her head is like a video camera that is always recording. Always. And there's no delete button. She's the smartest kid in her whole school—but no one knows it. Most people... don't think she's capable of learning, and up until recently her school days consisted of listening to the same preschool-level alphabet lessons... If only she could speak up, if only she could tell people what she thinks and knows . . . but she can't, because Melody can't talk. She can't walk. She can't write.

"Being stuck inside her head is making Melody go out of her mind--that is, until she discovers something that will allow her to speak for the first time ever. At last Melody has a voice . . . but not everyone around her is ready to hear it.

"From ... Coretta Scott King Award winner, Sharon M. Draper, comes a story full of heartache and hope. Get ready to meet a girl whose voice you'll never, ever forget."

First Tuesday Book Group meets most First Tuesdays through the year. Everyone is welcome, the books are great, the discussion always interesting. Please email Susan Stoehr at [s\\_stoehr@hotmail.com](mailto:s_stoehr@hotmail.com) to be added to our email list.



# 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](mailto:releduc@sbcglobal.net).



# Sanctuary Church Resolution

**SPECIAL MEETING \* FEBRUARY 26TH**

At our Congregational meeting, members voted to carry the following motion:

*During the month of February, the Congregation enters into a month of prayerful discernment and discussion about becoming a Sanctuary Church and holds a Special Meeting on Sunday, February 26th to vote on this matter.*

(Our “Second Hour” event originally scheduled for that Sunday, a showing of the documentary “13th,” will be rescheduled for another date.)



CCSM represents at the spontaneous protest at the San Francisco Airport in response to the Muslim travel ban.

# Sanctuary Movement Conversations

**FEBRUARY 26 • 9:30AM, FIREPLACE ROOM**

You're invited to come and be in conversation about the Sanctuary Movement. Come share your immigration stories (we all have them) and enter into conversations about what it means to be a Sanctuary church. This will be a safe place to express your feelings and practice active listening.

The Sanctuary Team will host these conversations.

# Prayer Shawl Group

If you have been a member of the Prayer Shawl Group in the past and would like to reassemble the group, please contact Dakota at 415-244-3696. Prayers needed in all forms.



# HELP THEM STAY WARM

Night Ministry “clients” on the streets of San Francisco have already gotten two shipments of blankets, hats and warm things to survive this rainy weather. They are thrilled. More donations can come to church for the children to bring up when they come for their story or be left in the church office.

March Collection: medical supplies for Las Memorias in Tijuana (bandages, medicine, etc.).





Twelve new members joined the church on February 12, 2017. (L to R) Eva Jakes, Chella Montes, Marcy McCrory, Irene Wang, Katie Bylander, Dorothy Skanderup, Becky and Bob Duffy, Alice Morison, and Valerie Duecker. Not pictured: Allison Rock and Chris Wuthmann. Welcome to the CCSM family!

# CPR class offered

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 9AM-NOON · BUCKHAM ROOM**

Sign up for a fun CPR Class offered here at CCSM. Three hours can help you save lives. Cost is \$55. Please call Rev. Dakota Brown 415-244-3696 at church or Genel Morgan 650-573-5495 to register for the class by March 10th.



# Donut Sunday!

Start a new tradition! Volunteer to bring donut holes or donuts to church on the last Sunday of the month. Volunteers may drop them off before service—just leave them in the box on the tables.

Contact Deanna Riding to sign up at [deannariding@gmail.com](mailto:deannariding@gmail.com), or contact the church office.



# New Pictorial Directory time!

You can get a **free family portrait** and participate in making a pictorial church directory. LifeTouch photographers will be here Thursdays through Sundays, **March 16-April 1**. It is a professional, high quality portrait that is free to you, along with a free church directory, and helps CCSM build an updated photo directory. You don't have to be a member to be included! Contact Deanna Riding, [deannariding@gmail.com](mailto:deannariding@gmail.com), to make an appointment, or call the church office, 650 343-3694.

# UpDate!



# 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.

### PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

We are worthy to receive glory and honour

For God has created us with Joy.

We are worthy from every tribe and language and nation

to receive glory and honour

For God has created you and all living things with Love.

Help us God to remember that we are made of these things

And may we celebrate all the people in our world, so we also celebrate You.

In your Name. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF JOY

Prayers and best wishes for the **church volunteers** working with the new Companion Ministry. May the people they visit feel the love of this church outside our walls.

Joyful news for our sister **Olga-Barbra Dehlinger** who has moved to Sunrise Senior Living in Burlingame. Please visit. Your familiar face and fellowship is much needed to make this change a joyful one. (1818 Trousdale Dr, #221, Burlingame, CA 94010 (650) 692-2805) She has a cell phone and would love to receive your calls: 650.455.5960

Congratulations to **John and Susan Duty** as we celebrate them on their 58th wedding anniversary January 23rd. We wish them a joyful new year together.

### PRAYERS OF LOVE AND REMEMBERING

Remembering **James Joplin**, lifelong friend of **George Vail**, who passed away February 10th, 2017. James will be missed from this earth. Prayers of comfort for all who know and cared for him.

February 15 would have been the 18th birthday of **Kristi Spence's** grandson, **Austin**, who, many of you know, died in July. Let us remember his family with love. Kristi says, "This community has been extravagant in its outpouring of love and support for our family, from Penny who prayed with us in those first 23 hours when we did not know what had happened, to the candles, the suicide/grief group, the flowers and the many and continuing cards and letters, the latest of which we received only a few weeks ago. For all of this, Bob, Mikia and I are profoundly grateful."

### PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT

Prayers for **Judy Hemmer** that her heart will be strong for an upcoming medical procedure. We send prayer of peaceful thoughts and healing to her.

Prayers to **Rebecca Ruedy-Whelan** this week as she travels to see her mother who is healing. May they both receive joy from each other during their time together.

Prayers for a **co-worker's three year old son**, diagnosed with eye and brain cancer last week. We

pray for his recovery and for this family; may they move in love through this time.

Prayers for **all of us who are in recovery**. May we remember we are worth God's love. Each and every day.

Prayers for the son-in-law of **Lynn Nieberding**, suffering from an undiagnosed pain. May God will bring the knowledge the doctors need to provide healing.

Pray for **Sheri**, sister of **Dawn Graves**, who is having a defibrillator put in. We pray for her healing and a strong heart for many years to come.

Prayers for **Donna, Dawn Graves'** mother, who struggles with aging and changes in her housing situation.

**Everly**, the young cousin of **Genel Morgan**, will have another surgery the beginning of April. Please keep her in your prayers.

**Maureen, Sharon Tobin's** sister, was in the hospital with a complex diagnoses, and is now in a rehabilitation center. We continue to pray for her quick recovery and healing.

We pray for **Joanna**, her daughter **Ailyn** and for **Ervin** at Las Memorias in Tijuana. God, we pray for you to remove all obstacles in their way of healing to knowing your Love for them.

Prayers for **Niels**, college friend of **Renato Floresca**, in the hospital in an induced coma and organ failure related to the flu. We pray for his immediate healing and we pray for his wife



## JOYS AND CONCERNS, CONT.

**Wendy** and two young kids, that they will remain connected in love with their father at this time.

Prayers of healing and relief for **Renato Floresca's** father. Due to complications from diabetes, he is having a hard time walking. May he be filled with the strength and healing he needs to live life without pain. And we pray for Renato as he supports these people he cares about.

We pray for a **family in our church** that has experienced great hardship in the past few months. One parent has been sick for many months, but is recovering, and their home is flooding. They are feeling overwhelmed. Please pray that they will soon be safe and dry, and that they will feel deeply

loved by this church family.

Continued prayers of healing for our beloved **Betsy Woodward**. We are thrilled to have her at church. Please no visits at this time. Meals are being organized by Deb Flaherty (flaherty.dwr@gmail.com). Continued prayers of love and healing.

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

Prayers for **Mark**, friend of **Judy Hemmer**. May his cancer be forever healed.

Please pray for **Julie Lenden's** cousin, **Jon Karesh's** best friend, **Mel Thrash's** sister-in-law, **Pico Soriano's** friend **Alexandria Christakos**, **Margaret and Gordon Smith's** cousin **Janice Kennedy**, **Bill Daniels**, **David Long**, **Dottie Scott's** grandson **Lee Shaffer**, **Sandee Schlickman's** friend **Mike**, **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**, **Gordon Smith's** sister **Janet Smith Roberts**, **June Schutte**, and others as they walk their unique journeys with cancer and other health challenges.

## Wise and Wonderful



**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22 • 10:30AM-NOON**

We'll start a lecture series: *Sharing The Stories Of Our Lives*. We will hear from two members of our church who will share a Wise and Wonderful story of their lives. Attend and learn more about people in your church community. And if you are interested in sharing your story

on a topic like *How Faith Works in Your Life* or *How Your Family Came to the United States*, or any other topic, please let Dakota know. So much fun to be had in this Holy Place! Coffee and cookies served.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8 • 10:30AM-NOON**

Speaker **Nicole Fernandez** from San Mateo County's Aging and Adult Services will talk to us about signs of elder abuse, including that 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. Coffee and cookies served.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22**

We'll leave the church parking lot at 10:00am as a group to the **SF Museum of Modern Art** in and walk with our own personal docent, Robert Cross, a member of CCSM. Cost is \$18 for seniors, \$25 for people under 65 years of age. Scholarships are also available. Places for up to 15 people. We'll meet up with Robert at MOMA in the lobby at the base of the stairs.

Drivers for carpools needed. Bring a bag lunch.

Contact Dakota Brown, [dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org), or 415 244-3696 with questions. See you there!



## REQUEST A CCSM VISITING COMPANION FOR YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW

Companion Ministry is CCSM's new care program. This ministry matches trained church volunteers with members of the church who could benefit from a series of home or hospital visits from a caring companion. If you or someone you know is going through a transition, and miss coming to church, we will visit you and bring friendly conversation. Please contact Rev. Dakota Brown 415-244-3696 or [dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org) to sign up for the program.

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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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## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28  
6:00-7:00PM • KLOSS HALL

Before you give up sweets for Lent, come have pancakes for dinner. Join us to celebrate community, Mardi Gras, and yummy supper together.



## Two Ash Wednesday Services on March 1

Early morning service, 7:00-7:30am in the Sanctuary. Everyone is invited to this early service led by the youth. It's early enough to still be able to make it to school or work on time. This is a meaningful way to start the season of Lent.

Worshipping with our neighbors at St. James African Methodist Episcopal in Zion, 7:00pm, 825 Monte Diablo Ave, San Mateo. MOURNING THE SINS OF OUR NATION. Our choirs will be singing together. Imposition of ashes offered. Pastor Marlyn Bussey preaching.

