

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 66, #3 | MARCH/APRIL 2017

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

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

Holy Week AND Easter



You won't want to miss Palm Sunday, Holy Week, or Easter at CCSM.

For Palm Sunday, we have a HUGE SURPRISE—it will be memorable, I guarantee. You won't want your children to miss it.

Holy Week will be a journey of its own.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 6:30 pm. HOLY THURSDAY GATHERING
Share scripture, soup, and stories of Jesus

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 7:00 pm GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
Our annual ecumenical service, *Many Journeys*, with MCC, College Heights UCC and Island United Community Church.

SUNDAY, APRIL 16: EASTER—Experience Resurrection!

8am: EARLY SERVICE. Celebrate resurrection at our early service led by the youth.

10:30am: EASTER CELEBRATION

Our Easter service is always one of the year's highlights. Come early to get a seat and be prepared to experience resurrection!

A Word from Penny

This Lent has been a particularly enriching one for me personally. It began with Ash Wednesday when over 40 of us worshipped with our neighbor, St. James African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AME Zion) Church. We had such a wonderful time of fellowship. Our choirs sang together and we received ashes together. St James AME Zion will be joining in our worship service on April 30th and

—cont. on page 4—

EASTER SEASON SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

April 23 Earth Day Celebration. Gary White and Joliene Gatlin; Joyful Noise Choir

April 30 Worship with St James AME Zion. Sermon: *Walking Together.* Revs. Marlyn Bussey and Penny Nixon preaching

May 7 Celebration of ONA 15th Anniversary/New members joining. Sermon: *I See People...* Penny Nixon preaching

May 14 Mother's day/family worship. Sermon: *5+2=10,000.* Penny Nixon preaching

May 21 Spring Concert

May 28 Memorial Day

June 4 Pentecost, Annual Meeting, Scholarships

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

DON'T MISS THE PARADE!

On **April 9, Palm Sunday**, come no later than 10:15AM to guarantee your place in the festivity. Children will line up on the loggia for the super procession.

You will never guess what else is coming to join us (only the kindergarteners know).



RISE AND SHINE

Sunrise Easter service for the sleepy heads! Instead of actual sunrise, the youth-led service will start at 8AM. Bring flowers to create a beautiful floral cross and your openness to hear a different story of second chances, rebirth and transformation.



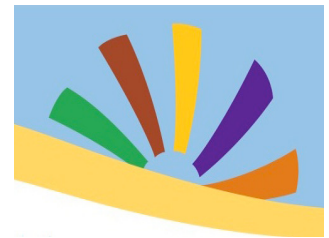
EASTER FESTIVAL

Once again, during the Easter service, fun activities in Kloss Hall will challenge the children's creativity and spirit. As they make baskets, decorate eggs with special symbols and play games, they will celebrate the joy of the season.



CREATING PEACE

This summer Peace Village will not be a weeklong camp, but transformed into several special events during the year for our young people—and you. Special Neighborhood lunches in April will celebrate our relationship with our Muslim and AME sisters and brothers. After a summer of outdoor Children's Church, the children will be planting a Peace Garden in front of the CE Building to celebrate our Muslim, Jewish and Christian interconnection. More adventures and opportunities will follow.



WHERE IS THAT WOMAN?



Want to give Kibbie your two cents? Ask questions about programs? Share your parenting stories? Wonder a little? Find her on **first Sundays in the Fireplace Room at 9:30** for Coffee with Kibbie

(childcare provided). If you miss her there, look for her during fellowship time after church; she tries to be at the Kloss Hall door nearest the CE Building. Your ideas, questions and conversation are always welcome.



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

CONFIRMATION GOES MODERN

COMING OF AGE RETREAT FOR MID-HIGH YOUTH • APRIL 28-29

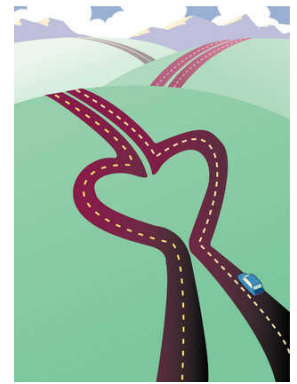
Instead of a confirmation class for mid-highers, those youth will have annual **Coming of Age Retreats**. This year's is **April 28-29** on top of a mountain overlooking the Napa Valley. The 6th-8th graders will step away from the hustle and bustle of our too-busy lives, set aside all "screens" and explore the grand transition as they grow and change within a spiritual community. Then confirmation classes will start in the fall for students grades 10-12. For more information, contact Patrick (pkane@ccsm-ucc.org) or Kibbie (Kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org).



HEADING FOR THE HEART

SUMMER SERVICE/LEARNING ROAD TRIP FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Heading for the heart... or at least the heart of the Central Valley... and hopefully the hearts of our high schoolers. Their summer service/learning road trip this year will take them to Fresno to experience a culture very different from our own on the Peninsula. Nearly half of the population there speaks Spanish, and the Fresno Hmong community is one of the two largest Hmong communities in the US. From Friday, June 23, to the 25th, our students will be spending a weekend "camping" at a local church, learning how an agricultural hub like Fresno is different from our communities back home, and reflect on the ways in which we, as people of faith, are called to be in the world and interact with those who are different from us. If you have a personal connection to Fresno or its history that would make the trip even more meaningful for the kids, let Patrick know (pkane@ccsm-ucc.org). More details as the plans unfold.



YOUTHFUL MEET-UPS

During worship, Mid-High students hang out with Patrick on the first Sunday of the month (back row of the balcony). Other Sundays, after the Children's Message, they head to the Youth Room for lively discussions. The activity level increases during the youth group gatherings on the first and third Sunday nights, 6:00-7:30PM in the Youth Room.

High Schoolers gather after church for fun and fellowship. The discussions really ramp up on second Sundays, when instead of going to worship the youth meet for Sixty Minutes with Mike Mullery to discuss hot topics in the Fireplace Room. **April 9's** topic is "Adulthood"—what is adulthood really like? Is it endless paying of bills?



CCSM Mid Highers in 2006... and a current staff member

2017 COLLEGE AND GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Ministry of Children, Youth and Families is soliciting candidates to receive church scholarships. Again this year, we are offering two different types of scholarships: college scholarships for high school seniors from The Sue Bullis Fund and the Macon Banks Memorial Scholarship, as well as The Sue Bullis Graduate School Scholarship, intended to promote further service in the world by assisting qualifying graduate students with their education.

College Scholarship: Applicants need to be high school seniors who plan to continue their formal education in the fall of 2017. The selection criteria include active involvement with CCSM and demonstrating interest and involvement in school and community activities. The deadline for submitting applications for College Scholarships is May 1. You can access the application forms here:

ccsm-ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/CCSMCollegeScholarshipApp.pdf

Graduate Scholarship: Applicants must have an association with CCSM and have a demonstrated commitment to community service. They must have plans to extend their education for further service in the world. Prior applicants may re-apply for this scholarship. The deadline for submitting applications

for a Graduate Scholarship is June 1.

You can access application forms here:

ccsm-ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/CCSMGradScholarshipApp.pdf

Please send applications for either scholarship in one complete package to Holly Allen at hollyallen1@yahoo.com. If you have questions, please email Holly or call her cell 650-218-9212.

Inquirer's Class: CCSM 101

We hope you've been enjoying CCSM's extravagant welcome. We are hosting an inquirer's class on **Sunday, April 23 at 11:45am**, right after worship. Lunch and childcare will be provided. The class will end at 1:30 PM.

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

A Word from Penny...

cont. from p. 1

their pastor, Rev. Marlyn Bussey, and I will preach together and our choirs sing together again. This feels like a healing somehow—coming together across denominations, ethnicities, ages—so needed in our time.

I also feel particularly blessed with the courageous folks who have joined in the “inner work of allies” and really looked at the complexities of white privilege. We have had some real “aha” moments together. Couple that with the immersion in the gospel of Mark during Lent, and our vote to become a sanctuary church, I feel like I have been experiencing some transformation and so has the church.

On **April 2nd** we'll have a communion and healing service, followed by lunch with the Muslim Garden School, another time of healing the wounds of our nation.

Thank you for being on this journey as a spiritual community. Our faith is so important during these times, as is our progressive Christian voice. We need not all agree or think alike, but our deepest values and the connection we share propel us forward with open minds, open hearts and open wills.

I look forward to Easter where we will experience the power of resurrection together too.

Peace, grace and courage,

Penny

P.S. You really will not want to miss Palm Sunday... big surprise...



CCSM declares itself a Sanctuary Congregation

What's Next?



by Rev. Valerie Duecker

On February 26th, by a vote of 151 to 14, we passed the resolution to “open our doors to welcome into Sanctuary undocumented individuals who are facing deportation and in need of safe refuge.” This is a momentous decision for our congregation. We are doing this in solidarity with other congregations on the Peninsula and across the country in the New Sanctuary Movement. We are working with our Unitarian Universalist neighbors who decided to become a Sanctuary congregation on the same day. Our legal partner is Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto. We’ve joined a new group, Peninsula Interfaith Coalition on Immigration, part of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. We hope to host a training

on Rapid Response by Faith in Action. And we’re exploring ways to advocate for and accompany our immigrant neighbors.

But, you may be wondering, what’s next for those who want to be involved in creating that safe place and hosting a guest in sanctuary here? The Sanctuary Team has created a general plan. We’ve identified several areas where we need to focus our energies and volunteers: ensuring that our physical accommodations

are ready and welcoming; providing social, spiritual, emergency, and security support for our guest; offering support for our guest’s family and their needs; fostering working relationships with supporting congregations and organizations; and, last but not least, taking advantage of educational and training opportunities on sanctuary and immigration in our area. Three talented, energized people have already offered to coordinate three of these areas. Leslie Herndon, our Education Coordinator, has created two web pages that she updates regularly with new training opportunities: bit.ly/ccsmsanctuaryedu and: bit.ly/ccsmsanctuarystandup. Come join our Team as a coordinator or volunteer in an area that interests you. Contact Valerie at dueckerv@me.com or Mike allihkim@gmail.com.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES PROJECT: An Update

Seven neighborhood meetings about CCSM’s Guiding Principles have been facilitated by members from the Ministry of Worship & Spiritual Life (WSL). The WSL team will now synthesize what it heard in these discussions. While there was general affirmation that the Principles remain true for CCSM, there were thoughts and ideas that deserve a broader hearing. This input will be given by WSL to a specially convened Task Team chaired by Penny. The Team will consider the input and present any recommended changes to the congregation for comment. Any refinements of the Guiding Principles would be voted on in the June Congregational Meeting.

CCSM Job Opportunity:

Full-time Director of Operations

YOU CAN HELP!

We are in the process of recruiting candidates for a full-time Director of Operations. The job description is posted on our website at ccsm-ucc.org/job-opportunities/.

Austin-Mader Clark has been serving as our part-time Director of Operations since late last summer. Austin will continue in this role until the end of May. Ideally, we would like to have the new full-time director in place by early May to facilitate a smooth transition.

We are advertising in multiples places. If you know of anyone that you think might be a potential long-term fit for CCSM in this capacity, or if you have a suggestion for where to advertise, please contact Penny.

The interview team includes: Penny Nixon, Pearly Masters, Austin Mader-Clark, Veril Phillips, Gary White (Personnel Committee) and Jeanne Back (CCSM Moderator).

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



Forum: “Latin@ Ministry and Symbolism of Latin@ Christianity”

SUNDAY, APRIL 9 IN THE FIREPLACE ROOM

Are you more visual than auditory? Do you know people who are? Are you curious about the impact of Christian visual arts in Latin@ cultures? Please join Rev. Jorge Bautista and members of the Latin@ Ministry Team on Sunday, April 9. We will share a brief update about the progress of the developing ministry plus engage in a discussion of several visual Christian symbols that are meaningful to many Latin@s.



As you may know, Latin@s in our neighborhood have been meeting with Jorge for fellowship, dinner, and prayer on Wednesday evenings for the past few months. Some symbols that are meaningful for that group will be placed on the walls of the Fireplace Room soon, as part of CCSM’s continuing exploration of the establishment of a Latin@ Ministry within our congregation. You are invited both to learn about the ministry and to contribute to the discussion of symbols, which Jorge will lead.

The forum is hosted by the Latin@ Ministry Team (Mike Mullery, Julien Phillips, Veril Phillips, Javier Ruiz, Sandra Soto-Grondona, Cristina Summerville, Valerie Wong, and Betsy Woodward).

Note: the symbol @ at the end of the word Latino/Latina is to create a single inclusive word that contains both masculine and feminine endings.

Latin@ Ministry at CCSM

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Building a Latin@ ministry at CCSM is for sure a process, and there are tons of ups and downs. It is a journey of discovery, because there are moments on mountaintops and moments in deep valleys of despair. Recently I have been on the mountaintop because two out of the five core Latin@ leaders from the community that have committed to helping build the Latin@ ministry at CCSM joined me in attending a conference in Chicago from February 22-25, called REDIL

(Ecumenica de Desarrollo de Iglesias Latinas, or Ecumenical Network of Development for Latino Churches). Jessica Gonzalez with her two kids and Hector Montada joined me and 100 clergy and lay leaders from six Christian denominations: Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Presbyterian Church (USA), The Episcopal Church, The United Methodist Church, and United Church of Christ, to focus on leadership, communications, liturgy, stewardship, planning, evangelism, theology, and other topics.

The conference offers two trainings. We got to to experience a special time together as God's people, developing tolerance and understanding of the differences between our traditions, and planning and envisioning ministerial development work. For Hector and Jessica it was their first time worshipping and sharing a religious space outside of the Catholic church, and learning about mainline churches. They were left wanting to learn more about all of them, and had no idea that these other denominations existed for Latin@s.

Also, one of REDIL's expectations for clergy such as myself starting new ministries is to follow up on the first training within a period of six to nine months, and to bring two leaders with them who have committed in building a new church or new ministry. This year I was the only clergy who, within the nine months, brought two leaders. A few brought one and most brought none. This is a great sign for us at CCSM because not only does it show how hard it is to get a group of people to be committed to a new ministry within a year, but the fact that CCSM had two individuals, one with two kids, attend the conference is a vital sign that we are heading in the right direction. Not to mention that the two individuals had to take time off from

work and lose money. This means they believe in what we are trying to accomplish at CCSM. I am grateful for them.

Overall, REDIL is a space to meet, share resources and mutually strengthen new ministries.

What Jessica, Hector, and myself appreciated about the network is that it is based on the following commitments:

1. Ensuring that the church hears and addresses the voices of all marginalized Latin@ communities.
 2. Being a prophetic voice within and outside the church.
 3. Prioritizing and committing to the new-generation Latin@ bilingual community.
 4. Focusing and strengthening the lives of people, not institutions.
 5. Joining as peers in the missionary journey. Sharing interdenominational resources in a spirit of collaboration, coordination, education, and inclusiveness, welcoming the diversity of the gifts of God, and to be open to the gifts each denomination brings.
 6. Ensuring that the passion for similarities extends beyond denominational differences.
- Hector and Jessica and her kids are so excited to put into practice everything they learned in Chicago and start building Iglesia San Mateo Unidos en Cristo. Slowly but surely something new and exciting is happening at CCSM!

—Jorge



Jorge, Hector, and Jessica and her children

Emerging Leader for Social Justice

CCSM has long served as a teaching congregation and a place where emerging leaders, particularly those who feel called to enact bold initiatives within the Progressive Christian church, can find mentorship and support.

Our New Initiative Fund, established in 2015 by an extraordinarily generous donor, allows CCSM to take steps in new directions enhancing our three priorities of Progressive Christianity, Beloved Community, and Social Justice. Through an Emerging Leaders for Social Justice program, CCSM can provide mentoring and experience to young leaders exploring the opportunity to risk taking, their passion for justice, and for prophetic leadership to the next level within an experimental context supported by an experienced and dynamic staff.

Given the current political and social climate, and the organizing work to be done on many fronts, 2017 seems to be the ideal year to launch this pilot program.

Penny has been working in building an interfaith clergy coalition on the Peninsula. That effort is called the Peninsula Solidarity Network (PSN). The Peninsula Solidarity Network has just been given a grant of \$15,000 by the Silicon Valley Community Foundation.

In addition, given that our former Minister for Social Justice, Rev Kibbie Ruth, is now working with our children and youth as Minister for Next Generations, the programs she initiated need staffing.

The Emerging Leader for Social Justice will be responsible for the following:

- Serve as the staff liaison to MSJ.
- Serve in an administrative capacity for the Peninsula Solidarity Network. Manage the PSN database.



- Attend community meetings with Penny to learn how to navigate the role of a faith leader in civic discourse.

- Represent Penny/CCSM at some community meetings strengthening partnerships by a consistent CCSM presence.

- Organize youth directors and youth leaders (from all faiths) through the PSN to plan “Peace Village Events”

- Work closely with Faith in Action on current organizing campaigns in collaboration with the mission of PSN.

- Attend staff meetings and learn from our experienced team.

- Under Penny’s direction, work on grant-writing for ongoing projects such as the Latino Ministry and PSN.

The SJ Emerging Leader will receive ongoing mentorship and supervision from the Senior Minister.

This year-long pilot program will be reviewed after an initial 6 months by MSJ Chair, Senior Minister, key staff and moderator. The emerging leader is selected by The MSJ Chair, SM, DO and one member of the personnel committee and the executive committee respectively.

This program provides CCSM the opportunity to attract some of the best emerging leaders in progressive Christianity and influence their future ministry. The program functions as an intensive internship/apprenticeship.

The interview team (Penny, Kibbie, John Fyfe (exec com), Sarah Iya (former MSJ chair) is pleased to announce the selection of Amie Giordano as our first Emerging Leader for Social Justice. She’ll begin on April 3rd and you will meet her in April.

Spruce Up the Neighborhood

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 AFTER CHURCH

Come join San Mateo City’s Team Up to Clean Up. Our Second Annual Earth Day Neighborhood Clean-up will take place right after a lunch for all participants. The City of San Mateo will provide us with tools, supplies and gloves—and out we will go into the neighborhood block by block.

For more information you may send an email to msj@ccsm-ucc.org. Also look for the signup table on the loggia on April 2nd after service.



Rebuilding Together

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Volunteer to re-build a run-down house with Rebuilding Together. Illness, aging, inflation, or job loss can force a homeowner to make difficult trade-offs between foregoing repairs or losing their homes. On National Rebuilding Day, Rebuilding Together will rehabilitate homes for low-income homeowners and neighbors, including seniors, people with disabilities and families. CCSM members will join our neighboring Masons (who are old pros at this effort) to upgrade a house in San Mateo, helping to sustain home values and restore pride for the residents, so that they can live independently in warmth and safety. Last year, CCSM volunteers helped to clear a yard, build a fence and paint a family home inside and out.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided and volunteers are invited to a BBQ celebration at Oracle afterwards. No experience or talent necessary—only enthusiasm required!

Email Sarah Iya (houseofdon@hotmail.com) to register or get more info.



The 2016 Rebuilding Together group

APRIL COLLECTION: TOWELS

As the winter rains dry up, so do the towel supplies at community agencies helping the homeless and hungry. So, go through your linen closet and bring your mismatched towels to church. (Condition doesn't matter; raggedy ones will go to the Peninsula Humane Society.) Children can bring your donations forward when they come for their Sunday message or you may leave towels in the Kloss Hall bin or church office. Thanks!



Easter Memorial Program

Once again we have the opportunity to remember those loved ones we have lost or to celebrate a life or event that we wish to honor. For over fifty years, this program has supported that part of the worship service that provides beauty and serenity to our services. We will not have Easter lilies in the sanctuary this year because of health concerns, but potted plants will be taken to shut-ins, bereaved, and those who need that extra gesture which signals the love and community of our church. We would request a donation of \$25 and appreciate your generosity. Thank you very much, and a very happy Easter to you and yours.

Please carefully fill in the form before **Monday, April 10** to insure accuracy when the donor list is published on Easter Sunday. Please contact the office (650-343-3694) or Dakota Brown (415-244-3696) if you have questions.

(please print)

DONOR'S NAME(S): _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

or

IN HONOR OF: _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please make check payable to CCSM with memo line "Memorial Gift" and place in offering plate, mail, or leave in church office.



Music Notes

by Lynnelle Bilsey

Greetings CCSM! It has been an amazing journey over the past six months with you. From jumping in as interim choir director last September to the amazing opportunity to become Music Director in January, I have enjoyed every moment. Your warm welcome and reception has truly touched my heart and the special gift from the choir overwhelmed me. Thank you all. CCSM's music team, including Angela Kraft Cross, Tom Lohmuller and Julie Berk, has been a joy to work with, and we all are enjoying a wonderfully collaborative relationship which was so beautifully and musically shared on March 19 during the service.



With that being said, I would like to invite everyone at CCSM to consider 'jumping in'. Music has such a wonderful way of opening our hearts, whether you lift your voice in song, make a joyful noise, or breathe it in to help you feel God's presence. If you have thought about participating with one of the three choirs (Chancel, Children's or Chamber Singers), ringing some bells, or sharing your musical gifts, I encourage you to do so. All of us on the music team would love to talk with you about opportunities to make a joyful noise!

If you are interested in participating with music in April, we have several special opportunities to do so: Palm Sunday will feature a new composition by Angela Kraft Cross written for all our musical groups, plus all the special music of Holy Week and Easter – we'd love to have you join us!

Music & Art

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, NOON • BUCKHAM ROOM

The special presentation following lunch and a brief business meeting will feature a talk and slide show entitled: "Read My Pins—the Madeleine Albright Collection." This lapel pin collection of the former first woman Secretary of State and highest ranking member of Clinton's cabinet was recently on exhibit at the Legion of Honor Museum. If you missed this extraordinary event, here's your opportunity to have Donna McCartney, docent of both "the Legion" and the deYoung, give you a guided tour right here at CCSM.



As always, bring your own sandwich/salad; beverages and dessert are provided. Please reserve your place by calling Susan Duty, 650-533-6828 or email susanjd52@gmail.com



Vera Pitts, ready to worship

(photo by Chris Yeh)

Wise & Wonderful

WEDNESDAY APRIL 12 • 10:30AM-NOON

Yoga with Kate Joyce for the Wise and Wonderful Ones.

Come enjoy gentle yoga sitting in a chair. Wear something comfortable. We will also hear two stories from our lecture series "Sharing our Stories."

WEDNESDAY APRIL 26 • 10:30AM-NOON

Lunch with the Wise and Wonderful Ones.

Meet at 10:30 at Bill's Hofbrau, 11 S B St., San Mateo, or meet 10am at CCSM to car pool.

Sign up by calling the office or contacting Dakota, dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org or 415-244-3696



Living History: Martha Imai and CCSM

By Carole Melis and Lee Mullery

Born in 1915 and now anticipating her 102nd birthday on April 23, Martha Imai recalls a long life filled with family, friends, and church—all of which helped to sustain her through some of the most tumultuous events of the 20th century. A native San Franciscan, Martha was one of five children born to parents who emigrated to the U.S. from Japan. Following a brief business venture in SF, her family moved to Salinas, where her father joined other Japanese workers in the strawberry fields and her mother, a gifted educator, taught Japanese to the children of the workers.

After five years of suffering the hardships of rural life, the family was happy to move to Belmont, where her mother continued to teach Japanese. Her parents were devout Christians who attended Sturge Presbyterian Church in San Mateo while Martha and the other Sturge children came to CCSM for church school since Sturge did not have enough space. The family then moved to San Mateo, although they and other minorities were only permitted to live within a circumscribed area east of the railroad tracks.

Martha graduated from San Mateo High School in 1933, attended design school in SF, then began a 25-year career working at Levy Brothers department store in Burlingame. In 1939, she married Yugi, a Stanford graduate and family friend, at CCSM with the Rev. Dr. Sidney Buckham officiating. Yugi was hired to teach at the Naval Japanese Language School, housed at UC Berkeley. After Pearl Harbor, the school was moved to Boulder, Colorado, where Martha and Yugi remained for the rest of the war, enduring ostracism.

In the meantime, Martha's parents were forced to leave the house they built in San Mateo and were sent to Topaz, an internment camp near Delta, Utah. Although Martha was in Colorado, she is thankful for the key role CCSM played in this time period, storing the belongings of the displaced Japanese in San Mateo – the result of Rev. Buckham's advocacy and support of the Japanese community.

She also fondly recalls the help provided by CCSM member Dorothy Lupton and her family. After the war, she and Yugi returned to San Mateo, along with their two- and six-year-old sons, initially living in her parents' crowded house before building their own home in Burlingame. The family attended CCSM, where Martha helped with the very large Sunday School – there were more than 100 children in kindergarten alone! Every Sunday, the church was packed, shoulder-to-shoulder, in every pew. Martha joined the Plymouth Circle, making friends that would last a lifetime (including Betty Stout).

Following Yugi's death, Martha became an early resident of the Peninsula Regent and is happy to be part of a group there that still attends CCSM. In her 2005 interview, Martha noted, "When you get to be my age, church is a place you do look forward to, for sure." In closing, she noted that her younger son is actually married to a relative of Mrs. Lupton, leading to her observation, "Isn't it interesting how you go through life and you meet people, and it's almost like a circle."



Martha Imai at CCSM's 150th Anniversary celebration in 2014 (photo by Drew Henry)

Breaking Bread with our Neighbors

We claim to stand with our Muslim neighbors—but what about enjoying lunch with them? After worship on **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!



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 SPRING BIRTHDAYS

Eva Thomson turns 98 on March 30, **Thelma Kromhout** turns 98 on April 15, **Martha Imai** will be 102 years old on April 23, and **Clare Naegle** will be 99 years old on April 30! Your CCSM family celebrates with you.

PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

As I arise today,
may the strength of God pilot me,
the power of God uphold me,
the wisdom of God guide me.
May the eye of God look before me,
the ear of God hear me,
the word of God speak for me.
May the hand of God protect me,
the way of God lie before me,
the shield of God defend me,
I pray to You always. Amen r

PRAYERS OF JOY

Lisa McCally and Laura Sprague announce their engagement to be married! They will have a fall wedding in Sonoma County. They are thrilled to share the love, joy and spiritual guidance they have learned over their lives and at CCSM.

Prayers of gratitude that **George Parker** is back singing with the choir after a bout of pneumonia.

Allison Lohmuller is very glad to be feeling much better.

Mike & Bonny Armacost's 58th wedding anniversary was March 7. We celebrate with you!

Maureen, sister of **Sharon Tobin**, has returned home from a medical rehabilitation center and is grateful for all your prayers.

Veril Phillips and Bev Knowlton

were married at CCSM on February 18 by Rev. Penny Nixon. We wish the newlyweds much happiness in their life together.

Prayers of welcome to all of us in this church, that even when we disagree with each other, we remember we are all always welcome here.

Prayers for **Judy Hemmer** who had a successful medical procedure.

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

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND REMEMBERING

Prayers of remembering for **Tony Altermann**, friend of **John Latta**, who died March 12. He was loved and will be missed.

We have only recently learned that **Virginia Behrmann** passed away May 9, 2011. Virginia joined CCSM in 1959 and is remembered fondly.

Prayers of comfort for **Adrian Vogt** whose mother passed suddenly, and for the whole family.

Prayers for **Genel Morgan** grieving the loss of a baby in her extended family, **Baby Lena**. Prayers for **Lena's** parents **Kelly and Chris**, and all affected by this loss.

PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT

Prayers of hope and healing for **Dave Karlin** as he begins treatment for late stage lung cancer which has spread to lymph nodes and brain. We walk with **Dave, Barb**, and family on this journey. God please hear our prayers.

Prayers for **Anne Baker**, daughter

of **Marjorie Griffin**, recovering from a difficult infection. Anne has wonderful memories of youth group, teaching Sunday School and serving on boards and committees here. While still in high school, she served on the Social Action Committee. This was critical to the formation of her lifelong values, critical thinking skills, and leadership ability. We continue to pray for her healing and for the good health of her entire family.

Prayers for **Everly**, 2-year-old cousin of **Genel Morgan**, who will have surgery on April 1st. We pray that God will provide the medical staff the knowledge they need to provide healing.

Prayers for **Gary** who is 52 and has Parkinson's. He is scared. Please God, help him find comfort in You and feel the love of this church and all who care for him.

Continued prayers for **June Schutte** who is doing much better. She has moved to a rehab and will soon move to an assisted living home. She is in good spirits and appreciates this church family. She requests no visitors but is thankful for cards and prayers.

Good news for **Olga-Barbra Dehlinger** at Sunrise Senior Living in Burlingame. She is finally adjusting to her new home and would appreciate visitors. She no longer needs frequent rides to and from church as it makes her very tired. Please visit.

Prayers of love and support for **Nancy Ruedy, Rebecca Ruedy's** mother, struggling with health problems and adapting to life without her husband of 63 years.

Prayers for **Jo's** wife (**Jo is Caroline Shaw's** mailman), who is suffer-

JOYS AND CONCERNS, CONT.

ing from cancer. God give her healing and give the family the support they need to care for her.

Prayers for all those who care for people with Alzheimer's. May you continue to have strength of mind and patience of heart.

Prayers for **Tom**, brother of **Michele Moffitt**, suffering from a stroke, heart disease, and diabetes. We pray he is free of fear and pain.

Prayers for **Jim Sizemore**, brother-in-law of Priscilla Storms, who has Parkinson's, and for her sister **Carol** who cares for Jim. May this family receive the support they need to have rest and peace.

Prayers for **Carolyn Shaw's** niece, badly hurt in a skiing accident. We pray for quick healing.

Prayers for **Stewart, Jon Karesh's** friend, who has kidney failure and

congestive heart failure. May he receive the peace and pain-free care he needs.

Prayers for baby **Karla**, whose parents are cousins of **Genel Morgan**. Karla was born 4 weeks early and is now home and eating on her own.

Prayers for **Esteban**, boyfriend of **Chris Sturken**, for his healing and transition as he moves back home to support his family after the loss of his sister Carina this past year. Pray for him as he leaves his college, church, and the community he has built in the Bay Area

We continue to pray for **Sherie** and **Donna**, sister and mother of **Dawn Graves**. We send prayers of love and healing to this wonderful family. God hear their prayers.

Continued prayers of healing for our beloved **Betsy Woodward**. We

are thrilled to have her at church. Please call ahead for visits. Meals are being organized by Deb Flaherty (flaherty.dwr@gmail.com).

Continue to 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 Granis**, **Martha Imai**, **George Kromhout**, **Phyllis Mead**, **Adrienne Mitchell**, **Genevieve** and **John Parsons**, **Fred Petri**, **Gordon Smith's** sister **Janet Smith Roberts**, and others as they walk their unique journeys with cancer and other health challenges.



Wise & Wonderful Ones at MOMA

First Tuesday Book Group: April meeting cancelled

Sorry to say, the April 4th meeting of the First Tuesday Book Group is cancelled. The book is not readily available. **Our May selection is *Girl on a Train*** by Paula Hawkins. For more information: email s_stoehr@hotmail.com

Penny's Book Recommendations

Non-fiction

Tears We Cannot Stop by Michael Eric Dyson
Between the World and Me by Ta-Nehisi-Coates
America's Original Sin by Jim Wallis

Homework Central
 fostering academic success through tutoring & family support

No Homework Tonight

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 6 - 9 PM AT CCSM

Our speakers: Four eager elementary school students will share their stories about being "Homework Central kids." Two incredibly dynamic local women will describe the positive changes they are making in the world.

6PM: Entertainment, Appetizers & Auction

7PM: Program & Dessert

RSVP by April 3 to Richard Geimer, Executive Director of Homework Central.

Email: rgeimer@smhwc.org

Office: 650.343.3423

All are welcome!

See more about Homework Central on our website: smhwc.org

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

FAB 4 Concert

SUNDAY, APRIL 23 • 4PM

CCSM will host the 12th Anniversary performance of our own FAB 4 musicians. Come enjoy the talents of Angela Kraft Cross, Bonny Armacost, Cari Parker and Vija Norkvesta at this lively and inspiring concert with these gifted ladies.



CCSM PINE TREE

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

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SECOND HOUR on Sundays

“More than just an hour on Sunday!” After worship, our spiritual lives together continue, both out into the community and right here on the CCSM campus. Check out longer descriptions of some of these special opportunities elsewhere in this issue.

April 2 Lunch and singing with our friends from the Muslim Children’s Garden. Delicious lunch will be catered. All ages are invited for the fun!

April 9 Forum: Latin@ Ministry and Symbols of Latin@ Christianity (p. 6)

April 16 Spread Easter joy with friends and family

April 23 Team-Up to Clean Up—lunch and “pick-up party” for the neighborhood around our church (p. 5)

Special Inquirer’s Class for anyone interested in officially joining CCSM (p. 4)

April 30 Lunch with our neighbors St. James AME Zion (who will worship with us that day)