

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 66, #6 | SUMMER'S END / FALL 2017

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

AUGUST SERIES: *Swimming Upstream.* Penny Nixon

- August 13 *The Journey of Self-discovery*
- August 20 *Our Choices Define Us*
- August 27 *Finding Your Place in the World*

FALL SERIES: *Lasting Happiness in a Changing World.* Penny Nixon

This series is based on *The Book of Joy* by The Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu



- Sept. 10 Homecoming Sunday. *The Antidote to Stress*
- Sept. 17 *Overcoming Obstacles to joy*
- Sept. 24 *Is Forgiveness Necessary? Blessing of Iglesia San Mateo, Unidos en Cristo*
- Oct. 1 World Communion Sunday. *In the Looking Glass*
- Oct. 8 *Superiority Complex*
- Oct. 15 *Money CAN Buy Happiness*
- Oct. 22 500th anniversary of Reformation
- Oct. 29 *Laughter IS the Best Medicine*
- Nov. 5 All Saints Sunday. *The Shortest Prayer*
- Nov. 12 *Resignation or Acceptance?*
- Nov. 19 *Passion.com*
- Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Sunday. *The Practice of Joy*



Students at Puente in Pescadero were super excited about the 117 backpacks and 6 lunchboxes from CCSM! Lina from Puente writes that with such a variety, "happy Puente children will be able to choose a pack that suits their personality." Someone asked why students need new backpacks each year—clearly that person never dealt with the ground-in grime and sticky gunk in the bottom of a dirty backpack in June.

A Word from Penny

Dear beloved community,



It hardly seems possible that the summer will soon be passing its baton to autumn, and the hectic pace of school and juggling schedules will start all over again. It will be good to see some of you we've missed over the past months. We've had a terrific summer speaker series, a lively children's outdoor spiritual education program, and a big group of our youth who experienced the transformation that happens at Camp Caz.

I'm particularly grateful for the CCSM staff and leadership who so willingly and ably "held down the fort" while I was away on vacation. One of my summer highlights was hearing Rev. Dr. William Barber speak (google him) inspiring me as a faith leader to go deeper in both my faith and my leadership. Another highlight was a week of hiking in Banff National Park. Annlee and I were celebrating 25 years of partnership on this memorable trip. We both experienced such wonder and joy walking among the alpine wildflowers set against the majestic mountains.

Speaking of joy, our fall sermon series is based on *The Book of Joy* written by the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. I hope you will take time to read this book. It is full of wisdom and embodies

—cont. on page 6—



Congregational
Church of san mateo

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

HOW ARE WE NURTURING OUR NEXT GENERATIONS?

We are teaching a way of life: nurturing our young people to be rooted in spirituality, stand tall, and flourish.

The focus of spiritual nurture at CCSM:

INFANT/TODDLERS	experience love
PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN	build a sense of beloved community
1ST, 2ND, and 3RD GRADERS	develop a foundation on the biblical stories
4TH and 5TH GRADERS	explore their personal spirituality in the midst of diversity
6TH through 8TH GRADERS	wander and wonder as they “come of age”
9TH through 12TH GRADERS	reach out into the world
AFTER GRADUATION-20 20S and 30S	integrate their spirituality into their adulthood learn the importance of mutual values and support
FAMILIES	share their parenting journey as a spiritual path

THE PLAN: CHILDREN

INFANT/TODDLERS experience love with Lily Gonzalez, the stable “mom” who is assisted by a second adult in the second-floor room nearest the corner of Tilton and Elsworth.

PRE-K/KINDERGARTEN build a community of trust, playfulness and love with Cynthia Starborn, who creates age-appropriate, faith-based experiences for the children.

1ST, 2ND, and 3RD GRADERS develop a solid foundation of biblical stories as Shannon McEntee uses the Godly Play curriculum each week. After hearing each story, Shannon “wonders” with the children about what the story means to them.

4TH and 5TH GRADERS explore their personal spirituality in the midst of diversity with monthly walking field trips to various congregations and communities. Other weeks, Sandra Soto-Grondona helps them delve into sacred texts, deities, traditions, symbols and more as they develop and claim their personal sense of the sacred in their worlds.

PRE-K through 5TH GRADERS also meet monthly for worship, music (led by Julie Berk), movement, prayer and communion. Their outdoor summer programs to experience God in creation are designed by Elaine Kauffman.

THE PLAN: YOUTH

6TH through 8TH GRADERS wander and wonder as they “come of age” guided by Sarah Block, Rev. Bill Dunbar, Dave Olsen and Patrick Kane (and Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon on first Sundays when the youth stay in worship). In addition to weekly conversations on Sunday mornings, these youth also meet the first and third Sunday evenings for fellowship. In April, they celebrate their budding spiritual growth at a Coming of Age retreat for two days.



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CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

9TH through 12TH GRADERS reach out into the world through service, adventure, and delving deeper into their personal faith. Their activities include:

- ❑ Sixty Minutes during church on first Sundays,
- ❑ monthly activities (see the calendar)
- ❑ an annual three-day, two-night service/learning road trip in June
- ❑ their individual assistance with Children's Church during worship on second through fifth Sundays,
- ❑ confirmation classes
- ❑ a longer intergenerational service/learning trip for the incoming seniors

THE PLAN: YOUNG ADULTS

Students who have graduated from high school integrate their spirituality into their adulthood participating in the life of CCSM and gathering for fellowship quarterly with Joliene Wade.

"Twenties and Thirties" learn the importance of mutual values and support as they get together monthly. Also, led and encouraged by Joliene, these young adults become active members and leaders of our congregation.

Families share their parenting journey as a spiritual path, in several ways both formal and informal. Adult educational classes, special parent gatherings, and family activities enhance their ability to nurture the spiritual lives of their children and themselves.

Camp Caz

This summer CCSM had a whopping 26 people head up to Camp Cazadero, the UCC's camp on the Russian River in Sonoma County. I had the privilege of co-directing this summer's junior high camp - running the show for a week, entertaining and engaging 50 kids (13 from CCSM!) with the help of our 11-person staff.

While we had fun with the traditional talent/no-talent show, the night swim, and an end-of-week dance party, we managed to connect with a deeper sense of spirituality through hiking in the redwood forest, prayerfully walking a labyrinth, and guided meditation.

I've been going up to Camp Caz to lead camps since 2002, and I am each time blown away by how that space and the programs there allow the campers from our Northern California community to set aside their preconceptions, disconnect from the wider world, and meet each other where they are that week.



This week was no different. I was blessed with the chance to see fifty middle schoolers—from all over our Conference, from all sorts of different backgrounds and families and histories—come together to create a loving, diverse, and welcoming Christian community in a Sonoma County forest, and for that I will always be grateful.

—Patrick Kane

Joe Dunbar and Patrick Kane with the 13 CCSM mid-highers at Camp Caz. Definitely a high-energy field! A total of 22 kids and 3 adults from CCSM spent weeks at Caz.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Nurturing our Next Generations?

You parents are at the forefront, and we at CCSM want to support you in creating the best possible environment for your children's spiritual growth. To hear the plans CYF has for the coming school year and give us your ideas, please join us for brief gatherings of parents by your children and youth's grade. Each brief meeting will be in the **Fireplace Room from 7:00-8:30PM.**

- Aug. 29** High School parents (activities, classes, service/learning trip and confirmation)
- Sept. 5** Pre-K and kindergarten parents
- Sept. 12** 1st-3rd grade parents
- Sept. 19** 4th-5th grade parents
- Sept. 26** Mid-High parents (classes, youth group, and Coming of Age Retreat)
- Oct. 3** High School parents (activities, classes, service/learning trip and confirmation)



The high schoolers' Service/Learning Trip to Fresno included more challenging projects than they expected... such as moving a room full of donations from a second floor storage room at the Fresno Interdenominational Refuge Ministries—including a kitchen sink!



Young Readers Unite!

On September 17, CCSM will launch a monthly junior book club for fourth, fifth and sixth graders—including their friends and neighbors. On third Sundays, while the adults are attending Penny's Second Hour classes (noon to 1:00PM), the youth can make their lunch and talk books or just sit and read together. Please send Kibbie (kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org) a note if your child is interested so he or she can vote on our first book.

The Olive Tree

Camille returned from Junior Camp at Caz just in time for outdoor Children's Church on "finding God" in the trees day. She wrote a poem about the old, gnarled olive tree just outside the memorial garden.



Ole the olive tree by Charlotte Briant

The kids named the tree Ole and wondered if it was planted when the church was first built. Olives were important for food in the hot landscape where Jesus lived and became a symbol of resurrection because the trees can be cut almost to the ground and grow back again to bear fruit.

Within seconds, Camille wrote:
*The olive trees are strong;
They hold together all year long.
They may be very stout,
And can tolerate the drought.
They stand tall in the heat,
But they're still a tasty treat.*

WANT TO KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE?

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 7-9PM • BUCKHAM ROOM

A high priority at CCSM is keeping your children safe while their spirituality grows. As part of the Safe Congregation process, your children and youth may soon come home from church and tell you about a fire drill. Come learn more about children's safety here, at home and in the community. Kibbie will share from her 33 years of experience as a child abuse prevention specialist. All ages and neighbors welcome; childcare provided.

Building Toward the Future

The CE renovation project is coming along very well. Like every remodeling project, there are a multitude of decisions to be made and we are trying at every turn to make decisions that ensure the durability of the building while keeping down costs. Fortunately, the same contractor who did the sanctuary remodel is doing this one and we are great working partners.



The project is progressing well with hopes of our moving back into a sparkling second floor at the end of August. If you have any questions or wish to donate funds for this special effort, please contact Penny at pnixon@ccsm-ucc.org. Dozens of people have generously contributed to cover remodeling cost and furnishings, but the project is still short and really needs your help.

Saving Our Bay...

ONE CIGARETTE, ONE BOTTLE CAP, ONE FOOD WRAPPER AT A TIME!

In a single day last year, more than 900 volunteers collected five tons of litter and close to 400 pounds of recycling from our shoreline, lagoon, and San Mateo Creek. Come join us, and prepare to get dirty, have a good time, and help the environment—Saturday, September 16, 8:00AM-noon! (Be sure to wear old clothes and sturdy, closed toed-shoes.) If you really like an adventure, wear old water resistant boots and look for “unusual litter” in the “Tidelands Mud Crawl”! You just might win the “Catch of the Day” prize for the most “unusual” find.



Ann Lambertson helped clean up the Bay in 2015...but it's become a mess since then. Come help!

Enjoy live music, fire truck, free hamburgers and hotdogs, lots of give-aways and more. (You can just show up or pre-register at tinyurl.com/saveourbay.)

Hit the Back-to-School Sales!

Some struggling children in our local schools get to attend Homework Central's afterschool tutoring program—developed by Betsy Woodward years ago as a crucial support to schools, parents and students. Many of these parents don't have enough money to take advantage of the current specials on school supplies; food and rent may be a higher priority. So, both the children and Homework Central need school supplies. In the month of August, please donate any of these items during the Children's Message or deliver to the church office. Thank you!



Pencils, especially fun #2 pencils • Erasers for pencil ends or pink/colorful erasers • Glue sticks • Small scissors • Fun encouraging stickers: hearts, stars, smiling faces, “Great Job,” “Good work,” etc. • Small protractors • Wide-lined binder paper • Easy reader and chapter books like Amelia Bedelia, Dr. Seuss, Magic Tree House, Animorphs, sports series, Mystery A-Z and animal books (especially about dinosaurs, dolphins, sea creatures, desert and safari animals • Non-perishable snacks like goldfish, granola bars, Ritz crackers, etc.

Can You Knit?

Apparently knitting is good for your health—maybe even a spiritual practice. Girl Scout Maddy Yeh is hosting a knitting group for pros and newbies of all ages. She is a patient teacher for the clueless and creates a warmth atmosphere for those who would enjoy delightful company while working on knitting projects in process. Gatherings are tentatively set for first and third Tuesday evenings, 7-8:30pm in the Fireplace Room. Read CCSM Connections and bulletins for more official details.

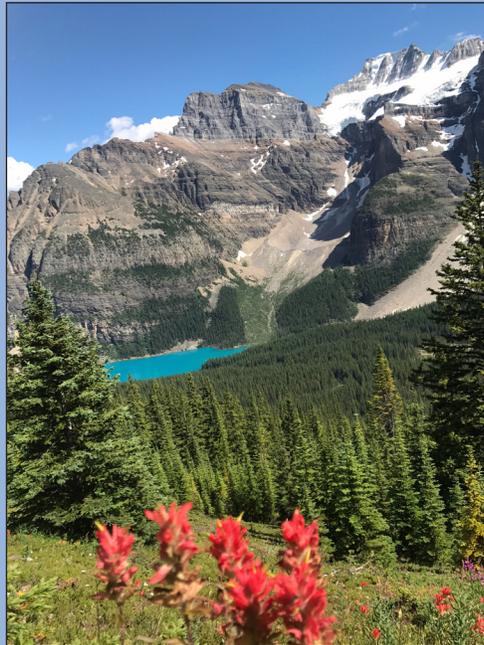


A Word from Penny

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the essence of these two spiritual giants as they celebrated their 80th birthdays together and talked about the power of joy. Their invitation to JOY is needed medicine in our time. I hope you'll join me in seeking more joy in our lives and embracing what that can mean for our spiritual lives and well-being.

Peace,
Penny



The idyllic scene in Banff where Penny and Annlee celebrated 25 years together.

Four decades of Service

KIBBIE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

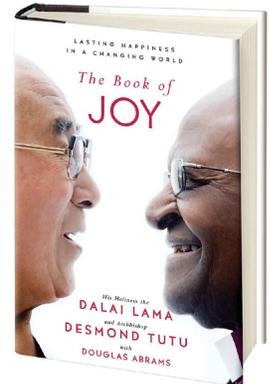
On Homecoming Sunday we'll take time to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Kibbie's ordination. Can you believe she has been ordained for forty years? While ordained in Atlanta, her "call" was to CCSM. Forty years of ministry and she has more energy than most of us!



Spiritual Discussion Group: The Book of Joy

7 WEEKS FROM MONDAY, SEPT. 11 - OCT. 23,
7:00 TO 8:30PM • CCSM LIBRARY

How can we find joy in a world filled with challenges and suffering? His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu answer this question in *The Book of Joy*. If you're interested in learning about their ideas, please join us in Spiritual Conversations, a discussion group that will meet for seven consecutive weeks beginning September 11.



The Archbishop and the Dalai Lama share their personal stories and identify the qualities of mind and heart that foster joy. They also explain obstacles to joy and suggest ways to overcome them. The book ends by recommending spiritual practices to support and enrich our daily lives.

Please contact the facilitators, Dorothy and Richard Kogl, if you want more information or the first reading assignment. kogl@att.net or 650 579-7272. Everyone's welcome.

Penny's bookshelf

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World, by The Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu with Douglas Abrams (see bookofjoy.org)

Option B: Facing Adversity, Building Resilience, and Finding Joy, by Sheryl Sandberg and Adam Grant

The Third Reconstruction: How A Moral Movement is Overcoming the Politics of Division and Fear, by Rev. Dr. William Barber II

White Like Me: Reflections on Race from a Privileged Son, by Tim Wise

One Nation Under God: How Corporate America Invented Christian America, by Kevin Kruse



Save the Date to Celebrate:

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1
AFTER CHURCH**

**PENNY'S
10-YEAR
ANNIVERSARY
PARTY!**



Help Wanted: help feed our neighbors!



Can you spare just 2 hours once a month to help feed hungry people in San Mateo? Samaritan House operates a program to provide dinner to hungry families. Every week, CCSM provides volunteers to help serve the guests. We currently have an opening for the **first Wednesday of each month, 4 - 6 pm at the Masonic Hall** across from the Betsy Woodward CE Building. You would be joining a team of other CCSM experienced volunteers.

If you can commit to this once monthly activity, please email Barb Karlin at bkarlin1@comcast.net. Thank you!

Special Guest Lecturer:

REV. DR. RANDI WALKER · SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 11:50AM

What was bothering people so much about the church that it led to the Reformation?

This fall marks the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. We are heirs of the reformation and its impact still reaches CCSM today. Come and hear some fascinating history from an expert!

Rev. Dr. Randi Walker, Professor of Church History and Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, is ordained in the United Church of Christ and served as a pastor before teaching at PSR. Dr. Walker's scholarship focuses on the histories of Christianity in the Pacific World, including narratives of why people are/were attracted to Christianity, how Christianity interacts with other religions and cultures, and what kind of spiritualities emerge in Christianity in Pacific contexts.



Leaving a Living Legacy to the Endowment Fund

CCSM's Endowment Fund is a steady source of income to the operating budget and a valuable asset. Lately, we have borrowed from the fund to assist in completing needed renovations to our church building and facilities and accumulated funds are steadily being paid back.

We would like to encourage our many loyal and generous members and friends to consider making an endowment gift for the stability of the church and for future generations. Please contact Pearly Masters, 650-343-3694, or pmasters@ccsm-ucc.org to receive a brochure, for further questions or a meeting. Thank you in advance.



**PICK A PARTY IS COMING!
Pick A Party Sunday will be October 29.
Mark your calendar!**

What do a Rabbi, Baptist Pastor, Unitarian Pastor, Catholic Nun, and UCC Pastor All Have in Common?

They all want to build a powerful, faith-based moral voice here in San Mateo County! Through the Peninsula Solidarity Network, over twenty faith leaders are coming together to form a Faith Leaders' Solidarity Cohort for San Mateo County.

This group of interfaith leaders will be meeting once monthly for eight months, beginning in October 2017. Each month they will explore a different social justice issue, such as police violence, hypercapitalism, beloved community, immigration rights, implicit bias and mass incarceration. Participants come from over ten different religious traditions and denominations. Together they will strategize how to become a transformative force for justice here on the Peninsula.



detail of "A Rabbi, A Nun, and an Imam Together on the Brooklyn Bridge" by Jonathan Blum



Rev. Amie Giordano Ordained

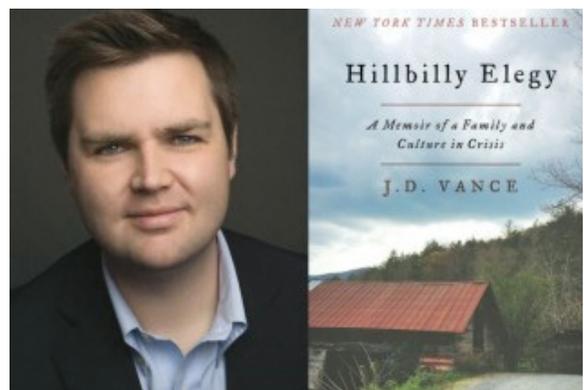
by Amie Giordano, Social Justice Emerging Leader at CCSM

July 15th was a very joyful day for me – I was ordained at Many Journeys Metropolitan Community Church here in San Mateo! Many thanks to all of you who attended my ordination service. I am especially grateful to Rev. Jorge, who spoke on behalf of CCSM during the service.

Rev. Amie Giordano gives the benediction at the end of her ordination service

LifeMoves Benefit Breakfast

Each year Life Moves, an organization serving homeless families and individuals, sponsors a benefit breakfast. This annual event increases awareness about homelessness and tells the story of how local resources are leveraged to end homelessness in our community. The Benefit raises critically needed funds to support LifeMoves' high-impact interim housing programs and services. CCSM has agreed to host a table at the 2017 breakfast on **October 5th**, giving us an opportunity not only to support the vital work of LifeMoves, but also to hear an excellent Keynote speaker, **J.D. Vance**, New York Times best-selling author of *Hillbilly Elogy*. Laura Peterhans is spearheading the efforts to put together the CCSM table for 10 at the breakfast.



Here is how it works: write a check of \$120 for a seat at the table for yourself or make a contribution of any amount towards sponsoring someone else in the congregation (checks payable to LifeMoves). Ten \$120 contributions get us to the \$1200 mark, the non-host cost per table. Being a host for a total of \$2500 per table results in CCSM's being named a sponsor and securing a location near the front! We need folks to help subsidize the additional amount needed for our table.

To get started or if you have questions, you may contact Laura by email at lkpeterhans@yahoo.com or by phone at 650-637-8783. S/he who hesitates will miss out on this chance to eat a scrumptious breakfast, hear an inspiring presentation, and be a champion in breaking the cycle of homelessness!

Nooks and Crannies!

Since joining the staff in May as Director of Operations, I have been exploring the wonderful treasures of the CCSM Campus buildings, from the Tower Room, where all of our historical archives are stored, to the basement furnace room! And do you know how many storage closets there are secreted away behind curtains and nestled behind doors?

As I have conversations with members of the various CCSM Ministries, take tours with our custodian Trini Romero, Jim Shaul (who scales scaffolding in a single bound to change lights), and Pearly Masters, our Administrator of Finance (who is a wealth of knowledge and support), to name a few, I am learning where things are, who needs what space, and how best to “play chess” with storage areas for maximum effectiveness and efficiency.



For example, with the help of our dedicated office volunteers, we have given facelifts to the production room and nursery by organizing the contents of supply drawers and labeling cabinets. Accumulated donations are being distributed weekly to the appropriate recipients. We are in the process of improving conditions in the “flower room” with a new sink and expanded counter space. Lightbulbs will be stored with lightbulbs, candles with candles, and Christmas decorations with Christmas decorations!

On the “electronic” side of CCSM’s materials, we are working towards updating documentation such as our Facilities Rental packages and creating written procedures for processes such as producing the weekly bulletin or posting information to the CCSM website.

It truly takes a village to care for and preserve our building and the legacy its current contents represent while looking forward in order to create room for new initiatives and the gifts they contribute to our heritage.



Please contact me (mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org) if you would like to get involved as a volunteer for a few hours each week to sort, label, inventory, schlep, deliver, answer phones, measure, make lists, or do any number of other essential tasks for the love of this building and its ministry, both within and outside of our walls . . . cabinets, attics, nooks, and crannies!

Marge, Director of Operations

Yes, there really IS a closet here!



Ministry Beyond Sunday

You can tell just by looking at the church calendar on our website (ccsm-ucc.org/calendar-agenda-view) the quantity and variety of activities CCSM and Iglesia San Mateo offer in both our main building and the Betsy Woodward Christian Education Building throughout the week. But did you know that we are host to many groups from the surrounding community as well?

To name a few:

One San Mateo, chaired by John Fyfe, is a recently formed organization focusing on San Mateo’s housing affordability challenges and the displacements happening as a result of the high housing costs. Members of the organization meet at CCSM every other Sunday evening. During the next few months, One San Mateo will host two events, one to invite the community to learn more about the mission of the group and one to serve as a forum for five City Council candidates to respond to questions related to their priorities for the city and their thoughts on how to deal with the housing crisis.

Mid-Peninsula Village is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping seniors stay in their homes and be connected with their community. The group, of which Deb Flaherty is a part, will be sponsoring an event to foster an intergenerational connection between seniors and a volunteer mother/daughter group.

Faith in Action is a faith based community organizing group which mobilizes faith communities for civic engagement and policy change at the state level. Immigration rights, health care, homelessness, hous-

ing. (See Valerie Duecker’s article on Faith in Action’s upcoming Accompaniment Training for more information.)

Peninsula Solidarity Network (PSN) is an interfaith network of faith leaders in San Mateo County, started by Rev. Penny Nixon two years ago. Members of the network are the leaders of their specific spiritual communities. The focus of the network changes based on the current needs for social and political action, such as immigration and housing. A steering committee meets as needed, and the network sponsors special events to explore the intersection of social activism and faith leadership. (See Amie Giordano’s article on PSN for more information.)

Several support groups have found safe haven here at CCSM for their weekly meetings and three to four times per year we host Home and Hope’s rotating shelter for homeless families.

CCSM’s vision of being a spiritual hub in the community is coming to pass.

We are definitely more than “an hour on Sunday!”

Open Cathedral

On July 23 the 20/30's group gathered in the Kloss Hall kitchen at 9:15am and enthusiastically slathered peanut butter and jam to build sandwiches to go into the one hundred bag lunches destined for Open Cathedral. Every fourth Sunday (sometimes falling on Easter or Christmas) for over eight years CCSM volunteers have gathered to assemble a hundred lunches. The supplies are always ready, thanks to our reliable shopper Jan Leonard. And the delivery team (Valerie McEntee or daughter Shannon) always there to assist, guide and transport the lunches to the 2pm open air service at UN Plaza.



The 20/30's group after enthusiastically making and bagging 100 PBJ sandwiches

But what is Open Cathedral?

Open Cathedral grew out of San Francisco Night Ministry, founded over 50 years ago to provide hope and compassion in the middle of the night to those in a dark place. (More on Night Ministry next issue of Pinetree).

The unmet spiritual needs of those lonely and in despair in the dark of night did not disappear with the daylight. With the awareness that Jesus often preached to people gathered outdoors, a weekly communion service called Common Cathedral started in Boston for this population. This inspired Night Minister Lyle Beckman to start Open Cathedral in San Francisco on Easter Sunday in 2008. It has met weekly ever since, rain or shine.

Open Cathedral is not a temporarily unhoused congregation in need of a permanent home. It is right where it wants to be, for a congregation of people who, for any number of reasons, prefer to worship outdoors and have chosen Open Cathedral as their regular congregation. The liturgy, with readings, prayers, hymns, passing the peace, Eucharist, participatory sermons, and love would be familiar and comfortable to anyone raised in a Christian tradition and/or wanting a progressive community.

Open Cathedral celebrates life-cycle sacraments, baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Members serve as ushers. Coffee hour after service is transformed into members passing out the bag lunches you help provide.

Many thanks to everyone at CCSM for supporting Open Cathedral, and to the many teams that

Wise and Wonderful

10:30-NOON IN THE FIREPLACE ROOM

Coffee, Community and Conversation

August 9: Film (from Iceland). *Inn-Saei: The Power of Intuition*. Where does intuition come from and how do we use it? InnSaei can mean “the sea within,” “to see within,” and “to see from the inside out.” In English. Runtime: 78 minutes.



August 23: Part I of III: *Bible Study on Forgiveness: Genesis 45:1-15*. How does Joseph deny or deal with his brothers?

September 13: Film. *On Paper Wings*. During WWII, the Japanese military developed a weapon intended to strike directly at the American continent: the balloon bomb. High school girls across Japan were conscripted into factories where they worked long days making paper to be assembled into giant balloons. In 1985 they worked to make peace. Runtime 68 minutes. In English.

September 27: Part II of III *Bible Study on Forgiveness: Matthew 5:7*. What about mercy?

October 11: Film. *This Emotional Life* from PBS. Looking at our emotions and how they change our lives.

October 25: Part III of III *Bible Study on Forgiveness: 2 Corinthians 5:18-20*. How do we reconcile?

November 8: Film. *I Am* from the director of “Liar Liar” and “Bruce Almighty.” The filmmaker talks with poets, teachers, and scientists, sharing his own awakening from his prior life of excess and greed, and investigating how he as an individual, and we as a race, could improve the way we live and walk in the world.

November 22: No Meeting—Thanksgiving

December 13: Christmas Tea and white elephant exchange (Time TBA)

December 27: No Meeting—Christmas

make bag lunches (and gift bags at Christmas): WiWos, the BOBS, SIS, Youth Group, Girl Scout Troop 60686, Church School, Book Club Baggers, Tangerine Team, CCSM Wheelers, Men's Team, PBJ Team, MSJ.

If you would like to participate in bagging lunches or have ideas/contributions for Christmas gift bags, please contact Nancy Dieguez, 650-773-3232 or nancy.dieguez@live.com

Accompaniment Training

FAITH IN ACTION

THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 6:30 TO 8:30 PM, KLOSS HALL

Do you want to feel powerful? Make an immediate difference in people's lives? Work with people in an intergenerational, cross-class, multiracial and multilingual team? Follow Jesus' example to walk with the most vulnerable, marginalized people in our society?

On a recent Friday morning I joined Faith in Action (FIA) at a bond hearing for Veronica, a 29-year-old mother of three held in ICE detention. Over sixty volunteers crammed into the small immigration courtroom along with her Pangea pro bono lawyer. As FIA reported: "The judge made a landmark call to release Veronica on her own recognizance based on her clear support from the community."



The CCSM Sanctuary Team invites you to join the Accompaniment movement in partnership with Faith in Action. On August 17th, Faith in Action will train us to accompany our neighbors. FIA has set up a San Mateo County-wide Migra hotline for undocumented immigrants at risk and brought us Rapid Response Training. Now FIA invites everyone to come learn how to show up for specific accompaniment events, such as court hearings, INS check-ins, or visits to detention centers.

According to FIA: "The mission of accompaniment is to build an intergenerational, cross-class, multiracial and multilingual team that walks prayerfully and compassionately with those who are facing deportation, living homeless in our rich city, or resisting exploitation by unfair bosses or landlords."

—Valerie Duecker, Sanctuary Team, dueckerv@me.com

2017 San Francisco & Peninsula's Annual Crop Hunger Walk



We have been invited by the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto (FCCPA) to consider forming a team to participate in this year's event. Last year over \$20,000 was raised for the Church World Service efforts. Visit cwsglobal.org and click "Stories of Change" to view the impact made. A team leader's rally is being held on Sunday, August 20th. The Crop Hunger Walk is Sunday, October 8th at 1:00 at Nealon Park in Menlo Park. Please contact FCCPA directly at 650.856.6662 for additional information.

Music & Art

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 • NOON • BUCKHAM ROOM.

Music and Art Guild will reconvene after our summer break. If you're interested in music, art and sometimes literature or theatre, this is the smaller, affinity group for you. It's a good way to become better acquainted with those who share the same interests.

Our first program, "Four California Artists" will be presented by Laura Peterhans. These most interesting paintings, all from her personal collection, will be on display and discussed at the meeting. Also, there will be time to share highlights from your summer.

Bring your own sandwich/salad; beverages and dessert are provided. Reserve your space at the table by calling Susan Duty, 650-533-6828, or email susanjd52@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you then.

Rides for older adults

Do you need a ride to the store, to an appointment, or anywhere at all? Here are two ride services that are available.

Go Go Grandparent • 855-464-6872.
Hours: 24 hour / 7 Days a week service. Cost: Depends on the distance. Ask in advance.

Get up & Go • 650 378-2750.
Peninsula Jewish Community Center in Foster City. Hours: 9:30-3:30; M,T, F, some Thursdays. Cost: Free

Iglesia San Mateo News

Dear sisters and brothers,

Our Wednesday night Latin@ spiritual gatherings continue to be well attended. We average easily between 15-23 people every week, with about half that number being children. What's exciting to me most right now is the various ways members are taking initiative to help out with the gatherings. For example, since sharing a meal is part of our spiritual gathering, every Wednesday we are having to wash dishes in the kitchen. For a while we were using the paper towels to dry the dishes, until one day one of the women showed up with brand new drying towels. Since then, after each gathering a different person takes the drying towels home to wash them and bring them back the following week. We had also been using paper towels to keep the tortillas warm—or I should say trying to keep them warm—until someone just showed up one Wednesday evening, with a huge smile on her face, sharing with us that she had bought two tortilla warmers for the gatherings. Most important, people are volunteering to prepare the meals for the gatherings.



Since the start of the gatherings in January, I have been the one making and buying the food on Wednesdays, and still do most of the time, though that is beginning to change. What moves me that most is that no matter how many times I offer reimbursement for food, knowing they struggle to make rent, no one ever takes me up on my offer. The response I get is that this is their way to bless the church, and that brings them joy. Can't argue with them about that!

Lastly, the number one reason why most of them show up to the gatherings is because this is the one day in their week they feel most at peace from their hard working, laborious lives. I am grateful for the opportunity to be in community with our neighbors from North Central San Mateo, and to be the bridge between CCSM and Iglesia San Mateo. May we continue and pray to be open to a new culture and the spirituality they bring to CCSM.

Iglesia San Mateo members are getting excited about planning for the Dia De Los Muertos event on October 28th. We look forward to seeing you there for that event. Thanks for all of your support and encouragement as we grow together in new ways.

God bless!

Jorge



Fall Meditation Group Resumes in September

After a summer break, the meditation group will meet again in September. We meet in the second floor church Library (next to the choir room) on the 1st and 2nd Sunday from 12:10 to 1:00 pm. If walking up the stairs would prohibit you from joining the group, contact me for an individual meeting.



We do a 20-minute meditation and either view a DVD on the subject of meditation by "The Great Courses" series, or discuss some aspect of meditation practice. Prior meditation experience not required. A "beginner's mind" applies to all levels of meditation.

Bob Jarmusz • Cell: (650) 787-8324 • Email: bobjarmusz@gmail.com

Music at CCSM



by Lynnelle Bilsey, Director of Music

SUMMER MUSICAL SUNDAYS

CALLING ALL SINGERS – please join us for our summer musical Sundays!

Rehearsals for each will be held the **Wednesday evening prior from 7:15 – 8:45 pm in the Sanctuary**. All ages are welcome.

- 8/9 Annie Get Your Gun. Music by Irving Berlin
- 8/16 Mary Poppins. Music by the Sherman Brothers
- 8/23 Yentl. Music by Barbra Streisand

CCSM'S HANDBELLS & CARILLON RINGERS

Come explore the art of “Ringing Handbells” and what makes this instrument so special. If you’ve ever wanted to try to ring a bell, check out a mallet or just learn about this beautiful instrument that truly “takes a community to make music” I invite you to join us on Thursday, August 10 from 7 – 8 pm.

After 40+ years of service, our handbells will be traveling back to their manufacturer for refurbishment, so we will have the special task of packing them up for travel following the rehearsal. We welcome curious learners and enthusiastic listeners to join the bells this evening and help us send them off together.

FALL MUSIC PROGRAMS

The music staff are busy putting together some great opportunities and wonderful music for our Fall schedule. Please mark your calendars for some key dates:

CHANCEL CHOIR RESUMES

Wednesday, Sept. 6, 7:15–8:45 pm, Choir Room

CARILLON RINGERS RESUMES

Thursday, Sept. 7, 7:30–9 pm, Choir Room

9TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH CONCERT OCTOBER 8

CCSM Chancel Choir will be participating in this benefit concert for Home and Hope again this year. More info to come, but please save the date and plan to come enjoy this wonderful concert of voices lifted in song to benefit those in need in our community.

JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR AND CHAMBER

SINGERS will be starting up in September as well.

Dates & times of rehearsals will be announced; please watch your bulletin.

If you are interested in more information in one or all of these, please see me (Lynnelle) in person after church, or email me at lbilsey@lifemoves.org.

The Music School

SING, MOVE, PLAY, & MORE...

THE MUSIC SCHOOL AT CCSM RESUMES CLASSES FOR FALL ON SEPTEMBER 18TH!

The Music School of San Mateo (based here at CCSM and founded by our own Cari Parker and Mary Ann Notz) is a joyous integration of music and movement for children from 16 months through third grade. Since 1983, children throughout the Peninsula have participated in our unique educational program.

We believe that children learn best by active play, clapping, singing and chanting, drumming a beat, moving and dancing, finding a melody on a xylophone, and by playing rhythmic, singing, and music theory games. And it’s so much fun!

We would love to invite your children to participate in the JOY of making music! For more information, you can contact Julie Berk directly at teacherjulie@pacbell.net or 650 400.9808, and please visit our website at www.musicschoolsanmateo.com.



Former (Jeanne Back) and newly elected (Tony Gallo) Moderators passed the baton at the June Annual Meeting

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 BIRTHDAYS

Jo Buckingham turns 94 on August 8, **Betty Drisko** turns 94 on August 11, and **Priscilla Storms** turns 90 on the 30th. Our warmest birthday wishes to all three!

PRAYERS OF JOY AND GRATITUDE

Prayers of gratitude for **Dave Karlin's** amazing results from his treatments for cancer. Keep the prayers and positive energy coming. Dave and Barb are so grateful for our prayers.

Prayers of thanksgiving for a wonderful experience for each of the **21 children and youth** enjoying UCC Camp Cazadero this month.

Prayers of gratitude that **Rev. Dakota Brown** has recovered from her surgery and is back from medical leave. We are glad to have her back.

Prayers of joy and congratulations two of our CCSM young adults, **Tutkun Sen** and **Jenny Poliwka** who were recently engaged! May they continue to grow in love and happiness as they look forward to marriage.

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND REMEMBERING

Jessie Kane, sister-in-law to **Mel Thrash**, passed away peacefully August 1st. Jessie was loved and will be deeply missed.

Wally Smilanic, father of **John Smilanic**, **George Snode's** husband, passed away peacefully on July 17. Family celebrated Wally's 95th birthday earlier in July.

Please pray for the family of

Tim Ho, a dear friend, a building neighbor, and a fellow traveler of **Tracy Fallon**. Tim died suddenly of a heart attack at age 56. So many are devastated by the loss.

Prayer of comfort for **Priscilla Storms** whose brother-in-law **Jim** passed away July 3rd after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. .

Don Ruthroff asks for prayers of comfort and peace for his close friend **Kenneth Alford** whose mother **Dawn** passed away.

Prayers of comfort and strength for **Pam McCarthy-Hudson**, whose father **Eugene J. McCarthy**, age 86, of Stratford, CT, beloved husband of Gail (Cook) McCarthy, passed away on June 30. Gene had a regularly scheduled program on CRIS Radio for the blind, organized the CROP walk for the town of Stratford, and served on multiple boards at the First Congregational Church of Stratford. Gene loved music and sang in the church choir.

Please pray for the friends and family of **Dylan Baldridge**, a kind-hearted US Army soldier who always wore a bright smile. He was killed in Afghanistan. **Sarah Graves** met him while at university. We pray for all who knew him.

Pray for the friends and family of **Andrew Pink**, who died suddenly on August 6 at age 53. Andrew's mother **Mavis** passed away about a month ago and was a lifelong friend of **Judy Hemmer**.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH AND HEALING

Prayers for **Eric Nelson**, friend of **Bob Jarmusz**, who is going have

radiation treatments for a tumor. Prayers for a successful treatment.

Prayers of healing for **Bob Reinke** who injured his lower back on June 26th and continues to heal.

Prayers of continued healing for **Cecelia Perkins**, recovering at home from foot surgery.

Carolyn Shaw fell and broke her pelvis and some bones in her shoulder. She also hit her head. Please pray for Carolyn's healing.

Danny Chandler, brother of **Dave Chandler**, is in ICU at Tulsa Hospital. He is stable now and improving.

Continued and loving prayers for **Clare Naegle** who fell and fractured her hip. She is recovering in a Pacifica rehab facility.

Prayers for **Kathryn Anne**, sister of **Carolyn Shaw**, who injured her leg. She lives alone in a remote area and has diabetes and a serious infection. We pray for her healing and that she will feel loved by her family and all who care for her.

Prayers of love and strength for **Dale**, friend of **Genel Morgan**, who is caregiver for her husband **John** whose health continues to deteriorate.

Please pray for **Sandee Schlickman's** daughter **Emily** as she is suffering health complications in her first pregnancy. Prayer for this baby to grow and arrive healthy.

Prayers of continued healing for **Ramona Prince-Beukema** who had right knee replacement surgery on July 5th.

Prayers for **Lynn Nieberding's** son-in-law who is suffering from an undiagnosed illness and has been

JOYS AND CONCERNS, CONT.

unable to work. Prayers for Lynn's daughter, **Amber**, who grew up in CCSM, and is carrying the load.

Prayers of peace and comfort for **Judi Powell's** mother, **Maxine Bell**. Maxine entered hospice in Phoenix. Prayers also for Judi and her siblings as they care for her.

Prayers of healing for **Ivonne Vasquez's** mother **Ruby** who went to the hospital with sepsis.

Prayers for **Olga-Barbra Dehlinger**, who was in the hospital with breathing issues. Calls and visits welcome.

Linda Hodges spent four days in the hospital for a serious infection after surgery but has been back in church. Please continue to pray for her recovery.

Pray for **Danny**, nephew of **Michelle Moffitt**, who was beaten badly by two men. He also lost ev-

erything 7 months ago in a house fire. He had surgery to rebuild his face. We pray for his healing and that he will keep his job after long recovery time.

Prayers of healing and comfort for **Don Ruthroff**, who had a cardiac ablation on June 21st, and his husband **Jonathan**.

Stan Higgs and Judy Hemmer thank you for all the meals and well wishes and love.

Prayers for **DonDon**, friend of Stan and Judy, as they try to bring him to San Mateo. Stan's knee is healed.

Prayers for **Ron Gibson**, friend of **Angela Kraft Cross**, battling advanced cancer. We send prayers of comfort and healing.

Continued prayers of healing for **Mark Mitchell**, long-time member and usher, completing radiation

after surgery for brain cancer in April. Please keep Mark and his wife **Tracy** in your prayers as they continue to navigate this challenging time.

CONTINUED PRAYERS

Please continue to pray for **Julie Lenden's** cousin, **Pico Soriano's** friend **Alexandria Christakos**, **Dawn Graves' mother Donna Stanger**, **Bill Daniels**, **David Long**, **Sandee Schlickman's** friend **Mike**, **Travis Woodmansee**, **Jim Groundwater**, **Judy Hemmer's** friend **Mark**, **Jon Karesh's** friend **Stuart**, **Anne McEntee**, **Ruth Black**, **Marjorie Griffin**, **Cathy Latta**, **Martha Grannis**, **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.

Update from Dakota

Dear CCSM,

I have returned from medical leave. I am happy to be back with all of you and I look forward to the many activities God has in store for us this coming year. Thank you, church community, for your thoughtful cards, phone calls, and prayers while I was away, I know it made all the difference in my healing process. You are an amazing, generous, and caring church family. I am, as always, humbled to be of service to CCSM.

Please call on me anytime if you are in need of a warm smile or a prayer. I am always happy to hear from you.

Rev. Dakota Brown
CCSM Minister of Congregational Care

First Tuesday Book Group

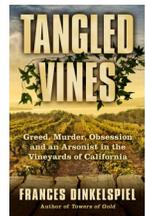
Please join us, even if you haven't read the book. We meet in the Fireplace Room at 7:30 pm and always have a lively discussion.

Sept. 5: *Tangled Vines: Greed, Murder, Obsession, and an Arsonist in the Vineyards of California* by Frances Dinkelspiel (non-fiction)

Oct. 3: *Red Sparrow* by Jason Matthews (fiction)

Our last meeting will be **November 7**—title TBD—be thinking about a good book to suggest to end the reading year.

Need more information? email s_stoehr@hotmail.com. All are welcome!



WHAT'S IN THOSE ENVELOPES?

On June 18, three high school graduates and two college graduates were honored for their involvement in the church and service to the community. Each received a substantial scholarship to continue their education. Congratulations, Kayla, Cammy, Jeremy, Sara, and Alyssa! And thank you, Tom Banks and Sue Bullis, for your generous donations for the students.



IN THIS ISSUE

Sunday Celebrations	1
A Word from Penny	1
How Are We Nurturing Generations	2
Camp Caz	3
Nurturing our Next Generations?	4
Young Readers Unite!	4
The Olive Tree	4
Want to Keep Your Children Safe?	4
Building toward the Future	5
Saving Our Bay	5
Hit the Back to School Sales!	5
Can You Knit?	5
Spiritual Discussion Group	6
Four Decades of Service	6
Penny's Bookshelf	6
Help Feed our Neighbors	7
Guest Lecturer Rev. Dr. Randi Walker	7
Leaving a Living Legacy	7
Pick A Party Sunday, October 29	7
Peninsula Solidarity Network	8
Rev. Amie Giordano Ordained	8
LifeMoves Benefit Breakfast	8
Nooks and Crannies from Marge	9
Open Cathedral	10
Wise & Wonderful	10
Accompaniment Training	11
Crop Hunger Walk	11
Music & Art	11
Rides for Older Adults	11
Iglesia San Mateo News	12
Fall Meditation Group Resumes	12
Music This Summer at CCSM	13
Music School	13
Joys & Concerns	14
Update from Dakota	15
First Tuesday Book Group	15
Scholarships	15
Second Hour Sundays	16



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**WE CAN TRANSFORM
JOY FROM AN
EPHEMERAL STATE
INTO AN ENDURING
TRAIT, FROM A
FLEETING FEELING
INTO A LASTING WAY
OF BEING.**

**—FROM THE BOOK OF JOY
BY HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA AND
ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU
(see “a Word from Penny” on p. 1)**

CCSM PINE TREE

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

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Second Hour Sundays

SEPTEMBER 17

Penny will lecture on the book *White Like Me* by Tim Wise and facilitate meaningful discussion on the important topic of white privilege. What does the overused term white privilege mean? What does whiteness



really mean? Is it really such a big deal? Why can't we all get along? Reading the book is encouraged but not necessary for attendance. Are you willing to grapple with the question: What does it mean to be white in a nation that was created for the benefit of people who are white?

**SAVE THE DATES: OCTOBER 8, 15, 22 AND
NOVEMBER 12, 19**

In our **Second Hour Educational Series** this fall, Penny will be teaching on how America shaped Christianity and how Christianity shaped America. We'll look at the interplay of religion, race, politics and economics. You may be surprised at what we find!

Promising to be an eye-opening series, we hope you'll grab some refreshments in Kloss Hall and stay for the 2nd hour of lecture and discussion. More details in the next Pine Tree.