



SUNDAYS IN ADVENT, 10:30AM

December 3 • ADVENT 1: #morehope Reflection: Jorge Perry Bautista Special Music: Carillon Ringers

December 10 • ADVENT 2: #morepeace Reflection: Dakota Brown Special music: Chancel Choir

December 17 • ADVENT 3: #morejoy Reflection: Penny Nixon Children's Christmas Pageant / Children's Choir

December 24 • ADVENT 4: #morelove Reflection: Kibbie Ruth Special Music: Chancel Choir

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES at 5pm and 11pm 5pm Family Service: Carillon Ringers, Ensembles and special guests 11pm Candlelight Service (joined by St. James): Chancel Choir and special guests

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

FINAL WEEKS OF FALL SERIES: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World.

- NOV 19 Passion.com. Penny Nixon. Baptism of John Douglas Bailey.
- NOV 26 Thanksgiving Sunday. The Practice of Joy. Penny Nixon and Jorge Bautista. Come enjoy Traditional Thanksgiving songs and a nontraditional message!

THANKSGIVING SERVICE THIS YEAR! 825 MONTE DIABLO AVE., SAN MATEO On Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, November 23rd, at 10:00 AM, join St. James AME Zion Church, Trinity Baptist Church and CCSM worshipping the One that makes thanks possible. We hope to see you there!

A Word from Penny

I continue to be inspired by the insight and wisdom from the *Book of Joy*. We are nearing the end of the fall series but I hope this is just the beginning



of opening to more joy in each of our lives and in our community as a whole. So many of you have remarked to me that the awareness of your capacity for joy has opened a new way to look at daily life. I hope we will continue to make the pillars of joy—perspective, humility, forgiveness, humor, gratitude, acceptance, generosity, compas-

-cont. on page 4-



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

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Advent for all!

This year, each Sunday will focus on these four essential elements of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. On our first Sunday, HOPE, **December 3**, all ages are welcome to make Advent wreaths after church.

Our second Sunday, **December 10**, PEACE, we'll anticipate what's next as we focus on the coming of Peace.

Don't miss the third Sunday, JOY, **December 17,** when we'll have our children's Christmas pageant. During worship, hear the traditional story in a very non-traditional way—with flocks of angels, lots of Joyful Noise, wandering sheep, dazed shepherds, and lost Wise Ones. If you



would like to help out or cast your child in a part, send a note to kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org.

And our fourth Sunday, LOVE, **December 24**, is also Christmas Eve! Come to the morning service, 5:00PM Family service or "midnight service" at 11PM—or come to all three unique experiences.



Better Than Starbucks

Worn out by driving to and from church for your youth to participate in CCSM activities? Instead of making double trips, relax at church and enjoy the speedy internet throughout the campus. We don't serve special coffee like Starbucks, but hopefully the church can feel like your second home. Email kibbie@ccsm-ucc. org or text 650-580-1797 for the login code. And use those same contacts if you need childcare for a CCSM event.

CCSM Catacombs...

And other secrets will be revealed to **FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS** on **Saturday**, **Nov. 18**, **6:30-8:00PM**. This night of adventure will include a journey through the Bible so the children will know alpha from omega when they receive their personal Bibles the next day.



a youth-illustrated Bible



Confirmation Class on Retreat

Youth Christen Their New Room

Though the young people already have enjoyed their new Youth Room, true ownership requires a night of popcorn, movies, and crazy games. So the **HIGH SCHOOLERS** will camp out there on **Saturday night**, **Nov. 18**, and be already at church for worship on Sunday bleary-eyed but happy. Email Patrick (pkane@ccsm-ucc.org) to reserve your spot.





Blessing the New Will Bullis Community Room

NOVEMBER 26 AFTER CHURCH

Please come see the special Youth Room and newly remodeled Community Room. Penny will dedicate the Community Room and kitchen to honor Sue Bullis' son William Bullis, who would have loved cooking up a storm and hosting events there.

Nothing Is More Joy-Ful than Children

On a Sunday, skip just 45 minutes of worship and enjoy the children in the CE Building. The little ones are experiencing love, the lower elementary children are learning Bible stories, and the upper elementary are exploring what is sacred. You'd be a witness to their adventures and assist the teacher if she asks. Email kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org for this opportunity to meet our precious children in a smaller setting.





Adopt-A-Family

Right after the Thanksgiving service on **November 26**, stop on the loggia to select an "ornament" off the Christmas tree. On each ornament is a name of a gift for someone without permanent housing whose holiday you could brighten. When you purchase the item named on the ornament, bring it to church unwrapped. Then Ann Fuller and her elves will sort the gifts by family and deliver the packages to LifeMoves. (No gift request exceeds \$30 in value.)

Volunteer Alongside Those of Other Faiths

Recently Martin Luther King Jr. Day has become a National Day of Service. In our county, congregations from many faith traditions work side by side on projects from Redwood City to San Bruno. Have breakfast with Muslims, Hindus, Jews, Buddhists and Christians before setting off to garden, feed homeless, make soup mixes and more. Ages 4-100 are invited. Mark your calendar for January 15 and watch for more details in December.

"Cleanliness is Next to Godliness"

Or so they say. Many homeless vets and others simply don't have the necessary supplies to stay clean. So, in November please bring in toiletries,



soap, new hair brushes, shaving supplies...whatever our teens might pack in bags for distribution to those less fortunate than ourselves. (Hotel, dental and other sample sizes are also appreciated.) Thank you!



Caroline praying at the Children's Church altar for Gus (her sick dog)



A WORD FROM PENNY—cont. from p. 1

sion—the foundation of our spiritual lives.

It seems hard to believe, but Advent is just around the corner. Our Advent theme is ANGELS AMONG US: Do Not Be Afraid.

The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of tweets and hashtags. Their messages are often short and to the point, their favorite line being #DoNotBeAfraid.

In fact, between Jesus and the angels, "do not be afraid" is one of the phrases used the most in our Christian scriptures. I can't think of a better mantra for these days—from Las Vegas, to New York, to Sutherland Springs, to North Korea, to the ICE raids in our own community—we need to overcome fear with loving action.

As we look at the Advent stories of these winged messengers to Zachariah, Mary, Joseph and the shepherds and their reactions to them, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring #morehope, #morepeace, #morejoy, and #morelove to the world.

Guiding Principles Sequence Vote Results Are In

In September, 146 parishioners voted at Homecoming or via Survey Monkey on their preference on how to order the Guiding Principles. "We Are A Spiritual Community" received more votes than "We are Christian," but only by a narrow margin. We want to honor the preference of nearly half the voters by rotating the order in the Worship Bulletin periodically. The Web site and other public facing documents will reflect the winning vote, with "We are a Spiritual Community" listed first.

Many members shared that the Guiding Principles beautifully reflect the vision and mission of CCSM, and that they look at them holistically rather than as a list in order of importance. We greatly appreciate the par-

ticipation of the WSL Committee, the Guiding Principles task force and the parishioners in this meaningful exercise.



Pick-A-Party A Success – Again

by Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh and Carol Henton

Our annual Pick-A-Party fundraiser was a considerable success again this year. As of early November, we took in over \$16,500. (Some IOUs are outstanding.)

In its 19th year, this fundraiser remains popular due to the diversity of parties offered as well as how Pick-A-Party permits CCSM'ers to get better acquainted with numerous people from the church.

Special thanks to all of you who offered to host a party. It is your generosity and enthusiasm that makes Pick-A-Party a success year after year. We also want to thank those who helped on October 29th during Pick-A-Party Sunday.

There are openings at several upcoming parties. To see a list of open parties, visit <u>ccsm-ucc.org/pick-a-party2017/</u> and click "2017 Open Parties."



Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh gets the Partying started, against a backdrop of the Dia de los Muertos altar (photo: Chris Yeh)

Money CAN Buy Happine<mark>ss!</mark>



2018 Stewardship Campaign

Thanks to everyone who has already submitted their pledges. We have **83** pledges as we go to press, representing **\$229,759**—about **28.7**% of what we need to make our budget and continue our programming.

Stewardship of resources, heart, spirit

Stewardship of Resources . . .

A financial **pledge** is an annual commitment from each one of us that enables CCSM's leadership to set a budget for the upcoming fiscal year and allows us to align our giving with our values.

Stewardship of the Heart . . .

As the hands, feet, and face of God, we are called to share not only our material resources, but also our giftedness and talents.

Stewardship of the Spirit . . .

Without prayer support and commitment to our guiding principles, we cannot effectively be the voice for progressive Christianity, social justice, and community outreach we intend to be.

In gratitude, we encourage you to demonstrate your stewardship as follows:

Resources:

- Log in at myCCSM, click on button at the lower left "Pledge Now," and follow instructions.
- Send an email to Pearly Masters at pmasters@ ccsm-ucc.org or call her at 650-343-3694.
- Complete a pledge card and place in the offering tray on Sunday.

Heart:

Send an email to Marge Boyd at mboyd@ccsmucc.org or call her at 650-343-3694.

Spirit:

• Continue to hold CCSM, its programs, its principles, its actions in your prayers.

2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Money CAN buy happiness! That is what the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu assert in their Book of Joy: Money CAN buy happiness when you spend it on others, when you give it away!

A few weeks ago you should have received a note in the mail from Penny and an email from the church telling you about this year's stewardship campaign and asking you to make a pledge to indicate what you plan to give to the church in 2018. If you have not already done so, please turn in your pledge card by following the instructions under the heading "Resources" in the column at the left. If you have questions about pledging or your individual pledge, you can also call Pearly at 650-343-3694.

Thanks to all who have already submitted a pledge as it provides the basis for completing the church budget for next year.

DONATING STOCK TO CCSM

Donating appreciated stock to CCSM in payment of your pledge or for some other purpose is a way to save paying capital gains taxes. CCSM now has a new brokerage account with low trading fees to accept such donations. Prior to making a stock donation, please contact Pearly in the church office to let her know of your plans and to get the new transfer instructions to give to your broker.

DONATIONS DIRECTLY FROM AN IRA ACCOUNT

If you are over 70½ and taking the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an IRA account, you may be able to make a charitable contribution up to \$100,000 directly to CCSM, save income taxes, and have the contribution count toward your RMD. The payment must be sent directly from the trustee of the IRA to the church. The donation will count toward your Required Minimum Distribution but the withdrawal will not be considered income for tax purposes. While it is tax-free, the distribution cannot be deducted as a charitable contribution. This is not tax or legal advice. You should consult your own financial, tax, or legal advisor before making such a contribution.

Thirty Faith Leaders Come Together for Justice



If you walk by the Buckham Room on the second Thursday of the month, you will see over thirty San Mateo County faith leaders who are gathering to address the most pressing social justice issues of our time. The Faith Leaders' Solidarity Cohort, also called the FIT (Formation, Intersection, and Transformation) Program, is being organized by Penny and Amie through the Peninsula Solidarity Network. Participants will meet monthly from October/2017



through May/2018, and each month we focus on a different social justice topic.

In October, we explored Immigration Rights, and in November, our topic was Implicit Bias. This program aims to empower faith leaders with both the analytical knowledge and practical tools to engage their faith communities in advocacy for equity and justice. The Solidarity Cohort represents yet another way that transformation is happening, both within and outside the walls of CCSM.

Music and Art

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, NOON-2PM · **BUCKHAM ROOM**

Our special focus this month is on art, presented by Nancy Woods of the Peninsula Museum of Art in Burlingame. Her focus is on furniture art, usable at its completion. Nancy is a believer in recycle, reuse, and re-imagine. Come and be astounded at the transformation of a no-longerused item into a work of art.

Time Out for Lunch

Want to join a group of women for lunch? We meet about every five weeks for lunch at a restaurant or in someone's home. The groups change after four lunches so you can meet new women. There are eight in each group and we like to have three groups.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Diane Kalliam (415 469-7750, dkalliam@gmail.com). Our next luncheons begin in late January, so hope you will consider joining us.



Mike Mullery celebrating Dia de los Muertos at CCSM

Bring your own lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. Remember to reserve your place by emailing: susanjd52@ gmail.com or phoning Susan @ 650-533-6828. Guests are always welcome.

First Tuesday Book Group

The First Tuesday book group will reconvene on January 9, 2018

(surprise, this is the second Tuesday!). The book we will be reading is the children's classic, soon to be a movie



I hear, A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle. Questions? Contact Susan Stoehr at s stoehr@hotmail.com.





Pardon Our Dust!

One of the ironies of becoming organized is having to be disorganized during the process! Little by little, and with the incredible help and dedication of volunteers, we are tackling closets and storage areas. But the Flower Room's connected to the... Candle Room! The Candle Room's connected to the ... Banner Room! The Banner Room's connected to the ... Music Room! You get the idea! So please bear with us as we cram stuff in one closet while creating order in another. If you like to make harmony out of discord or have a particular interest in the "care and feeding" of a specific

area of the church, please let me know! As each of our many nooks and crannies gets attention, we will devise a system to keep it tended in the future.

Speaking of volunteers, there are a few tasks that for a number of years have been handled faithfully by the same people. We would like to establish some back up support for things like changing the furnace filters; maintaining the fountain; doing minor electrical upgrades and repairs. If you have a skill or talent and would be willing to take a turn doing some of the maintenance jobs that depend upon volunteer support, please contact me.

Finally, if you have, or know of anyone who has, a fax machine to donate to the office, we would be so grateful! The machine we have is very outdated and we can no longer get parts or service. The faxes that come across are of very poor quality due to the old, worn drums.

Thanks to all of you who volunteer, who come by the church during the



week to visit, who call to chat or give us information. The CCSM office is a "happening" and wonderful place to be! Marge Boyd, Director of Operations

650-343-3694 • mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org

Wise & Wonderful

2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAYS, 10:30-NOON

10:30am in the Buckham Room on the following dates:

November 22: No Meeting (Thanksgiving)

December 12: 2:00pm Christmas Tea and white elephant exchange

December 27: No Meeting (Christmas)

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



An October Sunday service filled with silence and prayers for the fires in the north.



TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16 • 5:30-7:30PM SAN MATEO COUNTY PRIDE CENTER 1021 S. EL CAMINO REAL • SAN MATEO

REMEMBERING LIVES LOST AND STANDING TOGETHER AGAINST VIOLENCE

Transgender Day of Remembrance is an opportunity for us to come together and remember those who have lost their lives to anti-transgender violence. Join us for a program that includes keynote speaker Dr. Jei Africa, County Supervisor Dave Pine (District 1), Alyss Swanson, and Lexi Shimmers. There will be refreshments, music, a Call-To-Action and a candlelight procession to end the evening.

info@sanmateopride.org • LGBTQinfo@smcgov.org • (650) 591-0133

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 Rev. Amie Giordano. 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 <u>dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org</u> 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

Martha Grannis turns 92 on November 22nd. Blessings and happy birthday to you, Martha!

PRAYERS OF JOY

Prayers of thanksgiving that Johnathan Ashback now has two part-time jobs. God, he is truly grateful for these jobs. We pray that he will be provided with all he needs to keep both these jobs.

Prayers of joy for **Will Bronitsky,** son of **Martha Bronitsky,** who married the love of his life, Kristina, on October 21st. We wish them many years of happiness.

Welcome to the world, **Marigold**, great-granddaughter to **Bob and Caroline Reinke**, born October 15th. Marigold was born early and is underweight so the family asks for prayers of health, strength, and growth.

Prayers of gratitude that **Joyce Clark, Mike Mullery'**s sister, was able to return to her home after being evacuated due to the fires. Ongoing prayers are needed for the devastated community of Santa Rosa, but we are thankful that Joyce's home was spared.

Colton Richard James was born on October 5, weighing in at 7lbs, 9oz. Congratulations to new momma Krista Shea. We celebrate this new family!

Devon Ziggy Murphy Miller, granddaughter of **Sharon Tobin,** was born September 29. Congratulations to mother **Monica**, father **Jason** and big sister. Prayers of thanksgiving and joy for this growing family.

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND REMEMBERING

Prayers of love and deep sadness for all the people of Sutherland Springs, Texas. Our church family sends prayers of comfort to the church family at First Baptist Church.

For All Saints Day: Prayers for all who have gone before us. We love and miss you. We thank you for the wisdom we carry in our bones, in your names. We remember you. Amen

Prayers for the family of **Diane Baker** who passed away on September 20. She will be missed in this world. Prayers also for Diane's mother, **Madeline Baker**, who is have a difficult time with the loss of her daughter. Both are friends of **Carol Boes**.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH AND HEALING

Prayers for **Richard**, cousin to **Genel Morgan**, who has throat cancer. Richard is having surgery Nov. 13. He is very anxious about how he will support his family. God, we pray this family with be taken care of in all ways.

Prayers for all of us in this church who have health challenges, big and small. Please know God hears your prayers. **Pico Soriano** requests prayers for a positive outcome for an important meeting on November 13.

Prayers of healing for **Jim Shaul** who was recently in the hospital, now home, recovering from the flu.

Prayers of healing for **Olga-Barbra Dehlinger.** She is in extended care next door to Peninsula Hospital, Room 1056A. Cards and visitors much appreciated. Call before going to check if she is still there, or If you might visit her at home.

Prayers for an audition to go well.

Angela Lee's uncle was recently diagnosed with esophageal cancer and is going through chemotherapy. We pray this treatment will provide healing.

Prayers for **Molly O'Neill,** closest friend to **Mel Thrash.** Molly had a liver transplant one year ago. A new scan showed growths that will be removed on November 15th. We send prayers of healing to Molly.

Peter Brady, friend of Pam Mc-Carthy, is gradually making progress. His oxygen level is staying up. He can sometimes respond by squeezing a hand, though spends only about 5% of the time with both eyes open. Still no talking. He will move to a skilled nursing facility soon. We pray for his continuing and full recovery.

Prayers for **Kibbie Ruth and Jim Granucci** and their whole extended family, and the many people who have had wonderful times and retreats in their family cabin in Napa,





Full joint choir from Home & Hope Benefit Concert, October 8, 2017. Participating choirs from: Congregational Church of San Mateo. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The Episcopal Church of St. Matthew

which burned down in the fires. Kibbie shared: "The trees did relatively well, and turtles are still in the pond. It is amazing what a forest fire (at over 1,500 degrees) incinerates compared to a house fire. The two neighbors' houses are only one and two feet high now. We have lots of roof left, but nothing elseeven the fireproof walls shattered. Worse, the Girl Scout camp (that the mid-high hiked through) looks like a true blackened moonscape. The house can be rebuilt one of these days, but I will miss all the little trinkets than were my parents and my huge nest, turtle shell and nature collection."

We pray for the First Congregational Church of Santa Rosa; many of their church members were evacuated or their homes have burned in the fires. The Rev. Eddie Sunia, pastor of Wellspring Church, has reported that his home was lost. He and many church members gathered at the church, which is not affected, and are supporting each other through this difficult time. The **Community Church of Sebastopol UCC** has also opened its doors for those affected. We keep everyone in our prayers.

Prayers for the family of **Genel Morgan** who were evacuated from Sonoma and Napa area. We continue pray for her daughters-in-law, the Medina family, and all who who have been affected by the fires.

Ongoing prayers for the fire victims, firefighters, and communities devastated by fire.

Prayer of healing for **Bob Duffy** and his wife **Becky**. May Bob continue to heal quickly and wonderfully from his lung transplant. We pray for his whole body, every part, to know healing.

Prayers for **Carol**, aunt to **Rachelle** and sister to **Cindy Shaughnessy**, who lost her home in the fires in Santa Rosa and barely made it out alive. We are grateful to God for her safety.

Bill Melis had a minor heart attack

on October 15th. He is home and recovering. Please keep Bill and his full recovery in your prayers.

Ongoing prayers for **Tom Don,** father of **Sarah Iya,** who had radiation treatment for a cancer lesion.

CONTINUED PRAYERS

Please continue to pray for our beloved brothers and sisters: Andrew Lind in Bangladesh, Travis Woodmansee's mother Cathy, Mark Mitchell, Dave Karlin, George Kromhout, Julie Lenden's cousin, Pico Soriano's friend Alexandria Christakos, Dawn Graves' mother Donna Stanger, Bill Daniels, Sandee Schlickman's friend Mike, Jim Groundwater, Judy Hemmer's friend Mark, 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.

Community Connection

DECEMBER 3: POINSETTIA DELIVERY AND DECORATION PARTY

Please join CFE in this tradition of delivering poinsettias to church members who live near you who need little extra love and support this season. After service, please pick up a poinsettia plant to deliver. There will be about 100 to deliver so we need your help please. Fun and easy! At coffee hour, CFE will host a Christmas tree decoration party in Kloss Hall. Please come, one and all!

DECEMBER 17: SOUP LUNCH AND CHRISTMAS CAROLING

CFE is hosting a soup lunch for the entire church, followed by Christmas caroling in a group to visit Seniors at their homes or at senior living homes in the area to share CCSM voices of cheer. Check in with Dakota at the soup lunch to receive an address to visit and sheet music, then you will be on your way.



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OUR BELOVED PINE TREE

by Tony Gallo, Moderator

Did you know that this newsletter is named after our majestic and

iconic pine tree outside the main sanctuary door? How many wonderful memories this tree has witnessed. Weddings, memorials, homecoming processions, baptism celebrations... so many gatherings over its long lifespan. Before 1949 when coffee hour was first established, the Pine Tree served as the church gathering place. Who knows how many stories and secrets this old tree has!

No one seems to know exactly how old the tree is. We have a photo of the original building taken sometime between 1869 and 1906 showing our Pine Tree to be quite mature, and many stories high already. So it is likely that the tree is as old or older than CCSM itself!

A huge branch, weakened by drought, recently broke off and fell. We are so blessed that it happened in the early morning and no one was hurt. However, the

sad news is that because of safety reasons, our beloved tree must be removed.

We plan to keep a large portion of the trunk to be made into a bench, and some of the larger branches will be made into trivets branded with the CCSM icon. And our CCSM Girl Scouts will collect as many of the pinecones as they can.

But all of these plans cost money, and we we will have to get creative. I plan to initiate a committee for this; if you want to help, please let me know (argallo3119@gmail.com)

In the meantime, please be very careful with photo opportunities before the tree comes down, as other branches may fall. But do make sure you set aside a moment to take a good look at this historic tree and say your goodbyes.





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