

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 67, #1 | JANUARY 2018

A Word from Penny

This story is best told by photos (thanks to photographer Chris Yeh)...



It is the story of a vision and a dream becoming reality. On Sunday, January 21, we commissioned nine leaders of the Wednesday gatherings, CCSM's midweek Spanish service.

If you missed this milestone in the life of our church,

—cont. on p. 4—

What the World Needs Now

2018 Epiphany Series



- 1/28 Congregational Meeting. Sermon: *The Ever-Expanding Circle of Love*
- 2/4 Communion and Healing service. Sermon: *The Search for Love*
- 2/11 Transfiguration Sunday: Rabbi Jhos Singer and Penny. Sermon: *The Power of Love to Transform*

LENT PREVIEW:

THE

EXAMINED



Life

This Lent, from Ash Wednesday (2/14) through Palm Sunday (3/25), we will explore the spiritual topic **THE EXAMINED LIFE**.

We'll spend time in Lent looking within and how we can live well and thrive in times like these.



Congregational
Church of san mateo

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



TOOT-TOOT! Time for Trains

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 • 2PM

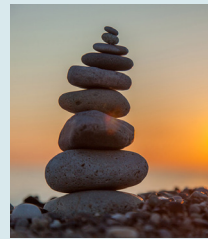
Spend the afternoon playing with Thomas the Train or “driving” lots of big electric ones. Trains will fill Kloss Hall and the Buckham Room.

Train Schedule: ARRIVAL 1400 (2:00PM) • DEPARTURE 1630 (4:30PM)

Snacks on board.

CHILDREN’S TIME: Finding sacredness in the ordinary

In the time I spend with my 4th and 5th grade children while you participate in the church service, I have been exploring how sacredness is embodied in places, through scriptures, deities, and in symbols, with lenses from various religious beliefs. We are also looking to find sacredness in our daily routines, to eventually—and most importantly—find it in ourselves. I believe it is very important to help children handle some of the most challenging questions of our existence, such as life, death, our similarities and our differences, our struggles and our aims. Perhaps one of the most inspiring parts in this pursuit is finding a sacred time and space in which we can connect with others through rituals. Ancient cultures throughout time have experimented with powerful rituals that have taken us into other realms, where we have connected with mysteries, and also with the complexity of ourselves and with God.



I hope we all devote some time to finding sacredness in the ordinary in this new year.

—Sandra Soto-Grondona, 4th/5th graders’ spiritual guide at CCSM

What’s That Book Say?

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 5:00-7:30PM,
COMMUNITY ROOM**



Fourth and fifth graders will learn more about our most important book before the fifth graders are given their personal Bibles in church. The night starts at 5:00pm with a biblical meal (nuts and berries?) and ends at 7:30. In between, to help the Bible become more alive, the children play games and pretend to be secretive early Christians. Sorry, grown-ups, you’ll just have to experience the book yourself!

Pancakes for Dinner?

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13
BETWEEN 6:00 - 7:30PM, KLOSS HALL**

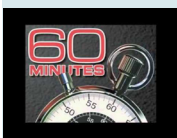
Yep. Don’t miss them. To celebrate the last fling before Lent, CYF and the youth will serve up pancakes (some with blueberries), ham, sausage, fruit and more. Special addition this year—make a Mardi Gras mask to show your playful side.



Ash Wednesday

FEBRUARY 14, 7AM

Come early in the morning before school or work for a mini-worship. The high schoolers will impose ashes on your forehead to mark the beginning of Lent. This meaningful ritual begins at 7:00AM in the Sanctuary.



CCSM’s Version of Sixty Minutes

FEBRUARY 11, 10:30 AM •

FIREPLACE ROOM

High schoolers choose the topic for each Sixty Minutes with Mike Mullery on second Sundays.

Enjoy the Children

Children’s Church needs second adults with each group of children—just for 45 minutes on Sunday. Email kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org or use the Signup Genius link (tinyurl.com/WinterChildren) to choose a date and age group to enjoy this winter.

Getting your 2018 Calendar Together?



Don't let your children miss these special events and camps:

January 27 Train Day,
2:00-4:30pm
February 4 Bible Night,
5:00-7:30pm

February 13 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner
February 14 Ash Wednesday early morning service at 7:am with the high schoolers
February 17-19 (Presidents' Weekend) High School Feb Camp
March 10 All-Youth NCNC Conference Spiritual Retreat
March 17-18 Coming of Age Retreat for Mid-high
June 14-17 All-Youth NCNC Annual Gathering Youth Program
June 25-29 Western Regional Youth Event, Honolulu

CAMP CAZADERO

July 6-8 Caz "You and Me" Camp for entering 1-3rd graders
July 8-14 Caz Senior High Camp for entering 10-12 graders
July 15-21 Caz Junior Camp for entering 4-6 graders
July 22-28 Caz Junior High Camp for entering 7-9 graders

Or these regular opportunities:

FOR CHILDREN:

Joyful Noise Children's Choir practice, most Sundays at 9:45AM,

Junior worship with music on first Sundays of each month.

FOR MID-HIGHERS:

Mid-High class every Sunday but the first (when mid-highers sit with Patrick in the balcony)

Youth Group 1st and 3rd Sundays 6-7:30PM in the new Youth Room.

CCSM Generosity Shows Up Under the Tree

Because of the generosity of CCSM members, presents appeared under the Christmas trees of several local families who are going through hard times. Together, we provided 96 gifts to 8 families this year through the Adopt A Family project. In addition, the Blanketeers donated their beautiful handmade quilts to the children and parents of our adopted families.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to select a wish and purchase the gifts.

SPECIAL NEEDS KIDS SUMMIT: from diagnosis to adulthood

FEBRUARY 15, 7:00 PM • CCSM

Over 10 percent of our kids are in special needs programs. Come learn about the state, school, and local programs that support our children—both what they do and how to apply. For more information and to register go to: summit.snkids.org or email: steve@snkids.org



CCSM's Girl Scouts caroling to a delighted Olga-Barbra Dehlinger. Olga-Barbra passed away just ten days later on December 27. Her memorial service will be held at CCSM on February 3 at 11am.

Second Hour

SUNDAYS AT 11:50

FEBRUARY 4 • *Implicit Bias with Dr. Rebecca Hetey*

Dr. Hetey earned her PhD in Social Psychology from Stanford University in 2013, her MA in Social Psychology from Stanford, and her BA in Psychology from Yale University. She has worked with the Oakland Police Department (OPD) for four years, and continues to be involved with the implementation work on the ground with OPD command staff. Dr. Hetey will present some of her research on implicit bias, particularly as it relates to racial inequality in policing. In addition, she will lead us in implicit bias training, in order to uncover how implicit bias affects our perceptions, judgments, and behavior.



FEBRUARY 11 • “A Minister and a Rabbi walk into Jerusalem...” Come hear Penny and Rabbi Jhos share about their trip to Israel from their different perspectives.

SECOND HOUR IN LENT FEBRUARY 18 - MARCH 11: *IMAGES OF ISRAEL*

“Images of Israel” is a four-part adult study program that empowers Christians to have a robust experience in learning about Israel in its complexity, while bringing Christian theology and values into the conversation. Join us after the service these four Sundays in Lent to engage this multilayered, difficult, and fascinating topic together.



(Produced by The Shalom Hartman Institute where Penny studied this past fall.)

A Word from Penny *cont. from p. 1*

I invite you to go to the website and listen to the testimony and the sermon. Hear why this was our “Kairos” moment and why the network of love is so vital for us today. We are truly one community, and together we move forward in faith, love, and justice.



Penny's Bookshelf

Dream Hoarders: How the American Upper Middle Class Is Leaving Everyone Else in the Dust, Why That Is a Problem, and What to Do About It by Richard Reeves. The subtitle says it all—an eye-opening and challenging book but well worth it.

Untangled: Guiding Teenage Girls Through the Seven Transitions into Adulthood by Lisa Damour. If you are the parent of a teenage girl this is a MUST read- you'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll be a better parent.

Devotions by Mary Oliver. A compilation of her poems that could serve as a daily devotional if you love her poetry as much as I do.

Jesus Was a Liberal: Reclaiming Christianity for All by Scotty McLennan. Former Stanford chaplain focuses on the humanity of Christ's teachings.

Holy Longing: The Search for Christian Spirituality by Ronald Rolheiser. Includes one of the best descriptions of "spiritual" I have read.

Raven Stole the Moon by Garth Stein. If you liked *Racing in the Rain* by Stein, you'll love this earlier novel of his as well.

The Inquisitor's Tale: Or, the Three Magical Children and their Holy Dog by Adam Gidwitz. A medieval adventure that will delight the young and the old.



NEXT UP ON THE LIST...

The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America by Richard Rothstein

The New Leadership Literacies: Thriving in a Future of Extreme Disruption and Distributed Everything by Bob Johansen

[Sign up online](#) for Penny's Midweek

Connections email for inspiration and news from this vibrant church family!



A Special Thank You for your Commitment and Generosity

CCSM is most grateful for your steady donations and contributions to the operating budget, the Christian Education Building Renovation and the numerous social justice offerings. As the year 2017 was coming to a close, we realized the unaccounted repair and maintenance expenses to the building had created a huge deficit in the budget. Penny's appeal to contribute to the budget generated an unbelievable outpouring of support and many contributions that closed the gap. We closed 2017 with a small net income! A special thank you for your steadfast loyalty, faithfulness and responsibility to CCSM.

Warm regards,
Pearly Masters
Administrator of Finance

Pick-A-Party:

Some parties have openings

There are openings at several parties in the coming months. Don't miss out on a chance for more fun. To view the list of open parties, go to: ccsm-ucc.org/pick-a-party2017 then click on "Pick-A-Party Party List."



Please note the HIKE AND PICNIC WITH YOUR DOG has been rescheduled to May 5 (from its original November date.)

—Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh and Carol Henton



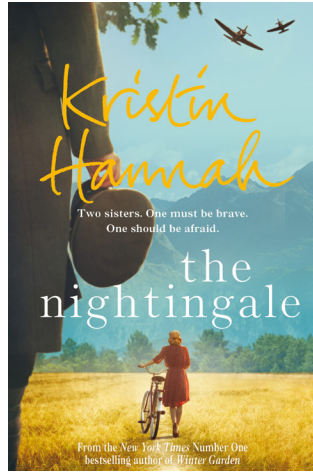
Music lovers enjoying the Viva la Musica concert in our sanctuary

First Tuesday Book Group

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 7:30PM
FIREPLACE ROOM

We are back to the first Tuesday... Our book is *The Nightingale*, a novel by Kristin Hannah. Betsy will lead the discussion.

Notes from Amazon: A #1 New York Times bestseller, Wall Street Journal Best Book of the Year, and soon to be a major motion picture, this unforgettable novel of love and strength



in the face of war has enthralled a generation. With courage, grace, and powerful insight, bestselling author Kristin Hannah captures the epic panorama of World War II and illuminates an intimate part of history seldom seen: the women's war. The *Nightingale* tells the stories of two sisters, separated by years and experience, by ideals, passion and circumstance, each embarking on her own dangerous path toward survival, love, and freedom in German-occupied, war-torn France—a heartbreakingly beautiful novel that celebrates the resilience of the human spirit and the durability of women. It is a novel for everyone, a novel for a lifetime.

Questions? Contact Susan Stoehr at s_stoehr@hotmail.com.

Wise & Wonderful

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

JANUARY 24 • Deb Flaherty will share resources about The Village of San Mateo County

FEBRUARY 14 • *Love Poems From God: Twelve Sacred Voices from the East and West* by various authors, translated by Daniel Ladinsky. Reading and reflection.

FEBRUARY 28 • Rev. Jorge Bautista will share his experiences in Palestine.

MARCH 14 • Outdoor and nature walk on ADA accessible trail in San Mateo. More detail soon.

MARCH 28 • Amie Giordano, Minister of Social Justice will talk about justice work at CCSM and on the Peninsula.

Music & Art

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, NOON
FIREPLACE ROOM



This month's Music and Art gathering will focus on the Liturgical Arts team of Pam Riddlehuber, Alice Morison and Pico Soriano. They will present details of their responsibilities related to the total worship experience, and as the highlight, Pico will demonstrate a floral arrangement which he will make for the following Sunday's worship service.

Bring your own sandwich; beverages and dessert are provided. Please make your reservation with Susan Duty, susanjd52@gmail.com or 650-533-6828. Guests are always welcome.

Music Notes and Organ Adventures

Singing is good for the soul! Would you like to lift your voice to sing with the choir during the Spring? All voice parts, abilities and ages are welcome. Special services coming up include Palm Sunday, Easter and Choir Special Music Sunday! Contact Lynnelle or Tom for more information.

Angela has several upcoming organ adventures that you may want to consider joining. On **Friday May 25**, Angela will perform a full hour organ concert at the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. We are considering a music trip to visit Salt Lake City and enjoy the concert. We are asking for a preliminary response to know if there is interest in the congregation. Please contact Lynnelle or Angela if you are interested.

Also, on **Saturday, June 23**, Angela is playing an organ concert at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, France. There is a small group of church friends planning on coming to Paris around that time. If you might be interested in coming too, please contact Angela to assist in making reservations and connecting up!

Advanced notice: save the date! Angela will play her 25th annual Spring Organ Concert on **Sunday, May 6** at 4 pm. Soli Deo Gloria!

Deaglan was the wandering black sheep in last year's pageant—this year promoted to shepherd



Pine Tree Finale

By Tony Gallo

On December 20, our historic pine tree was removed from where it has been providing beauty and shade for over a century. Many came to bid their farewells and to help with the labor. Thanks to our pine cone collectors Doug and Carole Henton, Michelle Cinq Mars, Genel Morgan, Gary White, Ivan Raikov, and Jennifer Londgren. Len Flaherty, Chuck Brown, and Mike Harris also helped get the stump rounds stored. Thanks to Jim Lindsay who was there for most of the day with me and helped with so many things, including pinecones, stumps and “cookie slice” for ring counting. Marge Boyd did a lot of prep work with contracts, permits, signs from city, etc.



And I have to say, the Davies team was exceptional. Very supportive with last minute details and changes to plan, sorting branches and pulling out huge numbers of pinecones, helping cut the special stumps for us, transporting them on the truck.

On January 18 the stump was drilled out. Our pine tree is gone but will not be forgotten.



Thank You from Refugee & Immigrant Services

On December 21, 2017, under the sponsorship of MSJ, CCSM hosted the Holiday Party for Unaccompanied Minors. We received the following note of gratitude from Catholic Charities:

Words cannot express how grateful we are for your love, kindness, support, and generosity. Thank you for making the holidays extra special for our youth and for each one of their smiles. It is not often that we get to see our clients so happy and excited.

Even though, many of them are here without their families, and might feel alone, we were able to remind them that they are no longer on their own, because there is a whole community behind them ready to support and care for them.

We truly appreciate what you have done for our youth this Christmas season and we hope to continue working with you in the near future.

Wishing you a wonderful 2018!

Warm regards,

The A team ;-)

Refugee & Immigrant Services - San Mateo County



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 dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org or call 415-244-3696 if you need support during the week, and Dakota will make sure one of the pastors contacts you as soon as possible.

SPECIAL JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

June Schutte celebrated her 97th birthday on January 6th, and **Barbara Knees** celebrated her 90th on January 7th. **Mary D'Anna** turned 96 on January 18th and Vera Pitts turns 87 on January 23rd. God's blessing & God's love to each one for a joyful new year!

PRAYERS OF JOY

Mark Rufenauht, friend of **Judy Hemmer**, is grateful for all of your healing prayers. Mark's cancer is in remission. May God continue to bring him healing.

Brinley Mae Law Rance, great great granddaughter of **Donna Summers**, was born December 27th. Welcome to the world, Brinley, you are God's beloved.

Rev. **Art Domingue** had a birthday on December 29th. We celebrate our brother and his family. God bless them all this new year.

We rejoice with **Angela Kraft Cross** and **Robert Cross** as they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary January 9th. May they be blessed with many more years of love and compassion for each other.

Prayers of gratitude that **George Snode** has returned home from the hospital and continues to be on the mend from the flu.

Prayers of celebration for **Judith Cunningham**, sister of **Walter Rees**, who is feeling better. **Judith** thanks you all for your healing

prayers.

Blessed joy for the birth of **Pierce James Groundwater**, son of **Andrew and Marielle Groundwater**, and grandson to **Dr. James and Lorna Groundwater**.

PRAYERS OF DEEP LOVE AND REMEMBERING

Len Flaherty's cousin **Bill Rizzo** passed last week in Venice, Florida at age 88. He was under hospice care. All his children were able to visit with him before he passed. Len visited in August to help celebrate his last birthday. Prayers of comfort for Bill's family and for Len as he grieves this loss.

Janet Karesh, mother of **Jon Karesh**, passed away peacefully January 9th after a brief battle with leukemia. Prayers of comfort for Jon and his sister who cared for her in her final days and as they grieve the passing of a wonderful mother.

Mark Duncan, son of **Arnold and Trudy Duncan**, passed away on December 24 after a prolonged illness. Our love and prayers are with them as they grieve their loss. Trudy and Arnold want to pass along their gratitude for all the support they have received: *To our many friends and members of the CCSM congregation, Our sincere thanks for your many cards and notes expressing sympathy and condolence over the loss of our son Mark. He was a cheerful warrior, doing battle with his cancer for nearly twenty years. In the end,*

death was the victor, but not before he brightened many lives with a host of good deeds. Thank you for being so supportive in this time of our sorrow.

Olga-Barbra Dehlinger, mother of **Michael and Steven Dehlinger** and mother-in-law to **Kate Dehlinger**, passed away peacefully Wednesday, December 27th at Mills-Peninsula Hospital. Olga-Barbra, along with her husband Harry, who died last year, will be missed. A memorial for Olga-Barbra will be held at CCSM on February 3 at 11:00 a.m.

Allan Wang, husband of **Irene Wang** and father of **Chris Tan**, passed away on Tuesday, December 19th. We ask God to comfort this family embracing them in love each new day.

Lynn Blackie, regular attender of CCSM, passed away December 14th after a valiant battle with cancer. She won the battle many, many times. She is survived by her husband **Bruce** and daughter **Heidi**. She was a faithful Christian her whole life and a generous and selfless woman.

PRAYERS OF STRENGTH AND HEALING

Prayers of healing for **Bill and Annette Daniels**. Bill suffered a stroke and is now home from the hospital. Please send prayers for Bill to recover and God to provide the help this family needs at this time. We send the love of this church to comfort them both.

Prayers of healing for **Musimbi Kanyoro**, friend of **Warren and Susan Long**, who is recovering from heart surgery. May God provide a long life for a beloved friend.

Prayers of healing for **Ann Lambertson** who is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Richard, cousin of **Genel Morgan**, found out his tumor is inoperable. He will be having radiation and chemo but he is unsure if this will give him the healing he needs. Richard lives in Hawaii and will be coming back for treatment at Stanford in 4-5 weeks. Please keep praying for him and his family as they go through this life challenge.

Prayers of peace and healing for **Kathryn Anne**, sister of **Carolyn Shaw**, who has pneumonia and a spinal fracture. Kathryn is in great pain. God, please provide her with the strength and courage

for healing.

Prayers of safe travels and new beginnings for our beloved **Marty and Lori Shepard**. Marty was hired for a new job the day after he was laid off his old job. This means they will be moving to Chicago in the next few months. They are happy to move closer to family but deeply sad to leave their CCSM church family. We wish them joy in this new chapter together.

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

Ronnie Errichson fell and injured her shoulder. She is home now mending. Please send prayers of healing for our beloved sister.

Continuing prayers of healing for **Bill Melis**. May God provide him all the care he needs.

Prayers of peace and safety for

Mary Aguirre who was deployed for the third time to Afghanistan on January 11th. May she feel God's love and the support of this church wherever she is in the world.

Please continue to pray for our beloved brothers and sisters: **Andrew Lind, Travis Woodmansee's mother Cathy, 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, 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.

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Bits and Pieces



We are making steady progress tackling the organization of various storage areas around the church! The **Flower Room** (at the front of the sanctuary, to the right of the steps to the chancel) has been cleaned, painted, upgraded, and rearranged! The **Candle Room** (at the back of the sanctuary on the Tilton side) has been structured so that our candle supply is easily identified and accessed. The **Banner Room** (a closet nestled at the south end of the Narthex, between the interior and exterior doors) now holds our current supply of labeled banners, used on the corner of Tilton and San Mateo Drive. We have made some headway in the **Attic** above Kloss Hall and the **Music Library/Liturgical Arts Room** across from the upstairs clergy/staff offices and will continue work on those areas! Also on the list for early in 2018 are the **Kitchen, Library**, the storage room behind the organ (ask Mike Harris why he has dubbed it the **Dog House!**), and the **Basement**. Beyond that are multiple closets, furnace rooms, cabinets, bookshelves . . . whew! While we already have an incredible group of volunteers helping with the above projects, more are always welcome!



Please let me know if you have a few hours here and there to devote to any of the following:

- Working on storage rooms
- Volunteering at the front desk, either as a “regular” or as a “back-up” (we especially need someone Tuesday afternoons, 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.)
- “Care and Feeding” of our building (e.g. minor maintenance and repairs)



Marge Boyd
Director of Operations
650-343-3694
mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org

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CCSM PINE TREE

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

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CCSM 101: INQUIRY CLASS

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 11:50 A.M.

got questions?

We hope you've been enjoying CCSM's extravagant

welcome. We are hosting an inquirer's class right after worship on February 25. 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. Hope to see you there! RSVP to Marge at mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org or 650 343-3694.

ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14TH, 7:00 P.M.
IN THE CCSM SANCTUARY

Our *Wednesday Gathering*, CCSM's Spanish service, will host this Ash Wednesday. This special service will be bilingual and will include communion and the imposition of ashes. St James AME Zion will also be joining us and our choirs will come together as well.

What an incredible way to begin Lent, bringing diverse communities together in worship and reflection. A meal will follow.

There will also be an **early morning Ash Wednesday service** at 7:00am in the Sanctuary offered by CCSM's high schoolers.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING!

Stay for the brief Winter Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 28 immediately after the service