



**SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS**



**THE EXAMINED LIFE:  
A JOURNEY TO EASTER**

**MARCH 4 | LENT 3** • Sermon: *Our Failures Are Not Final*  
**MARCH 11 | LENT 4** • Sermon: *What is Truth?*  
**MARCH 18 | LENT 5** • Sermon: *“You Have No Power Over Me!”* Jorge P. Bautista and Penny Nixon

**HOLY WEEK**

**MARCH 25 | PALM SUNDAY: THE DONKEY RETURNS...** Sermon: *Waving the Palms, Witnessing the Passion*

**MARCH 25 | INTERFAITH SEDER** • 4pm at the Congregational Church of Belmont (see more information on page XXX)

**MARCH 29 | HOLY THURSDAY** • We will commemorate Holy Thursday by sharing a meal (Jorge cooking) around tables in Kloss Hall. During the evening we will sing, share liturgy and hear short reflections by George Snode, Alicia Santamaria and Judi Powell. It will be a spiritually meaningful service.

**MARCH 30 | GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE** hosted by CCSM, accompanied by 7 other churches as we reflect together on the 7 last words of Christ. Kibbie will give the reflection from CCSM; Lynnelle will lead the joint choir.

**APRIL 1 | EASTER • EXPERIENCE RESURRECTION!**  
**8am: EARLY SERVICE.** Celebrate resurrection at our early service led by the youth.

**10:30am: EASTER CELEBRATION.** Our Easter service is always one of the year’s highlights. Come early to get a seat and be prepared to experience resurrection!

**Gathered Around  
Jesus’ Table**

by Jorge Perry Bautista



Dear sisters and brothers,

I am happy to share that our Spanish service Wednesday Gatherings have been growing at a much faster pace than we anticipated. We are averaging between 30-40 in attendance every Wednesday (counting the youth). Recently, two weeks in a row we reached 50+ in attendance. Yet, the biggest attendance we have had was our Ash Wednesday service with 61, and about 85+ when combining folks from Saint James AME and our folks from the Sunday English service.

I can’t believe how fast it has grown. One of our goals with the Latin@ ministry team in 2016 was to have between 10-15 people in attendance at the start of 2018! I couldn’t be more pleased with our progress, and the support each one of you has given in order for the Wednesday Gatherings to exist.

I believe what has made them so successful is that they are modeled around the early church practice of having a meal together as part of the Eucharist. This has helped dispel the feelings of isolation in the Latin@ community, especially since over 95% of the attendants are immigrants and often feel alone and in fear of being deported. This experiment around the idea of a meal-centered worship has helped people connect with one another in a language spoken by all: food. Our Wednesday Gathering services aim to

—cont. on p. 5—



# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



Jojo (left) and Kevin (right) (from the Wednesday Gathering) show off the trains they created at Train Day

## THE TRAINS HAVE LEFT THE STATION

The eighty-five people who enjoyed Train Day including families from Muslim Children’s Garden, Little Wonders, the neighborhood, Wednesday Gathering and CCSM Children’s Church. Many thanks to Jim Granucci for setting up so many electric trains, Nicole Tocchini for the snacks and fun cookies to decorate, and Paul Briant for hosting the train building table.

## WE NEED YOU!

The vibrancy of our children’s programs requires a lot of volunteers. To enjoy the children on Sundays, click [www.tinyurl.com/WinterChildren](http://www.tinyurl.com/WinterChildren) to sign up. If you would like to help in other ways, we need artists, a librarian, cooks and more. Please send an email to [kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org) to pitch in.

## PLANNING YOUR SUMMER?

Don’t forget to sign your kids up for Camp Caz.

- ❑ JULY 6-8, Caz “You and Me” Camp for entering 1st-3rd graders
- ❑ JULY 8-14, Caz Senior High Camp for entering 10th-12th graders
- ❑ JULY 15-21, Caz Junior Camp for entering 4th-6th graders



CCSM kids busy making Valentines for neighbors

## RETREAT TO MOVE FORWARD

Bonds are built over time. But in today’s fast-paced, busy family life, encouraging the children and youth to feel “community” here at church is challenging. So, extended periods for the youth to be together are designed into the CCSM program. The high schoolers have two CONFIRMATION RETREATS to explore their spirituality (the next is **APRIL 21-22**). The mid-high students have a COMING OF AGE RETREAT to contemplate the rights and responsibilities of their passage into adolescence (coming up **MARCH 24-25** in the East Bay). Even the 4th and 5th graders have a mini-retreat to learn more about the Bible (it just happened Feb. 25).

Bonds among the children and youth need more than time; they need a holding vessel of love and community in which to grow. With all the pressure of school and our culture, one teen said for her, “church is a place where I can breathe. It’s where I can be me and relax.” Another talked about how special so many of the adult members of CCSM treated him—how, for example, Mike Mullery values conversations with the high schoolers (Sixty Minutes on second Sundays). Cammy runs to show Donna Lindsay her nail color each week. Several youth said they especially appreciate the extra effort adults make to greet them at coffee hour. Thanks to all of you for the joy you express when the children risk speaking in a worship service. This is their spiritual home as well as ours, so the sweet encouragement you give each of our younger ones means more than you can imagine to their sense of belonging.





Katie, Gabby and Melia sing for the pancake eaters on Shrove Tuesday

## Important News from Patrick



Patrick receives the ashes on Ash Wednesday

Dear CCSM community,  
When I was hired on as the Director of Youth Ministries in the summer of 2015, I was so excited to see where this job would take me. I'd been volunteering with the youth at CCSM for years, and had been attached to this church community since I started attending as a high school student in 2002. Getting the opportunity to work for this church and youth program that I care so much about was an incredible gift, and every day in the job has been more meaningful than I ever imagined when I first started.

That's why it is so hard to have to tell you that I will be leaving my position here at the church at the end of this school year. As many of you know, my fiancée Rebecca and I are getting married this spring, and I am beyond excited about that next step in our lives. But in starting to build our life together we've realized that we just can't afford Bay Area prices, and so will be moving to Sacramento together. It is very exciting, but I am so very sorry to have to say goodbye to this job that has taught me so much.

This has been the best and most challenging job I have ever had, and I have learned so much from working with our youth. They are some of the most engaging, thoughtful, and passionate people I have ever met, and I am going to miss seeing them grow into even more incredible young people in our midst.

I'll still be here through the end of May, and am looking forward to journeying through Lent and Easter with our kids and working with them on the many things we have lined up in the coming months.

Thank you. Patrick

### PENNY'S RESPONSE:

While we are excited for Patrick and the future that he and Rebecca will share, we are incredibly sad to see him go. He has been a wonderful staff member for the last three years and has loved our youth well. As countless others who are leaving the San Mateo area have experienced, living here is simply not affordable.

Patrick will always remain part of our church family and CCSM will always be his spiritual home. We will celebrate him and his ministry at a later date. In the meantime, Kibbie and I will be working with our CYF ministry for next steps. We have come this far by faith, and we will continue by that same faith.

## MARCH THOSE TOWELS IN

Our March collection to help the neighbors will be towels for LifeMoves' shelter in San Mateo. Those staying in the family shelter and those launching into permanent places to live always need towels, as well as twin and double sheets and pillowcases. If you have spares, please bring your donations to sanctuary on Sunday for the children to bring forward as their "offering." If you are interested in other items the shelter needs, click [LifeMoves Wish List, San Mateo](#).



## Peninsula Freedom Seder

SUNDAY, MARCH 25TH • 4:00PM  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BELMONT  
51 ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS, BELMONT

Come learn and celebrate the traditions of Passover with the Jewish Community Relations Council and the Peninsula Multi-faith Coalition. People of all faiths are welcome! A vegetarian dinner will be served.



\$20 per adult, \$15 for children 12 years old and under. Advanced registration required: [jcrc.org/news-events/events/peninsula-freedom-seder](http://jcrc.org/news-events/events/peninsula-freedom-seder)

For more Information, Contact Sarah Fields: [sfields@jcrc.org](mailto:sfields@jcrc.org) or 650-847-1715



Making a Mardi Gras mask

# How About Some CCSM Fellowship and Fun?



Here are some Pick-A-Party offerings you can still get in on!

## MARCH 10—EUCHRE AND DINNER

Join Jim and Louisa Shaul for an evening of card-playing and Louisa's homemade chicken noodle casserole along with munchies, salad, dessert, beer & wine. Euchre is a popular Midwestern game; no playing experience required. Cost

is \$40. (part of our Pick A Party fundraiser). To sign up, contact Louisa at 650-703-6990.

## MARCH 17—IRISH DINNER (two spots available)

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by enjoying a traditional corned beef and cabbage dinner with all the trimmings including soda bread, wine and beer. (Yes, green beer if you prefer). Linda Mallette & Dom Libonati and Dave & Jeff Chandler will be your hosts. Linda will put out the good china and crystal for what promises to be an elegant affair. Cost is \$60 per adult (part of Pick A Party fundraiser). Contact Carol Henton at carolhenton@aol.com or 650-544-7563. Two seats remain so first come first served!

## APRIL 7—HIKE IN CRYSTAL SPRINGS WATERSHED AREA—only 7 spots left!

Are you up for a hearty all-day hike? Do you enjoy hiking in pristine areas cut off from everyday public access? How about the idea of bonding with your teenage or young adult son or daughter for an entire day? If so, join in for a unique hike experience on the western side of the Crystal Springs Reservoir on Saturday April 7. The distance is 13 miles, so seasoned hikers only please. We'll start south of Sneath Lane in San Bruno and hike to Highway 92 in San Mateo. You must confirm by March 10 (due to a requirement to share the list of hikers with the CPUC). Cost is \$40 per person (part of our Pick A Party fundraiser). Lunch is provided; you carry your own water. Time is from 8:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Space is limited so sign up right away with Carol Henton (carolhenton@aol.com or 650-544-7563).

## APRIL 8—OFF-BROADWAY SOLO ONE-ACT PERFORMANCE WITH JULIA JACKSON

It's not too late to sign up for Julia Jackson's show set for Sunday April 8 at 7:00 p.m. in CCSM's Buckham Room. Her show is "Children Are Forever: All Sales Final", which she wrote and performs as a comedian and solo artist. Tickets are \$25 (part of our Pick A Party fundraiser). Due to adult themes, children under 15 are not encouraged. To sign up, contact Dakota Brown at dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org.

## MAY 5—HIKE AND PICNIC WITH YOUR DOG \*\*\* (NEW DATE) \*\*\*

Rescheduled due to rain, this fun activity includes a hike on Sugarloaf Mountain in San Mateo followed by a picnic in Laurelwood Park featuring a gourmet box lunch plus dog treats. Cost is \$25 per adult; \$10 for kids over ten years; max. per family \$50. (part of our Pick A Party fundraiser). The fun starts at 11:30 a.m. (about two hours). Contact Kathy Gallo at kgallo3119@yahoo.com to sign up.

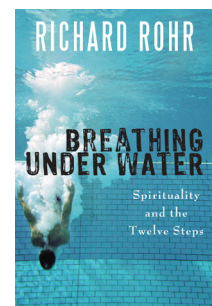
# Spiritual Conversations:

## BREATHING UNDER WATER BY RICHARD ROHR

MONDAY EVENINGS, 7:00-8:30 PM FROM MARCH 12 - APRIL 16.

Spiritual Conversations, a discussion group, is offering a spring series based on the book *Breathing Under Water: Spirituality and the Twelve Steps* by Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest, writer, speaker, and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Richard Rohr shows us how we're all addicted in various ways and how integrating the wisdom of the 12-step process can lead us to greater peace, wholeness, and freedom. This book is for everyone; it's a way to approach our shortcomings and mistakes with compassion and understanding rather than judgment and shame.

If interested or if you'd like additional information, please contact Dorothy and Richard Kogl, coordinators, at kogl@att.net or phone 650-579-7272.





# Gathered Around Jesus' Table *cont. from p. 1*

feel like a dinner party, a hearty meal at a table with dishes and silverware, fostering connections with one another and learning about each others' struggles, challenges, and fears as immigrants who otherwise would never meet or share each other's stories. In Acts 2, this is how early church gatherings, called Agape feasts, are described: "...they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts." They based their gatherings on the idea that Jesus' Last Supper was intended as a model for how Christians worship together. In the first 300 years, Christianity was done around a dinner table more than any other way.

*Our Wednesday Gathering services aim to feel like a dinner party... fostering connections with one another and learning about each others' struggles, challenges, and fears.*

Meeting in this way, I have witnessed something very powerful happen. By intentionally pulling together a diverse group of Latin@s who come from more than six different Latin@ countries around the shared need to eat, it is impossible to worship without acknowledging the variety of needs and experiences of those around the table. By eating together, they are reminded of all the times they have eaten with friends and family that were left behind because they had to flee from their countries.

Some have shared with me various reasons they attend the Wednesday Gatherings. One is that there is no need to profess any confession or statement of faith. Some belong to churches that gather on Sunday mornings, and appreciate that they are not expected to be members of solely one church. I make it clear that Iglesia San Mateo Unidos en Cristo membership means participating in congregational life and living according to the model set by Jesus. Others have shared that Wednesdays are the only time of the week where they can suspend all of their worries about life; that attending the Wednesday Gatherings truly sustains them during the week. One person shared with me that gathering on Wednesdays reminded her how Jesus spent a lot of time around tables—that a

day in the life of Jesus would be mostly healing and eating. This made me think about why the Gospels record stories of Jesus reclining at dinner tables. He did it so often that he garnered the reputation of being a glutton, a drunkard, and a friend of sinners. (Luke 7:34)

So, every Wednesday we gather for a sacred meal, sharing the sacrament in a context of eating and singing hymns. Just like the early Christians, in addition to a meal, we have a liturgy of the Eucharist, scripture, a homily, and prayer. We gather around Jesus' table, a portal between the house of God and the house of humanity. Revelation 3:20 reveals a picture of Jesus knocking on the door of people's lives. What happens if they open? "Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me." Jesus wants us to gather and share a meal with one another. Every Wednesday we set an abundant table filled with food. All are invited to sit and eat together. Join us and be part of this gathering service with our sisters and brothers from the Latin@ community every Wednesday. It doesn't matter if you speak Spanish or not. All are welcome!

Peace and blessings!

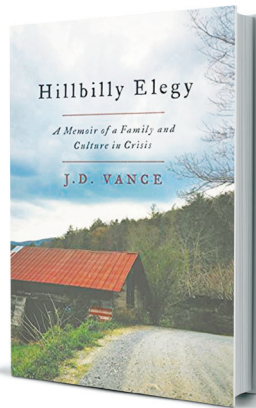
*Jorge P. Bautista*



# First Tuesday Book Group

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 7:30PM  
FIREPLACE ROOM

We had a great discussion on *The Nightingale* at our last meeting. Our next book is *Hillbilly Elegy* by J.D. Vance. It is an important read for us, living comfortably in San Mateo County... Lives look different in other parts of our country. The library has plenty of copies... get yours soon.



“From a former Marine and Yale Law School graduate, a probing look at the struggles of America’s white working class through the author’s own story of growing up in a poor Rust Belt town. A deeply moving memoir, with its share of humor and vividly colorful figures, *Hillbilly Elegy* is the story of how upward mobility really feels. An urgent and troubling meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country, and a passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis.” (from Amazon)

Questions? Contact Susan Stoehr at [s\\_stoehr@hotmail.com](mailto:s_stoehr@hotmail.com).

# Wise & Wonderful

2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS, 10:30AM

**MARCH 14** • Rev Amie Giordano will talk about her work as CCSM’s Social Justice Emerging Leader. What is the difference between Service and Justice?

**MARCH 28** • Mercy Center walk and bag lunch. 2300 Adeline Dr., Burlingame, 94010. Carpool available; meet at CCSM at 10:00am.



Making dozens of sandwiches for Open Cathedral on a recent Sunday morning

# Music & Art

FRIDAY, MARCH 16, NOON  
FIREPLACE ROOM

Our program will feature local Belmont musician, Vicky Xiong, who will be demonstrating and performing on the oboe and English horn as well as informing the group about the unique challenges of these instruments. Reserve your space for this wonderful program by emailing [susanjd52@gmail.com](mailto:susanjd52@gmail.com) or by phone: 650-533-6828. New members and guests are welcome.

Bring your own sandwich/salad; beverages and dessert are provided.



Pico Soriano demonstrates flower arranging at February’s Music & Art gathering.

# Upcoming Plate Offerings

The Ministry of Service and Justice would like to announce the next few weeks of recipients of the Plate Offering donations. Each week on Sunday morning, all cash and checks not designated as a pledge which are put into the offering plate go to support various causes and organizations.

**March 4:** Homework Central

**March 11:** UCC - One Great Hour of Sharing

**March 18:** Mother of Peace, Zimbabwe

**March 25:** Open Cathedral/San Francisco Night Ministry

# Second Hour

SUNDAYS AT 11:50

**SECOND HOUR  
IN LENT THROUGH  
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.)



# Our own Angela Kraft Cross on the radio!

Congratulations to our wonderful organist Dr. Angela Kraft Cross, AAGO, who is being honored by being included on the national radio show PipeDreams playing her composition *Homage to Henri Nouwen*. Then during Holy Week, her recording of Tournemire's *Victimae Paschali* from Paris is on the program. You can listen online ([PipeDreams.publicradio.org](http://PipeDreams.publicradio.org)). We are blessed to have Angela's talents every week here at CCSM!

## Notes from the Organ Bench

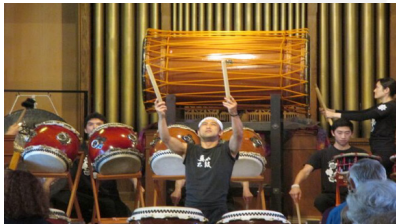
by Angela Kraft Cross

During Lent, in honor of Johann Sebastian Bach's 333rd birthday on March 21, my postludes will feature Bach's greatest preludes and fugues! Over the six Sundays of Lent, you will hear Prelude and Fugue in A minor, Prelude and Fugue in B minor, Fantasie and Fugue in G minor, Prelude and Fugue in E-flat major "St. Anne," Pas-sacaglia and Fugue in C minor and Prelude and Fugue in E minor "The Wedge." Bach's music has an amazing spiritual depth and is perfect for Lenten meditation.

## SongFest 2018: THE JOY OF MUSIC UNITES US!

SUNDAY, MARCH 4 • 3:00-5:00PM

PENINSULA SINAI CONGREGATION, 499 BOOTHBAY AVE, FOSTER CITY



Chancel Choir is participating in an ecumenical musical event this month and would like to invite you to join them.

SongFest 2018 is hosted by the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition whose mission is to "bring together our diverse faith communities to build bridges of understanding and respect. We stand together with humility to acknowledge our common values, learn from one another and serve our wider world."

The event welcomes faith-based communities from the peninsula to come and share their culture and faith through music. This is the 5th Annual SongFest and the first time CCSM will be participating in the event. Last year different participating organizations came from Jewish, Christian, Hindu and Buddhist traditions including the Shinnyo-en Buddhist Temple and their Taiko Drum ensemble.

There will be a reception to follow.

As Rev. Kristi Denham shared with me: "If you have participated in the past, you know how wonderful this event truly is. If not, you will be surprised and blessed by the experience!"

Look forward to seeing you there.

Lynnelle Bilsey, Director of Music, CCSM



Guess who's behind this Mardi Gras mask



Drew and other CCSM children delivered handmade Valentines to the seniors living next door at Lesley Plaza.



The Reinkes are regulars at the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper

# Spend an evening with John Dear

THURSDAY, MARCH 8 • 7:00PM • KLOSS HALL



Join us for an evening of reading, reflection, and book-signing with longtime peace activist, priest, author, lecturer, teacher, and Nobel Peace Prize nominee John Dear. His new book, *They Will Inherit the Earth*, connects the way of active nonviolence with solidarity with Creation; shows how our global

epidemic of violence and war could only lead to catastrophic climate change; and explores why we need to build up the global grassroots movement of nonviolence if we are to protect Creation. He cites Jesus' third Beatitude as the basis for his meditation: "Blessed are the meek, they will inherit the earth." Thomas Merton said "meekness" was the biblical word for "nonviolence" (in the Gandhi/King sense), so Dear notes how Jesus connected nonviolence with oneness with creation, how he practiced nonviolence and lived at one with creation, and how we need to do the same. John invites us to rise to the occasion, deepen our nonviolence, take new steps into active solidarity with Mother Earth and suffering humanity, and do what we can to welcome a new culture of peace and nonviolence.

Rev. John Dear is the author of 35 books, including *Thomas Merton, Peacemaker*; *Lazarus, Come Forth!*; *Living Peace*; *The Nonviolent Life*; and *The Beatitudes of Peace*. He has been nominated many times for the Nobel Peace Prize, including by Archbishop Desmond Tutu. He works with [CampaignNonviolence.org](http://CampaignNonviolence.org) and the Vatican Nonviolence Initiative, and lives in New Mexico. Find out more about him at [www.JohnDear.org](http://www.JohnDear.org).

Tickets are free but limited, and may be reserved at [tinyurl.com/JohnDearCCSM](http://tinyurl.com/JohnDearCCSM)

Questions? [www.paceebene.org](http://www.paceebene.org) / 510 268-8765 / [info@paceebene.org](mailto:info@paceebene.org)



## The Church's Call to Justice in Troubled Times

PROFESSOR SOONG-CHAN RAH

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH • 1106 ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS, SAN CARLOS

FREE - REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT [TRINITY-PRES.ORG/CONNECT](http://TRINITY-PRES.ORG/CONNECT)



Dr. Soong-Chan Rah, Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism at North Park University, will be leading a workshop and lecture on "The Church's Call to Justice in Troubled Times." The event is free and RSVP is required through Eventbrite so that Trinity Presbyterian Church can adequately prepare for how many people may attend. There will be snacks and beverages available during and after the lecture.

The presentation will be in the sanctuary on the second floor of the building.

❖ Hour 1: How do we understand the world in which we live? What leads to troubled times?

❖ Hour 2: A biblical understanding of justice: what theological lenses shape how we address these issues?

❖ Hour 3: What can we do about it? How can we change narratives and imagination to participate in the Christian call to justice?

Dr. Rah's two most recent books are *Prophetic Lament* and *Return to Justice*. This is an open lecture, and all are invited to participate.



# Wheels are Rolling from CCSM

by Tony Gallo



Did you know a moderator could fix bikes? Well, this one and a small group of other “Wheels” enthusiasts and volunteers did just that! Several of us got together recently for a big push to get a bunch of bikes that we had in storage fixed, lubed, checked, and ready for donation to our neighbors in need.

This work had many aspects to it:

- a) Taking the unfixable bikes to the recycling center after triaging
- b) Surveying remaining bikes for needed parts

c) Three days of actual get-the-hands-dirty and grease-under-the-fingernails work to fix the bikes and make sure they met safe road rules (reflectors, etc.)

Initially, we completed 13 adults’ bikes and four children’s bikes. The results of that work can be seen in the picture below. In case you did not know, this is our workshop area in the basement of the Masonic Temple across from CCSM.

But these bikes were not quite ready. If I never ride my bike without a helmet and lights, why would we want our friends to ride without them?

A company in China gave us a nice discount on lights after I told them what we were doing (check them out at [myworld.ebay.com/coolchange2016](http://myworld.ebay.com/coolchange2016)). After a very speedy delivery (thanks US Postal), we installed them quickly.

Here is a picture with a few of us after the lights were installed. These lights are nice and bright as you can see.

If you are a careful fact checker, you will see that this picture actually has 14 adult bikes, not 13, due to a late donation from Len himself after he upgraded his ride! Thanks Len. And when I went back to the office that day, we got yet another bike donated, which was quickly fixed for a total of 15 adult bikes and 4 kids bikes.



I would like to acknowledge and give thanks to a lot of people that made all



of this possible. First, to all the CCSM workers that helped me with a lot of time and elbow grease (literally) to make this effort possible: Peter Held, Mike Harris, Len Flaherty, Jim Shaul, Jim Granucci, and Mike (the pump man) Mullery.

I would also like to acknowledge the help from Rev Kibbie Ruth who is arranging all of the distribution logistics for these bikes to those in need in the community.

# Bits and Pieces

**LOST AND FOUND** • When you’ve lost your glasses, it’s hard to look for them because... well... you’ve lost your glasses! We have accumulated several pairs of reading and prescription glasses as well as a few hats, a jacket, and miscellaneous items in our lost and found. The next time you come to church, please check the shelves and hangers located at the base of the steps leading from the office to the Narthex. If you have lost something of more value (like keys or jewelry), I have those in my office. Call or stop by and describe your missing article and I will look for it!



**CALLING ALL FLATWARE** • If you are familiar with the story of Les Misérables (where Jean Valjean, the main character in Victor Hugo’s classic tale, takes silver candlesticks from the church but is absolved by the Bishop and sent on his way to start a new life), then you may not be surprised to learn that most of our silverware forks have disappeared from the kitchen. While we hope they have found homes where they are needed, we could certainly use some replacements! If you have any extra metal salad or dinner forks (not plastic or recycled paper) and would be willing to help replenish our supply, please bring them to the church office. They don’t have to match! We still have plenty of knives and spoons—it’s just the forks that have gone missing.

**GRATITUDE** • Each day I am in the office, I am enriched by those whose paths cross mine. Thank you for your calls, your visits, your notes, your contributions of self and resources, your connections to the CCSM community. It is such a pleasure to work here!



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

## Easter Memorial Program



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

Please carefully fill in the form by **MONDAY, MARCH 26** to insure accuracy when the donor list is published on Easter Sunday. Please contact the office (650-343-3694) or Dakota Brown (415-244-3696) if you have questions.

(please print)

DONOR'S NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

or

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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





# 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](http://ccsm-ucc.org/MyCCSM) online prayer request,
- by contacting us via staff emails listed in your bulletin, the website, or the Pine Tree newsletter.

You may also contact the church office or email Dakota at [dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:dbrown@ccsm-ucc.org) or call 415-244-3696 if you need support during the week, and Dakota will make sure one of the pastors contacts you as soon as possible.

### SPECIAL FEBRUARY AND MARCH BIRTHDAYS

**Emma Jean Lloyd** celebrated her 90th birthday on February 23, and **Miriam Dizon** turns 90 on March 27th. **Eva Thomson** will turn 99 on March 30th. We wish them all a year of celebration and joy!

### PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

God, help us to remove from our world what we no longer need. Help us to make space for love and kindness. Help us, God, to love our broken parts and see ourselves as whole and brave. Give us peace without isolation; provide safety without violence. God, provide a path to Love eternal for all people. Amen.

### PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE

**Vera Pitts** is thankful for the many birthday cards and prayers sent to her.

### PRAYERS OF TRANSITION

We say farewell to **Lori and Marty Shepard** who are relocating to Illinois. We pray for safe travels and much joy in this new chapter of their lives.

### PRAYERS OF LOVE AND REMEMBERING

**Margaret Tocchini**, mother of **Bob Tocchini**, died peace-

fully in San Mateo surrounded by her family on February 18. Prayers of condolence for the whole family.

Prayers for **Ann Johnson**, loving sister of **Phyllis Lunardi**: aunt, mother, friend and family member, from Ball Ground, GA. Ann passed away suddenly on Sunday, February 11 from a pulmonary embolism. She was only 66 years old. We also pray for her two grown children, **Jeff and Emily Tomasi**.

Prayers for **Cameron**, beloved family member to **Phil Gara** and **Karen Jolliffe**. He fought cancer for a long time. Cameron made the world a better place. Prayers of gratitude for his time on earth, and comfort to those who love him.

**Jay, Anne Anderson's** husband **Joe's** son, died recently after a 16-month ordeal. Anne writes, "We will miss him...he was a lovely and good man...but we are glad he is free." Prayers for the whole extended family.

Prayers for the family of **Rocky Moniz** who passed away recently. May God provide them with love and peace.

### CONTINUING PRAYERS

Please continue to pray for **Angela Lee's** uncle who in now

on his 6th treatment of chemo. We pray for that his body will receive the healing it needs.

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

Please continue to pray for **Andrew Lind** who is in charge of the refugee camps for the Rohingya people in Bangladesh. There are 650,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh right now. Prayers for Andrew and for peace and safety for all the refugees in this time of devastation and crisis.

Ongoing prayers of strength and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters: **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.

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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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## MSJ Launches the CCSM Justice Network!

As an inclusive, progressive Christian community, we are called to stand up for all of God's people and speak out against injustice in any form. In order to be effective, we must have the ability to swiftly mobilize our wider CCSM family.

In response to the current social and political climate, MSJ (the Ministry of Service and Justice) is launching the CCSM Justice Network.

When a time-sensitive social justice action is planned, members of the Justice Network will receive text message alerts with the details about when and where to meet. For those of you who received daily Advent prayers by text, it will work in a similar way.

This network will be a powerful way for our larger CCSM family to stand up for justice and live out our calling as "God's Hands, Feet, and Face" in the world. Please join us!

You can sign up to join the CCSM Justice Network after Sunday worship in March. Alternatively, you can sign up by sending your name and phone number (with area code please) to Amie at [agiordano@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:agiordano@ccsm-ucc.org).

