

Holy Week



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

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 7)

MARCH 29 | HOLY THURSDAY • 7PM, Kloss Hall We will commemorate Holy Thursday by sharing a meal (Jorge cooking) around tables in Kloss Hall. During the evening we will sing, share scripture and hear short reflections by George Snode, Alicia Santamaria and Judi Powell. It will be a spiritually meaningful service.

MARCH 30 | GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE at 7PM, 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 leads the joint choir.

APRIL 1 EASTOR 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!



There will be Easter activities for the children after the Children's Message in worship—cookies and eggs to decorate, wild creations to build with egg cartons, and more crafts and activities in the Buckham Room.

Sundays in APRIL

Celebrating Resurrection throughout the Cosmos!

≫ NATURE-LOVERS. COME ON OUT! **≫**

We will continue our resurrection theme and extend it to the cosmos. God's glory is everywhere, in the sacred and the secular, and in every form of life. To live fully into this reality involves caring for the



earth and its ecosystems. Environmental concerns are spiritual concerns. As Wendell Berry said, "There are no unsacred places, there are only sacred places and desecrated places."

APRIL 8 • Re-creation: The Resurrected Community. An inspirational service where three CCSM members will share their own stories of resurrection.

APRIL 15 · Re-Creation: We Are Salt and Light. Environmental concerns are spiritual concerns. (Penny)

APRIL 22 · Re-Creation: Every Day is Earth Day. Our children will help lead our Earth Day service and call on the four elements. Special guest preacher: Joliene Wade Gatlin!

APRIL 29 · Re-Creation: Eco-Habits of the Heart. Practicing resurrection in our ecorelationships and finding hope in the midst of climate change. (Penny)

Looking for "A Word from Penny"?
It's on page 4!

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Can the Bible Be Fun?

Ask a fourth or fifth grader. Their February Bible Night mini-retreat included scrambling to put the books of the Bible back in order, huddling to worship in the church "catacombs," eating biblical food (the dried dates weren't a favorite), and telling creation stories around the campfire. After two and a half hours, the kids didn't want to leave! Admittedly, when the parents arrived, the kids were learning about famous Bible people by playing bingo for Oreos—the cookie equivalent of Jesus's message that what matters most is what's on the inside.



Come to worship April 29, and see the fifth graders receive their personal Bibles from the church.



Senior High 60 Minutes with Mike Mullery

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 10:30AM · SPECIAL GUEST WATANI STINER

Mid High is invited as well to come talk with our special guest, Watani Stiner. Watani spoke in our worship service and Second Hour last November, and is returning to have a dialogue with our youth on the topic of Restorative Justice, and whatever else the youth would like to ask someone who was active in the Black Power movement in the 1960s, was wrongly convicted and spent 26 years in prison, escaped from San Quentin and spent 20 years as

a fugitive in South America, and voluntarily surrendered to bring his children to safety. He has been called a "revolutionary elder, a storyteller and a social justice advocate passing the historical baton on to the next generation." This is not to be missed!

Patrick's Last Hurrah!

CONFIRMATION RETREAT · APRIL 21-22

Patrick will become a married man on April 28, the Saturday after the Confirmation Retreat. So make sure your high schooler gets in on this last opportunity to hang out with him for a weekend. All high schoolers are welcome, whether they have been to a confirmation retreat before or not. The Santa Cruz church will welcome us again; info will come later.



Don't Forget to Plan for CAMP CAZ

Every year our children and youth describe their Camp Caz experience as life-changing—the beautiful setting, the great new friends, and the spiritual spin on every aspect of the week. One year, Kibbie posted a sign at the pool, "Please, Don't Walk on the Water." With sincere concern, one camper complained, "But, I don't know how to walk on the water." Campers may not become holy, but they do become wholly enchanted with God's message in nature and community. Don't let your child miss out!

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

Check out the link, https://ncncucc.org/yomcreg/ for more information and registration.

Growing Up

MID HIGH COMING OF AGE RETREAT

On Palm Sunday, while you are waving palms, eleven mid-highers will be worshipping in Danville during CCSM's second annual Coming of Age weekend retreat. The budding adolescents will be taking a break from their busy lives on the Peninsula to discover inner resources of peace and resilience for their transition from childhood to adulthood. Through activities, songs, and discussions, they will explore what it means to "come of age" in our modern world.

And of course, an initiation is included. Last year, the youth climbed one of three tall mountains used by USGS to survey the Bay Area. This year they will tackle the second one—Mt. Diablo, considered by Ohlone to be the ancestral, sacred dwelling place

of their creator gods (divine personages of Coyote, Eagle, Condor, Falcon and Hummingbird). Wonder why the Spanish called that same impressive landmark "Devil Mountain."



Fabulous Fourteen Head for Hawaii

WESTERN REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT (WRYE) **JUNE 24-JULY 1**

This year WRYE will be hosted by the Hawaii UCC Conference. Not for a jaunt on the beach—this transformative experience will include service projects, worship, music, speakers, workshops, and a trip to the Polynesian Cultural Center. In extra



days wrapped around the event, the CCSM high schoolers will explore more deeply the spirituality that grows from Hawaii's natural beauty, delightful people, and tragic history (Pearl Harbor and neardestruction of the native culture since the landing of Captain Cook). The fourteen teenagers attending from our church will join about a dozen of their friends from Camp Caz who live all around Northern California.

You'll hear more about this amazing opportunity from our youth as their departure draws closer.



Last year's Team-Up to Clean-Up Team

Earth Day Celebration and Neighborhood Clean-up

SUNDAY, APRIL 22 · 11:45AM-1:00PM

After a musical homage to earth, water, air and fire in the sanctuary, come hit the streets after worship. Our 3rd Annual Earth Day Neighborhood clean-up will take place immediately following the service. Join us for lunch and fellowship in the Buckham Room, and then Team Up to Clean Up the blocks around CCSM. The City of San Mateo will provide us with grabbers and supplies, but bring your own gloves! (Youth can earn service hours for school.)

All ages are encouraged to come help our immediate environment shine!

Undergraduate and Graduate **Scholarships** Available!

The Ministry of Children, Youth and Families is soliciting candidates for receiving both undergraduate and graduate scholarship aid.



Selection criteria and application instructions are available on the CCSM website, http://ccsm-ucc.org/adults/. You'll find links with complete instructions and application packets for both the CCSM undergraduate scholarship and the Bullis Graduate School Scholarship there. Deadline for the undergraduate scholarship is April 15, 2018, and for the Bullis Scholarship it is May 1, 2018.

Questions? Please email or call Warren Long: longlake15@sbcglobal.net, (650) 341-7809.

A WORD FROM PENNY

Dear friends,

As I write this, students across the nation—and across the world—are pouring out of their classrooms into the streets in protest of gun violence. They will no longer remain

silent. They will no longer wait for the adults to "do something." They want to make their voices heard: their lives and the lives of their friends matter. They are sending a clear message that they know more could be done to end the senseless violence if there were simply the moral will to do so.

I am moved to tears by their prophetic witness, their courage, and their brilliant organizing. I hope we are drawing inspiration from our nation's youth and that we will use their inspiring example to strengthen our own resolve to work for justice.

A colleague of mine shared this poem with me last week and I offer to you in the spirit of our youth and of hope for our future.

SCHOOL PRAYER

by Diane Ackerman

In the name of the daybreak and the eyelids of morning and the wayfaring moon and the night when it departs,

I swear I will not dishonor my soul with hatred, but offer myself humbly as a guardian of nature, as a healer of misery, as a messenger of wonder, as an architect of peace.

In the name of the sun and its mirrors and the day that embraces it and the cloud veils drawn over it and the uttermost night and the male and the female and the plants bursting with seed and the crowning seasons of the firefly and the apple,

I will honor all life
-wherever and in whatever form
it may dwell-on Earth my home,
and in the mansions of the stars.

May it be so.
Peace,
Penny

End Gun Violence!

CCSM JOINS "MARCH FOR OUR LIVES" ON MARCH 24TH

On March 24, kids and families throughout the US will take to the streets to demand that their lives and safety become a priority and that we end gun violence and mass shootings in our schools today.

March For Our Lives is created by, inspired by, and led by students across the country, and is demanding that a comprehensive and effective bill be immediately brought before Congress to address these gun issues. Every kid in this country now goes to school wondering if this day might be their last. It



doesn't have to

be this way. Change is coming. And it starts now, inspired by and led by the kids who are our hope for the future.

CCSM will be joining the march in San Mateo!

SATURDAY, MARCH 24TH:

10:00-11:30 a.m. Sign-making, Buckham Room 12 p.m. Rally at Beresford Park, 2720 Alameda de las Pulgas, San Mateo

Join the SF March - After the rally, we will march to Caltrain and take that to the BART station in Millbrae, and then to San Francisco to join the larger march to Civic Center

Sign up after worship, or just meet us at CCSM or at the march!

25th Annual **Organ Recital**

MAY 6 · 4:00PM · CCSM SANCTUARY



CCSM's beloved organist Angela Kraft Cross will be performing her 25th Anniversary Organ Recital this May. Let's fill the church in appreciation of Angela's 25 years of service at the organ bench and most recently as composer. While our hearts & spirits are filled with the glorious sounds

from our pipe organ, be sure to tell your family & friends that this is a concert you won't want to miss!

In keeping with the annual organ recital tradition, there will be an ice cream social following the concert hosted by the Music Ministry Team. See you there!

First Tuesday **Book Group**

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2018 · 7:30PM · FIREPLACE ROOM

Our next book is The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, by Junot Díaz. The story focuses on Oscar, but the narrative often switches points of view. Oscar's family has recently emigrated from the Dominican Republic to

The Brief Wondrou Oscar Wao

Junot Díaz

New Jersey, and the novel describes their journey and their experiences of settling into a new society. While the novel does address the politics and experiences of being an immigrant, it also delves into fantasy, sci-fi, and magical realism. There is even a curse—a Fuku that causes problems... and historically, the story reflects the time of Rafael Trujillo, the murderous dictator of the Dominican Republic. Even though this is a work of fiction, some critics suggest the author is a witness to and reporter of the real life events of this time. This will be a "novel" read in many ways. It was a fan favorite... Hope you all enjoy it.

Any questions? Send an email to s stoehr@hotmail.com



Music for Holy Week

CCSM's music team and all our musicians are excited about all the inspirational music which will be part of CCSM's Holy Week Services. Joyful Noise, Chancel Choir, Chamber Singers and more will be offering beautiful reflections and uplifting moments through the gift of music. From the children's voices on Palm Sunday to the joint choir service on Good Friday to our wonderful trumpets, organ & choir on Easter, this will be a wonderful musical week filled with the Spirit.



Wednesday **Night Gatherings** welcomes Melanie Dresbach

Pianist and organist Melanie Dresbach joined our CCSM musical family this month as the Wednesday Night Gathering's pianist. Melanie comes to CCSM with an extensive history in liturgical and bilingual music. She received her B.A. in music performance from SJSU and her M.A. in Liturgical Music, Pastoral Ministries from Santa Clara University. She has led music in worship in various congregations in Santa Clara county and most recently was working with a bilingual congregation at All Saints Cristo Rey Episcopal Church in Watsonville, where her brother was the pastor.

She will be leading music at our Holy Thursday service; please come say hello and join CCSM in extending a very warm welcome to Melanie.

Music & Art

FRIDAY, APRIL 20, NOON BUCKHAM ROOM

Remember to bring your own sandwich/salad; dessert and beverages are provided. After lunch, three of our own members will present an enticing program. Are you looking for something new to read? Fran Gillen, Chris Neil and Pat Pepper will inspire you with their recently read titles and brief snippets of each. Don't miss this important meeting and be sure to make your reservation with Susan Duty at susanjd52@gmail.com or phone 650-533-6828. Guests are always welcome.

Wise & Wonderful

2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS, 10:30AM - NOON COOKIES AND COFFEE PROVIDED



March 28 • Mercy Center and bag lunch; mindful walking on the grounds. (2300 Adeline Dr., Burlingame) Car pools leave church at 10:10, or meet us in the Mercy Center parking lot at 10:30. Note: handicap parking spaces are available at the top of the driveway, right outside the conference center. If it rains we will meet at church for "Plan B."

April 11 • Rev Jorge Bautista will talk about his experiences in Israel. Come one come all, ask questions, get involved.

April 25 • What do you need to pack if you need to move? Sherry Plambeck from The Magnolia of Millbrae will talk to us about how to prepare to move from the family home to senior housing. If you are thinking of making a change now or in the future, get some helpful information now.

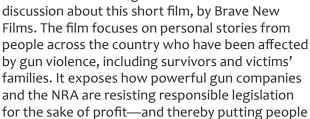
A squirrel takes a last scurry through his home just before our beloved hundred-plus-year-old pine tree is taken down on December 20. photo by Tony Gallo

Second Hour

SUNDAY, APRIL 8 AT 11:45 BUCKHAM ROOM

SCREENING OF MAKING A KILLING: GUNS, GREED, AND THE NRA

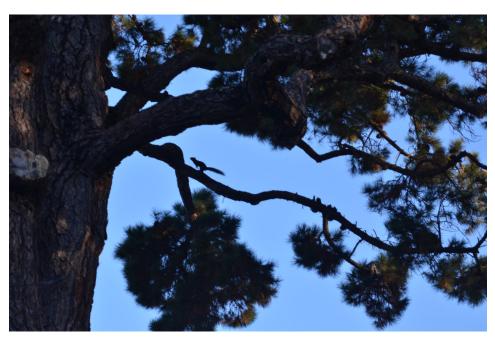
The Ministry of Service and Justice is sponsoring a Second Hour for the screening of and





in danger. This film looks into gun tragedies that include unintentional shootings, domestic violence, suicides, mass shootings, and trafficking—and what we can do to put an end to this profit-driven crisis.

Come together with your church community to discuss this critical issue.



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 Multifaith Coalition. People of all faiths are welcome! A vegetarian dinner will be served. \$20 per adult, \$15 for children 12 years old and under.



For more Information, Contact Sarah Fields: sfields@jcrc.org or 650-847-1715

No Homework Tonight!

HOMEWORK CENTRAL'S ANNUAL FUNDRAISER AT THE CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL FRIDAY, APRIL 27 · 6:30-9:00PM

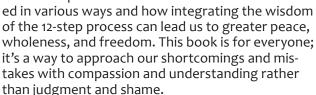
Please support our community after-school tutoring program. Featured speakers: Julia Wilson, CEO of OneJustice, and Homework Central students. Julia has a deep understanding of the struggles and inequities that Homework Central families face each day. A charismatic and passionate speaker, she brings tremendous heart and conviction to everything she does. Speak to Betsy Woodward, Judy Hemmer or Melodie Lew for more info.

Spiritual Conversations

BREATHING UNDER WATER BY RICHARD ROHR MONDAY EVENINGS, 7:00-8:30 PM MARCH 12 - APRIL 16.

RICHARD ROHR

Come join a discussion of 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. He explores how we're all addict-



Questions? Please contact Dorothy and Richard Kogl at kogl@att.net or phone 650-579-7272.

HELP WANTED!

COFFEE HOUR HELP NEEDED. You can help once a month or once a year. Come have fun and help connect our church community with treats. Contact Deanna Riding, deannariding@gmail.com or 650-696-0680.

HELP OUT WITH THE KIDS. Enjoy the children in the CE Building after they arrive from the "big church." Help greet the children, take attendance, and act as the Lead Teacher's side kick. Sign up at tinyurl.com/springkids



Hand in Hand Schools Visit

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 7:00PM ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL 414 EL CAMINO REAL, BURLINGAME

In the context of the ongoing conflict between Arabs and Jews, Israelis and Palestinians, Hand in Hand (handinhandk12.org) has created a growing and viable model for integrated education and shared society for Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. Now with over 1750 Jewish and Arab students attending its six schools and over 3,000 adults participants in joint community programs, Hand in Hand is making an impact on ever-larger segments of Israeli society.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church cordially invites you to join Noa Yammer, Vicky Makhoul and Alma Saporta as they share insights from their experience of creating community that bridges racial and religious divides. Come join the conversation and support the work of Hand in Hand.

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 now through April 1st. Alternatively, you can sign up by sending your name, phone number (with area code please), and cell phone provider to Amie at agiordano@ccsm-ucc.org.

Support CCSM when you shop!

CCSM now has a SMILE account at Amazon that works similarly to the e-scrip we've used in the past. When shopping on Amazon.com, after signing in to your account click on this link to have .5% of your eligible purchases be donated to CCSM: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1279821 Thereafter,



whenever you are shopping on Amazon, just make sure you've started at smile.amazon.com to have .5% of your purchases automatically donated.

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 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.

MARCH & APRIL BIRTHDAYS!

Miriam Dizon turns 90 on March 27th. We wish her a year of celebration and joy!

Upcoming in April: Thelma Kromhout turns 99 on April 15th, Martha Imai turns 103 on April 23rd, and Clare Naegle turns 100 on April 30th. We could not possibly measure all that these three women have contributed over many faithful years to this church. Much joy and prayers of gratitude to all three!

IRISH SPRING BLESSING

May the road rise to meet you, May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields.

> And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

PRAYERS OF JOY

On March 22, Joan and Chuck Brown, Kathy Gallo's parents, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. We wish them continuing joy and happiness together!

Prayers of love and safety for Ariella Varley who is traveling with other students from the University of Washington to India for two weeks to work with women there to create sustainable businesses.

March 7th marked the 59th wedding anniversary of **Bonny** and Mike Armacost. They met at Carleton College in 1954. We celebrate them and wish them continued joy and love for each other!

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND REMEMBERING

Stan Higgs' nephew, Wayne Higgs, died unexpectedly in Florida on February 25. Prayers of comfort and consolation for Stan, for Stan's brother Chester Higgs as he grieves his son, and for all who loved him.

Prayers of comfort and strength for Maureen Martin, whose father Willmore Frederick Holbrow Jr. passed away on March 4 in Brea, California. A man of many talents and well loved by his family, he will be greatly missed. Please keep his wife Mary, as well as Maureen, Bryan, and the whole extended family in your prayers. Cards may be sent to the Martins at 806 Wilmington Rd, San Mateo, 94402.

Bjorn Olsen, husband of longtime member Sally Olsen, died on March 5th. A memorial will be held April 14 at 11:00am. Prayers of comfort and strength to the whole family.

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND **STRENGTH**

Healing prayers for **David**, **Judy Hemmer's** son, recovering from surgery.

Prayers for Mark, friend of Judy **Hemmer,** who has suffered a loss to a beloved family member to suicide. May God's love give peace to all touched by this loss.

Healing prayers for Mary Ruth Miller, friend of CCSM, recovering from successful hip replacement surgery. We pray for Mary Ruth and all who care for her. Send cards to 155 Jackson Street, Apt 608, San Francisco 94111.

Please continue to pray for An**drew 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.

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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Congregational Forum: A Vision for CCSM's Future

FIRST FORUM: APRIL 29 · 11:45-12:45 · BUCKHAM ROOM (MORE DATES TO FOLLOW)

The Board of Ministries invites you to attend one of several forums it will be holding this spring to share and discuss its vision for CCSM's future.

In this one-hour meeting we will cover plans we have in development for our governance and ministry teams that provide easier and more meaningful opportunities for members to participate in the life and ministry of CCSM and create more effective structures to support our board in steering CCSM towards a sustainable future.

Please come to listen and to share your input. We welcome your feedback in the process!

With gratitude,

CCSM Board of Ministries