

## SUMMER SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

Stay connected spiritually this summer—don't miss these inspiring services filled with inspirational music and a potpourri of spiritual wisdom!

- JUNE 10** *Letting Go of the Need For Certainty.* Penny Nixon. ANNUAL MEETING.
- JUNE 17** *Letting Go of Exhaustion,* Penny Nixon.
- JUNE 24** *Is Prayer Ethical?* Dakota Brown.
- JULY 1** *Love is my Religion: Part I.* Amie Giordano.
- JULY 8** *Letting Go of Anxiety.* Penny Nixon.
- JULY 15** *Love is my Religion: Part II.* Amie Giordano.
- CHURCH PICNIC.
- JULY 22** *Love is my Religion: Part III.* Amie Giordano.
- JULY 29** *Show Me your Hand.* Jorge Perry Bautista.
- AUGUST 5** *Standing Up with the Bent-Over Woman.* Jorge Perry Bautista.
- AUGUST 12** *The Woman at the Well.* Jorge Perry Bautista.
- AUGUST 19** *Letting Go of Being (trying to be) in Control.* Penny Nixon. BACK TO SCHOOL.
- AUGUST 26** HYMN SING Service. *Hymns Have Their Place.* Penny Nixon.

## A Word from Penny

When June rolls around, so does the annual report and the opportunity to reflect. When I take a reflective look back at the last 12 months, it causes me to draw in a deep breath—what a year it has been. Even as I write this, waves of violence are erupting in Israel, the #MeToo movement is upending gender politics, housing prices are continuing to rise and displace many in San Mateo, undocumented youth are fearful and uncertain of their future, our country's politics are more acrimonious and divisive than ever, and like the Kilauea volcano spewing red hot lava on Hawaii's big island, things can sometimes feel explosive and out of control.



But as people of faith, we know that the challenging times call for even greater trust

—cont. on p. 4—



The 25th Annual Spring Organ Recital with Angela Kraft Cross



# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



## KICK OFF SUMMER WITH A SMOOTHIE

It may not be Jamba Juice, but on June 17 our WRYE teenagers will blend you up a smoothie for just \$1. Stop on the loggia to grab your healthy mix of fruits—and help support this last fundraising effort before they head for the conference in Honolulu on June 23.

## TEENAGERS FLY AWAY



On Saturday, June 23, fourteen CCSM teenagers and Sarah Graves

(one of our more grown-up kids) fly to Honolulu for the UCC Western Regional Youth Event, the NCNC retreat afterwards and two additional days of adventure with Kibbie and Jim. Those two days, the youth will settle in their digs at the University of Hawaii, pray for peace at Pearl Harbor, hike through the jungle, sun on the beach our veterans use for R&R, and bargain hunt through the huge Aloha Flea Market. Your love and support has made this fabulous trip possible! Thank you!

## WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO GROW UP?

This summer, the mid-high group will continue to gather in the Youth Room on Sundays after the Children's Message (except on the first Sundays when they stay in church for communion). The special summer treat will be guest speakers—church members who grew up outside the US. Wonder what their tales will be as teenagers! (No evening youth group meetings)



## Hearing the Call of Spirit

Dear CCSM Community,

After much prayer and contemplation, I have discerned a calling to complete my time of service at CCSM on June 17, 2018, in order to engage in self-care and to devote more time to my creative endeavors, including my creative writing. Thank you so much for the joy of being able to work with your children's program for three very special years.



This decision has not been an easy one. I love this church and my work with the children, families, staff, and congregation. What started out as a job on craigslist led to a connection with an amazing community that has served as a spiritual home for me. Walking into church each Sunday and hearing the Welcome Message--and then walking into the prek/k classroom and greeting the children--has been such a grounding and fulfilling experience. I particularly treasure all the memories I have of the children, of hearing their wisdom and laughter and watching them grow. And I so appreciate the support from all the families, from the CE committee, from the staff, and from so many members of the congregation who care about kids and about me. It's not easy to say goodbye to a community that I love.

This decision has also been challenging because it has required me to "walk my talk" and to have faith that God will provide, no matter what. After years of working 6-7 days a week, nearly round the clock, and still feeling quite challenged out here in the Bay Area, a part of me has felt like I couldn't afford to let go of any type of job without something else lined up in its place.

And yet, I'm aware from my body and from the tiredness I feel that I can't afford NOT to let go of working on Sundays, and I can't afford NOT to have faith that God will provide.

And on an even deeper level, I'm aware of feeling a very strong calling to write and publish inspirational books. With such a busy lifestyle currently, it's crucial that I be willing to take a leap of faith that will enable me to say "yes" to writing the books that want to be born through me.

And so, with tears, with some fears that I've had to address, and with a deep faith within me that now is the time for me to prepare for the next stage of literary motherhood, I submit my resignation, with abiding gratitude and love for our sacred time together. I look forward to doing a Children's Moment on "hearing the call of Spirit" on June 17.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you. It has been one of the joys of my life.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Starborn

## rites of passage

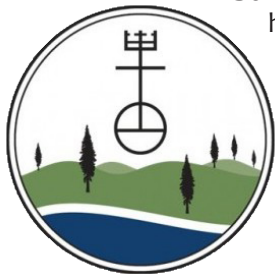
Marking significant life transitions is an ancient tradition. Like indigenous people of old, CCSM recognizes our children's deepening spiritual maturity with a series of "rites of passage." Culturally, rites of passage may be as mundane as a child's first steps or as significant as marriage. Some growing-up achievements lack an official celebration, like coming forward without a parent for the Children's Message—but children realize these un-applauded moments are monumental. Other transitions in life deserve a special ceremony, like baptism and fifth graders receiving their gift Bibles from the church. Our mid-highers spend a weekend exploring what "coming of age" means to them (and how some Bible characters didn't make that transition very effectively). High school students participate in two confirmation retreats to explore their faith and determine if they want to confirm their parents' earlier baptismal vows to raise them as Christians. High school seniors apply to receive our graduation blessing of a scholarship as they launch into college (thanks to the Sue Bullis Scholarship). Five official rites of passage for children and youth at CCSM!

Last week a third grader said she hated it when adults told her, "You are getting so old." She said she wished people would notice something other than her physical growth. Let's make her wish come true and acknowledge the significant transitions of our children and youth—not just their age.



Tyler Pratt receives his prayer shawl as he joins the church on Confirmation Sunday

## DO NOT MISS CAMP CAZ



Sorry, grownups—CAZ is for kids! Cabins have showers (that the kids sometimes use) and a pool that rinses them off daily. Fun crafts, programs, worship, music—and more!

Scholarships are available! Here's the link to sign up:

[nncucc.org/yomcreg/](http://nncucc.org/yomcreg/)

**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

## HOORAH FOR OUR GRADUATES!



Four young men from CCSM graduated this spring:

**NICK HUDSON** will represent CCSM in Washington, DC, at George Washington University. When Nick wasn't playing with Aragon's tennis team, he staffed our Shrove Tuesday pancake dinners and volunteered distributing produce to Samaritan House clients.

**ELLIOT ADAMS** will be playing lacrosse at Roanoke College in Virginia next fall. At Serra High School, he participated in an immersion project with migrant workers in Watsonville.

**BRANDON KYLE** also graduated from Serra where he ran cross country, participated in track and field, and enjoyed making films. Next year he will attend Indiana University in Bloomington (he'll have to run there to stay warm!)

**KYLE NEIL** will stay in town and remain an active volunteer at church, while attending College of San Mateo where he has already been taking classes while a student at Hillsdale High School. He will continue to keep CCSM staff computers working smoothly and train us to better use the fancy electronics he installed in the CE Building as his Eagle Scout project.

## SUMMER OUTDOORS

Why is Children's Church outdoors in the summer? Often God is more accessible in nature than in a building. Appreciation for creation increases children's commitment to protecting the environment. The list could go on, but did you know that outdoor experiences actually make you smarter?



In his decade's worth of research on the psychological and cognitive effects of the outdoors, neuroscientist David Strayer has found time in nature—sans cell phone—to be a powerful antidote to the constant distraction of our digital lives. More than that, it enhances higher-order thinking, restores attention, and boosts creativity. For example, in a 2012 study, Strayer found that backpackers were 50 percent more creative after they had spent four days out on the trail.

Want to help out outdoors sometime between June 17 to August 12? Go to volunteer <https://tinyurl.com/OutdoorSummer> to sign up.

## IS GOD GOOD OR EVIL?

For the next Sixty Minutes June 10, the teenagers voted to talk about God. Wonder how God will fare after this discussion! As always, the lively conversation will be during worship in the Fireplace Room with perennial Mike Mullery and his delicious donuts.

## A WORD FROM PENNY... cont. from p. 1

that God is still in our midst and neither discouragement nor despair have the final word. God will “find us” if we stay attentive. The poet Marilyn Nelson says it this way:

We do not need to search for God.  
We need to be open to this world  
of pain and beauty. It is in our attentiveness  
to this broken world  
that God  
finds us.

So as I looked back, I began to be attentive—attentive to ALL the joy, gratitude and hope that I experienced at CCSM this year. As your Senior Minister, I have the privilege of sharing so much of life with you as a community. I continue to be humbled by the ways you invite me into your lives and the sacred moments we share during times of fear, illness, loss, deep sorrow, celebration and great joy.

While this year has been full of challenges,

my overwhelming emotions are joy, gratitude and hope. In the annual report, you’ll read a catalogue of all the different ways I have experienced joy, gratitude and hope.

I hope you have a wonderful summer and find the rest, relaxation and renewal that we all need. I’ll be taking a little extra time this summer to renew and rejuvenate too. I pray that you will have sweet and meaningful times with friends and family and that you will be surprised by the unexpected ways that you find spirit along the way. And of course, I also pray that when you are in town, you’ll spend Sunday mornings with your faith community where you can connect with one another and experience spirit in the particular ways we do when we are gathered together.

Please know of my love and dedication to all of you,

Peace,  
Penny



On Pentecost Sunday, six remarkable confirmands shared their visions as Christians before becoming new church members.

## Wise & Wonderful

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

**JUNE 13: Praying in Color.** We will spend our time together bringing prayer and art together. Based on the book “Drawing a Path to God” by Sybil MacBeth.

**JUNE 27:** End of year lunch and singing. Lunch will be provided.

\* We will not meet in July or August.

A circular graphic with a blue sky and white clouds background. At the top, it says "CCSM Summer Picnic" in yellow and red. Below that, "JULY 15" is written in large red letters. Underneath, "Ryder Park" is written in yellow. On either side of "Ryder Park" is a small illustration of a picnic basket on a red and white checkered blanket. Below "Ryder Park", there is a list of food items: "A-I: Starchy Sides (rice, beans, pasta)", "J-R: Dessert", and "S-Z: Salad, vegetables, or fruit".

**CCSM**  
**Summer Picnic**  
**JULY 15**  
**Ryder Park**  
A-I: Starchy Sides (rice, beans, pasta)  
J-R: Dessert  
S-Z: Salad, vegetables, or fruit

# Summer Music at CCSM

Be sure to mark your calendars for two special music Sundays in June you won't want to miss!

## SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY, JUNE, 10

The Chancel Choir has been hard at work to bring you four beautiful pieces. Continuing in our tradition with the royal weddings, one of the pieces we will be singing is Ubi Caritas, by Paul Mealor, composed for the wedding of William and Kate (following on the heels of last year's piece which was composed for Charles & Diana's wedding). It's a beautiful work written in 9 parts for choir. Special guests include Bonnie Armacost playing piano 4-hands with Angela Kraft Cross on a piece by Vaughan Williams.

## SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAY, JUNE 17

The Carillon Ringers have been polishing up their bells in preparation of a second special music Sunday. They will present works composed for bell choir, a great hymn arrangement for bells, choir and organ, and a special piece for bells, chimes and piano 4-hands featuring Angela Kraft Cross and her student Chase Olson.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 24

CCSM's Summer Music Series begins this Sunday featuring organist Dominic Pang, a student of Angela's who will play organ for prelude, offertory and postlude.

## DROP-IN CHOIR/SONGS OF AMERICA BEGINNING SUNDAY, JULY 1

Special guests this summer include Don Kane, clarinet; Peninsula Youth Orchestra Flute Quartet, Merle Mason & Friends, Chamber Singers, Beyond Boundaries and more. Please watch your bulletins for schedule updates throughout the summer. Please note – singers of all ages are welcome to participate in any of the "Drop-In" Choir Sundays, no commitment necessary... If you love to sing – join us! There will be several Drop-In Choirs throughout the summer.

## VOCAL WORKSHOP WITH TOM LOHMULLER, ASSOCIATE MUSIC DIRECTOR

### AUGUST 15, 22 & 29

Do you love to sing? Are you a shower singer or do you belt out your favorite song while zoomin' down the road?, You will enjoy this workshop with Tom who will talk about the art of singing and techniques to improve your vocal sound and enhance your singing enjoyment. Come join Tom on Wednesday evenings this summer from 7:00-8:00 pm in the Choir Room.



*Rebuilding Together teamed up with the Masons to work on a neighbors house in April.*

## Two Special Concerts in June at CCSM

### EARTHSONGS

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 8:00PM • SANCTUARY

"EarthSongs" will be sung by the Choral Project, one of the finest vocal ensembles in the Bay Area. CCSM's Tom Lohmuller performs with this ensemble. The concert will feature dances and music of the theater. For more information, please go to the ensembles' website at [www.choralproject.org/](http://www.choralproject.org/).

### TENOR MICHAEL STRELO SMITH

FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 7:00PM • SANCTUARY

Michael was recently awarded to study German Lieder at the prestigious CSU Summer Arts Romantic Lied in Germany. He earned his Master's in Music at NDNU and will present his graduate lecture recital on "Queer Liberation Theology" as part of his preparation for his study abroad this summer.

*For more information about any of these musical offerings at CCSM or to participate in our music program, please talk to Lynnelle Bilsey, Director of Music, in person on Sunday, or by email at [lbilsey@lifemoves.org](mailto:lbilsey@lifemoves.org).*

# Faith Leaders' Solidarity Cohort Steps up for a Second Year

In the fall of 2017, the Peninsula Solidarity Network started the San Mateo County Faith Leaders' Solidarity Cohort, a group of thirty interfaith leaders who have been coming together to gain the analytical knowledge and practical tools to engage their faith communities in advocacy for justice. Penny and Amie helped coordinate this program, along with planning team members from the Solidarity Cohort. Cohort participants met monthly from October 2017 through May 2018, and addressed topics including Immigration Rights, Implicit Bias, Residential Segregation, Hypercapitalism, Theological Analysis of Resistance, and Theatre of the Oppressed.

For our final meeting in May, we gathered at a retreat center in the Santa Cruz mountains to discern what would be next. At the retreat, cohort members unanimously agreed that they would like to continue on for a second year. After taking a break over the summer, the cohort will reconvene in the fall, and explore new strategies for how to mobilize around critical justice issues, both in our faith communities and in the public sphere.



## MSJ and Gary White Host Second Hour on Climate Justice

SUNDAY, AUG. 26, 11:45 AM  
BUCKHAM ROOM



Did you know the effects of climate change have a much greater impact on poor people and people of color? And that climate impacts—such as sea-level rise—have a more devastating impact on third world countries? These differences fall under the rubric of climate justice, a field of study that is gaining attention as climate becomes more severe worldwide. To introduce the topic and to help us better understand this inequity, the Ministry of Service and Justice and climate activist Gary White will hold a Second Hour on Climate Justice on Sunday, August 26 after our worship service. We hope you can attend.

## Do your part to ease the housing crunch in San Mateo County!

Are you interested in working together to close the jobs-housing gap in order to create and preserve more homes throughout San Mateo County? Go to the Home For All website to find out how you can participate! [homeforallsmc.com](http://homeforallsmc.com)



Or if you own your home and might consider adding a second unit to create more housing, visit the website of the Second Unit Resources Center: [secondunitcentersmc.org](http://secondunitcentersmc.org). It's now easier than ever to add a backyard cottage, garage apartment, ADU, or whatever you'd like to call it.

## 2018 San Francisco & Peninsula's Annual Crop Hunger Walk

This year's Crop Hunger Walk will be held on **Sunday, October 7** at 1:00 p.m. at Nealon Park in Menlo Park. The money raised goes to the Church World Service (CWS), an ecumenical organization of 37 Christian denominations, the United Church of Christ being one of them. Please visit [cwsglobal.org](http://cwsglobal.org) to learn more about the impact made. We have been invited to form a team to participate in this year's event.



Are you interested in being team leader for CCSM? If yes, please contact Amie at [agiordano@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:agiordano@ccsm-ucc.org).

# Under Our Roof

As I sit in my office enjoying the sounds of Bella Voce Women's Chorus rehearsal floating from the choir room upstairs, I am reminded that the use of our CCSM sacred space is often like musical chairs: we are always setting up or rearranging one room or another for a meeting, a meal, a concert, or a party! And as soon as one event ends, another is ready to begin. Our activities range from small meetings to large gatherings and those who use the various rooms are from within our membership as well as the surrounding community. So from end to end and top to bottom, here is a snapshot of the many ways our physical facility serves us beyond Sunday and Wednesday worship:

## OUR TENANTS

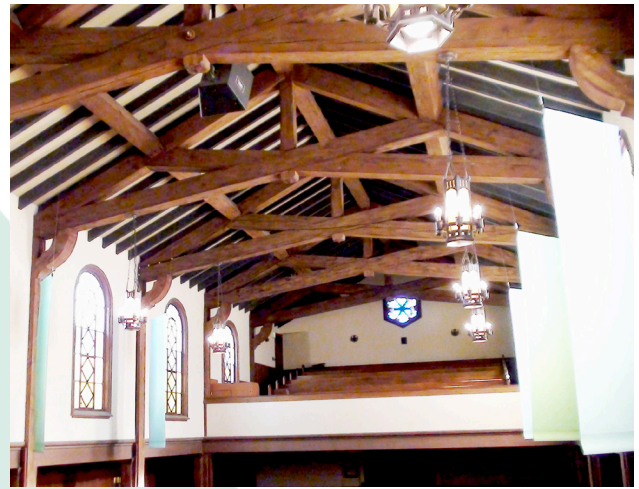
The **Muslim Children's Garden School**, whose founder is Abeer Al-Affifi, and **Little Wonders Pre-School**, whose director is Mireille McKee, occupy the first floor of the Betsy Woodward Christian Education building throughout the week during the school year as well as for some summer school classes. Each school also uses Kloss Hall from time to time for events such as graduation, International Day, Hajj Assembly, Volunteer Appreciation Brunch, and Halloween party. Little Wonders celebrated its 25th anniversary this year with a reception in Kloss Hall! Class pictures were taken in our front yard and in the Memorial Garden.

## OUR OWN AND OUR NEIGHBORS' GROUPS

CCSM's **Music School**, originally founded by Cari Parker and now led by Julie Berk, occupies much of the second floor of the CE Building for classes Monday through Thursday. Music School end-of-year concerts happen in Kloss Hall right around Mothers' Day.

During the week, the Fireplace Room, Buckham Room, Library, and Choir Room all require constant changes to accommodate meetings of CCSM groups such as the **Blanketeers**, **Prayer Shawl Knitters**, **Sanctuary Accompaniment Team**, **Music and Art**, **Time Out for Lunch Bunch**, **Wise and Wonderfals**, **First Tuesday Book Club**, **Spiritual Conversations Gathering**, **Solidarity Cohort**, **Sisters in Spirit**, and those who practice **Meditation**.

Interspersed among the above are groups from our surrounding community. We host three **12-Step** support groups on a regular weekly basis as well as provide meeting space from time to time for the **Upper-Peninsula San Francisco Symphony League**, **Peninsula College Fund**, **Atkinson Foundation**, **Cadette Girl Scouts**, **Special Needs Kids**, a student drama group, **One San Mateo**, **Mid-Peninsula Village**, **Homework Central**, **Intercommunal Pre-School**, **Faith in Action**, **Survival School**, **Soulforce Leadership Team**, private piano recitals, and the



**San Francisco Boys' Chorus**. At times, we even have had to use the Production Room and Infant Room to carve out meeting space!

Then there are unique events which require advance planning and special Kloss Hall room arrangements. These include **Home and Hope's rotating family shelter** (which CCSM hosts three to four times each year), **candidate forums** prior to and a polling place during elections, **Lifeline Screening**, a **book tour** by John Dear, the **PFLAG Scholarship Ceremony**, **Unaccompanied Minors Holiday Party**, and **Feelosophers Camp**.

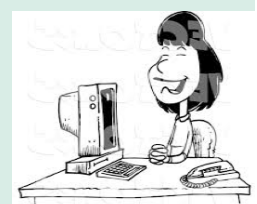
Our sanctuary is a coveted venue for concerts such as Angela's annual **Halloween Concert** as well as her **Spring Concert and Ice Cream Social**. **Masterworks**, the **Choral Project**, **Viva La Musica**, and **Magic Flutes** have performed in our hallowed hall. The sanctuary has been the sacred space for five weddings and nine memorials over the past year.

Celebrations such as **retirement parties**, **quinceañeras**, the **Will's Dream Foundation annual Fundraiser**, **birthday parties**, **baptisms**, **first communions**, and **Pick-a-Parties** have graced CCSM's rooms with laughter and music. The **Día de los Muertos** and **Las Posadas** events have built relationships between CCSM and our neighbors.

## WHEW!

We are a veritable beehive of activity and a spiritual hube for our community already and I continually receive new inquiries from members and community organizations alike about the rental of our space. It is a joy to ensure that our facility is well used and used well! As it is written on our Facilities Rental Packet this building is "A Gift from the Past—A Promise for the Future."

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



# Lunch Bunch

Come join a group if you enjoy good fellowship, lively conversation and tasty tidbits. We meet once a month (except in July or August) at residences with a co-host.

Call Diane Killiam: 415 469-7750 or email: [dkalliam@gmail.com](mailto:dkalliam@gmail.com)

## Special Needs Kids Event Planning!

**THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 9AM  
BUCKHAM ROOM**

Join us to help special needs kids. We will talk about what we've accomplished so far. We are also starting to plan our SN Pride event for **September 30th** and we need your help. If you can't attend and want to help, call Steve Davis at: 650-278-7416 or email: [steve@snkids.org](mailto:steve@snkids.org) or visit our website: [snkids.org](http://snkids.org).



## Come out and celebrate Pride in San Mateo!

**SATURDAY, JUNE 16 • 11AM - 5PM • SAN MATEO CENTRAL PARK**

The goal is to celebrate and recognize the LGBTQ+ community through entertainment, education, connection and fun! There will be booths and vendors who support our LGBTQ+ community as well as food trucks, live entertainment, and much, much more.

CCSM's sponsorship of \$1000 has been critical to the event's continued success and growth. This is a great opportunity to both support the LGBTQ+ community and raise the public's awareness of CCSM's mission and the good work we do.

So come out and join your friends and family at the 6th annual event! Be sure and look for the CCSM table and banner among the supporting organizations.



## First Tuesday Book Group

**ALL MEETINGS AT 7:30PM • FIREPLACE ROOM**

**JUNE 5 • *The Woman in Cabin 10* by Ruth Ware.**

NOTE: **NO MEETINGS in July or August.** Get ready for our fall gatherings:

**SEPTEMBER 4 • *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles.** The wealthy Count Alexander Rostov lives under house arrest for a poem deemed incendiary by the Bolsheviks, and meets Nina, a precocious young girl who holds the keys to the entire hotel, wonders what it means to be a princess, and will irrevocably change his life. Towles magnificently conjures the grandeur of the hotel and the vibrancy of the characters that call it home. --Al Woodworth, The Amazon Book Review

**OCTOBER 2 • *Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit* by Chris Matthews**

**NOVEMBER 6 • *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi**

Questions or comments... would you like to join the email list? No problem. Contact me at [s\\_stoehr@hotmail.com](mailto:s_stoehr@hotmail.com).



# Summer Speaker Series

## ***Creativity, an Antidote to Fear: The Artistry and Aptitudes of the CCSM Family***

In this challenging and disturbing time for our world, our nation, our community, and, in some cases, our own lives, we long for hope and look for inspiration. Within our CCSM community are those individuals who have found ways to navigate the waters of anxiety or despair and raise both themselves and others up in joy and gratitude. Please join us for our summer series and be stirred by the stories of those who are addressing their disquiet by applying their passion!

Here are the speakers we have confirmed so far:

### **Frank Garritano: A Potter's Hand**

Frank works as a facial plastic and reconstructive surgeon for Kaiser Permanente in the East Bay. He makes an annual trip to Hanoi, Vietnam, performing reconstructive surgery for children born with microtia, a congenital absence of the ear.



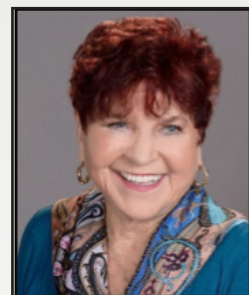
### **Mauricio Palma: A Father's Legacy**

Mauricio's paintings were inspired by the song "Angelitos Negros" (music by Manuel Alvarez Renteria) and poem "Pintame Angelitos Negros" (Paint Black Angels) by Andres Eloy Blanco from Venezuela, which formed the song's lyrics. The words offered a critique of the painters during colonial Latin America who excluded the images of the Afro Latino, indigenous and mixed-race populations, in their murals. When he painted the first angel, he wanted to give his daughter the gift of a companion that looked like her, an angel with dark curls and cinnamon skin.



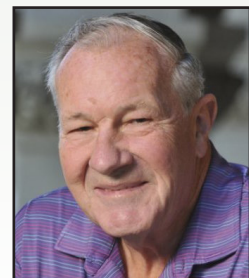
### **Anne Anderson: A Writer's Solace**

Anne lived for much of her childhood in San Diego. She wrote little verses about her explorations of the canyon next to her home and her hours on the cliffs and beaches looking at the sea. Her poetry was published in high school in the journals designed for high school students and she has written poetry from time to time as an adult. She discovered haiku many years ago and contributed to three small books of haiku which were published. She finds the process of writing a great antidote to fear and stress and looks forward to sharing this experience with others.



### **Mike Armacost: (title to be announced!)**

Mike has given many insightful and illuminating talks over the years at CCSM. They are always informative and thought-provoking. Stay tuned for this year's topic.

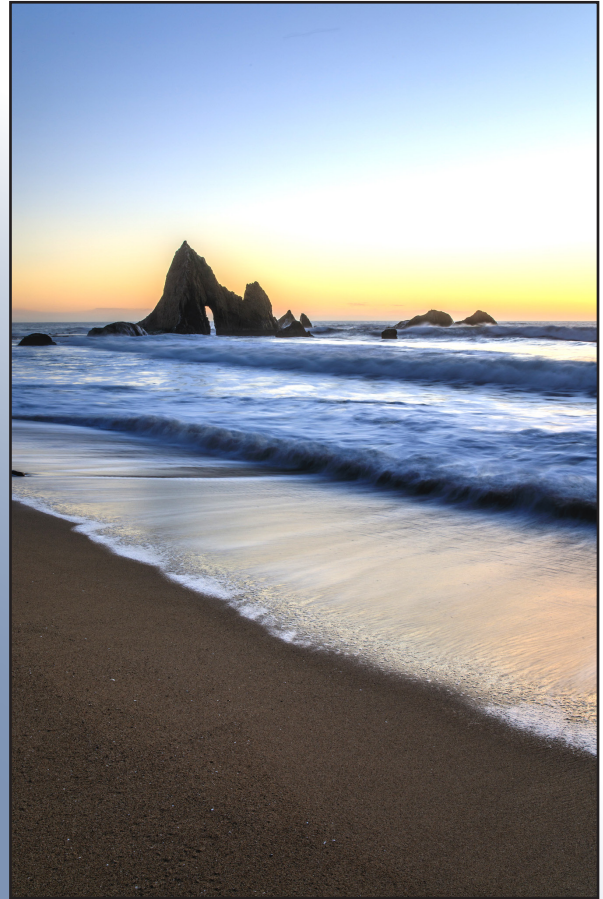


# DISCOVERING SACRED SPACES

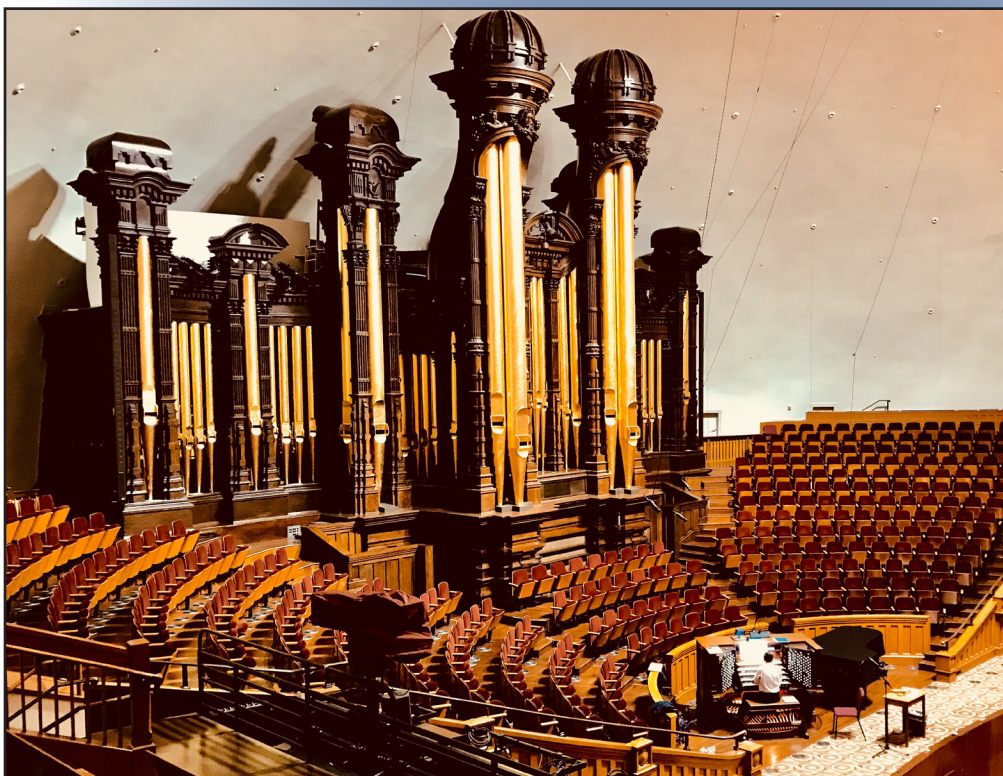
## ATTENTION: ALL SUMMER TRAVELERS & STAY-AT-HOMES ALIKE

Whether you're atop the Eiffel Tower in Paris, walking the Bamboo Forests in Kyoto, hiking the hills around Lake Como, or you're enjoying your rose garden, watching the kids playing in Central Park, or climbing Mt. Tamalpais for a family picnic... with a bit of introspection and presence you can find yourself in a sacred space. Perhaps it's the awe of a view, the serenity of a forest, the pure joy in children's laughter or the love in families that enhances any space.

We invite you to photograph your sacred space discoveries this summer to share with your fellow congregants. On Sundays August 26 and September 2 please bring your photos with an attached description to a basket in Kloss Hall. On Homecoming Sunday, we will present a CCSM Summer's Sacred Spaces photo gallery. Have fun finding the unexpected this summer. Questions? Contact the Liturgical Arts Team Coordinator, Kay Harris, 650 572-8378.



*Martin's Beach at Sunset. photo by Chris Yeh*



*A sacred space: tiny (but mighty) Angela Kraft Cross at the massive organ console for the Mormon Tabernacle organ in Salt Lake City.*

# 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 JUNE BIRTHDAY

**Barbara Mollison** turns 91 on June 12th, We wish her a grand year of celebration and a happy birthday!

### PRAYERS OF JOY

**Nico Ratkowski, Chris Neil's** oldest grandchild, graduated from law school at the University of Minnesota recently—and he has a job! Blessing to Nick on this long journey and accomplishment.

Joy and blessings to **Carole Wilson** who graduated with her Master's Degree in public health. She is a beloved member of the MSJ ministry and we wish her all the best on the next steps of her journey.

Good news for **David Hemmer**, son of **Judy Hemmer**, who got a job. Prayers of gratitude for this new part of his life.

Prayers of joy for **Valerie Wong** and **Javier Ruiz** who are expecting a baby in October.

Congratulations to **Patrick Kane** and **Rebecca Taylor** who were married at CCSM on April 28th. We wish them a loving life together.

### PRAYERS OF LOVE AND REMEMBERING

**Rev. David Held**, father of **Peter Held** and former CCSM Senior Minister (1968 to 1974), passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 10 at the age of 97. Rev. Held was

a wonderful and well-respected minister and beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather; he will be deeply missed.

Long-time and beloved member **Veronica "Ronnie" Koujourian Errichson** passed away May 4th at her home in Belmont. Ronnie generously shared her love and compassion with all who knew her. We will miss her greatly.

Prayers for the passing of **Kevin Caverly**, son-in-law of **Kibbie Ruth** and **Jim Granucci**, who passed away on April 27th after a long illness. We especially ask God for prayers of love and comfort for his children **Camryn** and **Kyle**.

### PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

**Cari Parker** fell recently. While she is healing she has moved in to the Atria of Burlingame. Prayers for her strength and healing.

Prayers of strength for **Rita Mancerea**, executive director of Puente and friend of CCSM. She had surgery on May 18.

Prayers of healing and strength for **Fred Shaughnessy**, who has been sick; prayers also for his wife **Cindy** and daughter **Rachelle**. We pray for his continued healing.

Prayers of love and healing for **Jessica**, colleague of **Lauri Floresca**, diagnosed with lymphoma. She has a five-month-old baby and a four-year-old. Prayers of

strength for her husband **Karl** and their entire family.

Prayers for **Tom Moffitt**, brother of **Michele Moffitt**, for his comfort and peace of mind as he ages.

Prayers for the many displaced people in our world. Prayers for people in Hawaii evacuated by volcanoes, the people of Syria, and asylum seekers on the Mexican border. May they continue to have hope, food, and shelter.

Continued prayers of strength and healing for **Jean Barbagelata** who has had some health challenges. Prayers also for her son **Bobby** for peace of mind.

**Sue Bullis** had successful surgery and recovery. Prayers for continued strength.

Continued 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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## WHERE IS WALDO?

***Finding the perfect Youth Director has been harder than finding Waldo!***

We are looking for someone who genuinely loves youth, is value-driven, has abundant energy and enthusiasm, communicates with clarity, humor and passion, enjoys working on a team, demonstrates a strong desire for service and justice, organizes and plans well, and takes an innovative approach in working with our youth while addressing their complicated lives in Silicon Valley.

Ideally, one person could take on the task in about 25 hours/week. If that person doesn't materialize, the job's responsibilities could be portioned out to more than one person, each one with less of a time commitment. So, who do you know? Look around. Our new Youth Director is out there somewhere!

### **TWO YOUNG MEN LAUNCHING INTO THEIR NEW FUTURES:**

*Patrick moves on from his role as CCSM's Director of Youth Ministries to his new, married life in Sacramento, and Bullis scholarship recipient Kyle Neil heads off to College of San Mateo after graduating from Hillsdale.*