

# CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 67, #7 | AUGUST 2018

## PEOPLE BELIEVE

.....  
*but they believe differently than they once did*

**what about you?**

## SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

- AUGUST 12** *The Woman at the Well.* Jorge Perry Bautista.
- AUGUST 19** *At the End of the Day...* Penny Nixon. Youth Report from Hawaii Trip. **BACK TO SCHOOL.**
- AUGUST 26** **HYMN SING Service.** *Hymns Have Their Place.* Penny Nixon.
- SEPTEMBER 2** *Self-Compassion—An Act of Faith.* Dakota Brown.

## REIMAGINING G-D: A SPIRITUAL REVOLUTION — fall sermon series —

- SEPTEMBER 9** **HOMECOMING SUNDAY.** *A Spiritual Revolution.* Penny Nixon.
- SEPTEMBER 16** *How's Your Soil?* Penny Nixon.
- SEPTEMBER 23** *Holy H<sub>2</sub>O.* Penny Nixon. **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING.**
- SEPTEMBER 30** *Consider the Stars.* Penny Nixon.
- OCTOBER 7** *Finding G-d in Food.* Penny Nixon. **WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY.**
- OCTOBER 14** *Who Is My Neighbor?* Penny Nixon. **PICK-A-PARTY SUNDAY.**
- OCTOBER 21** *The Good Common.* Penny Nixon.
- OCTOBER 28** *23 and Me.* Penny Nixon.
- NOVEMBER 4** *Spiritual DNA.* Penny Nixon. **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY.**
- NOVEMBER 11** *The Habit of Inhabiting.* Penny Nixon.
- NOVEMBER 18** *Around the Table.* Penny Nixon.
- NOVEMBER 25** *Practice Makes Perfect.* Penny Nixon.

## A Word from Penny

It's been nearly three quarters of a century since Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Lutheran pastor executed in the Nazi camps, argued that a religionless Christianity would emerge from history's ashes. When I read Bonhoeffer's theology decades ago, I knew his words were prophetic, but it has only been in the 21st century that I have seen the reality he predicted. The world has changed so dramatically in our lifetime, and those changes are catching up with us spiritually. It has become increasingly evident that we cannot "revive a God for a world that no longer exists. Venerating a God of a vanished world is the very definition of fundamentalism."



However—maybe more than ever, given our current global realities—people con-

—cont. on p. 4—



*Vigil outside our church to honor the life of Claudia Patricia Gomez Gonzalez, a young Guatemalan woman shot dead by Customs and Border Protection in June.*



Congregational  
 Church of san mateo

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

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



CCSM's New Girl Scout Troop hosts Peace Camp for ten of our children.



At the church picnic, Camille proves that CCSM kids can do anything. She can hula-hoop on one arm and one leg at the same time!



This summer the children celebrated being Blessed Under God's Sky (BUGS). Deaglan shows off the bug habitat created.



CCSM artists work diligently on their butterfly fountains for the memorial garden.



Thirty-three CCSM kids (14 from our Wednesday Gatherings) went to Camp Caz in July to experience new adventures, meet new friends, and bring home lots of fun stories.

# Volunteer Tutors Needed for Elementary School Children

Homework Central is a non-profit after-school program serving 3rd-5th graders which provides a safe learning environment for underserved students from the San Mateo-Foster City School District. CCSM member Betsy Woodward was one of the original founders of the organization.

Please share your love of learning with our students. Our programs run from Monday-Thursday between 3-5 or 1-3. Contact Natasha Gomez, Volunteer Coordinator at [ngomez@smhwc.org](mailto:ngomez@smhwc.org) or (650) 888-6838. Thank you!

## SORRY, YOU'RE TOO OLD!

CCSM's vibrant youth program is only for sixth through twelfth graders. But you can help!

The youth need two volunteers once a month to assist Thomas, the new youth director. Please send a note to [tdeleach@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:tdeleach@ccsm-ucc.org) to let him know you might pitch in.

In addition to service projects, the **MID-HIGH** age group gathers Sunday mornings during church and every first and third Sunday night (6:30-8:00PM). Their Sunday class follows the sermon series. The fun evening youth group includes activities, discussions and games. Gigantic thanks to Bill Dunbar, Dave Olson, and Sarah (Pepper) Block who have volunteered with the mid-high for too many years to count. This year Isabel Hernandez from the Wednesday Gathering will join the team.

Like the Mid-High, the **HIGH SCHOOLERS** also have monthly service projects, but even deeper discussions. At Sixty Minutes on second Sunday mornings during church, they wade through topics like, "Is God good or evil?" Every fourth Sunday evening, 6-8PM, they have dinner and special activities. And around the edges there will

be specialty groups focusing on music, sports, dreaming, technology and, of course, confirmation.

Best of all, this fall our high schoolers will be exploring...themselves! Over eight weeks on Sunday mornings at 9:30AM, those committed to this journey will use individually tailored tools to better equip them for day-to-day life. As they explore how to create the qualities and futures they desire, the teens will work through fun and engaging group exercises, listen to short lectures, tell stories, and debate. Sorry, you have to be in high school to join!

No surprise with all this energy and spiritual growth that 33 of our CCSM kids were inspired to go to Camp Caz this summer. Thank you so much for your support!



## The Phoenix Garden Project

### BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH PERMACULTURE

The Phoenix Garden Project is building a six-acre permaculture garden to create an oasis for the residents of San Mateo County's juvenile detention facility as well as the community at large. They are looking for both regular and one-time volunteers to help with weeding, planting, fencing, mulching, irrigation, and more.

They have a regular workday the third Saturday of every month from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., and can also schedule special work days for groups or individuals. Youth and adults are welcome! Please contact Amie at [agiordano@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:agiordano@ccsm-ucc.org), and she will put you in touch with the program coordinator.

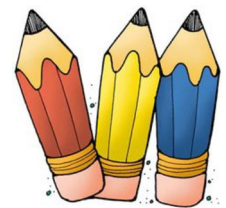


## Homework Central needs school supplies!

### AUGUST COLLECTION

Please bring to worship or the church office during August.

**WISH LIST:** Printer Paper • 3-Hole Punched Wide-Lined Binder Paper • #2 Pencils • Erasers • Thin Black White Board Pens • Small White Boards • Composition Books • Compasses for Geometry • Glue Guns • Glue Sticks • Colorful Marker Sets • Small Glitter Bottles • Cardstock Paper Packs • Tissue Paper Multipacks • Recycled Magazines to Cut Up • Origami Books & Paper • Beginning Word Search books • Beginning Crossword books • What's Different/Missing books • Where's Waldo books



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

tinue to ask “Where is God?” How this question is being answered today is pointing toward a spiritual revolution.

PEOPLE BELIEVE, BUT THEY BELIEVE DIFFERENTLY THAN THEY ONCE DID.

This fall, as a spiritual community, we will explore what discovering the sacred here and now means. We will focus not so much on the informational queries of who and what, but on the more experiential and open-ended concerns of where and how. We will do this through the sermon series Reimagining G-d: A Spiritual Revolution, using Diana Butler Bass’ book GROUNDED as our guide.

There will be a variety of opportunities to connect with and participate in this ongoing exploration of re-imagining G-d. My great hope in doing this series, and engaging us in conversations and experiences, is to ground us more deeply in our experiences of the sacred and open up more space to voice where we really experience the sacred in our everyday life.

You’ll see some exciting changes reflected in worship while remaining grounded in meaningful tradition. As I’ve listened to your reflections, your questions, and the ways you have described your own relationship to God, I believe this series will speak into the heart of who we are and who we are becoming. I hope you’ll join in my enthusiasm.

With love and gratitude,  
Penny

P.S. A note about why I am replacing God with “G-d”—using this opens up space for each of us to imagine the divine in our own way. Since the word God has been used for so long, using G-d gives our eyes and our minds a different way of seeing. The progressive Jewish community has used G-d for a long time as a sign of respect, that even the translation of God’s name is too holy to be written. It can also be understood as a way to represent mystery and that which is beyond our knowing.

## Newcomers Breakfast

SUNDAY AUGUST 26, 9:15 A.M.

**WE WANT TO GET TO KNOW YOU!**

We’ve been delighted by the number of newcomers to CCSM over the summer. We’d like to get to know you. Join the pastors for a light breakfast, some conversations, and a chance to learn about one another, and about CCSM. Open to anyone who is new to CCSM or has not yet connected in the way you would like to be! Please rsvp to Marge at [mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org)



CCSM DONATES 151 BACKPACKS for the children served by Puente! Our goal was 100, and given the generosity of CCSM it is no surprise that YOU brought in 151. The backpacks that are left over will be taken to the border and given to the children there who have so little. Rosemarie Pero, Carole Wilson, Lina Mira, and Brenda Kelley are beaming over the pile.

## Wise & Wonderful

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

**Wednesday, August 22—A Man Named Pearl**

At the request of many members we are re-showing A Man Named Pearl, which tells the inspiring story of self-taught topiary artist Pearl Fryar. It offers a message that speaks to respect for both self and others, and shows what one person can achieve when he allows himself to share the full expression of his humanity.

**Wednesdays, September 12 and 26—Gospel and Crosswords**

We will study the Gospel of John in conjunction with Biblical crossword puzzles. Homework before the meeting: to read the Gospel of John.

# With A Perspective...

In the spirit of NPR's "Perspectives" commentaries, and in keeping with our fall series "Reimagining G-d: A Spiritual Revolution," based on themes from Diana Butler Bass' book *Grounded*, we are inviting you to submit testimonies illustrating where and how your perspective has changed, over time and with experience, on specific topics. Each



Sunday, there will be a time in the service for someone to share a perspective. Observations on everyday matters are of interest, especially if they make a broader point about who we are and how we live. For example, if the theme is "dirt/soil," you might write a perspective on how your relationship to the earth has changed the more you know about global warming or water pollution. A perspective change on regional, national, and international matters also has its place.

**Each Sunday, there will be a time in the service for someone to share a perspective.**

The time limit for all perspectives is about two minutes, which works out to approximately 375 words. Practice by reading your script aloud, clearly and with feeling, and be sure to time yourself. Any

staff member will be happy to give you feedback in advance if you would like.

If you are interested in writing a perspective on one of the themes listed below, please email your testimony to [pnixon@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:pnixon@ccsm-ucc.org) or drop your script by the church office.

## THEMES:

**Changing view of God • dirt/soil • water • sky • ancestors • roots  
sharing a meal • neighborhood • the common good • meaning of home  
epiphanies / awakenings • saints • gratitude**

## SAMPLE PERSPECTIVE ON THE THEME OF WATER (Holy H<sub>2</sub>O) (390 words)

### WITH A PERSPECTIVE . . . ON WATER

*One strong fear I have is of dying by drowning—the thought of struggling to breathe fills me with anxiety. Therefore, when my spouse suggested we learn to SCUBA dive, it seemed out of the question. She assured me, however, that it was safe and we would have excellent instruction, so I decided at least to go to the classroom instruction. I read the manuals, took the tests, and felt I had a good grasp of the subject matter. Then came the trip to a local Olympic size pool where we were fitted with regulators (the mouthpiece feeding us air), BCs (Buoyancy Compensators to help us alternately sink and float), and oxygen tanks. I found myself sitting on the side of the pool—the instructions were simple: fall off backwards into the water and sink.*

*In that controlled pool environment, we practiced the buddy system, shared regulators, surfaced slowly, "rescued" each other. It was an exercise in building trust as much as a course in using the apparatus, and as I learned to breathe out underwater, I also learned reliance on my fellow dive community. It took both study and faith to prepare for our certification dives from a boat in the middle of Puget Sound. "Just fall backwards off the side of the boat through six feet of air space into freezing cold salt water and sink!"*

*I was not prepared for the wonders we encountered: a small, delicate, ghostly white octopus; buffalo sculpins that sat unmoving on discarded scrap iron bars; six foot wolf eels taking hard boiled eggs from our outstretched hands. This was a world of fantastic beasts. While the purpose of the dive was to pass our final certification test, it also served as a beckoning for more!*

*Our next dive was in much warmer, bluer, clearer, water: off the Molokini crater, Maui Hawaii. Over three days, and at 65 feet down, hovering above, but never touching, fields of coral, we were surrounded by schools of brilliant-yellow fish, shy young sharks who kept their distance, parrot fish producing sand from coral, blue tangs, illusive eels. The current was strong and one needed to feel it, flowing with rather than fighting against. There were no thoughts of drowning—only joy and wonder as we experienced this incredible underwater creation.*

*"Fall off backwards—sink into wonder—breathe."*



The Blanketeers make quilts for residents of the Vendome in San Mateo, which serves formerly chronic homeless people in permanent supportive housing. Here is a photo of one of them all set in its new home and waiting for the new owner.

## SECOND HOUR SUNDAYS

Stay after church for various speakers and events! Here are some upcoming topics:



**AUGUST 19—By-Laws Forum:** Questions and discussion about CCSM's proposed By-laws changes.

**AUGUST 26—Climate Justice activist Gary White** will talk about what's happening with climate change and what we can do.

**SEPTEMBER 16—South Sudanese activist and peacemaker Michael Mayen** will share about his work with Rebuild South Sudan

**SEPTEMBER 23—Special Congregational Meeting**

### COMING UP..

**Second Hour Educational Series Oct. 14- Nov. 18**

**THINKING ETHICALLY AS A PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIAN.** Mark your calendars for this 6-part series led by Penny. We will use a Progressive Christian framework to discuss some of the thorniest ethical issues of our day. How do we approach these complicated subjects? How do we integrate our reasoning, our morals, our politics and our faith in approaching the complex problems we face today? From abortion, to right to die, to bio-medical ethics....

# 5th Annual Ride to End Homelessness

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8**

**AT CCSM WE ARE NOT ONLY GOD'S HANDS AND GOD'S FEET, BUT WE ARE ALSO GOD'S CYCLISTS!**

by Tony Gallo

Whether you ride 2 miles per year or 50 miles per day, we would like to put together a large CCSM group to ride together for a great cause.

Our Music Director, Lynnelle Bilsey, is Senior Manager of Volunteer Programs at LifeMoves. LifeMoves' mission is to "help homeless families and individuals rapidly return to stable housing and achieve self-sufficiency." We can help raise critically-needed funds to support the housing programs and services by joining this ride on September 8.

Two routes will be available, both starting near the Stanford campus. (Both require a \$30 registration fee.) One is a flat, family-friendly 10-mile ride starting at 10:30 AM. The other is a more challenging 40-miler, starting at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be provided. We can offer an "unofficial" intermediate ride too, if you let me know you're interested.

Please email me ([argallo3119@gmail.com](mailto:argallo3119@gmail.com)) with your ride skill level and any questions. We'll also organize a CCSM group photo. (Non-cycling photographers, we need you too!)

CCRiders will wear our yellow CCSM bike jerseys so it will be easy to follow one of the ride leaders. Let's spend the day riding together, and as the CCRiders always say, "share the love" over lunch and ride stories. We'll dazzle everyone with a huge CCSM turnout.

For more details and to register, go to [RideLifeMoves.eventbrite.com](http://RideLifeMoves.eventbrite.com)



# Home and Hope

SEPTEMBER 23-30

Our final hosting of Home and Hope families for 2018 is coming up. These homeless families need us to help make their living situation as pleasant as possible.

Your help could be anything from bringing fresh fruit to the church kitchen during the week to spending the night in the Buckham Room.

At the last coordinators' meeting it was strongly emphasized that two people need to be in attendance overnight. CCSM has been able to fudge this requirement because our custodian lives just up the stairs. But now we have a new custodian with a family, and we really do need to comply. There is a great crew of regulars who just need a second. Maybe this is where you could help out.

Dinners and hosts are always needed. Volunteers never have to prepare an entire meal, unless they choose to. Contact Donna Lindsay at 650-345-8397 or [releduc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:releduc@sbcglobal.net) if you have questions or want to volunteer.

**"IS THIS NOT THE WORSHIP I SEEK: TO SHARE YOUR FOOD WITH THE HUNGRY, TO PROVIDE THE POOR WITH SHELTER?"**  
from Isaiah 58

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 11:45 AM  
BUCKHAM ROOM

Did you know that 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 our fellow congregants better understand this inequity, the Ministry of Service and Justice brings you climate activist Gary White. We hope you can attend.



## Attention Cell-Phone Photographers!

We need more photos of CCSM happenings. Use your cell phone for good! Snap a photo of a special event or even of day-to-day events in the life of the church. If you take a good one, please send it in its highest resolution format to Zoe at [zmullery@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:zmullery@ccsm-ucc.org) for use in an upcoming newsletter or just to have in our archives.



## Job opening: Homework Central Site Coordinator

Homework Central is accepting resumes for a half-time Site Coordinator for our after-school program! A wonderful opportunity for the right person. Find out more at [smhwc.org/jobs/104-after-school-site-coordinator](http://smhwc.org/jobs/104-after-school-site-coordinator)

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7 • 1:00PM • NEALON PARK IN MENLO PARK

We have been invited to form a team to participate in this year's event. The money raised in the annual Crop Hunger Walk 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.

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



# Your Love in Action

*A few things that wouldn't have been possible if not for the love and labor of people at CCSM...*

- ◆ On June 19, **over forty CCSM members attended a press conference** after the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors meeting to request a deportation defense fund. The following Tuesday, the Supervisors of San Mateo County unanimously approved a \$764,000 fund for deportation defense. Your presence and solidarity made a difference!
- ◆ **Thirteen youth from the Wednesday Gatherings were able to experience Camp Caz.** A 15-passenger van was rented to transport the kids from both Wednesday gatherings and Sunday service together. This created an opportunity for youth from both services to meet and get to know each other—and that they did. All the youth were able to build relationships and learn that they are from the same church and have the same pastors. Now they are inviting one another to each others' services. (See the photo on p. 2!)
- ◆ On June 22nd, **a procession and vigil for the victims of Guatemala's volcanic eruptions** was held by members from the Wednesday Gatherings. The procession started on the corner of Poplar and Ellsworth and continued down Ellsworth to the church, where a vigil was held in memory of the lives lost as a result of this tragedy.

- ◆ **David Bior Kur got a job as a petroleum engineer in South Sudan!** Many of you will remember that David, the young South Sudanese man that CCSM supported through school, graduated from college in Uganda last year. Though David is a war orphan who spent almost his entire childhood in refugee camps, he is now not only a college graduate but has a position as a petroleum engineer! David's cousin Jacob, the other young man CCSM supported, is two years away from completing his pharmacology degree at a college in India where he is at the top of his class. These young men are the future of South Sudan. These wonderful developments would not have been possible without the faithful support of CCSM over many years.

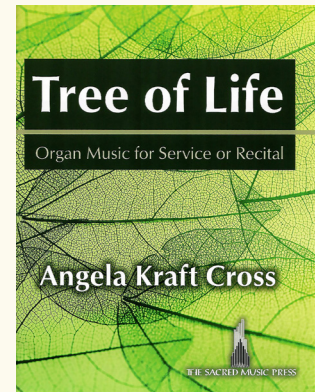
*David Bior Kur with his graduation certificate  
(photo from RebuildSouthSudan.org)*



- ◆ Our former sanctuary guests **Estefany and Natalia received their work permits** in June and they already have jobs. They are both excited to be working and becoming fully self-sufficient.
- ◆ Thank you to **all our musicians participating at CCSM this summer** as well as the two wonderful Special Music Sundays in June. We've all had the opportunity to enjoy a nice variety of music and celebrate some of the wonderful talent that is part of our CCSM community.
- ◆ On a recent Sunday, **deep conversation developed over the art table** as children decorated their butterfly masks, conversation that made the adults marvel that the kids seem to get their news from the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and KQED. Discussions of the President's tariffs joined those of the possibility of going to war and what we are doing in the Middle East. Lots going on in those young CCSM minds. Thankfully they have a place for such discussion!



- ◆ July 2018: **Angela Kraft Cross's first published organ compositions** were released by Lorenz Music/Sacred Music Press under the title *Tree of Life*, including *Grand Lothbury Voluntary*, *Tree of Life*, *All Hallows Voluntary*, *Les Bergers* and *Kyrie Eleison*. (If anyone would like a copy, they cost \$20; please see Angela.)



- ◆ On June 23, **Penny, Jorge, and others from the Sunday service** joined dozens of faith leaders and people from across California who rallied outside the Otay Mesa Detention Center, where immigrants are held, to support families that had been separated after entering the country illegally. The demonstration came three days after President Donald Trump issued an executive order halting the practice of separating the families after searing photos and audio recordings of desperate, crying children sparked widespread public outrage.



*Jorge, Pastor Ben McBride and others at Otay Mesa at the Mexican border. (AFP Photo/Robyn Beck)*

## Summer Speaker Series

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

**Sundays, 9:30-10:15am • Buckham Room**

We've come to our last two speakers in the series. Come be stirred by their stories!

### 8/12 **Anne Anderson: A Writer's Solace**

Annelived formuch 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.

### 8/19 **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.



# Pick-A-Party 2018

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

Our annual CCSM fundraiser will get underway soon. Mark your calendar for October 14 when you will get to “pick” your parties in Kloss Hall. Long before then, Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh and Carol Henton, our Pick-A-Party organizers, will be collecting and assembling party offerings from the congregation. So put on your thinking cap and join in this beloved effort which combines fun, fellowship and important funds for CCSM.



## Hawaiian Luau Pick-A-Party

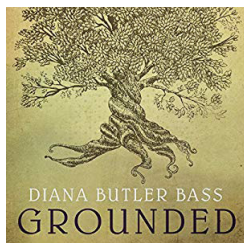
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25 • 6 P.M.

Aloha! Join Marc & Leina Zimmerman at a Hawaiian Luau with traditional Hawaiian food such as Kahlua Pork, poi, poke, tropical fruits and desserts—plus umbrella cocktails and Hawaiian entertainment. Plan to wear your “Hawaiian Best” and be ready for a fun evening! Location: Zimmerman’s home in San Mateo. Price (because this is Pick-A-Party) is \$60 per person (adult). Contact Marc & Leina at [marcandleina@yahoo.com](mailto:marcandleina@yahoo.com) to sign up.

## Music & Art

**SPECIAL ALERT: MUSIC AND ART WILL RECONVENE IN SEPTEMBER.**

Anyone interested in music and art—and occasionally literature or theatre—is welcome to join this group. Men, this affinity group is open to you as well. A variety of interesting programs are presented throughout the season, which extends from September through May. We always meet at noon in the Buckham Room on the third Friday of the month. Members bring their own lunch; beverages and dessert are provided. You can mark your calendars now for September 21, and await further details in the next edition of the Pine Tree.



## Spiritual Conversations

**NINE MONDAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10 • 7:00-8:30PM • CCSM LIBRARY**

The discussion group Spiritual Conversations will read ***Grounded: Finding God in the World, A Spiritual Revolution*** in its fall series. In her book Diana Butler Bass explores the questions who is God and where can God be experienced. Using Biblical messages, current events, and personal examples, Butler Bass answers these questions and invites us to do the same.

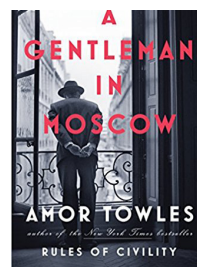
Please contact Dorothy or Richard Kogl, coordinators, if you’d like more information or the first reading assignment: [kogl@att.net](mailto:kogl@att.net) or 650-579-7272.

## First Tuesday Book Group

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

**SEPTEMBER 4 • *A Gentleman in Moscow*** by Amor Towles. The story of a Russian aristocrat sentenced to house arrest in a hotel for his association with a poem with revolutionary overtones. While one might think life in a hotel would be unfulfilling, it turns out to be quite rich and purposeful. Themes in the novel include finding one’s place in life, the impact of the arts, and the breakdown of the ideals of the aristocrat.

**OCTOBER 2 • *Bobby Kennedy: A Raging Spirit*** by Chris Matthews (of MNSNBC fame).



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

You can find reviews and discussions of all these books on Goodreads.com. Questions? Get in touch with Susan Stoehr: [s\\_stoehr@hotmail.com](mailto:s_stoehr@hotmail.com) or Betsy Woodward: [bets-dce@comcast.net](mailto:bets-dce@comcast.net).

# We Want Your Input!

Beginning on August 12, we will be emailing you a survey with the following goal in mind: *We want to understand your needs to better facilitate changes that will help you be even more engaged in worship than you already are.*



The questions are designed to capture some statistical data as well as your thoughts on worship service times, CCSM's theology/spirituality, and your areas of interest. We hope to reach most of you electronically, but if you do not have access to email or a computer, you may contact the church office for a hard copy of the survey. All answers will be anonymous and the results will be compiled by an independent service. We are hoping for a high percentage of responses, so sharpen your "virtual" pens and pencils!

# September 9 is Homecoming Sunday!

Make sure you plan to attend church on Sunday September 9 for our annual Homecoming Sunday event!

The full choir will be back; church school resumes and we'll have our traditional barbecue lunch to celebrate the start of a new church year and to renew our CCSM friendships.

Enjoy the fellowship, food and activities for children on the lawn. It's your chance to catch up with those you might have missed over the busy summer months and connect with new faces at CCSM.



# Save the Date!

The **8th Annual William J. Bullis Scholarship Fundraiser and Silent Auction** is coming to Kloss Hall on **OCTOBER 20**, from 4:00 - 7:00 PM. Stay tuned to bulletins and future Pine Trees for details!

If you have any large, wicker-style baskets (min. size 12" across, 18" long, 10" deep) you are willing to donate, please bring them to the church office. The fundraiser team is collecting them to prepare for filling them as fundraiser gift baskets.

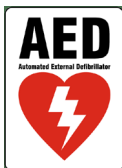


# The Gift of Music

Nathan Keltner recently presented CCSM with the gift of a baby grand piano, in loving memory of his mother, Jan Keltner. It is a great tribute to Jan who was a friend of Kathy Gallo's mother, Joan Brown. We will enjoy the music it will provide for years to come. Stop by the choir room to see this beautiful instrument and read the memorial plaque.



# Learn to save a life!



Sudden cardiac arrest can happen to anyone, anytime, anywhere. CPR and the use of an AED (automated external defibrillator) have been proven to save lives prior to someone arriving at the hospital.

If you are interested in recertifying or just learning for the first time how to perform CPR and use an AED, please contact Genel Morgan, 650-573-5495 or glmrn12@gmail.com. We are planning a class in the fall. Anyone 12 years or older is welcome to take the class.



Jorge Perry Bautista speaking to the Keep Families Together rally in Redwood City in July

# Summer Concert

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17 • 8:00 PM

**Edward Landin, Philadelphia organist, to perform on our Casavant organ**

Edward has been recognized as one of the up and coming young concert organists in our country, having been honored in the Diapason magazine's "20 under 30," uplifting the best of the young generation! He received his earliest musical training at the St. Thomas Choir school in NYC, followed by Interlochen Arts Academy, Eastman School of Music and Westminster Choir College where he earned his bachelor's degree in Organ Performance.



He has a major interest in contemporary music, especially by American composers, and has been instrumental in commissioning a number of compositions by composers Kathleen Scheide, Craig Phillips, Pamela Decker, and Carson Cooman. A composer himself, Lorenz Music just published Landin's own "Flourishes and Reflections" for organ. Edward's concert for us will feature some of these works, and he describes his program as "some old, some new, these selections show the connection between the best of the Baroque and what the current generation sounds like."

Come join us for what promises to be an intriguing evening of music, performed by one of the finest young organists in our country!

Suggested donation at the door: **ADULTS:** \$20  
**SENIORS AND KIDS UNDER 12:** \$10  
**KIDS 5 OR UNDER:** Free!



The Solstice Concert on July 1 raised over \$2400 for the organizations Raices & Faith & Action.

# Summer Special Music continues at CCSM

- Sunday 8/12** Carillon Ringers
- Friday 8/17** Summer Organ Concert with Edward Landin
- Sunday 8/19** Merle Mason & Friends
- Sunday 8/26** Drop-In Choir (everyone welcome – meet at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary)
- Sunday 9/2** Melanie Dresbach & Angela Kraft Cross, Piano/organ duet
- 8/15, 22, 29** Voice Workshops with Tom Lohmuller
- Wed. 9/5** Chancel Choir Fall Rehearsals begin at 7:15 pm
- Thurs. 9/6** Carillon Ringers Fall Rehearsals begin at 7:30 pm

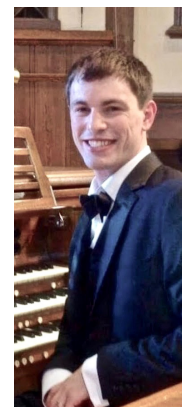
If you are interested in joining either ensemble, please see Lynnelle Bilsley, Director of Music following service, or email her at [lbilsley@lifemoves.org](mailto:lbilsley@lifemoves.org).

## Vocal Workshops with Thomas Lohmuller

**WEDNESDAYS, AUGUST 15, 22 AND 29**  
**7:00-8:00PM • CHOIR ROOM**

Do you enjoy singing? You are invited to an informal series of vocal workshops presented by Tom Lohmuller (Chamber Singers Director). These will focus on choral technique and fundamentals—whether you've never sung with a group before, or you sing regularly but want to refresh some of the basics!

Each week will build upon the last, but it is by no means required to attend all—come when you are able. Email [tom.lohmuller@gmail.com](mailto:tom.lohmuller@gmail.com) if you have any questions!



## Mike Harris Honored

Our own Mike Harris was honored by the California Retired Teachers' Association with this year's Ed Ely Outstanding Achievement Award, given to the CalRTA member who does the best job of communicating the goals and vision of CalRTA to members, legislators, and the general public. We congratulate him as he receives this deserved honor!



# 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.

### JULY/ AUGUST BIRTHDAYS 2018

**Jo Buckham** turns 95 on August 8, **Betty Drisko** turns 95 on August 11, and both **Richard Kogl** and **Priscilla Storms** turn 90 on August 23. In July, we celebrated **Beth Winters'** 95th birthday on July 2, **Adrienne Mitchell's** 91st on July 6, and **Dorothy Gorman's** 91st on July 7. Happy birthday to all!

### PRAYERS OF JOY

**Alyssa Block** graduated from Harvard School of Education in May. She earned a Master's of Education and a Single Subject Teaching Credential in English. She is a recipient of the Sue Bullis Graduate School Scholarship. Congratulations, Alyssa!

**Sarah Block**, who grew up at CCSM, was named Teacher of the Year by the Mountain View/Los Altos Union High School District this week. Not only does she teach social studies, history and economics, she also has an English Language Development class aimed at assisting students whose primary language is not English. Closer to CCSM, she has assisted Bill Dunbar and Dave Olson for years teaching our mid-high students on Sundays.

**Judi Powell and Dave Olson** celebrated 25 years of marriage on July 31st. We celebrate with them!

Prayers of joy for **Deborah Chang's** mother, who just turned 80.

Welcome to **Michael Peter Morgan**, grandson of **Genel Morgan**, born June 21. Parents **Jennifer and Matthew Morgan** are very happy, and big sister **Beatrice** (age 3) is enamored with him as is all the family. We send him God's love for all the days of his life.

Prayers of gratitude for the flowers provided on Sundays.

### PRAYERS OF LOVE AND REMEMBERING

On August 4 we celebrated the life of our beloved friend and longtime member of the church **Trudy Duncan**, who passed away peacefully on July 16 surrounded by family. We continue to support and pray for her beloved husband **Arnold**, children, and family.

Prayers of strength and comfort for the family and loved ones of **Harry Chew**. May he rest in peace.

### PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Prayers of safety for the **Davis** family, as well as **Genel Morgan's** friend **Dale** and her husband, who live in Redding, and for **Sandy** and her brother **Dan**, friends of **Laura Peterhans**, who live in the Mariposa/Yosemite area. God please keep these families, and all who live there, safe from harm, and safe from losing homes and businesses.

Prayers for **Faye Wymouth**, family member of **Donna Summers**, who was placed on hospice care in Oklahoma.

A few weeks ago **Barbara Knees** fell at home and moved to be closer to her family in Oregon. Barbara continues to recuperate and is doing fine. If you'd like to be in touch, please call the church office for her contact information.

Prayers of healing for **Henry**, 12-year-old grandson of **Genel Morgan's** friend **Connie**. Henry has been diagnosed with a serious illness. Let us wrap his whole family in love and prayers.

**Fred Shaughnessy** is having many health challenges. His wife **Cindy** is doing her best to care for him. Recently their only car broke down and they are looking for a used car so Cindy can take Fred to his medical

appointments. Prayers of healing, support and provision for them both.

Continued prayers of healing for **Shirley Robertson** who has had health challenges and has moved to Meadowood Rehabilitation Center in Stockton closer to her family. She is happy to have a card, call, or visit. Call the church office for her contact information.

**Jon Karesh's** sister, **Barbara Karesh**, was diagnosed with a heart defect. Jon earnestly requests the prayers of his church family. He has had many losses and struggles recently, including the passing of his mother earlier this year and two dear friends last year. Please pray for Barbara and also for Jon at this time.

Our beloved friends **Cari and George Parker** have both moved in to the Atria of Burlingame. Please pray for them in this time of transition.

Prayers for **Frank, Phoebe Beltran's** brother, for his healing and for continued strength.

Continued prayers of strength and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters:

**Rita Mancerea, Jean Barbagelata, 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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## Council of Ministries and Leadership Kick-Off Meeting

VISIONING AND PLANNING

AUGUST 25, 9:00AM - NOON, KLOSS HALL

This planning and visioning meeting is open to everyone who is or wants to be involved in CCSM's newly organized Council of Ministries. Led by Penny and Marge, we will spend time connecting with each other, generating

ideas, honing our communication skills, and having fun! You will have a chance to hear about all the Ministry opportunities available, including everything from social justice to liturgical arts, from music to building maintenance and repairs! We will explore what you are passionate about and how to direct

your gifts and talents in support of CCSM's programs. Whether you hope to volunteer for one special event such as the all-church picnic or step forward to lead a Ministry, you are welcome to attend this important visioning and planning meeting.

Staff will provide a light but delicious continental breakfast to start our morning together. Come! Let your voice be heard!

### BYLAWS FORUMS: August 19—Second Hour

Please join us in the Buckham Room to ask any questions you may have about the proposed Bylaws prior to our special congregational meeting on September 23. Soft copies are available on our website at [ccsm-ucc.org/ccsm-governance-initiative](http://ccsm-ucc.org/ccsm-governance-initiative). Hard copies are available in the Narthex. Your input is welcomed!



[FACEBOOK.COM/CCSM.UCC](http://FACEBOOK.COM/CCSM.UCC)

