

# CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 67, #9 | OCTOBER 2018



## SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

"This spiritual revolution rests upon a simple insight: God is the ground, the grounding, that which grounds us. We experience this when we understand that the soil is holy, water gives life, the sky opens the imagination, my roots matter, home is a divine place, and our lives are linked with our neighbors and with those around the globe. This world, not heaven, is the sacred stage of our times."

—from *Grounded*, by Diana Butler Bass

- 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 and Jorge Perry Bautista.
- NOVEMBER 18** Around the Table. Penny Nixon.
- NOVEMBER 25** Practice Makes Perfect. Penny Nixon.

## A Word from Penny

I am writing to you on the heels of a ground-shifting week which culminated in a dramatic climax on Saturday as we witnessed the Senate vote to confirm Supreme Court Justice Judge Brett Kavanaugh.



Whatever your political persuasion, clearly this series of events has only deepened our partisan divide. We have witnessed cruelty and mockery, slander and rage, at our highest levels of government.

In these times, our spiritual community can help serve as a grounding place and a place to regain our fortitude. We gather together not to resign ourselves in despair but to be reminded of hope, of resilience, of courage and to recommit to the tireless pursuit of justice, the strength of community, and the power of love. I am reminded of Adrienne Rich's words:

*My heart is moved by all I cannot save;  
so much has been destroyed.*

*I have to cast my lot with those  
who age after age, perversely,  
with no extraordinary power,  
reconstitute the world.*

CCSM, we are called to do no less.

Yours on the journey,

Penny



Some of the participants from CCSM in the Ride to End Homelessness, September 8



Congregational  
Church of san mateo

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

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

## WHAT'S UP NEXT

- October 14** Sixty Minutes, 10:30AM  
High School Youth Group, 6:00PM
- October 21** Mid-High Youth Group, 6:30PM
- October 27** Evening Stroll along Sawyer Camp Road with Kibbie, 4:00PM
- October 28** High School Youth Group, 6:00PM
- Feb. 16-18, 2019** Feb Camp for High Schoolers at Monte Toyon

## SIXTY MINUTES

Ever wondered why, in every major human civilization, people believe in some kind of greater power or deity? The high schoolers want to wrestle with that question during Sixty Minutes on October 14. (Thank you, Frank Mathura, for the question of the month.) Students meet in the library at 10:30AM on Sunday...and yes, facilitator Mike Mullery will bring donuts.



## WE BE JAMMIN'

Every first Sunday of the month, children from pre-kindergarten through elementary school sing and dance with Julie Berk. Watching them act out the Noah's ark story animals could have gone viral on YouTube—it was even cuter than the cat videos.

On second Sunday evenings, the high schoolers split into special interest groups after dinner. Some do their own form of music jamming

with ukuleles, piano and percussion. Who knew there was so much talent! To give you a sample of the rhythm, click [Eight seconds of the Music Jam](#). While some are jamming, others were playing volleyball on the front lawn, diving for the ball with such enthusiasm they sometimes landed in the grass to applause and laughter. Another group was engaged in serious conversations about technology. With such a diverse group of teenagers, a choice of activities works well.

## It Takes a Village!

*What makes the children and youth program possible? Over fifty individuals and groups!*

Please thank them for creating a rich, stimulating spiritual program for our kids. This list is barely all inclusive. Many other parents and teenagers also help. If you don't see your name below and want to join the adventure, please send an email to [kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org). We'd love for you to join the team that makes CCSM a nurturing place for over 80 young families.



### HIGH SCHOOL

Lynelle Bilsey  
Jim Granucci  
Mike Mullery  
Kyle Neil  
Mauricio Palma  
Fred Tileston

### TOP CHEFS

Jorge Bautista  
Jay Cornwall  
Ruth Dizon  
Deb Flaherty  
Tony Gallo  
Dawn Graves  
Greg Graves

Mike Harris

### MID-HIGH

Sarah Block  
Bill Dunbar  
Michael Grant  
Isabel Hernandez\*  
Merle Mason  
Dave Olson

### 4TH - 5TH GRADERS

Sophie Gross  
Karen Pratt  
Shannon Sieckert

### 1ST - 3RD GRADERS

Cole Mathews  
Shannon McEntee\*

Leilani Zimmerman

Yaeli Palma-Espinoza

### PreK-KINDERGARTEN

Cammy Caverly\*  
Jess Palmer-Sammons  
Mackenzie Pratt

### NURSERY

Georgia Bayley  
Gloria Bayley  
Lily Gonzalez\*  
Kayla Mathura

### WED GATHERING KIDS

Amelia Kyle  
Mercy Moyo  
Alex Valencia\*

### SUMMER

Elaine Kauffman\*

### MUSIC

Julie Berk

### NEW BROWNIE TROOP

Geneva Williams  
Serene Williams

### SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Girl Scout Troop 61649  
Girl Scout Troop 61818  
Donna Lindsay

### WOODWARD CE BUILDING

Jim Lindsay  
Anne Fuller  
Pam McCarthy-Hudson

### SPECIAL NEEDS ADVISORS

Steve Davis  
Eleanor Lewis

### SCHOLARSHIPS

Holly Allen  
Warren Long

*\*part-time staff*



# BE THE CHANGE!

Young people are our best hope for a brighter future, and throughout history they have led powerful movements for change. Remember the March for Our Lives students, the Little Rock Nine, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, and Malala Yousafzai? Young people must be empowered to “Be the Change” they wish to see in the world. While the first-third graders are learning about young people in the Bible who were the change agents who built our faith tradition, the new teacher Shannon Sieckert will be sharing with the fourth and fifth graders more current inspirational stories of kids who helped push us all to live our values.

Already this fall, mid-high student Lily Mathews (far left) joined the CCSM group to lead interfaith protesters who filled three full blocks at the Rise for Climate March in San Francisco in September. George Snode, chair for CCSM’s Ministry for Service and Justice, and Kibbie walk beside her.



## The Safety of our Children Takes All of Us

Many of our children see CCSM as a second home, which is actually what we intend. However, even second homes need adults to keep the children safe. In the busy-ness of Sundays, parents can blink to discover their child has zipped off to play on the stage, or darted under conversations to grab a second (third or fourth) cookie, or escaped to the playground—or even out to the lawn. Please feel free to intervene if you spot any child disconnected from a parent or potentially in danger. In this community of love, raising thriving children is the responsibility of ALL of us. Please treat them as your own, even if it means you have to correct errant behavior or corral a free spirit to avoid harm.

One set of parents, in particular, requests your help. Geoffrey Davis’ mom Eleanor and dad Steve want you to know Geoff has autism, which means he may not behave the way you expect a normal almost-five-year-old boy to behave. Even though he has trouble responding to people when they talk to him, his parents ask that you “please still say hello and treat him like any other little boy with one important exception. He loves running around and exploring during coffee hour, and we are usually in hot pursuit to keep him out of trouble. But sometimes he gets away from us or his sister Clara. We depend on the CCSM community to help us keep him safe. If you see him heading somewhere risky—such as the parking lot or the street—please stop him. Because he doesn’t respond to verbal commands, you may need to stop him physically, and that’s okay. Thank you.”

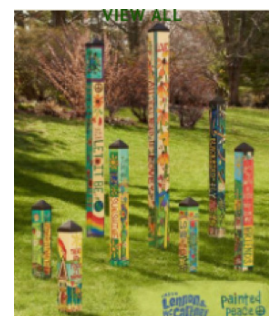
God has no ears  
but your ears; no  
eyes but your eyes.  
So, for Geoff and the  
rest of our delightful,  
energetic children, let  
us be the extra eyes  
and ears that can keep  
them safe. God has no  
heart but your heart!

*Steve Davis & Eleanor Lewis,  
Geoffrey and Clara*



## PEACE GARDEN: COMING SOON TO A LAWN NEAR YOU!

Add John Fyfe’s continued commitment to the beautification of our grounds and a 17-year-old Blair Castelino hoping to earn the Eagle Scout rank, and CCSM gets a Peace Garden in front of the Woodward CE Building! First comes an olive tree, a symbol of peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims. Then, some plants. Children from the Muslim Children’s Garden, our Wednesday Gathering and our Sunday kids will paint peace poles to “plant” near the tree and a big white peace pole that will say “Peace on Earth” in Hebrew, English, Spanish, and Arabic. Watch this garden grow! (Thanks to Marge Boyd, Jim Berthelsen and Jim Lindsay for also helping with this project.)



## CYF...AFTER THE VOTE

The new CCSM bylaws mean: no longer are nine rotating members required to serve on the Ministry for Children, Youth and Families (CYF). The former chair is now called a “lead.” The name of a ministry can be changed without a congregational vote. Transformation is afoot!



However, the purpose of CYF remains the same—to provide an environment for the spiritual growth of our children, youth and their families. Its members serve as accountability partners, advisors, assistants, and ambassadors (AAAA). In other words, the members hold the program leaders accountable, advise and assist those leaders, and are ambassadors for CYF to the rest of the congregation.

Currently Michele Cinq Mars serves as the CYF Lead. Other members each have a specialty area. Nicole Tocchini and Heather Nayak are encouraging family engagement. Tara Abrams is focusing on children, and Michelle Oberes-Padre on high schoolers. If you have any comments or suggestions, please send them to [kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org) or [michele@johnneil.net](mailto:michele@johnneil.net).

Did you notice an advocate for one age group is missing? Mauricio Palma had taken on mid-high... but he got kidnapped from CYF Ministry to become Vice-Moderator. Of course, CYF is thrilled for him but sad to lose him. Now maybe you can volunteer to represent that age group.



Mike Harris explains chef skills

## CCSM Top Chefs

Cooking and eating together builds community. Learning some skills in addition is an extra bonus. Twice a month, CYF sponsors its own “cooking show” for the high schoolers. Through demonstration by experts and participation by young sous chefs, the youth learn to make meals that they can replicate for their families or create once they are older and on their own.

Mike Harris explained tools required for the most basic kitchen, before some kids joined him to make such delicious five-can vegan chili that two big pots of it were devoured in no time. (Recipe available on request. It did require a lot of chopping.). Jay Cornwall of Pasta Pasta fame gave every high schooler a new knife, cutting board, spatula and fancy pan with which to cook a personal dinner. After gobbling down tacos, the teens took home their new equipment so they could cook for their families (well, at least that is the intention).



Our Hillsdale High students were in tears cutting onions for their youth group tacos.

## 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL WILLIAM J. BULLIS FUNDRAISER AND SILENT AUCTION

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20 • 4:00-7:00PM

The proceeds from this annual event go to fund a scholarship given to a young aspiring chef who cannot afford culinary school. This year’s auctioneer for the live auction is **Congresswoman Jackie Speier**. Over 200 different items from golfing to cake, cookies and candy will be auctioned. Wine and hors d’oeuvres will be served.

Visit [willsdreamfoundation.org](http://willsdreamfoundation.org), and get your tickets by following the link to [Brown Paper Tickets](#). Tickets are \$30 online and \$35 at the door. We hope you will attend!





# A Fond Farewell

I'm grateful to have served the Congregational Church of San Mateo for over eighteen years as church administrator and lately as administrator of finance. Now it's time to retire, based on my timely completion and mailing of all tax and reports to the members and friends of CCSM, my employment should end by mid-January 2019.

Your generosity and acceptance has made CCSM an enjoyable (really!) place to work. In these many years, there has been much laughter and camaraderie among the numerous members and friends I had the opportunity to know. It has been a joy to be welcomed in friendship by so many of you.

I can honestly state that CCSM is a vibrant, honorable and noble church where I have learned, loved and cherished all I met within my responsibilities. CCSM is truly an institution of love led by a unique and visionary leader, Rev. Penny Nixon. It has been a privilege to have worked with her. I recognize I have grown in understanding and kindness under her guidance. Penny has also brought together a cohesive and talented staff. I have been supported, understood, and loved by this principled group and I am most grateful. They are a valuable complement to her leadership. I am hopeful that CCSM's staff, members and friends in these turbulent times will be beacons of light and hope in the Bay Area and beyond.

I will truly miss not working here but I hope to keep in touch. CCSM will never be forgotten and will always hold a special place in my heart.

With Fond Love,

Pearly Masters



## We Heard You and Your Voice Mattered!

Penny and Marge wanted to thank everyone again for your participation in the Survey that was conducted in August. We felt you would want to have a summary of the results which are responsible for and supportive of some of the changes you are already seeing in worship! Your feedback is welcome as we shape the CCSM of the future!

**NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS:** 207

**65% OF YOU AGREE** that the current Sunday worship time of 10:30 a.m. works best.

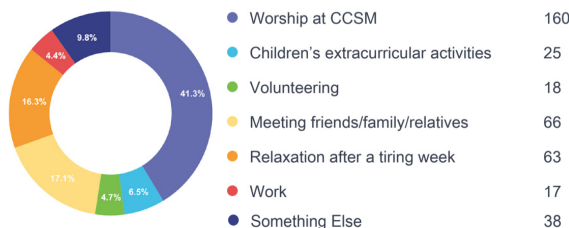
### WHAT YOU APPRECIATE:

- ◆ CCSM's mission, vision, and welcoming environment
- ◆ Our monthly newsletters and weekly connections
- ◆ Music programs
- ◆ Justice outreach
- ◆ Speaker events
- ◆ Coffee hour
- ◆ Inspiring sermons

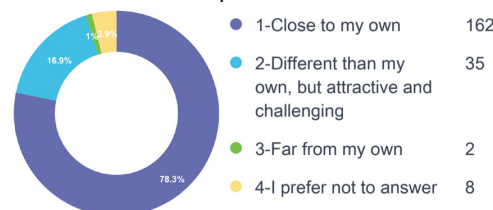
### WHERE YOU SEE ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT:

- ◆ Less clapping during worship
- ◆ More activities to ensure singles and older people feel included
- ◆ Improved technology (video streaming, better audio quality)
- ◆ More contemporary music
- ◆ More speaker events
- ◆ Balance in the political aspect of services to honor those with differing viewpoints

### TYPICAL SUNDAY MORNINGS FOR MANY OF YOU:



### HOW YOUR THEOLOGY / SPIRITUALITY COMPARES TO THAT OF CCSM:



### WHAT YOU HAVE SAID ABOUT YOUR CONCEPT OF GOD:

"My ideas of God or divine presence have altered greatly over time. . . I now embrace progressive Christianity, Paganism, Buddhist principles and am always open to exploring multiple faith pathways as well as developing my own unique pathway that will constantly evolve as long as I live."

"God is not a faraway entity isolated in a fictitious heaven. The spirit of God may be nearer than I imagined."

"I'm still working on bringing my ideas into form. While I feel the presence of a higher power in collective action—civil rights movements, social justice in peace and evolving social reform—I wait for my own personal experience."

The staff will continue to re-view the data collected as we plan worship, events, and celebrations. Survey or not, you are always welcome to send your comments, feedback, and ideas to [mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org) or stop by the church office to chat!

# The Common Good:

## EXPANDING OUR CIRCLE OF CARE TO ALL BEINGS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21: 9:30 A.M. - 10:15 A.M.  
FIREPLACE ROOM

Before worship, Amie Giordano will lead a guided lovingkindness meditation. This Vipassana Buddhist practice, also called “metta,” is a way of opening our hearts by offering kind wishes to ourselves and other beings. Through this guided meditation, we will expand our circle of caring to include ourselves, those we love, those we don’t know, those we find difficult, and then, finally, to all beings.

All are welcome – no prior meditation experience is needed. Please join us!



## Faith Leaders’ Solidarity Cohort Kicks off its Second Year!



If you walk by the Buckham Room on the second Thursday of the month, you will see over thirty San Mateo County faith leaders

gathered to address the most pressing social justice issues of our time. The Faith Leaders’ Solidarity Cohort is led by Penny and Amie through the Peninsula Solidarity Network. The first year of the cohort met from October 2017 through May 2018, and we are happy to announce that we will be continuing on for a second year from October 2018 through May 2019.

We are grateful to the Silicon Valley Community Foundation, who have awarded us a grant to support the second year of the cohort. During our second year, we will focus on expanding our influence into the public sphere, through engaging our faith communities, civic leaders, and business leaders in working towards a more just society. The Solidarity Cohort represents yet another way that transformation is happening, both within and outside the walls of CCSM.



## Thanksgiving Service with St. James!

On Thanksgiving Day, **Thursday November 22nd**, at 10:00 am, we will join our sister church, St. James AME Zion, 825 Monte Diablo Street, for a worship service of praise and gratitude.



# MUSIC & ART

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19, NOON - 2PM  
BUCKHAM ROOM

We are honored to have for our program Ellen Anne Chong. She is a Peninsula native with a broad range of experience in visual art and education. Ellen is currently Director of Education with the Peninsula Museum of Art in Burlingame and facilitates the museum’s Leonardo Studio children’s art program, where the children are guided to discover art through experimentation. She has also been a lecturer at Notre Dame de Namur University.



Remember to bring your own sandwich/salad; beverages and dessert are provided. Men are also invited to attend Music and Art meetings as well as other guests. Please reserve your space by emailing Susan Duty at [susanjd52@gmail.com](mailto:susanjd52@gmail.com) or by calling 650-533-6828 or 650-533 6830.

## WISE & WONDERFUL

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

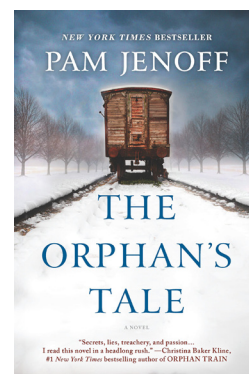
**October 24:** Film—*The Wild Parrots of Telegraph Hill*, a PBS documentary about the relationship between an unemployed musician and a flock of feral parrots.

**November 14:** Book discussion—*On the Brink of Everything: Grace and Gravity and Getting Old* by Parker Palmer

## First Tuesday Book Group

NOVEMBER 6 • 7:30PM • FIREPLACE ROOM

Hold the presses: we are changing the title of our November book. If you liked *Water for Elephants* and *The Nightingale*, this book will capture your heart. The book committee has decided to read *The Orphan’s Tale* by Pam Jenoff for our November meeting. A best seller positively reviewed by NPR, Goodreads says: “A powerful novel of friendship set in a traveling circus during World War II, *The Orphan’s Tale* introduces us to two extraordinary women and their harrowing stories of sacrifice and survival.” This story, based on true events, puts a human face on one of the worst times in our history.



This will be our last meeting in 2018. Please join us for our January meeting, (no book title yet). The meeting will be the second Tuesday, January 8, 2019.



# Custodial Apartment Renovation Project

For the past few months, the Custodial Apartment Renovation Project Team (led by Jim Berthelsen, along with Jim Lindsay, Tony Gallo, and Marge Boyd) has been hard at work reviewing bids for the remodel of our custodian's residential apartment, on the second floor of CCSM, over the Buckham Room and kitchen. The apartment has had little attention during the past twenty years, so the remodel, to make it ready for Oscar Rosa, his wife Imelda, and their sons Brandon and Moises, is proving to be extensive.

However, there is light at the end of the tunnel! Demolition work is complete and the team is finalizing details of the construction contract. If all goes well, reconstructive work should begin mid-October and will continue through November. While we hope to keep disruption to a minimum, we may need to occasionally reserve some parking spaces for workers or "rope off" the Buckham Room.

But this is just another example and affirmation that CCSM is a vibrant community of faith, committed to providing a welcoming home for our custodial family. Once the renovation is complete, we will have an "open house" so that the congregation may bestow their blessings on this sacred living space.



**SAVE THE DATE:**

**SATURDAY, NOV. 17**

**9 AM-NOON**

**(LIGHT BREAKFAST  
PROVIDED)**

## Ministry Leadership Meeting

**ALL ARE WELCOME**



*NEW MEMBERS joined September 23, 2018. Back row: Ray and Noël Olson, Rolf and Robin Hansen, Ago Pedalizo  
Front row: Shannon, Bridgette, and Paige Sieckert, Troy, Kinsley, and Christine Grabow, Violeta Reyes, Chase Olson*



FROM YOUR MODERATOR:

# CCSM Adopts Revised Bylaws in Unanimous Vote

Hello CCSM!

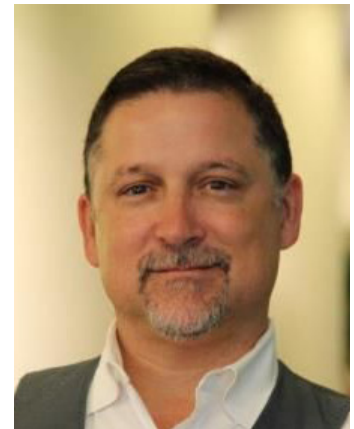
Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Dave Chandler and I am your new Moderator. As I contemplate past moderators and their tremendous achievements, both collectively and individually for over 150 years, I am deeply honored and humbled to take on this role and look forward to our time together. I would be remiss if I did not take a moment and reflect on the results of our September 23 annual meeting. Not only did the revised by-laws pass with a majority, they passed overwhelmingly with 121 'Yes' votes (there were zero 'No' votes and one 'Abstain' vote). CONGRATULATIONS! You also unanimously approved a new leadership team and I'm thrilled to collaborate with each of them as we move forward into a new era of working together in ministry.

Thank you again for all your dedication, stewardship and commitment to making CCSM a place that does not shy away from change. One thing that will not change, however, is the fundamental belief that no matter who you are or wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome at CCSM.

Thank you so much!

Dave Chandler

Moderator, CCSM



Dave Chandler

Moderator

## Advent Wreath Project

Believe it or not, the Liturgical Arts Team (LAT) is busy getting ready for Advent and plans to make lustrous wreaths to adorn the Sanctuary. For this project, we would love donations of glass ball ornaments—all sizes and colors. Poinsettia/holly/pine cone floral picks and other shiny extras that we could use to embellish our wreath creations would also be welcome. Please mark your donations with a note that they are for "LAT" and bring them to the Church Office by October 31.

Want to join in the gluey fun? Come to the wreath-making workshop on **Saturday, November 10** from 9-1pm in Kloss Hall. To sign up, contact Laura Pierce McKenzie ([laurapiercemckenzie@gmail.com](mailto:laurapiercemckenzie@gmail.com)) or Alexandra Gillen ([alexandragillen@yahoo.com](mailto:alexandragillen@yahoo.com)).

## Become a CCSM Ambassador!



Do you believe CCSM is an important spiritual presence on the Peninsula? Do you get something out of coming here? Let's get the word out about who we are. Anyone can do it—

This fall we are stepping up our social media presence and YOU are CCSM's best ambassadors. So, if you haven't liked us on Facebook, please do. Sign up to follow Penny and Jorge on Instagram, and most importantly, share whatever touches on your social networks. Be proud to be part of an open, progressive, spiritual community, an oasis in these troubling times.

Also take a moment and write a review on YELP—people are finding us on YELP!

A poster for a choral concert. The background is a photograph of a stone archway looking out onto a blue sky with birds. The text is overlaid on the image.

10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MULTIFAITH CHORAL CONCERT

*In our music God is*

*Glorified*

A BENEFIT FOR  
HOME AND HOPE

**OCTOBER 14, 2018 5:00 PM**  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BURLINGAME  
1500 EASTON DR. BURLINGAME

**PARTICIPATING CHOIRS FROM:**  
ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA CATHOLIC CHURCH  
THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN MATEO, U.C.C.  
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF BURLINGAME  
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NO ADMISSION FEE / SUGGESTED DONATION AT THE DOOR  
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW WITH REFRESHMENTS  
ALL ARE WELCOME





A couple of the beautiful, imaginative altars the Liturgical Arts Team created to go with the sermon themes of dirt (left) and water (above).



## Pick-A-Party: 20th Year!

**PICK-A-PARTY list of parties is available October 7**

**PICK-A-PARTY SUNDAY is October 14, starting at 9:45 a.m.**

Since 1998, Pick-A-Party has been an essential part of the fabric of CCSM and a great opportunity to connect with others. Pick-A-Party is fun, extremely popular, and—by far—our largest fundraiser. Whether you host a party or sign up to attend a party, you are sure to have a wonderful time as you socialize with CCSM members and friends -- some of whom you've not yet met.

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we've collected 54 parties and 11 silent auction items for our 20th annual Pick-A-Party fundraiser. The party listing will be available for pick up on **October 7th** on the Loggia in a manila envelope with your name on it. If you are not at church that day, your listing will be mailed to you. You can also look at the [listing](#) online.

On **Sunday, October 14th at 9:45 a.m.** we will drop the ribbon in Kloss Hall and permit everyone to go around the room signing up for the parties of their choice. Sign-ups are first-come first-serve. Some parties sell out in minutes. If you can't be in church on October 14th, proxies are encouraged. Bring your checkbook or cash. Silent Auction bidding will conclude at 12 noon.

Let's make Pick-A-Party a big success again this year! Questions? Contact Jennifer at [jjacobyeh@yahoo.com](mailto:jjacobyeh@yahoo.com)



# 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.

### PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD

Holy Spirit, guide us as we seek to care for the earth and its creatures. Prayers of safety and recovery for the many people and God's creation hit by earthquakes, hurricanes and typhoons, and for comfort and strength for those who have lost loved ones.

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

100! **George Parker**, our friend and choir member, turns 100 years young on October 19th. Please send cards and well wishes to The Atria, 250 Myrtle Rd., Burlingame CA 94010.

### PRAYERS OF JOY

Welcome to the world, **Livia Maeillo Lind**! Born in Bangkok, Thailand on October 1, 5 lbs 7 oz.. New father **Andrew Lind** and new mother **Margherita Maeillo** are very happy as are grandparents, **Betsy Woodward** and **Phil Lind**. May the blessings of joy and long life surround this growing family.

We celebrate the installation of **Rev. Bonnie Rambob** who was installed with Rev. Elizabeth Griswold as co-pastors at Parkside Community Church in Sacramento on October 7th. God bless this church and their new ministers!

Prayers of joy for the publication of **Deborah Chang's** spiritual memoir, "First Mistake: Facing Death, Finding Life."

### PRAYERS OF LOVE AND REMEMBERING

Our beloved friend and teacher **Bob Jarmusz** passed away on September 17th, surrounded by his

two daughters. Bob will be greatly missed from his communities on Earth. Bob's memorial will be held Saturday, **October 13th at 3pm**. In honor of Bob, who loved community and sharing time together, there will be a potluck after the service. So please bring something to share and wear festive clothing to celebrate Bob's wonderful and caring life.

Prayers of eternal love for our dear friend in Christ **Judy Hemmer**, who passed away peacefully on September 23rd. We pray for her family and loving friends. Judy's memorial will be held Saturday, **October 27th at 4:00pm**. All are welcome.

A memorial service for our beloved **Vera Pitts** will be held **November 17th at 4pm**. All are welcome. Vera died peacefully in her sleep on August 30. She will be remembered for her feisty spirit, progressive opinions, and her interesting career. We are forever changed by her time on this earth.

### PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Prayers of strength for all of us challenged by undiagnosed mental and physical illness. God and this church are with you. You are not alone, even when it feels lonely.

Prayers for so many beloved people who face cancer. Prayers of love and strength for our mothers, sisters, brothers, neighbors, uncles, aunts, friends, co-workers.

Prayers for the **Quinn** family to find a good-paying job quickly. Prayers for all who are looking for

work at this time.

Prayers for **Bill Coyle**, CCSM's former music director for 13 years, who is having surgery Oct. 10. Prayers for his speedy recovery. May he feel God's presence at this time.

Prayers of healing for **Dave Karlin** as he starts a new course of treatment to tackle active cancer in his lymph node. Prayers for **Barb** also in this difficult time. May God surround them both and remind them that this church community is always walking with them.

Prayers for **Joanne and Brenda**, close friends of **Genel Morgan**, who are both struggling with cancer diagnoses. May God help them at this time to feel love from friends and family.

Prayers of safety and strength for **Rigo Ayala**, son of **Rigo and Cynthia Ayala**, a firefighter who has been working tirelessly in Northern California to stave off the fires in the area. We pray for his safety and all who work with him.

Prayers of healing for **Stephanie Debenport** who has significant cancer in different spots of her body, and prayers of strength for her husband Bob. This family was evacuated from North Carolina during the storms. God, remove any obstacles for Stephanie's treatment and healing. Stephanie and Bob are Martha Bronitsky's aunt and uncle.

Prayers of healing for **Sally Coughlin** who is sick and undergoing chemo. May she and all who love her feel God's love all



## JOYS AND CONCERNS, CONT.

around them at this time.

Prayers of healing for **Tom and Joe**, beloved brothers of **Michele Moffitt**. May God provide them compassionate care.

**Susan Long** asks for prayers of support and healing for Steve's cousin in Seattle, who is having major health issues and faces long term recovery.

Prayers for relief from pain for

**Judy Cunningham**, sister of **Walter Rees**, who had a relapse with arthritis.

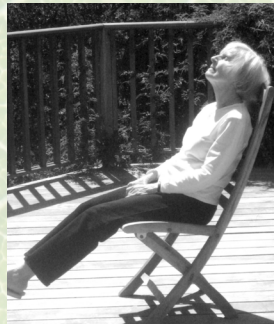
Continued prayers of strength and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters: **Rita Mancerea**, **Jean Barbagelata**, **Travis Woodmansee's** mother **Cathy**, **George Kromhout**, **Julie Lenden's** cousin, **Pico Soriano's** friend **Alexandria Christakos**,

**Dawn Graves' mother Donna Stanger**, **Bill Daniels**, **Sandee Schlickman's** friend **Mike**, **Jim Groundwater**, **Ruth Black**, **Marjorie Griffin**, **Cathy Latta**, **Martha Grannis**, **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.

## *A Few of CCSM's Saints we've lost this year..*



**Mark Mitchell**  
November 23, 2017



**Lynn Blackie**  
December 14, 2017



**Olga-Barbra Dehlinger**  
December 27, 2017



**Ronnie Errichson**  
May 4, 2018



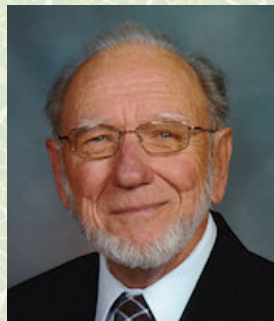
**Trudy Duncan**  
July 16, 2018



**Phyllis Mead**  
August 10, 2018



**Vera Pitts**  
August 30, 2018



**Bob Jarmusz**  
September 17, 2018



**Judy Hemmer**  
September 23, 2018



## IN THIS ISSUE

Sunday Celebrations .....	1
A Word from Penny .....	1
CYF: What's Up Next .....	2
Sixty Minutes .....	2
We Be Jammin' .....	2
It Takes a Village .....	2
Be the Change! .....	3
Our Children's Safety Takes All of Us .....	3
Peace Garden .....	3
CYF... After the Vote .....	4
CCSM Top Chefs .....	4
A Fond Farewell .....	5
We Heard You -- Your Voice Mattered! .....	5
The Common Good .....	6
Faith Leaders' Solidarity Cohort .....	6
Music & Art .....	6
Wise & Wonderful .....	6
First Tuesday Book Group .....	6
Thanksgiving Service w/ St. James .....	6
Custodial Apartment Renovation .....	7
Ministry Leadership Meeting .....	7
New Members .....	7
CCSM Adopts Revised Bylaws .....	8
Home & Hope Concert .....	8
Advent Wreath Workshop .....	8
Become a CCSM Ambassador! .....	8
Liturgical Arts Team special altars .....	9
Pick-A-Party: 20th Year .....	9
Joys & Concerns .....	10
A Few of CCSM's Saints .....	11
Jorge Bautista on <i>The Catalyst</i> .....	12



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"This spiritual revolution rests upon a simple insight: God is the ground, the grounding, that which grounds us. We experience this when we understand that the soil is holy, water gives life, the sky opens the imagination, my roots matter, home is a divine place, and our lives are linked with our neighbors and with those around the globe. This world, not heaven, is the sacred stage of our times."

from *Grounded*  
by Diana Butler Bass

Our own Rev. Jorge Perry Bautista on the cover of *Pacific School of Religion's The Catalyst*

# CCSM PINE TREE

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

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