



**Calm and Bright  
200 Years of Silent Night**

**ADVENT SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS**

*We'll continue our recent tradition of each Advent Sunday being a special music Sunday along with Advent candles and a reflection.*

- December 2** FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Peace  
"Sleep in Heavenly Peace"  
Special Music: Carillon Bell Choir  
Reflection: Rev. Rolf Hansen, guest speaker
- December 9** SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Joy  
"Glories Stream"  
Special Music: Chancel Choir  
Reflection: Marge Boyd
- December 16** THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Love  
"Redeeming Grace"  
Special Music: Children's Choir & Pageant  
Reflection: Kibbie Ruth
- December 23** FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: Hope  
"Let us Sing"  
Special Music: Congregational Carol Sing  
Reflection: *A Carol Sing with stories about carols*—Penny Nixon

**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.



**ADVENT AT CCSM**

**Calm and Bright:  
200 Years of Silent Night**

The classic hymn, "Silent Night," first made its debut on Christmas Eve, 1818 at the St. Nicholas chapel in Oberndorf bei Salzburg, Austria. The melody by composer Franz Gruber is instantly recognizable from the first few notes, and the original text by Joseph Mohr has been translated from the original German into over 140 languages. In 1914, just four years shy of the 100th anniversary of "Silent Night," the soldiers fighting World War I along the Western Front held a ceasefire in some areas out of mutual respect for the holiday. Members from opposing sides exchanged gifts and stories with one another, played games, and sang Christmas carols together, including the

—cont. on p. 4—



George Parker celebrated his 100th birthday in October!



# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

## CCSM Fourth and Fifth Graders on the Road

Already this fall, the upper elementary classes have visited the Unitarian Universalist Church down the street and St. James AME Zion around the corner—two very different cultures, both fascinating and moving. In November, they already have decorated skulls for Dia de los Muertos, an ancient Aztec spiritual celebration. Next week, they will go to the San Mateo Buddhist Temple, which is one of 60 temples in the United States that practices the Jodo Shinshu (True Pure Land Teaching) form of Buddhism. On last year's visit there, they were awed by the beautiful art and symbols—and confused by the Japanese up-and-down style of writing! These treks to other congregations help the children develop a better understanding of diversity, sacredness, and their own sense of what they believe.



## Family Advent Wreath Making

DECEMBER 2 AFTER CHURCH

The children will start their wreaths and Advent crafts during church—however, adults are encouraged to join the fun during coffee hour (even if you have no children).

## St. Nicholas visits the CE Building

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

The children will leave their shoes outside the classroom doors to find them filled with surprises later. Note: big boots won't reap any more treats than ballet slippers—but flip flops won't work that day.

## Christmas Pageant



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Yet another twist on the nativity story! Of course, there will be a happy ending. Children come at 9:45AM to choose their costumes and roles in the anything-goes action.

## YOUTH SHOP TO HELP THE COMMUNITY

Three holiday dinner boxes were filled by the mid-high group, and by now the high schoolers may have filled that many themselves. The new mid-high youth director, Isabel Hernandez, reviews the shopping list for holiday dinners with Sophia and Olivia. Youth volunteer Merle Mason waits for Zach and Taylor to return with their groceries. Their team was the most cost-efficient, just under \$40 for the box. Later that evening, the group prayed for the families who will receive their dinner kits. The next shopping trip will be for their Adopt-A-Family in December.



Processional led by the kids

photo: Chris Yeh

## Youth Schedules

Next year, to avoid 60 Minutes and high school youth group being on the same day, the youth groups will flip schedules. That way the high schoolers with too much homework won't have to choose one gathering over the other. So parents, as you prep your 2019 calendars, please put mid-high youth group on the second and fourth Sunday nights and high school youth group on the first and third Sunday nights. Here are the dates for the rest of 2018:

- Nov. 18** 60 Minutes (and again on December 9)
- Nov. 18** Mid-High Youth Group
- Nov. 25** High School Youth Group right after church for lunch and shopping for our Adopt-A-Family
- Dec. 2** Mid-High Youth Group
- Dec. 9** High School Youth Group and home-cooked Filipino dinner
- Dec. 16** Mid-High Youth Group

Then the schedules flip!

## KEEPING YOUR KIDS SAFE

Dozens of the volunteers and staff who work with your children were fingerprinted last month for criminal background checks. Fingerprinting was the final step in complying with our Safe Congregation policy to protect vulnerable children and adults. Next, we will practice a fire drill (you will be warned so you can tell your children what to expect). Just in case you wonder what to do: if there is a fire drill, everyone in the CE Building will exit out the nearest, safe exit to the sidewalk and then go counterclockwise around the block to reach the back of the parking lot where we will wait for further instructions.



Thank you for your part in keeping our children and youth as safe from harm as possible.



*Lesly loves the Wednesday Gathering activities, Camp Caz, her new CCSM Girl Scout troop, Peace Camp and celebrating Día de los Muertos.*



*Ava and Lily design their structure for the Youth Marshmallow Challenge, but in the end it was only two inches high.*

## Dakota Brown on leave

Dakota Brown is needing to take a medical leave. We will see her in the new year. She wishes everyone a good holiday.

## Help Wanted—help feed our neighbors!

**Can you spare just 2 hours once a month to help feed hungry people in San Mateo?** Samaritan House operates a program to provide dinner to hungry families. Every week, CCSM provides volunteers to help serve the guests. We currently have an opening for the second Wednesday of each month, 4 - 6 pm at the Masonic Hall across from the Betsy Woodward CE Building. You would be joining a team of other CCSM experienced volunteers. If you can commit to this once monthly activity, please email Barb Karlin at [bkarlin1@comcast.net](mailto:bkarlin1@comcast.net). Thanks!

PS - if you can't commit to once a month, but would like to be on our on-call sub list, please email Barb as well.



## Opportunity to help local families this holiday

The Adopt A Family program starts Sunday Nov. 25. The families we sponsor have been carefully selected for us by Life Moves. The gifts you provide go directly to local families, many of whom are in interim housing.



Following the service, a small Christmas tree decorated with paper ornaments will be located on the loggia. Each ornament represents a wish or need of one of the family members. You can participate by selecting an ornament, registering your selection on the clipboards next to the tree, purchasing the gift and returning it to CCSM between Nov 26 and Dec. 9.

## ADVENT *cont. from p. 1*

beloved hymn “Silent Night.” Today, churches all over the world gather together each year on Christmas Eve to join hands, light candles, sing “Silent Night,” and participate in a timeless tradition of inimitable ritual power.

This Advent we celebrate the 200th anniversary of the titular song. At the time of this writing in 2018, our communities, our churches, and our world are torn and divided about many issues. Families fight, politicians argue, flame wars spread ignorance and hate on the Internet, and sometimes we feel that hope, peace, love, and joy are missing from our lives. It is my sincere prayer that this Advent will be a time of ceasefire from our own sources of conflict. This year, we will raise our voices in song to celebrate the birth of Christ with spirits of peace and love that transcend all barriers.



Soon, the refurbished apartment upstairs will be filled with the laughter of Oscar, our super custodian, Imelda, his spouse, and their two sons, Moises and Brandon.

## Looking for a few more helpers

One of the ministries we have at CCSM is providing assistance at the receptions following memorial services. We assist the family by setting up and serving for these events. If you might be interested in learning more or joining this ministry, please contact Marge Boyd (650 343-3694, [mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org)) or Diane Kalliam (415-469-7750, [dkalliam@gmail.com](mailto:dkalliam@gmail.com)).

It is a very fulfilling experience and much appreciated by the families we serve.



## WHO ARE THE CHILDREN OF SARAH AND HAGAR?

THURSDAY, NOV. 15 • 7:00PM • BUCKHAM ROOM

COMPETITION AND INTERPRETATION

JEWISH/CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE: BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

PRESENTATION BY DR. MARCIE LENK

In this age where anti-Semitism is widespread and on the rise, we must be diligent in our work to identify our common roots. We must build relationship and understanding between the Jewish and Christian communities to address anti-Semitic violence together.

Dr. Lenk will explore the Sarah and Hagar story in Jewish and Christian interpretation, focusing on Paul's writing in Galatians. She co-created the “Images of Israel” presented by Penny last February in the Second Hour. Dr. Lenk is the Academic Director of Bat Kol Christian Institute for Jewish Studies, has been the Director of Christian Leadership Programs and research fellow at the Shalom Hartman Institute, and has taught Early Christianity, Hebrew Bible, and Rabbinic Literature at universities and seminaries in Israel and the U.S.



## MSJ HOSTS SCREENING OF THE DOCUMENTARY

### RBG: RUTH BADER GINSBURG

NOVEMBER 16, 7:00 PM  
BUCKHAM ROOM

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is a fighter, an inspiration, and an icon—and this documentary tells the story of how she became a lawyer “when women were not wanted by the legal profession,” and explores her life and career fighting for women's rights. Harvard Law School's dean at the time even asked Ginsburg how she could justify taking a man's spot in her law school class. When she graduated at the top of her class, she couldn't get a job at a law firm, because she was a woman, a mother, and Jewish. But she persisted and began her trailblazing work for women's rights, ultimately winning five groundbreaking rulings that made incredible progress for women. This month marked her 25th anniversary on the Supreme Court.



Come join us for this inspiring film—we will have popcorn, too!

# LAS POSADAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 • 6:00-9:00PM

Dear sisters and brothers,

First, I want to thank all of you who participated in Dia de los Muertos event on November 3rd. We had such a wonderful time together. And, while the food, arts and crafts, decorations sugar skulls, and blessing the altar were meaningful moments for me, what was most meaningful was seeing members from both the Sunday and Wednesday gatherings share the same space celebrating one of my favorite times of year, Dia de los Muertos. Any time I get to see both families coming together is a blessing to witness. The Latino Ministry Team is working diligently to create more such opportunities for folks from the Sunday and Wednesday gatherings to be in the same space. The next opportunity is just around the corner: our 6th annual celebration of Las Posadas, commemorating Mary and Joseph's difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem in search of a warm place to stay the night.

As you know, this centuries-old tradition is celebrated throughout Mexico and in practically every Mexican neighborhood in America in the days before Christmas. José and María trudge from door to door, turned away again and again until they are finally allowed to bed down in the humble manger where the Christ child is born.

Like many traditions, this one can resonate with different tones according to the political tenor of the times. With the constant immigration debate and the asylum seekers from Central America on the national agenda, and the horrible rhetoric from our administration towards immigrants, this Christmas parable asks us to step inside the shoes of both the protagonists and antagonists, the migrant couple seeking shelter and the innkeepers who, momentarily, hold such power over the couple's fate.

Las Posadas is a story about hospitality. The notion of pilgrimage, a spiritual journey undertaken through the flesh, is present in practically all the world's religions. Without the hospitality of those who live along the roads of one's pilgrimage—be it the hajj of Islam or a Catholic penitent's journey to a shrine—one would never arrive at one's destination. Hospitality implies reciprocity: the pilgrim received with generosity will one day have the occasion to return the favor. To shut the door on the wayfaring stranger would be to negate the possibility of one's own journey. Las Posadas helps us imagine what it might feel to be a pilgrim seeking shelter on the road, and at the same time it helps us ask ourselves if we are a hospitable land or not, in a country that is the land of immigrants.

I hope many of you can come participate in this wonderful Mexican tradition. If you do come out, you will get a chance to meet many of the families from the Wednesday Gatherings, and will get to taste my mom's infamous tamales which she has made for us the past four years—they are always a hit.

See you at Las Posadas. Peace and blessings!

Jorge



Dawn Graves  
decorating with  
icing at Dia de  
los Muertos

## 2018 Hope & Hope report

CCSM hosted Home and Hope families three times in 2018, all very successful weeks. We usually serve 4 families for each session. There is a wonderful group of volunteers who help out most every time, and 7 new people joined in to volunteer. A huge thank you to all who helped, as this project requires about 30 different volunteers each time. The age spread of our volunteers goes from 4th graders, high school students to those over 80. It takes a complete village to pull this off each session.

Another thank you to those who gave to the collection. With that money, we purchased breakfast and lunch foods, new sheets that actually fit the beds, new mattress pads and a few new pillows. What a difference that has made!

CCSM will send the remaining contributions to the organization to purchase high quality air mattresses and new sides for the tents. (For those of you who have slept on those cots, you know how uncomfortable they can be.) Any leftover money will be used to house families in motels when there is no host church available.

Another big thank you goes to the Blanketeers for giving each member of the family a quilt. That is an awful lot of quilts that they give away each year! They are always looking for additional sewers to help.

2019 dates for Home and Hope are the weeks of January 13, April 28 and September 22. Please put them on your calendar right away.

Again, thank you for allowing me to serve this church and community in this way.

Donna Lindsay

CCSM Coordinator for Home and Hope

# NEWCOMERS GATHERING

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 9:15 A.M.

**Newcomers: We want to get to know you!**

We've been delighted by the number of newcomers to CCSM recently. Join the pastors for a light breakfast, some conversations, learning about one another, and learning some more about CCSM. Open to anyone who is new to CCSM or has not yet connected in the way you would like to be! RSVP to Marge at [mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org)



## Deliver Plants to your neighbors

DECEMBER 2 AND 9

For many years CCSM members have delivered potted plants at Christmas to people who are grieving the loss of loved ones, people who are homebound, people in their latter years and people recovering from injury or illness. Please stop by the tables full of Christmas plants located on the loggia, pick up and deliver a plant to an old friend, or make a new friend.

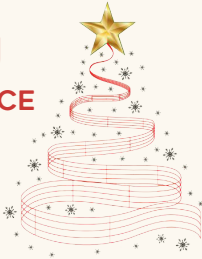


## Soup and Caroling

DECEMBER 16TH AFTER SERVICE

After service 11:45 in Kloss Hall we will have a soup lunch open to everyone, followed by Christmas caroling to houses and senior residences of our older members.

Eat up the love, sing out the joy!



## Time Out for Lunch Returns!

A time for women from the church to get together and enjoy lunch and connection. A mailing will be going out in the next few weeks, so watch for it, or contact Diane Kalliam (415-469-7750, [dkalliam@gmail.com](mailto:dkalliam@gmail.com)). We hope you will join us.

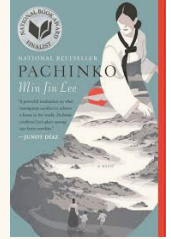


## First Tuesday Book Group

ON HOLIDAY TILL JANUARY 8

NOTE: January 8 is the second Tuesday.

Enjoy your turkey, and watch for the new reading list next month. In case you want to get an early start, our first book of the new year will be **Pachinko by Min Jin Lee**. It's a National Book Award Finalist (and also lots more awards). A page-turning saga: four generations of a poor Korean immigrant family fight to control their destiny in 20th-century Japan, exiled from a home they never knew.



See you in January!

## November Collection: TOILETRIES

LifeMoves needs toiletries to distribute to people living in encampments in San Mateo & Santa Clara County.

Please bring to worship & place in the collection bins or to the church office during November.

### WISH LIST:

- Toothpastes
- Hand Sanitizers
- Toothbrushes
- Small Shampoos
- Washcloths
- Small Conditioners
- Deodorants
- Sanitary Napkins
- Combs

Blankets for the San Francisco Night Ministry also will be accepted as there is a need for them now! The official collection will be in January 2019.



On World Communion Sunday, children shared bread and juice with their parents. (This is Princess Lana and her mom Valerie.)

# Music in November at CCSM!

## Music & Art Circle presents The African American Composer Initiative

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16 • NOON - 2:00PM  
BUCKHAM ROOM**

Music & Art Circle invites you to a luncheon and musical program presented by the African American Composer Initiative (AACI). Lunch begins at noon. Bring a sandwich; desserts, coffee and tea are provided. The program begins at 12:45pm.

The AACI's co-founders and musicians, retired judge LaDoris Cordell, Jodi Gandolfi, and Deanne Tucker will present a sampling of music composed by African American composers, past and present. Come listen to beautiful music and learn how you can support the AACI's groundbreaking work. For more information about AACI, visit [aacinitiative.org](http://aacinitiative.org). RSVP to Susan Duty at [susanjd52@gmail.com](mailto:susanjd52@gmail.com) or call 650-533-6828.



## Solstice Women's Ensemble

**SUNDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 18**

The women's ensemble SOLSTICE will be the special musical guest. Bay Area Regional Champions and national third-place winners of the 2007 Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival, Solstice has enthralled audiences with their technically precise and passionate treatment of music for women's voices since 1996. Each Solstice member brings her own musical tastes and talents to the group, which creates a diverse, dynamic repertoire. From Bartók to Björk, from Palestrina to Paul Simon, Solstice shares the music they love from around the world and through the ages.



**CONCERT: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 8:00PM AT CCSM:  
SOLSTICE SINGS FOR THE SEASON**

Let SOLSTICE ease you into the warmth and glow of the season with music from around the world and through the ages. Solstice takes a unique approach to the music of the holidays by bringing us traditional and lesser-known songs of peace, justice, childhood wonder, and love performed with warmth and precision by these seven Bay Area women.

Suggested donation: \$20; no one turned away for lack of funds.

## A Musical Celebration: Deirdre Lobo, Soprano, & Anna Khaydarova, Pianist

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 3:30PM**

The concert will feature vocal music from various genres, and in several languages to include Italian, German, Tagalog, Latin, etc. (opera, sacred music, musical theater, and even some Christmas music. Additionally, the pianist will play pieces by Rachmaninoff, and Chopin!

Admission is free; donations are appreciated.

Suggestion donation: Adults \$20 • Seniors \$15 • Youth \$10 • Children under 10 \$5 • Families \$50



# HAPPY 80<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY TO THE PINE TREE!



by Austin Mader-Clark

What are the top indicators for a long life? Quality relationships and connection to community. That is what The Congregational Pine Tree has helped bring to us for 80 years.

The new name for our CCSM newsletter came from a poem written by Dorothy Fish Kerr for the 1938 Annual Meeting titled, "To Our Church Pine Tree."

Beauty you have  
And strength,  
Standing serene and tall  
Sweetly your boughs may sing,  
Softly your needles fall....

...Shading us from  
The sun,  
Guarding us from the rain,  
We gather at your feet  
Talking of joy or pain!...

In February 1938 so much was happening. Franklin D. Roosevelt was the 32nd President of the United States, the March of Dimes had been established just one month earlier, the Great Depression was still raging, and although World War II did not officially begin for another year and a half, a lot was happening in Europe with Germany making moves against Czechoslovakia, Austria and Poland. Walt Disney's Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs was released in the United States, the Golden Gate Bridge had been open for 9 months. In March, oil was discovered in Saudi Arabia, and in April, Superman appeared for the first time. Later in 1938 in New York City, heavyweight boxing champion Joe Louis knocked out Max Schmeling in the first round, Howard Hughes set a new record by completing a flight around the world in 91 hours. And Adolf Hitler was Time Magazine's Man of the Year!

Here at CCSM, 106 members attended a three-hour Annual Meeting that included dinner, songs, panel discussions, reports and plans! The dinner was catered by Mrs. Steele and Mrs. Alexander, served by the Burlingame Section and Fireside Group. The social and dining rooms were redecorated by the C.C.C., shades were put up in the auditorium, 200 new hymn books were

purchased, hundreds of plants were donated by Mr. Kerr and large shrubs were donated by Mrs. McCauley. Wow! That's a lot of information and I learned it all from just the first page of the February 1938 Congregational Pine Tree!

While we lost, just a year ago now, the actual name-sake pine tree planted just outside the sanctuary, we celebrate what a gift our Pine Tree newsletter has been over these 80 years. It has kept us informed about upcoming events, comings and goings, spiritual gatherings and justice issues, and as the poem says, "talking of joy or pain." Helping us have deeper connections, and live longer, happier lives!

*The first edition of the Pine Tree newsletter, February 1938*

## Time Machine

Since none of the staff are 80, we decided to honor the Pine Tree's birthday with photos of some of the staff FROM the 1980s (or thereabouts).



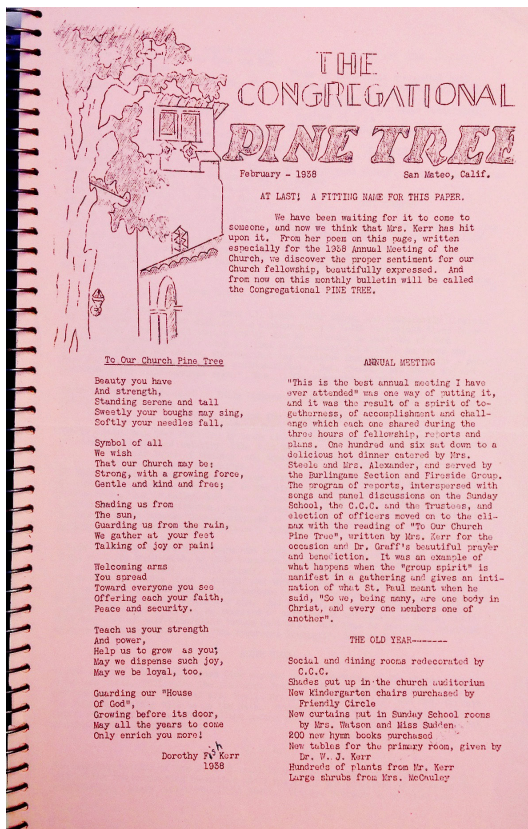
80s Marge



Dakota in 8th grade



Tom, 3 days old







**LILY GONZALEZ HONORED**

*After 20 years as our precious "nursery mom," Lily Gonzalez gets a special plaque to honor her for all the children she has helped raise.*

photo by Chris Yeh



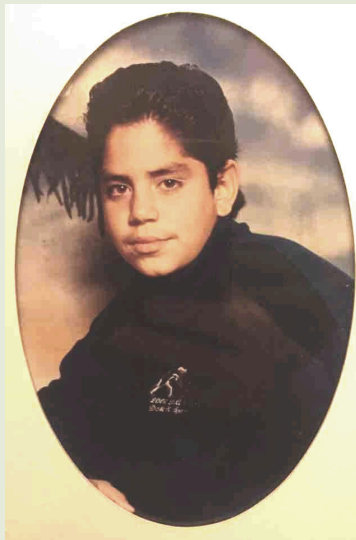
*Intense Pick-A-Party decision-making*

photo by Chris Yeh

# Time Machine cont.—



80s Penny



Jorge in 7th grade



Julie & Anthony circa 1989



80s Kibbie holding baby Kerianne



80s Amie & her twin (can you guess which one is Amie?)



1978 Zoe in CCSM parking lot w/ Thang Luu (son of Vietnamese family sponsored by CCSM)



What an amazing few weeks we've had talking about our spiritual revolution. We've learned about finding God in many different places - the dirt, the sky, the water around us. We all see God in different ways, yet are all connected through this amazing place we call CCSM. As I've reflected on Thanksgiving, I am thankful for so many things, including the community we share. It has become clear to me that we no longer "do" church the way we did when we grew up. Our community is strong because we connect in so many different ways and on so many different levels. As we are starting to look at programming and budgeting for 2019, we are reminded of stewardship.

In the spirit of revolution, I am hoping that we can think about our giving in a different way than we have before. Do you pay your mortgage electronically every month? Do you donate on a recurring basis to charities such as KQED or The Red Cross? I'm excited to announce that **this year, we are launching our stewardship campaign by offering an opportunity for our congregation to become sustaining partners in the Spiritual Revolution we've been talking about for the past several weeks.** In that spirit, we're asking that you consider a sustaining donation whereby you will commit to a regular amount given to CCSM which will roll over for three years. There will be no need to complete a pledge card each year. If you choose to increase your donation because of an increase in your compensation or an unexpected bonus, then you can make that change. On the other hand, if you find yourself in a challenging position financially, you can also make a change.

Please join me in continuing the exciting journey we are on at CCSM by becoming a sustaining partner. Free yourself from completing an annual pledge card and make your pledge online.

**We want to kick off our Stewardship Revolution on #GivingTuesday which is TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27th.** Keep an eye out for more information. The two most important things you can do right now are 1) reflect on the significance of CCSM's vision and mission in this time and in your own life AND 2) check to see if your company matches a gift made on Giving Tuesday.

This is just the introduction—stay tuned—there will be numerous ways to engage.

Penny



# 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 NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

**Zelta Adams** is 90 years young on November 15. We wish you a joyful year!

**Martha Grannis** turns 93 on November 22nd. Happy Thanksgiving-Birthday!

### PRAYERS OF JOY

Congratulations to **Jon Karesh**, who just got appointed presiding judge for San Mateo County! We are grateful to have a wise and compassionate friend in that important role.

We welcome baby **Dimitri** to the world, born October 23rd, son of **Ivan Raikov** and **Oi Ling**, and little brother to **Raphaella**. He was delivered two weeks early. We are joyful that he was born in good condition and did not need to be admitted to intensive care.

Welcome to the world baby **Olivia**! Born October 5th to **Valerie Wong** and **Javier Ruiz**. Blessings of health and happiness to the whole family.

### PRAYERS OF LOVE AND REMEMBERING

We remember our beloved member **Susan Holliday Goudy** who passed away Friday, November 2. She will be missed. Susan was a resident at The Regent; she joined CCSM in 1947, 71 years ago. Details about a memorial service for her will be available soon.

**Bob Reinke** passed away unexpectedly on October 15. Bob was a member of the Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir, and volunteered endlessly at CCSM. He left this world doing what he loved—he was in the RV with Caroline enjoying a

road trip. He went to sleep and didn't wake back up. He died without suffering and with **Caroline** right next to him. We surround Caroline and family with love and support at this time. A memorial service will be held **Saturday, December 1 at 10:00AM**.

**Dawn Graves'** mother **Donna Stanger** passed away on October 10th after a long illness. Prayers of strength for Dawn and the family.

A memorial service for our beloved **Vera Pitts** will be held **November 17th at 4:00PM**. 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 love and healing for **Lydia**, friend of **Deanna Riding**, who will soon have a double mastectomy. Please pray for a successful surgery and recovery.

Prayers of healing for **Barbara Knees**, who recently transitioned from staying with her son **Jim** in Oregon to moving down to be with her other son **Bill** in Rancho Santa Fe. On October 14, she was hospitalized with breathing issues, fluid on the lungs and several blood clots. These issues have thankfully been corrected, but Barbara has been transitioned to a nursing home in La Jolla to get her strength back. Please keep her in your prayers for a full recovery.

Prayers for **Sandra Wing**, cousin of **Donna Summers**, for the loss of her daughter **Windy**. We pray

to compassionately hold Sandra in her time of loss.

Prayers of healing and strength for **Peggy Rech**, recently diagnosed with glioblastoma, a large mass in the frontal lobe that is inoperable. She has started chemo and radiation but its size and location make it especially concerning. We pray for Peggy and also for her husband **Gus**. They are dear friends of **Tony Gallo**.

Prayers for **Kate**, a young girl who has been suffering from Lyme's disease for ten years. God, we pray for her quick and needed recovery.

Prayers for **Dr. Tim Seelig**, his son-in-law **Clay** and granddaughter **Clara**. God, surround them with your love in their hour of need.

Prayers of healing and a quick recovery for **Frank Garritano** who had bilateral hip replacement on October 10th.

Continued prayers for **Joanne**, friend of **Genel Morgan** for 50 years, for her ongoing battle with cancer.

Continued prayers of strength and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters: **Rita Mancerea**, **Travis Woodmansee's mother Cathy**, **George Kromhout**, **Julie Lenden's cousin, 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.

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during this time of political division and acrimony, neighborhoods, communities and families and it whenever and wherever we can. It doesn't mean, but it does mean recognizing each other's worth of one another. It means refusing to let our passion and anger morph into a disregard of the other, and it means strengthening our resolve to live in love rather than be absorbed slowly into the atmosphere of hate.

We are connected in ways we may never even realize.

I was reminded of this again through the tragic Pittsburgh shooting. As we mourned the victims of the Tree of Life synagogue, and expressed our solidarity with our Jewish brothers and sisters, I began to read the stories of the lives of those killed by hate. They weren't just eleven people. They were eleven individuals, with their own life stories and with a myriad of people who called them beloved. Each person's story had its own beauty.

Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz was shot as he was trying to care for the wounded. This sacrificial love was not unusual for him, it was his way of life. He served HIV patients early on when few would. Michael Kerr was a patient with HIV and shared his own experience: "Back when many people were terrified of HIV patients, Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz held their hands without gloves. When they left his office, he gave them a big hug. Rabinowitz became known in Pittsburgh as the 'one to go to' for HIV care because he treated everyone with dignity and respect."

I am connected to Dr. Rabinowitz. Connected in a profound spiritual way. He cared for my community when few would. Just reading his story flooded me with memories, and in the midst of remembering what it was like in those early days of HIV, I felt deep gratitude for Dr. Rabinowitz. He was connected with me before I even knew him. And now, I am connected to him and to all who loved him.

I am part of the great web of belonging. And so are you.

# CCSM PINE TREE

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## We Are All Connected

by Penny Nixon



No matter what sermon I've preached this fall, it seems like I end up with a similar thread woven through each one—and that thread is that we are all connected. Humanity is a living organism, connected to one single root.

This spiritual truth is particularly needed now. Our national divide cuts through neighborhoods up to each one of us to nourish connection mean agreeing, or reaching the same conclusion—other's humanity and respecting the inherent