

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 68, #1 | JANUARY 2019



Jesus and Buddha as Brothers

The twin paths of Christianity and Buddhism

EPIPHANY SERIES

Sunday Celebrations

- 1/27 *The Three Jewels*
- 2/3 *Cleaning the Windows*
- 2/10 *The Fine Art of Acceptance • Celebrating Lynnelle's 25th Anniversary at CCSM*
- 2/17 *Decluttering our Souls*
- 2/24 *Faith and practice: Living Buddha, Living Christ*
- 3/3 *The Other Shore: Resurrection and Reincarnation*



Michele Moffitt and Carol Glasmann serving communion

(photo: Chris Yeh)

Spiritual Care at CCSM

One of the unique and beautiful qualities of this CCSM community is our tending to each other. On the Welcome page of our website we say: We are an open-minded, progressive spiritual community characterized by a delight in diversity, a passion for justice, a love of music and a *genuine care we have for each other*.



We do have a genuine care for each other and this is expressed in so many ways. Many of you are involved in the Companion Ministry, calling and visiting those with health and other challenges, and others volunteer to send the “Month of Sundays” cards and notes. These ministries enhance our collective presence with everyone, members and friends. Countless times during any given week, people reach out to one another, giving rides to the hospital or doctor’s appointments, sending sympathy or get well cards, or simply sending an email letting someone know they are praying for them.

Since September, all the ministers have been working together as a **pastoral care team**: instead of having one person be responsible for everyone, we all participate in the care of the congregation. Speaking for myself, this model of a pastoral team has worked well because I feel more involved in the life of everyone in the congregation—and, as we pray together on Mondays, we also decide who will reach out to what person to make sure everyone is cared for as well as possible. So **we have expanded our Congregational Care as a responsibility of all clergy**, rather than one designated minister. Additionally, we are asking office staff, specifically our Director of Operations (Marge Boyd), to take a more active role in ensuring that not only are the joys, concerns, and needs of our community quickly and efficiently

—cont. on p. 3—



Congregational
Church of san mateo

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



The inaugural Train Day, 2007

Train Day

TOOT-TOOT-TOOT!

On **Train Day, Saturday, February 2, between 2:00 and 4:30PM**, the trains will be pulling into the Kloss Hall station for all ages. Make cookies, be an engineer, create your own layout, and build your own train. Don't miss out!



Youth



Mid High Victory dance at the bowling alley—maybe celebrating that over 42 children and youth came to church that morning.

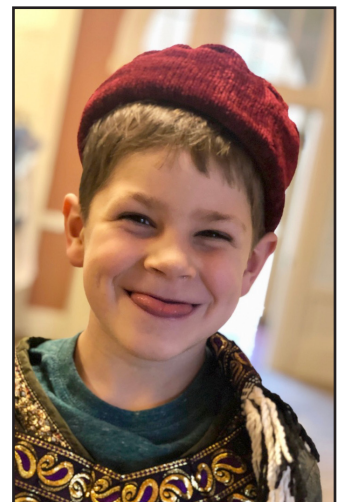


Ever notice how many girls at church have big "ears" these days? Clearly a CCSM fashion statement.



The Mid-High boys soon discover they can send messages to the girls while waiting for their turn to bowl at Sunday night youth group. Kids don't miss a beat!

Ole King Herod gets a good scrubbing to open his heart before he can see the baby Jesus. One of the Magi didn't take his role over seriously in the playful Christmas pageant.



Spiritual Care at CCSM

cont. from p. 1

communicated to Penny, Jorge, and Kibbie, but also that they are represented in publications such as the Bulletin and Pine Tree Newsletter according to your wishes and instructions. Our hope is that you will experience the love and care of a “cloud of witnesses” as we grow the circle wider with improved communication and networking.

Rev. Dakota Brown is returning from medical leave rested and ready to serve. She will be serving in a more specific capacity, focusing on visiting the homebound and providing senior programming. Dakota works 32 hours weekly as a hospice chaplain for another organization so she will only be able to spend a limited time serving CCSM.

You are always welcome to contact individual clergy directly if that is your preference. Additionally, within this model of a Congregational Care Team, you may also contact Marge with your message by phone or email (650-343-3694 Office; 971-235-2679 Cell; mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org) and she will connect you with on-call clergy as well as notify Penny. If your request involves the community, she will also ensure that it goes in our Joys and Concerns for prayerful attention.

We believe this model will deepen our beloved community on every level, as we care for one another and create together an environment where everyone is seen, heard and feels loved.

Peace,
Penny

Dakota is Back!

Dakota Brown is back with us after her medical leave. She is rested and restored, ready to focus on fun and support for CCSM’s amazing seniors. She works as a hospice chaplain in addition to being here, which has the blessing of health insurance and retirement benefits, but means less time at CCSM.

Dakota spent some of her time away thinking about how to refresh the seniors programming for our busy and active older community. **Please take time to fill out a questionnaire on this subject, made available on February 5th in the office.**

Wise & Wonderful

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 23
10:30 TO NOON • BUCKHAM ROOM

Put God first in the New Year—coffee and conversation. Join us!

THE PINE TREE • Vol. 68, #1 • JANUARY 2019

REPORT FROM THE FRONT LINES:

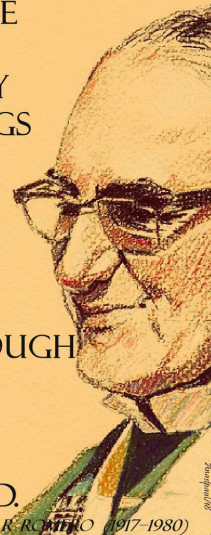
Jorge Bautista

On **February 3**, Jorge Bautista will present on his October trip to El Salvador. He will also share some of his experience during his recent border trip.

Don't miss it!

THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT CAN ONLY BE SEEN THROUGH EYES THAT HAVE CRIED.

BL. OSCAR ROBERTO (1917-1980)



Invest in Peace

BUILDING ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN PEACE FROM THE GROUND UP

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

7:30 P.M.-9:00 P.M.

PENINSULA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
800 FOSTER CITY BLVD,
FOSTER CITY



Looking for hopeful news in 2019? We will discuss the exciting and impactful work of Alliance for Middle East Peace (ALLMEP), an umbrella for NGOs that do people-to-people co-existence work with Israelis and Palestinians. Information on the groundbreaking new International Fund for Israeli-Palestinian Peace included.

Free and open to the public.

For more info, contact Karen Stiller at kstiller@jrc.org

Second Hour Sunday

USA for IOM

AFTER THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON JANUARY 27
COMMUNITY ROOM (CE BLDG)



Please join **Andrew Lind and Amy Mahoney** along with USA for IOM, the non-profit partner of the United Nations Migration Agency, to hear from migration experts how the UN is working to protect and provide lifesaving humanitarian assistance to vulnerable migrants, refugees, and human trafficking victims around the world.

Please send your RSVP to info@usaforiom.org. We look forward to seeing you!

Oscar and family are finally moved in!



The Custodial Apartment Renovation Team is pleased to announce that Oscar Rosa and his family have moved into their “new digs” as of January 15th. We will now be graced with Imelda (Oscar’s wife) Brandon and Moises’ (Oscar and Imelda’s sons) presence in the halls of our building. Oscar and family wish to thank everyone for their housewarming gifts and assistance with their move.

The Team also wishes to acknowledge Peter Held and Jim Schwandt for their incredible generosity of time and talent, giving finishing touches to the apartment.

The Rosa family with a quilt made for them by the Blanketeers

Welcome, Cheryle!

We warmly welcome our new bookkeeper, Cheryle Matteo. Cheryle is taking over much of the huge job Pearly has been doing for many years. It’s a bottomless task, and though Pearly has technically retired, she is still coming in, attempting to pass along years of accumulated knowledge. Cheryle is cheerfully up to the task and has been absorbing mountains of information in the past weeks.

Cheryle attended Kent State University and has a BS in Business Administration with an Accounting major. She has worked in non-profits since 1987. Her last position was with CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse)—an organization regularly supported by CCSM—as the Director of Finance and Administration.

Cheryle says, “My passion is Jesus, fitness and dance. My other work life is Operations Manager for a [Fitness] Bootcamp. I am also an advocate for those with autism. Thanks for this opportunity for allowing me to serve our Lord through your church.”

Please warmly welcome Cheryle to the staff as she undertakes this enormous task.



Cheryle in her other identity as a Fitness Bootcamp personal trainer

Music and Art

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, NOON · BUCKHAM RM

Remember to bring your own sandwich/ salad; beverages and dessert are provided. Following lunch, a short business meeting and program will follow.



Icon by Linda Brockett

Linda Brockett, CCSM member and retired San Mateo High School librarian will present a unique program on **Russian icons**. She will share her experiences in learning how to create modern renderings of this ancient liturgical art form and show examples of her work. All are welcome. Please RSVP to Susan Duty by email: susanjd52@gmail.com or phone 650-533-6830.



CCSM celebrates Las Posadas in December

Witness to the Warmth

With both joy and sadness, the congregation gathered on January 13 at a retirement luncheon for Pearly Masters, who is leaving after 19 years of loving service.

Pearly's son Neil was present, and his words touched many, both to honor his mom and as a tribute to the warm community he has witnessed from a distance during the years his mother has worked at CCSM. Here is a bit of what he shared:

My mom didn't work when I was born; she took care of me and my younger brother full time until I think middle school. Then she went back to work. After trying a couple of different places, she ended up here, and I can see why she has stayed all this time. There is so much love here. That's a rare thing in this world, but it's very evident to me that this is the real thing, that you all actually love each other. This is really a community where people take care of each other.

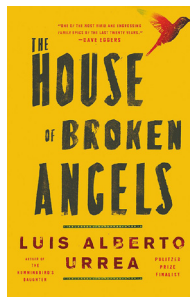
I have heard so many of the names over the years, and I know who all of you are, I just don't know who you are... So it's good today seeing the faces that go to those names. I have been in and out of here through the years and today it's really coming together for me, hearing your stories, what this place is.

I have never been much of a "church person" per se, but you all have changed my opinion over time of what a church can be. You all say you're open and all are welcome and you really mean it, it absolutely shows. In this world where right now we are all being so divisive it's amazing to see a community of people who truly love and support each other and everyone. It's been great to get to know you, even indirectly. Thank you and God bless.

First Tuesday Book Group

FEBRUARY 5 • 7:30PM • FIREPLACE ROOM

At our upcoming meeting, we'll discuss **The House of Broken Angels** by **Luis Alberto Urrea**. "All we do, mija, is love. Love is the answer. Nothing stops it. Not borders. Not death." Confronting the harsh realities of the Mexican American immigrant experience, this book presents a thoughtful and honest portrayal of one family's quest for a better life, and the things that are lost along the way.



BOOK FOR MARCH 5: The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics by **Daniel James Brown**. The #1 New York Times–bestselling story about American Olympic triumph in Nazi Germany and now the inspiration for the PBS documentary "The Boys of '36."

Until then, happy reading! Contact: Susan Stoehr, (650) 347-4630



photo: Marge Boyd

Pearly's retirement was both lamented and celebrated on January 13. The cake carried the sentiment: "Pearly, your leaving is a DISASTER! Best wishes on your retirement!"



photo: Chris Yeh

Penny honoring Pearly during the worship service

Jesus and Buddha as Brothers

Book Recommendations

Living Buddha, Living Christ

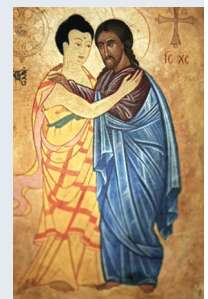
by Thich Nhat Han

Without Buddha I would Not Be a Christian

by Paul Knitter

Jesus and Buddha: The Parallel Sayings

by Marcus Borg



Thanks to All CCSM Musicians

This fall our CCSM ringers, singers and musicians were hard at work in run-out concerts, a number of memorial services & special services and our weekly Sunday services providing beautiful music and sharing their gifts of music to add to our wide variety of worship services. Some of the highlights included the Home & Hope Concert in October, the Annual Halloween Organ concert, special music throughout the Advent season and our beautiful Christmas Eve services.

Thank you to all who shared your gifts including our children's choir, soloists, bells, choir, chamber singers and instrumentalists. We are truly blessed to have such a diverse group of musicians willing to put their talents and faith in action to touch us all. Many thanks!

Looking ahead, we are starting to plan for our Lenten season & Easter Celebrations as well as our Special Music Sunday in late Spring. If you would be interested in participating in any of our music ensembles or as an instrumentalist or soloist at one of our services, please connect with me after service any Sunday or reach me by email (best way to catch me) at lbilsey@lifemoves.org. We would love to hear from you.

Lynnelle Bilsey, Director of Music



Special Music Sunday, December 9, 2018

Volunteer Opportunities in Music

We are looking for a few volunteers to assist the Carillon Ringers, Chamber Singers and Chancel Choir. Are you a natural organizer? Are you looking for an opportunity to support music at CCSM, but are not musically inclined? Here are a few opportunities:

1) **Music Librarian:** We'd love to have a few folks help us manage our music libraries and weekly/monthly music scores. I'd be happy to share with you what is entailed and the amount of hours per month (schedule is very flexible). This would be a huge help for our ensembles!

2) **Do you have strong arms/hands** to help move bell equipment? The Carillon Ringers play every 4-6 weeks and we would love some helpers to move our bell equipment back upstairs on the Sunday mornings when we ring in church. It's about 10-15 minutes of time. It would be an immense help putting everything away – many hands make light work.

3) **Ushers:** The Music Ministries committee is looking to start building our concert series and would love some volunteers interested in assisting with ushering at the concerts. These would be "done in a day" commitments when we have concerts.

4) **Musicians:** Are you a vocalist, instrumentalist, or musical in any fashion? We would love to have you share your talents in music with the congregation at CCSM. All genres of music and all ages are welcome. I am happy to talk with you, or connect you to one of our music staff who would love to talk with you depending on your areas of music and interests. Small ensembles are also welcome.

Please contact Lynnelle, lbilsey@lifemoves.org if you have any questions.



Tom Lohmuller directs the Chamber Singers, 12/9/18

Long Before #MeToo

CCSM is known to be on the cutting edge of justice issues. Back in 1984, CCSM's Social Action Committee (the ancestor of MSJ) agreed to sponsor a new ministry to address child abuse. At that time, the public still didn't believe child abuse actually happened! That ministry grew with the help of Kibbie Ruth, Lani Leydig, Lee Mullery and many others. Over the years, the focus also expanded as other forms of interpersonal violence became identified (clergy misconduct, elder abuse, domestic violence, etc.). By 1995, support groups for victims of sexual harassment were held in the Fireplace Room. Hashtags didn't even exist then—and CCSM was already saying "Stop It!"

Joys and Concerns

CCSM Pastoral Care Team

Please share your prayers with the pastoral care team: Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon, Rev. Jorge Bautista, and Rev. Kibbie Ruth. You are invited to share your prayers, your hopes, and your lives. You may connect with us in the following ways: **in person**, by **filling out a blue prayer card** at Sunday service, by **filling out a ccsm-ucc.org/MyCCSM online prayer request**, by **contacting us via staff emails** listed in your bulletin, the website, or this newsletter.

You may also contact the church office at mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org or call 650-343-3694, and Marge will make sure one of the pastors contacts you as soon as possible.

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

June Schutte turned 98 on January 6 and **Barbara Knees** turned 91 on January 7; **Mary D'Anna** turned 97 on January 18. Happy Birthday to the January babies!

NOTE OF GRATITUDE

Penny thanks everyone who prayed for her niece **Jennifer**. Her symptoms have subsided and the doctors believe it was a viral infection. She is on the road to full health. Thanks be to God!

Dear CCSM friends, I want to thank all of you who have reached out to me at this sad time of my life, upon the loss of my dear husband, Irv. Thank you for your prayers. I'm proud to still be a small part of such a caring community. Gratefully, **Karen Stern**

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Beloved CCSM member **Priscilla Storms** passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 8 after a short stay in hospice, surrounded by her loving family. Penny had the honor of witnessing her passing from this life to the next. Priscilla died of complications from Parkinson's disease and she transitioned with courage, grace and love-- the same qualities with which she lived her life. Her family came in from Alaska, Colorado and North Carolina. Since they were in town, a memorial service was held on January 12.

David Loughhead's mother, **Claire Elizabeth (Bettie) Loughhead**, died peacefully on December 26 in Peabody, MA at

age 92. Prayers of comfort for David and the whole family. Cards may be sent to 505 Vannier Dr., Belmont 94002.

Tom Don, father of **Sarah Iya**, passed away peacefully at home on Christmas Eve. Sarah's family is thankful for all your prayers and support since Tom's cancer diagnosis in March 2016. Cards may be sent to 321 N. San Mateo Dr. #106, San Mateo 94401.

Grace Yoo's father passed away on December 21 after living with dialysis for many years. Please keep Grace's mother as well as Grace and the whole family in prayer at this time. Cards may be sent to 1688 Rosita, Pacifica, CA 94044.

Lynnelle Bilsey's cousin **JoAnn Larson** passed away on December 19 due to complications from Alzheimer's disease. Prayers of love and support for JoAnn, Lynnelle, and the whole extended family.

Prayers for the family of CCSM member **Shirley Robertson**, who passed away early Wednesday morning, December 12. She will be missed by her CCSM family.

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND HEALING

Prayers for healing and strength as **Joan Kilroe** recovers from

knee replacement surgery she had on January 15. Cards may be sent to 1280 Veterans Blvd. #523, Redwood City, CA 94063

Prayers for **Ed Evans**, brother-in-law of **George Snode**, as he faces his final days of Parkinson's. May he be free from suffering and experience a peaceful transition.

Prayers of strength and healing for **Melodie Lew's** friend **Freddie**, who has been growing weaker by the day.

Cristina Summerville's brother-in-law, **Cesar Patino**, is home from intensive care in Bogota. His health is very fragile due to complications to his COPD. Please keep him in prayer during his recovery.

Continuing prayers of strength and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters: **Dave Karlin**, **Rita Mancerea**, **Travis Woodmansee's** mother **Cathy**, **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**, **Deanna Riding's** friend **Lydia**, and others as they walk their unique journeys with cancer and other health challenges.

Calligrapher Needed

We are looking for someone to help update our historical record book which resides in the light box in the Narthex of the church. It is important to keep our historical records beautiful and up to date. This is a great volunteer opportunity for someone with calligraphy skills. Work at your own pace and on your own schedule. Contact the office if you are interested.



IN THIS ISSUE

Sunday Celebrations	1
Spiritual Care at CCSM	1
Children, Youth & Families photos	2
Toot-Toot! Train Day, Feb. 2	2
Report from the Front Lines: Jorge	3
Invest in Peace: Israeli/Palestinian	3
Second Hour: USA for IOM	3
Wise & Wonderful	3
Oscar & family are finally moved in!	4
Welcome, Cheryle	4
Music & Art: Linda Brockett	4
Witness to the Warmth: Pearly farewell	5
First Tuesday Book Group	5
Jesus & Buddha as Brothers books	5
Thanks kto All CCSM Musicians	6
Volunteer Opportunities in Music	6
Long Before #MeToo	6
Joys & Concerns	7
Calligrapher Needed	7
Congregational Meeting	8

CCSM PINE TREE

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

The Pine Tree (USPS 433-380) is published monthly in the interest of Christian Fellowship by the Congregational church of San Mateo, 225 Tilton Avenue, San Mateo, CA. Periodical class postage paid at San Mateo, CA.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
The Pine Tree, 225 Tilton Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94401.

PERIODICAL POSTAGE • TIME VALUED MAILING

for post office use only



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MODERATOR:
Dave Chandler

Congregational Meeting

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
THE SERVICE

Greetings CCSM members and friends,

We will have our first Congregational Meeting under the revised structure that the congregation approved this past September. We'll vote on the 2019

budget and more. The meeting should last under 30 minutes. Your board of directors unanimously adopted the 2019 budget to be presented for approval by the congregation.

An advanced copy of the proposed budget was made available January 20. If you were not in church, a copy can be sent to you upon request by emailing mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org. As you peruse it, you will see that it supports our mission and vision as progressive Christians on the Peninsula.

I know that I speak for the whole board when I say that serving this beloved community continues to be a tremendously rewarding experience and we remain committed to continuing the great work together. I look forward to leading the discussion during the meeting, answering your questions and asking you to approve the budget.

With gratitude,

Dave Chandler
Your Moderator



The children of CCSM praying together (Photo by Chris Yeh)

If you're reading a black-and-white paper copy of this issue and want to see it in all its glorious color, go to tinyurl.com/PT-01-2019