



**JESUS AND BUDDHA AS BROTHERS**  
**March 3** *You Have Heard That It Was Said...*  
 Marge Boyd



**Inhabiting LOVE**  
*"Is my life loving?"*

— Sunday mornings in Lent, 10:30am —  
 March 6 - April 14

[ccsm-ucc.org](http://ccsm-ucc.org)

**Sunday Celebrations in Lent**

preaching by Penny Nixon  
 except for 3/24 by Jorge Perry Bautista

- March 10:** *The Habit of Stillness: Loving to Hold Still.*  
 Baptism • Communion
- March 17:** *The Habit of Generosity: Give Until it Feels Good!*
- March 24:** *The Habit of Becoming a People: Beloved Community.*
- March 31:** *The Habit of Forgiveness: Loving to Forgive.*
- April 7:** *The Habit of Compassion: Allow Yourself to Feel.*
- April 14:** **PALM SUNDAY:** *The Habit of Candor: Can I Be Frank?*
- April 21:** **EASTER:** *Transformed by LOVE!*

**Spring Forward! Sunday, March 10**  
 Change your clock for Daylight Savings



Last year's Mid High Coming of Age Retreat at Mt. Diablo. This year's retreat is coming up **March 22-23**

**InHABITing Love**



Our Lenten theme this year is *InHABITing Love*, based on the book by Ed Bacon, *The 8 Habits of Love*. When I proposed this idea at the Council of Ministries, people enthusiastically signed on to going deeper into love.

Perhaps one of the most important questions I can ask myself is, "To what extent is my life loving?" For me, that is a measure of success more than anything else. A couple of months ago I was reading the book *With or Without God* by Gretta Vosper, a minister in the United Church of Canada who has challenged the church's notions of God. She has taken a lot of heat for her views.

Whatever she believes about God, she has captured what is at the heart of our faith tradition: ***What the world needs in order to survive and thrive is the radical simplicity that lies at the core of Christianity and so many other faiths and systems of thought—an abiding trust in the way of love as expressed in just and compassionate living. Out of the multitude of understandings of religion, spirituality, and faith; out of the varying views of the origins, nature, and purpose of life; out of the countless individual experiences of what might be called divine; out of it all may be distilled a core that, very simply put, is love.... The church the future needs is one of people gathering to share and recommit themselves to loving relationships with themselves, their families, the wider community, and the planet.***

So come join together during Lent to inhabit love.  
 Peace,  
 Penny



# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



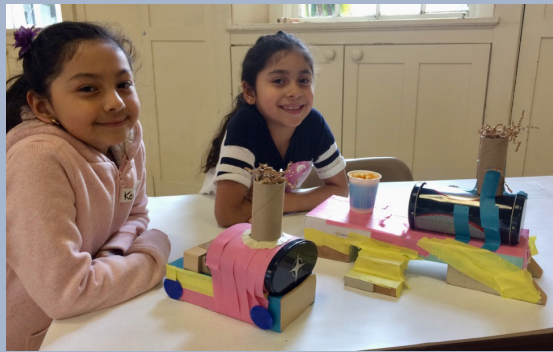
Five CCSM youth spent Presidents Weekend studying eco-justice at two NCNC-sponsored retreats. (NCNC is the cluster of UCC churches in Northern California Nevada.)

## HAPPY VALENTINE SURPRISE

The CCSM children hung surprise, handmade Valentines on 45 doors of the apartment next door to the church. One delighted recipient posted on our Facebook page, “I was a very happy recipient of a hand-delivered Valentine made by one of the children. It put a huge smile on my face. Thank you so much. It will stay hanging on my door all year to remind me of your kindness.” ❤️ ❤️ ❤️ Even a tiny of touch of love brings a lot of joy.



Even the adults enjoyed creating trains at Train Day. Natalia with Dimitar, Karyme and Genesis show off their designs.”



## COMING OF AGE

This month on their third annual Coming of Age retreat, our middle school youth will explore what it means to grow up. Along with studying Bible heroes’ adolescent experiences (most of which didn’t turn out so well), the youth also search for their personal mountain top experience. The first year they climbed

Mount Veeder (before it burned in the wildfire), and last year they trekked up Mount Diablo. And, of course, they ate a LOT! **Parents, please put March 22-23 on your calendars.**



The mid-high youth group never lacks for action. When playing Pictionary with clay, Camille races to make an emoji. Kyle can’t believe his team didn’t recognize his alligator. James, Taylor and Zach master noodle hockey in Kloss Hall.



Nothing brings the high schoolers together like food—even if they have to prepare it themselves. Some are diving into the chocolate fondue while two (in the back) are flying a drone in Kloss Hall (look of the spot to the right of the clock that looks like a smoke alarm).





# Camp Caz Registration Now Open

Already our kids are signing up for Camp Caz—join the adventure! Current kindergarteners through second graders can go to Caz **July 5-7**. Then it's time for current sixth through eleventh graders to go, from **July 7-13** (two separate camps during the same week at the same location). And finally **July 21-27**, current third through fifth graders can go to Junior Camp. Scholarships and transportation available if needed. For more details, go to <https://ncnccucc.org/yomcreg> or email [kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kibbie@ccsm-ucc.org).

## PANCAKES FOR DINNER!

Before you give up anything for Lent, come enjoy Mardi Gras crafts and music, as well as the pancakes, sausage, fruit and more on **Shrove Tuesday, March 5, 6:00-7:30PM**. The youth will help with this CYF-sponsored event—flipping pancakes and serving you. (They are practicing to be helpful at home!). Come join us!



## Kibbie's Retirement

Kibbie became our Minister of Next Generations in 2016. Even though her commitment in this role ended in November 2018, she continues to care for and nurture our kids. Recognizing that all good things eventually come to an end, she has indicated that she is ready to reduce her responsibilities and pace. She officially let the Board know she will retire as Minister for Next Generations by March 15. In her retirement letter, Kibbie stated, "Though I won't miss the fast pace, I will truly miss the children and their families. It has been such a privilege and joy to be with them." Fortunately, Kibbie has graciously offered to help us out on a limited, part-time basis until we can make sure that our programs continue uninterrupted. The board accepted her letter. The board also wants to recognize the wonderful work she has done. We are very grateful for Kibbie's continued help as we navigate these next few weeks and months. Stay tuned for details on how we plan to honor her great work with our children, youth, and families.

### REPLACEMENT

An interview committee (approved by the board) met with and interviewed two applicants (two of whom you have seen in church doing the children's message). For very different reasons, neither of these applicants are moving forward in the interview process.

### BAY AREA DYNAMICS

As many of you experience in your own workplaces, it is exceedingly difficult to find people to work here on the Peninsula because of the exorbitant housing costs. We have already had initial conversations with a number of people. We are trusting that we will be led to the right person, in the right time.

### NEXT STEPS

The board directed Penny to work in collaboration with CYF Ministry and the Personnel Committee to develop an interim solution while simultaneously developing a longer-term plan. Penny and CYF are working diligently to make sure our children and youth are well cared for during this time of transition. We acknowledge that we need to be both flexible and agile as we work towards a satisfactory solution. Recognizing that the spirit works in ways that are a bit opaque at first, we remain open to all possibilities. In other words, we are not sure what kind of position we will be able to fill at this point. It may be we are able to find the right person to be an associate minister for children, youth and families or it may be that we need to hire a youth director and a church school coordinator. If we are able to find an ordained person, then that person would be presented to the congregation to get to know and then to vote whether or not to "call" this person. The board, CYF and Penny will keep you informed along the way as things develop.



Photo: Chris Yeh



# From Your Moderator

Greetings CCSM Members!

Thank you for a robust and lively discussion during our annual Congregational Meeting on January 27. I'm pleased to report that our congregation overwhelmingly approved the 2019 budget as well as affirmed a title change for Jorge Bautista to Associate Minister (stay tuned for details on his installation service).

## LESSONS LEARNED

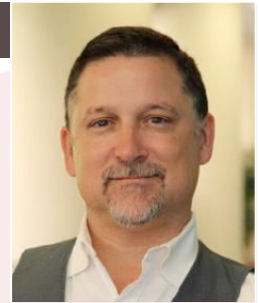
As your Moderator, please know that while I celebrate the approval of the aforementioned items, I also recognize that that our collective discussion could have been more efficient. I take full responsibility for this and pledge to find better ways to facilitate larger group discussions. In addition, the Board learned that combining the two disparate items to approve resulted in a less than ideal outcome even though it was a sincere attempt to save time. Further complicating matters was the fact that we all discovered, albeit a bit too late, that the use of absentee voting placed undue restrictions on our ability to pivot on certain topics.

## NEXT STEPS

In addition to regular board and committee business at our next board meeting, I will have the board seek outside counsel as we compare and contrast the pros and cons between absentee voting and proxy voting. I also have come to understand that Robert's Rules of Order can be interpreted as many ways as there are people in attendance. Hence, I will also ask the Board to contemplate best-practice procedural techniques in order to more effectively moderate our larger group discussions. Thank you all for your patience as I continue to grow in this role as your Moderator!

With gratitude,

Dave Chandler  
CCSM Moderator



## Stay Connected!

### SIGN UP FOR PENNY'S MIDWEEK CONNECTIONS EMAIL



Each week, Penny sends out an email with a brief thought-provoking reflection, poem, or quote, as well as what is most current in the life of the church — upcoming events, speakers, teaching series, etc. You don't want to miss it!

If you're not already signed up for Connections, please go to our website, [ccsm-ucc.org](http://ccsm-ucc.org), and click on the Media tab. Under that menu, click on News Sign-Up and fill out your name and email address, and you'll be good to go!

## Stewardship Update

CCSM, you are amazing! We passed the pledge goal... we are now at **\$605,000!**



*The Lee family gardened at Parkside Elementary along with many other volunteers for Martin Luther King Day of Service on January 21, along with a dozen others from CCSM and over 200 other participants total!*



## SECOND HOUR SUNDAYS

Join us after worship on the following Sundays for discussions and topics to engage your heart, mind and soul.



### MARCH 3

## This Is Our Story, This Is OUR Song

**Rev. Jim Mitulski** • Churches continue to debate whether LGBT people should be allowed in the pulpit, and even in the pews, but gay people have always been present in the hymn books! Join us for an hour of song and lecture about queer hymnody—the writers, poets, composers, musicians who have enriched our worship, some of whom have been open about their identity, and some of whom have not been able to tell who they really are. Rev. Jim Mitulski, Major Gifts Officer for the Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies, and interim pastor of Island United Church in Foster City, is a lifetime member of the Hymns Society of the United States and Canada, and has published about this topic. <https://lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/profiles/jim-mitulski>



### MARCH 10

## One Love

**CCSM Senior Higher Melia Zimmerman** • Melia is a volunteer for One Love, an organization seeking to educate young people about healthy and unhealthy relationships and galvanizing them as leaders of change. Join Melia on March 10 as she presents short videos about healthy relationships and leads a discussion on the ten warning signs of unhealthy relationships and what we can do to stop them from escalating. This is a family-friendly workshop, recommended for families with kids ages 11+. While the focus is on romantic relationships, the content is applicable to every kind of relationship.



One Love was created by the family of a girl named Yearly Love who was killed by her ex-boyfriend. Her family realized that her death was avoidable if anyone in her life had understood the unhealthy and increasingly dangerous relationship behaviors they were seeing.

### MARCH 17

## Progressive Christians Read the Bible: Part 2

**Penny Nixon** • Any time you take something out of context—a word, an event, a person—you misunderstand it. Part of progressive Christianity is to understand the historical Jesus; therefore we have to situate him in his own world, the world of first-century Palestinian Judaism. In this session we will consider Jesus' context by giving a brief outline of the political history that had shaped Palestinian life. Then we will consider a range of responses that Jews in Palestine had to their domination by the Romans, including various kinds of silent protests and non-violent and violent forms of resistance.

### MARCH 24

## Progressive Christians Read the Bible: Part 3

**Penny Nixon** • This session will look at the Gospels as Memory, Metaphor and Method. As progressive Christians, we do not take the Bible literally. So how do we read them? What role does historicity play in our contemporary interpretation? We will practice with a hands-on “bible study” incorporating the scholarship presented.

### MARCH 31

## Council of Ministries

Everyone, whether a Newcomer or a “seasoned” member of our community, is encouraged to attend the Council gatherings, which are inspirational as well as practical, as we engage in fellowship, visioning, planning, and caring for one another.

As a preface to the Council meeting, during Coffee Hour on March 31 we will offer a Ministry Fair in Kloss Hall. Each Ministry will have a “booth” so that those who wish to find exciting ways to plug into the CCSM community according to their passion can learn more about the purpose and activities of our 12 areas of service: Children, Youth, and Families; Music; Social Justice; Congregational Care; Fellowship; Member Engagement; Liturgical Arts; Spiritual Life; Stewardship; Building and Grounds; Latino; Communications.

Following the Ministry Fair, we invite everyone to share lunch, generate ideas for fun summer worship programming, and look at ways the Ministries can identify and prioritize individual and collective projects. **RSVP to [mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org) or sign up in the office for lunch reservations.**

*Clergy and staff look forward to connecting with you through the Council, an important and vibrant element of our new structure!*

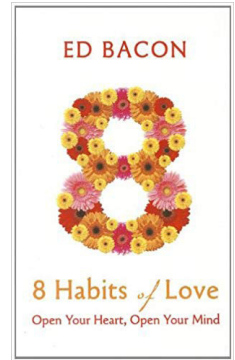
# Spiritual Conversations

MONDAYS, FEBRUARY 25-APRIL 15 • 7:00-8:30PM • UPSTAIRS LIBRARY

The discussion group Spiritual Conversations will read *8 Habits of Love: Open Your Heart, Open Your Mind* by Rev. Ed Bacon, the book Penny will use for her Lenten sermons. Retired rector and author Rev. Bacon describes different kinds of love: generosity, stillness, truth, candor, play, forgiveness, and community, and suggests specific practices to help us develop habits that will enable us to live lives grounded in love; free from fear, anger, and sadness.

A progressive spokesperson on issues of faith and justice, Rev. Bacon has been a frequent guest on Oprah and has received an award from the ACLU, among many others.

Contact coordinators Dorothy and Richard Kogl, [kogl@att.net](mailto:kogl@att.net) or 650-579-7272, if you'd like more information and the first reading assignment, and to RSVP. Please join us.



## Music and Art

FRIDAY, MARCH 15 • NOON-2PM  
BUCKHAM ROOM

Our program this month will feature CCSM's own Chris Yeh on violin, ably assisted by



violinist Marty Lee and Amy Brooks on cello. Remember to bring your own sandwich/salad; beverages and dessert are provided. A brief business meeting will follow and we will then adjourn to the sanctuary for the special musical program.

All are welcome. Please RSVP to Susan Duty, [susanjd52@gmail.com](mailto:susanjd52@gmail.com) or 650-533-6830. If you're unable to join us for lunch, the program will begin at approximately 12:45.

## Undergraduate and Graduate Scholarships Available!

The Ministry of Children, Youth and Families is soliciting candidates for receiving both undergraduate and graduate scholarship aid.

Selection criteria and application instructions are available at [ccsm-ucc.org/adults](http://ccsm-ucc.org/adults). You'll find links with complete instructions and application packets for both the CCSM undergraduate scholarship and the Bullis Graduate School Scholarship there. Deadline for both the undergraduate scholarship and Bullis graduate scholarship is **April 15, 2019**.

Questions? Please contact Warren Long: [longlake15@sbcglobal.net](mailto:longlake15@sbcglobal.net), (650) 341-7809.



## Blankets are on their way

Valerie McEntee brings the first 18 blankets from CCSM's collection to her car for distribution to people living on the street in San Francisco.



# Trudy's Teas

Trudy's Teas are a chance for women from the church to meet and enjoy a meal and fellowship. We currently have a Monday and Wednesday group and are always looking for more women to join us. If you are interested, contact Diane Kalliam (415-469-7750, dkalliam@gmail.com)



2017 Team Up to Clean Up crew

## Team up to Clean Up!

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 • 11:30 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

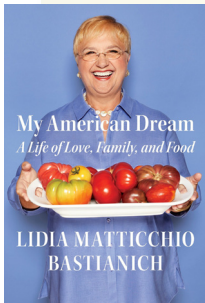
Come celebrate Earth Day Sunday by being God's hands and feet out in our neighborhood! Right after church on April 28, join CCSM's San Mateo's Team Up to Clean-Up team. First, we'll eat lunch together in the Buckingham Room, and then we'll walk around the neighborhood and collect any trash on our sidewalks. The city supplies bags and trash grabbers. All ages are welcome – hope to see you there!



# First Tuesday Book Group

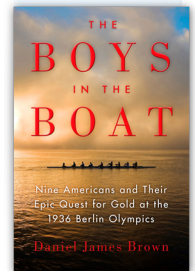
MARCH 5 AND APRIL 2 • FIREPLACE ROOM • 7:30-9:00PM

On **March 5**, we'll discuss *The Boys In the Boat* by Daniel James Brown. This is a true story about the 1936 Olympic competition—a startling moment in history. PBS has aired a documentary on the subject. This book describes one small piece of that event. It is just the time to read a book about “our team” enjoying an unpredictable success.



On **April 2**, our book is all about food. Join us to discuss *My American Dream: A Life of Love, Family, and Food* by Lidia Bastianich, a beloved TV cook/chef.

All are welcome! For more info, contact Susan Stoehr, s\_stoehr@hotmail.com



# Band of Brothers

We hope you'll consider joining one of our men's sharing groups. We are not only building the bonds of deep friendship and spirituality, but practicing our faith and having fun!.

**Thursday Night Men's Group, Modern Men**  
contact Peter Held at heldpainting@aol.com

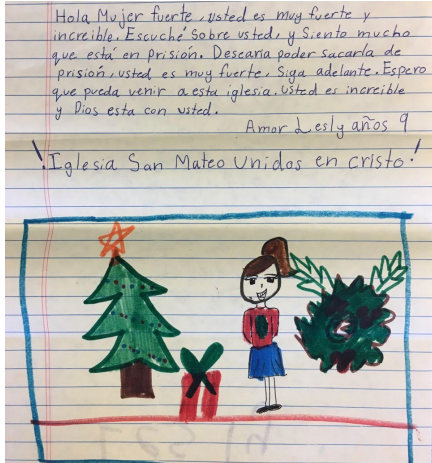
**Saturday Morning Men's Group, Spiritual Journey**  
contact Mike Mullery at leeandmikemull@cs.com

All are welcome!





# CCSM in Solidarity



A letter with words of solidarity and encouragement written by Lesly (age 9) from Iglesia San Mateo



The letter-writing gathering also coincided with International Human Rights Day. CCSM member Ago Pedalizo made a short video lifting up the importance of human rights for all people, which can be viewed here: [youtu.be/YJleNGOuYS0](https://youtu.be/YJleNGOuYS0)



On December 10, Iglesia San Mateo and the Ministry of Service and Justice co-sponsored an evening gathering to write letters to women detained by ICE. Many of these women were forcibly separated from their children before being sent to an immigration detention center in Texas. Thirty-seven people attended this gathering. Fifty four letters of solidarity and support were written, including ten letters written by children and youth.



On December 20, Catholic Charities held their Annual Christmas Party for unaccompanied minors in Kloss Hall. It was a very special evening for these wonderful youth!

## Extra, Extra!!

At least five of the stars in Borel Middle School's musical this year are from CCSM. Performances are at the San Mateo Performing Arts Center at 600 N. Delaware on March 1st and 2nd at 7PM and March 3rd at 2PM. Come out and support our kids. Tickets available at [boreldrama.com/home/box-office](http://boreldrama.com/home/box-office).





# Joys and Concerns

## CCSM Pastoral Care Team

**Please share your prayers with the pastoral care team:** Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon, Rev. Jorge Bautista, Rev. Kibbie Ruth, and Rev. Dakota Brown. 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 this newsletter.

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

### PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Prayers for the family of **Ed Evans**, who passed away due to Parkinson's on February 24. Ed was the brother-in-law of **George Snode**

**Joe Venuto**, Marge Boyd's brother-in-law, died peacefully on February 14 after a short illness. Prayers for Marge's sister Beverly Colgan as she heals from this loss.

We received news that **Nancy Fogerson**, long term member of the choir and bell choir in the 80s and early 90s, died on January 24, 2019. We send prayers of comfort for Nancy's family.

### PRAYERS OF LOVE AND HEALING

Prayers of healing for the **Robertson-Genest** family, friends of **Sue Bullis**, whose 97-year-old father had hip surgery and is having some complications.

Prayers for a complete recovery

for **Marian Faber** as she continues to recover from a broken hip.

Prayers of strength for **Joan Kilroe** who continues to gain strength after knee replacement surgery.

Prayers for **Bill Melis**, who continues to recover at home after a five-day hospitalization for injuries sustained as part of a bad drug reaction. (336 Seville Way, San Mateo, CA 94402)

Prayers of healing for **Cheryle Matteo's** mother, **Mary Matteo**, age 91, who is doing better following a heart attack.

**Elrae Bilsey** is recovering nicely but would appreciate continued healing prayers.

Prayers of strength for **Warren Larson**, brother of **Karin Albright** and son of **Shirley DeCosta**, undergoing his second treatment of chemo for throat cancer.

Healing prayers for **Mary Helen McMahon**, friend of **Mike and**

**Kay Harris**, who is battling major health challenges.

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

Prayers of healing for **Cristina Summerville's** brother-in-law, **Cesar Patino** in Bogota. His health is very fragile due to complications to his COPD.

Continuing prayers of strength and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters: **Dave Karlin**, **Travis Woodmansee's** mother **Cathy**, **Julie Lenden's** cousin, **Bill Daniels**, **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.



## Grief Support Group

THURSDAYS, 6:30-8:30 PM

If you are grieving the death of a spouse or partner, whether recently or some time ago, please join us. Together, we share our sorrow, create a community of compassion and hope, and build resilience in the midst of challenges.

Facilitated by Rev. Dr. Janet K. Bower, Pastoral Counselor.

Pre-registration is required. Group size is limited. To register, contact Janet Bower at 650-483-2136 or [janetkbower@gmail.com](mailto:janetkbower@gmail.com).

*Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.*

Matthew 5:4



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# CCSM PINE TREE

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

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March 6, 7:00PM  
Kloss Hall

Our Wednesday Gathering, CCSM's Spanish service, hosts this special bilingual service which will include communion and the imposition of ashes. St James AME Zion will also join us, and our choirs will come together as well. What an incredible way to begin Lent, bringing diverse communities together in worship and reflection. A meal will follow.

## Holy Week 2019

**April 18, 7:00pm • Holy Thursday Service**

We'll commemorate Holy Thursday by sharing a meal around tables in Kloss Hall. During the evening we will sing, share liturgy and hear short reflections. It will be a spiritually meaningful service.

**April 19, 7:00pm • Good Friday Service**

Hosted by CCSM, accompanied by 7 other churches as we reflect together on the 7 last words of Christ.

**April 21 • Easter!**