



Sunday Celebrations in Lent

ccsm-ucc.org

March 24: The Habit of Becoming a People: Beloved Community. Jorge Perry Bautista

March 31: The Habit of Forgiveness: Loving to Forgive. Penny Nixon.

April 7: The Habit of Compassion: Allow Yourself to

Feel. Penny Nixon.

April 14: PALM SUNDAY: The Habit of Candor: Can I

Be Frank? Penny Nixon.

April 21: EASTER: Transformed by LOVE! Penny

Nixon.

Holy Week at CCSM

Holy Thursday • April 18, 7:00 pm., Sanctuary. Contemplative Taize style service with music and readings led by Lynnelle Bilsey.

Good Friday Midday Service • April 19, 12:45pm, Sanctuary. Music and Art will sponsor this midday service with organ music from Angela and scripture readings on the passion of Christ.

Good Friday Evening Service • April 19, 7:00pm, Sanctuary. Hosted by CCSM, accompanied by other area churches, we reflect together on Christ's final moments.

Easter Sunday • April 21. Transformed by Love! 8:00am: EARLY SERVICE. Celebrate resurrection at our early service led by the youth in the Memorial Garden.

10:30am: EASTER CELEBRATION. Our Easter service is always one of the year's highlights. Come early to get a seat and be prepared to experience resurrection!

CCSM Loves our Children and Youth!

One of the things I love most about CCSM is our intergenerational community and how the whole community loves and supports our youth and children. That love and support has been embodied so beautifully in Kibbie's min-



istry among us for the past two years. Kibbie stepped up at a time when we were looking for a CYF minister. Along with the CYF Ministry, our programs have continued to provide spiritual nurture and opportunities for service for our children, our youth, and our families.

As was reported in last month's Pine Tree, Kibbie has officially "retired" from her full-time CCSM position.

So what is happening now? Kibbie has agreed to help us through this time of transition, working very part-time and in close collaboration with the CYF Ministry and with me. Tara Abrams has offered to be our Children's Ministries Coordinator and will oversee the children's programming on Sunday mornings. Thanks to volunteers Dave Olsen and Bill Dunbar, the mid-high Sunday class will run as usual through mid-June, including first Sundays. We are thrilled that 12 mid-high youth are going on the Coming of Age Retreat next weekend. The youth groups will continue to meet, so parents, keep an eye out for details. We will do our very best to communicate to keep you informed so that our children and youth remain engaged in their spiritual community.

The CYF interview committee is

—cont. on p. 2—

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Interim Children's Ministries Coordinator: TARA ABRAMS

We are happy to announce that Tara Abrams, CCSM member and serving on CYF ministry, has agreed to be our interim Children's Ministries Coordinator for Sunday mornings due to Kibbie's retirement. Tara works parttime in the school district as a counselor/therapist.



Tara Abrams and family



Our cheerful and capable youth served over 70 people for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper!

CCSM Loves our Children and Youth!

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interviewing a potential candidate – stay tuned and keep the prayers coming! The CYF Ministry is active as ever and fully engaged during this time of transition.

On Sunday, June 2nd, we will celebrate (with cake and more!) and appreciate Kibbie for all her work and for all the ways she has loved and supported our youth. Please note—she is NOT leaving CCSM—we will still see her around and she will no doubt be involved in various projects, but, she will no longer be responsible for our children and youth ministries. "All good things must come to an end" is the saying, but that is really not true in this case. Here at CCSM, all good things continue—they take different form from time to time, but the love and support is unending, and we don't actually have to say good-bye to our amazing Kibbie.



Help! Calling all Butterflies

Did you know that a group of butterflies is officially called a kaleidoscope, although they are sometimes referred to as a swarm. Groups of caterpillars are called an army. The Liturgical Arts

Ministry (LAM) cordially invites you to participate in the building of our Lent-to-Easter transformational theme—cocoons into butterflies—signifying Jesus's resurrection.

There are two open workshops coming up. Please give us a helping hand and RSVP to Kay Harris, communi ks@me.com or call 572-8378 if you would like to attend either or both dates.

Saturday, April 6, 10am to 1pm • We will be creating a kaleidoscope of large flying butterflies and we need your help to assemble them. Skills set: pasting, Exacto knife usage, scissors, assemble.

Saturday, April 20, 10am to 1pm • We need several extra helping hands to build 12 floral arrangements for Easter Sunday. They will be glorious! If you enjoy working with flowers you can help Pam and Alice create our beautiful arrangements. Bring your flower clippers.

Saturday, April 20, 10am to 1pm • Mike Harris is looking for an installation crew to help install the kaleidoscope of butterflies. Skill set: hold strings and tie knots.

You'll be amazed to see cocoons actually emerging into butterflies! Please arrive early and bring a friend. Coffee, tea and goodies will be served. We guarantee this will be fun!

Wise & Wonderful: Now on Fridays

Wise and Wonderful will now only meet THE FIRST FRIDAY OF **EACH MONTH, 10:30** to noon. The first gathering of "Wise & Wonderful First Fridays" will



be held APRIL 5th in the Buckham Room. Coffee will be provided. Bring your own lunch.

Speaker: Deb Flaherty, Mid Peninsula Village. Helping seniors find resources and services.



Rev. Dakota Brown leaving CCSM

Dakota sent a letter of resignation to the board of directors indicating March 15th, 2019 as her last day at CCSM. She has accepted a full time position at Pathways Hospice as a Chaplain. At Pathways she will serve families from San Francisco to Redwood City. They are able to offer her benefits and more hours that she needs for herself and her family to live in the Bay area.

Dakota writes: My final project for the church was to survey the senior population of the church to update the needs and hopes for future senior programming. I have completed this project and the results have been given to Penny. The Wise and Wonderful group will no longer meet twice a month but will meet once a month on the first Friday of the month. The first speaker, on April 5th, will be Deb Flaherty who will share information about Mid Peninsula Village. All other pastoral care needs have been parceled out to the remaining staff and some church volunteers.



I would like to thank The Board and all the members of CCSM for the opportunity to serve your church community for the past

three years. During this time I have appreciated the learning opportunities to grow as a minister in the United Church of Christ. I am most humbled by the many people who have shared the joys and challenges of their lives with me. I will continue to lift these conversations in prayer; God always hears us and knows our hearts (Psalm 139).

We thank Dakota for her service among us and wish her only the best in her ministry.

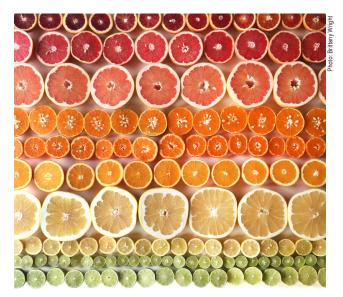


Building Our Unity

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Throughout its history, the Church has had to navigate what to do when two different groups are brought together in faith. Christianity has never been a faith that was tied to just one place or one culture; its very nature is outwardly focused, enveloping many different peoples and traditions. This certainly adds to the richness of the faith, but at the same time poses many challenges. An encounter between peoples from different backgrounds can be filled with tensions and difficulties, and much care must be taken in seeing those differences not as sources of division, but forces of unity.

The Latino Ministry Team and I are constantly strategizing and working on plans to foster unity between members from the Sunday gatherings and members from the Wednesday gatherings. One of the goals is to create more of a crossover among the two cultures by such things as having Rev. Penny lead worship on



Wednesdays as often as possible—just as I sometimes lead on Sundays. Our hope is that this would model a positive crossing over into each other's cultures as we both lead the two gatherings to be more and more united.

Another hope for building unity is bringing both gatherings together as often as possible. One great example of this happened on Shrove Tuesday, March 5th, thanks to all the hard work CYF did by hosting and organizing the event. Twenty-nine adults and youngsters from the Wednesday gatherings joined more than seventy adults and youngsters from the Sunday gatherings to eat pancakes, do arts and crafts, and make new friends.

We are also working on having bilingual services whenever we can. We experimented with this for our sec-

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ond year on Ash Wednesday. Forty-one members from the Wednesday gatherings and over thirty from the Sunday gatherings prayed, took communion, received ashes, and sang songs, in both Spanish and English. We hope to continue offering times to gather bilingually.

My prayer is that as we go forward, both cultures and services will frequently share the same space and get to know each other more deeply, and that we remember that we are a church of unity. The desire of the Latino Ministry Team—and mine—is that we may be one and that we are work-

ing always for greater unity in our church in the midst of all the diversity. This is not an easy task and is one that requires much prayer and preparation, but knowing that this is healthy for the life of the church, we can walk forward with great faith and hope that the opportunities God provides will outweigh any obstacles that could deter us.

Thanks to each one of you for all you do to help this church become the beloved community we all desire. Peace and blessings!

Jorge Bautista

Sacred Conversations to End Racism: Latinx Voices

Dr. Miguel De La Torre and Rev. Rhina Ramos join Rev. Dr. Velda Love and Rev. Tracy Howe Wispelwey, exploring Latinx identity, cultural narratives and how both individuals and communities of faith can move towards liberation. Click here for more information (tinyurl.com/end-racism-2019).

SECOND HOUR **SUNDAYS**

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



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.

APRIL 7 Climate Change and the **Response of Children:**

Sandra Soto-Grondona

Climate Change is affecting all of us, but one particular group of people will need to live with the effects for a bit longer, and those are children. Climate change poses threats to human health and safety, and children are



at particularly high risk. Children living in developing countries and/or near contaminated areas face the greatest risks of all, because they are poor and without much political power. However, some of the most audacious responses to climate change are emerging from children themselves. Come and hear about some of these examples from around the world in a PowerPoint presentation by one of thousands (of) Climate Change Reality Trainee(s) of Al Gore: Sandra Soto-Grondona.

APRIL 14 Progressive Christians Read the Bible: Part 4

Our world shapes us profoundly. How did Jesus' world shape him? What influences led him to teach the things he did? How do his world and ours intersect and how do these worlds, and world views, influence our reading of the gospel texts? We will spend time delving into the Palm Sunday narratives as part of our study.

MARCH 31 Ministry Fair and Council of Ministries

Thanks to your participation and engagement, we are off to a good start under our transformed governance structure! Everyone, whether a Newcomer or a "seasoned" member of our community, is welcome and encouraged to attend the Council gather-



ings, which are inspirational as well as practical, as we engage in fellowship, visioning, planning, and caring for one another. As a preface to our first Council meeting of 2019, 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 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!

APRIL 28

Team up to Clean Up!

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, join CCSM's San Mateo's Team Up to Clean-Up team. First, we'll eat lunch together in the Buckham 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!

Music and Art: Good Friday

FRIDAY, APRIL 19 · 12:45PM · SANCTUARY

Music and Art will sponsor a Good Friday observance at 12:45pm in the Sanctuary. There will be special organ music by Angela Kraft Cross interspersed with readings by members. (Note: the Music and Art core group will have lunch in the Buckham Room at noon; remember to bring your own sandwich/salad; beverages and dessert are provided. A brief business meeting will follow and then we'll adjourn to the sanctuary for the program.)

All are welcome, but do reserve your place by emailing Susan Duty at susanjd52@gmail.com or by calling: 650-533-6830.

Make a Change for Lent... Quit Plastic!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY: INTO THE WILDERNESS

This year, Into the Wilderness will be attempting to eliminate or cut down single use plastic for Lent. Here's the challenge: First, try to cut down or eliminate



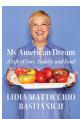
single use plastics at home. Second, take action by participating in the weekly action challenges. Into the Wilderness will send out a weekly email to help, and you can share your tips, wins, and struggles on the Lent FB group. Find out more here: itwcommunity.org/plastic

First Tuesday Book Group

APRIL 2 · FIREPLACE ROOM · 7:30PM

Our book is My American Dream: A Life of Love, Family, and Food by Lidia Bastianich. Join us for a tasty discussion of the life of a well-known TV personality and a beloved cook.

The host of "Lidia's Kitchen"



shares a memoir that traces her impoverished but loving upbringing under Tito's communist regime in Yugoslavia, her years as a refugee while trying to enter the United States, and her early start as a restaurant worker.

Need more information? contact Susan Stoehr at s_stoehr@hotmail.com

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Home and Hope

CCSM will be hosting the Home and Hope families the week of April 28 - May 5. It takes approximately 35 volunteers to adequately care for these families. People are needed to set up the tents and make the beds which usually takes about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ hours on Sunday afternoon (exact time to be announced at a later date). The tents come down on May 5 at 7:30 AM. This usually takes less than an hour.

Cooks are needed to prepare the evening meal and this opportunity usually fills up fast.

Hosts are needed each evening for approximately 2 - 2 ½ hours. Dinner is included in this position and children are welcome to participate with a parent. This involves helping wherever needed, talking to the families, playing with the children, and/or helping with homework.

The hardest positions to fill are the overnight slots especially since we now need TWO people each evening. Overnighters are needed from 7:30 PM to 7 AM the following morning.

Please contact Donna Lindsay if you have questions or want to volunteer, only via email at releduc@sbcglobal.net.





MIchelle Moffitt serves communion to Caroline Reinke

Find Your Niche

by Jim Ingwersen

This column is addressed to those with mortal loved ones. Those of you who have none, or whose loved ones are immortal, need read no further.

When your loved one proves beyond question to be mortal assuming cremation has taken place, you will be presented, quite soon, with a small packet of his or her remains. You and your other grieving survivors will then be faced with a problem; what is to be done with this awkward possession? There are several options.



- 1. Delay is possible. There are people who place the packet on the mantel where it remains indefinitely.
- 2. Some people hire a pilot and an airplane and have the ashes scattered over the Pacific Ocean. A cold and wet resting place, but to each his own.
- 3. Others wish to scatter or bury at Yosemite or some other place the deceased loved. Be careful to avoid the Park Ranger; I believe this practice is unlawful.
- 4. You might say, "I will wait until springtime, and then work them in with the fertilizer I use in the vegetable patch." I suggest you consult with your real estate agent; the full disclosure rules these days may require that this fact be brought to the attention of potential buyers. This may have an adverse effect upon the market value of the property.

Well, then, what is to be done? Fortunately, the answer is right at hand. Adjacent to the sanctuary, in the most beautiful memorial garden in the county, there is situated a columbarium, which offers a safe, snug, protected, permanent resting place. The faceplate of each niche has engraved upon it the name and dates of the deceased, all done in excellent taste. And if the deceased had a spouse with whom he or she was on speaking terms, that person's ashes could share the niche, with appropriate changes to the faceplate. And the columbarium supplies a beautiful venue to which survivors can come from time to time in remembrance.

Niches are currently available to be reserved; however, I warn that the supply is limited, and the

choice ones may be scarce. I, for instance, have chosen one with a view of the tower. I do not want to start a stampede but suggest you approach the Church management promptly to save your space.

Happy resting for you and yours!



Joys and Concerns

CCSM Pastoral Care Team

Please share your prayers with the pastoral care team: Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon and Rev. Jorge Bautista. 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 or on the website, ccsm-ucc.org.

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.

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE

Marian Faber wishes to thank everyone for their cards, prayers, visits, and gifts. She is so grateful for the care she has been shown and is recovering well from her fall and broken hip. She is back in her home at The Magnolia of Millbrae.

From **Bill and Carole Melis:**We so deeply appreciate the many cards, visits, and prayers during Bill's hospitalization and continuing recovery from his latest health challenge! We are grateful for his progress, and for the support of the CCSM community, which has encouraged us daily and speeded his healing.

Michael and Rebecca Ruedy-Whelan are deeply grateful to the church community for their prayers and support as she underwent surgery on Valentine's Day. She received the word that it wasn't cancer and is overjoyed to share this news!

Prayers of gratitude that Cheryle Matteo's mother, Mary Matteo, age 91, is doing better following a heart attack. She continues to need prayer for strength and healing.

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Rev. David Brown, former senior minister at CCSM from 1984-1997, suffered a heart attack on March 11 in Florida and passed away. Con-



dolences can be sent to his wife **Barbara Brown** and the family at 1263 Bellevue Blvd., Clearwater, Florida 33756. A letter of condolence was sent to Barbara on behalf of CCSM.

Melia Zimmerman's Uncle Bobby passed away in March after a long life of inspiring Melia and so many others with his music. Pray for his family and that he is safe and happy in heaven.

June Schutte, a member of CCSM for 60 years, passed away peacefully at the end of January, not long after her 98th birthday. Her daughter Shirley was with her. We send condolences to the family. June is remembered fondly by many CCSM members.

Prayers for comfort for the family of **Ed Evans, brother-in-law of George Snode.** Ed passed away Sunday, February 24th due to Parkinson's. He is now free from suffering.

Prayers of comfort for **Gus**, close friend of **Tony Gallo**, who lost his dear wife **Peggy**. Prayers of solace for Tony as well as he grieves the loss of a friend and seeks to provide support to Gus.

JOYS AND CELEBRATIONS

Joseph Dunbar has been made a Company Commander at Cal State Maritime Academy in Vallejo, putting him in charge of four divisions, around 340 people total. Joe reports that he is up for the challenge. Congratulations!

We celebrate with **Bonny and Mike Armacost** as their 60th
anniversary was March 7. A very
happy anniversary from your
whole church family!

SPECIAL BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to **Miriam Dizon,** celebrating her 91st birthday on March 27!

In April we celebrate THREE centenarians! **Thelma Kromhout** will turn 100 on April 15, **Martha Imai** turns 104 on April 23, and **Clare Naegle** will turn 101 on April 30!

Donna Simpson turns 90 on April 12. We rejoice with all these beloved church family members for all the years they have been loving and serving. Happy birthday!

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND HEALING

Prayers of strength and healing for **Susan** who recently found out she heart disease. We pray for Susan and her wife **Ivonne**.

Prayers for **Linda Hodges**, recovering from femur surgery in Millbrae. She is having extensive physical therapy and it is not known when she will be going back home. She really appreciates cards and visits.

Prayers of healing for Patricia Bourne and Fred Rosenquist, friends of Laura McKenzie; both are fighting stage 4 cancer. Prayers of strength for Fred's wife Bev as they face this difficult time.

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 **Elrae Bilsey** who is recovering nicely. Visitors are very welcome. Please call ahead. Home: 650-342-1795 or Lynnelle's cell: 650-339-5795. They do have a

JOYS AND CONCERNS, CONT.

big but loveable dog (Roxie) in the house.

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

Mary Helen McMahon, friend of **Mike and Kay Harris**, has gotten some good news about her heart and will not have to have heart

surgery. She really appreciates being on the prayer list—because a prayer request for her was in the Pine Tree, she was contacted by old friends from PTA days. She still has a lot of health issues and continues to need prayer.

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.

The 23rd Annual San Francisco Multicultural Passover Freedom Seder

APRIL 17 · 5:45 P.M. DOORS / 6:45 P.M. PROGRAM JCCSF · 3200 CALIFORNIA STREET · SAN FRANCISCO

Join JCRC, JCCSF, and Congregations Emanu-El and Sherith Israel for the 23rd Annual Multicultural Freedom Seder at the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco.

Our community is a bastion of freedom with a commitment to acceptance, and the Freedom Seder celebrates this with a joyous gathering of friends, neighbors and fellow San Franciscans! During this multicultural and multifaith seder we extol freedom for all with songs, storytelling and a delicious kosher meal. It will be a great opportunity to build relationships with public officials, participate in crosscultural exchange, and honor one of the most important Jewish holidays of the year.

All are welcome!

Tickets available at jcrc.org/news-events/events/ freedom-seder



Holy Week 2019

April 18, 7:00pm • Holy Thursday Service

Contemplative Taize style service with music and readings led by Lynnelle Bilsey.

April 19, 12:45pm • Good Friday Midday Service

Music & Art will sponsor this midday service with organ music from Angela and scripture readings on the passion of Christ.

April 19, 7:00pm • Good Friday Service

Hosted by CCSM, accompanied by other area churches, we reflect together on Christ's final moments.

April 21 • Easter! Transformed by Love

8:00 am Early Service

Celebrate resurrection at our early service led by the youth in the Memorial Garden.

10:30 am Easter Celebration

Our Easter service is always one of the year's highlights. Come early to get a seat and be prepared to experience resurrection!



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1E TREE

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



Penny Nixon Honored as Woman of the Year!

THIS IS A POST FROM ASSEMBLY MEMBER KEVIN MULLIN:

Today I was honored to recognize Reverend Dr. Penny Nixon, Senior Pastor of Congregational Church of San Mateo United Church of Christ as District 22's Woman of the Year. Penny has been the Senior Minister of the Congregational Church of San Mateo, United Church of Christ since 2007 and does her work in partnership across faith traditions. Her work as a pastor in the Bay Area has included helping the poor and homeless, ministering to those afflicted with AIDS and starting a food program.

Penny is the convener of the Peninsula Solidarity Network. The newly founded network of congregations,



schools, businesses, families, and individuals was created to help defend victims of social and economic injustice; to fight human rights violations; and to protect the safety and well-being of immigrants, those facing racism, and any others who might be harmed by new federal policies and attitudes. The hope of the Peninsula Solidarity Network is to join together to stand with, speak up, and take action to support and protect our neighbors. She is on the front lines of women's and justice issues every day!