

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 68, #5 | JUNE 2019

Summer Sundays

- June 2** *Scared or Sacred?* Kibbie Ruth. Luncheon Celebration of Kibbie's Ministry.
- June 9** PENTECOST. *Witnessing 2.0* Penny Nixon.
- June 16** *Divided Loyalties*. Jorge Perry Bautista.
- June 23** *Letting Go of Control*. Amie Giordano.
- June 30** *Parables and Paradox*. Sheryl Johnson. Church Picnic
- July 7** INTERdependence Day. Penny Nixon.
- July 14** *Samaritan Surprise*. Jorge Perry Bautista.
- July 21** *We're The Ones We've Been Waiting For*. Alan Roby.
- July 28** *A Spiritual Cornucopia*. Marge Boyd.
- Aug. 4** *Storing up and Letting Go*. Sheryl Johnson.



GO FOR GOATS

CCSM has a new family member—a dairy goat named *Petal*. Raised since a baby by our mid-higher Zoe Neil, *Petal* will be competing for a ribbon at the San Mateo County Fair in June. **If you are 65 or better, come to the fair for free on Tuesday, June 11**, to encourage four-month-old *Petal* in her first public appearance. With many 5AM mornings and other adventures as a new “parent,” Zoe has quite a story to tell about being a farmer and dedicated vegetarian. Just ask Zoe's mom, Michele Cinq Mars, (michelecinqmars@icloud.com)!

A Word from Penny

Every year I take advantage of the study leave CCSM so generously provides me—recent study leaves included walking part of the Camino and two trips to Israel for study. In June I will return to my “homeland,” Northern Ireland. My ancestors are from Ulster County (my paternal grandfather was born there and then came to New Hampshire as a first generation Irish immigrant). I've been to Ireland twice, but never to Northern Ireland. Both times I visited, I felt deeply connected to the Celtic spirituality, from the Druid Circles to the earth-based Christian tradition alive and well there.



This time I have been accepted into an intentional retreat where I will learn from peacemaker activists who have practiced reconciliation. Here is how the retreat is described:

The story we tell shapes the world we live in. The story of Ireland, north and south, is full of light and shadow, mystery and earthiness, sacred and profane collaborating to create a land of charm, beauty and inspiration. We invite you to take time out to experience the landscape, art, people and story that has captivated so many. Journey with a small group of new friends in the north of Ireland, among people seeking space, rest, challenge and clarity for the next steps in life. Our retreats are led by writers, musicians, and other artists; guides who have been immersed in spiritual reflection, peacemaking,

—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

SUMMER IN THE SUN

Once again, our children's summer program will be outdoors in the Memorial Garden—this year to explore the spirituality of ecology, sustainability, and creative re-use of otherwise discarded materials. One person's trash may be another person's treasure—and kids can be great at seeing value and possibility in things like cardboard and bits of plastic we might otherwise send to the landfill! While recycling alone may not be enough to save our planet, we believe that small things count in God's eyes—and small things (like children) can be a catalyst toward that broader change as well. So... **The children need junk this summer**—especially tin cans and colorful plastic bags (any of you New York Times subscribers?). One visual we want to create is a pile of all the junk found in a whale's stomach. So, could you please bring your tin cans, bags and plastic bottles to church for us? Thank you!



Each Sunday starting June 23, kids (up to those entering 5th grade in the fall) will gather outside for games, stories, and activities focused on different recyclable materials, including engineering challenges, artistic creations, and more! Kids entering 6th grade in the fall are welcome to join other middle schoolers for a different program in the Youth Room.



Mid-Highers Will Get an Earful

And you will want to eavesdrop! As many middle-school youth approach high school, the question “what will I be when I grow up” becomes front and center, starting to feel less dreamy and more daunting! So, ten interesting members of CCSM will meet with the youth on Sunday mornings over the summer to talk about work as a vocation (calling) and balancing other interests and values with paid employment, volunteering, raising families, supporting social justice causes and more. Spirituality might connect with all of that!

If you are interested in overhearing the conversations about ranging from being a park ranger to a farmer, let Sheryl know (sjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org). We always need a second adult with the kids, so your being present would be helpful for the program (and surely fascinating for you).

End of Summer Showdown - August 18

CCSM may not have a gym, but it does have space for volleyball, four-square, kickball, basketball, and more. If you are starting middle school or high school in the fall, don't miss **Youth Sports Day**, after church Sunday, August 18—to test out all the equipment and prove you are a winner (God already knows you are)! Join the playoffs between high school and middle school students for big prizes. Oh, yeah, also free lunch!



CAMP CAZ

If your family hasn't signed up for Camp Caz, hop to it! The early bird special expires this month...and as always, there are scholarships available. Make sure your children join the CCSM contingency.

- July 5-7** Caz for current kindergarteners through second graders
- July 7-13** Caz for current sixth through eleventh graders
- July 21-27** Caz for current third through fifth graders



CCSM Mid-Highers on a recent hike

School's Out!

Celebrate with a picnic and hike at Laurelwood Park after church on **Sunday, July 21**. Climb to the top of the “mountain” for views of the bay and ocean. Eat until you explode, play until your collapse, and enjoy the sunshine.

Jorge's "Installation"

SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2019

In ecclesiastical language (in other words "church-speak"), when an ordained minister is called by a congregation, they are then subsequently installed. In our current tech age, it sounds like something is happening with a software program. I've tried to find a witty way to compare Jorge to software but it just didn't work!

At the congregational meeting in January, the congregation voted to change Jorge's title to Associate Minister, and when that vote passed overwhelmingly, the congregation also wanted to recognize this "call" in a worship service.

Now, here is a bit more ecclesiastical information: CCSM is part of the United Church of Christ and our regional conference is called the Northern California/Nevada Conference (NCNC/UCC). The Conference has more localized "associations" and we belong to the Golden Gate Association. According to NCNC/UCC policy, a called minister is installed by the association, and just recently, they have determined that those installations must be done in the afternoon, and not at a regular worship service. (The reasoning behind this is that most people in the associations are in their own church on Sunday mornings). At CCSM, we install our ministers in our regular Sunday morning worship service so that the whole congregation can participate in this joyful ritual.

While our Association has endorsed Jorge's call, in order to abide by their policy, we will arrange the official installation at a time when representatives from Golden Gate can attend. However, to honor our congregation's wishes, we will bless Jorge as our Associate Minister on June 9th in a special worship ritual. We will ask him to commit to leading with love, and to hold as a sacred trust our best hopes and dreams as a congregation. And we, as a congregation, will commit to supporting him. Please plan to be present as a witness to Jorge's continued ministry at CCSM.



Jorge Perry Bautista carries the cross on Palm Sunday



Kids need backpacks!

This June and July help build self-esteem by donating new backpacks for kindergarteners through high schoolers in the La Honda Pescadero United School District!

CCSM's GOAL — 100 new backpacks for Puente to distribute at an August 7 event

As in previous years, CCSM has committed to donating 100 new back-to-school backpacks for students of the La Honda Pescadero United School District. Puente, the only community resource center serving the San Mateo County South Coast & Farm communities, will be distributing these backpacks at an event on August 7 at the Pescadero Elementary school.

Please bring your new backpack donation(s) to church beginning **Sunday, June 2 through Sunday, July 28**, or drop them by the Church Office in June and July. You'll help families struggling to ensure that their children sparkle on their first day back to class! And I'm certain a lot of children will be smiling!

Can CCSM do this? Last year we exceeded our goal. We can do it again. Happy shopping!

A Word from Penny ...from p. 1

and imagining a better world. Experience the extraordinary physical landscape, hear from poets and historians, learn from people who made peace with each other after a centuries-old conflict, and go on an inner personal journey that might last a lifetime.

I will be away June 10-21 and intend to come back spiritually refreshed and renewed, and better able to help bring peace and reconciliation here in San Mateo County.

I'll be offline while there, but will try and take enough photos and notes to share my experience with you upon my return.

Love,
Penny



KIBBIE IN ACTION
OUT FRONT

Blanketeers Hand in Hand with Home & Hope

Donna Lindsay and Blanketeers had a wonderful time handing out quilts at Home and Hope at the end of April. With two new families having three boys ages five and under, we provided three adult quilts, three young boy quilts and three adorable teddy bears knit by Linda Skromme! A returning family already had quilts but their young son had not received a bear yet; he was really excited when he too got a cute bear!!

Blanketeers will be taking the summer off from meeting, but not from sewing. The next Home and Hope will be in September and we need to be ready. **Want to help out?** We've got lots of fabric and many experienced hands to show the ropes. Email Lani at lani.leydig@gmail.com to be put on the Blanketeers' list.



ALL CHURCH ASSEMBLY

COME ONE! COME ALL! AUGUST 11, AFTER CHURCH

On March 31, 2019, following the Ministry Fair at Coffee Hour, an amazing assembly of individuals participated in summer and fall planning. Out of our brainstorming sessions came ideas for an August focus on developments during the 50 years since the moon landing (expect Tang at some future coffee hour!) as well as a fall series on Faith and Food. These quarterly assemblies have proven to be particularly beneficial, meaningful, and inspirational and with each event, we expand and deepen our relationships with each other.

To that end, we want to be sure everyone knows the gatherings are intended for the entire church community, so we are changing the name from "Council of Ministries" to "All Church Assembly." The next Assembly is scheduled for August 11th, right after church. Because we want to provide lunch, an RSVP is required, so let Marge know that you will be attending (mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org, or call the church office at 650-343-3694). Also let Marge know if childcare is needed during the Assembly.



Celebrating Kibbie on June 2!

June 2nd will be a momentous day as we will be celebrating the many contributions Kibbie has made to CCSM over the years before we officially recognize her retirement from the position of Minister for Next Generations.

If you would like to contribute to a purse for Kibbie, make your check payable to CCSM with "Kibbie's Purse" written in the memo line (or put cash in an envelope marked similarly) and put it in the offering plate any time over the next three Sundays or drop it off in the office.

If you want to join us for lunch, RSVP to mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org or call the office at 650-343-3694 to reserve your space by Friday, May 31st so that Marge knows how much food to order.

Come join the celebration!

Lynnelle's Notes



SUMMER MUSIC AT CCSM

If you are interested in participating in summer music at CCSM we have lots of opportunities—as the psalmist says, *Make a joyful noise in our sanctuary!* Please contact Lynnelle Bilsey, Director of Music at lbilsey@lifemoves.org, or come talk with me after service about the possibilities. We are open to soloists, small ensembles, groups and in many genres; summer is our time to pop the top off and share the many gifts of the Spirit through music. Some of our summer guests will include organists Chase Olson & Ethan Haman, Beyond Bound-

aries Quartet, Marge Boyd on cello, a jazz group with McKinnon Violette on trumpet, and of course, drop-in choir and many others.

It's going to be a great summer—watch your bulletins for who's coming next.

CHOIR & BELLS 101

Have you been interested in learning the basics of singing in a choir, or how to ring 'dem bells? Here's your chance – join us this summer for two short workshops on basics of ringing & singing at CCSM.

CHOIR 101 WORKSHOP

Wednesday nights, July 10, 17, & 24, 7:00-8:00 PM

BELLS 101 WORKSHOP

Thursday nights, July 11, 18 & 25, 6:30-7:30 PM



DROP-IN CHOIR THIS SUMMER

The Chancel Choir takes a well-earned break during the summer months and CCSM has enjoyed the opportunity for anyone who would like to sing on a Sunday morning in Service to join the Drop-In Choir. We meet at 9 am and rehearse the morning music for 1 hour and sing during the service the same morning—no commitment beyond that morning (and no robes during the summer!)

Hope you come join us on one of the following Sundays:

DROP-IN CHOIR

Sundays, June 23, July 20, August 4
9:00 AM rehearsal for the 10:30 AM service

LANDSCAPES OF THE HEART



You are invited to join Robin Hansen, Chris Stuart and accompanist Bryan Baker for an afternoon of glorious music including works by composers Rachmaninoff, Debussy, Donaudy,

Duparc, Dvorak and Satie. The program explores love, loss, healing and our passion for the art of singing. There will be two performances:

Saturday, June 22, 3:00 PM at CCSM

Sunday, June 23, 2:00 PM at St. Charles Borromeo, 1315 Lomitas Ave, Livermore

There is no admission charge for either performance. Please join us one of these days to enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music together.

Lynnelle

Tom Lohmuller Moving On

We are sad to announce that Tom Lohmuller, Associate Director of Music, has submitted his resignation in order to pursue other musical opportunities. Tom hopes to return occasionally for special music events and writes to the choir "...I am deeply appreciative of my my time here and there will always be a special place in my heart for all of you and CCSM."

ANGELA'S 26TH ANNUAL ORGAN RECITAL

CCSM's beloved organist Angela Kraft Cross performed her 26th Anniversary Organ Recital on May 5, 2019, with works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Kraft Cross and Widor in celebration of Charles-Marie Widor's 175th birthday. CCSM is so fortunate to have Angela!

A WORD FROM OUR TREASURER

by Veril Phillips

Money. Governance. Compensation. Budget.

All these are exciting topics, aren't they? Well, come on—aren't they? Okay, okay—it depends on how you look at them. When these topics help Congregational Church of San Mateo advance our mission (Being a Voice of Progressive Christianity, Being a Beloved Community, and Advancing Social Justice) then some of us say a resounding, YES!!

Few members of our community are aware how much our “new” Board of Directors and its various committees have accomplished since the Bylaws were approved in September 2018 and the new Board and its committees were formed. In this article we will touch on two: 1) introduction of the “Compensation Pool” and 2) plans for developing the 2020 General Fund Budget.

COMPENSATION POOL

Beginning with the 2019 budget, the Finance Committee and the Board proposed a new concept in managing compensation for staff, called the Compensation Pool. The budget approved in January by the congregation included a single line item for the compensation of all clergy and staff except that of our Senior Minister, whose compensation was listed as a separate line item. This approach to budgeting and management of compensation was to acknowledge the experience in recent years with more staff who are part-time and more frequent turnover than in yesteryear. When each position was listed as a separate line item in a budget that the Congregation had approved, a protracted process to make changes appeared to be necessary whether it was or not.

Here is an example of how this works under the new policy and procedures: the need was identified recently to add social media to the job description of the staff person already handling web site management. It was an easy process to revise the compensation and obtain the appropriate approvals by both staff and lay leadership in order to accomplish the goal. (And by the way, our social media presence has increased considerably).



DEVELOPING 202 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Time was short to develop the 2019 budget after the new Board began its work. Consultation with the ministries (also new), staff, board members, and others was highly limited last fall, but for 2020 we have a robust plan for developing the budget. Starting in September, Finance Committee members Gene Chelberg, Jim Lindsay, Bryan Martin, and Veril Phillips will solicit requests for funding and meet with those who have requests or ideas to gain a better understanding of the needs of this great church. We intend to have the Board endorse a budget for recommendation to the Congregation in December – well in advance of the January 2020 Congregational Meeting.

If you have any questions or wish to have anything clarified regarding the financial health of CCSM, please feel free to contact me at veril.phillips@gmail.com or 650.393.9561.



It's always a joy when new members join the church. On May 5, 2019 Megan and Dave Goulden, Elizabeth Kapadia, Amy Mendez, Nicole and Murshed Zaheed, and Tiffany Chambers (not pictured), were welcomed into the CCSM church family.

COME OUT AND CELEBRATE PRIDE IN SAN MATEO!

SATURDAY, JUNE 15 * 11:00AM - 5:00PM
SAN MATEO CENTRAL PARK

Come celebrate and recognize the LGBTQ+ community through entertainment, education, connection and fun! There will be booths and vendors who support our LGBTQ+ community as well as food trucks, live entertainment, and much, much more!

CCSM's sponsorship of \$1000 has been critical to the event's continued success and growth. This is a great opportunity to both support the LGBTQ+ community and raise the public's awareness of CCSM's mission and the good work we do.

So come out and join your friends and family at the 7th annual event! We need people to staff CCSM's booth for the following shifts: **10:00AM – 12:00PM (setup at 10:00AM); 12:00PM – 2:00PM; 2:00PM – 4:00PM.; 4:00PM – 6:00PM (cleanup at 5:00PM)**. If you are able to sign up for a shift, please email Chris Sturken at 4h.violinguy@gmail.com. Let's come out and show the LGBTQ+ community of San Mateo why we believe in CCSM!



On April 28, CCSM became God's hands and feet as they participated in Team Up to Clean Up in our local neighborhood!



During the Easter Sunday service, MSJ members distributed 50 \$25 Kiva gift cards. Kiva is an international non-profit that expands financial access to underserved communities through crowdfunding loans. Ago Pedalizo and Brenda Kelley were among the MSJ members who helped distribute the gift cards.

FIRST TUESDAY BOOK GROUP

The First Tuesday Book Group will not meet again until **September 3**, which gives you the whole summer to read *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney. Soon to be a major motion picture, this is a "warm, funny and perceptive debut novel about four adult siblings and the fate of the shared inheritance that has shaped their choices and their lives."

Questions or comments? Contact Susan Stoehr at s_stoehr@hotmail.com.



Community Corner

Do you have a need, a request for assistance or an item to offer? Let Marge know (mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org) and they can be shared here each month in the Pine Tree.

Science from Scientists will be holding a summer camp for 6th to 8th graders at Foothill College on July 8 to 14 and July 15-19. We will explore STEM activities from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, touching on many topics of interest and relevance. Classes are generated and taught by local scientists, including your outgoing moderator Tony Gallo. July 15-19 will be an exclusive camp for girls only!

More information can be obtained by visiting foothill.edu/sli/stemcamp-middleschool.html or contact Tony directly for more details.

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/prayer 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 JOY AND GRATITUDE

Congratulations to **Jennifer Hu and Jelle Zijlstra** who just got engaged!

PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE

Many thanks to all those who Volunteered for Home and Hope April 28-May 5. The following is a list of the many folks who came out to help. An asterisk * means they volunteered twice during the week, and a pound sign # means it was their first time. The next rotation will be September 22-29. **Tracy Fallon***, **Gordon Smith***, **Helen Jorgensen***, **Jim Lindsay***, **Louisa Shaul#**, **Sue Hill#***, **Adrian Vogt***, **Carole Wilson#***, **Mary Ann Notz**, **Karen Joliffie**, **Philip Gara#**, **Michele Moffitt***, **Challa Montez#**, **David Loughhead**, **Laura Peterhans**, **Elaine Kauffman**, **Tony Gallo**, **Rolf Hansen#**, **Eva Chan#**, **Robert Leung#**, **John Ebnetter**, **Chona Tendero**, **Ruth Dizon**, **Kenny Lee with Zoie and Jordyn**, **Sarah Lawson** (friend of Kenny Lee) and daughter **Frankie**. The **Blanketeers** provided beautiful quilts and **Linda Skromme** made hand knitted teddy bears for each of the children. A heartfelt thank you to each of you!

—**Donna Lindsay**, Coordinator for Home and Hope @ CCSM

Arnold Duncan was recently honored by the Upper Peninsula League of the San Francisco Symphony for his 25 years of being a docent for the Symphony's Concerts for Kids. He was also named Volunteer of the Year by the Symphony in 2011 for this work and for coordinating all the docents of the nine leagues in the Bay Area. He is an honorary

member of the Upper Peninsula League.

Gordon and Margaret Smith would like to thank everyone who expressed their condolences after the death of Gordon's sister. They are so appreciative of the CCSM community's care and support.

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Phil Lind's aunt passed away on Tuesday, April 30. Phil and Betsy traveled to Portland for the memorial service. Prayers of comfort for Phil and the whole family.

We heard news of the passing of long-time member **Tom Schratter**. Prayers of love and strength for his wife **Lorene** and children **Alex** and **Julian**, who grew up at CCSM.

Prayers of comfort for **Deborah** and **Carla** as they released to heaven Carla's beloved service dog **Harley** (foxhound) on May 20. She was 16.5 years old and until she was 14, she made Carla brave and ambulatory. It's especially devastating to lose Harley only 2 days after the death of Harley's sister **Taylor** (English springer spaniel).

Sue Bullis had to have her dog **Beau** put to sleep on May 23 because of a tumor in his heart. Special prayers of comfort for Sue as she feels the loss of this longtime companion.

PRAYERS OF SUPPORT AND HEALING

Prayers for **Sharon Tobin's** niece **Jean Marie**, receiving treatment for breast cancer. She lives in Tennessee and would greatly appreciate prayer.

Lorna Groundwater requests prayers for healing; she's been very sick and has ongoing congestion and possible pneumonia.

Ongoing prayers for **Bill Melis** as he deals with complications from his recent hospitalization. Cards may be sent to Bill and **Carole** at 336 Seville Way, SM CA 94402.

Dottie Scott continues to be unable to walk due to a hip misalignment; surgery is not scheduled until the end of September. She is practicing a positive attitude and getting around on her scooter. She is grateful for phone calls and cards from CCSM friends and loves to receive the Bulletin, Sunday CD, and Pine Tree.

Melanie Dresbach asks for prayers for **Rev. Dr. Michael Dresbach** who is battling cancer.

Continuing prayers of strength and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters: **Dave Karlin**, **Bill Daniels**, **Ruth Black**, **Marjorie Griffin**, **Martha Grannis**, **Adrienne Mitchell**, **Genevieve** and **John Parsons**, **Fred Petri**, **Jim Groundwater**, **Travis Woodmansee's** mother **Cathy**, **Mike and Kay Harris's** friend **Mary Helen McMahon**, **Cathy Latta**, **Deanna Riding's** friend **Lydia**, and others as they walk their unique journeys with cancer and other health challenges.



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SUMMER OFFICE HOURS JUNE 16 - JULY 31

Please note that between June 16 and July 31, the church office will be open and staffed by Marge and volunteers as follows:

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Friday: 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM
Sunday: 8:30 AM - 10:30 AM

If you need assistance outside of these hours, please contact Marge at mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org to make an appointment.

Our bookkeeper Cheryle will continue to be available for consultation **noon to 5:00 PM on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays** throughout the summer but may not be physically on site. She can be reached at cmatteo@ccsm-ucc.org.

CCSM PINE TREE

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

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august sermon series:

50 YEARS LATER...

A lot happened in 1969 to shape our world, and consequently, to shape our faith. We will have some fun with looking back. In our August series Penny will look at the 50th anniversary of walking on the moon, Woodstock, and Stonewall.

This series will be fun for old and young!

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 ccsm-ucc.org/pine-tree-newsletter/