

# CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 68, #7 | END OF SUMMER / FALL 2019

## Homecoming of the Heart HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Homecoming is all about family, sharing, and fellowship. To create a gathering which embodies those elements, **we'll celebrate this year's Homecoming Sunday with a potluck.** We are not assigning food items by alphabet, but instead are inviting you to **dig deep into your memories and your recipe boxes for dishes that represent home, family, welcome, and hospitality.** CCSM will supply a protein (chicken and a vegetarian choice), but the rest will be a smorgasbord of the heart! Bring your dish in something that you don't need to take back home (we will also have some environmentally responsible "to go" boxes available if you do need your dish back) so that we may gather the remaining abundance, pack it up, and deliver it to an agency such as Samaritan House or Home and Hope for their evening meal.



If you can volunteer to assist with setup, cleanup, or delivery of the "loaves and fishes" after our noon meal, please contact Donna Summers (Ministry of Fellowship Lead, [donna.summers@me.com](mailto:donna.summers@me.com)) or Marge ([mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org)) in the office.

## Food and Faith

Probably like you, I think of the "year" as starting in September, the beginning of a new season at CCSM. How appropriate that we start each year on Homecoming by gathering on the church lawn for a meal together. Eating together is at the heart of our faith—in sharing a meal we nourish body and soul, engage in conversations, tell stories, ease sorrows, and share joys. We mark our life passages around a table with celebratory meals. We have meals that bring us comfort by reminding us of home, and particular flavors that not only ignite our taste buds but are integral to our cultural identities.



Food and faith are intertwined: at the heart of our tradition is communion, a meal we share

—cont. on p. 3—

## FALL SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS



- Sept. 8 HOMECOMING • *Jesus, the Party Guy: A Gluttonous Spirituality*
- Sept. 15 *Scandalous Dinners: A Grace-filled Spirituality*

- Sept. 22 *The Hostess with the Mostest: A Hospitable Spirituality*
- Sept. 29 4th Sunday Concert: Solstice (back by popular demand). *No Need to Wash Your Coffee Cup: An Outspoken Spirituality*
- Oct. 6 World Communion Sunday • *Enough for Everyone: An Abundant Spirituality*
- Oct. 13 *Global E-vite: An Invitational Spirituality*
- Oct. 20 PICK-A-PARTY • *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?: A Surprising Spirituality*
- Oct. 27 Lynnelle's 25th Anniversary Concert • *Saying Grace and Being Grace: A Daily Spirituality*
- Nov. 3 All Saints Day • *Saintly Meals: A Re-memembering Spirituality*
- Nov. 10 *Meals that Reveal: A "No-stranger" Spirituality*
- Nov. 17 *Do You Have Anything to Eat?: A Hungry Spirituality*
- Nov. 24 Thanksgiving Sunday • 4th Sunday Concert: Special Musical Guests • Sermon by Rabbi Jhos: *The Shabbat Meal*



Congregational  
Church of san mateo

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

# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

## My first two months at CCSM

have been busy but great! Thank you SO much to everyone who has helped me to get oriented and up to speed so far. My apologies (in advance!) if I might need you to tell me your name several times...by no means does it mean that I did not appreciate meeting you the first time!



Our wonderful summer program is focused on eco-theology for our kids. We have talked about creation in the Bible, and Elaine Kauffman—who has developed a special summer curriculum just for CCSM for several years—has led us through creative activities (and also let the kids' own creativity run wild) using recycled materials (thank you for the donations!).

For example, we talked about important trees in the Bible (i.e. the forbidden fruit tree in the Garden of Eden, the tree of life in Revelation) and asking questions like how God might want us to relate to trees and what trees might reveal to us about God. This connected well with doing activities related to paper and cardboard—thinking about how carelessly we often consume paper products and what we can do about that.

The mid-high class has been exploring the theme of vocation with adults from the congregation sharing about what vocation means to them and how their faith and values connect to what they do, professionally and otherwise (thank you to our guest speakers!). This year, the “60 Minutes” high school discussion group has continued through the summer, including an interesting session on the opioid crisis (the youth determine what topics they want to explore). We have also had some fun social outings, including a picnic and hike in Laurelwood Park, and several kids attended sessions at the UCC's Camp Cazadero.

A major part of my focus has been preparing for the fall. Penny and I held a meeting on August 11 for anyone interested in children and youth ministry. We'd love to have your input and reflections! If you were not able to attend, please be in touch directly to share your wisdom and ideas.

I appreciate so much the warm welcome you have extended to me. I can tell that CCSM is truly a special community that highly values the presence and contributions of people of all ages. I am excited to see what these next months will bring and pray that God will bless this ministry in ways none of us (myself included!) can imagine just yet.

*Sheryl Johnson*

Associate Minister of Children, Youth & Families

## FAMILIES, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Here are some dates to watch this fall for youth and families.

### YOUTH SPORTS DAY: Sunday, Aug. 18, after church

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 to test out all the equipment and prove you are a winner (God already knows you are)!

Free lunch will be provided! Please dress for the weather and bring sunscreen, hats, water, and any other sports equipment you'd like. For questions, please contact Sheryl: [sjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:sjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org)

### LifeMoves BIKE RIDE TO END HOMELESSNESS • Saturday, September 7, 8am

Register as a family (all ages are welcome, kids 5 and under are free!). Routes vary from 10 miles to 40 miles! Check out <https://give.lifemoves.org/event/rteh2019/e218075> to register. 3425 Hillview Ave., Palo Alto.

### HOMEcomings SUNDAY, September 8

10:30am: First Sunday of our regular program year.  
6:30-8:00pm: FIRST MID-HIGH YOUTH GROUP for 2019-20 (6-8th Grades)

### FIRST HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP for 2019-20 (9-12th Grades), Sunday, September 15

6:00-8:00pm: Don't miss the first high school gathering of the new school year!



Youth hike to Sugarloaf Peak in Laurelwood Park

## Food and Faith ...from p. 1

together. Food is about family and community, and sharing food is also about crossing boundaries, exploring differences, and expanding our spiritual palates.

Author Tim Chester has written a book called *Meals with Jesus*. “Food matters. Meals matter. Few acts are more expressive of companionship than the shared meal. In fact the word ‘companion’ comes from the Latin *cum* (together) and *panis* (bread).”

Imagine your own dining room or kitchen table, and reflect on the amount of living that has been done there.

In Jesus’ daily life, as described in the gospels, he was always going to a meal, eating a meal or coming from a meal. His parables often centered around food and meals because meals are more than food. They are often social occasions. They represent friendship, community, welcome. In a time of division in our communities, perhaps it is a shared meal that will bring us into closer understanding and relationship with each other.

This fall, come along for a journey of food and faith. Using the gospel of Luke, we’ll discover that sharing a meal is the heart of Christianity. And, there will be all sorts of ways to “break bread” together and new ways to invite and experience belonging. Hopefully, you’ll make some new friends and, at the same time, deepen your faith.

—Penny



Penny communes with Pink Jesus on Hawk’s Peak in Tahoe Donner

# HOME & HOPE

INTERFAITH AND COMMUNITY  
SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

Our final hosting of the Home and Hope families for this year will be the week of **September 22-29**. Two dinner slots have already been taken, Sunday 9/22 and Saturday 9/28. One overnight has also been requested for Friday 9/27.

More dinner meals, hosting and overnight volunteers are needed. Contact Donna Lindsay at [releduc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:releduc@sbcglobal.net) to make sure you get the date you want.

*No importa de dónde eres,  
estamos contentos que seas  
nuestro vecino.*

No matter where you are  
from, we’re glad you’re  
our neighbor.

لا يهم اين ولدت، و لكننا  
سعداء انكم جيراننا.

## We’re glad you’re our neighbor!

“NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE FROM, WE’RE  
GLAD YOU’RE OUR NEIGHBOR.”

These new yard signs are to take home and put in your own yard! We’re asking for a donation to cover the cost, but mostly we want to get the message out there. Contact the church office if you’d like one.

Spread the welcome!

# Updated CCSM Pictorial Directory Coming Soon!



We are excited to announce that CCSM, with the help of Lifetouch, will produce an updated church pictorial directory this fall. Accordingly, **we want to ensure that all NEW members of CCSM—plus anyone who wishes to have a new photo taken of themselves or their family—are scheduled for their photograph to be taken.** If you are new, we want your smiling face(s) in the updated directory so we can get to know you better.

**The dates when Lifetouch will be onsite (in the Buckham Room) are Friday and Saturday, September 6 & 7.** It's easy to sign up for a photo appointment -- just click

the link below and follow the directions. **The times are 2:00PM - 9:00PM on Friday, September 6 and 10:00AM - 6:00PM on Saturday, September 7.**

To book it yourself, go to: [booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/yrodcv3k/](http://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/yrodcv3k/) If you'd like someone to help you book your appointment, call the church office (650-343-3694) or contact Rosemarie Pero at [rsmrpero@yahoo.com](mailto:rsmrpero@yahoo.com) so we can do it together. We urge you to sign up ASAP so you get your first choice of date and time.

Getting your photo taken comes with a terrific offer! You will get a FREE copy of the directory and a FREE 8x10 portrait. Lifetouch will give you the opportunity to buy more pictures, Christmas cards, etc. but there is no obligation to make a purchase.

By the way, all active church members with Lifetouch photos in the current directory will receive a free updated pictorial directory—even if you opt out of having a new photo taken.

If you have new information such as a different address, email, and/or phone number, we hope you will let us know so that your “data” is current.

If you have any questions, contact Rosemarie Pero at [rsmrpero@yahoo.com](mailto:rsmrpero@yahoo.com).

## WANTED: Help with the Pine Tree Mailing

If you are reading this as a mailed, paper edition of our “PineTree” newsletter, you need to know how it gets into your hands. Each issue is copied, assembled, labeled, and mailed by a small, dedicated team of volunteers. This team needs new helpers to ready the almost 230 copies each month.

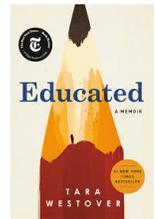


If you have the TIME (about two hours, usually on the third Tuesday morning of each month) and the TALENT (inserting papers, applying address labels, counting), please contact Susan Campo at 650/544-0272 or [scampo312@gmail.com](mailto:scampo312@gmail.com).

This is a great way to help on a very easy but important task, meet some new people, and contribute to our church community.

## LifeMoves Breakfast Fundraiser THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 • 7:30AM-9:00AM • BURLINGAME HYATT

[Tara Westover](#), author of *Educated*, will be this year's keynote speaker. The breakfast is attended by over a thousand people and is one of LifeMoves signature events. CCSM will host a table again this year—watch for details in upcoming Bulletins and Connections about reserving your space!



Kids' story time outdoors with Elaine Kauffman

# PICK-A-PARTY: CCSM'S 21ST ANNUAL FUNDRAISER!

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING PARTIES IS LATE SEPTEMBER

Pick A Party is our annual church fundraiser. It combines fellowship, fun, and fundraising. This year "Pick A Party Sunday" will be October 20. Mark your calendar and join us to purchase some of the wonderful "parties" being offered.

Long before then, however, is the need to collect party offerings from many of you. While the deadline for submitting a party is not until September 29, it is a massive effort to write up the party descriptions and coordinate dates. Therefore, we'd appreciate hearing from you in early September if you plan to host this time around. A party could be a meal in your home or an enjoyable indoor or outdoor activity. We've seen so many unique party offerings in the past; there seems to be no limit on the creative spirit of some of our CCSM members! Also, we'd very much appreciate donations of vacation homes for our Silent Auction if you have a cabin or place you can lend.

Submit your party idea to [CCSMPickAParty@gmail.com](mailto:CCSMPickAParty@gmail.com) or contact Carol Henton at [carolhenton@aol.com](mailto:carolhenton@aol.com) or Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh at [jjacobyeh@yahoo.com](mailto:jjacobyeh@yahoo.com). Let's make this fundraiser another big success again this year!



## Belong Circles Coming to CCSM This Fall

—STAY TUNED FOR SPECIFIC DATES—

### WHAT IS A BELONG CIRCLE?

A Belong Circle is an intentional gathering of 10 people who believe in a world of equity and dignity for each of us. Belong Circles are a response to a narrative that tells us it is either us or them, dividing us and making us believe there is not enough for all to thrive.



Belong Circles provide spaces for us to build relationships of trust, connect across our differences, imagine what our communities should be and create opportunities to turn this vision into reality by taking prophetic action together. The Belong Circles are part of a movement. The Belong Movement is an opportunity to meet the polarization and racial anxiety across our state by bridging across race, faith and status so we may become a new people. We believe the path forward begins with us choosing to belong to each other and from this choice, we will have the power to create the conditions that allow our families to thrive in a state that celebrates our diversity.

## Upcoming Second Hours



Keep the hour after church free this fall as we have some important "Second Hours" planned — educational topics will include homelessness and anti-gun violence; we will also be participating in deepening our conversations and connections through Belong Circles later in the fall.

Stay tuned for details.

### SECOND HOUR: Moderator's State of the CommUnion

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25 • NOON

If a POTUS can deliver a 'State of the Union' speech and a state's governor can give a 'State of the State' speech, what do you call a speech by your CCSM Moderator? I'm not sure either, but I've decided to call it the Moderator's "State of the CommUnion"!



MODERATOR:  
Dave Chandler

It will be a very informal discussion and my plan is to share my experiences as your Moderator this past year. I've been asked great questions. I've heard your complaints. I've heard your compliments. I've heard your fears and hopes. Please join me for CCSM'S very first STATE OF THE COMMUNION discussion.

—Dave Chandler

# LAM Workshops

One baby, one toddler, two teens, and twenty-one adults attended the Liturgical Arts Ministry's Tie-Dye workshop on August 3. That's a big group! A big thanks to our volunteer tie-dye teacher, Julie Ziert and thanks for the setup and planning team, Mike Harris, Laura and John McKenzie. Yeah team!

**Sunday, August 18 is "Woodstock Sunday"** and the tie-dyers will gather for a group photo of everyone wearing their tie-dye after church (11:45am) on the Tilton Avenue Kloss Hall outside steps. Everyone is invited to wear tie-dye!

## Floral Design Workshop, Saturday, August 24, 3:00-5:00P.M • Sanctuary

Every week our Liturgical Arts floral team quietly designs arrangements to provide spiritual inspiration and natural beauty to the worship experience. Have you dreamed of creating a Sunday floral arrangement? Would you like to learn several easy design styles and perhaps try your hand at an arrangement this fall?

Davida Kwoka, CCSM floral artist, will demonstrate an arrangement for the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots (sermon theme for August 25th). Pam Ridelhuber and Alice Morison will include a brief tour of the floral supplies closet and answer questions. Participants can sign up to help with the fall Sunday arrangements. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun. RSVP sign up is in the church office.

## CCSM Summer Photo Gallery

Are you enjoying your summer adventures with your new companion, Pink Jesus (PJ)? Pink Jesus photos have been dispersed and due to the high demand we ordered more. They are in the church office or Narthex ledge for you to pick up or drop off for other vacationers to use.

Remember: pick up a laminated photo of PJ and take a picture with him at a scenic vista, historical location, campsite, gathering of friends and family, or anywhere the spirit moves you. Then email (high resolution only please) your photo with PJ to [MBoyd@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:MBoyd@ccsm-ucc.org). Please identify the location and include a short paragraph if anything interesting happens. The gallery will go up in Kloss Hall before Homecoming Sunday.

Have fun this summer!

*Kay A. Harris*  
Liturgical Arts Ministry Lead



*Some CCSM tie-dyers getting ready for Woodstock Sunday*



*Pink Jesus and the woman at the well*

## NEWCOMERS' BREAKFAST

**AUGUST 25 • 9:30 - 10:15AM • BUCKHAM RM**

If you're new to CCSM and are interested in finding out more about our guiding principles and activities, come to our next Newcomers' Breakfast to meet with Penny and other clergy for conversation and a light meal. **RSVP to Marge, [mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org)**, as we want the table to be plentiful!



**PANTSUIT  
POLITICS**



Pantsuit Politics, the podcast and home of grace-filled political conversations, is hitting the road for the Nuance Nation Tour. Sarah and Beth will be visiting states across the country to share their nuanced perspectives on current events, talk with very special guests and share their vision for Democracy 2.0 – ideas that they both think would bring out America's best.

## NUANCE NATION 2019 TOUR



*Join Sarah & Beth, with special guest Rev. Penny Nixon*

**AUGUST 22 | 6:30 PM**

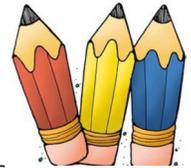
Congregational Church of San Mateo  
225 Tilton Ave | San Mateo, CA

Tickets are \$15 and are available at the door and online at [pantsuitpoliticsshow.com/live](http://pantsuitpoliticsshow.com/live)

## Help Children Learn!

### AUGUST COLLECTION FOR HOMEWORK CENTRAL

Here is Homework Central's Wish List for items needed to support their great work of tutoring and encouraging schoolkids. Give what you can!



#### WISH LIST

**School & Art Supplies:** Printer Paper; #2 Pencils; Pink Erasers; Small Pencil Sharpeners; Thin Black White Board Pens; Small White Boards; Graph Paper Pads; Small Calculators; Large Black Expo Markers; Kids Scissors; Scotch Tape Refill Rolls; Reusable Dry Erase Pockets; Colorful Marker Sets; Small Glitter Bottles; Card Stock Paper Packs; Tissue Paper Multipacks; Recycled Magazines to Cut Up; Origami Books & Paper; Tracing Paper; Watercolor paints. Also Activity Books: Beginning Word Search; Beginning Crossword; What's Different/Missing.

Please place in donation bins on Sundays or bring to the CCSM church office during the month of August. Thank you for helping children succeed!

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER TUTOR FOR HOMEWORK CENTRAL!

Do you have a free afternoon to help a neighborhood student? Become a tutor with Homework Central, our after-school tutoring program for struggling 3rd-5th graders San Mateo students. Homework Central provides a free safe and encouraging learning environment for struggling students. You will get to know some wonderful kids. Please share your love of learning and your skills with our students. Our program operates from 3-5 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 1-3 on Wednesday. If you would like to tutor, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator Rachel Oldham <[roidham@smhwc.org](mailto:roidham@smhwc.org)> Thank you!

## JOB OPENING: HOMEWORK CENTRAL SITE COORDINATOR

Homework Central is presently accepting resumes for part-time Site Coordinators for our after-school program! We have four sites in San Mateo. You would be supervising 24 students in a classroom, with volunteer assistance. It's a wonderful opportunity for the right person. Find out more at [careers@smhwc.org](mailto:careers@smhwc.org) or call Betsy Woodward, 650-773-5775.



# Summer Music News

CCSM has been blessed with some wonderful summer music and musicians offering their talents on Sunday mornings so far this summer. For our August Sundays, we will be inspired by the music of 1969.

**8/18** Merle Mason and friends with Jim Bishop, vocalist will musically take us back to Woodstock

**8/25** Special guest Michael Strelow-Smith will share his beautiful voice with us for a morning that will touch your hearts.



## SPECIAL CHANCEL CHOIR KICK-OFF TO FALL

The Chancel Choir has no rehearsals in August; fall rehearsals will resume on **Wednesday, September 4**, starting with a social at 6:15 pm. Special guest Tony Eiras will join us from 7:00-8:00 PM to help kick off our fall, followed by a short rehearsal from 8 – 8:45 pm. Everyone is welcome; please contact Lynnelle for more information: [lbilsey@lifemoves.org](mailto:lbilsey@lifemoves.org).

**Bell Choir rehearses** 8/15 & 8/22; no rehearsal 8/29. Fall schedule resumes September 5.

**Music Ministry** meetings on 8/18 and 9/15, 12 – 1 pm.

## MUSIC DATES TO SAVE!

### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20—HOME & HOPE BENEFIT CONCERT AT CCSM

The 11th Annual Home & Hope Benefit Concert is being hosted by CCSM this year, bringing six churches from the community together to lift their voices in song to help those in need here on the Peninsula. More details soon!

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25—SIXTH ANNUAL CCSM HALLOWEEN ORGAN CONCERT

This concert will feature many of our congregation's favorite young organists and Angela Kraft Cross as Phantom of the Casavant! Ghoulishly fun!



Behold, I stand at the door and knock...

# Music and Art

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 • NOON  
BUCKHAM ROOM

To start the new season off, we are thrilled to have Penny Nixon give a report on her recent travels to Northern Ireland. We know you'll want to be sure and hear the interesting details of this special trip.

This is a date change from the third to the second Friday, so be sure to mark your calendars.

As always, please bring your own sandwich/salad. Beverages and dessert are provided. To reserve your space please email: [susanjd52@gmail.com](mailto:susanjd52@gmail.com) or phone: 650-533-6828.

## First Tuesday Book Group

SEPTEMBER 3, 7:30PM • FIREPLACE ROOM

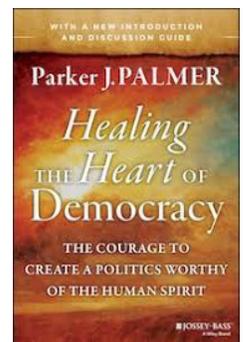
We will discuss *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney. According to the critics, it's "a warm, funny and acutely perceptive debut novel about four adult siblings and the fate of the shared inheritance that has shaped their choices and their lives." We will also choose a book for October to end our year. After a holiday break, plan to join us in January of 2020!



## Spiritual Conversations: Healing the Heart of Democracy

MONDAYS, SEPTEMBER 9 - NOVEMBER 4  
7:00-8:30PM • LIBRARY

*Healing the Heart of Democracy: The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit* by Parker Palmer is the book Spiritual Conversations will read for its fall discussion series. Quaker educator and writer Palmer gives us practical ways to bridge the political and cultural divides in our country. To heal our democracy, ordinary citizens need to develop "habits of the heart" which will enable us to engage with each other and work for the common good.



For more information and the first reading assignment, please contact the coordinators, Richard Kogl (retired psychiatrist and published writer) and Dorothy Kogl (instructor at St. Mary's College) at [kogl@att.net](mailto:kogl@att.net) or 650 579-7272.

# 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. Sheryl Johnson. You are invited to share your prayers, your hopes, and your lives. You may connect in the following ways: **in person**, by **filling out a blue prayer card** at Sunday service, by **filling out a [ccsm-ucc.org/prayer](http://ccsm-ucc.org/prayer) online prayer request**, by **contacting us via staff emails** listed in your bulletin or on the website, [ccsm-ucc.org](http://ccsm-ucc.org). 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 JOY

Prayers of rejoicing for **Lorna and Jim Groundwater**, daughter **Kate Groundwater**, and son-in-law **Adam Makhluf**, upon the birth of Lorna and Jim's grandchild, **Yalda Anne Groundwater** on June 15. ("Yalda" means "birth of the sun" and she was named after the obstetrician who helped deliver her.) She weighed in at 7 pounds 2 ounces, and 19 inches long!

Prayers of celebration for the birth of twins, **Teresa Ruth Steele Boigues** (5 lbs 15 oz, born at 10:33 am) and **Moisés Thomas Steele Boigues** (5 lbs 9 oz, born soon thereafter) to **Kerianne Steele** and **Manny Boigues**, on July 17th. Prayers of joy too for **Kibbie Ruth** and **Jim Granucci**, and **Gary and Nancy Steele** as the grandparents!

**Donna Summers** has a new great-grandchild! **Cooper Summers** was born August 5 to Donna's grandson **Dustin** and his wife **Katrina Summers** in Kansas. Welcome, Cooper!

**Sarah Block** reports that her daughter, **Lindsay Joy Block**, graduated from Northeastern University in Boston, with a B.S.

in Nursing with High Honors. Congratulations, Lindsay!

Prayers of gratitude that **Genel Morgan** is doing well after hip replacement surgery in June.

### PRAYERS OF COMFORT

Prayers of comfort for the family of **Virginia (Ginny) Prevost** who died suddenly and unexpectedly on July 8th, after suffering a massive stroke. She is survived by her husband Hank and her children John and Sarah.

**Carol Henton's** mother, **Marge Erickson**, passed away peacefully on July 13th at her home in Michigan after a long and well-lived life.

### PRAYERS OF STRENGTH AND HEALING

Prayers of healing and encouragement for **Stan Higgs'** brother "C. A." He is now unable to get out of bed.

A beloved member of our CCSM community requests prayers of healing for her daughter who is struggling with health challenges. We offer prayers of support for daughter, mother, and extended family.

Prayers of strength for **Martha**

**Grannis**, member of CCSM since 1957. Prayers of peace for her family as they bear witness to Martha's health challenges.

**Veril Phillips** asks for prayers for his teenage granddaughter **Eva**, who is having a difficult time in her life.

**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 calls and cards from CCSM friends

Ongoing prayers for **Bill Melis** as he deals with difficult health issues.

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

## 156 Backpacks from CCSM!

CCSM went above and beyond this year, providing 156 new backpacks for schoolchildren to start their new year with through Puente de la Costa Sur, an organization serving the coastal area of San Mateo County. Thank you, CCSM! Puente's staff were thrilled with the backpacks. Puente's Executive Director, Rita Mancera, is pictured in this photo holding a pink backpack. They also loved CCSM's new lawn signs and hope to spread them around Pescadero.



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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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SAVE THE DATE:

## Brian McLaren coming to CCSM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 7:00PM [NOTE DATE CHANGE]



Come join us for a special visit from author, speaker, activist, and public theologian Brian McLaren. A former college English teacher and pastor, he is a passionate advocate for “a new kind of Christianity” – just, generous, and working with people of all faiths for the common good. He is an Auburn Senior Fellow and is developing an innovative training/mentoring program for pastors, church planters, and lay leaders called Convergence Leadership Project. He works closely with Vote Common Good, the Center for Progressive Renewal/Convergence, the Wild Goose Festival, the Fair Food Program’s Faith Working Group, and Progressive Christianity. His most recent joint project is an illustrated children’s book (for all ages) called *Cory and the Seventh Story* and his upcoming writing projects include *The*

*Galapagos Islands: A Spiritual Journey* (Fall 2019), *Faith After Doubt* (Spring 2021), and *Do I Stay Christian?* (Spring 2022).

Born in 1956, he graduated from University of Maryland with degrees in English. His academic interests included Medieval drama, Romantic poets, modern philosophical literature, and the novels of Dr. Walker Percy. In 2004, he was awarded a Doctor of Divinity Degree (honoris causa) from Carey Theological Seminary in Vancouver, BC, Canada, and in 2010, he received a second honorary doctorate from Virginia Theological Seminary (Episcopal).