

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 68, #8 | SEPTEMBER 2019



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. There will be all sorts of ways to "break bread" together and to invite and experience belonging. Hopefully, you'll make some new friends and at the same time deepen your faith.

- 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 Remembering 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 • Rabbi Corey Hefland: **The Shabbat Meal** • 4th Sunday Concert: Special Musical Guests

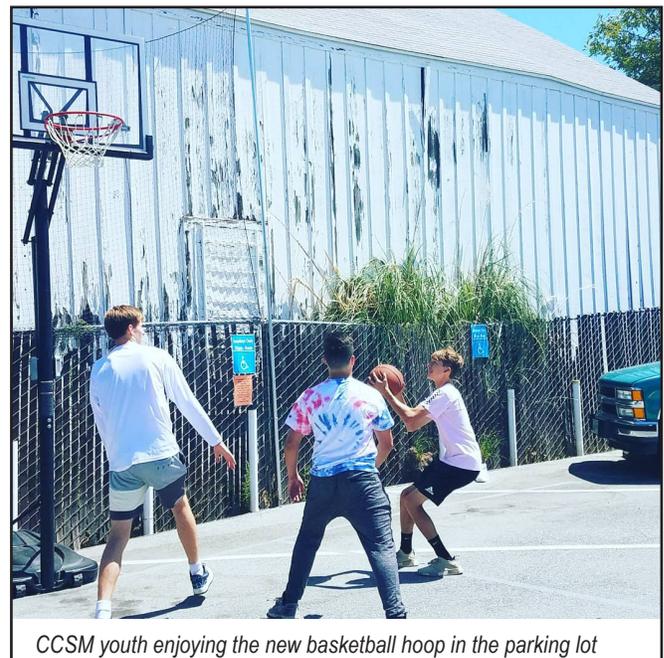
A Note from Sheryl

CCSM is truly an incredible community—and its kids are no exception! I am blown away each week by the depth of their spiritual insight, their hospitality and inclusiveness toward one another, and their profound care for the wider world and all parts of God's creation.



The last Sunday in August, the kids made the sandwiches for Open Cathedral—they made over 100 sandwiches in under 30 minutes, in fact! As they made the sandwiches, we talked about who might be receiving them and why. The kids were very thoughtful and clearly had a

—cont. on p. 4—



CCSM youth enjoying the new basketball hoop in the parking lot



Congregational
Church of san mateo

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Evolving programming for children and youth

As the age spread of the kids at CCSM evolves and we discern the best approaches to programming for the kids as both a group and as individuals, we will be modifying the class groupings of our programs starting in September.

Additionally, we will shift away from strongly emphasizing age in our groups, and encourage kids and parents to think about what type of programming feels like the best fit (this can change week to week!). For example, if one Sunday a kindergartener would like a more unstructured play experience, they are welcome to join the (mostly pre-K) free play class, whereas other weeks they might choose to join the Godly Play (mostly K-2) class.

We feel that this honors the diversity of our kids (in terms of their needs, abilities, interests, friend groupings, etc.). This is all an experiment and we are definitely open to feedback and conversation as we go.

Here are the planned Sunday morning groups for the fall (except for the 1st Sundays of the month, which will continue to be all-ages music):

- ◆ Free Play, Stories, and Songs with Lily (approx. ages: toddlers/pre-Kindergarten)
- ◆ Godly Play with Shannon (approx. K-Grade 2)
- ◆ Liturgical Arts with Angel (approx. Grade 3-5)
- ◆ Mid-High Faith Discussion and Activities (focused this fall on World Religions) with Dave, Bill, and Sarah (approx. Grade 6-8)
- ◆ High School "60 Minutes" (Second Sundays theme-based youth discussion) with Mike and Kibbie (and other weeks assisting the children's programs or attending and participating in worship)



New Youth Group Meeting Time!



Another change we will be experimenting with this fall is moving youth group from Sunday evenings to Sundays at lunch time (with lunch provided!). This change is for a few reasons:

- ◆ Youth (and youth group leaders!) don't have to come to church twice in one day
- ◆ We can go deeper with topics explored during church time (i.e. 60 Minutes can continue conversations over lunch, the Mid-High Sunday School class might have a field trip that goes into the early afternoon on occasion).
- ◆ Parents will be more likely to stay for 2nd hour adult education programs happening at more or less the same time

- ◆ Sunday nights are free for family dinner, last minute homework, preparing for the week, etc.

Mid-High Youth who sing in the Joyful Noise Choir (which will be now rehearsing from 11:45-12:30pm on Sundays) will be welcome to come to youth group at 12:30. We will plan a transition at that time so they don't feel that they have missed "the main thing!"



Youth making sandwiches for Open Cathedral

WELCOMING NEW CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY STAFF TO CCSM!

After a busy summer of interviewing and discussing possibilities with various candidates, I could not be more pleased to share that we have two incredible new staff members joining us in the children and youth ministry at CCSM. In the spring, we bid farewell to teachers Camryn Caverly and Shannon Siekert, as well as Rev. Dr. Kibbie Ruth (who had been full-time in her role as Minister for Next Generations). As I am only working 25 hours per week and we are not currently hiring anyone into the role of Director of Youth Ministry (a role previously held by Patrick Kane), it was clear that we needed more assistance with our programming.

I am delighted to introduce to you Angel Rivero and Mariska Lauterboom Tiwa. They are both incredibly bright and talented ministers with a real heart for children and youth. I hope you will join me in helping them feel welcome at CCSM!



Angel Rivero will be joining the staff of CCSM in September as an Emerging Leader. Angel is a 3rd year M.Div student at Pacific School of Religion with a rich background in ministry, particularly with children and youth, at a variety of congregations in California.

Angel will be working with the Wednesday gathering community to develop a vibrant youth program. He will begin by working with the youth and their parents to determine what focus and form this will take—perhaps leadership development, spiritual formation, social justice, something else or all of the above! We will certainly still be looking for adult volunteers, so please speak with Sheryl if you might be willing to support this important program.

Angel will also periodically be involved in worship leadership on both Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, as well as in the wider life of the congregation particularly as it relates to social justice. Another major part of Angel's ministry with us will be helping to bridge the youth who attend on Wednesday and on Sunday, and experiment with collaborative events.

On Sundays, Angel will be the main leader of our new liturgical arts program (for kids in approximately grades 3-5) as well as helping with our mid-high class and in Sunday worship. Please help to welcome Angel and get to know him!



Rev. Mariska (Ika) Lauterboom Tiwa is another new staff member who will be working with our Wednesday gathering community. Ika is an ordained pastor from Indonesia, currently working on a PhD focused on Decolonizing Religious Education at Graduate Theological Union (she is in the same year of the PhD program as I am). Mariska will be developing a children's program for the children attending the Wednesday gathering and working collaboratively with Angel.

—Sheryl

Children in Worship



photo: Chris Yeh

We will be experimenting with new ways to involve children in the worship life of our Sunday morning community. We will be shifting away from a children's sermon model toward a model of **integrated children's leadership and participation**. This may involve children and youth reading scripture, presenting drama and music, helping to usher, baking communion bread, and much more. This will particularly be a focus of our new Liturgical Arts (approx grade 3-5) children's program.

Children will continue to have conversations about scripture and spiritual themes as a group, led by Sheryl as well as their children's program leaders. We will experiment with the kids gathering as a large group in the Buckham Room after they leave the worship service, before they go to their separate classes.

We've been trying this over the summer and it has been working quite well. Some kids who are shy and find it intimidating to speak in front of the whole congregation have been quite forthcoming and deeply reflective when they are sharing just with other kids. It is true that public speaking is an important skill, and kids will still have the opportunity to do this—but with preparation—when they are leading something in worship such as a prayer or scripture.



A Note from Sheryl from p. 1

good understanding already of many of the reasons that homelessness and hunger exist. When we finished, several children said they wanted to make more, that they wanted to make 1000, because they knew that there are still more hungry people who might want one.

After making the sandwiches, the kids made notes and pictures to include in the lunch bags and had a lot of excellent ideas about what to write or draw. We talked about what messages people might need to hear; things like “have hope” and “you are loved.” One child reflected that someone living on their own might not hear that they are loved very often and thought that was an important message to include.

This activity led into a discussion about Matthew 25, the story where Jesus says that those who cared for the last and the least, visited the imprisoned and cared for the poor and the sick, were caring for him. The kids blessed the lunches and prayed that those who received them would know their worth and dignity, and wondered if even the recipients might be Jesus, in a way. Without prompting, one child imagined now going out into the world and wondering if every person could be Jesus and how the world might be changed if everyone acted like that.

I am feeling sincerely excited about all of the possibilities for the children and youth ministry at CCSM. The opportunities for the kids to themselves make the connections between faith and social justice are boundless, as well as for them to take leadership in choosing their own responses to the scripture and themes for the day and to help determine the shape of the entire program. I am excited to know that I am partnering with them as we embark on this program year together because I know what they help to come up with will be beyond what I could ever imagine on my own, and that it will resonate all the better with their own lives and experiences. That is not to say that I don't have a lot of ideas (I do!), but I am ready and eager to co-create with the kids and with all of you. Please continue to reach out with your ideas and your offers of support. I can't wait to see what we can dream up together.

Sheryl

Intergenerational Iron Chef Competition!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20 • 12:00-1:30PM

As we focus on food and faith this fall, we will be having an “iron chef” style cooking competition! We will create intergenerational teams who will then have to create a meal in a limited period of time with surprise ingredients. All cooks of all ages and all skill levels are most welcome—children in fifth grade or younger should be accompanied by a parent/guardian.



If you are interested in participating, please email Sheryl Johnson (sjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org).

JOYFUL NOISE CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH NEW AND IMPROVED TIME!

That's right! The Joyful Noise Youth Choir will resume on Sunday, September 15th but will now be rehearsing **AFTER church!** Your kids can grab a snack at Coffee Hour, and then come directly upstairs to the Community Room for joyful music, fun, and fellowship while parents socialize in Kloss Hall. Rehearsal will last for 30 minutes.



Please contact Julie Berk, Joyful Noise choir director, at 650 400-9808 or teacherjulie@pacbell.net for more information.

HOME & HOPE

INTERFAITH AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES

A quick reminder that the Home and Hope families will arrive at CCSM on **Sunday, September 22**. Drop in at 3:00 PM in Kloss Hall to help us set up. Or come **Sunday morning, September 29** at 7:30 AM for the take down.

Volunteers are still needed for spending the night and being hosts. As of this writing there are only two families so this should be an easy week. Contact Donna Lindsay at releduc@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.

Belong Circles Coming to CCSM This Fall

OCTOBER 20 & 27

NOVEMBER 10 & 17

WHAT IS A BELONG CIRCLE?

A Belong Circle is an intentional gathering of ten 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.

Flashback 1958: "Chancel Choir In New Robes"

The choir is featured wearing their new robes in the September 1958 Pine Tree. Although the photo is in black and white, the robes are described as being "academic blue with gray or gold reversible stoles". According to an article in the Sept 13, 1958 San Mateo Times, money for the robes was raised in part from a presentation by the Chancel Choir of Johannes Brahms' "German Requiem." Pat Hudson was the choir director.



Second Hour

Second Hour Sundays bring important topics for learning and discussion at noon following the Sunday service.



SEPTEMBER 15:

Exploring the Homeless Crisis in San Mateo & Santa Clara Counties

Dr. Brian Greenberg, Ph.D., VP of Programs & Services, LifeMoves

Things are changing rapidly as the economy puts pressure on those in our communities living paycheck to paycheck, on fixed incomes and more. We invite you to join a conversation about the changing face of homelessness in our community and some of the new programs working to address these changes including 3 new safe-parking programs in San Jose and the expansions at Maple Street single adult shelter in Redwood City.

Dr. Greenberg manages the LifeMoves programs. A psychologist with over 25 years of experience developing and managing behavioral health and housing programs, he also serves as a clinical consultant for drug treatment programming.

MSJ presents a 3-part Series on Gun Violence Prevention

SEPTEMBER 22—PART I:

Gun Knowledge 101 and Citizen Awareness.

SEPTEMBER 29—PART II:

Guns, the Military and Law Enforcement.

OCTOBER 6—PART III:

The Medical and Societal Ramifications of Gun Violence

DEAR SISTERS AND BROTHERS,

I hope the summer has treated you all well. One of the highlights of my summer was on July 17th when 74 people attended the Wednesday service, and there was so much incredible food and joy in the room that was never felt before. That is something worth celebrating because the average attendance on any given Wednesday is between 35-45.

I believe this growth is taking place because, as many of you know, part of the service consists of sharing a meal, sitting around the dinner table. This idea of gathering around a meal has acted as a unifier and a place of community for many attending the Wednesday services. It is a place for people to catch up and talk, a time where the people are happy to put aside their work and take time out of their long day to gather around the communion table and dinner table and be fed spiritually as well.

I know for me, eating has always been a strongly social activity in my life. When I have something important to talk about, when I want to download information or



decompress with someone after an event, when I want to get to know someone better, when I am working on building and fostering community, I always want to do it over food. Where some people will share a cup of coffee, I want to share food. It's a strongly visceral impulse for me. So, I believe that what we are seeing on Wednesdays is people sharing food and cementing bonds.

It has been a marvelous thing to watch people be reminded of their humanity, that we are connected, that we have a common goal. Since I believe that our culture in America doesn't connect enough, getting together every Wednesday to sit down and break bread together is a way of remedying that. In my personal life, I get together with friends and chosen family for shared meals on a regular basis. We create various reasons and excuses for it, but I enjoy the company as much as the eating experience. I am very much looking forward to our fall series this year because we will see how Jesus connected time after time with a variety of people while sharing a meal.

So I want to encourage you all to **attend one of the Wednesday services one evening**. It's ok if you don't speak or understand Spanish. What matters is your presence and to be connected with one another as one church. I hope to see you on a Wednesday!

Peace and blessings!

Jorge

GATHERING AROUND A MEAL HAS ACTED AS A UNIFIER AND A PLACE OF COMMUNITY FOR MANY ATTENDING THE WEDNESDAY SERVICES.

Sharing Our Adventures

This summer we asked you to take a guest with you on your summer travels. Over 30 Pink Jesus cards were checked out from the office! Thanks to all who have submitted pictures. This will be an ongoing gallery installation in Kloss Hall during September.

It's not too late to submit a photo. Email a photo (high resolution only please) to MBoyd@ccsm-ucc.org. Please identify the location and include anything you'd like to share about your photo.

If you still have your Pink Jesus, please return it to the church office.

If you didn't get the opportunity to travel with Pink Jesus, we still want to know where you traveled to this summer. You can share the location of your adventures by placing a push pin (provided) on the location on one of the maps in Kloss Hall.

Welcome home from the Liturgical Arts Ministry!



Tony Gallo

As you may recall, my family was heavily involved with the World Trade Towers back in the 1970's and then again on 9/11. My father cut all of the marble for both tower lobbies and I helped set them in my summer job. After the attacks, my brother Enzo was the police officer in charge of the morgue. That really changed him. Afterwards, he left the police department.

So tragic and so sad.

I always go to the site and for the first time went into the museum,. It is in the actual basement of both towers and very moving. We decided not to take pink Jesus pictures there as it was just too emotional. But we did visit the new Freedom Tower and the Ellis Island museum, and considered what my relatives went through to gain freedom in the US.

We took pictures of pink Jesus representing us in the past and in the future to come. I hope others can experience a little through the photos what we felt being there in person.





Woodstock Sunday
Tie-Dye



50 YEARS LATER...

I hope you enjoyed our August series, 50 YEARS LATER. I want to thank everyone who participated—all the musicians, the liturgical arts ministry, everyone who made tie-dye... I certainly learned a lot preparing for the sermons. It was interesting to see how much has changed, and how much has changed by just returning in another form. If you missed the services, I think [the three sermons on the web](#) are worth a listen. —Penny



Alice Morison having a moment
with Pink Jesus

**The 9th Annual William J. Bullis
Scholarship Fundraiser
and Silent Auction**

OCTOBER 26, 4:30-7:00PM

The Will's Dream Foundation is proud to announce the annual scholarship fundraiser here at CCSM. It's been nine long years since Will lost his life in the San Bruno Fire. His dream was to become a chef, getting his education at the Culinary Institute. We, along with the Culinary Institute of America, are keeping his dream alive by offering a \$15,000 scholarship to qualified applicants who, like Will, want to fulfill their culinary dreams. Last year we were able to give four scholarships to some very passionate recipients.



Congresswoman Jackie Speier will be the auctioneer. Wine and Hors d'Oeuvres served. We are looking forward to seeing you. Tickets may be purchased at one.bidpal.net/willsdream.



Music by Chroma &
The Congregational Church of San Mateo
Present



Queer Liberation Theology

*an Exploration of LGBTQ+
Oppression Through Song*



Michael Strelow-Smith, Baritone
with **Heather Waid**, Piano

National Coming Out Day
Friday, October 11 • 7:30 pm

at the
Congregational Church of San Mateo

Freewill donation with proceeds to support
LifeMoves New Haven Inn
an inclusive shelter in San Jose with focused
support for individuals who identify as LGBTQ+
and to further the work of Music by Chroma

facebook.com/musicbychroma



solstice

A Female Vocal Ensemble

will return to CCSM on

September 29

during the worship service

*Solstice has enthralled audiences with their
technically precise and passionate treatment
of music for women's voices since 1996.*

The Heavens Are Telling
11th Annual Interfaith Choral Concert
Sunday, October 20
at CCSM
A BENEFIT FOR HOME AND HOPE
Click [here](#) for tickets

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. Don't miss it!

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25
SIXTH ANNUAL 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!

All Church Assembly

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 • NOON - 2:00PM • BUCKHAM ROOM

We are excited to begin taking RSVPs for the November 3 All Church Assembly. This is an opportunity for everyone to participate in worship planning, brainstorming, fellowship, and fun! Lunch will be provided, so sign-up is encouraged to ensure we have plenty of food—if you have special dietary needs, just let us know.

If you haven't been to an All Church Assembly yet, you are in for a treat! The agenda includes activities for the entire group as well as small group discussion and creative thinking. We hope to have so many of you involved that we'll need to move the event into Kloss Hall. Your input is vital to CCSM's future planning so don't miss this opportunity to help fashion our journey forward!

RSVP to Marge at mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org or call the office at 650-343-3694.



Pine Tree Preservation

It's been over a year since our beloved Pine Tree was removed from the CCSM front lawn and it is now time to determine what to do with materials that have been drying near the entrance to the Memorial Garden. Many of you submitted ideas for use of the wood once it was dry enough to work with; some of those include making trivets from the smaller branches and carving a bench seat from the large trunk section. We have a team who is willing to do research and propose how best to use what has been preserved; however, the most pressing need is for someone (or several someones) to underwrite the cost of turning the cured wood into one or more of the ideas on our list.



If you are willing to contribute to the cost of memorializing the Pine Tree in some way, please contact Marge at mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org or 650-343-3694. Once we have an idea of the funds we have to work with, the research team will see what is feasible. **Please respond by September 30, 2019.**

Light One Little Candle

by Marge Boyd

I wanted to “wax” poetic here, but the best I can do is shed a little “light” on the subject! Bottom line, I need help organizing our supply of candles. The project involves making an inventory of what we have and determining what we need to order for the upcoming holiday season.

If you have a few hours to devote to going through the candle room, weeding out supplies we no longer use, and creating a shopping list for our All Saints, Dia de los Muertos, Las Posadas, and Christmas celebrations, please let me know. Two or three folks could make short work of the task!

Contact Marge at mboyd@ccsm-ucc.org or call the office at 650-343-3694.



Do You Like to Knit or Crochet?

CCSM has a prayer shawl knitting group that meets once a month.

Our next meeting is **Thursday, September 12**, from 7 to 8 pm in the Infant Room (adjacent to the church office reception area). We plan to make caps for Bay Area Border Relief. If you are interested in coming to see what we are all about, please contact Susan Campo, 650-544-0272 or scampo312@gmail.com.



Save the Date!!!
October 27, 2019
Lynelle Bilsey's
25th Anniversary
Celebration

CLOSE THE CAMPS CHOIR

SEPTEMBER 15 • 3:00-5:00PM
EMBARCADERO PLAZA, SAN FRANCISCO

Come add your voice to the Close the Camps Choir as we sing to protest this administration's mistreatment of immigrants. Not a concert, this is an opportunity to sing as one against the camps.

Visit closethecampschoir.com to download sheet music and RSVP to receive updates about the event. Choirs, choruses, and individual singers are all invited to participate.

Participating organizations: Thrive Street Choir, Resistance Chorus Silicon Valley, Solstice: A Female Vocal Ensemble, and Congregational Church of Belmont

LOVE TO READ?

Enjoying books is contagious, but only if there are plenty of books in a child's home. Samaritan House gives children donated new books for Christmas and used books during the year when families check in for social services.

Help us collect the highest pile of books possible—both new and used— during the month of September.



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. For more information, contact our Volunteer Coordinator Rachel Oldham, roldham@smhwc.org. Thank you!



JOB OPENING: HOMEWORK CENTRAL SITE COORDINATOR

Homework Central is accepting resumes for part-time Site Coordinators for our after-school program! Find out more at careers@smhwc.org or call Betsy Woodward, 650-773-5775.

¡GRACIAS TO CCSM!

Homework Central begins again this week and is very thankful for the generous donations of school supplies from CCSM! Students will have ample pencils, erasers, paper and markers for this coming year.

musicart

FRIDAY, SEPT. 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.**)

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

First Tuesday Book Group

OCTOBER 1 • 7:30PM • FIREPLACE ROOM

First Tuesday Book Group will end the year with Michelle Obama's personal memoir, *Becoming*. Described by the author as a deeply personal experience, the book talks about her roots and how she found her voice, as well as her time in the White House, her public health campaign, and her role as a mother.



Questions? Contact s_stoehr@hotmail.com. All are welcome.

Invitation to Amie Giordano's Installation

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5 • 3:00PM
ODD FELLOWS HALL, 16219 1ST ST., GUERNEVILLE

Amie Giordano has been called as the new pastor of MCC of the Redwood Empire! You are invited to come celebrate at her installation service and dinner reception: Please contact Amie by September 15th at revamiegiordano@gmail.com to RSVP or for more information.



Love and blessings,
Amie and MCC of the Redwood Empire

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 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

Oscar and Imelda Rosa are grandparents! Imelda's daughter, **Nathaly**, and her husband **Francisco** are the proud parents of **Dalary Rosa**, born on August 19. Welcome to the world, Dalary!

A note from **Carole Melis**: **Bill** and I are so appreciative of the support by the CCSM community during his recent setbacks. The cards, calls and visits have been instrumental to his progress. He recently got a long-awaited defibrillator implanted, and we are hopeful he will continue to improve. Thank you so much!

Marian Faber is back at church after a fall in which she broke her left shoulder. Continued prayers for full recovery.

PRAYERS OF COMFORT

Firoz Master, father of **Pearly Masters**, passed away peacefully in his sleep on August 23 at the ripe old age of 99. Prayers for Pearly and the whole family at this time.

Vivian Cornwall, mother of **Jay Cornwall**, passed away on August 24 at age 96. Prayers of comfort for the family for the whole family, **Chris, McKenna, Addison and Ainsley**.

Deb Aldag, younger sister of **Jim Berthelsen**, passed away unexpectedly on August 8. Prayers of comfort for the family, Deb's husband **Bruce** and their four children as well as **Jim and Andrew Berthelsen**.

PRAYERS OF SUPPORT AND HEALING

Prayers of healing for **Abeer Elafifi's** sister who has been diagnosed with stage 3 cancer. Abeer is the director of our Muslim Children's Garden preschool.

Dottie Scott continues to be unable to walk due to a hip misalignment; surgery is scheduled at the end of September.

Prayers of healing for **Don Ruthroff's** brother **Chuck** as he is concerned his cancer has returned. An MRI is scheduled on 9/23 to

diagnose. Prayers also for Don as he supports his brother.

Prayers for **Carla Hammons and Deborah Chang** (and **Serena**) as they embark on a new chapter in their life permanently in rural Nevada. They are leaving their home in South San Francisco on 9/13 after 12 years here and will miss their beautiful home and their CCSM family.

Continuing prayers of strength and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters: **Martha Grannis, Bill Melis, 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 McMahan, Cathy Latta, Genel Morgan's** friends **Marty and Steve, Deanna Riding's** friend and neighbor, **Veril Phillips'** granddaughter **Eva**, and others as they walk their unique journeys with cancer and other health challenges.

Brian McLaren coming to CCSM

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 7:00PM

Join us for a special visit from author, speaker, activist, and public theologian Brian McLaren. He is a passionate advocate for "a new kind of Christianity" – just, generous, and working with people of all faiths for the common good. His topic will be **FAITH BEYOND DOUBT AND THE FUTURE OF THE CHURCH, in conversation with Rev. Penny Nixon**.

He 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).

There will be a freewill offering to help cover expenses.



IN THIS ISSUE

Divine Dining: Jesus was a Foodie	
Sermon Series	1
A Note from Sheryl	1
Evolving programming for children and youth	2
New Youth Group Meeting Time	2
Welcoming New Children & Youth	
Ministry Staff to CCSM	3
Children in Worship	3
Intergenerational Iron Chef Competition	4
Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsals Resume	4
Home & Hope	4
Belong Circles Coming to CCSM	5
Second Hour: Exploring the Homeless Crisis	5
Second Hour: Gun Violence Prevention	5
Flashback 1958: Chancel Choir	5
From Jorge	6
Sharing Our Adventures: Pink Jesus ..	6
Woodstock Tie-Dye	7
9th Annual Will's Dream Fundraiser ..	7
Queer Liberation Theology Concert with Michael Strelow-Smith	8
Home & Hope Benefit Concert	8
Solstice Returns to CCSM	8
6th Annual Halloween Organ Concert ..	8
All Church Assembly, Nov. 3	9
Pine Tree Preservation	9
Save the Date: Lynnelle Bilsey's 25th Anniversary	9
Light One Little Candle	9
Do You Like to Knit or Crochet?	9
Close the Camps Choir	10
Love to Read? Bring Books	10
Homework Central Volunteering	10
Homework Central Job Opening	10
Music & Art	10
First Tuesday Book Group	10
Invitation to Amie Goordano's Installation	10
Joys & Concerns	11
Brian McLaren coming to CCSM	11
21st Annual Pick-A-Party	12



LIKE US ON facebook
FACEBOOK.COM/CCSM.UCC

CCSM PINE TREE

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

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

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

PERIODICAL POSTAGE • TIME VALUED MAILING

for post office use only

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

A barbeque? A tea party? A book reading? A hike? What type of Pick-A-Party will you host this year? CCSM's 21st annual "Pick-A-Party" fundraiser, set for **October 20th**, is officially underway. To offer a party, think of something you enjoy doing and then build a party or activity around your idea.



While dinner parties are popular, there are many wonderful ways to throw a party.

Submit your party offering online at ccsm-ucc.org/Pick-A-Party or via paper form after worship or at the office. The deadline to submit a party is **Sunday, September 29th**, although we prefer parties be submitted early if possible.

We will distribute the list of parties on **October 13th** so you can decide in advance which parties you wish to purchase.

October 20th is "Pick-A-Party Sunday." Parties will be offered for purchase in Kloss Hall at 9:45 am.

Pick-A-Party is a great way to enjoy the fellowship of CCSM members and friends while supporting our church financially. Questions? Contact us at CCSMPickAParty@gmail.com or contact Carol Henton at carolhenton@aol.com or Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh at jjacobyeh@yahoo.com.