

— Sunday Celebrations —

**DIVINE DINING: JESUS WAS A FOODIE**

- Nov. 17** *Do You Have Anything to Eat?: A Hungry Spirituality*, Jorge Perry Bautista and Penny Nixon
- Nov. 24** Thanksgiving Sunday • Rabbi Corey Hefland: *The Shabbat Meal*



**Advent 2019**

- Dec. 1 Special Musical selections by Carillon Bell Choir. Theme: *Prepare God Room: Hopeful Joy*. Reflection: Kelly Colwell.
- Dec. 8 Musical selections from the Messiah by Chancel Choir. Theme: *Repeat the Sounding Joy: Loving Joy*. Reflection: Alan Roby.
- Dec. 15 Theme: *Make the Blessings Known: Unabashed Joy*. Reflection: Special Guest: Phil Porter (back by popular demand) Special Music: Joyful Noise.
- Dec. 22 Pageant and baptism of twins Moises and Teresa Boigues. Theme: *The Lord is Come: Incarnate Joy*. Reflection: Marge Boyd.



CHRISTMAS EVE

- 5:00PM Family Service
- 11:00PM Candlelight Communion service



**Basking in Joy**

Seems almost surreal that Advent is upon us again. Time passes so quickly. Most of us are in a rush most of the time. There doesn't seem to be enough hours in the day or days in the week. Given that many of us share that reality, what a gift Advent can be. A time to wait, to linger, to reflect. In the chaos of the holiday season, a reminder to be still, to trust, to hope.



This is going to be a special Advent at CCSM. Every Christmas eve, for as long as I can remember, we close the service with a jubilant Joy to the World—an affirmation that when we embody “peace on earth good will to all,” that JOY will come.

“Joy to the World,” that beloved Christmas classic, turns 300 this year. Composer Isaac Watt’s interpretation of Psalm 98 invites us to sing a “new song”—and it is a powerful cosmic performance of all creation being renewed and freed. Rather than “joy” being yet another word for “happiness,” we will discover that the depths of joy can be found especially in the midst of suffering, the work of justice, and the presence of compassion—all part of the coming of Jesus to this world and a message the world still so desperately needs.

Each Sunday of Advent, we will have something special that speaks to joy—beautiful music, a special guest, a surprising baptism, an unlikely pageant....

What would it be like, this Advent, for you to slow down enough to come to church each Sunday and bask in the JOY? What would it be like to linger instead of rush, to savor instead of shop, and to wait instead of hurry....

What would it be like to truly invite Emmanuel to journey with you?

Penny



# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

## Children, Youth, and Family programming going full speed ahead

### INFANT, TODDLER, AND PRESCHOOL PLAYGROUP

The first Sunday in October we held our first infant, toddler, and preschool playgroup! It was a fantastic event with ten kids plus parents/guardians in attendance. Some families were connected to the church but others were from the neighborhood, Little Wonders, and the music school. It was great to see families making connections with one another. Play groups will continue on the first Sunday of each month from 9:30-10:15 with breakfast, tea, and coffee provided (except in December we will meet on Dec. 8th instead of Dec. 1st).

### PROGRAMMING FOR KIDS

On Sundays, our Godly Play class has been focused on stories from the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) and our Liturgical Arts class has been busy learning about stained glass, the Reformation, Communion, and All Saints. It has been great to bring their creations into our worship services in a variety of ways and we look

forward to continuing to build our connections with CCSM's Liturgical Arts ministry.

Wednesday programming for kids is also going well and becoming a bit more structured with conversation topics and seasonal activities. We're still looking for more volunteers (high school aged or adult) to assist on Wednesday nights—even occasional support is great! Please be in touch.

### YOUTH PROGRAMS

The youth on Wednesdays now meet in Kloss Hall for discussion and programming. A major initiative was planning activities and the service for Dia de los Muertos and learning more about that tradition and the ways we can honor our personal ancestors, ancestors in faith, and struggles for social justice.

Sunday youth programs for our younger youth have continued to explore world religions. In October we focused on Islam and we were blessed to have some wonderful guest speakers. We have also started a practice of fourth-Sunday service projects. In October we did "reverse trick or treating" where the kids made cards and treats to hand out to seniors or anyone who seemed like they might benefit from some treats. Some really great intergenerational connections were made this way!

For our older youth on Sundays, 60 Minutes continues to be an important program on second Sundays. In October the topic they chose was stress, which connected well with an overall focus on mental health we've been looking at this fall. Youth discussed areas of their life where they experience stress and strategies to address it, including spiritual practices. We also had a youth planning meeting and decided to start a fourth-Sunday program for youth focused on service projects and social justice. We are very grateful that Kibbie Ruth will be taking the lead on this!

### PARENTING GROUP

Our parenting group has also been picking up momentum. We had a great planning meeting and brainstorming session and are working on ideas to really develop this ministry. Our next program will be a youth-led session on supporting youth with mental health struggles led by some incredible youth from Safe Space San Mateo who have also been meeting with our youth groups. This will take place on Sunday, November 17 at 12pm and lunch will be a potluck—please bring food to share.

Thank you so much for your support of our children, youth, and families!

### ARE YOU AN ADOPTEE?

There are a number of adopted children and youth at CCSM and we are looking to put together a small event to build connections and mentorship, and to help support our youth as they navigate this identity. If you're an adult who was adopted and would be willing to help out, please let Sheryl know. Thank you!





## Youth Christmas Collection Drive for Open Cathedral

The mid-high youth met with Rev. Valerie McEntee, the Night Minister at Open Cathedral, to talk about homelessness and what might be useful and also fun for folks to receive at Christmas. As CCSM does sandwiches for Open Cathedral on the 4th Sundays of the month, it means we often are in charge of the meal near Christmas time. That Sunday, we like to hand out bags with other items as well to make it special.



This year, the youth are taking charge of the drive! Please start thinking now about what you might be able to contribute. **We'd like to have items by November 15** so we can prepare for distribution. Here are the items that the youth are specifically hoping to collect. (We need to create 100 bags, but if you cannot donate 100 of the same item that's fine, smaller quantities help too!)

- Bags (reusable bags such as tote bags, backpacks, etc.) to hold the items
- Rain ponchos
- New socks
- Bottled water or reusable water bottles
- Healthy snacks or small treats (i.e. energy bars, wrapped chocolates)
- Small shampoo/conditioner/soap (unscented if possible)
- Something "fun!" (i.e. crossword puzzle or Sudoku books)
- Anything else! If your office has extra "swag" or promotional items (i.e. small flashlights, travel mugs, etc.) those can work well!



Arnold Duncan shares his passion for opera with the members of Music & Art in October.



Baptisms are always joyful events in the life of the church; this one, of little Ruth Marisa Rotchadl on 11/3/19, witnessed by CCSM's youth and children.

## Proposed Ministry on Energy and Environmental Justice

The CCSM Board of Directors has authorized the establishment of a CCSM ministry focused on energy and environmental justice. As proposed, this ministry will research, educate and implement sustainable practices and energy savings operations for the church to achieve energy efficiency. It will also seek ways to address global warming through proactive actions by the congregation outside of the church.



The new ministry will initially conduct an energy audit at the church to determine the steps that can be taken to improve energy efficiency for CCSM. It will research a solar+ battery storage solution for the church. Once installed it can serve our local community as a resilient hub in the event of power outages and disasters. Thirdly, the ministry will seek to educate the CCSM community about the need to take action to reduce our carbon footprint in order to address our climate crisis.

Initial ministry members include Warren Long, Doug Henton, Eva Jakes, Jim Schwandt, Gene Summerville and Gary White. If you are interested in joining this ministry, contact one of us.

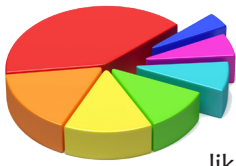
## Thanksgiving Service with St. James!

On Thanksgiving Day, **Thursday, November 28th, at 10:00 am**, we will join our sister church, St. James AME Zion, at 825 Monte Diablo Street in San Mateo, for a worship service of praise and gratitude. Island United Community Church will also be joining us.



# 2020 Budget Forums

NOVEMBER 24 & DECEMBER 1 AFTER CHURCH



Good news! The 2020 budget is almost done. What we need next is to hear from you. The Board of Directors and Finance Committee would like to hear your thoughts on our 2020 Budget before it is submitted for

final approval. Because it is in draft form, changes can be made based on your input. Please attend one of our forums scheduled for immediately after church on November 24 (Buckham Room) and December 1 (Choir Room).

We are approaching our budgetary process a bit differently for 2020. What is different, you may be wondering? Well, instead of offering up only one budget for approval, we are introducing the concept of an aspirational budget. The Finance Committee has conducted numerous and extensive interviews across multiple ministries and staff members and asked probing questions around what funding is needed for 2020 (“BASE BUDGET”) and what funding would be hoped for (“ASPIRATIONAL”). When you view these two budgets (BASE and ASPIRATIONAL) side by side, you will be able to see those areas where our ministries are stretching and reaching and asking for some extra funding, which will need to be approved, ultimately, by you, the congregation at our January 12 annual meeting. Your moderator (Dave Chandler) and your treasurer (Veril Phillips) and other members of the Board and the Finance Committee will be on hand.

PLEASE NOTE: At each of the forums we will also discuss policies for receiving and using endowment funds, including their use to make loans to ourselves and paying them back. The policy for endowments has not been revised for more than seven years and this is an opportunity for you to weigh in on any revisions.

We look forward to rich conversations.

## Soup and Caroling

DECEMBER 8 • AFTER THE SERVICE

Once again we'll have a soup lunch by Greg and Dawn Graves after church, followed by caroling in the neighborhood and to care homes for some of our folks unable to attend who'd enjoy hearing your voices. Eat up the love, sing out the joy!

If interested, contact Donna Summers, [donna.summers@me.com](mailto:donna.summers@me.com).



## SECOND HOUR

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



**November 24: What do I believe and how can I talk about Christianity in these times?** Part of a series on “Progressive” Christianity by Penny Nixon

**November 24 & December 1: 2020 Budget Forums.** See article on this page.

**December 8: Caroling.** See article on this page.

**December 15: Mural Project.** The Mural Project Team will share slides and impressions of its inspiring visit to the murals in San Francisco’s Mission District. This is an early step in the Team’s process of generating ideas for a mural on the south wall of Kloss Hall that would represent CCSM’s inclusiveness and openness to all. The Team looks forward to hearing the questions, ideas, and suggestions of those interested.

## WORLD AIDS DAY 2019: COMMUNITIES MAKE THE DIFFERENCE Service of Remembrance, Resistance, Resilience and Resurrection

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 • 4PM • ISLAND UNITED CHURCH, 1130 BALCLUTHA DR, FOSTER CITY

More people than ever before are affected by HIV/AIDS, globally and locally, and even in the US, many people are unaware of their status and/or are not receiving appropriate medical care for this disease which is often religiously stigmatized. **Join with Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon**, CCSM; **Bishop Yvette Flunder**, City of Refuge UCC, and **Rev. Jim Mitulski**, Island United Church UCC, for a service of Remembrance, Resistance, Resilience and Resurrection. These faith leaders have local, national and international experience working with faith communities affected by the disease. There will also be an historic display of quilts remembering people who have died of HIV/AIDS courtesy of the NAMES Project. You are welcome to bring pictures and names of people who have died, and opportunities to hear from people living with HIV/AIDS. The service will conclude with a Call to Action.



Questions? contact Rev. Jim Mitulski, [revmitulski@gmail.com](mailto:revmitulski@gmail.com); (650) 349-3544



returning to CCSM on

**December 1**

**4:00pm**

in the Sanctuary

*solstice*

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



# Come Help Install CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS!

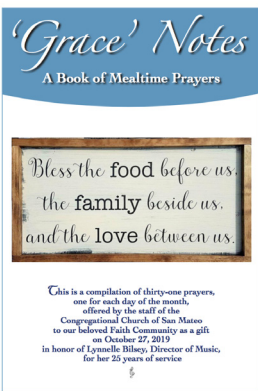
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1:00-5:00 P.M.

- ◆ Install Garland and Wreaths in Sanctuary
- ◆ Install additional floral decorations in Sanctuary & Narthex
- ◆ Install Outside Door Wreaths
- ◆ Install Kloss Hall Decorations
- ◆ Install Buckham Room Decorations



Please email Kay Harris at communi\_ks@me.com for more details.

## “Grace Notes” Booklet of Mealtime Prayers available



In honor of Lynnelle’s 25th anniversary celebration, a booklet of mealtime prayers and graces was compiled in her honor. You can download it at

[ccsm-ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Grace-Notes-booklet.pdf](https://ccsm-ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Grace-Notes-booklet.pdf)

or under the **Media** menu /**Special Publications** on the home page.

## Sing your joy!

JOIN THE CHANCEL CHOIR FOR THE SPECIAL MUSIC IN ADVENT SERVICE: EXCEPTS FROM *THE MESSIAH*

Chancel Choir will be working on the Messiah in preparation for Sunday, December 8.

If you are interested in singing in the larger work only, rehearsals will be happening on Wednesday evenings from 8:15 - 9:00 pm, starting on Wednesday, November 13. Music is available to pick up prior to the rehearsals.

Please contact Lynnelle at [lbilsey@lifemoves.org](mailto:lbilsey@lifemoves.org) or in person to sign up. All are welcome.



Wow, I am still floating and amazed by the caring and heartfelt words, outpouring of appreciation, the beautiful music and most especially the love shared last month at my 25th anniversary celebration. I am deeply touched and my soul is so lifted by the shared experience with you. Thank you seems so small compared to the generous outpouring of appreciation.

To each and every one—my soul is lifted every week and filled with joy and love each time I am able to create music with you at CCSM.

I send my enthusiastic *thank yous* for such an amazing day.

Lynnelle Bilsey



Above, Penny Nixon and Alan Roby honor Lynnelle Bilsey on October 27 at the celebration of her 25 years of loving service at CCSM. At right, Lynnelle in her familiar pose, bringing together the voices and musicians for this joyful occasion.

Photos by Chris Yeh





Our Stewardship theme this year is *Faith in Our Future*. You are a reflection of that faith. Your presence, your generosity and your love sustain this beloved community. In a time of polarization and callousness in our nation, CCSM cares. We are passionate about an inclusive and open faith, we care deeply for one another and we are tirelessly committed to social action and social justice.

It is no news that across the country people are leaving the church in increasing numbers. In fact, we have even seen church *attendance* decline at CCSM this past year. Even though people are pulled in many directions on a Sunday morning, people are still committed to our church through volunteerism, through staying connected online and through giving in a variety of ways. Attendance may be wavering, but people's commitment is steadfast.

For the first time, we launch our stewardship campaign this year with 46 sustaining pledgers, people who made a multi-year pledge, and those pledges represent \$186,000. That is *Faith in Our Future!*

When you make a pledge, you add value to your lives and to the lives of others. Just knowing that a place like CCSM exists can provide hope and encouragement that there is a Christianity that is liberating and a welcome antidote to the hateful rhetoric swirling around us. Coming to church helps ground us, helps us reset our moral compass, and most of all, reminds us that we are not alone.

Martha Bronitsky, our stewardship ministry lead, expresses it this way: ***I feel that coming to CCSM every week is an act of justice.*** "So many people are moving away from faith communities or feel that some communities are rigid and people feel left out, supporting our core values is an act of justice for me. We strive to understand why Jesus taught the way he did and how we can take the message of a loving and inclusive God out to our daily lives. It is an act of social justice to come and learn from our community."

So this year I invite you to make your stewardship pledge as an investment in Our Future and as an act of social justice.

As you do, consider all the ways you *steward your life*, how you take care of the resources you have been blessed with over time. Stewardship helps us administer our blessings. Stewardship is a responsibility, giving is an act and generosity is an attitude. Add love to the mix and we have a bright future together.

Please consider becoming a sustaining partner or making your annual pledge as soon as possible so we can plan our 2020 budget.

Penny

# Ways To Give – Choose One!

## Become a Sustaining Pledger:

### Sign in to your account at myCCSM

- If not already on the Home page, select Home / My Overview
- Click on the **“Pledge Now”** button near the bottom
- Fill in the amount, select **General Budget** select the **frequency**
- Make the pledge for three years – **From 1/1/20 until 12/31/22**
- Before clicking **“Save”** or **“Save and Setup Online Gift”**, confirm the total pledge amount that appears.  
Examples:
  - ◇ If you insert \$200 to Operating Fund to be given twice a month, that total will be \$14,400 (2 x 36 x \$200).
  - ◇ If you insert \$5,000 to Operating Fund to be given Once a year, that total will be \$15,000 (3 x \$5,000)
- Now click **“Save”** or **“Save and Setup Online Gift”**. That’s it. Your three-year pledge has been recorded. **Thank you!**

## Renew Your Pledge:

### Sign in to your account at myCCSM

- If not already on the Home page, select Home / My Overview
- Click on the **“Pledge Now”** button near the bottom
- Fill in the amount, select **General Budget** select the **frequency**
- Make the pledge for one year – From 1/1/19 until 12/31/19
- Now click **“Save”** or **“Save and Setup Online Gift”**. That’s it. Your pledge has been recorded. **Thank you!**


*\*Note: The church is charged a fee of approximately 3% of the total by credit card companies when you use a credit card to pledge; there are no fees to the church when you use an auto-pay setup from your bank or a check written to the church.*

## Send an email or call

If you’d prefer not to do this online, feel free to send an email to Cheryle Matteo at [cmatteo@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:cmatteo@ccsm-ucc.org), or call her at 650-343-3694 and she can complete it for you.

## Print and complete a pledge card

Use the pledge card below or download from the website. Fill it out and return it to the church office (225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo, CA 94401) or drop it in the offering plate.

	Name _____
	Address _____
	Phone _____
	Email _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> I/We plan to give in 2020 an annual total of \$ _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase my/our 2019 pledge by _____
	<input type="checkbox"/> Renew my/our 2019 pledge
	<input type="checkbox"/> I/We will pledge: <input type="checkbox"/> weekly <input type="checkbox"/> monthly <input type="checkbox"/> quarterly <input type="checkbox"/> annually
	<input type="checkbox"/> Please send <input type="checkbox"/> weekly <input type="checkbox"/> monthly envelopes
	<input type="checkbox"/> I/We want to be a sustaining partner (pledging for three years)
	<input type="checkbox"/> I/We plan to give online at <a href="http://ccsm-ucc.org">ccsm-ucc.org</a> via credit card or EFT/debit
	<input type="checkbox"/> A gift to CCSM is in my/our will or trust



# Retirement, Celebration and Solidarity

## AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT FROM MARGE BOYD

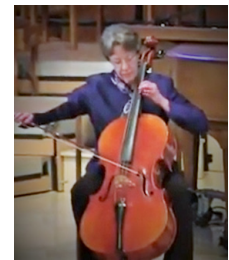
Dear beloved community,

When one loves a job and the people surrounding it as much as I love my position and all of you, announcing something like “I’ve decided to retire” is nearly impossible. I’ve been a part of CCSM since 2007 and have worked here for nearly two and a half years. I felt welcomed and supported by this community since the first day I entered its doors—one of my first contacts was Ann Lambertson who simply insisted that I was part of this family! Over the past decade plus, you have nurtured me, encouraged me, and challenged me to experience wonder, move beyond my comfort zone, discover my own heart, and follow a full and joyous path. So it is in part the gift of your nourishment that has made it possible to consider retirement as the next step on my journey.

Besides my association with CCSM, several other things have come together recently to make retirement desirable and possible: I have been blessed by a new personal relationship that invites attention and presence. The work I have done in the Mercy Center Spiritual Direction program was life-changing and deserves more study and contemplation. The stack of books in my Kindle is growing higher. I joined an amateur orchestra over the summer and play in a cello quartet every Friday morning; my whistle is wetted for more. (Actually I don’t own or play the whistle . . . yet!). And then there is my book club, colleagues bending my arm to join them in retirement bliss by the end of the year.

This was not a decision made hastily or without a great deal of thought. And because CCSM is dear to me, I will make every effort to leave my position in hands that will hold it in the highest regard. The Board of Directors, Personnel Committee, Penny,

and I are all invested in the task of filling my position with CCSM’s best interest in mind. I am so grateful for my time as your Director of Operations and though my employment will cease, my love for this community will remain deeply rooted in my heart.



Within this poem by my favorite poet, John O’Donohue, a writer I often turn to for counsel and inspiration, are words that resonate and encourage me to proceed with this plan. I share them with you in the hope that you not only will understand how I am being called to my next adventure, but also will be inspired to realize your own dreams and aspirations as they present themselves moment by moment.

### A Morning Offering (Excerpts)

May my mind come alive today  
To the invisible geography  
That invites me to new frontiers . . .  
To risk being disturbed and changed.  
May I have the courage today  
To live the life that I would love,  
To postpone my dream no longer  
But do at last what I came here for . . .

With gratitude,  
Marge

## musicart

FRIDAY, NOV. 15 • NOON  
BUCKHAM ROOM

Let Rozanne Hemelyn tell you about her whirlwind life as a printmaker, painter and complete artist. In her expressive prints she addresses some of the everyday psychological conundrums that are part of the human experience. Her new body of water media work, called “Connections,” can explain the relationship between representational and abstract art. She is a dynamic and fun person. Don’t miss this artist. Be sure to make your reservation by contacting Susan Duty: [susanjd52@gmail.com](mailto:susanjd52@gmail.com) or 650-533-6828. And of course, BYOS, Bring Your Own Sandwich (or salad). Beverages and dessert are provided.



## Penny’s bookshelf

*Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens  
*The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood  
*The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett  
*This Is How It Always Is* by Laurie Frankel  
*Bluebird, Bluebird* by Attica Locke  
*Holy Envy* by Barbara Brown Taylor  
*The Second Mountain* by David Brooks  
*This Land is Our Land* by Suketu Mehta  
*Take This Bread* by Sara Miles





Monday, December 16th • 7:00-9:30pm



Dear sisters and brothers,

As many of you know, in the days leading up to Christmas in Latinx communities throughout the hemisphere, re-enactments are held commemorating Mary and Joseph's search for shelter in Bethlehem—a place for Jesus to be born. The tradition is called Las Posadas, which literally means “the inns” in Spanish. Each night, from December 16 - 24, a man and woman playing the roles of Mary and Joseph go from house to house. At each home, they are turned away. Finally, the couple reaches a place, often a church, where they are allowed to enter. A celebration begins which includes food, piñatas, prayers and songs.

At the celebration's heart is a candlelit musical procession that moves from house to house (in our case door to door around our church) The lyrics unfold call-and-response style: Those singing outdoors represent Joseph requesting lodging for his pregnant wife, Mary, while those indoors sing the part of the suspicious innkeeper who closes the door because he believes the strangers might be thieves.

While Las Posadas is a beautiful Advent tradition, and a beloved part of Christmas celebrations in many Latinx communities. It is also one that ministers and immigration advocates have begun to use to represent the lack of hospitality at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Along the U.S.-Mexican border, some Christians will celebrate Las Posadas across the divide,

with Mexicans coming from the south and U.S. citizens coming from the north, with the questions, “Is there room for me? Am I welcome? Can I come in?” taking on a more political tone.

In San Diego, people come to both sides of a fence along the border, holding candles and singing songs, with those on the Mexican side asking if they are welcome, if they can come over. The U.S. side sings back, “No you can't.”

Finally, a welcome is offered, and those on both sides share food they have brought. It is a commemoration of an ancient story, laden with the here-and-now.

The theological assumption of those involved in border ministry understand that Jesus is present with the migrants in their journey to find some safe place. The migrants who come here are people who live constantly in fear of being turned in to immigration authorities and being deported. And for themselves and their children and their families, it's a constant source of anxiety.

Every year at CCSM/Iglesia San Mateo, somewhere between 50 and 60 attend our Las Posadas. This year will be our seventh year having Las Posadas and it will be on Monday, December 16th from 7:00-9:30pm. May this year's Posadas renew our spirit to fight for migrants around the globe and especially those coming from the south. Because at our border, the wall remains. A militarized border remains. The door remains closed. There is no innkeeper having a sudden epiphany that it is the mother of God herself to whom he denies hospitality. But Las Posada are re-enacted each year as an act of faith and hope. It requires hope to act out a story with a happy ending when the story we are living doesn't yet have such an ending — the participants are trusting that God is at work even in things they don't see or understand. Their hopes echo the book of Hebrews which puts it this way: “Faith is the reality of what we hope for, the proof of what we don't see” (Hebrews 11:1).

Let's commit to bring down the wall in our lifetimes and never to internalize its divisive and inhuman message in our hearts.

I hope many of you can participate in this wonderful Mexican tradition. Remember, if you do show up you will get a chance to meet many of the families from the Wednesday Gatherings, and you will get to enjoy my mom's famous tamales which she has made for the past five years; they are always a hit. See you at Las Posadas!

Peace and blessings!

Jorge

## MSJ supports Jorge's border protest legal challenge

MSJ (Ministry of Service and Justice) distributed \$1,000 from the Godinez-Phillips Social Justice Fund toward the legal services of our Rev. Jorge Bautista and his fellow defendants. Jorge and three other protestors that were arrested during a peaceful protest at the U.S. border over the treatment of migrants by Customs Border Protection last December were found not guilty by a federal judge last Monday. After a three-hour trial, Magistrate Judge Michael S. Berg said that the government had not positively identified that any of the defendants had broken any laws.

The four were being charged with failing to comply with lawful orders, a misdemeanor pun-

ishable by up to 30 days in jail and a \$50,000 fine. Two Federal Protective Service officers testified at the joint trial, but neither of the officers could say they personally saw any of the defendants cross into the restricted area next to the border wall. Supporters of the defendants erupted in cheers after the verdict was announced.

Last year's protest was organized by local religious leaders, who led a march to the border fence in Imperial Beach to protest the treatment of migrants along the southern border.





## Pick-a-Party 2019

Thank you to everyone who purchased parties this year. **More than a hundred members participated and we collected over \$16,000.** If you missed out, you can view a list of parties with open seats on the Pick A Party webpage (<https://ccsm-ucc.org/pick-a-party/>). Pick A Party is a great way to fill your social calendar with parties and activities where you will have an opportunity to enjoy the fellowship of church friends -- while also supporting our church financially.

If you have questions or to sign up for a party, please contact Jennifer and Carol at [ccsmpickaparty@gmail.com](mailto:ccsmpickaparty@gmail.com)

## First Tuesday Book Group

We are on holiday leave until **January 7**, when we will meet in the Fireplace Room at 7:30 to discuss *Educated*, a memoir by Tara Westover. Westover is the youngest of seven children who grew up in the mountains of Idaho in a radical Mormon family. In her family, children did not go to school, visit doctors' offices or hospitals, or receive birth certificates. When Brigham Young University accepted her at 16 years old, her education started her down a path to an understanding of home, herself, and the world.

On **February 4**, we'll discuss Delia Owens' novel *Where the Crawdads Sing*. Please join us.

Questions? Contact Susan Stoehr at [s\\_stoehr@hotmail.com](mailto:s_stoehr@hotmail.com)

## November = Toiletries!

The Ministry of Service and Justice is collecting toiletries in November for both the USO and CALL Primrose. The USO operates centers at military installations in the US and throughout the world, including combat zones, and is the nation's leading organization serving those in the US military and their families. The USO will distribute items wherever the need is greatest.

CALL Primrose provides food and toiletry items to low-income families and individuals in our community, including seniors and those who are homeless.

Please donate travel or full-size items of any of the following: **TOOTHBRUSHES, FLOSS, RAZORS, SHAVING CREAM, COMBS AND/OR HAIRBRUSHES, SHAMPOO, BAR SOAP, DEODORANT, NAIL CLIPPERS AND FILES, MIRRORS, WASHCLOTHS, BODY WASH, HAIR CONDITIONER, DRY SHAMPOO.** Thank you!



## Adopt-A-Family Seeking Volunteers

This December, CCSM will again be sponsoring families through LifeMoves to provide each family member with Christmas gifts so they may share in the season's bounties. We are looking for volunteers to help with this worthy, giving, and fun project during the first two Sundays in December. Tasks include:

- Helping CCSM members select from among the 60+ "wishes" on our little Christmas tree
- Registering their selections
- Monitoring the return of gifts
- Sorting and packing gifts for delivery to families

Volunteers are needed for about an hour after the Dec. 1 and Dec. 8 services and on Monday Dec. 16 (time to be determined). Feel free to volunteer for one, two or all of the dates. Please contact Anne Fuller ([afuller@fullerthaler.com](mailto:afuller@fullerthaler.com)) or Melodie Lew ([boygie.m2000@yahoo.com](mailto:boygie.m2000@yahoo.com)) if you are interested.

## Adopt A Family to Start Sunday December 1

Putting gifts under the tree at Christmas time can be a burden for families lacking permanent housing and trying to make ends meet. You can help by participating in the annual CCSM Adopt A Family program.

Each year, CCSM makes a commitment to provide Christmas gifts to several families. They are recommended to us by LifeMoves. Our little tree will be decorated with 60 plus ornaments which represent the wishes of the family members. **Please stop by after the service on December 1 and December 8.** Volunteers will be available to help you sign up.



## NOVEMBER FLASHBACK:

### "Fire damages historic church"

So read the headlines in the Nov. 25, 1988 edition of "The Times", San Mateo County's Daily Newspaper. The fire started on Thanksgiving evening in the furnace room and spread upward through the roof. Undeterred, CCSM held regular Sunday services three days later in Kloss Hall.

In the Dec. 9, 1988 Pine Tree, members were urged to be "patient and dress with your finest woollens until the heating situation works out." Members were also informed that "attempts are being made to try various forms of temporary heat."

A Restorations Committee was formed to deal with repairs. Serving on the committee are current CCSM members Peter Held, Jim Lowrie and George Cintel. Lee Mullery and Genel Morgan have vivid memories of the smoky smell that lingered for weeks.



# 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](https://ccsm-ucc.org/prayer) online prayer request**, by **contacting us via staff emails** listed in your bulletin or on the website, [ccsm-ucc.org](https://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 COMFORT

CCSM member **Sandi Blodgett** passed away on the evening of Tuesday, November 5th after a valiant fight against cancer which had returned 8 times over 11 years. She will be greatly missed. A memorial service will be held on **Saturday, November 16** at 10 am. Prayers for her partner **Malcolm**, and also her daughters **Katie and Sarah** in this difficult time.

After a long, hard-fought battle, and just a few days in hospice care, **Dave Karlin**, husband of **Barb Karlin**, died on October 24th at their home in Half Moon Bay. Barb and their sons, **Jesse and Cody**, and their wives, **Sedona and Emily**, were all with Dave. Barb says: "Despite our immeasurable grief, we have so much to be grateful for. I am grateful for the 2 ½ years we had after Dave's diagnosis. I am especially grateful he made it to Cody and Emily's wedding. And I am grateful for the almost 39 years I got to spend with one of the best human beings on the planet. I am grateful for the amazing medical care team Dave had. I am grateful for the GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer (formerly Bonnie J Addario LCF), which I truly believe not only extended Dave's life, but made every day that he had better for him and for me. And finally, I am grateful for the incredible network of love and support we received from family and friends. So many of you played a role in encouraging and inspiring him to fight, and in supporting me in my care of him."

Prayers for the family of **Allison Rock** whose mother, **Jean Rock**, 92 years old, passed away on Septem-

ber 22 in East Tennessee due to complications from a fall.

Prayers of comfort for **Frank Garritano's** good friend **Caroline**, her mother **Liz**, and her wife **Jess**, who recently lost her step-father **David Alt** unexpectedly after a routine medical procedure.

### PRAYERS OF SUPPORT AND HEALING

**Sofia Floresca**, age 14, had major hip surgery at Stanford on Tuesday, November 5, and will be home recovering for several weeks. Prayers for a quick recovery.

Prayers of healing and strength for **Annette Daniels**, diagnosed with renal cancer. She had surgery on October 25th to remove a kidney.

Prayers of healing for **Chuck, Don Ruthroff's** brother, as he undergoes cancer treatment.

Prayers of strength for **Margie Mader-Clark** as she goes through another round of melanoma treatment. Prayers also for **Austin and Calvin**.

**The Chandlers'** neighbor, **Dan Neumann**, is experiencing some health issues. They are having a hard time getting to the root cause. He would appreciate our prayers.

Prayers for a healthy baby for **Andrew Lind (Betsy and Phil's son)** and wife **Marguerite** as they look forward to an April birth.

Prayers of healing for **Melanie Dresbach's** brother **Rev. Michael Dresbach**, undergoing his second round of chemo treatment because the cancer has spread to his lungs.

Prayers of quick recovery for

**Joy Mason**, who had knee replacement surgery on October 30th. She'll be away from church for a while.

**Dottie Scott** had surgery on Sept. 30 for hip misalignment. She continues to recover and cards are welcomed.

**Thelma Kromhout** is grateful for all the caring messages and the love she receives from so many friends at the church. Thelma will not be able to return to church, nor to any of her previous activities out in the world. She is on oxygen and too weak to go out. She is content and at peace in the quiet and beauty of her home, where she is free to rest and read. She is not up to visits or calls, so keep the cards coming. Her family is grateful for the loving support she receives from CCSM.

Please pray for friends and neighbors of **Lorna Groundwater** in Sonoma County—some of whom lost their houses two years ago—and for all those affected by the fires.

Continuing prayers of strength and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters: **Dave McClure, Martha Grannis, Bill Melis, Dr. Jim Groundwater and family, Bill Daniels, Ruth Black, Marjorie Grifin, Adrienne Mitchell, Genevieve and John Parsons, Fred Petri, Rev. 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.



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ed in association with Music at Kohl Mansion, Burlingame, CA.

\*From January 16 through March 14, 2020, Burlingame's Music at Kohl Mansion will host Violins of Hope San Francisco Bay Area, an immersive eight-week celebration of the remarkable resilience of the human spirit. Through a series of concerts, exhibitions, films, lectures, community conversations, and educational programs collaboratively presented by more than forty diverse Bay Area organizations in eight counties, Violins of Hope SFBA will showcase a collection of more than 50 string instruments once played by Jews in concentration camps during the Holocaust. Lovingly restored by Israeli violin-makers Amnon and Avshalom Weinstein, the Violins are now touring worldwide. This first West Coast appearance of the Violins of Hope commemorates the 75th Anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

Save the date, as you will not want to miss this service which promises to be inspiring and moving.

# CCSM PINE TREE

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

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## Sanctuary Update

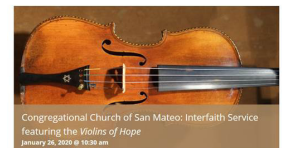


CCSM has the opportunity to provide sanctuary for a father and son from Guatemala, David and Bryon, who were separated at the border over a year ago. Hopefully they will arrive by Thanksgiving. Watch your email for a special announcement. In the meantime, here is a video telling their story: [tinyurl.com/CCSM-sanctuary](https://tinyurl.com/CCSM-sanctuary)

## Violins of Hope

JANUARY 26, 2020 • 10:30AM SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE

CCSM is privileged to host one of several events which are part of the Violins of Hope San Francisco Bay Area program\*, present-



Congregational Church of San Mateo: Interfaith Service  
featuring the Violins of Hope  
January 26, 2020 @ 10:30 am