

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 69, #2 | LENT 2020 - FEBRUARY / MARCH

EPIPHANY SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

FEBRUARY 16 • GENEROUS LISTENING. Kelly Colwell. Real listening is powered by curiosity. It involves vulnerability — a willingness to be surprised, to let go of assumptions and take in ambiguity.

FEBRUARY 23 • BE IMPERFECT. Guest preacher Rev. Molly Baskette is the senior minister of the warm and eclectic First Church Berkeley UCC and the author of the acclaimed *Real Good Church: How Our Church Came Back from the Dead and Yours Can Too*, *Standing Naked Before God: the Art of Public Confession*, and co-author of the progressive parenting manual *Bless This Mess: A Modern Day Guide to Faith and Parenting in a Chaotic World*.



Lent 1 • March 1: *Reorienting What We Prize.* Penny Nixon. Communion.

Lent 2 • March 8: *Right-sizing Ourselves: Finding Our Place in Creation.* Kelly Colwell/Phil Porter. A Dance on Behalf of the Earth.

Lent 3 • March 15: *From Generation to Generation.* Penny Nixon. Baby Baptism.

Lent 4 • March 22: *Ordaining Trees and Anointing Stories.* Penny Nixon. Blessing of Kelly Colwell's ordination.

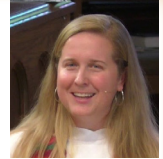
Lent 5 • March 29: *It Takes A Climate Village.* Kelly Colwell. *The 7 Stations of the Earth.* Special musical guests Bella Voce.

Palm Sunday • April 5: *The Mantle of Moral Leadership.* Jorge Perry Bautista and Penny Nixon.

EASTER SUNDAY • April 12: *A 2020 Resurrection!!!* Penny Nixon.

An Inconvenient Lent

Lent is inconvenient, particularly in this part of the world. Right when things are getting sunnier, days are getting longer, and our yards and parks are bursting with flowers, the church year asks us to reflect on mortality, fragility, and sorrow. It would feel good to go straight to Easter—we've got the flowers for it already! In Toronto, Lent felt kind of right—still icy, still freezing, streets full of grey slush. Here, Lent intrudes on our celebration of sunshine. Lent gets in the way. We're asked to sit in the wilderness, to put off the celebration, and to wrestle with what we've done and what we've failed to do. We're asked to give things up, to inconvenience ourselves, to repent, to change our lives. It's kind of a drag. It's inconvenient.



What could be more relevant than reflecting on climate change in this season, then? After all, what topic makes us feel more unsteady, more complicit and vulnerable, more hopeless? The topic of climate change brings a pall to discussions and throws shadows on our lives that we can't get away from. I don't know about you, but news about climate change makes me want to crawl out of my skin, half out of shame and guilt and half out of absolute fear. What will the world be like for any of us in a few decades? What is it already like for millions of people who are suffering the effects in their daily lives? Why didn't we do more sooner? I'm sure I'm not the only one who feels this way. It's a challenge to even keep paying attention. Sometimes I wish I could just take a break from it all!

Nevertheless, when we open our eyes to the world around us and truly take in the news and the situation, there's room for hope. After all, we're rooted in a story of life out of death! We're resurrection people, and we know that when

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Congregational
Church of san mateo

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650 343-3694 | CCSM-UCC.ORG | FACEBOOK.COM/CCSM.UCC

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

youth news...

2020 is off to a great start for the children, youth, and family ministry at CCSM! Highlights have included: **welcoming Libby Barnard** into her new role with the Liturgical Arts Sunday School class • **youth serving** at the Interfaith Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service • another fun **infant, toddler, and preschool playgroup** (9:30am on the first Sunday of the month!) • **youth reflecting** on the meaning of the church • youth participating in projects to help the church live out its mission through **welcoming David and Byron** into the building with beautiful signs and cards.

We also said **goodbye to our Emerging Leader, Angel Rivero**, and we wish him the best in his new role at another church. This has meant a bit of transition for the youth on Wednesdays but we are grateful to our many volunteers who have stepped in to support. We hope to have new staff for that program soon, but until then there has been great conversation, games, and of course snacks every Wednesday at church! Colleen Castillo, the leader of our Wednesday kids program, continues to lead remarkable creative art projects with the kids!

Each Sunday, our Godly Play class explores a different Bible story and responds through whatever creative means speak to them that day—building with blocks is always popular! This program provides an excellent foundation by allowing kids to learn, expand upon, and question different core Bible texts. **Our Liturgical Arts class has been exploring benedictions and blessings**, including writing a moving benediction together. The original plan was to share it with one class, but several kids asked if they could do it again and bless another class. It was also shared with the congregation on Feb 2. **Lily continues to offer loving childcare in her Free Play class**, mostly designed for pre-kindergarten-aged kids. There are always lots of toys, games, stories, and snacks!

The Sunday youth discussion class is focusing on world religions and will look at Buddhism in February. We have a guest speaker and a site visit to the San Mateo Buddhist temple lined up! If you have any contacts who are Buddhist or Hindu and might be willing to visit please let us know. We are so grateful to Bill Dunbar, Dave Olson, and Sarah Block who continue to offer top notch leadership to this program. We are looking

to expand this team, so if you might be interested in helping out even occasionally that would be great. Thank you!

Our parenting ministry is also continuing and we are grateful to Rev. Kibbie Ruth for her offer of leadership with the parents. Every 4th Sunday after church parents are invited to discuss a topic with Kibbie while kids are cared for and youth group meets. Oh, and lunch is provided! **On February 23 we will have a special event** which is open to everyone, currently parenting or not! Rev. Molly Baskette from the First Congregational Church of Berkeley preach that Sunday; after church she will speak about her new book on progressive faith and parenting, *Bless this Mess*. This is an accessible, relatable, and very helpful book—speak with Sheryl if you'd like to borrow a copy.

Another major event coming up in February is the **Pancake Dinner/Mardi Gras party on Tuesday, Feb 25 from 6-8pm!** There will be lots of delicious food, activities for kids, and even a salsa dance teacher to offer mini lessons as well as just time to dance! Youth are invited to help with the dinner and also to lead the activities for kids. This will be a great event for all ages we would love to have a strong turnout. Admission is simply by donation.

— Sheryl

Children in Worship in Lent

This year, we are trying a new thing with our Liturgical Arts class: having the kids themselves learn about different parts of worship services and the ways that art enriches worship, and then create liturgical art to share during the service. You may have seen the kids perform liturgical dance, bake and serve communion bread, share prayers they have written, offer a re-telling of a scripture story, create and share a banner in Kloss Hall, and more!

During Lent, the kids will be involved in many ways: offering leadership of a song related to our Lenten theme, helping create and facilitate prayer stations, and creating a box of items that will symbolically “hold” some of what we all might consider to “give up” for Lent in order to live more lightly on the planet.

Having the kids prepare and offer leadership in the service allows them to gain familiarity with, explore, and interpret parts of Christian worship in their own ways. It builds intergenerational connections by involving

adults with different skills and experiences and allows the kids to feel proud of what they offer in the service, integrating them into new and different parts of our worship time.

The kids have been loving co-creating this program. Please speak with me (Sheryl) if you would like to work with them to offer something in worship, or help them to learn about and experience anything that could be a “worship art”—quite broadly conceived (i.e. baking, visual art, flower arranging, drama, and so forth)!



Youth at Martin Luther King Jr Interfaith Day of Service

PICK-A-PARTY: How About Some CCSM Fellowship and Fun?

The following parties from our Pick-A-Party fundraiser have openings. For more details, see:

["2019 List of Parties with Open Seats"](https://tinyurl.com/open-parties)
(tinyurl.com/open-parties).

To sign up, contact Carol Henton
(carolhenton@aol.com or 650-544-7563).

FEBRUARY 15 • CASAVANT LOVE: ORGAN CONCERT AND CHOCOLATE

Come enjoy a beautifully performed concert in the chancel by CCSM's talented organist, Angela Kraft Cross, followed by a time of fellowship and fun. Fancy appetizers, chocolate truffles and wonderful wine will all be part of this lovely experience. Starts at 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$25.

FEBRUARY 23 • HYMN SING

Have you heard of a Hymn Sing? Join Lynnelle Bilesey, Diane Kalliam and Angela Kraft Cross for an afternoon of singing hymns. We will begin with traditional hymns that have lasted over a century, then move to more contemporary hymns. Accompaniment will alternate between organ and piano. Everyone is welcome to join us for a light reception afterwards. Starts at 3:00 p.m. Cost is \$25.



MARCH 14 • BURNING MAN: WHAT IS IT? DINNER AND DISCUSSION

Have you ever wondered what draws 70,000 people to the barren desert each year for Burning Man? Yes, it's a fun party, but it's much deeper than that. It's a

celebration of art and creativity as well as a radical experiment in community building that has surprising parallels to Jesus' teaching. Join Dave and Megan Goulden to learn more about this phenomenon while enjoying a backyard BBQ with tri-tip, chicken, or salmon. Vegetarian options are also available. Starts at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$35.

MARCH 29 • CLIMATE CHANGE PRESENTATION AND MINI GREENHOUSE

Adults and children ages 6 to 12 are invited to join Sandra Soto-Grondona for an interactive presentation about how children are being impacted by climate change around the world, and more importantly, how they are responding. During the presentation and discussion, children will make a mini greenhouse with recyclables which they can take home along with a native plant. Popcorn snack included. Individual adults as well as families encouraged to attend. Starts at 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person, \$35 per family maximum.

Newcomers' Breakfast

SUNDAY, MARCH 1
9:30 - 10:15AM
BUCKHAM ROOM

If you are new to CCSM and are interested in finding out more about our guiding principles and activities, please plan to attend our next Newcomers' Breakfast where you will meet with Penny and other clergy for conversation and a light meal.

RSVP to Chase Montara,
cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org,
as we want the table to be plentiful!

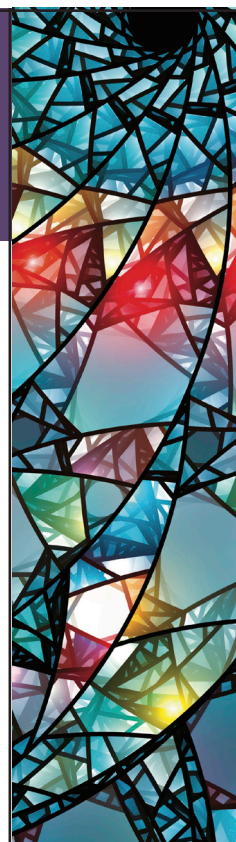


You're invited to Kelly Colwell's ordination service!

SATURDAY, FEB. 22 • 10:30AM
1ST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BERKELEY
2345 CHANNING WAY, BERKELEY

Because my home church is in Berkeley, and because of how the UCC works, I'm getting ordained there, although my ministry will be at CCSM. The ordination service will last about an hour and be followed by lunch, so I really hope some of you can venture across the Bay and join me for this joyful celebration! I've been working towards being ordained for over thirteen years now, and it's because of the space that you've made for me here at CCSM that it can finally happen. I'm so grateful to be in ministry with you!

Kelly



An Inconvenient Lent

—cont. from page 1—

things look like the absolute end, that's prime time for God to make a move and bring something beautiful and new into being. New life returns after a fire, fish return to rivers after dams are removed, and our beautiful and resilient earth still has the capacity to live, if we discover our place in creation, reorient what we prize, reconnect with our global village, and take up the mantle of moral leadership for this generation. This "Inconvenient Lent," we'll find the hope, liberation, and beauty that can come from being attentive to climate change. We'll try on some new practices, lament what has come, and clear out some space in our hearts and our community for God to bring new life. The earth needs us to do this work, and while I can't guarantee that it will be easy, I can guarantee that it will be rich, nourishing, and hopeful. Rather than avoiding the topic, let's bring it to church. It takes all of us, together, to do what God is calling us to do in this moment.

Kelly

Spiritual Conversations

SPRING, LENTEN SEASON, 2020

SIX CONSECUTIVE MONDAYS

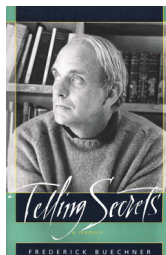
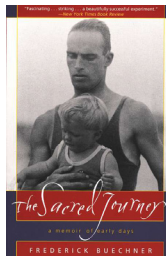
MARCH 2 - APRIL 6

7:00-8:30PM • LIBRARY

The Sacred Journey and *Telling Secrets*, two short memoirs by Frederick Buechner, will be discussed in the Spiritual Conversations Lenten season. A minister and teacher, Buechner also wrote respected, popular novels; one was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize and another for the National Book Award.

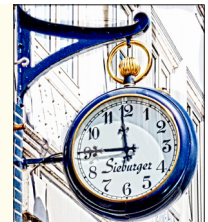
In these memoirs, Buechner reveals his demons, struggles, doubts, and pain, illustrating his belief that the examined life is a "chance to behold the divine." It is through everyday events and relationships that God shows us the meaning of grace and forgiveness—ultimately, "the power of faith to lift us up, to hold us straight, to send us on again" (Washington Post review).

If you have any questions or are interested in participating, please contact Dorothy or Richard Kogl at kogl@att.net or 650-579-7272.



SECOND HOUR

Second Hour Sundays bring important topics for learning and discussion following the Sunday service in the Buckham Room, 11:45AM - 1:00PM.



February 23: Bless This Mess with Rev. Molly Baskette



Rev. Molly Baskette is Senior Minister at First Congregational Church in Berkeley. After preaching for us on the 23rd, she'll offer a learning session for Second Hour about her book *Bless This Mess*, described as "a witty, compelling guide to raising open-minded and morally grounded kids in these crazy times, with an approach that's rooted in science, psychology, and faith." All are welcome, whether or not you are a parent or have read the book! We're delighted to have Rev. Molly with us. Lunch and childcare will be provided.

March 1: Spiritual Resources for Polarizing Times

Led by Chris Wuthmann, *Spiritual Life Ministry Lead*. The first goal is to understand the polarization of our times better: what it does to us, implications for our future, and reasons for its rise. A second inquiry will be to consider the applicability of spiritual perspectives and practices in response to the corrosive force of polarization.

March 8: Update on the Climate Crisis: Running Out of Time (Slideshow by Gary)

March 15: Understanding the CCSM Solar Project (Slideshow by Gene / Jim)

March 22: CCSM as a Climate Leader on the Peninsula • facilitated by Penny Nixon

March 29: Climate Church, Climate World: A Discussion (led by Kelly Colwell & Gary)



Youth making dinner for Home and Hope families

Jeremy Ryan, Bass-Baritone,
and Karen Hutchinson, Piano Accompanist

FEBRUARY 21, NOON • BUCKHAM ROOM

We're in for a special treat with the soloist for our program. Jeremy was the soloist with the Chancel Choir in December when they presented Handel's "Messiah," and earlier in the fall he sang a solo in Haydn's "Creation" for the Home and Hope combined choirs. He will sing a wide range of selections from Burt Bacharach to Josh Groban to Schubert & Verdi. Karen has played programs for Music and Art in the past.

We'll have lunch and a brief business meeting in the Buckham Room, remember to bring your own sandwich/salad and the beverages and dessert are provided. Then we'll move to the sanctuary for our wonderful program.

Please RSVP to: susanjd52@gmail.com or call 650-533-6830.

**THE EARTH IS SUFFICIENT
FOR EVERYONE'S NEEDS
BUT NOT FOR EVERYONE'S
GREED.** —GANDHI

(QUOTED IN CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE
WORLD BY REV. JIM ANTAL)

Special concert with organist Jerome Lenk

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 5:00PM • SANCTUARY

Join us for a most unique concert in our sanctuary sponsored by our Music Ministry. Our Organist/ Artist-in-residence Angela Kraft Cross will team up with Jerome Lenk to present Robert Schumann's iconic and astonishingly beautiful *Piano Concerto in A minor* as a piano-organ duo. Normally the piano soloist plays the concerto in three movements with a symphony orchestra, but in this concert, Angela will play the piano with the orchestral accompaniment played by Jerome on our beautiful Casavant organ.



Jerome Lenk serves as Director of Music and Liturgy and Principal Organist for Mission Dolores Basilica in San Francisco. He has conducted the outstanding Basilica Choir in California, Mexico, and Italy, and has extensive accompanying, conducting, and recording credits. Mr. Lenk has performed recitals at the Oakland Cathedral, San Francisco's Grace Cathedral, and the California Palace of the Legion of Honor.

M u s i c N o t e s

by Lynnelle Bilsey

Do you ever find yourself humming or tapping to some music unaware until you catch yourself or someone mentions it? I know I'm not alone when I admit I love to sing in the car or around the house... I'm also an avid "air-drummer" during certain songs. Our beings are tuned to music; we reverberate and at times physically feel music moving through us. For example when a bass drum in a band marches past or in church when the organ is fully open ringing the rafters with glorious sound. Music touches our hearts and often expresses that which we are unable to express verbally.

At CCSM we were privileged to experience this first hand listening to the beauty, poignancy and enduring love which graced our sanctuary by the Violins of Hope. The music reached out and touched each of our hearts. The special and wonderful quality of music though is that it spoke to each of us individually as well as to us collectively that morning.

The music team invites you this year to engage with us at CCSM and explore how music touches you. Whether it's singing your favorite hymn, participating in some of the Taizé songs, which are a musical prayer; by listening more intentionally during the

prelude before service to let the busyness of daily work go and immerse yourself in the moment as church begins. We also encourage you to consider participating in one of the musical opportunities offered at CCSM: Chancel Choir, Carillon Ringers, Joyful Noise Children's Choir, Wednesday Night Gathering Musical Ensemble, individually, or as a small ensemble. Whether you are a singer, ringer or instrumentalist (or would like to try), musicians of all genres are welcome. Please see Lynnelle Bilsey, Director of Music or contact her at lbilsey@lifemoves.org.



SPECIAL MUSICAL EVENTS COMING UP:

- 2/23 **Hymn Sing—Pick a Party**
- 3/1 **Organ concert with Jerome Lenk and Angela Kraft Cross**
- 3/21-22 **Masterworks Chorale Concert**
- 3/28 **Junior Bach Festival** – come hear amazing young Bay Area artists perform Bach at 2:00PM in our own sanctuary!

More coming this April & May; please see next Pine Tree for more details.

New Interfaith Initiatives: A Global Perspective with Rabbi David Rosen Join Penny for an inspirational report on new efforts towards reconciliation and interfaith relations.



Monday, February 24, 2020

7:00 pm - 8:30 PM

**Congregation Beth Jacob
1550 Alameda de las Pulgas, Redwood City**

Rabbi David Rosen, the “Rabbi to Three Popes,” recently led the largest and most senior delegation of Muslim leaders to Auschwitz. He is the International President of Religions for Peace, and AJC’s Jerusalem-based Director of International Interreligious Affairs.

Registration is free but required for security purposes. For more information, please contact AJC at rsvpsf@ajc.org.

Co-sponsored by AJC, Congregation Beth Jacob, Congregation Beth Am, Congregation Kol Emeth, Congregational Church of San Mateo - UCC, First Congregational Church of Palo Alto - UCC, Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice, Peninsula Solidarity Cohort, Peninsula Temple Sholom, Peninsula Sinai Congregation, and Pacifica Institute

Register Here:

www.ajc.org/sanfrancisco/davidrosen-cbj

Prayer Shawl Knitting Group

Do you like to knit or crochet? Please consider joining the Prayer Shawl Knitting Group. We make shawls for anyone in our church family who might need some extra comfort and care. They are also presented to our youth in the Confirmation Classes. Yarn and patterns, knitting assistance and friendship are provided.

We meet the third Tuesday of odd-numbered months from 7:00-8:00pm.

If interested, please contact Susan Campo (email: scampo312@gmail.com or cell 650/544-0272)

Memorial Reception team needs new members

The Memorial Reception team provides support for memorials held at CCSM. It involves



being at the church and preparing for receptions that occur after memorial services, monitoring during the reception, and cleaning up at the end. (The logistics are handled by the office staff in conjunction with the family.) It is a rewarding experience and much appreciated by the family.

If you have questions or might be willing to be a part of the team, please contact Diane Kalliam (415-469-7750 or dkalliam@gmail.com) or talk to Chase in the church office. We are looking to recruit as many new folks as possible so that the load doesn't fall too heavily on a few. Please consider being a part of this worthwhile ministry.

First Tuesday Book Group

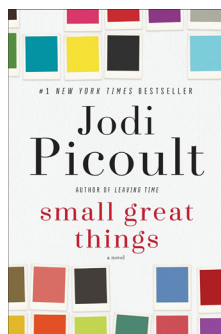
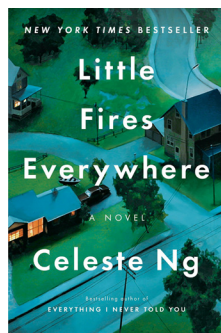
MARCH 3 AND APRIL 7 • 7:30PM
FIREPLACE ROOM

On **March 3** we'll discuss *Little Fires Everywhere*, a novel by Celeste Ng. Please join us. All are welcome!

A review from the Boston Globe: "Delectable and engrossing... A complex and compulsively readable suburban saga that is deeply invested in mothers and daughters... What Ng has written, in this thoroughly entertaining novel, is a pointed and persuasive social critique, teasing out the myriad forms of privilege and predation that stand between so many people and their achievement of the American dream. But there is a heartening optimism, too. This is a book that believes in the transformative powers of art and genuine kindness — and in the promise of new growth, even after devastation, even after everything has turned to ash."

The book for **April 7** is *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult.

Questions: contact Susan Stoehr at s_stoehr@hotmail.com



Volunteer opportunity: Ushering positions

Would you like a simple but important way to contribute to the smooth operation of this church community?

We currently have three usher positions open:

the first Sunday of the month, the second Sunday of the month and the fifth Sunday of the month.

The duties of an usher are: arrive at 10:00AM, light the altar candles, bring out the hearing devices, collection plates, and welcome packets from the usher closet. After setup, remain near the entrance to welcome people and hand out bulletins. During the service, hand out welcome packets to visitors and assist with plate collection. After the service, pick up papers left behind and blow out candles.

There is also the position of Usher Captain who maintains an email list and phone numbers of ushers and also coordinates with Pastors for holidays. They fill open usher spots when they come available. This person does not need to be an usher to do this job—only to know what the duties of an usher are.

Being an usher is a great opportunity to meet people while serving our community. If you are interested, please contact Tracy Fallon at tdfallon@gmail.com, or contact the Church Office and they will put you in touch with me. Thank you.



Intergenerational Mardi Gras/Pancake Tuesday Celebration!

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

6:00-8:00PM

A traditional way to prepare for the season of Lent is to have a huge party! To use up our butter and sweets, to dance and to celebrate to prepare for a season that is more inward and introspective. Come out to the church for lots and lots of pancakes, side dishes, fruit and more—plus crafts, face-painting, mask decorating, and even intergenerational salsa dancing! You won't want to miss it!



Please invite your friends, all are welcome. If you can help, please speak with Sheryl Johnson!

Energy, Environmental Justice Ministry update

EEJ (Energy, Environmental Justice) Ministry has been active since our beginning in November 2019. There were two Second Hour sessions in January, “What the Ministry does per the mission statement” and “What we can do as a church and individuals” to promote environmental justice in our world which sorely needs environmental help. On February 8, Rev. Dr. James Antal highlighted an all-faith program entitled *Climate Church, Climate World* (the title also of his acclaimed book) sponsored by our church which included a fascinating panel session of clergy followed by breakout discussion sessions focusing on the responsibility of People of Faith to do justice to Earth as God’s Creation.



Rev. Penny Nixon’s sermon series for Lent is entitled “An Inconvenient Lent”—the theme partly taken from Al Gore’s “An Inconvenient Truth”—focusing on changes necessary for restoring environmental health to the planet Earth. Following the services will be Second Hour discussions open to all. We encourage you to actively participate in what promises to be an important and enlightening spring leading to Easter and later Earth Day celebration. Details to follow.

A note from your treasurer

by Veril Phillips

Our beloved community amazes me in our collective generosity. We know that many in our midst are suffering financially, especially with the high cost of housing on the Peninsula. Nevertheless, those who have benefitted from a strong economy and bullish stock market have been very generous in 2019 and promise to repeat that generosity in 2020. For that we are so, so grateful.



We ended 2019 with more revenue than expenses by a little more than \$58,000, partly because of a banner December when we received more than \$88,000 in pledge payments. This is nearly double the average of the first eleven months of 2019. Please know that some of the surplus is being set aside for such things as maintaining our aging buildings, replenishing funds borrowed from the endowment, providing a cushion for the deficit in the approved budget for 2020, expenses to provide sanctuary for David and Byron, a donation to the UCC Pension Fund (for retired ministers with no or limited pension), and one-time bonuses for our clergy and other staff.

As for 2020, the congregation adopted an ambitious goal of \$620,000 in pledges for the year. We’re delighted to report that we have 206 pledging units who have brought us to within \$114 of that goal. (The mathematician in me points out that this is 99.98% of our ambitious goal. Most people would say we reached it!!)

Please know that the annual report, currently being drafted, will provide more detail about 2019 finances. Meanwhile, for more information, please feel free to contact me at veril.phillips@gmail.com or 650.393.9561.

Thank you again for believing in and generously supporting the mission, vision, and guiding principles of the Congregational Church of San Mateo. I am proud to serve such a committed community.

February Flashback

Fifty years ago, our church hosted an evening presentation by two American Indians who spoke about the Alcatraz occupation. The occupation lasted 19 months from Nov. 20, 1969 to June 11, 1971. The purpose was to heighten awareness of American Indian oppression. The Pine Tree invited members to the event and said, “We have read a great deal about Alcatraz, but this does not give us a clear picture of the condition of the American Indians.” The invitation went on to say, “It is hoped that this meeting will give us an opportunity to become informed on a first-hand basis.”



Joys and Concerns

CCSM Pastoral Care Team

Please share your prayers with the pastoral care team: Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon, Rev. Jorge Bautista, Rev. Sheryl Johnson, and Kelly Colwell. 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 cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org or call 650-343-3694, and Chase will make sure one of the pastors contacts you as soon as possible.

PRAYERS OF JOY AND GRATITUDE

Prayers of joy for the birth of **Maya Bianco Rey**, born on February 2 to **Kim and Javi Rey!** They are so blessed with this



bundle of delight, as are Maya's grandparents, **Peter and Gail Held**.

Annette Daniels extends her gratitude to the congregation for their many prayers and expressions of care and concern during her recent cancer diagnosis and subsequent surgery. The post-surgical pathology report was stellar and she is now cancer-free.

Prayers of gratitude for all the many years that **Jay Cornwall's** Pasta Pasta served delicious food and provided a friendly and relationship-centered community business. Gratitude for all the meals served to the community and to members of the CCSM family. Best wishes for Jay as he closes up shop and prayers for the next phase of his journey. May the generosity he so lovingly displayed return to him tenfold in the coming years.

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Martha Imai passed away on January 15 at her home at the Peninsula Regent where she had just been placed on hospice. She was her cheerful and gracious self to the end. Martha would have been 105 in April and lived a long and interesting life. She was officially a member of CCSM for 73 years, but actually longer, as she participated in church school here as a child, long before CCSM sought

to help the Japanese-American community through the dark time of internment during WWII. A memorial service will be held at CCSM on **March 1 at 2:00 PM**.

Prayers of love and strength for **Imelda Rosa** (our custodian **Oscar's** wife), whose mother, **Maria Marcella Alborado**, passed away on January 14 in El Salvador after a lengthy illness.

Prayers of love and strength for **Lee Mullery** whose sister, **Susie Voelkel**, passed away in Indiana in the early morning of January 23.

Edwin Howard, wife of **Nancy Howard**, passed away in Modesto on January 1 after a lengthy illness. His father, also **Edwin Howard**, was CCSM's minister from 1958-61.

Dave Chandler's father, **Sam Chandler**, passed away January 27. Prayers of love and strength for Dave and the whole family.

Prayers for the family of Michael Pace, Jay Cornwall's brother-in-law who passed away suddenly and unexpectedly.

Prayers for the family of **Deanna Riding's** neighbor who passed away from Bulbar Palsy (similar to ALS).

PRAYERS OF SUPPORT AND HEALING

Bill Melis fell and broke his leg recently. Prayers for healing and quick recovery.

Prayers for **George Parker** who was in the hospital with pneumonia. He is recovering well and returned home.

Continued prayers of healing for **Barbara Mollison**, who was in the hospital last month.

Sue Bullis has been having health issues and needing prayer.

Chuck Brown now has a diagnosis and is receiving excellent

care. There is a long road ahead but things are more hopeful. He fell about 18 months ago and is unable to perform usual activities and self-care. Prayers also for **Joan** in this difficult time.

Prayers of healing for **Alice Morison** who had spine surgery on January 29. She is recovering well at home.

Please pray for **Dorie**, friend of **Sharon Tobin** and **Genel Morgan**, who has been fighting cancer for many years and recently had some painful procedures.

Prayers for **Mary, Robin Hansen's** mother, continuing to struggle with memory issues, and prayers of support for **Robin** and **Rolf** as well.

Prayers of healing for **Louisa**, for **Rebecca Ruedy**, diagnosed with walking pneumonia, for **Nancy Patterson**, also home with pneumonia, and for **Rosemarie Pero**, still getting over post-travel ills (though she had a wonderful trip to Vietnam).

Mary D'Anna had surgery on Feb 10. Prayers for a speedy recovery.

Continuing prayers of strength and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters: **Dave McClure, Martha Grannis, Dr. Jim Groundwater** and family, **Bill Daniels, Ruth Black, Marjorie Griffin, Thelma Kromhout, Adrienne Mitchell, Genevieve and John Parsons, Fred Petri, Rev. Travis Woodmansee's** mother **Cathy, Melanie Dresbach's** brother **Rev. Michael Dresbach, Mike and Kay Harris' friend Mary Helen McMahan, Cathy Latta, Genel Morgan's** friends **Marty and Steve, Dottie Scott, Veril Phillips' granddaughter Eva**, and others as they walk their unique journeys with cancer and other health challenges.



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FEBRUARY 26, 7:00PM KLOSS HALL

Our Wednesday Gathering, CCSM's Spanish service, hosts this special bilingual Ash Wednesday service which will include communion and the imposition of ashes. Please come and join together in worship and reflection. A meal will follow.

CCSM PINE TREE

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

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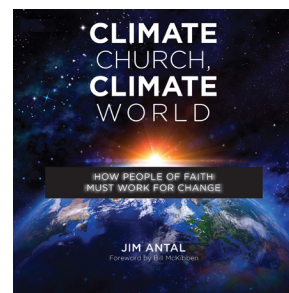
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Climate Church, Climate World

This Lent, we're taking on a congregational reading project! We're all invited to read *Climate Church, Climate World*, by Rev. Jim Antal, who works with the UCC developing resources to equip churches taking on climate change and environmental justice.



Here's a taster from the book's website: "*Climate Church, Climate World* argues that climate change is the greatest moral challenge humanity has ever faced; it multiplies all forms of global social injustice: hunger, refugees, poverty, inequality, deadly viruses, war. Environmental leader Rev. Jim Antal presents a compelling case that it's time for the church to meet this moral challenge, just as the church addressed previous moral challenges... so that future generations might live in harmony with God's creation. After describing how we have created the dangers our planet now faces, Antal urges the church to embrace a new vocation, one focused on collective salvation and an expanded understanding of the Golden Rule (Golden Rule 2.0). He suggests ways people of faith can reorient what they prize through new approaches to worship, preaching, witnessing, and other spiritual practices that honor creation and cultivate hope."

You're invited to read this book during Lent to enrich your reflection and support your journey. **To purchase a copy for 30% off**, buy it direct from the publisher at tinyurl.com/Antal-30 and use the promo code **RLFANDF30**.