



Sundays in Lent

Lent 3 • March 15: SERVICE BROADCAST ON FACEBOOK ONLY. *From Generation to Generation.* Penny Nixon. **See special message on page 3.**

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.



Rabbi David Rosen with Penny Nixon and other interfaith leaders at the recent forum held at Congregation Beth Jacob to discuss efforts towards reconciliation and interfaith relations.

The Morality of Affirmation



We are two weeks into an “Inconvenient Lent” exploring our moral and faithful response to the climate crisis. I’ve done my best to communicate that in the midst of the climate crisis we are called to resilience, engagement and faithfulness. The deeper I have delved into this subject, the more excited I become about the opportunities and possibilities for finding new ways to live on the planet together. In addition to Jim Antal’s book on Climate Church, Climate World (which I hope you will read), I’ve been rereading Kathleen Moore’s book *Great Tide Rising*. She distinguishes between the morality of prohibition and the morality of affirmation. “There’s something repellent about an ethic based on prohibitions—thou shalt not, and if you do, and of course you will, you are bad, which of course you are.”

That’s certainly the morality drilled into my mind as a child raised in a conservative Christian environment. But Moore offers a different morality – the morality of affirmation. “The morality of affirmation is a soaring invitation to affirm what you believe is good and just and beautiful and right, and to align your life to those values.” When she teaches about the climate ethics she asks people, What do you care about most? What would you be willing to spend your whole life taking care of? What follows from the fact that you hold these values? If you value this more than anything else, what will you do, or never do? How might you make that value evident and real and powerful in your life?

I am captivated by this idea of the morality

—cont. on p. 4—



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

youth news...

The season of Lent is often a time of simplicity, of commitment and re-commitment, of intentional living, and of introspection. When speaking with the youth about Lent, many saw connections between Lent and the New Year—a time to make resolutions, to get back to regular life after the holidays, and to try to live into better versions of ourselves. This led to a good conversation about New Year’s Eve and Mardi Gras—how both can be a chance to have one last party before that new season, to stay up late one more time, to use up the things we don’t want to have around tempting us!

On February 25 we had a great Mardi Gras party at church—people of all ages, from the English and Spanish services, newcomers and long-time CCSM attendees joined together for an evening of feasting, crafting, face painting, and dancing! This year we were privileged to have a salsa dance instructor with us to teach some steps and bring even more festive energy to the party. It was a lovely evening—thanks so much to everyone who attended!

As we enter into the season of Lent, the youth and kids are also focusing on the many connections

between this season and living more sustainably with the Earth. We have several biking workshops and bike rides for youth and adults led by Camille Grant and we will have a workshop on eating sustainably led by Audrey Abrams. The kids made a box to place in symbols of what people might experiment with “giving up” for Lent in order to live more sustainably. Everyone is invited to consider what they might bring in and commit to doing over this season!

We have also just added a new leader to our children and youth team! Laura Keating is a Pacific School of Religion student with a lot of great youth ministry experience. She will be focusing primarily on serving our middle and high school youth. Please join me in helping welcome her to CCSM.

On Easter Sunday we will be having a special 8am service with youth-led reflections on the resurrection of Christ and of the Earth. All are welcome! We will add flowers to the cross, sing, pray, and gather together. Hope to see you then!

— Sheryl



Volunteering at a local meal program



Baking with Libby Barnard



Youth make sandwiches for Open Cathedral

From Penny: A Faithful Response to the Coronavirus

Dear beloved community,

I want to speak directly to you as your pastor.

We are living in an unprecedented time and anxieties are running high. The COVID-19 outbreak has many of us on edge and uncertain about what information to trust, and how to be responsible without being alarmist. In times like these, we need our spiritual community more than ever. Church is a place to find healing and solace, a place to gather and a place to be called to just and compassionate action.

One of the things that makes CCSM so special is all the ways that we care for each other and that we care for the broader community. It is in that spirit that I am informing you that this Sunday we will NOT gather together, but we will have a service that is broadcast live on Facebook. I have not come to this lightly—in fact in ALL my years of ministry I have never cancelled a service—but have arrived at this difficult decision by being in conversation with our CCSM moderator and with staff, by dialoguing with county health officials and clergy colleagues, and by trusting the spirit's guidance in thought and prayer over this.

I know how much we need each other. In fact, one of the hidden blessings in all of this is the reminder of how important it is that we gather together in person. When we are not able to do that, something central to our humanity, and to our faith, is missing. However, it is because we love and care for each other that we are called to be responsible for each other's care and well-being. Our CCSM sanctuary is a safe place, and we want to ensure that it is safe. We do not want to be a place where anyone is exposed to the virus. **We are taking every precaution, not because we are afraid, but because we want to protect those who are vulnerable.**

So, to clarify again, **BOTH IN-PERSON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY SERVICES ARE CANCELLED.** The Sunday service will be broadcast online at our regular time at 10:30 a.m. on our [Facebook page \(facebook.com/CCSM.UCC\)](https://www.facebook.com/CCSM.UCC). In addition, please look for a video message from me on Wednesday; that will give you a practice run for tuning in on Sunday morning. I will send a reminder on Saturday evening.

For now, we will be suspending all in person pastoral care visits. We want to be in close touch with you, so please call or email us and we will respond promptly.

Here is an excerpt from San Mateo County Health Office:

Our lives will be significantly disrupted by the measures needed to respond to a global pandemic. A pandemic is a global occurrence of an infectious disease. A pandemic is a disaster with unique characteristics. The two most important differences between a pandemic and other disasters are that the whole world is going through this disaster at the same time, and people may become fearful of other people. The current COVID-19 outbreak clearly has the potential to turn into a severe pandemic.

County Health continues to work with the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and our state and local partners to manage testing and monitoring of persons who have been exposed to COVID-19. But our focus is rapidly changing from a containment strategy (identifying cases and contacts) to one of community mitigation—taking steps to lessen the broad impact of

the disease. County Health and our public and private partners are taking steps to increase our ability to respond and are planning for a sustained response to COVID-19.

All non-essential gatherings should be canceled, postponed, or done remotely. Unfortunately, at this time, I have no standard definition of "non-essential" or "gathering" to guide your decisions. Use your best judgment.

Stop shaking hands.

Increase in the amount of remote working or teleworking to the extent possible especially for those who appear at higher risk for developing the disease, those over the age of 60 and those with compromised immune systems.

Under all circumstances, stop touching your face, eyes, nose, or mouth with your unwashed hands.

We here at CCSM want to be a vital aspect of the community mitigation and do our part to lessen the impact of the virus.

What can you do for yourself spiritually during this time? I invite you to continue to practice gratitude for all the blessings we do have; to pray for the most vulnerable in the community; to pray for wisdom for our leaders at the national, regional and local levels; to take time to breathe deeply and to remember that the power of love casts out fear; to value the preciousness of life; to remember that you are not alone and that you have a faith community loving you and praying for you.

The psalmist left us these timeless words:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

"Be still, and know that I am God!"

And lastly, since "wash your hands" has become the clarion call these days, here is an excerpt about turning the washing of hands into a spiritual practice:

We are humans relearning to wash our hands.

Washing our hands is an act of love

Washing our hands is an act of care

Washing our hands is an act that puts the hypervigilant body at ease

Washing our hands helps us return to ourselves by washing away what does not serve.

Wash your hands like you are washing the only teacup left that your great grandmother carried across the ocean, like this water is poured from a jug your best friend just carried for three miles from the spring they had to climb a mountain to reach.

Like water is a precious resource made from time and miracle.

—Dori Midnight

May the peace that passes all understanding keep your hearts and mind centered on love,

Penny



The Morality of Affirmation

—cont. from page 1—

of affirmation. I often end my prayers with “in the name of all that is good and right and just...” because I want my prayers, and my life, to be in alignment with those things. And I am finding myself, each day now, examining my choices by asking (and hopefully affirming) is this right and good and just for the earth, for our planet?

This Lent I pray that we die to some of the ways that the morality of prohibition has kept us from living our values and that we rise in morality of affirmation and embrace life-giving changes that help turn the tide back to sustainable life together.

Peace,
Penny

Climate Change and Imagination

by Phil Porter

I have been traveling to Australia for many years to teach during the month of January, which is their summer. This year it was powerful and disturbing to be there in the midst of the fires that ravaged great swaths of the country. Although I never saw fires directly, they were around us in the three cities where I taught. On several days smoke was heavy in the air. The experience was yet another sign of what is in store for us as the climate changes.



I believe that imagination is crucial to our ability to deal with the climate crisis. We must be witness to the challenging signs of dramatic change, even when we aren't experiencing them directly. We must be able to project into the future likely outcomes based on what we are seeing. We must be able to see in our mind's eye how we can address these problems, even coming up with solutions that don't currently exist.

The ability to imagine is a skill that can be practiced. Imagine what isn't yet there, dream dreams of how you might act. See visions of solutions that we might all work toward. Practice imagination that leads toward hope rather than toward fear, because, God knows, we can think up lots of scary stuff. This God-given ability may be a crucial tool for us as we seek to create a new future.

SECOND HOUR

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



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

March 22: Tips for making yourself healthy and strong in order to deal with environmental impacts (facilitated by Martha Bronitsky, Stewardship Ministry Lead)

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

CCSM's Climate Change Journey Inaugurated

by Gary White—Climate Reality Leader & Leader, Extinction Rebellion San Mateo

CCSM started on its climate change journey at 10AM on Saturday, February 8, when Rev. Jim Antal, UCC minister and author of the book *Climate Church, Climate World*, came to remind us that we as a spiritual community must take action to become more sustainable in our church and at home, and to become a loud voice for social change.

A crowd of 140 church and greater community members were on hand to hear Jim speak about the climate crisis and to moderate a panel of religious leaders. They discussed the challenges of adopting a stronger church commitment to address the crisis.

The assembly of attendees also had the opportunity to attend a breakout group discussion after lunch with fellow clergy, climate leaders sharing ideas on lowering the demand for fossil fuels, or leaders on the urgency of steps needed to be taken to reduce the supply of fossil fuels.

After this special program, many attendees indicated how stimulating, informative, and motivating the 4-hour climate program was to them. There were calls for us to conduct a follow-up multi-faith climate program in the near future to build upon the foundation laid on Feb 8.



Jim's talk was recorded and can be viewed on the [CCSM website](#) or on [Youtube](#) or at tinyurl.com/CCSM-Antal

Palms for Palm Sunday

All are invited to bring in palm fronds from your yards to be blessed and waved on Palm Sunday



GREEN: A BANNER WORKSHOP

SAT., MARCH 21 • 9:00AM - 1:00PM
KLOSS HALL

Artist-in-Residence Phil Porter invites you to take part in a workshop to create a visual installation for Easter Sunday using our environmental Lenten theme “An Inconvenient Lent.” The installation will celebrate the amazing number of shades of green in the natural world. We will explore some of the basic elements of color mixing, creating a full palette of greens, and then paint some elements that will later be assembled into a set of banners for the sanctuary.



Come explore the possibilities whether you think of yourself as a visual artist or not! Come play! Supplies will be provided. Wear something that you wouldn't mind getting paint on.

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 two usher positions open: the first Sunday of the month, the other is the fifth Sunday of the month (which only happens four times a year).



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.

MUSIC NOTES

by Lynnelle Bilsey

This Lenten Season brings a number of special musical guests to CCSM, and each brings something a little different to our explorations of an “Inconvenient Lent.” Here’s a list of upcoming guests:

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 Jeanette Sacco-Belli, Native American Flutist sharing two original compositions

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 Bella Voce, Women’s Choir

SUNDAY, APRIL 5 Joyful Noise Children’s Choir with Chancel Choir

Special music will also be shared at the Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Services.

CCSM MUSIC MINISTRY CONCERTS

MARCH 21 & 22 MASTERWORKS CONCERTS POSTPONED

MARCH 28 2:00-4:00PM • Jr. Bach Recital 2 - 4 pm - Angela Kraft Cross, President of the Jr. Bach Society 2019-20 season hosts young pianists and organists from around the Bay Area, including several of Angela’s students.

APRIL 19 3:00PM • EARTH DAY Concert with Jeanette Sacco-Belli, Native American Flutist

MAY 3 3:00PM • Angela Kraft Cross, pianist, with the Saratoga Symphony

MAY 17 27th Annual Organ Recital and Reception with Angela Kraft Cross



From Jorge: A MESOAMERICAN RE-DISCOVERY

In 2016 when my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, I was stunned. The entire year for my mother was consumed by treatment, chemotherapy, and emotion. I became her caretaker. I took my mom to most of her appointments (my aunt helped me out a lot and would take her as well). I took careful notes on what the cancer doctor told us. I did the shopping and cooked for my mother. Since my mom was always, and still is, the cook for our family, the whole world felt upside down for her. She was completely depleted.

I turned to research at this point in life, to think about exactly what my mom ate and what I ate. My research led me to some interesting findings about

WHAT IF THE DIET OF RURAL MEXICO AND CENTRAL AMERICA, A DIET THAT IS ANCESTRAL AND PLANT-BASED, WAS PROTECTING FOLKS FROM THE DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH LIFE IN THE U.S., SUCH AS DIABETES, HEART DISEASE, AND SOME CANCERS?

breast cancer in Latinx communities. First, I found that Mexico has some of the lowest rates of breast cancer in the world. Second, a study published in 2005 found that breast cancer rates among immigrant Latinas in the Bay Area were significantly lower than US-born Latinas—but the longer Latina immigrants lived in the US, their risk for developing breast cancer increased. Also, curiously, learning English was associated with a higher risk of breast cancer among the immigrant women. I started wondering what accounted for these differences. Something in the US, something about acculturating to US culture, contributed to these increased breast cancer rates. As I continued my research, I learned that these statistics were also true for many other diseases and health concerns.

That's when a light went on for me.

What if the diet of rural Mexico and Central America, a diet that is ancestral and plant-based (beans, corn, squash, wild greens, nopales [prickly pear cactus], fresh fruit, nuts, and seeds) was protecting folks from the diseases associated with life in the US, such as diabetes, heart disease, and some cancers?

With this new theory, I started to research the health benefits of certain ancestral Mexican and Central American food. I started to pay more attention to the Mesoamerican diet that I mostly grew up with, and discovered that foods from the pre-Hispanic era (before colonization) were among the healthiest foods on the planet, and that many of

the less healthy aspects of Mesoamerican cuisine came about as a direct result of colonization—the introduction of wheat, beef, cheese, cooking oils, and sugar. Before colonization, Mesoamerican food was steamed, grilled, or cooked on a clay skillet known as comal. Meat was eaten only in small quantities. My ancestors gathered and ate wild herbs and greens. They cultivated hundreds of different varieties of beans, squash, and corn, not just the few varieties available at most grocery stores. In terms of corn, in particular, my ancestors created a rich and sustaining cuisine that included yellow, white, red, blue, and black corn, made tamales, tacos, atoles, tlacoyos, and more.

Thus began my quest to change my diet. This hasn't been easy, because one of my goals, since watching my mom go through everything she went through, was to become vegetarian; yet I still find myself eating meat, but not as much as before. But as we began our Lenten journey together reckoning with climate change, what Rev. Penny and Audrey Abrams had to say inspired me once again to try and become vegetarian. Audrey was not part of the service, but afterwards she asked if she could practice a speech that she will give at the Youth Climate Action Summit in San Jose. She talked about how being vegan is a great way to protect our environment. As I listened, I realized more and more how I need to get to a place where I am not consuming meat any longer. Seeing my mom fight breast cancer and hearing from Audrey reminds me that not eating meat (even if not 100% vegan) is not only improving our health but the environment as well.

For me, this start of our Lenten season thinking together about our response to climate change is not about fear and anxiety, but is being replaced with gratitude, the connections to Mother Earth, to my ancestors, to ancestral knowledge, to my own spirits, and to the new life all of us are trying to build together for a better world.

Peace and Blessings!

Jorge



March Collection

TOYS, GAMES, PUZZLES, AND ART SUPPLIES

Our March monthly collection will be for CORA: Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse. CORA is local, headquartered in San Mateo. It is the only agency in San Mateo county solely dedicated to helping those affected by intimate partner abuse. Services provided include a 24-hour support hotline, emergency safe houses, legal services, individual and family counseling, after school art and enrichment programs and parental support groups, among others.

We will be collecting toys/games/puzzles and art supplies for the children's art and enrichment programs. Anyone not wanting to shop can donate \$5 Target cards.



Blanketeers Turn 20 in 2020!

Over the last 20 years Blanketeers have given warmth and love to close to 1000 people! We started with the Linus Project for kids in the hospital. Currently we're more local—everyone who comes through Home and Hope, Veterans and residents of the Vendome AND our CCSM Adopt-A-Families! Now in 2020 we need some new "hands" helping to sew up all this love!



The Blanketeers work on a quilt in 2005

Our next meeting will be **Saturday, April 11 from 1-3 pm in the Buckham Room**. If you can run a sewing machine (or are willing to learn) or if your joy is hand sewing (labels and making the bindings look great) we can use your help. Contact Lani Leydig, Pam Riddlehuber, or Linda Skromme. We're all in the directory!

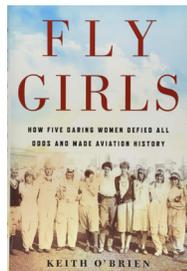
First Tuesday Book Group

APRIL 7 AND MAY 5 • 7:30PM-9:00PM
FIREPLACE ROOM

The book for **April 7** is *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. An African-American labor/delivery nurse in charge of newborns at a Connecticut hospital is ordered not to touch the baby of a white supremacist couple. When the baby dies in her care, she is charged with murder. The story is told from the complex multiple racial perspectives of the principal characters: the nurse Ruth, the white supremacist father of the baby, and Ruth's lawyer.



May 5: *Fly Girls: How Five Daring Women Defied All Odds and Made Aviation History* by Keith O'Brien, celebrates a quintet advocating "women's suffrage of the sky," explaining how Amelia Earhart, Ruth Nichols, Louise Thaden, Ruth Elder, and Florence Klingensmith made aviation history a decade after the Nineteenth Amendment lifted American women from second-class citizenship. Together, they fought for the chance to fly and race airplanes—and in 1936, one of them would triumph, beating the men in the toughest air race of them all.



Questions: contact Susan Stoehr at s_stoehr@hotmail.com.

March Flashback

The environment has long been a concern of the members of CCSM as noted in an April 11, 1970 Pine Tree. An article in that issue invites members to attend a symposium called "MAN AND YOUR ENVIRONMENT." The daylong event featured nine "prominent specialists speaking on various aspects of environmental problems"



The article goes on to say: "An ecological point of view is a new way of looking at the world, with man inseparable from his surroundings. This way does not come easily to us, because for most of our history man has been working against nature rather than with it. The old way of looking at things no longer works, and our past mistakes are catching up with us. A new age has come, and our survival depends upon creating a balanced ecological system on the earth."

Fifty years later, CCSM is once again focusing on the environment and climate with new urgency.

CCSM Honored by Samaritan House

Samaritan House honored The Congregational Church of San Mateo at its annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner on March 4 with a Volunteer Excellence Award for Outstanding Community Group Partner Support in 2019. Samaritan House also awarded Angela Kraft Cross a Volunteer Excellence Award for Outstanding Redwood City Medical Clinic Support in 2019 - Physician. Angela volunteers as an ophthalmologist at both the Redwood City and San Mateo clinics of Samaritan House.



Left to right: Angela Kraft Cross, Joe Goethals, Mayor of San Mateo; Bart Charlow, CEO of Samaritan House; Jim Granucci representing CCSM.

NAACP
San Mateo Branch

94TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
HERBY DAWKINS FREEDOM FUND BANQUET

DEFINING. DEMANDING. DEFENDING.

EQUALITY

SUNDAY
MARCH 29, 2020

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Judge Charles E. Wilson II

HONORED GUEST SPEAKER
Congresswoman Jackie Speier

ACCLAIMED JAZZ DUO
Tuck & Patti

Penny receives the NAACP Humanitarian Award

SUNDAY, MARCH 29
3:00PM RECEPTION • 4:00PM PROGRAM
CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL, FOSTER CITY

The NAACP San Mateo Branch has selected Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon to receive the Humanitarian Award. This award is given to an individual who has reached the highest levels of making a positive impact in the community in a number of areas. We have noted her outstanding work in the area of LGBTIQ rights, immigration and housing justice to name a few.

The Humanitarian Award will be presented at the 94th Annual Herby Dawkins Freedom Fund Banquet. Keynote speaker is Judge Charles E. Wilson II, and honored guest speaker is Congresswoman Jackie Speier. Entertainment will be the acclaimed jazz duo Tuck & Patti. Additional info and tickets can be found at tinyurl.com/NAACP-2020

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

The following parties from our Pick-A-Party fundraiser have openings.

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

MARCH 29 • CLIMATE CHANGE PRESENTATION AND MINI GREENHOUSE

2:00 - 4:00PM • \$15/PERSON, \$35 MAX PER FAMILY

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.

Sandra is passionate about educating youth on climate change through science, art, and storytelling. She is an educator and an artist, and was trained by Al Gore as a Climate Change Reality Project Trainee, along with thousands of other people from around the world.

SURPRISE: This event may have special guests... some local children who are suing the US government on climate change policies.



MAY 2 • KENTUCKY DERBY GARDEN PARTY

2:30PM • \$40/PERSON

The Kentucky Derby is often referred to as the “best two minutes in sports.” Join Mike and Sue in their garden for an afternoon of big hats, mint juleps, and bountiful Southern delicacies. Post time for the “Run for the Roses” is 3:59 p.m. Just prior we’ll gather around the TV to sing My Old Kentucky Home as the horses parade the track and then rowdily cheer on our favorite thoroughbred horses. Ladies are encouraged to wear a Derby-style hat.

Hiking Our Way Through the Seasons

The CCSM 20s/30s group, spearheaded by Shannon McEntee, has taken up the challenge of hiking together every month in 2020. In January we hiked at Rancho Canada de Oro preserve south of San Jose. In February we birdwatched and hiked at Bair Island wetland. We've enjoyed stretching our legs, getting to know each other better, and appreciating the beauty of our ecosystem here in the Bay Area.

In March, our hike will be Uvas Canyon on **Sunday, March 15:** waterfalls, wildflowers, and good company. Because it's a popular hike with limited parking, we have to get a permit to hike there! So please let Rev. Kelly know (kcolwell@ccsm-ucc.org) if you're planning to come so she can arrange enough permits!

As always, 20s/30s events are not just for people in that precise age range, but people who are longing to connect more deeply. We don't check IDs!



Some members of the 20s/30s group hiking their way into friendship

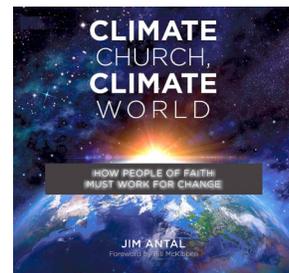
POSTPONED

music & art

Due to Coronavirus precautions, the 3-20-2020 Music & Art gathering with Julie Berk will be rescheduled for a future date.

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.



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**. Also, 25 copies of the book have been ordered, and when they arrive, members of the EEJ will be selling them in the Narthex after worship. Watch for more announcements.

"It is possible to have a new kind of world, a world where there will be more compassion, more gentleness, more caring, more laughter, more joy for all of God's creation, because that is God's dream. And God says, Help me, help me, help me realize my dream."

—Archbishop Desmond Tutu



Violins of Hope brought their music of healing to CCSM on January 26, on violins once played by Jews in concentration camps in the Holocaust. It was a powerful and moving event.



Holy Week and Easter

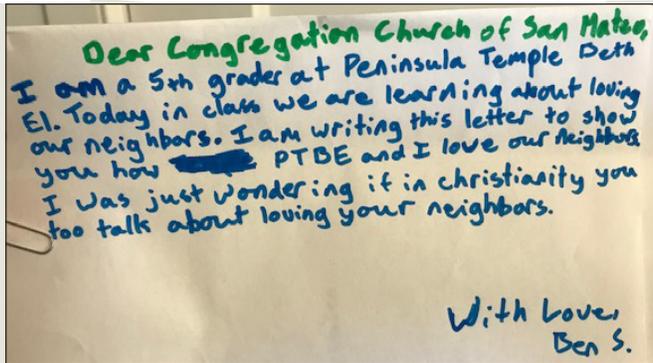
April 9: Holy Thursday Service, 7:00pm. Contemplative Taize style service with music and readings, led by Lynnelle Bilsey.

April 10: Good Friday observance 12:45pm, sponsored by Music & Art. Special organ music by Angela Kraft Cross interspersed with readings by members. All are welcome.

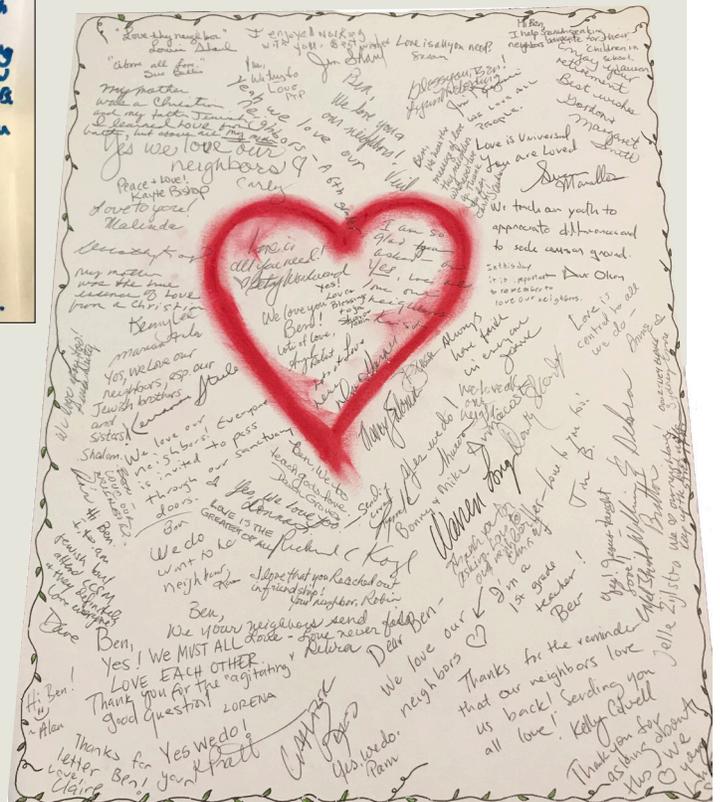
Community Good Friday Worship Service, 7:00pm: *The Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross.* Rev. Jorge Bautista and our chancel choir will represent CCSM this year at what has become our annual ecumenical service. Last year was particularly powerful—so a service well worth attending. This year the service will take place at Trinity Baptist Church, 39 E. 39th Ave, San Mateo.

April 12: Early Easter Service, 8:00am in the Memorial Garden: A special service with youth-led reflections on the resurrection of Christ and of the Earth. It will be a special time with youth who attend on both Wednesday and Sunday offering leadership. This service will connect to our Lenten focus on climate change with stories of new life and transformative hope. We will add flowers to the cross, sing, pray, reflect, and gather together in a smaller community. All are welcome!

April 12: Easter Celebration, 10:30am: Our Easter service is always one of the year's highlights. Come early to get a seat and be prepared to experience resurrection!



CCSM received this letter from Ben S., a 5th grader at Peninsula Temple Beth El, wondering if "in Christianity you too talk about loving your neighbors." The church responded by writing the huge card pictured here, which was sent to Ben in hopes of assuring him that yes, we care about loving our neighbors too, including Ben!



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 Rev. 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

Thank you to everyone for your care and concern. **Chuck Brown** is thrilled to be well enough to be able to come back to church.

Prayers of gratitude that **Lisa Nelson**, mother of **Lynnelle Bilsey's** best friend **Kathleen Nelson**, has had a full recovery from surgery and is back home!

Padre Michael Dresbach, **Melanie Dresbach's** brother, is recovering and he hopes to visit CCSM on a Wednesday to show his gratitude to the people of CCSM once he has his strength back.

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Marian Faber's son, **Norman**, passed away unexpectedly on February 25. He received chemo on Monday and came home and all seemed well. He passed away, however, in the night. Please keep Marian in your prayers as she grieves this tragic loss.

PRAYERS OF SUPPORT AND HEALING

Prayers of healing and strength

for **Lynnelle Bilsey**, who has injured some bones in her foot.

Prayers of healing for **George Parker** who has been moved to extended care and is seeing slow but forward progress from his pneumonia. Please pray for **George, Cari**, and family as they work through these challenges.

Healing prayers for both **Robin Hansen** and **Carol Glasmann**, scheduled for surgeries on their shoulders.

Prayers of healing for a number of **Chancel Choir members** experiencing health issues.

Prayers for **Stan Higgs' friend Deborah**, in Intensive Care at Stanford for complications after her heart transplant.

Prayers for healing and strength for **Kirsten Smith's** father-in-law, **Paul Smith**, battling pneumonia and other serious ailments.

Prayers of peace and strength for **Martha, Laura Pierce-McKenzie's** mother, who at 92 was diagnosed with breast cancer; prayers also for Laura and the whole family at this difficult time.

Angela Lee asks for prayer for a

strong spirit and smooth treatment for her sister **Norther Lee**, recently diagnosed with Stage 3 breast cancer.

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

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

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, 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.



My CCSM Family, you have graced my path with such beauty and thoughtfulness as I take my leave and fully retire. Sunday's benedictive blessing followed by an amazing celebration are gifts I will always hold dear. Your generosity is unparalleled and I am indeed grateful for the purse, the meal, the well-wishes, and your many kind words. I have received so much from you during my time at CCSM—I am the better for it. You have supported and nurtured me by your office visits, your conversations, your hugs, and your encouragement. You have inspired me to find my center and live authentically and you have released me with grace to a future of wonder, joy, and surprise. I am humbled by and thankful for the time we have spent together.

Sincerely,
Marge

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Our sanctuary guests David and Byron have been settling in here at CCSM and enjoying time together

CCSM PINE TREE

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

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CCSM Youth and Community Riders

The CCSM Youth and Community Riders kicked off their first event on the Leap Year! Camille Grant, working on her Girl Scout Silver Award, hosted a bike ride (the first of five events) at Sawyer Camp Trail in San Mateo. It was a windy but beautiful day to ride the trail. The long-established CC Riders group was there in full force and we're thankful for that. Peter Held kindly towed one broken bike and its bike rider back to the beginning of the trail. No one was hurt and, unfortunately, we don't have a picture of Peter doing the towing.

Please join us (all ages welcome) for a **Bike Safety talk** with Camille Grant and Tony Gallo at CCSM at **noon on March 22nd**.

