

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 70, #4 | 2021 • ONLINE / FALL REOPENING EDITION



SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS
FALL SERIES 2021:
REIMAGINING AND REBUILDING OUR LIVES

Sept. 12 Rebuilding Community
Sept. 19 Restoring: The Healing Process
Sept. 26 Realigning: Learning What Matters
Oct. 3 Reimagining Jesus

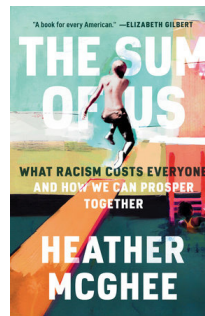
MONDAY EVENING CLASSES ON RACISM RESUME: **THE SUM OF US** FOUR MONDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00PM ON ZOOM SEPTEMBER 20, 27 AND OCTOBER 4, 11

Join Penny for teaching and discussion on *The Sum of Us* by Heather McGhee. Ibram Kendi (*How to Be an Anti-Racist*) says, "This is the book I've been waiting for."

"*The Sum of Us* is a brilliant analysis of how we arrived here: divided and self-destructing, materially rich but spiritually starved and vastly unequal. McGhee marshals economic and sociological research to paint an irrefutable story of racism's costs, but at the heart of the book are the humble stories of people yearning to be part of a better America, including white supremacy's collateral victims: white people themselves. With startling empathy, this heartfelt message from a Black woman to a multiracial America leaves us with a new vision for a future in which we finally realize that life can be more than a zero-sum game." (from the back cover)

Please [register here](#) for the class and you will be sent the reading assignments and the zoom link.

(We will **not** be having Second Hours in person until it is safer to be in a smaller room together so for now, Monday nights will allow more people to participate—we can be online.)



REIMAGINING AND REBUILDING OUR LIVES

As I begin to write this, it has only been two days since we came back—and I still don't have words to express how wonderful it was to worship with people in the sanctuary AND to be online as one community. Many people have told me that they were moved by seeing people there and by hearing people pray and sing.

I hope to see more of you on Homecoming Sunday (September 12) if you are feeling safe—if not, we feel your presence online and know you are with us. This fall I will be doing a sermon series called Reimagining and Rebuilding Our Lives. How do we continue to walk forward, and even find renewal along the way? What sustains us? How do we hold on to a sense of what is whole and true and undamaged, even in the face of loss? How can we learn to move toward each other when we still need to distance from each other? What have we learned about being human, and about being community during this pandemic?

Many of us are still in tremendous anxiety or grief or anger, and exhaustion. But we can experience connection and hope by finding one another and finding our spiritual grounding.

I hope to help lead us this fall into deep conversations and healing—acknowledging what has

[click to continue to p. 3](#)



Congregational
Church of san mateo

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

This summer we have had a special all-ages program once again coordinated by Elaine Kauffman. It has been wonderful to see the kids engaging so well and enjoying the company of one another. We've been doing some very creative crafts, playing thematic games, and reading some wonderful children's books. We've also had kids and youth participate in the UCC's Camp Tamarack's summer programming. Even though it is farther away than Camp Cazadero was, it is a beautiful place and the kids have enjoyed being in an even more rustic camp setting high in the mountains! We've also been preparing for our **post-Confirmation Confirmation Retreat** (postponed due to the pandemic!) which will take place in late August at Westminster Woods Camp in Sonoma. We've also had a few outdoor gatherings for youth and some wonderful 60 Minutes conversations with our highschoolers—most recently we discussed political polarization.

We are eagerly anticipating our fall activities! **On Wednesdays we'll have activities for kids and youth** each week, and also hope to offer some volunteer opportunities again at the Mason Hall meal program. Also **on Wednesdays, Lily Gonzales will provide excellent care—as always—for our youngest kids.** Our kids' program will focus on arts and creative spirituality—and our youth program will be determined in conjunction with the participants. All kids and youth are welcome to attend on both Wednesdays and Sundays!

On Sundays, for our youngest kids (pre-kindergarten) we have creative free play with Lily Gonzales. Our kids in **kindergarten to 2nd grade will participate in Godly Play with Shannon McEntee.** This is a Montessori-based storytelling technique that presents Biblical stories and then allows kids to wonder, reflect, create, and respond through art and play. **Kids in 3rd-5th grades will be focusing on "Holy Troublemakers" with Libby Barnard.** This is a great program developed to highlight the stories of different leaders in the movement of faith and social justice like Martin Luther King Jr., Desmond Tutu, and many more!

For youth, we'll have our **middle school conversation time during the worship service** and then both **middle and high school youth groups meeting after church (alternating weeks).** Programming is still being developed and we'll work with our youth to figure out what we'd like to focus on this year. For our highschoolers, we're hoping we'll have a good group to go to the **UCC's National Youth Event at Purdue in late July 2022.** So this year we will likely do a lot of preparation, fundraising, team-building, etc!

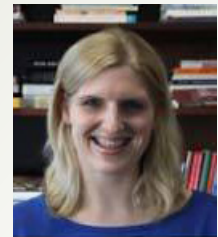
We know that this has been a difficult time for many children, youth, and families. So we encourage you to be in touch with us about how we can best support

you and your family in this time. Are there any programs that you'd be interested in? Volunteer opportunities? Is your child feeling unsure about what program to attend based on their age and interests? Our Wednesday and Sunday programs do not have strict age divisions and we encourage kids to attend the program that makes the most sense to their own development, personality, and so forth. We are happy to work with you to figure out what fit is best—and that can change week to week! For youth especially, we also encourage you to begin to discover your own unique gifts and roles at church. Would you be interested in volunteering with the kids in the nursery? Singing in the choir? Being an usher/greeter? Helping with video and sound? Serving on a committee? There are SO many possibilities and we are happy to help you try some things out!

Sheryl

INTRODUCING EMILY!

We are very excited to introduce our newest staff member, **Emily Czarnik-Neimeyer**, who will be joining us in September! Emily is a recent M.Div graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary who brings a wide variety of experience including hospital chaplaincy, campus ministry, and youth work. Emily will be joining us in a part-time position working to support our Wednesday and Sunday youth programs. She will be working closely with Sheryl and all of our other staff, volunteers, and families. Please introduce yourself to her—she is excited to meet the whole congregation!



Camille and Megan at Mt. Tam Camp

been lost, what we have learned, and how we can move forward together in a whole and integrated way. It is my prayer that we will do our best to keep connected and journey together in this next phase, as uncertain as it may be.

With love and gratitude,

Penny

RISING STRONG

I have received some very positive feedback about the August series, *Rising Strong in Spirit*. **If you haven't listened to the sermons, I invite you to go to [our website](#) and check them out.** They are based on Brené Brown's book *Rising Strong*. The book is well worth a read and would be even more powerful to **read and discuss with others**. Two CCSM groups will read it together: Sisters in Spirit and Spiritual Conversations (see page 8). Join a group for dialogue and fellowship!

Penny

FAMILY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
8AM - NOON, RYDER PARK**

Please consider joining us for the **San Mateo Bayfront Cleanup!** This is a great activity for families to do together (or for youth to do as a group—watch your e-mail for details!). Please [click here](#) for more information and to sign up.



PANDEMIC EXPERIENCES IN FAMILIES

As many of you know, this has been a difficult year and a half for families—especially for those with kids under 12 who are still not eligible to be vaccinated. Troubling reports have also been emerging about the effects of COVID on kids and young people—initially it seemed that kids were not so impacted, but studies as of late show that some kids are getting quite sick. And, like adults, sometimes the symptoms go on for months and are still not well understood. Very young children may struggle to wear masks, and for kids under age 2 they aren't recommended. As anyone who has been around kids knows, kids tend to share all sorts of germs and often play closely with one another. Many kids have struggled with online schooling (even though I've heard that some have enjoyed some aspects too!) and supporting kids' education has been an added strain for parents.

This fall, as many kids do return to in-person school, there are a lot of fears about whether this will be safe or not, and many families are struggling with questions about what activities and possible exposures are worth the added risk. We are hopeful that the vaccine will soon be approved for kids and that this school year will be a safe one. But we do ask that you do pray in particular for all of our kids and families and support them in whatever ways you can.

God of love, we ask for your protection for all of your beloved children. We ask that they be kept safe from illness, free from distress, and confident in themselves. We ask that a way be made so that they can be free to learn, to connect, to grow, and to flourish into their fullest potential. May you protect and strengthen their teachers, bus drivers, janitorial staff, administrators, and all others who do the sacred work of making school possible. May you give parents and caregivers the support they need and the peace of mind that they yearn for.

In baptism, we promise to care for and nurture that child, and all children. In that way, may we all do our part to create a safe and loving community for all of our children. This we pray in the name and the way of Jesus—who came to us as a child. Amen.

Sheryl



There was an article recently in the New York Times: "What We Lose When We Livestream Church" – as you might guess from the title, the author named a number of reasons that the body of Christ wasn't ever meant to be "virtual." If I had read this article 16 months ago, I probably would have shared some of his views. Honestly, in February of 2020, I went into livestreaming with a lot of reservations. Not only was it incredibly hard to do, but it didn't "feel the same." Yet, on the other hand, I was so grateful for technology that allowed us to keep worship alive in our beloved community when we most needed it.

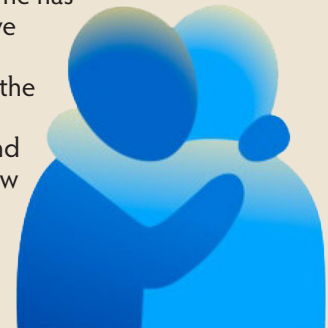
Over the months I have witnessed the power of livestreaming church. It is not a substitute for being in person—it is its own experience. Some people have told me they go back and listen in again to a song or a sermon or a testimony. When people have Sunday morning schedule conflicts, they don't have to miss feeling a part of things and finding the spiritual nurture they need.

I was absolutely thrilled to see people in the sanctuary on Sunday. It was emotional after preaching to an empty sanctuary for so long, empty of people's singing and praying, empty of bodies shuffling papers and saying amen. AND, I was so happy to be livestreaming simultaneously. I FELT the presence of people online in a new way.

From my perspective, more than anything else, livestreaming has become an additional way that CCSM can be inclusive and accessible. I was brought to tears last Sunday (numerous times) when people first sang the hymn, when I heard the Lord's Prayer in unison, when I could hear people laugh and respond at various points in the service. AND I was brought to tears after the service by a text from my best friend who is caring for her dying mother in Atlanta. She was visiting her older brother in a care home—he has advanced MS, struggles with dementia—they both grew up in church, and both have a complicated relationship to church. But they watched they service together—her brother recognized me (we've been friends almost 40 years now), and they sang all the hymns together, he prayed the Lord's Prayer... it was a deeply spiritual experience for them both. His roommate (at the home) is gay—he loaned them his computer and watched with them and afterward said, "I never heard anything like this. I didn't know there was a church that was open like this..."

My best friend and her very ill brother, and his roommate, all had a profound experience of spirit, in community together. I would call that "church."

Penny

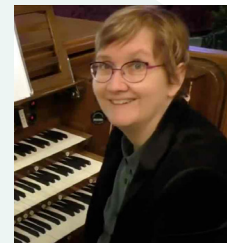


AMAZING WELCOME BACK TO CHURCH!

by Angela Kraft Cross

Along with its hardships, the Covid pandemic has had its share of novelties.... so very strange as a church organist all these decades, to video and turn in my prelude, postlude and hymns ahead of schedule, then have a leisurely start to Sunday morning week after week. I never dreamt that I would become one of the biggest fans of our outdoor services with the upright piano out on the loggia. But I was missing live worship and was amazed how this experience was filling a void inside.

This past Sunday was nothing short of deeply moving as our sanctuary filled with enthusiastically yet cautiously eager friends and family! When the opening hymn actually had real live voices from the congregation, I found myself blinking back tears. Truly we don't understand how deeply precious experiences like live group worship are until they are suspended due to forces out of our control. From the organ console, you all sounded amazing! Welcome Home!



OUR REOPENING EXPERIENCE

by Carol Henton



After being away from morning worship for many months, Doug and I attended church in person on August 8. It was wonderful to be among longtime friends inside the sanctuary. One could tell Penny was uplifted by preaching to an in-person audience, particularly as we called out occasional "Amens" and nodded our heads behind our masked smiles. While we are incredibly grateful for the past year of online services, attending in person was great primarily because it was a more complete and familiar experience. Hearing the organ, listening to a beautiful song by Krystal, and being greeted by so many happy church friends on the lawn afterwards made for a joyous experience.

REOPENING!

CCSM reopened the sanctuary on August 8. We were so excited to welcome you back into the sanctuary and to be in physical community again. We are up to date with the ever-changing guidelines and are coming back incrementally with smaller numbers in August. We are doing our best to keep our communication as simple and clear as possible.

We have been excited to see our CCSM kids at 10:30 on Sundays! Kids should be masked and be dropped off / picked up outdoors in the Memorial Garden, NOT coming to the beginning of the service, for the time being. Our leaders will be masked and are all fully vaccinated.

Those gathered here at 225 will receive this handout on Sunday which outlines all the information needed and the guidelines we will all follow to make the transition easier.

REOPENING GUIDELINES

- The Sanctuary opens at 10:10 am.
- The balcony is closed at this time.
- Please wear your masks at ALL times.
- The pews are roped off to guide you where to sit.
- Please maintain social distance by sitting in the marked, designated spots.
- It may be tempting to scoot over to make room for a newcomer, but we ask that you resist that temptation and maintain distance.
- Avoid saying “It’s ok, we’ve both been vaccinated.” Vaccinated people can become infected and also spread the virus.
- Please ask permission to shake hands and hug.
- Please don’t take offense if someone declines. (We don’t know everyone’s personal circumstance.)
- We will not be passing the collection plates. There are baskets as you exit for your offering.
- Returning to the church may be an emotional experience. If you find you need support, let a staff person know.
- If you feel unwell or think you may have been exposed to the virus, please attend from home online.
- Please visit with friends on the lawn or loggia after the service.
- Our desire is to keep everyone safe by being in alignment with San Mateo County COVID guidelines. We appreciate your help!
- We will be singing with our masks on, so come ready to add your voice—we’ve missed your singing!!!
- We are not asking vaccination status of members but please be assured that all our Sunday staff are fully vaccinated and will be wearing masks except when speaking from the chancel. We know that many of you still feel hesitant about returning in person. Please continue to join in online—we know you’re present with us!



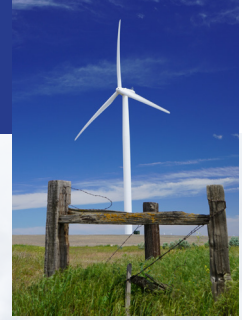
CCSM's second Sunday of reopening, August 15, 2021



Annlee running tech for hybrid service

BECOMING A CLIMATE CHURCH

A NEW COLUMN BY EEJ MINISTRY • VOL. 1, NO. 2



by Gary White

In today's second installment of our ongoing EEJ column, BECOMING A CLIMATE CHURCH, we explore how the intrinsic value of our planet is now being formally recognized. Just last month the United Church of Christ became the first mainline Protestant denomination to publicly affirm and proclaim the rights of nature. In fact, the UCC General Synod voted 518 to 18 to pass such a resolution stating that nature as an entity has intrinsic rights similar to human rights that should be honored and protected.

"What this resolution does," exclaimed a Synod delegate, "is to put our church and its members directly in touch with our moral responsibility and profound gratitude to the Earth and all living beings." UCC Minister of Environmental Justice Brooks Berndt added, "Today we are taking an important step in undoing a centuries-old theology of empire and colonialism...that regards the natural world as something to be exploited and consumed by humans with callous disregard."

So, what does this UCC action mean for us at CCSM? Most importantly it validates and underscores the increasing number of actions our church is taking on its path toward climate consciousness. It reminds us that we must respect the natural world and not take nature for granted. Number two, this action signals the existence of a close alignment between our church's commitment to protect the natural world by addressing climate change and UCC's overarching position toward nature. And number three? While some might say, "What's the big deal by saying nature has rights?" I would argue that formally proclaiming what might seem obvious is actually a very foundational component in our mission to protect nature.

We encourage our readers to send comments and questions about each installment. You can email them to (gwhite2711@gmail.com). Thanks.

SECOND HOUR ON IPCC CLIMATE REPORT

SUNDAY, AUG. 22ND • 12:30PM
(NOTE TIME CHANGE!) ON ZOOM

HUMAN-CAUSED CLIMATE CHANGE? "IT'S UNEQUIVOCAL"

Earlier this month, the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) published its sixth comprehensive report on the latest scientific findings behind climate change. Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, the news is bleak. The hundreds of scientists that worked on the report are now in full agreement that the climate crisis is caused unequivocally by human actions. They specified that we are certain to reach +1.5 degrees (C) and are currently on a trajectory to reach +4 degrees (C) by the end of the century if urgent measures are not taken. This would almost certainly make our planet essentially uninhabitable.

Please join Gary H. White and other members of the Energy & Environmental Justice Ministry to better understand these findings and to learn about the actions that will be necessary to mitigate this pending disaster. Click [HERE](#) for Zoom link.

ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE (EEJ) NEWS

EEJ is pleased to welcome two new members to our team: Rebecca Ruedy-Whelan and Zoe Neil. Both are long-time CCSM members and passionate about environmental issues. Rebecca leads the Sisters in Spirit book group at CCSM. Zoe is a senior at Aragon High School and a long-time member of the CCSM Girl Scouts. She will dedicate her service project for the Girl Scout's elite Gold award by focusing on climate crisis action and helping to "green" CCSM. Stay tuned to learn more about Zoe's exciting project.

We are also pleased to share progress on our project, **"Going Solar at CCSM."** Sandbar Electric, our solar contractor, recently did a site visit with our solar project manager Jim Granucci to take measurements and collect details on the CCSM campus. Sandbar is now preparing documents and engineering plans for our review before submitting them to the City of San Mateo for construction permits. We'll give another update on the project after this phase of engineering design is complete in approximately 6 weeks.

EEJ is starting to discuss potential actions to address CCSM's current water-intensive lawns and landscaping amidst the reality of California's severe drought. Prompting our discussions is the opportunity for CCSM to receive grant money for a garden project aligned with lowering our environmental footprint. We welcome and encourage input and participation by CCSM members who love gardening and have gardening experience to add value to our discussions and potential project. Please contact Warren Long or Sheryl Johnson if you would like to join this team.

CLIMATE CHANGE: CCSM, UCC, AND THE UNITED NATIONS

On July 18, 2021, the United Church of Christ (UCC) became the first mainline Protestant Denomination to publicly affirm and proclaim that nature has rights. Through the deliberative body of the UCC's General Synod which gathered virtually for the first time in the denomination's 64-year history, delegates voted 518 to 18 in passing [a resolution on the rights of nature](#).

What follows in this next section is an excerpt from a daily email I receive from Rev. Cameron Trimble who wrote *Piloting Faith* and is the director of *Convergence*, a learning center for Progressive Christianity:

Many years ago, a brave and prophetic colleague/friend named [Jim Antal](#) began sounding the alarm of climate change. I remember him saying to me, "Cameron, if faith leaders don't start speaking about the damage we are causing our planet, then we will reach a point when all we will ever talk about is grief."

I thought I understood what he was saying. I realize now that I had no idea.

[This week] the U.N. climate panel released its [most comprehensive assessment of climate change yet](#). Calling the report "Code Red for Humanity," researchers and scientists are clear: we are in trouble. They wrote, "Many changes due to past and future greenhouse gas emissions are irreversible for centuries to millennia, especially changes in the ocean, ice sheets and global sea level." While we must stay on course to lower our CO2 levels and other pollutants, we must also acknowledge that we have passed a point of no return. We have fundamentally changed the quality of life for every living creature on earth.

Here are the highlights:

1. Humans are to blame for the warming of the planet. No debate.
2. Temperatures are going to continue to rise.
3. The weather is becoming more extreme.
4. The icecaps are disappearing. Arctic summers could be free of snow.
5. Seas are rising, and nothing we do will stop them.

They then highlight several possible futures for the world, none of which are ones we wish for our grand-

I thank God that CCSM is a climate church. And here is Jim Antal's definition of a climate church:

In covenant with God, for all time, with all creatures, and with the earth (Genesis 9), a climate church is:

- ◆ responsive to God's call;
- ◆ informed by the realities of the newest science;
- ◆ persistently focused on the common good, collective salvation, "Golden Rule 2.0" (future generations as neighbors) and living out the love and justice of Jesus;
- ◆ washed in the wonder of creation;
- ◆ driven by prophetic imagination;
- ◆ humbly unafraid to initiate a moral intervention to hasten a just transition to a sustainable economy that honors the interdependence of all creation;
- ◆ unreserved in its use of all its gifts and assets to help build a more resilient community;
- ◆ and prayerfully courageous to make use of its collective power to re-shape our personal stories and animate the conscience of the nation as we join with people the world over to restore God's glorious gift of creation.

We must do our part, now more than ever.

Penny

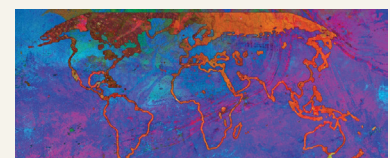
children. After reading the report's summary (the actual report is over 3,000 pages long), I went outside to sit by the trees at the shoreline of our lake. It was a beautiful day. The fish were jumping. The breeze was cool on my face. The ducks swam over to offer their greeting.

"I'm so sorry," I whispered to all of them. "I'm so heartbreakingly sorry for the harm we have caused you." Then I remembered Jim's words. Grief. We will speak of unimaginable grief.

In his book [Climate Church, Climate World](#), Antal writes, "Only by fully grieving all that we have lost can we fully enter into the new tomorrow that God is preparing. We have so much to mourn: personal grief over loved ones lost and homes destroyed; ubiquitous grief over the long emergency that has straight-jacketed our lives; and anticipatory grief over the catastrophe that we are handing over to our children... We need to acknowledge our grief over the ongoing ruination of Creation. Only by doing so can we be receptive to a message of hope."

He goes on: "Hope is the most important contribution people of faith can and must make as humanity confronts the climate crisis. To become people of hope we must be willing to stare reality in the face."

So, we sit with grief in these days. We also act with hope. The story of faith is one of life, death and life again. Hope, despair, hope again. But that hope is born of leadership and action. We must all do what we can to protect our little corners of the world. Perhaps with enough of us loving the planet back to health, we can literally save the world.



SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

EVERY OTHER MONDAY (BEGINS 8/30)
7:15 - 8:45 PM ON ZOOM

BOOK: *RISING STRONG* BY BRENE BROWN

The Spiritual Conversations group, formerly led by Dorothy and Richard Kogl, will be resuming meeting on ZOOM this Fall. Chris Wuthmann has recently taken the lead for this group. The format includes a book discussion, broken down into short excerpts, that we reflect on as we walk the spiritual path together.

We meet every other Monday, beginning August 30, from 7:15 -8:45 pm. This is currently a small group and we are hoping that more members will join us this Fall. Our first book selection will be *Rising Strong* by Brené Brown, which is the basis for Rev. Penny's series "Rising Strong in Spirit."

Chase Montara reflects that "The Spiritual Conversations group has meant so much to me. Not only for the compelling content in the books we discuss, but more importantly for the relationship built with others who desire to deepen their spiritual foundation with like-minded folks who care deeply for each other."

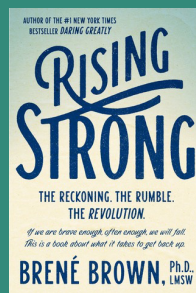
Many thanks to the Kogls for their faithful leadership over the years, and we are so glad they will continue to be integral members of the group discussion.

If you would like to join or are interested to learn more, please contact Chris Wuthmann at cewuthmann@gmail.com. Join us!

Sisters in Spirit
is also discussing
Rising Strong by
Brené Brown:

contact: Rebecca
Ruedy-Whelan

rebeccaruedy@gmail.com



Grief and Reintegration

Where are we now?



FACILITATED BY REV. ELISABETH
MIDDELBERG, THERAPIST AND CHAPLAIN
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 • 7 PM ON ZOOM

Grief comes in and out of our lives, in some shape or form, more than we would like in life. It's hard to know how to navigate our feelings in the midst of such immense change, and it often can feel like you're the only person experiencing what you're feeling. Grief looks different for everyone, but the silver lining is that you aren't alone in the experience of it. Whatever losses you are experiencing, there are people all around you who've been through difficult times too. **Sharing our losses helps us navigate grief, feel solidarity with those around us and reveals the wisdom present in our faith and community.**

REV. ELISABETH MIDDELBERG left her native land, the Netherlands, in 1984 to come to the United States. Here she completed her license as an Art Therapist and as a Marriage and Family Therapist and she finished her Master's degree in Theology at Pacific School of Religion in 2001. She served as the chaplain of Kaiser San Francisco after receiving her chaplaincy training from CPMC and from the Zen Hospice program in San Francisco. In 2003, Rev. Middelberg became the pastor of the MCC church in Guerneville and remained there for 12 years. She currently works as the Spiritual Care Director at Piedmont Gardens, a retirement community in Oakland. There she brings together her experiences with Buddhist meditation practices and her affinity with the Christian Tradition.

VOLUNTEER AT HOMEWORK CENTRAL

Homework Central is seeking volunteers for its in-person after school program. As a volunteer tutor you will assist 3rd-5th grade students from North Central San Mateo with their homework. HWC relies on volunteers to help students with their homework, engage them in skill-building exercises, and to be there for them when the work gets too hard or to celebrate their accomplishments. We provide training and all necessary materials.

To learn more about the program please check out our [Volunteer Information page](#). Everyone of high school age and above is welcome. Our volunteers make the work of Homework Central possible!



CCSM MUSIC NOTES

CHANCEL CHOIR

The Chancel Choir is rehearsing in August on Sunday mornings from 9 - 10 AM in Kloss Hall. All are welcome, but please purchase a "singer's mask" and have that ready to wear when you are at the rehearsal. We are working on music for Fall at CCSM and re-energizing our vocal muscles in a safe and socially distanced format. ([Here is a link](#) to an example of a singer's mask.)

It is very helpful if you can let me know if you are planning to join us for a rehearsal (or more) so I have enough music available. Please email me, Lynnelle Bilsey, at ltbmusings@gmail.com.



CARILLON BELL CHOIR

The Bell Choir resumed rehearsals in July and August and we are loving ringing together again in a safe and socially distanced format. We are not meeting the end of August; however, we will resume again on Thursday evenings after Labor Day. If you are interested in ringing with the Bell Choir please contact me directly at ltbmusings@gmail.com. I am happy to teach the basics of ringing if you have not participated in a bell choir before.



JOYFUL NOISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Please watch for more information from Director Julie Berk in Connections about when the choir will resume this Fall (after Labor Day). If you haven't participated in the choir (or have a child or youth interested) please contact Julie directly for more information and to get on her communications list at teacherjulie@pacbell.net.



WEDNESDAY GATHERINGS

I am excited to share that our Wednesday night Spanish service has resumed in person with Pastor Jorge and director Melanie Dresbach. Melanie shared that it was heartwarming to gather together with the Spanish-language dominant community earlier this month. She has started working with a small group called Coro de Jovenes Youth Choir with the goal of helping provide music for the services as well as developing musical leadership skills. If you are interested in participating with the Wednesday Youth Choir for this service, please contact Melanie at mdresbach@ccsm-ucc.org.



WITH GREAT THANKS...

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to share my deep gratitude and appreciation for all the talented musicians who have participated so graciously in the CCSM online services the past 17 months. We all celebrate your gifts and have been touched and inspired by your music and lifted by the Spirit present in your music week after week.

From the four wonderful youth who have joined us from the Wednesday Gathering families, our fantastic CCSM musicians Melanie, Angela and Julie, to all the amazing CCSM and friends of CCSM artists—each of you have brought so much joy into our homes, our hearts and our community at large. There have been so many talented musicians and artists I don't even want to attempt to list them all, however, I know I speak for all of us at CCSM: May God bless each of you as you have blessed us by your presence, your talents and especially your beautiful music.

—Lynnelle Bilsey, Director of Music, CCSM



SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS ARE WINNING AND GAMES ARE FUN

John Fyfe has tickets at face value for day or night games. Message him at johnfyfe86@gmail.com. He has up to 4 seats for several games. Location of seats is View Reserved Section 320 above third base, with great views down the South Bay; easy to take the Caltrain up and back.



IGLESIA SAN MATEO UNIDOS EN CRISTO

Our Latinx congregation-within-CCSM has remained strong during the pandemic. Although 8 people have had to move away, several new ones have joined. Regular membership stands at about 66—40 adults and 26 children from 16 different families. Two are infants, 13 elementary-age kids, 11 middle and high school youth.

Jorge and Melanie have continued to hold Wednesday evening worship online, with Penny officiating when Jorge is out of town. The services have also attracted participants in Mexico and Guatemala—family members of our San Mateo participants. Melanie has arranged periodic conversational sessions after worship. At the beginning of August they held their first in-person worship service since the pandemic began.

Of course, the pandemic has been difficult for members of the congregation. Many do domestic work, and the pandemic has interrupted a lot of that, resulting in very difficult financial stringency. Several people have been ill with Covid-19. Children have been isolated all day in their homes, doing their best to maintain their spirits and to participate online in school despite technology challenges.

The sense of community among the participants remains strong. For example, when a person has fallen ill, other families have provided meals every day. Once most of the participants were vaccinated, a number of them began gathering in one family's home in order to participate in the online worship services together.

CCSM has helped extensively with family needs. Every other Saturday during the early months of the pandemic, volunteers packaged and distributed boxes of groceries. Every month CCSM provided a 'care package' to each child with fun activities and a note of encouragement appropriate to the child's age. When children returned to school, CCSM provided backpacks, water flasks, and school supplies.

One member of Band of Brothers has engaged a



Latina housecleaner on a regular basis. Another has hired one of the men for occasional landscaping and odd-jobs work, and has also tutored one boy. Lauren Mathews has provided school-related assistance to several of the boys, including advocating with schools for needed services for special learning needs.

Jorge made many pastoral visits early in the pandemic, and these have continued at a lower level. He has also provided intensive assistance in addressing various family crises. Melanie initiated a regular Zoom conversation among some of the women, and it continued until their increasing work commitments made scheduling impossible.

Three of our Latinx youth participated in UCC Camp Tamarack this summer, and 4 participated in a recreational gathering that Sheryl organized for middle schoolers. One high schooler participated in the confirmation class earlier in the year. Melanie has created a young people's choir among the Latinx youth.

—Julien Phillips, Latinx Ministry Team

LIFEMOVES ANNUAL BREAKFAST WITH STEVE KERR

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 • 8:00AM • ONLINE

CCSM has been a longtime and enthusiastic supporter of LifeMoves for more than 20 years. LifeMoves provides shelter and services for families, individuals and veterans experiencing homelessness in San Mateo and Santa Clara Counties. The event will be virtual again this year so you are welcome to bring your cup of coffee, get comfortable in your PJ's and hear from our new CEO Aubrey Merriman, Keynote Speaker Steve Kerr of the Golden State Warriors and of course an inspirational client speaker from one of our programs—always the highlight of the event.

Questions? Please contact Lynnelle Bilsey at lbilsey@lifemoves.org or register directly at Lifemoves.org/team



CONNECTING TO NATURE THROUGH ART

by Laura Pierce-McKenzie
Liturgical Arts Ministry Team



Jennifer Hu's paper wedding flowers
[instagram.com/p/CHvc9PhBt50/](https://www.instagram.com/p/CHvc9PhBt50/)

There is nothing like a wedding to get someone to look for creative solutions to challenges. That is exactly what CCSM member Jennifer Hu experienced as she was exploring flowers to include in her own wedding. Like any good

scientist, she quickly dove into researching flower sources. It eventually led her to discover the amazing world of paper flowers. So many of the examples she saw looked like flowers from a florist. These paper creations could fool the most discerning eye. Could she make paper flowers good enough for her wedding? She was intrigued and now needed to find out how to make them.

Jennifer found that there are lots of paper flower artists on social media. She called it the "most beautiful social media feed ever!" She learned how to make beautiful blooms watching tutorials from artists like Lia Griffith, Tiffanie Turner and Jessie Chui*. Her first big project, no surprise, was making the flowers for her wedding. Pastor Penny Nixon who officiated Jennifer's marriage to Jelle Zijlstra said, "The flowers in the bouquet and on the cake looked gorgeous. I was completely blown away that they were paper and Jennifer had made them all."

As Jennifer began crafting realistic paper flowers, she realized it opened her eyes to the diversity of texture, color, and particularly petal shape in live blooms. Jennifer shared, "Making paper flowers has made me realize there are so many different kinds of flowers. It's

made the world feel richer."

One key point Jennifer noted is that paper flowers allow a floral designer to be unmoored from seasonality and fragility. Alice Morison, a member of the CCSM Liturgical Arts Ministry (LAM) creative team also sees this as a key advantage to using paper flowers. "Flowers have a voice," Alice told me. Specific flowers are associated with events, emotions, and seasons. Paper flowers allow LAM artists to create a visual representation of a theme at any time even if a specific flower type is out of season or unavailable locally.

This is precisely how the LAM creative team was able to develop the installation for the communion table for Memorial Day this year. Red remembrance poppies, specifically the Corn Poppy, are a recognized symbol for soldiers who have died during conflict. The table design was a simple display of a rocky field dotted with large red poppies. An appropriate image commemorating Memorial Day. The Challenge? Not only is the Corn Poppy uncommon to florists and nurseries in San Mateo, poppies generally don't last long in floral arrangements. For that reason, the Liturgical Arts team reached out to Jennifer to build paper poppies. These beautiful red paper poppies were displayed on the communion table May 29 and into June.



"The beautiful paper flowers Jennifer creates are easy to work with and give us flexibility," Alice Morison summarized. Paper flowers may not replace live blooms in every display. Incorporation of Jennifer Hu's beautiful paper floral art is a great example of the collaborative and creative growth in liturgical arts here at CCSM.

Thanks to Jennifer Hu and Alice Morison for generously providing insights for this article.

Interested in Jennifer's creative work?

Visit her Instagram page:

[instagram.com/jelleferfer](https://www.instagram.com/jelleferfer)

*Artists: Instagram: [#liagriffity](https://www.instagram.com/liagriffity),

[#jessieatcraftedtobloom](https://www.instagram.com/jessieatcraftedtobloom)

Tiffanie Turner at [papelsf.com](https://www.papelsf.com)

LifeMoves

 **7th Annual
Ride to End
Homelessness**

All are welcome!
4 ride options from 7 miles to 61 miles.

Sponsorship Opportunities: sbruggeman@lifemoves.org

[lifemoves.org/ride](https://www.lifemoves.org/ride)

Presented By:



**Saturday
Oct 23, 2021**

Flood Park
Menlo Park, CA

Dogs and smoking are not permitted
in some of the county parks.



THE PERSONAL TOUCH OF LOVE... THE POSY POSSE

The spring and summer of 2021 has been a busy time for the Posy Posse—Liturgical Arts Ministry's newest outreach program in response to the pandemic.

Guided by the staff input, we delivered posies weekly to joyfully celebrate 15 babies, birthdays over a certain age, new members joining CCSM, and successful medical outcomes. On the cares and concerns side, we reached out to uplift members with the beauty of nature, and whenever possible, a visit. The most rewarding part was the personal contact, by phone or in person, with our fellow members to let them know

they were not alone or forgotten.

We want to thank the Posse members for contributing their time, talents and bounty of their gardens for this program: Marilyn Cintel, Deb Flaherty, Megan Goulden, Kay Harris, Carol Henton, Diane Kalliam, Susan Long, Laura MacKenzie, Alice Morison, Pat Pepper, Pam Ridelhuber, Linda Stoick, Betsy Woodward and Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh.

—Susan Long, Posy Posse, coordinator

—Kay Harris, Liturgical Arts Ministry, lead



LOOKING FOR OSCAR?

Did you know that Oscar Rosa, our beloved custodian, completes his work day with us by 1:00 pm? Also, Oscar has a full day off on Saturdays. During his regular hours, Oscar has a full assignment of tasks, duties and chores to do around our beautiful campus. In addition to his daily tasks, he is always gracious and willing to help with your small asks, here and there, without much notice.

If you need Oscar's assistance with a larger ask, one that might take him more than 15 minutes, the best approach is to schedule your request with Chase Montara, Director of Operations. That way, Oscar does not have to interrupt his current task, leaving tools out and vulnerable to theft, etc. Please call the church office at 650-343-3694 or email Chase at cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org.



musicart

Mark your calendars for **Friday, September 17 at noon**. We plan to meet in person in the Buckham Room. (Adaptations may be required as the meeting date draws near.) Bring your own bag lunch; beverages and dessert will be provided.

Enjoy a time of fellowship and lunch along with a business meeting and devotion. Then we'll move to the Sanctuary for a **piano duet program presented by Linda Mallette and Mary Ann Notz, aka "The Pan-dynamic Duo."** Music by Haydn, Beethoven and Dvorak will be performed. To be sure a chair is at the table for you, please RSVP to Susan Duty at susanjd52@gmail.com, or by phone 650-533-6830.

—Mary Ann Notz, Publicity chair

SANDWICH-MAKERS NEEDED!

JOIN THE OPEN CATHEDRAL TEAM!

Open Cathedral is a weekly non-denominational outdoor worship service held at UN Plaza in San Francisco. For the last 12 years CCSM has provided 100 lunches every 4th Sunday to the worshipers who gather there. Although closed for several months due to the pandemic, Open Cathedral is open and alive again since April. Much thanks to CCSM supporters who have given in the collection plate and those who have stepped up to make the sandwiches. And thanks to those who have already been making sandwiches in 2021: **Fiona Martin, Beth Sandall, Joan Kilroe, Valerie Keech, Brenda Kelley, Linda Skromme, Mark Meyers, Gail and Peter Held and his band of volunteers.**

We NEED more volunteers—individuals, families, affinity groups—so sign up, spread some PB & JAM & LOVE! (Oh that's what we specialize in: PB & JAM & LOVE ♥.) A team of 5-7 gather the 4th Sunday of each month in kitchen to bag 100 lunches. It is pretty open, easy & fun and we really need volunteers for August 22!

Here is our upcoming schedule—you'll see where the needs are:

Aug 22, Sep 26, Oct 24 (Girl Scout Troop 61818),
Nov 28 (First Tuesday Book Club), Dec 26

2022 DATES AVAILABLE:

Jan 23, Feb 27, Mar 27, Apr 24, May 22

We also need a volunteer to coordinate donations for Christmas gift bags for Open Cathedral which are packed by our Youth Group.

Contact Nancy Dieguez: 650 773-3232
or nancy.dieguez@live.com



The real reason why progressive Christianity exists is not to prune away archaisms and false accretions. It exists to be an authentic gospel voice, to proclaim the good news of Jesus' life and teaching: a vision of humanity united to the sacred and to one another in love and justice.

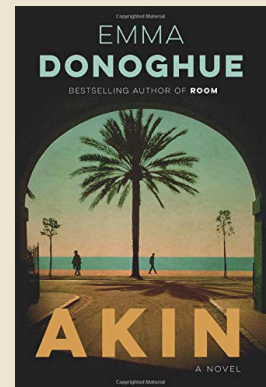
—REV DR MARGARET MAYMAN

FIRST TUESDAY BOOK GROUP

First Tuesday Book Group meets on the **first Tuesday of most months at 7:30pm on Zoom**. All are welcome. We are talking about meeting in person, but not driving at night has been fully embraced!

OUR BIG NEWS: NO book group meeting in September.

OCTOBER 5: AKIN BY EMMA DONOGHUE



"A retired New York professor's life is thrown into chaos when he takes a young great-nephew to the French Riviera, in hopes of uncovering his own mother's wartime secrets in the next masterpiece from New York Times bestselling author Emma Donoghue." —Book Browse Even though one plot line for Akin is a WW II story, it takes place in the present day so it has some buffers; however, it still brings up some war-adjacent emotions.

To receive the Zoom link, email Susan if you're not already on the mailing list. Questions? email Susan at s_stoehr@hotmail.com

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT AT CCSM

As we have had a long hiatus—at least in person—from many of our cherished means of connecting with each other through small groups and ministries of various kinds, we decided to publish the active groups as they come back together and find new ways of gathering. This is not a comprehensive list but a list of current active (or returning to active) groups. Please help us out by letting Chase know if we have wrong or out-of-date information. Thanks!

SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

First Tuesday Book Club (on ZOOM)

1st Tuesday, 7:30-9:30 pm

Susan Stoehr: s_stoehr@hotmail.com

Meets the first Tuesday of most months, currently on Zoom, to discuss a book (usually fiction) previously selected together. All are welcome.

Sisters in Spirit (SIS)

9/3, 10/1, 11/5 and 12/3 (1st Fridays) on Zoom, 1-3pm
9/17, 10/15, 11/19 and 12/17 (3rd Fridays) in person at Rebecca's home, 1-3pm

Rebecca Ruedy-Whelan: rebeccaruedy@gmail.com

Half of the meetings in person (dates above) and half on Zoom for now. Sharing, sisterhood and exploration of spirituality and consciousness (among other topics) through the examination of the works of contemporary authors, writers and thought-leaders. This fall will read a Penny-recommended book.

Band of Brothers: Spiritual Journey

Every other Saturday, 7:45 am

Mike Mullery: leeandmikemull@cs.com

Band of Brothers: Modern Men

Thursdays, 7:30- 9:00 pm

Peter Held: paheld1417@gmail.com

Men's groups building the bonds of deep friendship and spirituality, practicing our faith and having fun!

Spiritual Conversations

Every other Monday starting Aug. 30, 7:15-8:45 pm on Zoom

Chris Wuthmann: cewuthmann@gmail.com

Discussion group exploring various topics, books, and ideas through a spiritual lens

In the Spirit of Sharing

Every Thursday, 7:00-8:30 pm on Zoom

Chase Montara: cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org

Spiritual group gathering to connect with ourselves, with Spirit and with each other, as we navigate the challenges of the pandemic. Each week, we listen to music selections, read a few poems, watch a short video and share our reflections with each other.

Face Mask Brigade

Every Wednesday, 12:30-1:30 pm on Zoom

Genel Morgan: glmrn12@gmail.com

Has been making masks together for the pandemic since March 2020. Thousands of masks have been made so far, and much mutual encouragement shared.

Music and Art

3rd Friday, 11:00-2:30 pm, in person

Mary Ann Notz: maryannnotz@gmail.com

Monthly gathering over lunch with a special guest sharing a music or arts-related topic.

20's / 30's

1st Friday, 7:00-9:00 pm on Zoom

Jorge Bautista: jbautista@ccsm-ucc.org

Young adults meeting for friendship and community building

Blanketeers

Occasional

Lani Leydig: lani.leydig@gmail.com

Quilters and knitters assembling afghans and quilts for those in need

Trudy's Teas

Occasional

Diane Kalliam: dkalliam@gmail.com

Opportunity for women from the church to meet and enjoy a meal and fellowship

CC Riders Cycling Group

Every Saturday, 8:00- 11:00 am

Peter Held: paheld1417@gmail.com

This bike club offers group rides for every level of ability. Starts in Woodside for coffee, scones, and fellowship. When the weather is bad, sometimes the group just meets for breakfast.

MUSICAL OPPORTUNITIES

Chancel Choir

Select Sundays, in person

Lynnelle Bilsey: ltbmusings@gmail.com

Leads the congregation and enriches worship with a diverse offering of music, including special worship services and concerts

Bell Choir

Select Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm in person

Lynnelle Bilsey: ltbmusings@gmail.com

A full handbell choir performing in worship services occasionally. No previous bell experience needed.

Joyful Noise Choir

Julie Berk: teacherjulie@pacbell.net

Exuberant children's choir singing for special worship services

— Cont. on next page —

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT AT CCSM (CONT.)

VOLUNTEER AND MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Companion Ministry

Diane Kalliam: dkalliam@gmail.com

Calling and visiting those with health and other challenges

Month of Sundays (greeting cards)

Occasional

Deb Flaherty: Flaherty.dwr@gmail.com

Sending cards to those in difficult circumstances or times of celebration

Reception Desk Volunteers

Monday -Thursday, 9-12 and 1-3 pm

Chase Montara: cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org

Answering the phone, receiving visitors and helping with many tasks needed to run the church such as mail, filing, copying, etc.

Open Cathedral Sandwich Making

4th Sunday, 9:00-10:30 am

Nancy Dieguez: nancy.dieguez@live.com

Once a month making 100 lunches for Open Cathedral, a weekly non-denominational outdoor worship service



A historic moment!
CCSM's first Sunday back
in the Sanctuary after 72
pandemic Sundays.

See [page 4](#) for some
reflections on the
emotions of that day.

Penny's sermon series based on Brené Brown's book *Rising Strong* continues through August. If you've missed any so far, you can always go back and listen on our [website](#)!

Sermon Series in August inspired by Brené Brown's book *Rising Strong*

Rising Strong in Spirit



- 8/1 Who needs a reset?
- 8/8 Reckoning: Wisdom from Yoda
- 8/15 Rumbling: Second Responders
- 8/22 Rumbling: Bad Advice from the Beatitudes
- 8/29 Rising: Big, Brave and Whole-hearted living

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: 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 GRATITUDE

Jim Berthelsen is happy to report that **Morgan** can be taken off the list of those dealing with cancer!

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Prayers for the **Leung** family as they continue to grieve **Ken's** passing last January 24, 2021. A celebration of life for Ken will be held on **Saturday, September 18, at 1:00PM**. Please keep **Elise** as well as sons **Robert and Johann** in prayer as they remember and celebrate Ken's life.

Doug Henton's cousin's daughter **Betsy Smith** died on August 3 in upstate NY during the birth of a baby girl (Charlotte.) Betsy, who was a Ph.D. professor at Elmira College, was following her dream to be a mother. The baby will now be raised in FL by one of Betsy's two younger sisters. **Carol & Doug** ask for prayers for the entire **Dale Smith** family, whose lives are now forever altered.

Prayers for **Jessica Garcia** and her children **Ailien and Joshua** who lost their grandfather in a tragedy.

Prayers for **Tori Sparkman-Lewis** and her family as they travel the path of loss together in mourning their beloved "little sister" and daughter, **Grace**. May Grace rest in peace.

Prayers for **David Meissner** and his family as his brother **Walter** transitioned recently at the age of 84, surrounded by his wife of 64 years and family; may he rest in peace.

Prayers for the family of **Donna Summers**, whose cousin **Delores'**

8 year old grandson, **Gavin**, passed away after a farm accident.

PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT

Request from **Phil Lind** for prayers for his brother **Geoff Lind**, who had knee replacement surgery on August 17.

Prayers for **Rosemarie Pero's** dear friend **Mary Spinoccia** who had a complicated ear surgery in the UK. Prayers for full recovery and freedom from pain.

Rebecca Ruedy-Whelan and **Michael Whelan** kindly request prayers for Rebecca's mother, **Nancy Ruedy**, 88, who recently underwent surgery for breast cancer. This is Nancy's third occurrence in 20 years, which in the past, she has successfully overcome.

Please pray for **Sarah Iya's** mom **Jane Don**, who is in the ICU and fighting infection. Sarah is in England caring for her. Prayers for them both during this very difficult time.

Prayers of healing for **Genel Morgan's** cousin and her husband **John and Marty Marks** who are having health challenges.

Cheryle Matteo shares an update on her brother **Lou**: "He does have cancer nodules on his legs reminding us of his fight. So please continue to pray for his new bone marrow to get busy. Our family is eternally grateful."

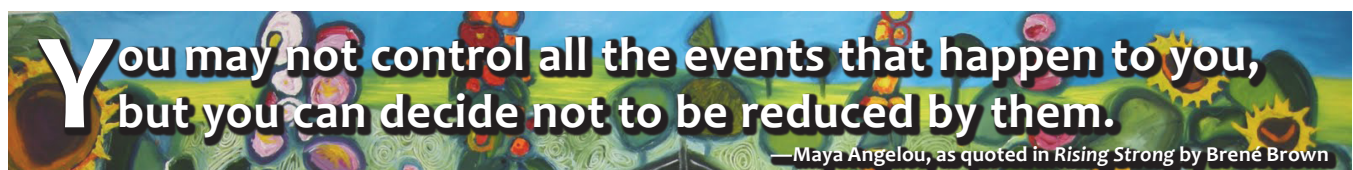
Prayers of continued healing for **Marian Faber** who is recovering from a broken ankle.

Prayers for **Andrew Lind** and

Margherita Maiello, along with their children **Livia** (2½) and **Filipino** (15 months) on their move to Pretoria, South Africa, where Andrew is in charge of refugee logistics for Southern Africa. They have been in Bangkok for five years. Andrew works for the International Organization for Migration, and he is the son of **Phil Lind and Betsy Woodward**.

Prayers of hope and endurance for those in fear and struggle in **Afghanistan**, in **Haiti**, experiencing loss from the **wildfires**, and from the ongoing **Delta variant** surge.

Continuing prayers of strength, encouragement, and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters: **Bill Melis, Dr. Jim Groundwater** and family, **Bill Daniels, Marjorie Griffin, Thelma Kromhout, Rev. Travis Woodmansee's** mother **Cathy, Mike and Kay Harris'** friend **Mary Helen McMahon, Cathy Latta, Dottie Scott, Oakley Hewitt, Veril Phillips'** granddaughter **Eva, George Vail's** friend **Dan Ware, Ron Nordquist (Alice Nordquist's** father/**Nathan Daniels'** father-in-law), **David Meissner and Gene Chelberg, Chuck Ruthroff (Don and Jonathan's** brother), **Ruth Black, Gail Evans'** friend **Michelle, Angela and Robert Kraft-Cross'** friend **Marilyn VerMeulen, Martha Bronitsky's** mother **Bobbye Gorenberg, Julie Lenden's** father **Reggie Barnes, Elizabeth Campbell, Linda Stoick's** friends **Ivy, Gail, Mary Anne, Ada, Susan, and Alexis**, and others as they walk their unique journeys with cancer and other health challenges.



While our hearts are heavy with all that is going on in our world, and the delta variant continues to spread across our country, we are glad to have begun worshiping together in person again, as of August 8. We do not take this togetherness for granted, and we know that things may change again. But for now, we send out this newsletter—in the midst of tragedy, anxiety, and loss—with open hearts.



Click [HERE](#) or on the video above to hear a message from our Moderator, Dave Chandler, about the survey results, the Delta variant, grace, and gratitude.

IN THIS ISSUE

CLICK TO NAVIGATE TO PAGE

Sunday Celebrations	1
Monday Evening Classes on The Sum of Us	1
Reimagining and Rebuilding Our Lives	1
Children, Youth & Families News	2
Introducing Emily!	2
Rising Strong discussion groups	3
Family Volunteer Opportunity: Bayfront	3
Pandemic Experience in Families	3
Online Church: A Perspective	4
Some Reopening Experiences	4
REOPENING!	5
Becoming a Climate Church: Vol. 1, No. 2	6
Second Hour on IPCC Climate Report	6
Energy, Environmental Justice (EEJ) News	6
Climate Change: CCSM, UCC, and the UN	7
Spiritual Conversations (also SIS and BOB)	8
Grief and Reintegration: Where are we now?	8
Homework Central Volunteers Needed	8
CCSM Music Notes	9
San Francisco Giants Tickets Available	9
Iglesia San Mateo Unidos en Cristo	10
LifeMoves Annual Breakfast: Steve Kerr	10
Connecting to Nature through Art	11
LifeMoves Ride to End Homelessness	11
The Personal Touch of Love: The Posy Posse	12
Looking for Oscar?	12
Music & Art	13
Sandwich Makers Needed	13
First Tuesday Book Group	13
Opportunities to Connect at CCSM	14
Joys and Concerns	16
Message from our Moderator	17
Post-Pandemic Survey Results	17

POST-PANDEMIC SURVEY RESULTS

CCSM conducted a survey in June 2021, late in the pandemic when vaccinations were easy to obtain and the end of the pandemic was expected (or hoped for) in the near future. The survey was designed to answer several questions.

- ❖ How has the pandemic affected the CCSM community and will the community feel safe in returning to in-person worship services in August?
- ❖ What are the attitudes of the community toward online worship, past and future?
- ❖ What is the community's interest in CCSM's becoming a carbon neutral energy user and a climate church?

Church leaders were gratified that there were 258 responses to the survey between June 7 and June 20, 2021.

If you are interested in looking at a summary of the results, click [here](#) for graphs and charts of the data.



LIKE US ON facebook
FACEBOOK.COM/CCSM.UCC