

# CCSM PINE TREE

Vol. 70, #5 | 2021 • Online / Winter edition



**Nov. 28** Making Room - Sheryl Johnson  
Music: Noah Schembrie

**Dec. 5** A Place at the Table - Alan Roby  
Music: Chancel Choir (Communion)

**Dec. 12** How Much is Enough - Penny Nixon  
Music: Carillon Bell Choir

**Dec. 19** A Room with a View - Jorge Bautista  
Music: Children singing

**Dec. 26** Sunday After Christmas **ONLINE ONLY**

**CHRISTMAS EVE: we need your input**  
Please help us determine the best approach for our  
Christmas Eve services this year.  
Take a quick poll: [tinyurl.com/ChristmasEvePoll](https://tinyurl.com/ChristmasEvePoll)



## The Inn: Housing the Holy

a word from Penny

I don't know about you, but as Advent approaches, I feel both tired and grateful. Tired of the prolonged impact of the pandemic, and grateful that we are in a different place than we were last year at this time. It has been wonderful to have people back in church AND continuing online.

Even with all the progress made, we are struggling with uncertainty and instability in so many areas of our individual and communal lives. Millions lost their jobs and are affected by whether or not landlords will evict them from their homes for failure to pay rent. A staggering number of families are food insecure for the first time in their lives. And those who were already on the brink are even less sure how to survive. And we are all exhausted in some way. Even if it is decision-fatigue.

We have problems to address. And so did the Holy Family that night. An oppressive regime had demanded everyone upend their lives and hightail it to their home towns to register for the census—for tax purposes, likely. Mary was on the verge of giving birth and the Airbnb app just wasn't an option. Whether they got to town late or for some other reason, they had a housing problem that night.

click to continue to p. 3



Congregational  
Church of san mateo

225 Tilton Avenue, San Mateo, CA 94401  
650 343-3694 | [ccsm-ucc.org](https://ccsm-ucc.org) | [facebook.com/ccsm.ucc](https://facebook.com/ccsm.ucc)



# Children, Youth & Families



This fall has been yet another strange one for many of us! We are so grateful for the chance to re-gather in person, but we know that many families have still been hesitant to return to church due, in part, to children under 12 not yet being eligible for vaccinations. However, at the time of my writing, news has just arrived that the day for this may be coming very soon - perhaps even begun by the time you are reading this!

We are so blessed to have a wonderful team of children and youth staff and volunteers supporting our young people on Sundays, Wednesdays, and whenever else we gather! I am so grateful for each and every one of them.

On Wednesdays, we have had very strong attendance (up to about 30 kids aged 0-18!) who gather each week during the Wednesday Spanish service for games, crafts, homework, discussions, and other fun activities. A special event coming up is a presentation from the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity about immigration issues and the presentation of a zine their youth have created on this topic. We also continue to work to build bridges between youth who attend on Wednesdays and on Sundays - through shared participation in weekend outings, music performances, collaboration on the "CCSM Marketplace" initiative, and more. Our Wednesday team includes many wonderful staff and volunteers: primarily Lily, Elijah, Chris, Jez, and Emily.

On Sundays, we have more great programs, featuring pre-Kindergarten play with Lily, Godly Play with Shannon, and a special program on "Holy Troublemakers" led by Elijah for our older kids. Holy Troublemakers is a book and curriculum that features different leaders in movements for faith and justice around the world, from different cultures and religious traditions. It is a great entry point into the connections of faith and social justice and the ways that different people have been led by their faith into action. We have also had several joint multi-age sessions including a special program for Indigenous People's Day using local plants and flowers to create depictions of home and to celebrate Halloween. We continue to evolve and shift our programs based on different needs and interests and are striving to be ever more flexible and responsive in what we do.

For our middle school youth on Sundays, we have been focusing on the intersections of spirituality and mental

health. We are grateful for the great team of Dave, Bill, and Emily who have been approaching this topic from various perspectives and through various media, both as something to learn about and as something to explore in a hands-on way through meditation, movement, art, and more. Our highschoolers continue to enjoy 60 Minutes (thank you, Mike!) where they discuss topics that they choose including mental health, school, social media, vaccines, political polarization, and questions of nature vs. nurture and personality. Our programming for youth also has included service projects, the LifeMoves Bike Ride to End Homelessness, lunches, chances to lead programs for kids, and a special kayaking trip to Elkhorn Slough.



This continues to be a challenging and evolving time for families and I am always here to support families in any way that I can. I'm happy to provide a listening ear, help talk through a difficult time, and pray with and for you in anything you may be going through. Also, if there are any ways specifically we can help to make the programming be as safe and accessible as possible please do let me know (we are also open to re-starting online programs if there is interest!). Also, we'd love to have you invite any friends, grandkids, neighbors, or anyone else in your network to try out our church. This is a great time to get involved, especially as so many people are looking for community after so much isolation.

*Sheryl*



The Innkeeper, one of our beloved Advent characters, is a figure of our imaginations. Not referenced in the sacred texts, we assume that since Luke said there was an "inn," then there must have been an "innkeeper." Often our stories cast him in a negative light, someone who banished a pregnant woman to where the animals were kept. But what if, since we are engaging our imaginations anyway, what if he was truly an entrepreneur? Someone who saw a problem and thought, literally, "outside the box" to solve the problem of where Mary could have her child? Instead of thinking "there's nowhere," he said to himself first, "there has to be somewhere."

This Advent worship series is being used by many churches across the nation and is inspired by churches who are asking these kinds of questions. Questions like, What more can we do? How can we share our building, make even more use of our property? Some churches are offering affordable office space to non-profits that work to alleviate society's problems, some are creating affordable housing, some after-school help, some food distribution. No one church can solve everything, but each one can do something. Just like the innkeeper. Housing the holy work of Divine Love can happen in many ways.

And so I invite you to spend this Advent and Christmas seeing CCSM in a different light... the light of the Star of Bethlehem that shone that night on an unlikely house for the holy—a stable. The Light of Christ is shining on us, inviting us to become a beacon of hope to others. What more could we (in addition to what we are already doing) that could alleviate someone's suffering?

We are called to "make room" in our inns—to create a welcoming space for the flourishing of humanity. That's what the inn, the stable, the manger, became that night. This Advent, through word, visual, song and community, I pray that you will be lifted up, encouraged, re-inspired, comforted, emboldened—and that you will "house the holy" in your own soul's Inn as well.

With hope, peace, joy and love,  
Penny



Second Hour Sundays bring important topics for learning and discussion following the Sunday service. Now on **ZOOM** and at **225!**



## Upcoming Second hours:

### 11/21 Update on Housing in San Mateo County

**11:45 a.m. HYBRID**

Update on Housing in San Mateo County by Peggy Jensen, Deputy County Manager

There have been a number of recent Senate Bills (SB 9,10 &11) passed recently— how do they affect housing here in San Mateo? What is the current state of housing in our county?

What might housing in the future look like? Will there be more affordable housing built in our county?

Come and get some of your questions answered on an issue that is always relevant and constantly changing. At 225 in the Buckham Room and on Zoom. [tinyurl.com/CCSM-SecondHour](https://tinyurl.com/CCSM-SecondHour)

### 12/05 Homelessness and Mental Health

**11:45 a.m. HYBRID**

Dr. Brian Greenberg, an expert on homelessness, will provide an update on homelessness in San Mateo County.

### 12/12 SafeSpace: Youth Mental Health

**11:45 a.m. HYBRID**

SafeSpace works with local youth to empower and equip them to become leaders and peer advocates around issues related to mental health. Youth develop projects to help educate and support themselves, their peers, and their communities. Come to this special second hour to hear from some of these youth about how mental health affects the lives of young people today, and what we can all do as a community to become a part of the work for positive change. ([Learn more on page 11](#))

### 12/19 Carol Sing lead by Lynnelle

**11:45 a.m.**

Caroling is a beloved December tradition and CCSM is bringing back a Carol Fest on Sunday, Dec. 19 after service. Please plan to stay for a light lunch and joining us as we sing some of our favorite carols. Watch the bulletins in December for more information, and if you have any questions – please contact Lynnelle Bilsley, Director of Music at [ltbmusings@gmail.com](mailto:ltbmusings@gmail.com).

# Adopt-a-Family Program for 2021 ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️ ❄️

This **holiday season**, CCSM will again **collect monetary donations and gift cards** for our **Adopt-A-Family** program for those who are part of Life Moves' First Step for Families Shelter. Currently, First Step for Families provides temporary shelter and services for 39 families experiencing homelessness.

Normally, CCSM asks members/attendees to purchase requested gifts for each individual, however, due to limited Life Moves staff availability and COVID, CCSM will again be providing the funds or gift cards to Life Moves to distribute this year. The organization hopes to be able to have **enough funds to give one \$25 gift card** (Target, Walmart, Kohls, or Amazon) **to each member of the family**. Admittedly, donating funds and gift cards are not as personal and enjoyable as selecting gift items for each person as we have done in past years, however, the need is still as great as ever.

**Most clients want clothing, including shoes and winter clothes.** CCSMers! —what can one buy for \$25 today? Not very much! We need to provide more than that for each person, so please be generous.

We will have a plate offering on November 28th. If you miss the plate offering you can donate anytime through December 5. Please make a note that it is for Adopt-A-Family. Text **73256 ccsm plate \$-** or go to [tinyurl.com/ccsm-give](http://tinyurl.com/ccsm-give)

We need to **get the funds/cards to Life Moves by the 12 December**. Thank you!

-- Melodie Lew



## Soundbath with Chuck Rosenthal

CCSM Sanctuary, Sunday November 28, 3 pm (doors open at 2:15)

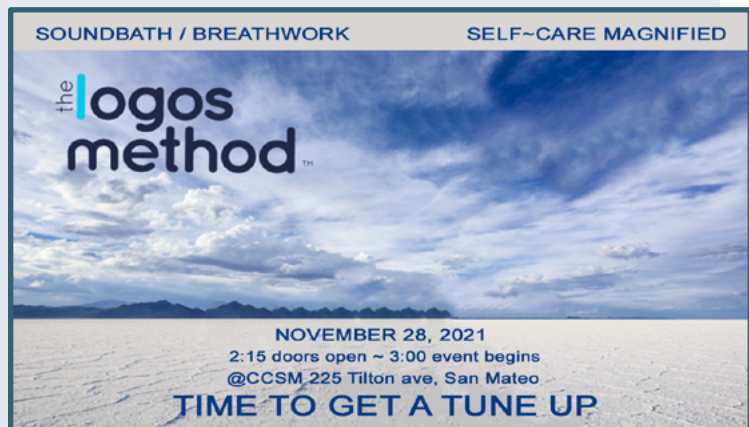
Chuck Rosenthal, facilitator

In order for us to prepare for our light to shine...we need to make sure we are taking care of our own temple. On November 28th there will be a sound bath in the sanctuary to assist us to prepare for our light to shine.

Sound and Breath are two modalities that have the ability to assist us to calm down our nervous system and shift from our sympathetic nervous system (fight or flight) into our parasympathetic nervous system.

Our subtle body acts as memory storage and the sound bath accompanied with breath consciousness can help us reduce what we consciously and unconsciously hold onto, including trauma, depression, anxiety, PTSD as well as other mental and physical ailments that we are hold onto.

Breath and Sound have been used in various cultures for thousands of years as a tool for healing.



[you must register: click on the image to register](#)

[click here to watch a promo video](#)





# 2022: REIMAGINE

The pandemic has changed so many things. We all are in a time of reimagining, still trying to chart an unknown future. CCSM did our best to meet the challenges of the pandemic head on, striving to keep the community connected and delivering inspirational services every Sunday online. As of fall 2022, we are back in person AND online—in other words, our services are hybrid. To me, hybrid means we are addressing two congregations simultaneously: an in-person congregation and a remote congregation. And here is what's true:



## In person worship is the easiest

(the fewest steps and staff)



## Remote is the harder work

(requiring more steps and staff)



## Hybrid is the hardest

(requiring multiples of more steps and staff and equipment)



We are committed to both congregations. The congregation who gathers at 225 is easy to imagine, and we're getting new visitors almost every week now.

## But now imagine the online congregation:

- People who have never been to 225 Tilton but consider CCSM their spiritual home
- Our elders who are too frail to come out but can still feel like they are not alone by participating online
  - Our families whose younger children are not yet vaccinated
  - People who come in person one week and participate online the next
- People who are in the hospital and feeling isolated and find comfort from the music and message
- Friends and family of CCSM members who live far away but can enjoy "going to church together"
- People who are disillusioned with Christianity but have found a sense of belonging at CCSM
  - People who held onto Sunday services as a "life-line" during the pandemic
- People who are able to see their screen as sacred portal to connect them to real spiritual community
- CCSM members who are traveling or have conflicting commitments who can watch the service later
- People from around the country (and overseas) who have no access to a progressive Christian community

If you come to church in person, you will see some "empty pews"—something that we are not accustomed to at CCSM. But the pews are NOT empty—they are simply filled in a different way. They are filled with people participating online. We have learned in a new way that "spiritual community" is not bound by walls, or space or time.

What we are doing this year may be harder than ever, and yes, more expensive than ever, and it requires deeper commitment for ALL of us who believe this spiritual community is vital.

So please be part of the giving community at CCSM—monthly supporters, pledgers, one time donations, special gifts, stock donations, bequests—there are so many ways to give financially. All of you who volunteer in so many ways allow us to keep alive also.

Reimagine with us. Your giving is the **ONLY** way we can continue to be a progressive voice, a beloved community and an advocate for social justice.



We have a greater opportunity now to be MORE open, MORE progressive, MORE inclusive.

[HOLD YOUR CAMERA ON THE CODE](#)  
[OR CLICK HERE TO GIVE NOW](#)

With gratitude, Penny Nixon

# Becoming a Climate Church - A column by the EEJ Ministry

In today's second installment of our ongoing EEJ column, Becoming a Climate Church, we will 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? Well for one, 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. Number three. While some might say, "what's the big deal by saying nature has rights?" To that I would argue that by formally proclaiming what might seem obvious is actually a very foundational component in our mission to protect nature.

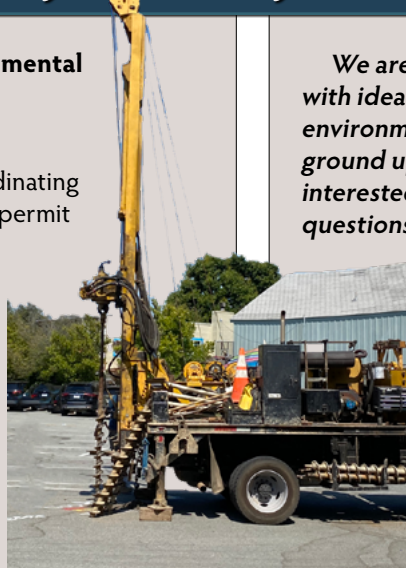
We encourage our readers to send comments and questions about each installment. You can email them to (gwhite2711@gmail.com). Thanks.

## Energy, Environmental Justice (EEJ) News



### An update from the Energy, Environmental Justice Ministry (EEJ)

**Going Solar is moving along!** Our solar contractor, Sandbar Electric is currently coordinating with the City of San Mateo to secure CCSM's permit application and approval. Sandbar recently completed an on-site geologic inspection verifying the stability of the parking lot where the system will be installed. Stay tuned for future updates on this project and on other steps we will be taking to transition our utility infrastructure to renewable energy. We hope to begin construction of the system in January, weather dependent.



geological testing

### Garden and landscaping.

EEJ has received notification of a possible "garden grant" to help CCSM reduce water use. This will help us become more sustainable during the ongoing drought and amidst a changing climate. We'd like to establish a garden/landscape task force to research the issue(s) and make a recommendation to CCSM. We are especially looking to modify our landscape in areas not actively used, such as the lawn on the corner of San Mateo Drive and Tilton Ave. or the lawn area near the Betsy Woodward Christian Education building. We anticipate these actions would result in savings from a lower water bill.

*We are looking for congregants with ideas, energy and vision to do environmental justice literally from the ground up in a sustainable way. If you are interested in joining this task force or have questions, please contact Sheryl Johnson (cjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org) or Warren Long (longlake15@sbcglobal.net).*

### Girl Scout Gold Award project.

One of our stellar youth, Zoe Neil is working to achieve Girl Scout's highest and most prestigious level – the Gold Award. For her service component, Zoe will be working with CCSM on

education and activities around climate change and environmental issues. Please support Zoe in her efforts and "Stay Tuned" for information and upcoming events.

*Keep in mind daily, the beauty of the Earth and our personal responsibility to care for God's creation, Our Home!*



# ¡Las Posadas!

Join us: December 22 @ 7:15p



Every year, we have observed the Mexican and Latin American tradition of **LAS POSADAS** on or around Christmas Eve. Last year in 2020 and in the midst of one of the worst Covid spikes, we sadly had to cancel and it was the first time we had missed it since we started back in 2013. So I'm so happy to report that **LAS POSADAS** will be returning in person this year!

Mark your calendars for December 22 at 7:15 pm and come hungry! We'll be ending the night as we do every year, with my mom's famous (and spicy!) tamales, champurrado (a cinnamon hot cocoa drink thickened with masa), and most likely some other treats that the community may want to share.

This event will be outdoors and masked, so it's a great opportunity for all ages to celebrate safely. Everyone, especially kids, are encouraged to wear a costume! This will be our "Christmas pageant" for the year as many people are not yet ready for indoor events - plus this is a wonderful opportunity for our whole community to come together and to engage in this well-loved and meaningful Mexican tradition.

If you're not familiar with the tradition, **LAS POSADAS** (literally translated: "The Inns") is a reenactment of the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to find lodging in Bethlehem. All in attendance will make our way together around the block with Mary and Joseph leading us, as they knock at the doors asking for a place to stay. It's a profound communal experience in which we all have the opportunity to embody for a moment the refugee's or migrant's journey and reflect on their experiences. This tradition continues to speak to us today in our current context, as many of us have been on pilgrim journeys-whether as migrants, as people displaced by our local housing crisis, or for a variety of other reasons. Many of us know what it's like to be in search of shelter or a place to call home.

We are expecting a great turnout, and hope you'll be a part of it! This is one of the few opportunities we have for the Wednesday and Sunday congregations to join together and show up for one another. Don't be the one who misses out! Come be a part of this special night. Look for further announcements as the Dec. 22 event approaches.



## WHO IS JESUS TO YOU?

### Rev. Penny asked the congregation this question: "Who is Jesus to you?"

-CLICK ON THE EXCERPT TO SEE THE FULL TEXT-

Jesus is an inspiring visionary whose calling to co-create what he sometimes called the kingdom of God (I prefer kin-dom) is the foundation of my own sense of vocation.

- Julien Phillips

I share most honestly with Jesus, I talk to Jesus every morning for an hour or so, and throughout the day. I feel as though Jesus is always with me, and that He is always there when I need him. Sure sounds like a close friend to me. I believe that Jesus is God incarnate, that Jesus still lives and engages with us, He guides me with His Spirit, and has changed me tremendously.

-Chase Montara

To me, Jesus has high expectations I can never meet, and holds in his hands a fate I can never know. Am I saved? Am I safe? Am I destined for hell? These are the questions that have kept me up night after night since I was a small child. I don't have answers.

- Amanda Mullery

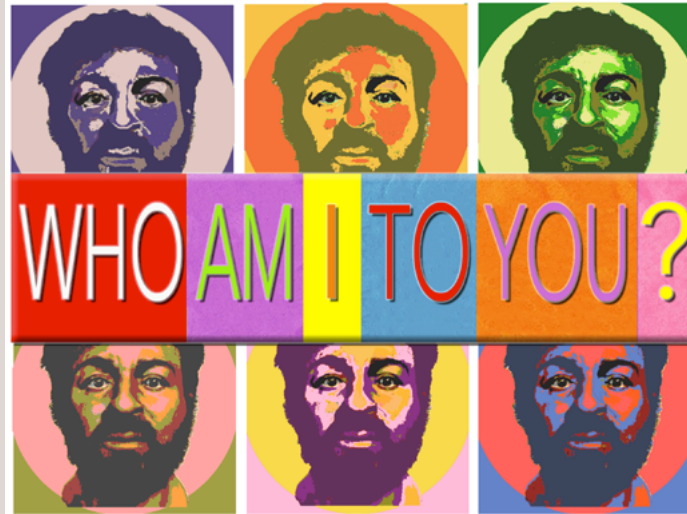
He is truly an amazing teacher, the finest the world has ever known. He is truly the example we need, the one who loved God and neighbor without fail.

- Mark Mullery

I believe that it is mostly through relationships that we change, and I

committed to Jesus because I want him to be a change agent for me - - of me and through me. For me, it is not through theological or doctrinal belief about Jesus, which is about knowledge about Jesus. Rather, change comes by the working of the Holy Spirit of Christ in and through me.

- Chris Wuthmann



There are many answers to these questions. The answer that I have mostly learned to live with is simply this- I believe that Jesus knew God so well that he was able to teach his followers, and so many others over the following 2,000 years, how to live as God calls us to live.

- Mike Mullery

## 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 doing rehearsals in back in the choir room on Wednesday nights 7:00 - 8:30. 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](mailto:ltbmusings@gmail.com).



## Carillon Bell Choir

The Bell Choir resumed rehearsals in July and are loving ringing together again in a safe and socially distanced format. We meet on Thursday evenings. If you are interested in ringing with the Bell Choir please contact me directly at [ltbmusings@gmail.com](mailto: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

Joyful Noise has resumed rehearsals on Sunday mornings at 11:30 in the Memorial Garden. If you haven't participated in the choir (or have a child or youth interested) please contact Director Julie Berk directly for more information and to get on her communications list at [teacherjulie@pacbell.net](mailto: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](mailto:mdresbach@ccsm-ucc.org).



## NEW! Intergenerational Choir & Music Group

WHAT: CCSM Intergenerational Choral & Music Group

WHO: Open to ALL ages

FOR: Prepare and perform Spanish & English music for CCSM events:

- ❖ Sunday service (10:30am) December 19 (Advent)
- ❖ Las Posadas (7:15pm) December 22

WHEN: Weekly rehearsals on WEDNESDAYS

at 6:15-7pm in Kloss Hall @225

started November 10th (but join us when you can - late comers welcome!)

- No rehearsal on Wednesday, November 24 -

QUESTIONS: Contact Melanie at [mdresbach@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:mdresbach@ccsm-ucc.org) or 408-205-8063



If you are interested in participating in our music ensembles this holiday season – please reach out to us at:

Joyful Noise - Julie Berk [teacherjulie@pacbell.net](mailto:teacherjulie@pacbell.net)

Wed. Night Children's Choir - Melanie Dresbach [mdresbach@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:mdresbach@ccsm-ucc.org)

A Christmas Garland Coordinator – Angela Kraft Cross, [krftcrss@yahoo.com](mailto:krftcrss@yahoo.com)

Director of Music - Lynnelle Bilsey [ltbmusings@gmail.com](mailto:ltbmusings@gmail.com)

# WE'RE BACK!



Rev. Penny and Rev. Jorge consecrate communion at Homecoming service on September 12. Communion was offered to all outside on the lawn following service.

Board Member, Lisa Mallette doing a reading.

Music & Art gathering.

The children are back too!

## SPECIAL MUSIC SUNDAYS ARE RETURNING FOR ADVENT!

Be sure to tune in online or join us in person for a musical season of Advent.

1st Sunday – special guest Noah Schembrie  
2nd Sunday – Chancel Choir with guest instrumentalists  
3rd Sunday – Carillon Ringers  
4th Sunday – Children & Youth Music Sunday

### “Songs of the Day” Returning for the Holiday Season

Thank you to so many CCSM members and friends who have shared how much they appreciated my “Songs of the Day” posts during the pandemic. After a brief absence, I will be bringing back the “Songs of the Day” posts for the November and December Holidays. If you are already on the list – you will receive the posts, if you would like to be added to the group – please send your email address [gt ltbmusings@gmail.com](mailto:ltbmusings@gmail.com)

If you would like to go back and review any of the “Songs of the Day” posts between March 2020 – July 2021, please email me and I will share the google link to the posts.

### A Caroling, A Caroling, A Caroling We Go...

Caroling is a beloved December tradition and CCSM is bringing back a Carol Fest on Sunday, Dec. 19 after service. Please plan to stay for a light lunch and joining us as we sing some of our favorite carols. Watch the bulletins in December for more information, and if you have any questions – please contact Lynnelle Bilsey, Director of Music at [ltbmusings@gmail.com](mailto:ltbmusings@gmail.com) <<mailto:ltbmusings@gmail.com>> .

### A Christmas Garland

One of my favorite Advent Meditations happens on Christmas Eve; The Christmas Garland features many of CCSM’s Musicians and friends who share the beautiful music of Christmas woven together in a musical garland. CCSM’s music team will be putting together another gorgeous Christmas Garland you won’t want to miss which will be available online. More details with the links will be shared in the Advent Communications & bulletins.



## So much happening...



### musicart

Mark your calendars for **Friday, November 19 at noon**. We plan to meet in the Buckham Room at 225. 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 lovely program with **Antoinette Kauffman, flutist** and **Karen Hutchinson, pianist**. Both are well know to CCSM.

Members and non-members are invited just be sure to RSVP so that a chair is at the table for you, please RSVP to Susan Duty at [susanjd52@gmail.com](mailto:susanjd52@gmail.com), or by phone 650-533-6830.

Masks will be worn except when actually eating/drinking .

## CHILDREN & YOUTH

**Sunday, November 21** - 60 Minutes for High Schoolers on the topic of Social Media. 10:30-11:30am.

**Saturday, December 4** - 1pm - High school youth are invited to help pack gift bags for un-housed people at the church (which will be distributed at Open Cathedral on Christmas). This is a great service project! Those who can stay a bit longer are welcome to join for a fun Christ-massy social activity TBD!

**Wednesday, Dec 15** - 5-6:30pm - All youth are invited to go skating at San Mateo Central Park! This is a free skate day, rentals included. This will be a joint event with youth who attend on Sundays and Wednesdays.

**Wednesday, Dec 22** - 7:15pm Las Posadas/ Christmas pageant! Kids, youth, and adults of all ages are invited to come and participate in this meaningful event that recalls Mary and Joseph looking for a room at the Inn. There will be costumes for everyone (or feel free to bring your own - shepherds and animals are especially welcome!). This is an outdoor, masked, and bilingual event. And, dinner will be served (cooked by Jorge's mom - a real treat!).

## From your Board of Directors

We are pleased to announce that at its meeting on Oct 10, your Board of Directors approved a revised **sabbatical leave plan for the Senior Minister, Penny Nixon**. With the Board's encouragement, she will take six weeks of sabbatical leave each calendar year for the next five years, 2022 through 2026. This plan will use up the accrued sabbatical leave that was provided in a call letter several years ago, but which she has not been able to use fully for a variety of reasons. Taking leave for study and reflection each year, especially during such a prolonged stressful time brought on by the pandemic, will serve both her and CCSM very, very well. We are delighted to put this plan into place.

-- Dave Chandler, Moderator



### [CLICK HERE to learn more about SafeSpace.](#)

[SafeSpace works with local youth to empower and equip them to become leaders and peer advocates around issues related to mental health. Youth develop projects to help educate and support themselves, their peers, and their communities. Come to this special second hour to hear from some of these youth about how mental health affects the lives of young people today, and what we can all do as a community to become a part of the work for positive change.](#)





# 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)

1st Fridays - on Zoom, 1-3pm

3rd Fridays - in person TBD, 1-3pm

Rebecca Ruedy-Whelan: rebeccaruedy@gmail.com

Half of the meetings in person 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.

### 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](mailto:dkalliam@gmail.com)

Calling and visiting those with health and other challenges

#### Month of Sundays (greeting cards)

Occasional

Deb Flaherty: [Flaherty.dwr@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:nancy.dieguez@live.com)

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



CCSM recognized Chase Olson, organ scholar, on September 19, 2021, for his contributions to the spiritual life of the church through his amazing music.





# 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](https://ccsm-ucc.org/prayer), by [contacting us via staff emails](mailto:cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org) listed in your bulletin or on the website, [ccsm-ucc.org](https://ccsm-ucc.org). You may also contact the church office at [cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org) or call 650-343-3694, and Chase will make sure one of the pastors contacts you as soon as possible.

### Our hearts go out to those who have experienced loss recently:

Prayers for **Oscar Rosa and his family** as they mourn the loss of his two nieces.

Prayers of comfort for **Michele Cinq Mars** whose father **Gerard Cinq Mars** was killed in an automobile accident in Connecticut on Sunday, November 7th. Please pray for the whole family as they grieve this sudden and tragic loss.

Our prayers go out to **Dave Olson** on the death of his father, **Paul Olson** in September.

We are sad to lose **Arnold Duncan**, beloved CCSM member, who passed away from COVID on Wednesday, October 20th. His daughter **Jodie** was able to be with him. A memorial will be held at CCSM, **2 pm, Saturday, November 20th**.

**Elise Leung** spent her last two days on hospice at home with her sons Robert and Johann, and then passed peacefully on Thursday, October 21st. Elise was a member of CCSM for 28 years, a faithful volunteer, and sang in the choir for many years. She will be missed. A memorial at CCSM is being planned for March 26, 2022.

Prayers for the family of **Marian Faber**, who passed away Thursday morning, October 14th. Marian was active in many areas of church life. She was in charge of memorial receptions and she participated in the Blanketeers, Face Mask Brigade and hand stitched many quilts and sewed 800 face masks. A memorial was held at CCSM on **Saturday, November 6th**.

Prayers for **Alice Morrison**, who lost her husband **Oakley Hewitt**, after a long illness.

Longtime member **Marjorie Griffin** passed away on Sunday, October 24. Cards may be sent to Marjorie's address and addressed to her children, Anne and Bob. No memorial is being planned.

**Barbara Mollison**, a member of CCSM for 30 years and former CCSM

wedding coordinator, passed away peacefully on August 14 in Burlingame.

Prayers for **Mark Meyers** and his family as they mourn the loss of Mark's nephew **Stephen**.

Prayers for the Shaughnessy family as they mourn the loss of **Jesse Guzman**, the son-in-law of **Cindy Shaughnessy**.

Prayers for friends of Angela and Robert Kraft Cross, **Judy Holcomb** and **Richard Pope**. Richard passed away on Monday, October 23. Judy, his wife, is fighting against metastatic breast cancer at age 75 and grieving her husband.

Prayers for **Steve Davis and Eleanor Lewis** as they grieve the passing of Steve's mother, **Anita Davis**, after a lengthy illness. A memorial service will be held on December 4 @11:00.

Angela Cross is grieving the loss of **Michael Morgan**, director of the Oakland Symphony.

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

Angela and Robert Kraft-Cross' friend **Marilyn VerMeulen** has passed away from pancreatic cancer.

**Doug Henton's** cousin's daughter **Betsy Smith** died on August 3 during the birth of a baby girl (Charlotte.)

Prayers for **Linda Stoick**, as she mourns the loss of her friend Gail.

### Prayers of Concern and Support:

Prayers for **Len Flaherty's** brother, **Philip Flaherty**, who had major spinal surgery on 11/17.

Prayers for **Jim Ingwersen** who is receiving hospice care. Jim has recently been attending in-person services again and we honor his faith and strength.

Continue to keep **Bill Melis** and **Carole Melis** in your prayers as Bill continues to face numerous

hospitalizations and health challenges.

Prayers for **Rebecca Ruedy-Whelan's** brother-in-law **Martin Giddy**, 78, with advanced prostate cancer.

Prayers continue for **Malcolm Jones**, for improved efficacy of his cancer treatments and for improved management of this pain.

**Krystal Burndon's** sister, **Janelle Sharp**, is awaiting results from a number of tests and a biopsy of her liver. Prayers for the entire family as this turn of events is very unexpected. Janelle is 31 with an infant and a toddler.

Prayers for **Chuck Rosenthal's** mother, **Lorraine Grawoig**, who is undergoing a bone marrow test due to low platelets. Prayers for easing of anxiety.

Prayers for **Cheryle Matteo's**, brother **Lou**, as he continues to undergo treatment for leukemia

Prayers of healing for **Bonnie Ichimaru** who is dealing with several health issues while waiting for hip replacement surgery.

Please pray for **Michele Moffitt's** brother who suffers from Dementia and his daughter who is fighting stage 4 breast cancer.

Prayers for **Dorothy Gorman** who has had health issues arise.

Prayers for Eva Jakés mother, **Irina Irklienko**, who is undergoing chemotherapy.

### Continuing prayers of strength, encouragement, and healing for:

Dorothy Gorman, Jim Dresbach, padre Michael Dresbach, Dr. Jim Groundwater and family, Thelma Kromhout, Rev. Travis Woodmansee's mother Cathy, Mike and Kay Harris' friend Mary Helen McMahon, Cathy Latta, Dottie Scott, Veril Phillips' granddaughter Eva, George Vail's friends Donna Terry and Melinda Jones, David Meissner and Gene Chelberg, Chuck Ruthroff (Don and Jonathan's brother), Ruth Black, Gail Evans' friend Michelle, Martha Bronitsky's mother Bobbye Gorenberg, Julie Lenden's father Reggie Barnes, Elizabeth Campbell.

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.

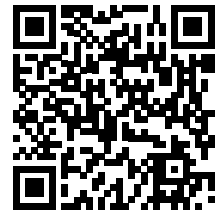


Click [HERE](#) or on the video above to watch a **5 minute** video of Penny's sermon on Reimagining!

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HOLD YOUR CAMERA ON THE CODE  
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## Plate Offering Schedule

### 2021

11/14	Thanksgiving" boxes"
11/21	Covid-19 Assistance Fund
11/28	Adopt-a-family
12/5	Homework Central
12/12	Staff Love
12/19	Faith in Action
12/24	CCSM General Fund
12/26	Retired Ministers Fund