

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 71, #2 | 2022 • ONLINE / HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SEASON

PENNY ANNOUNCES HER RETIREMENT FROM CHURCH MINISTRY

Dear beloved community,

This summer will mark my 15th year at CCSM. I feel honored to have served such an amazing congregation for a decade and a half. Together we have embodied our guiding principles and grown in love and justice each year. I have the greatest confidence in you as a beloved community. So, it is with both deep gratitude and genuine sadness that I am announcing that I am retiring from church ministry.

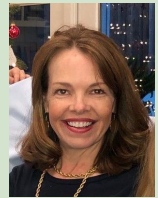


I have been in pastoral ministry for 27 years and during that time led two congregations through two pandemics. I have loved being a minister through the good times and the challenging times. It is simply time for me to serve in a

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A RESPONSE FROM OUR MODERATOR, JULIE LENDEN

If you're like me, you are full of emotion right now. Penny has guided us through unprecedented times not only with the recent pandemic, but through the 2016 election, and our awakening surrounding George Floyd's murder, all while pastoring us through life's more typical ups and downs. She has married us, baptized our children, buried our loved ones and nurtured us through health crises.



I joined CCSM approximately 13 years ago because of Penny's inspirational sermons. During this time, I've also had the great pleasure of getting to know many of you. What I know is that in addition to Penny being second to none, this community is second to none due to our shared principles and vision. This is a time when I, along

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GRAND RE-OPENING

(AKA TRIUMPHAL RE-ENTRY)

PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 10TH, 2022

**JOIN US AS WE GATHER BACK TOGETHER
IN PERSON FOR PALM SUNDAY!
SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 2**



Congregational
Church of san mateo

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

PENNY'S ANNOUNCEMENT

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different way. My passion for justice and love for people has not waned but I feel called to live that passion in a different way, though I do not know what that looks like yet. I am stepping out in faith.

I will not be serving another congregation. Please know if I was going to remain in pastoral ministry, it would be with you.

CCSM is approaching its 160-year anniversary and throughout a century and a half, has ALWAYS risen to what the time has required. I feel proud to have been your first woman senior minister, and the longest serving senior minister in the church's history. However, my tenure is less than 10% of that history! Never forget that the strength of CCSM resides in the congregation. You will continue to thrive. While this will be a major change for the church, I ask you to trust your incredible leaders, trust your dedicated staff, and, most of all, trust yourselves.

We will spend the next two months together cherishing our memories and affirming who we are as a spiritual community. Let's celebrate each other even amidst our inevitable tears. I share with you once again, my foundational spiritual principle: Nothing lasts forever. Nothing is lost forever. So, neither time nor distance can diminish what we have shared or the difference we have made in each other's lives. I will be forever grateful and will carry you in my heart always.

Peace,
Penny



JULIE'S RESPONSE

cont. from previous page

with the entire board, are going to ask all of you to double down on CCSM by showing up for this community with your time, your treasure and your faith. Each of us not only carries Penny's infinite wisdom within us, but close to 160 years of institutional wisdom embodied in how we live out our principles as a community. Together, we will rely on that wisdom and our principles to guide CCSM in the years to come, and to attract yet another wonderful senior minister.

The next few months will be comprised of two important priorities: The first will be to honor Penny with a special celebration. And what a party that will be! The second, separate but related priority is to implement a transition and recruitment plan. One of the best ways to honor Penny is to build on the foundation she has lovingly established.

I will conclude by saying to Penny, I know this transition is full of both hope and grief for you. We are here for you, we support you, and we hold you in all the ways you have held us. And to my fellow CCSMers, I am confident that we will rise to this occasion and evolve in unexpected and beautiful ways.

Julie

Click [HERE](#) or on the video to the left to watch Penny's announcement and Julie's response as shared on Sunday, April 3.

GRAND RE-OPENING (AKA TRIUMPHAL RE-ENTRY)

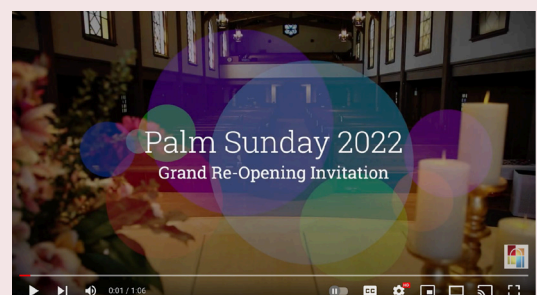
We hope you will make a special effort to **join us as we gather back together in person for Palm Sunday**. We have it on good authority that the Donkey will be making an appearance!

A luncheon will follow the service. Rev. Penny will be making her famous chili—can you guess the secret ingredient? And Chase will be making her vegetarian Mulligatawny Soup. Corn bread, garlic naan, lots of treats, too!

If you gather online, please **join the virtual Coffee Hour** with Deb Chang (one of our new Board members who is online, too). Our members who gather in person want to stop in to say "Hello"!

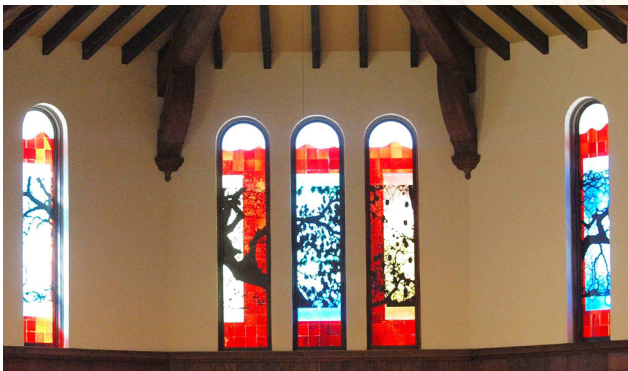
While the festivities will be wonderful, what is even more wonderful is the opportunity to worship together in the sanctuary. Our community has impressively weathered a very difficult challenge with all the turmoil caused by the COVID virus. So, we hope you will **come and worship together as a community—grateful, strong, and determined** to carry the progressive message of inclusion and welcome to all.

Click [HERE](#) to watch our Grand Re-Opening invitation video!



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

These past months have been a time of re-building and reconnecting after the Omicron surge had forced us back online for a few weeks. Our programs continue to be vibrant and meaningful, engaging important topics like seasons and rituals, the story of Jesus, Lent, and faith and social justice. Our high schoolers have continued to choose their discussion topics in 60 Minutes and recent conversations have considered school, the pandemic, right wing extremism, and the invasion of Ukraine and the possibility of peace. Our Wednesday programs have also been focused on the seasons, holidays, and art and spirituality. We have also been focusing on building intergenerational connections between the younger and older kids, helping the older ones develop important leadership skills.



One specifically meaningful class took place on March 27, when Elijah and I had a wonderful conversation with the youth about stained glass. We walked around the church and did a “scavenger hunt” to find different symbols in the windows and talked about why they were there and what they might mean. The kids had very creative ideas about the windows at the front of the sanctuary especially, connecting the four seasons of the year to the church seasons, seasons of their lives, seasons of the COVID pandemic, and more. We talked about the symbolism of light shining through glass and the interplay of light, color, and darkness to reveal beauty. Then, the kids created their own stained glass based on symbols, colors, and images that are meaningful to them.

Community service also remains an important component of our programs. We’re excited to invite **any youth who would like to help make sandwiches to join the CCSM crew in the kitchen on the 4th Sundays of the month at 11:45am.** This is a great way to earn community service hours!

In early March we offered a scholarship information session for our 12th graders. We are so grateful to be able to offer scholarships to both our 1st year undergraduate and graduate students due to the generosity of our church. It was wonderful to recon-

nect with some of our busy high school seniors and hear about their plans for next year! **Anyone who would like to learn more about the CCSM scholarships can find all of the information at ccsm-ucc.org/connect/#scholarships.** Deadline is April 15!

Looking ahead, we will continue to offer programs for kids and youth of all ages on both Sundays and Wednesdays. **We’d love to grow our program and would be delighted to welcome any kids, grandkids, nieces/nephews, neighbors, etc. you may have in your life!** All of our programs are very welcoming and inclusive with a strong focus on friendship, hands-on learning, games, and friendship. Hope to see you soon!

We’ll have special programs for kids on Palm Sunday (April 10) and Easter (April 17), but each Wednesday and Sunday is special in its own way. Also, kids and youth are welcome on both Wednesdays and Sundays regardless of which service (if any!) their parents/guardians attend. Please consider trying out both!

Also, it’s not too soon to think about summer camp! Please let Sheryl know if you have any questions or are interested in going.



2022 CAMP DATES FOR UCC'S CAMP TAMARACK:

Junior Camp (Grades 4-6):

July 17 - 23

Junior High/Middle School Camp (Grades 7-9):

July 24 - 30

Senior High Camp (Grades 10-12):

July 31 - August 6

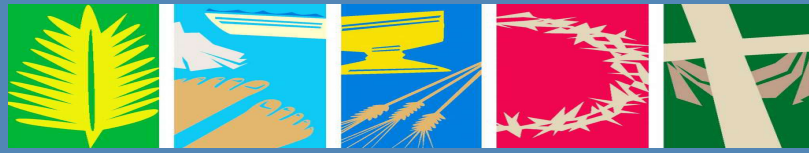
More information can be found here:

tinyurl.com/UCC-Tamarack



Kids having fun on Easter Sunday, 2019

HOLY WEEK AT CCSM



Maundy Thursday service

7:00pm, Thursday, April 14, Congregational Church of Belmont
(751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont)

Please join the CCSM community for this meaningful multi-church service. The service will feature several choral pieces and selected scripture readings with a candle being snuffed out at the end of each. Musicians and worship leaders from CCSM and several other churches will be participating.

Please reach out to Sheryl Johnson with any questions, and please wear a mask and bring your vaccination card.

Good Friday Service, presented by Music and Art

1:00pm, Friday, April 15 in the CCSM Sanctuary

This service will offer special organ music by Angela Kraft Cross interspersed with readings by members. (Note: the Music and Art core group will have lunch at noon in the Buckham Room. Remember to bring your own bag lunch; beverages and dessert are provided. A brief business meeting will follow and then we'll adjourn to the Sanctuary for the program). All are welcome, but please RSVP to Susan Duty at susanjd52@gmail.com or 650-533-6830.

Ecumenical Good Friday Service

7:00pm, Friday, April 15 in the Sanctuary and live on Facebook/YouTube

An ecumenical Good Friday gathering of music and meditations on the Seven Last Words of Christ. To join virtually, click [HERE](#). Eight congregations: Congregational Church of San Mateo UCC, St James AME Church, St Peter's Episcopal Church, College Heights UCC, Many Journeys MCC, Island United Church of Foster City UCC, Mercy Center Burlingame, Trinity Baptist Church of San Mateo.



CCSM's choir & musicians are participating in the ecumenical services for Maundy Thursday at the Belmont UCC as well as CCSM's Ecumenical Good Friday service. If you are interested in participating in any of the music for Holy Week, please contact Lynnelle at ltbmusings@gmail.com.

CCSM REMAINS A GENEROUS COMMUNITY!

Year	Total pledges	# pledging units	Ave pledge	Median pledge
2016	511,017	197	2,584	1,600
2017	534,887	204	2,622	1,568
2018	568,809	211	2,696	1,800
2019	603,234	211	2,859	2,000
2020	619,986	210	2,952	2,000
2021	628,074	211	2,977	2,100
2022	599,264	198	3,027	2,080

stewardship
update

NURTURE THE EARTH

NURTURE YOUR SPIRIT

CELEBRATING EARTH DAY ON APRIL 24


EARTH CARE AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

What if caring for the earth, doing our part to help save the planet, was a spiritual practice and something that nurtured you in a way you hadn't imagined? What if we realized that caring for the earth was caring for ourselves in a way that filled us up? We'll be exploring that for three Sundays in May.

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

For the last number of years, we have dedicated the first Sunday of May to talk openly and honestly about mental health and the truth of how many of us struggle with mental health, now more than ever.

This will be a meaningful and uplifting service, and perhaps one to invite friends to.



SUNDAY, MAY 1ST

DESSERT AND DISCUSSION WITH OUR OWN EMILY BEACH

Join us on Sunday, April 10, at 12:15 in the Buckham Room, after CCSM's grand re-opening lunch on the lawn.

Emily Beach is a candidate for Congress for the 15th Congressional District representing San Mateo and San Francisco counties, coming up for the vote in the primary election on June 7. Emily and her family are part of our CCSM community. Please join us to get better acquainted with Emily and to learn why she is running for Congress. *Join us in person or on Zoom ([click HERE](#)).*

To learn more in advance of this gathering, check out her website: emilybeachforcongress.com/about

Sponsored and hosted by Linda Stoick, Lauren Mathews, Susan Stoddard-Phillips and Julien Phillips



HELPING CCSM FOLKS STAY CONNECTED

by Carol Henton

Over the years, many people have routinely phoned or visited someone in the church in an effort to help that person stay connected. During the past two years, as we know, such outreach and connection was more challenging. Accordingly, as the pandemic wanes, CCSM staff and a few of its lay leaders are looking to capture and formalize some of the outreach people are doing—or are willing to newly commit to do.

As we launch this effort, we want to know two things. First, are you already maintaining a regular friendship with someone in the congregation who has needed more connection? If so, we'd like to know. Secondly, are you willing to establish regular communication and outreach with someone? Perhaps you are recently retired, or the kids are now grown, in which case you have more time to

give to CCSM.

We recognize that many CCSM people already have strong connections and long-standing friendships. Hopefully some new relationships will be fostered.

This effort will be led by Carol Henton, and will be under the auspices of the Congregational Care Ministry led by Diane Kalliam. Please contact either Carol (carolhenton@aol.com, 650-544-7563) or Diane (dkalliam@gmail.com, 415-279-1359) of your interest—or your continued commitment. Ideally we'd like to hear from you by mid-April.





YOUR ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MINISTRY (EEJ) IN ACTION

Here's what's happening with CCSM's Energy, Environmental Justice Ministry (EEJ):

- ❑ **The Going Solar permit and plans are under review with the City of San Mateo.** Construction will hopefully begin in the next month or so. Stay tuned. When approved and installed, we'll be joining our fellow local faith community, Peninsula Sinai in Foster City to Go Solar with support from Interfaith Power and Light.
- ❑ **Task Force on landscaping and water use.** EEJ welcomes volunteers to join our task force to analyze the impact of our landscaping and plantings on water use and cost – both the financial cost of water and the environmental cost of drought reality of California.
- ❑ **We Love Earth Festival on April 16.** CCSM will participate in this Earth Day event at Flood Park in Menlo Park (10 am- 2 pm). We'll have a booth with posters to share what we are doing to become a Climate Church and will provide information and encourage discussion about CCSM in our spiritual life and in our community. We'll have handouts describing our church and handouts of plant-able seed cards encouraging visitors to Nurture the Earth and Nurture Your Spirit at CCSM. Please plan to visit or join the team in the booth to talk about CCSM.
- ❑ **Sermon on Nurturing the Earth and Your Spirit / Creation Care.** Rev. Penny Nixon will preach on this important topic. One source of inspiration is the book: *Saving Us – A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*, written by Katherine Hayhoe, PhD.
- ❑ **Ribbon Cutting Event:** Interfaith Power and Light's ED Liore Milgrom-Gartner asked that we alert our CCSM members of the Community Resiliency Center ribbon cutting event at Hope Methodist Church, South San Francisco on May 1. Hope Methodist has also gone Solar.
- ❑ We just hosted a wonderful **Second Hour with Rev. Fletcher Harper** (the Executive Director of [GreenFaith](#), an interfaith environmental coalition), an inspirational activist who presented (with Gary H. White) climate and environmental issues and their relevance and the importance of action from members of faith communities. Check out his book, [Green Faith: Mobilizing God's People to Protect the Earth](#).

Interested in learning more or in joining our ministry? For information, please contact Warren Long longlake15@sbcglobal.net or Rev. Sheryl Johnson sjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org

“COME BACK TO COMMUNITY” EVENTS

CCSM FAMILY – LET’S GATHER TOGETHER.

With COVID restrictions loosening, it’s time to “come back to community” to refresh our tired spirits and reconnect our untethered relationships.

Why is this so important? Because community needs a “we” to “be.” And, as we learned from the book *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love* by Valerie Kaur, revolutionary love—the choice to enter in to wonder and labor for others, for our opponents and for ourselves in order to transform the world around us—can ONLY be practiced in community.

For these reasons and more, efforts are now underway to provide YOU with fun, low-cost, mostly outdoor opportunities to gather from May to September. These efforts are NOT to be confused with Pick-A-Party, which will be back in the Fall with a sign-up day in October. The “come back to community” events will be focused on relaxation, renewing friendships and making new ones, catching up on each other’s lives, and learning what we need from community going forward.

Event planning is in the works, with current thinking including: a garden party/ barbecue, kids game night supporting a parents’ night out, Mexican cuisine night, Giants game (or As, Jorge), movie night at CCSM, campfire s’mores and sing along, Penny’s paella, wine education/tasting, and various music events featuring our talented artists. Donations will be solicited to help hosts and guests cover the costs. These events will be kicked off and sign-ups will occur at CCSM’s first ever pie social/raffle in early May. Details will be coming in Connections and during Sunday services, so watch for those.

Volunteers to help organize/lead events are needed. Please contact Sandy McNabb (Sandra.j.mcnabb@gmail.com, 650-678-5650) or Diane Kalliam (dkalliam@gmail.com, 415-279-1359).

Let the gathering begin...

Gath·er: *verb:* to bring together; to scoop up or take up from a resting place; to collect a number of separate things into one place or into one aggregate body (*Webster’s Dictionary, 2022*)

MUSIC & ART PRESENTS A GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE APRIL 15 • 1:00PM

Join us in the Sanctuary on Good Friday at 1:00PM. There will be special organ music by Angela Kraft Cross interspersed with readings by members.

(Note: the Music and Art core group will have lunch at noon in the Buckham Room. Remember to bring your own bag lunch; beverages and dessert are provided. A brief business meeting will follow and then we’ll adjourn to the Sanctuary for the program).

All are welcome, but please RSVP by emailing Susan Duty at susanjd52@gmail.com or by calling 650-533-6830.

GOOD friday

A blessing for Joan Kilroe, March 27, 2022

Joan, as you return to your New England home, may the road rise to meet you, may the wind be always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, and the rain fall soft upon your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.



POSY POSSE IS RELAUNCHING SOON!

Spring has sprung and we are looking forward to relaunching the Posy Posse. Early in April, we will be connecting to our existing team members to organize for the posy season. We are also expanding the team and want to invite you to join the Posy Posse!

The Posy Posse's focus is to use the bounty of our community member's gardens to create opportunities for meaningful in-person connections within the CCSM Community. Last year the Posy Posse team delivered over 125 bouquets honoring important events in the lives of our CCSM family.

One of the best parts of being part of the Posy Posse is the fellowship with like-minded gardeners, floral enthusiasts, and creative folks.

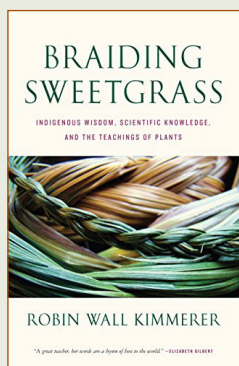
We want to welcome you to our volunteer team of gardeners, makers and deliverers.

Do you have flowers in your garden to share? Like to make small bouquets or always wanted to learn how? Have time to deliver to members of the CCSM Family?

Come join the fun! For more information, please contact Susan Lake Long. See church directory ([MyCCSM](#)) for contact information.



SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS: BRAIDING SWEETGRASS



Nourishing spiritual growth is the purpose of Spiritual Conversations. We do this by reading a variety of writers and sharing personal experiences, thoughts, and questions. Writers we read include Fredrick Buechner, Parker Palmer, Marcus Borg, Krista Tippet, Richard Rohr, Gregory Boyle, and Brene Brown.

If you're interested in checking us out, please come to our next meeting; we meet every other Monday evening from 7:15 to 8:45 via zoom. Contact Chris Wuthmann at c.wuthmann@stanford.edu for further info and the zoom link.

At our next meeting, **Monday, April 18,** we'll

discuss two chapters from ***Braiding Sweetgrass*** by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

To get copies of the reading, contact Chase Montara at cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org.



Penny making a point at a housing rally

THE POINSETTIA DIARIES

by Diane Kalliam

(This article intended for last month's Pine Tree – coming to you late but no less compelling!)

Again in 2021 we continued the tradition of delivering poinsettias to our long-time members and those who may have had an illness or loss in the previous year. I'm not sure when it began, but Penny said it was in place when she arrived, so clearly it is a long standing CCSM practice. Here is a little blurb on what I did and learned this holiday season.

I took my Subaru and Mel Dresbach took her truck to buy the plants from Costco. It was raining. After experiencing the behavior of people in the parking lot, any fear I had of Armageddon is gone. Fortunately the selection and purchase process was quite smooth. We loaded three flat trolley carts full of plants, got them out the door and into our vehicles. The first shout-out goes to Oscar who helped us unload and find storage space for them. He also set up the tables and put them out (and back in) on our distribution Sundays. The second shout-out goes to Chase for making the lists, the tags for the plants and the clearly-worded instructions. And the last and biggest shout-out goes to the CCSM community for picking up the plants and delivering them. All 75 plants were given out and only one person got two. If I listed all the names of those making deliveries this wouldn't be a blurb anymore. But I need to mention a few folks who really came through. June Brown was so excited about being able to drive again that she took a bundle and delivered them from Daly City to Palo Alto. Carol Henton took some and then came back a couple of times and got more because that's what Carol Henton does. And Rebecca Ruedy-Whelan came at the end of the second distribution day, saw the last 6 or 7, and just took them all. Whether you took one or many, thanks so very much.

Since I live in San Francisco I took the three for delivery here. Had a wonderful visit with Phil Gara. Then off to Elise Leung's sons, Robert and Johann. I'd been there before visiting Elise so knew that parking was an issue. As I drove around and around the little GPS voice kept saying "recalculating." She finally gave up and told me "just park in somebody's driveway!" So our visit was more brief. Barbara and Dave Dobrinen weren't home but I do know that they were happy to receive their plant. That just left Malcolm Jones in Novato.... NOVATO?? For just the briefest moment I considered keeping the plant and eschewing the trip....I mean who

would know? I blame that bad boy Satan for even suggesting it. And I'm so glad I went. He was so moved and thankful. I learned how his late partner Sandy Blodgett had introduced him to CCSM and how grateful he is to our church family. During his recent health issues he has so appreciated the calls, cards, prayers and kind thoughts he has received. He is doing well and attributes his emotional healing to the support from his church family. I left having made a new friend and with a happy feeling.

I won't say I learned anything new from this project. There were a few glitches which will be corrected for next year. Mostly, several things were just confirmed.

1. Delivering the poinsettia is as rewarding as receiving it. That sentiment has been expressed over and over. It is an opportunity to meet new people or renew old friendships.
2. The CCSM family is a generous and caring community. The many offers of help I received, and your willingness to pick up and deliver a plant to someone you may not know. Many of our older members can't come to church and the pandemic has kept many others away. Your visit with them helps keep the connection alive.
3. When we reach out to people who appear in Joys and Concerns it makes a big difference. Most of us don't know about your gesture but it is worth the effort.

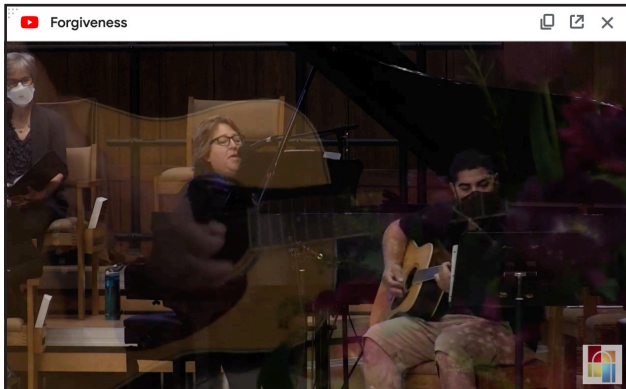
Thanks again to all who helped. Your efforts made this a labor of love. I am never surprised by the way this community steps up to support each other, but always so grateful to be a witness to it. See you next Advent.





WOMEN OF THE YEAR

Penny was honored as Woman of the Year in 2019 in California's 22nd Assembly District, and this year she participated a panel comprised of other women recognized in recent years, including 2022 recipient Kitty Lopez. Assemblyman Kevin Mullin hosted the panel on March 29 to invite the women to discuss how they have accomplished all they have and how others can make a difference.



Forgiveness

Click [HERE](#) to listen to Melanie Dresbach sing the song Forgiveness by Matthew West.

The song was inspired by the true story of Renee Napier, who chose to forgive Eric Smallridge, a drunk driver who took the life of her 20-year-old daughter.

Melanie Dresbach - Piano and Vocals
Rich Dresbach Castillo, Guitar

SONGS OF PEACE by Melanie Dresbach



The new set of music for what is known as the "Fifteen Minute Countdown"—music that we air at 10:15 before each online Sunday service—is a compilation of songs that speak of peace. Chuck came up with the theme of peace, and padre Michael and Di Kalliam assisted in coming up with the list of tunes. These songs were chosen to invite the listener to join in humming the simple melodies or singing the pieces familiar to you.

Jordan, Chuck, and I recorded the Peace Set on the afternoon of Sunday, March 27. Expect to hear songs that we've sung during the service at CCSM, as well as *Imagine* by John Lennon, and *Peace Train* by Yusuf Cat Stevens. May you be blessed by the music and join the prayer for peace through these selections:

*Circle Round for Freedom,
Lead Us From Death to Life,
Make Me a Channel of Your Peace,
Let There be Peace on Earth,
Peace, Peace, Peace Unto All,
Shalom Para Ti,
Come and Fill our Hearts with Your Peace,
Peace is Flowing Like a River,
I've Got Peace Like a River,
Blowin in the Wind (Dylan),
Be Still, My Soul, and
It is Well With my Soul.*

SOUND BATH IN THE SANCTUARY APRIL 24 • 4:00 - 5:30 PM



by Chuck Rosenthal

The Logos Method will be back in the Sanctuary on April 24th to host their Sound Bath.

CCSM Members can purchase tickets for \$5 off at: tinyurl.com/logosoundbath

Sound Baths exude vibrational sounds that sooth the soul, relax our nervous system and assist us to experience balance with our body, mind and soul. Please join Chuck and Jordan to experience deep peace within.

[Click here](#) to check out a video to see what a Sound Bath is like.

Joys and Concerns

CCSM Pastoral Care Team

Please share your prayers with the pastoral care team: Rev. 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 JOY AND GRATITUDE

Prayers of joy and blessing for **Abigail Louise Anderson**, baptized on April 3, 2022, supported by her parents **Kayte and Jim Bishop**.

News has reached us about **Barbara Knees** from her son **Bill** who reports she is doing well. She lives at a board & care facility in San Marcos (about 30 minutes from his family in San Diego.) She recently turned 94 and they see her frequently.

Melanie Dresbach reports with joy that her brother, padre **Michael Dresbach**, recently had a CT scan that showed no new growths, so the new treatment is working well.

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Our deepest and most heartfelt condolences go out to **John Neil, Michele Cinq-Mars, Zoe Neil and Chris Neil**, as they grieve the terrible loss of their dear son, brother and grandson, **Kyle**. Let us hold them in tender consideration during this grievous loss, even as we grant them the grace of privacy during this time.

We did not receive the news until now that over the summer longtime member **Donna Simpson** passed away on July 30, 2022. Our heartfelt condolences to Donna's daughter **Pam Ortega** and family.

We have also learned that friend of CCSM **Peggy Jones** passed away on December 7, 2021. A service was held in Texas in December. Prayers for Peggy's family and friends.

Christine Meyer's Aunt Marie passed away in late March. Prayers for loved ones and family, and gratitude for all those her life touched.

PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT

Prayers for **Betsy Woodward** and **Phil Lind's** son **Andrew Lind**, who is working from Geneva for the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM). He writes to his dad: "Basically I'm overseeing systems coordination for the responses in Ukraine, Poland, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia and Moldova. So, it is unlikely I will personally travel. Keeping them all staffed and having calls with them all regularly, helping the teams build up the response. Ukraine the most. But it's a solid mission. We were the biggest UN org there before as we had big work in the Donbas, building apartment buildings for housing, and counter traffick-ing etc. lots of the teams and people fled but we have offices in the west and partners throughout the country. Like tomorrow 20k boxes of high calorie food bars being delivered to Odessa. Lots going on."

Cheryle Matteo would be grateful for continued prayers for her brother **Lou Matteo**. His cancer has returned.

We send traveling mercies with our dear **Joanie Kilroe**, who has relocated to Rhode Island. We will see you online, Joanie!

Joanie Kilroe asks for prayers for her sister **Kay**, who lives in Vermont and has declined significantly with Alzheimer's after a move to an assisted living facility.

Sue Ingles asks for prayers for **Albert C. Read III** in Michigan, who has lung cancer.

Mary Ann Notz requests prayers for full recovery from her heart surgery on March 29.

Continued prayers for **Genel Morgan's** niece **Alyssa**, suffering from ocular migraines. She has recently returned to high school and has so much to make up.

Continuing prayers of strength, encouragement, and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters: **Stan Higgs' friend Pamela; Ruth Black; Gene Chelberg and David Meissner; Dorothy Gorman; Dr. Jim Groundwater; Jim Ingwersen; Malcolm Jones; Michele Moffitt; Bill Melis; Lee Mullery; Clare Naegle; Cari Parker; Dottie Scott; Gary Steele; Donna Summers; Joan Kilroe's son Andy Cioci; Jim Dresbach; Veril Phillips' granddaughter Eva; Don and Jonathan's brother Chuck Ruthroff; Michele Moffitt's brother and his daughter; Krystal Burndon's sister Janelle Sharp; Susan Lake's friend Sanjana, Elizabeth Campbell, struggling with homelessness; Cynthia Carley's friend John Gallegos; Ada Harrigan; Robert and Angela Kraft Cross' friend Judy Holcomb.**



Penny speaks at a rally for Ukraine

**HOLY WEEK AT
CCSM:**
SEE DETAILS ON PAGE 4

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**DON'T MISS
EASTER!**
**AFTER TWO EASTERS
ONLINE ONLY,
WE CAN BE BACK
TOGETHER!**
**WHO NEEDS SOME
RESURRECTION?**

If you're local, come on out for a special Easter service on April 17, and experience some resurrection for yourself... And we'll see a big crowd online too!

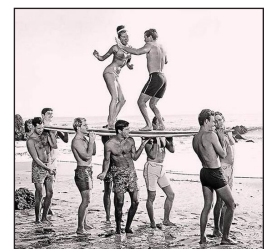


**CELEBRATION
PARTY FOR PENNY ON
SATURDAY, JUNE 4!**

We are in the beginning stages of planning a party to say our goodbyes and to wish Penny all the best. And to enjoy some "extravagant" fun together!

WE'RE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP US MAKE THIS A CCSM PARTY WORTH REMEMBERING. Planning a party is a good way to work through the complex emotions of saying farewell.

Let us know if you are willing to volunteer some time to the "Celebration Committee" by contacting Chase at cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org.



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