

# CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 71, #3 | ONLINE | SPRING/SUMMER 2022

## A PILGRIMAGE OF FAITH AND EXPLORATION

### SUMMER 2022 WORSHIP SERVICES

**B**eginning June 12, we will have a wonderful summer program of services featuring many familiar voices to the CCSM community—and some new ones as well! Each week will also feature wonderful music, prayer, liturgical art, and more as you are sure to expect at CCSM. Our theme will be that of *pilgrimage*, journeying from the known into the unknown, and stepping out in faith. Many of us will be traveling this summer, perhaps returning to familiar “pilgrimage” sites in our own lives or perhaps venturing to new places locally or around the world.



As a community, we will be journeying into a time of new ministerial leadership. Almost all world religions feature pilgrimage as a spiritual discipline, teaching us simplicity, trust, persistence, endurance, hospitality, and so much more. I encourage you all to think of this summer series as your own pilgrimage of sorts, continuing to connect even as so much is changing and being open as you would be if you were visiting a new culture or community.

Please continue to worship with us online even if you are not in San Mateo at some points this summer—or, if you are generally an online worshipper, please consider making a pilgrimage to worship in person in San Mateo!

There is so much we can learn about ourselves and about the Spirit, ourselves, and our communities when we are outside of familiar surroundings and have our usual patterns mixed up. I know it will be a meaningful time to draw together tightly as a community as we embark on this journey. Nothing makes friendship

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## LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

**T**here is no way to begin to capture the last 15 years. I feel so blessed to have been called to this congregation. In those early months of 2007, it was like an arranged marriage—we were joined together but we didn’t really know each other very well. Annlee and I were brand new parents and trying to help our daughter Mercy settle into a completely new environment and new family. My previous ministries had been in New York and San Francisco—inner city contexts—so San Mateo seemed so calm and quiet. But over time, as people were so welcoming and gracious, we began to feel at home. Now, I can’t imagine being any other place or imagine a more wonderful congregation. I have been incredibly fortunate to have served two amazing congregations as a pastor over the past 27 years.



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Resurrection joy on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022



Congregational  
Church of san mateo

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

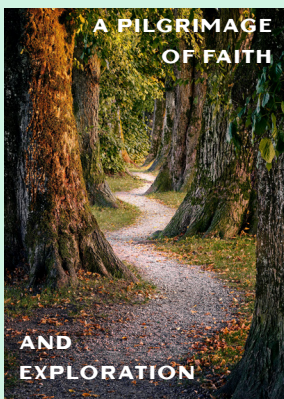
## SUMMER 2022 WORSHIP

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develop faster than traveling together. Jorge and I can't wait to get to know you better and walk with you in this season.

—Rev. Sheryl

### SUMMER PREACHING SCHEDULE:



**JUNE 12**

Rev. Sheryl Johnson

**JUNE 19**

Rev. Jorge Perry Bautista

**JUNE 26**

Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg

**JULY 3**

Rev. Valerie McEntee

**JULY 10**

Alan Roby

**JULY 17**

Rev. Jorge Perry Bautista

**JULY 24**

Rev. Sheryl Johnson

**JULY 31**

Dr. Sharon Jacob

## LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD

—cont. from previous page—

I have met some of the finest people I have ever known at CCSM. And as a congregation, there are so many things I have appreciated about you. Your volunteerism, your generosity, your care, the way you do things with excellence, and the way you put your faith into action. But most of all, I have such respect for your openness to grow and to change. There has been such transformation!

We did a sanctuary renovation and created a more open, accessible, and inclusive space; we were given the MLK award in San Mateo as we became one of the most respected justice-oriented churches in the county; we became a sanctuary church and hosted sanctuary guests; we launched a Spanish-speaking service; we learned from our rabbi-in-residence, Rabbi Jhos Singer...and the list goes on.

You took seriously the guiding principles that first drew me to CCSM. Have I ever told you that CCSM was the ONLY church I applied to? No other congregation called out to me in the way you did.

It's been a great ride.

I could never name all the people who have impacted my time with you—each and every one of you has touched my life in some way. I do want, however, to lift up the moderators that have served during my tenure. The moderator does SO much and is close up to everything that goes on in the life of the church and in my life as a pastor. Every moderator is different and leaves their own mark on the life of the church. Each moderator has played a special role over the years leading us through projects, crises, remodels, anniversaries, governance change, congregational votes on hot topics, the pandemic... and the list goes on. So a special shout-out of gratitude to Doug Henton, Susan Stoddard-Phillips, Mike and Lee Mullery, Linda Skromme, Veril Phillips, Austin Mader-Clark, Jim Berthelsen, Jeanne Back, Tony Gallo, Dave Chandler and Julie Lenden. And a special word of thanks as well to the search committee, led by John Fyfe, who worked tirelessly over 18 months to find the match that would lead to the transformation we experienced.

I am grateful to the staff I have worked with over the years. We have forged deep relationships marked by love, respect, and humor.

I also want to acknowledge Annlee, my spouse of almost 30 years, who has been with me through every up and down, always calling me to my highest self and reminding me of who I am and what's important. And during the darkest days of the pandemic, she was behind the camera, cheering me on and lifting me up when the sanctuary was only empty pews. We have spent half of our married life here at CCSM—and we are both grateful for the warmth and love shown to us and our whole family.

I will leave you with my spiritual mantra: Nothing lasts forever. Nothing is lost forever. I know I say it often, but it is a truth that brings me great comfort. I will always cherish what we have shared. The intimate moments—moments of deep sadness and unparalleled joy. We weathered a lot—especially the last 6 years. We are surrounded by the communion of the saints, and we can say, as we bid farewell, that we are better for having known one another.

And, dear ones, my employment may end, but my love remains. With gratitude,

Penny



Penny and Annlee



# CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

These past months have been great ones for the children and youth programs. A special highlight was Easter Sunday when we had about 30 children and youth present! It was so fun to connect and reconnect. We explored the Easter story together through Godly Play and then had a fun carnival-style program of crafts, games, cookie decorating, and a bingo game featuring symbols of Easter. Our youth did a great job of preparing a fun Easter egg hunt and just generally being helpful and welcoming. I heard from several people that the sounds of kids' laughter and voices coming from the garden added to their experiences of joy during the worship service.



We've had some other special times recently, including the Palm Sunday service with a fun skit featuring the donkey who learned to talk! The donkey also visited our Wednesday evening programs and the kids enjoyed some question and

answer time that also helped them learn about the Palm Sunday story and Jesus' ministry. On Wednesdays we have also been exploring the interconnection of the Easter season and spring, learning about Camp Tamarack, learning songs for Mother's Day, and making lots of art together.

We are excited to have a few more weeks of our regular weekly age-based programs before we transition on June 19th to our **special summer multi-age program** (which will continue up to and including Labor Day)! Each week the kids will learn about a different social justice or climate justice issue through stories from great kids' books and engage in conversation. Then, the kids will make a craft or project that will offer service and support. These creations will be given to a local organization that works on one of these issues. We'll make toys for animals living in shelters, craft packages

for kids going through difficult circumstances, cards for seniors who may be isolated, lunches for people in need, and much more.

Each summer, we offer a fun and meaningful program and I think this year's program will be especially engaging. Hope to see you one week, some weeks, or every week! And, youth are invited to be junior "camp counselors" for the program. If you help out at least four weeks in the summer, you can receive a certificate of recognition. Please contact Sheryl if you are interested! Thanks so much to Elaine Kauffman for her wonderful leadership with this program as always.

On Wednesdays, we will continue to offer programming all throughout the summer and also connect in some of these community service themes and projects. All kids and youth are welcome on both Wednesdays and Sundays! It's always a fun time to make friends and have fun. Youth who are looking for volunteer hours are welcome to help out as well.

Finally, please do register for Camp Tamarack!

## 2022 CAMP DATES FOR UCC'S CAMP TAMARACK:

**Junior Camp (Grades 4-6):  
JULY 17-23**

**Middle School/High School  
Camp (Grades 7-12):  
JULY 24-30**



*NOTE: Middle School and High School camps have been combined into one week.*

go to

[ncnuc.org/camp](http://ncnuc.org/camp)



Kids in action on Wednesdays

## A NEWSY UPDATE FROM OUR MODERATOR

We have a wonderful committee collaborating to plan the Celebration of Penny's Ministry. The party is on **Saturday June, 4** at CCSM. It will be all the better with you there. Tables will be set up in Kloss Hall and on the lawn so you can eat wherever you are most comfortable. **Please bring your favorite beverage, and if you'd like to bring a letter for Penny, bring it on an 8 ½ x 11 piece of paper and it will be compiled into a book (or mail it to CCSM prior).** All are welcome (reach out to me, [julielenden@gmail.com](mailto:julielenden@gmail.com), if you'd like one of our sponsored tickets or need help with registration). **CLICK HERE to reserve your seat by May 21!** After dinner, the program will start at approximately 7:15 p.m. and it will be livestreamed.

The board is working to secure an Interim. We've had six candidates express interest in the position to date. One candidate is not a good fit, two withdrew due to geographical reasons or they were in late-stage communications with another church, and we are starting to get to know the remaining three candidates. We can really use your help to get the word out about this position. CCSM has always found the best people through word of mouth. Please share [this job description](#) widely. Thank you for your help.

We do not anticipate having an Interim Minister immediately after Penny's departure. But there is a plan in place. The next few months are already programmed with guest preachers, as well as Jorge and Sheryl, and the amazing CCSM staff are working

together to keep CCSM thriving.

The board is finalizing nominations for the Settled Senior Minister Search Committee. We are very excited about this committee, and are holding a **Hybrid Congregational Meeting on May 22 after church** to vote on this committee. Save the date! During this meeting, we will also share information about what to expect about the process of the search committee and more.

I am so energized by you, CCSMers. I feel similar to how a community feels after a natural disaster (in this case, Penny's retirement from church ministry represents the natural disaster ☺). We feel a bit rattled. But we're checking in with each other, we're enjoying pie together, we're working in community to celebrate Penny, and we're having deep and meaningful conversations to start envisioning what we want for our future. The baton has been passed from minister to minister many times through CCSM's great history, and I am confident that this community is ripe for wonderful growth and renewal. I am honored to be your moderator and am looking forward to continuing this journey with you through all the stages of transition.



## WHY IS PENNY'S RETIREMENT FROM MINISTRY SO SOON?

It has come to my attention that some are wondering why Penny's last Sunday with us is nine weeks from the day she announced the news instead of a longer transition time. The short answer is that the collective wisdom of the board, along with prayer and discernment with Penny, led us to conclude that a shorter transition window is not only best for the health of the church, but also for Penny and her family.

If Penny's offramp were much longer, the grieving period for the congregation would also be longer. That could be harder on everyone. Let's face it, we're a bit rattled. And we need the space to grieve. As important, from a strategic planning perspective, CCSM is at a pivotal point in our history, and time stands still for CCSM until the baton is passed, we have an Interim who will provide CCSM the strategic insight and the space for healing that will inevitably be required, and the search committee begins revisioning.

As important, Penny wants to end her ministry on a high note, and she most certainly will (can we hear

an AMEN?!). She will have a restorative summer and Mercy is really looking forward to enjoying extra time with her mom before Penny starts her job search for a leadership role at a Social Justice non-profit.

Things are feeling alive at 225 and online! People are coming to church, viewing the online sermons, and we are relishing our return to community. And I will repeat now, and again in the months to come, in addition to Penny being second to none, this community is second to none. I am energized by your overwhelming support. With prayer, faith, and a lot of hard work, the board is planning the transition period, working to hire an Interim Senior Minister, and building a search committee that will eventually secure a Senior Minister to build on CCSM's solid foundation.

*Julie Lenden*

Moderator, on behalf of CCSM's Board of Directors



## NOMINATED SLATE FOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

**T**he Board of Directors is happy to announce the following slate nominated to serve on the **Settled Senior Minister Search Committee**. This team represents long-term members who have served CCSM in many capacities before, as well as newer members who are eager to attract another Senior Minister to help us continue to evolve in unexpected and beautiful ways.

The process of nominating the team was in itself a gift. The plan was to initially seek participation from our elders who have served CCSM so beautifully in the past. But their message and wisdom were clear—it's time for our elders to pass the baton to the next generation of CCSM leaders. Their consistent message was that it's important for our elders to be represented on the committee, but not to lead or serve in the majority. What a progressive perspective!

We are excited about this slate and are confident that this search team will implement a thoughtful, thorough, and strategic process that will result in attracting yet another amazing Senior Minister to CCSM. ***Please plan on attending the congregational meeting this Sunday, May 22 to cast your vote.***



Co-Chair:  
Alexandra Gillen



Co-Chair:  
Dave Olson



Tracy Avelar



Jim Berthelsen



Leslie Burndon



Deborah Chang



Kenny Lee



Rebecca Ruedy-Whelan



Sebastian Steinbach



Congressional candidate Emily Beach spoke to a Second Hour gathering on April 10

*It's a reunion! Members of the 20s-30s group were delighted to re-gather in person after a long separation.*

## SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

The CCSM scholarship committee of the Children, Youth and Family Ministry is pleased to award a scholarship for the upcoming 2022-23 academic year to **Cole Mathews**, one of our senior high youth. The award will be presented during the **May 22** church service.

Congratulations to Cole, who shared in his application his dedication to education, service in school leadership and in sports and

community involvement. Cole and his family have been active at CCSM for many years. We wish Cole well as he enters the next step in his education and for serving as God's hands, faces, hearts and minds in the world.

Thanks especially to Sue Bullis whose generosity and commitment to education helps fund our youth scholarships and summer camp experiences.



## CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES!

This month we begin celebrating graduations! If you would like a graduation announcement included in the next Pine Tree, please e-mail the information to Sheryl by June 1 ([sjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:sjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org)). We celebrate all of our graduates (from any level of schooling!) and wish them each the very best as they go forth to further their learning and serve the world. This month, we highlight for you:

**JESS PALMER-SAMMONS**, a previous help with Lily in the nursery and Sunday school classes with the 3-4 year olds, will be graduating Half Moon Bay High School on 6/2. She will be attending Macalester College in St. Paul, MN in Fall 2022. We're very proud that Macalester extended a four year academic scholarship to her based on her good grades from high school. She plans to double

major in Biochemistry and Spanish. She also will be playing on their women's water polo division III team. In August, her two Moms will be flying with her to MN to help her transition into Midwest college life as well as ensure she's well equipped to withstand the chilly winter seasons.

**AVERY PALMER-SAMMONS**, once baptized by Rev. Penny Nixon at age 5 months, is graduating 8th grade from Cunha Middle School in Half Moon Bay this June. She is thriving in local theatre, art classes, soccer and she just recently joined a water polo club team. Avery is looking forward to attending Half Moon Bay High School and getting involved with other high school activities including more theatre and women's water polo.





# "COME BACK TO COMMUNITY" EVENTS

## CHOOSE TO BE INVOLVED

Rev. Penny's Mother's Day sermon spoke to the power of community as critical in today's environment of division because it helps move us out of binary conversations. She also shared that Moses was able to lead his people when he opened himself up to a different reality—to the idea that things could be different. Einstein said we can't solve problems on the level of thinking we were at when we created them. In times of profound change—whether the world around us or simply our church—"new situations call for us to think anew and act anew," to quote Abraham Lincoln. None of this happens in isolation.

When I was in college, my pastor shared an analogy I've never forgotten. He held up a No. 2 pencil and broke it in half, quite easily. Then he held up about eight No. 2 pencils. And as he gripped them and tried to break them in half, he couldn't. No amount of strength he applied could break them—not even one. He went on to explain that just like the pencils, when we try to go it alone through rough times we can be easily broken. But when we join together, when we become a community bonded by love and compassion, we cannot be broken.

We want the "Coming Back to Community" events to be fun and full of joyful reunions. We also want them to strengthen us as a community of members. For it's in community where conversations—deep and meaningful conversations—can occur if we allow them. In community, we give ourselves the opportunity to open up to a different reality – to CREATE a different reality. Or as Rev. Penny preached, an unfolding ever evolving reality!

Sign-ups are now underway. You can find a list and description of events at [tinyurl.com/CB2C-Summer22](https://tinyurl.com/CB2C-Summer22) OR, contact committee members [sandra.j.mcnebb@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.j.mcnebb@gmail.com), 650.678.5650 or [dkalliam@gmail.com](mailto:dkalliam@gmail.com), 415.279.1359. We set a deadline of May 22 but please know that you can contact committee members or event hosts any time before or after that date to sign up—with the exception of the baseball game; hosts need to sell you a ticket NO LATER than May 22.

**BRING A FELLOW MEMBER OR POTENTIAL NEW MEMBER WITH YOU! LET'S BUILD COMMUNITY TOGETHER, HAVE FUN, AND CREATE DEEP AND MEANINGFUL CHANGE.**



*Pies waiting to be raffled and enjoyed at the Pie Social*

## MUSIC & ART:

### SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE TIME FRIDAY, MAY 20 • NOON • BUCKHAM ROOM

The grand finale meeting of the 2021-2022 season of Music and Art will be a **POTLUCK LUNCH** in the Buckham Room. If you missed the April meeting and the food sign-up sheet, be prepared to let your contact person know whether you will bring sandwiches, salad or dessert.

In addition to our time of fellowship and business meeting, we will have a special time to commemorate four members we have lost during this past season: **Zelta Adams, Marian Faber, Thelma Kromhout and Carolyn Shaw.**

Rev. Penny will also be present for the meeting and this ritual of remembrance. Guests are welcome to attend but you **MUST RSVP** to Susan Duty at [susanjd52@gmail.com](mailto:susanjd52@gmail.com) or by phone 650-533-6830. I hope you are all looking forward to this special time for the close of our Music and Art season.



# SPRINGTIME MUSIC HIGHLIGHTS AT CCSM

by Lynnelle Bilsey, Director of Music

Spring has seen several wonderful music events at CCSM this year, three this month alone. Two of these featured Angela Kraft Cross; the first was with the **Saratoga Symphony** performing two works composed for organ and orchestra on May 1st and the second was Angela's **29th Annual Spring Organ Recital** on May 15th. In addition, the **Burlingame Music Club** moved their meetings to CCSM this Spring and opened their doors for the members of CCSM to join them at their monthly musical events. May featured a performance by their 2022 young musicians scholarship winner 15yr old violinist Hiro Yoshimura (featured in the photo with club president Karen Hutchinson). Stay tuned for more musical events this summer.



Angela with the Saratoga Symphony



I would also like to express my deep appreciation to all the fantastic musical guests who have graced our services with their amazing talent: Chris Yeh and the Z Quartet, Julie Berk, Roma Olvera, Don Ruthroth, Krystal Burnden, Susan and Stephen Bell, Don Harper, Karen Hutchinson and Zachariah Spellman, Lesly Delgado, young organists Xiang Xiang Reynolds, Mandelyn Wu, Tilden Wu and Aria Folkerts, and the musical ensembles including the mass ecumenical choir, the intergenerational choir, chancel choir and Carillon Ringers as well as CCSM's musicians Melanie Dresbach and Angela Kraft Cross. We have truly been showered with talent and blessed by uplifting music this year; thank you all for sharing your gifts with us. Looking forward to a musical summer.

## SPECIAL MUSIC SOCIAL APPRECIATION EVENT JUNE 26

As a thank you to all our musical guests, ensembles and our Chancel Choir and Carillon Ringers who enthusiastically jumped back into making music last fall and following a short unexpected break in winter came back together to provide and fill our springtime services with music. Please save the date, June 26th, for a special music social—more details to come.

Lastly, are you interested in sharing your musical talents as a soloist, small ensemble or joining one of our musical groups? If so, please contact me at [ltbmusings@gmail.com](mailto:ltbmusings@gmail.com); I would love to talk with you about opportunities with CCSM.

## JOYFUL NOISE IN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN!

On **SUNDAY, JUNE 12**, join Joyful Noise Youth Music Director Julie Berk for a fun filled morning of songs, movement, instruments, and instrument making! The children will start with the music and then will make their very own shaker/tambourines. Finally, it will be time to shake, rattle, and roll with their own handmade instruments!

Questions?  
Contact  
Julie at 650-400-9808 or  
[teacherjulie@pacbell.net](mailto:teacherjulie@pacbell.net).



Assistant Director of Operations Mavis on vacation





## NURTURE THE EARTH, NURTURE YOUR SPIRIT AT CCSM

We hope you participated in the beautiful **Earth Day Sunday service on April 24**. If not, you can [revisit](#) the wonder of our own congregants' reflections plus the poetry, music, messaging from Penny and sincere prayer. Thanks especially to Megan Goulden, Betty Till, Phil Lind and Kerianne Steele for sharing their connections to the beauty of nature. They reflected on connecting to the Earth via gardening, the Native American tradition of respecting our home, storytelling through the eyes of Dr. Seuss, and a mom experiencing nature with her young son.

Here is an excerpt from Betty Till's unique perspective:

*In recognition of the native peoples of the land where this church stands, we offer grateful appreciation for the opportunity to live and work on this land. We recognize and acknowledge the historical wrongs endured by Native Americans, and we celebrate the culture and perseverance of these indigenous people and their strong identity. These indigenous people still carry the needed keys of their ancient wisdom of living in harmony, and sustainably, and in abundance with Pachamama—Mother Earth.*

*In many of the social justice and spiritual discussions we have had in this church, we've heard the message that "violence happens when we are disconnected from each other." As I reflected on the violence that is occurring to nature with deforestation, fires, the parching of the soil, the lack of clean drinking water and increased air pollution, I am reminded of how disconnected we as a species have become from Mother Earth.*

*Indigenous people have always known that everything is connected, everything is alive, and everything has energy such as plants, stones, trees, water, and even inanimate objects. They have taught us about the healing properties of living closer to the land. In my own experience, I know that when I feel irritated or out of sorts, my sense of "church" and my healing comes from being in nature. When I walk the paths in my neighborhood or find a trail in the open space or sit in my back yard or at a local park, it is there that I get re-connected to spirit.*

*I look to the morning sunrise, the power of the sun igniting the FIRE within me. I put my feet on the EARTH and sense the soil that hosts the seeds and gives forth life to all the plants and creatures on this planet. As I take a sip of WATER or wash my hands, I am grateful for the cycle of rain falling to the ground, collecting in streams, emptying into lakes and rivers, flowing to the ocean, and evaporating again to bring us rain as the cycle continues. As I feel the AIR, the breath of spirit kissing my face, I notice my nostrils flaring as I detect the subtle fragrance*

*of jasmine from my neighbor's yard. As I start my day, I offer gratitude and appreciation to Mother Nature for connecting me to her.*

The **GOING SOLAR** permit and plans are still under review with the City of San Mateo. Construction is on hold for a while longer unfortunately. We look forward to joining our fellow local faith community, Peninsula Sinai in Foster City for Going Solar and appreciate the support from Interfaith Power and Light.

EEJ welcomes volunteers to join our **TASK FORCE ON LANDSCAPING AND WATER USE** to analyze the impact of our landscaping and plantings on water use and cost—the financial cost of water and the environmental cost of California's drought reality.

CCSM had a booth at the **We-Love-Earth Day Fair** on April 16 in Menlo Park. We handed out plantable "Nurture the Earth, Nurture your Spirit at CCSM" cards, and had good discussions with visitors about what CCSM is doing to become a Climate Church in our spiritual life and in our community.

Interested in learning more or in joining EEJ? Please contact Warren Long [longlake15@sbcglobal.net](mailto:longlake15@sbcglobal.net) or Rev. Sheryl Johnson [sjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:sjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org)

Please do your part personally showing respect for the Earth. And most importantly, get out into nature as often as you can to restore your soul and spirit!





# BECOMING A CLIMATE CHURCH

A COLUMN BY EEJ MINISTRY • NO. 8

by Gary H. White

According to Google, one of the most searched terms right now is that of “electrify.” You might wonder why a term that was coined in the late nineteenth century would become so popular in the twenty-first century. The answer has to do with the energy transition the world must undergo in the next thirty years to solve the climate crisis.

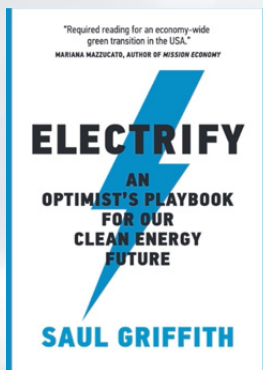
In order for humanity to limit global warming to no more than +1.5 C, electricity—specifically renewable electricity—must become the ubiquitous source for most of our energy needs. The renowned Australian climate scientist Saul Griffith spells this out in his recent book, *Electrify*. He argues that first and foremost, transportation

must be electrified. All cars, trucks and buses and eventually planes and boats will need to surrender their internal combustion engines (ICE) and adopt electrical power delivered by onboard batteries or fuel cells. Buildings—both commercial and residential—must be newly built or retrofitted

by installing comprehensive electrical power while dispensing entirely with natural gas which creates pollution and greenhouse gas. The air and water used in all buildings will also need to be heated and cooled by using only renewable electricity.

So what does this mean for you and I? It means we should all do our part to electrify everything in our own lives. The next time you are in the market for a new car, go EV. More and more EV models from all car companies are coming onto the market and getting closer to price parity with traditional ICE cars. You can also consider buying and installing a heat pump the next time your gas heater dies. Heat pumps are improving all the time and can be used to heat and cool your home, enabling you to ditch your air conditioner as well. You can buy an electric water heater the next time your gas water heater breaks down. And lastly, when your current clothes dryer poops out, buy yourself a fully electric dryer.

While the climate crisis can ultimately only be solved by governmental and business efforts, it can nonetheless be muted by the efforts each of us can take to electrify our lives.



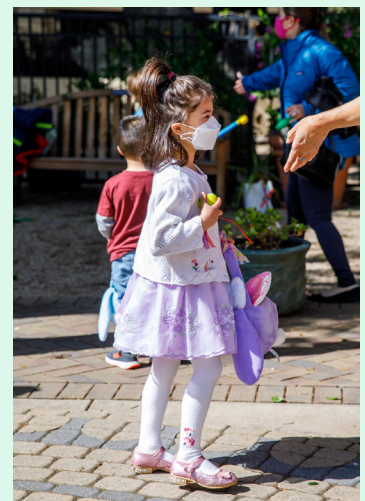
## A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

by Dorothy Kogl

On Easter Sunday my husband and I were taking our late afternoon walk in the neighborhood when we saw a man and woman in the process of helping their two children get into their car, parked at the curb. The man was holding a little boy about two years old, and the woman was settling a little girl about four into her car seat. I said Hi to the boy who waved at me. We walked on. Then we heard a piping voice calling from near the car. I turned and saw the little girl running up to us; she'd gotten out of the car and wanted me to admire her pink dress and her black patent leather, Mary Jane slippers and her socks with little bows. She liked my red shoes and teal socks. I noticed a big bow on the top of her black hair and her necklace; I complimented her on them too. Then to my surprise the little boy came toddle running up to say hello again. I asked the children their names, told them mine. They each voluntarily took my hands and we walked back to the father who seemed amused and embarrassed. I told him he had two very sweet children, we exchanged names and addresses, and said good-bye.

I'm not sure what this encounter, Martin Buber's word, meant; but it left me with a glowing feeling: such goodness, love, trust, and innocence. A moment of grace, a moment of being, of revelation. A mystery.

Chase told us: “Rumi says ‘I’m drunk and you’re crazy. How shall we get home?’” My answer is: We get home by loving, trusting, and caring for one another.





## IT'S NOT THE DESTINATION. IT'S THE JOURNEY.

by Laura Pierce-McKenzie

All of us are preparing for the next phase in the evolution of the Congregational Church of San Mateo. While there are lots of unknowns, this transformational journey will bring exciting ideas, new friends and fresh perspectives into our lives. The Liturgical Arts Ministry (LAM) is looking forward to the creative projects that will be generated from the ideas that our Summer guest clergy will be sharing with us all.

Over the next three months, the LAM team will be engaged in a number of activities and events. We want to invite you to join in the fun. **HERE ARE SOME OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO GET CREATIVE WITH LAM!**

**PASTOR PENNY'S RETIREMENT PARTY, JUNE 4:** Members of both the LAM and Posy Posse teams have volunteered to create table decorations for this event. There is a fun design in the works. Would you love to get a little "crafty"? Contribute your decorative skills? Meet some new friends? This is the perfect event for someone with just a few hours to volunteer. Dates and times for preparation workshops will be announced in the Bulletin. Contact Laura Pierce-McKenzie for more information.

**POSY POSSE IN HIGH SEASON:** Come join in the creative energy of the Posy Posse. The Posse creates pretty posies to brighten the days of targeted members of the community. Perfect for someone with just a few hours a week to volunteer. Makers and Deliverers both welcomed. Contact Susan Long for the date of the next maker's party.

**LAM SUMMER PROJECT:** As we move out of the past two years of the Pandemic, what are the people, places, or spiritual connections that you have missed? What are you going to reconnect to during the summer? The LAM team will be creating a **Journey and Pilgrimage art installation** based on our community experiences over the summer months. We will complete the installation for reveal at Fall Homecoming. Please check Connections email and the Bulletin for details on how to participate.

We invite you to join the LAM and Posy Posse to explore new ways to connect with each other as we embark on CCSM's transformational journey.

To quote Pastor Sheryl, "Nothing makes friendship develop faster than traveling together."



## INTERCOMMUNAL PRESCHOOL TURNS 50!

### TIME TO CELEBRATE!

**INTERCOMMUNAL PRESCHOOL, CO-FOUNDED BY BETSY WOODWARD, PHIL LIND AND OTHERS, WILL CELEBRATE ITS 50TH YEAR OF SERVING PRESCHOOL CHILDREN FROM NORTH CENTRAL SAN MATEO.**

Opened in July of 1972, the school has nurtured and educated over 1000 children, giving them a head start in school.

To commemorate this milestone, the school is having an **Anniversary Party on Sunday, July 10 at CCSM from 12-2 in Kloss Hall**. The celebration will include lunch, a slide show, memorabilia, several speakers, and dancers from ALAS! in Half Moon Bay. Please join us.

Reservations are required as space is limited. **To reserve a spot, please email Betsy Woodward at [betsdce@comcast.net](mailto:betsdce@comcast.net) before June 26, 2022.**

There will also be an **Open House** at the school, 713 Second Ave, on **Sunday, July 10 from 3:00-6:00 pm**. Please come visit this neighborhood institution.



## ENDOWMENT FUND ASSETS MOVED TO UNITED CHURCH FUNDS

by Jim Lindsay, Chair, Endowment Committee

Over the last several months, the Endowment Committee has been discussing various options for the ongoing investment and management of the church endowment fund to protect the long-term viability of the fund and to ensure our investments reflect the values of the Church. After considering several options and following a presentation by United Church Funds to the Endowment Committee, the committee voted, and the Board of Directors subsequently approved, moving CCSM's endowment fund assets to United Church Funds. This move will transition the fund from an older portfolio investment model supported by Wells Fargo Advisors to a simplified investment approach and will enable us to **invest in socially and environmentally friendly funds that are consistent with CCSM's values.** United Church Funds, an entity of the national United Church of Christ, manages over \$1 billion of local church assets and works with the investment committee of the UCC Pension Board.

In accordance with the Planned Giving and Endowment Fund Policy adopted by the Board, 70% of the endowment fund assets will be invested in fixed income securities and 30% will be invested in equities. The Endowment Committee has selected the UCF Beyond Fossil Fuels fund for the initial equity investment in accordance with a goal of CCSM to become a Climate Church.

Our endowment fund is intended to support the church in four areas: as a rainy day fund, to provide capital support for large projects, to generate income to support the operating expenses of the church, and to provide housing support for our minister(s) when needed. At the time of transfer in May 2022, the endowment fund had approximately \$1.7 million in assets. The fund is managed by the Endowment Committee consisting of John Adams, Jim Lindsay, Chris Yeh, and Veril Phillips (ex-officio). As in the past, income from the endowment fund will continue to be paid to the church as earned and becomes part of the annual revenue in support of the ongoing operations of the church. In 2021, those earnings totaled about \$29,500.

Please consider adding CCSM to your planned giving plans so that we can continue to grow our endowment.



Bill McKibben  
@billmckibben

Just got news that the United Church of Christ has voted to divest from fossil fuels. This is incredibly important news

3:57 PM · Jul 1, 2013

64 Reply Copy link

Read 27 replies

## INTERIM SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH

The board of directors is starting to interview Interim Senior Minister candidates. Please share [this job description](#) with your networks! Many churches in the NCNC are in transition; your help in getting the word out is greatly appreciated.

A UCC church can call ministers from not only the UCC but also the Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian (USA), Reformed Church in America, United Church of Canada and ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING DATES 2022

Here are the dates for CCSM's Board of Directors meetings going forward in 2022. The meetings are open and anyone who wishes to attend is welcome.

June—no mtg  
July 17  
August TBD  
September 11

October 9  
November 13  
December 11

## SOUND BATH MAY 22, 4:00–5:30PM

Join Chuck and Jordan for the next SOUND BATH on May 22nd from 4 -5:30pm.

Check out [this 3 minute video](#) so you can get an idea of how relaxing the sound bath is.





# CCSM'S GRAND RE-OPENING, AKA TRIUMPHAL RE-ENTRY, ON PALM SUNDAY!

After an eternity of extreme COVID caution, CCSM invited the congregation to return in person for a joyful reunion, accompanied by a talking donkey, on Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022! (Photos by Tony Gallo)





# EXPERIENCING RESURRECTION!

Two years of online Easter made the ability to be together in person all the sweeter! 225 was alive this year for our worship and celebration. (Photos by Chris Yeh)





# 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](https://ccsm-ucc.org/prayer) online prayer request**, by **contacting us via staff emails** 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.

### PRAYERS OF JOY AND GRATITUDE

We are delighted to share that **Katie Blodgett** and **Zachary Burkland** welcomed their second child, **Miles Francis Burkland**, on April 12. Older brother, **Mason** (now 2), is excited about his new “big brother” role. Everyone is doing well and Miles has been a very easy baby thus far!

**Mary Ann Notz** wants to express profound thanks for the multitude of encouraging get well messages via email, greeting cards and phone calls. She credits the success of the surgery and continuing recovery (albeit slower than she’d like) to the strength of the prayers of so many CCSM-ers. What an awesome support system.

### PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

We mourn the loss of **Chris Neil**, who passed away peacefully on April 23rd. Chris was a faithful and loving member of CCSM, participating on the history committee and in Music and Arts. Condolences to and prayers for the **Neil/Cinq-Mars** family as they bear another loss at this time. A memorial will be held on Friday, June 3rd at 2 PM.

Since plans for a memorial are not yet determined, **Thelma Kromhout**’s daughter, **Karen**, welcomes church members to share their thoughts, memories, and reflections with her and the family in writing, using this address: 26 Botany Court, Emerald Hills, CA 94062.

Prayers for **Cynthia Carley**’s friend **Diane Talgo**, who suffered a stroke.

### PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT

Prayers are requested for **Beverly Woodhouse**, mother of **Lauren Mathews** and grandmother of **Cole and Lily Mathews**, who was admitted to a rehabilitation facility in Massachusetts after suffering a stroke.

Please say some special prayers for our beloved **Sue Bullis** who is simply in need of some extra peace.

Prayers are requested for **Karen**, who was placed on hospice for liver failure.

*Continuing prayers of strength, encouragement, and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters:*  
**Cheryle Matteo**’s brother **Lou Matteo**; **Phil Lind** and **Betsy Woodward**’s son **Andrew Lind**; **Barbara Knees**; **Joanie Kilroe**’s sister **Kay**; **Albert C. Read III**; **Susan Lake**’s friend **Sanjana**; **Ruth Black**; **Gene Chelberg** and **David Meissner**; **Dorothy Gorman**; **Dr. Jim Groundwater**; **Jim Ingwersen**; **Malcolm Jones**; **Bill Melis**; **Lee Mullery**; **Clare Naegle**; **Cari Parker**; **Dottie Scott**; **Gary Steele**; **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**; **Cynthia Carley**’s friend **John Gallegos**; **Ada Harrigan**; **Robert and Angela Kraft Cross**’ friend **Judy Holcomb**.



*Penny baptizes Abigail, daughter of Kayte and Jim Bishop, on April 3, 2022*



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## LET'S CELEBRATE *Rev. Penny Nixon*

AND HER RETIREMENT  
FROM CHURCH MINISTRY

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2022

5:30 P.M.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
OF SAN MATEO  
225 TILTON AVE.  
SAN MATEO, CA

### EVENING SCHEDULE

5:30 P.M. Celebration Begins

6:15 P.M. Buffet Dinner

7:15 P.M. Evening Program

*We hope you can join us for this  
special celebration!*

Tickets are \$35 per adult, \$15 for child under 12 (childcare not provided). **All are welcome**, regardless of ability to pay the full cost (contact Julie Lenden, julielenden@gmail.com, for anonymous arrangements). Please bring your favorite wine, beer or beverage.

You are invited to make an **optional donation for a gift for Penny** (cross country skis & funds towards a restorative vacation) and/or an **optional donation to help defray costs of this event** above and beyond ticket sales, and for those who may be unable to pay for their tickets.

**CLICK HERE to get your tickets and/or make a donation!** Contact Julie Lenden (julielenden@gmail.com) with any questions or for help.

PLEASE RESPOND BY MAY 21



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