

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 71, #4 | ONLINE | SUMMER 2022



SUMMER 2022 WORSHIP SERIES:

A PILGRIMAGE OF FAITH AND EXPLORATION

UPCOMING PREACHERS:

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| 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 |
| Aug. 7: | Rev. Terri Echelbarger |

THE PILGRIMAGE HAS BEGUN!

I have to keep reminding myself that things have really changed at CCSM and that Rev. Penny has really retired from church ministry. I keep thinking that she is just on vacation. After all, things are often a bit different in the summer! I think that is often true with pilgrimage experiences—our brains want continuity and it is hard to process change, so we often default to thinking it isn't happening.



If that wasn't enough change to process, many
—cont. on page 3—

CELEBRATING PENNY'S 15 YEARS AT CCSM



What a celebration, what a joyful and tearful and hilarious and touching farewell we had for our beloved Rev. Penny on June 4. Inside this issue you'll find photos, links to videos, and other reminders of that evening.

<<Annlee, Mercy, Penny, and Rev. Marlyn Bussey enjoy the celebration.
(photo by Brian Mathews)



Congregational
Church of san mateo

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

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

This season has been a transitional time as we have moved from our school-year programming into our summer programming at CCSM. On Sunday, June 19, we began our summer multi-age kids program. **Each week, kids will read a wonderful illustrated children's book about a social or ecological justice issue, learn about an organization working on that issue in San Mateo, and then create a craft or do a project/activity that serves that organization and helps with that issue!** It is a



great opportunity to make a difference and give back. We know that many families are away for part of the summer so each session is very much designed to “stand alone” and it’s not a problem to just come whenever you can.

Youth are invited to be “junior counselors” for the program by helping to read, teach, and assist with the activities! If they do this four times, they can receive a certificate/letter of recommendation! This can be a great way to get community service hours for school or future applications. Ask Sheryl for more information!

On Wednesdays, our kids have enjoyed some more outdoor programming! We have done **nature scavenger hunts, played a variety of games that teach skills like active listening and cooperation, and just enjoyed the sun** being out later into the evening. We have had a wonderful group of kids and youth each week, including more toddlers lately. And, our youth planned a pizza party to celebrate the end of the school year on June 15.

We continue to offer other youth programming as well. A special event was **ziplining in Sonoma** in May! It was beautiful to fly among the redwood trees. We also had a special program on June 17 to **learn about algorithms and how they impact us through social media.** We focused on TikTok and learned about how that platform is especially good at “feeding” content that is specific to us and our interests. We talked about how social media can affect our mental health, how we think about our relationships, and how it is shaping society. Our facilitators gave us some strategies to

take control of what we see and how we feel about it. 60 Minutes (our high school discussion program) continues to be another recurring favorite—our most recent youth-chosen conversation focused on **the intersection of religion and sports.**

We are currently working on a **youth day retreat to be held on Sunday, August 21st!** The theme will be focused on *what it is like to be a youth in today's world*—the challenge and stresses, joys and opportunities! Details are being finalized but will be available soon. This retreat will also be a great time to learn about our new **youth leadership program** that will be launched in the fall. Our peer leaders will be helping to plan activities and events for youth and the whole CCSM community. This is a great opportunity to build leadership skills and have something great for your college applications. More details will come soon but please let Sheryl know if you are interested.

We also have several CCSM kids/youth attending **Camp Tamarack** this summer as well. Thank you SO much to Melanie Dresbach for helping to coordinate this and especially for helping to translate the forms for our Spanish-speaking families.

—Sheryl Johnson

From Emily Czarnik-Neimeyer, mid-high youth leader:

This past spring the Sunday morning mid-highers have been sharing, learning, and engaging in topics of spirituality and mental health, from conversations about spiritual identity, to bullying, to self care. The mid-highers have been sharing their own practices of mindfulness in movement, mantras, and music and then taking time to reflect upon these practices in the group setting. For example, the youth have been sharing about their personal daily



CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

—cont. from page 2—

practices at home and ways that they can and do talk with peers about mental health and spirituality. On Wednesday evenings the mid-highers have been talking about spirituality, Holy Seasons, art, and community. The youth have been creating Holy Season-specific art & crafts, such as for Lent and Easter, and having conversations about youth leadership, mental health, and spirituality in their communities and schools. We also had a pizza party to celebrate the end of the school year!

More Graduation Announcements!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF OUR CCSM GRADUATES—from preschool, elementary, middle, high school, college, and beyond! We are so proud of you and know you will continue to serve the world with the skills and knowledge you have gained. We began highlighting graduates in the last Pine Tree, and here are a few more:

CLAIRE LENDEN graduated from Menlo School on June 9, 2022. Claire loved high school, performing in 11 musicals, leading conferences for the Junior Classical League, campaigning for democratic candidates, and her coursework. She earned National Merit Scholarship and will be pursuing her passion for international relations and economics at the University of Chicago.

SAMARA SMITH, granddaughter of Deanna Riding, graduated from Sequoia High School this spring. She has been offered acceptance at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo where she will attend in the fall. Her parents Bret and Kirsten Smith are very proud of her.

LAURA HELD graduated in mid-June from Palo Alto University with a Masters of Arts in Counseling with a marriage and family therapy emphasis. She will be working as an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist, providing personal counseling services to the students at the College of San Mateo.

THE PILGRIMAGE HAS BEGUN!

—cont. from previous page—

of you know I had Covid this month too. It was so strange to have the illness that we've thought and talked and prayed so much about over these past years, that has touched people in every part of the world (and we know disproportionately affecting those who are already marginalized) touch me in my own body. I'm feeling better now, but it was definitely a disorienting experience. I am so grateful for the many ways that the CCSM community came around me to offer love and support. Truly it is sometimes in these moments that we really learn how much we are cared for.

I know many of you are experiencing your own summer pilgrimages. Perhaps you are visiting friends and family, journeying into the imaginative world of books or movies, traveling to favorite summer retreats, or just staying where you are but settling into a more relaxed summer pace. Whatever you may be doing, we want to hear about it! Take a look at the Liturgical Arts Ministry's invitation to share a symbol of your summer pilgrimage for an art installation at the end of the summer.

Wherever you may be this summer, please know that we are here for you. Our prayers and support do not take a vacation! With online services, prayer request forms on the website, and Rev. Jorge and I just a phone call or e-mail away, please know that we want to connect with you and hear what's going on for you wherever you may be. Don't hesitate to reach out, especially if you're feeling a bit thrown off or going through something hard. Or, if things are going great, you can still check in or send a photo of what you're up to! And, of course, we are always happy to see you in person as well. Our Coming Back to Community events are a particularly great way to reconnect in person. Hope to see you soon!

Sheryl

FROM YOUR MODERATOR

We did it! We gave Penny a spectacular celebration to honor her 15-year tenure with us, showing her the grace that she has lovingly shown us. Close to 200 people attended the celebration, which Penny labeled as “Vintage CCSM,” with our tried-and-true caterer (Espostos), steel drum band and incredible setting on the lawn and in Kloss Hall. Another 500+ watched the celebration online either live or later. Thank you especially to the committee, the Liturgical Arts and Posy Posse teams, and staff for your part in making it a fun and meaningful occasion.

Now, we get to be open to the challenges and opportunities that come with change. As I said when Penny first announced her departure, we will evolve in unexpected and beautiful ways. I invite you to be open to it, and continue to lean in to CCSM. We need each other.

I remain hopeful. The settled Senior Minister search committee is off and running and we are blessed by their wisdom and service. Thank you Alexandra, Dave, Deb, Jim, Kenny, Leslie, Rebecca, Sebastian and Tracy for taking on this important

challenge. See an update from the committee below.

The search for an Interim Senior Minister has demonstrated that CCSM is well known, desirable, and has yielded several strong candidates that we are interviewing. The Interim period will be a valuable time for CCSM to grieve losing Penny, welcome new gifts that we may be missing now, and assess our programs and ministries that haven't fully revived since the pandemic. We are a healthy, thriving church, and there are always ways to improve. This is a time for CCSM to take a close look at who we are, and who we want to be. Let's seize this moment, support each other, and make the most of this opportunity.

Thank you, CCSM, for showing up with your time, your treasure and your faith. We've got this!



Julie Lenden
Moderator

A NOTE FROM YOUR SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE

CSMers launched the Senior Minister Search Committee at the May 22 Congregational Meeting. We are humbled by the task you have entrusted us with and have hit the ground running. At this point, we have divided into sub-groups and are working on some projects that will help us gain clarity into who we are and what type of candidate we are looking for so that we can be in the best position possible to publish the official Senior Minister job description and start pursuing prospects in earnest. One of our sub-groups will be gathering input from you: in the coming weeks look for opportunities to give feedback both online and in person. We will be listening to you!

Thank you,

Alexandra Gillen & Dave Olson, Senior Minister Search Committee Co-Chairs



Enjoying dinner at Penny's farewell party, June 4



GRATITUDE AND LOVE FROM PENNY

Dear beloved community,

Thank you so much for an incredibly fun and memorable farewell party and for a deeply meaningful final Sunday. True to your DNA, your generosity and care has overwhelmed me one last time. There is a mountain of your notes, emails, letters and cards in my home office and it has taken me the past two weeks to go through them, savoring each one, cherishing the memories and the special moments shared with so many of you.

Your generosity toward my gift was so beyond my imagination. The gift of skis—how perfect—I will think of you every time I head out into the beautiful snow. And the check—wow—it will allow Annlee and me to go on the river cruise we have been dreaming about for years.

And then, there was the surprise of being awarded with the title of Minister Emerita, retired. Thank you for that honor that I will always treasure.

A special word of thanks to the committee who planned the farewell party and to the co-chairs, Pearly and Julie, who did so much work to make it an evening I will never forget. And of course, emcees Barb and Alan for making us laugh throughout the entire event.

Words truly do fail me in expressing my deep and abiding gratitude for you, not just in my last weeks, but in the last 15 years.

I know that many of you are curious about what is next for me. Remember that leap of faith I said I was taking? Well, I am in midair but fortunately I have a “faith parachute” and most days, that is my saving grace.

I miss you collectively and individually, but we remain connected in spirit and love.

With gratitude and love,

Penny



SO MANY WAYS TO SAVOR PENNY'S PARTY...

There were so many heartfelt and hilarious and memorable aspects to our farewell-to-Penny party on June 4. Many of them were documented and if you missed them or just want to relive them, here are a few ways. Chris Yeh's wonderful photos from the dinner on the lawn are [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) to see fantastic photos by Brian Mathews. A video of the whole program from Saturday's celebration may be viewed [HERE](#). The slideshow can be seen [HERE](#). And of course Sunday Services are always available online; Penny's farewell service on June 5 is available [HERE](#).

This is a weekend that will live long in our hearts as we savor these past fifteen years.



This is only a fraction of the great photos and videos taken. Check out the links on the previous page to see them all!





Penny's "Minister Emerita" plaque with Resolution of the Board of Directors

PENNY-INSPIRED LYRICS!

The Saga of Penny

lyrics by Roma Olvera
(sung while *slideshow* played)

There once was a reverend named Penny
Whose virtues were varied and many
Excepting that she was inclined
Always to speak her mind
And Penny points a moral
With which you cannot quarrel
As you will find

Penny made her mind up when my daughter was three
That what the church needed was a giant donkey
A sister church in Berkeley lost their storage one day
Now the donkey pays a visit every Palm Sunday

Dear Penny, Brighter than many
Her equal would be hard to find
She preaches like no other
The congregants adore her
Cause she always speaks her mind

Penny was awarded in 2016
A title that would honor Dr. Martin Luther King
She stood in front of Caltrain on a chilly day
And said we all must work together it's the only way

Penny made her mind up in 2021
She'd preach through a pandemic before she was done

The church's online membership clearly relates
We've got followers and congregants in thirty-three states

Penny made her mind up, it's sad but true
That she has other callings, other work to do
The time has come, for some our darkest fears
That our Penny will retire after fifteen years

Penny points a moral
With which we cannot quarrel.
Makes a lot of common sense
Penny and her saga
Prove that you are gaga
If you just keep sitting on the fence.

Penny and her stories
Point the way to glories
For all man and womankind.

Anyone with vision
Comes to this decision:
Just speak up You must speak up
Don't speak low, Always speak up

We must speak our mind

GOING FORWARD: WISDOM FOR WHAT'S NEXT

Many folks have asked "So what is our relationship now that you will no longer be my pastor?"

I want to reassure you that my love and concern for you all will continue. And it's also true, that when a minister leaves a congregation, the relationships developed with the church members change, out of necessity. The minister is rightly released from the spiritual care of the congregation, but the depths of feeling and connection does not end with the minister's employment.

Walking the line between our past and future relationship is, as you might imagine, not easily delineated. The interim minister, and eventually your settled pastor, will be building new relationships with you. In support of that work, I will need to make

space for those new relationships to grow and mature.

I will continue to live in the San Mateo community and since I am involved in several civic activities, I will inevitably run into people or may end up seeing you at various local events. I will be happy to see you and greet you warmly. And I hope you will understand that I have made a commitment to the Board of Directors to be guided by certain professional and ethical boundaries.

These boundaries include not engaging in conversations--in person or on social media-- about CCSM, unless I am asked to by the Board. I will visit CCSM by invitation from the Interim or Permanent Senior Pastor. I will forward any requests for spiritual care to the CCSM pastoral team.

I will use discernment in continuing the friendships that existed before I became your pastor, as well as those relationships that transcend the CCSM community--such as our kids' schools, sports, social justice work-- as they exist outside the church. But I will maintain my professional boundaries of not engaging in conversation about CCSM.

It is my intention to do everything I can to support the successful transition of ministerial leadership now, and in the future. I will always encourage and desire the greatest success of CCSM.

With gratitude and love always,

Penny

Fifteen Year Anniversary Song for Rev. Dr. G. Penny Nixon

Tune: Great is Your Faithfulness

Great is your faithfulness, G. Penny Nixon
Fifteen years at CCSM
Seeing the blessings in our congregation
Urging us forward with wisdom and grace

Beautiful Sanctuary, inspiring worship
Teaching and preaching that brought us to tears.
Focusing in on our guiding principles
Leading our church to act without fear.

REFRAIN:

Great is your faithfulness, great is your faithfulness
Penny, we celebrate you on this day
You've urged us forward to greater endeavors
Today we release you to journey your way.

Mission and justice our main concentrations
Sanctuary for those with no home
Whoever you are and wherever you come from
at CCSM, you are most welcome here.

Then the pandemic was sweeping among us
Fear and uncertainty swallowed us in.
You took us forward with digital worship.
Building and nurturing community. **REFRAIN**

Grief and gratitude fill our emotions
Fifteen years of your ministry here
We know the journey at times has been trying
With our goodbyes we surround you with love. **REFRAIN**

With love and gratitude, Betsy Woodward – May 2022

TOP 10 THINGS THAT WILL BE DIFFERENT FOR PENNY WHEN SHE'S NO LONGER A PASTOR

#10 She will no longer be able to get out of traffic tickets by flashing her collar and saying she's "on her way to church."

#9 Because she will no longer be planning worship services, she'll have time to create themed family dinners, with coordinating food, dishes and outfits.

#8 She can stand out in her driveway shouting encouragingly at the letter carrier and garbage pickup folks, "God has no hands but your hands! No feet but your feet!"

#7 When out walking the neighborhood, she'll say to random passers-by, "Are you with me? (You don't have to agree with me, but are you with me?)"

#6 Her friends will finally share all those off-color jokes they've been keeping from her for years.

#5 Now when she's having bread and wine, she might actually be in wine country.

#4 She'll join a hiking club and immediately recommend that they develop a set of Guiding Principles.

#3 She'll be asked to leave the hiking club.

#2 The only robe she'll have to wear on Sunday mornings is a bathrobe.

And the #1 change in Penny's life? Well, in all seriousness, we hope that she's going to have a little more time for herself and her family!



Click on the video to the left (or click [HERE](#)) to revisit the "I Will Survive" dance finale at Penny's party!

COME BACK TO COMMUNITY (CB2C) OFF TO A GREAT START

By Michele Merfeld Hale

As I write this, it's Summer Solstice. Known by many names, the Sun shines down upon the land and sea, making things grow and bloom. It is the light over the crops, the heat that warms the earth, the hope that springs eternal, the bringer of life. Tending to my garden every day now reminds me of the need for and the power of the sun's light and warmth. Much like how we need each other's light and warmth.

Rev. Sheryl and Rev. Jorge have recently reminded us to be the light. That a new birth is emerging; unity and harmony is what we are made to experience in our pilgrimage in this world. And that we are never alone. Come Back to Community's core objective has been to bring CCSM members back together to reconnect and reunite after the pandemic so that going forward, we can rise together as "community" stronger than ever. And you are doing just that!

CB2C started off with a very successful Pie Social in May. One attendee said,

The 'Pie Social' was a tremendous success. My daughter, who normally doesn't like to hang with her Dad, attended church with me and participated in the Pie Social and we both had a great time together. Thank you for getting us out into the community. The pies were lovely and talking with our neighbors after years of isolation was terrific.

Another attendee said,

We were fortunate to get the most delicious pie from the pie social. Seriously, it was amazing, from the delicate crust to the layers and layers of apples inside. I have enjoyed many an apple pie and this one (no I'm not going to say it took the cake!) was by far the best I've ever had.

The Laurelwood Park Hike was also a successful event. A small group of eight enjoyed a relaxing hike led by Emily Czarnik-Neimeyer. Two hikers had to cancel at the last minute and Rev. Sheryl came down with COVID but Emily stepped up to the challenge. The weather cooled down, no one came down with

poison oak, and participants got to know one another as they walked and shared trail mix. Laura Peterhans regaled everyone with stories of past CCSM hikes and all agreed that hikes are a great way to come back to community.



Enjoying the Laurewood hike

On June 18, about 20 people convened for an Ice Cream Social Sing Along (moved from the lawn to Kloss Hall because it was so windy). With members from both Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services attending, the event was especially successful in bringing and building upon a bridge between these two CCSM member groups. One attendee said, "Gracias por reunir a la gente del servicio de los miércoles y domingo." (*Thank you for bringing the people from the Wednesday and Sunday services together.*)

There are several more great opportunities for YOU to reconnect, reunite, and help CCSM rise together as a community stronger than ever. Be the light that brings unity and harmony to our world.

Sat., July 23: CARNE ASADA FEAST, 5-7 pm

Fri., August 12: BASEBALL AND BBQ, San Jose Giants game starts at 6:30pm

Sat., August 20: FAMILY FUN NIGHT, 6:30-9:00PM, at the home of Chris Yeh and Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh

Final CB2C September events to be announced in the week ahead.

Contact Sandy McNabb (Sandra.j.mcnabb@gmail.com; 650.678.5650) or Diane Kalliam (dkalliam@gmail.com; 415.279.1359) to sign up and/or get more information, or check out the flyer at tinyurl.com/CB2C-Summer22

music & art

**MUSIC AND
ART IS IN RECESS
UNTIL FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER 16**

Music and Art meets the third Friday of every month at noon in the Buckham Room. So that everyone can accommodate their dietary needs, we each bring our own sandwich, salad or special preference. We always provide coffee, tea, and a pitcher of ice water; dessert is provided by rotating members. We focus on fellowship, and getting to be better acquainted with church members as we share lunch together. We only seat 5 persons per round table to keep COVID-safe. A brief business meeting is included in the agenda, and a program of music, art or travel experiences follows.

The officers are meeting this summer to plan for the coming season. We hope to see all the returnees and invite new members to join us.



Singalong in Kloss Hall with Siew Kang and Melanie Dresbach

CONTRIBUTE TO HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPT. 11TH!

—from the Liturgical Arts Ministry

As you embark on your summer adventures, whether away or at home, here's a question we would like to have you ponder. **WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE BEEN MISSING OR GAVE UP DURING THE PANDEMIC THAT YOU WANT TO RECONNECT WITH THIS SUMMER?**

Was it a spiritual experience, an event, a person, or place? The Liturgical Arts Team



art by Carol Aust

will be creating an installation for Homecoming Sunday with anything you provide that is a physical representation of your adventures. It could be a photo, poem, art work, rock, flower, or anything that evokes your experience.

To participate, bring your item(s) to the Church office between **August 19 - Sept. 1** in preparation for our Sept. 11 Homecoming. For our non-local community, please mail to CCSM with Attn: LAM Homecoming included on the outside of your package or envelope. (225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo, CA 94401) All items will be returned if possible. Be sure and include your name!

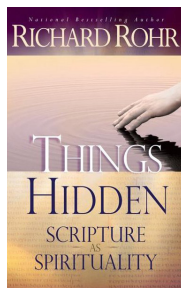
Let us know:

- ❁ What type of experience: trip, activity, event, etc.
- ❁ Who experienced it? Family, friends, others.
- ❁ When and location

If you have questions, please contact Laura Pierce-McKenzie, Liturgical Arts Ministry Lead. (Contact information in church directory.)

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS: COMING IN AUGUST

Spiritual Conversations, a book discussion group, will restart **Monday, August 9**, via Zoom. We'll read and discuss *Things Hidden: Scripture as Spirituality* by Richard Rohr, a Franciscan priest, popular teacher and speaker.



Father Richard's book uncovers what the Bible says about morality, power, and the grace and wisdom of God. The book gives readers a vision of how love, meaning, and a mature relationship with the Divine can counteract the fear, greed, hate, and violence of the world and shepherd us on our path to spiritual transformation.

If you're interested in checking us out, please contact Chris Wuthmann at cwuthmann@gmail.com or Chase Montara at cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org for more information and the Zoom link. **The group meets every other Monday from 7:15 to 8:45 p.m.**

All are welcome.

FEISTINESS APPRECIATED!

by Lin Fenn

As a newcomer to CCSM last August, I first joined in at the outdoor services with my friend, Annie Lambertson, a long-time church champion.

My expectations were low. Yet, there was Penny, a petite woman in magnificent robes. She preached re-imaged scriptures in refreshing, unorthodox ways.

I found them to be both hilarious and sorrowful. Her speaking style reminded me of my female professors at Smith College--feminist, published, articulate, powerful, and unafraid to call out "isms" of all kinds.

How refreshing, I thought, and how terrifying, too!

She reminded me of my older sister who attended Smith ahead of me and that exposure

to the outspoken female leaders there, the Gloria Stienems, left a feistiness within her that I adored.

"You go to Smith too," she coaxed me.

That memory of Smith and my beloved sister who died twelve years ago coalesced in Penny's presence, and I felt happy in her light, and as if I had returned home again.



This group of CCSMers joined the March for Our Lives rally in Burlingame on June 11, 2022

WAS “BLIND” BUT NOW I SEE

by Chase Montara

I just had a wonderful two-week vacation, perhaps the best of my working life. For many years, my twice-yearly vacations were going to the Memory Care unit to visit my Mom in Massachusetts. And of course, I loved seeing her, taking her out for scallop dinners and mocha milkshakes. But having lost my Mom last year, this time the vacation was all about me. And it was a wonderfully restorative respite.

Transitioning back to work after just two weeks off however, it's remarkable how out of step I felt returning. I had unplugged so much that coming back everything seemed a bit strange.

Case in point were the blinds in my office. The first thing I noticed when I came in was that one of the slats in the floor to ceiling window was missing. I looked around for it, thinking it must have slipped off the track. I couldn't find the missing slat, so I mentioned it to Oscar. He said he didn't know anything about it but would come and take a look.

Oscar was every bit as confounded as I was. How could the slat come off and be nowhere in sight? We even considered that it might have fallen out into the parking lot. “Did you look outside,” Oscar asked. The more we looked, we saw that the white plastic fixture that the slat fits into was gone, too! This was getting more and more strange.

I texted Pearly, who had covered for me while I was gone. Did she know anything about the missing slat? She knew nothing about it either, had not noticed it was missing. She helpfully advised me to... ask Oscar.

Oscar went upstairs and brought down an extra replacement slat, but it was too long. So, we agreed he would go to Home Depot, pick up a slat and a new plastic piece. And I went back to my full email inbox. But as I sat there, Holy Spirit, who must have been filled with mirth by this point, tapped me on my shoulder and whispered “Could there be another explanation, Chase?”

So, I went to the window and pulled on the rope and all the slats slid easily back over to the left, fill-

ing the space left by the “missing slat.” Remember the show “Leave it to Beaver”? Remember how the audience always knew way before the Beaver did why what he was doing was not going to work out well for him. Like when he put regular dish soap in the washing machine. It was so obvious to the audience. I felt a little like that. A forehead smacking moment. *D’oh!*

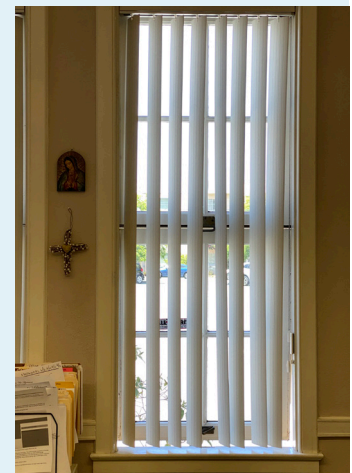
Now this is usually the type of thing that Oscar would have noticed well before me. I would have expected to tell Oscar, “Look! One of my blinds is missing!” And Oscar would calmly walk over to the window, pull the rope and slide the slats into place. And then give me a look and a slight headshake, as if to say “I don’t know how you get dressed in the morning on your own.” But this time, Oscar hadn’t figured it out either.

I texted him to tell him and he replied “I was blind! Ha ha!”

I am sure that by this point in the story, you are losing just the tiniest bit of confidence in me as your Director of Operations. But rest assured, that between Oscar, me and the Holy Spirit, we somehow manage to keep everything in tip top working order. Really. And if not, at least we are good for a laugh!



The mystery of the missing blind...



Now I see!



NEW MEMBERS JOINED 6-5-2022

It seemed fitting and encouraging that on Penny’s last Sunday at CCSM, six new members joined the church—illustrating the finale song at her party the night before, “I Will Survive”! CCSM is strong and has a bright future ahead.

Joining on June 5 were Sebastian Steinbach, Steve and Sue Bell, Jane Warren, Gail Young, and Lin Fenn (pictured at left with her New Member posy from the Posy Posse). Go to tinyurl.com/CCSM-new-members-2022 to read a bit more about each of them from the New Members insert in the bulletin.



We've Got Playlists! ▶ Subscribe

Have you ever looked at the Church's YouTube page or searched our Playlists? If not, please take a look! You will find playlists from past sermons, every livestream including memorials, messages from ministers, Hymns and Prayers. Our YouTube page is a great way to introduce friends to our church. It's also a great resource for you when you want to get inspired.

We have over 41,000 views on our channel. However most of those viewers have not subscribed to our channel. Less than a year ago we had around 230 subscribers. We currently have 375 subscribers and we need 1000 subscribers to

become a partner with YouTube. That is why you frequently hear our pastors mention, "Subscribe to our YouTube." **Partnering with YouTube helps our site become more visible and more likely to be found when people search for videos and that helps people connect with us.**

Our hybrid church has become a home for so many who live outside our area. Some of our viewers found us by searching on YouTube. You can help us grow our community and reach more people by subscribing! It's easy to do if you have a gmail account. Just open our YouTube page, look for the Subscribe icon (above) and click on it!

PENINSULA COLLEGE FUND: A WORTHY CAUSE

Recently the founder of the Peninsula College Fund (PCF), Charles Schmuck, spoke at CCSM about an impressive organization that assists first-generation, low-income college students to successfully navigate and graduate from four-year institutions by offering scholarships, mentors and career counseling. Today, the organization has accelerated the success of over 500 deserving scholars who attended high school on the San Mateo Peninsula and South Bay. Charles explained ways we can support PCF—by donating money for scholarships, serving as a mentor to a college student, or volunteering time reading applications.

Numerous CCSM members have supported PCF, including Sue Bullis, who has sponsored several scholars, and others who have served or are serving as mentors: Tony Gallo, Eric Hanson, Carol Henton, Diane Kalliam, Julie Lenden, Warren Long, David Loughhead, Lauren Mathews, Carole Melis, Carole Wilson, and Chris Wuthmann.

We hope you will be inspired to get involved. To learn more, visit: peninsulacollegefund.org or talk to any of the people listed above.

SOUND BATH JULY 24, 4:30-6:00PM

Logos Sound Bath is back on July 24th. This is a great way to tune up your system. Burnout, overwhelm, anxiety, depression respond well to sound baths. The vibrations from the sound bath are felt deep within. All you have to do is quiet your mind to reap the benefits.

If none of those apply to you, you can also use a sound bath to reach a state of deep relaxation or energize your intentions and dreams.

Sound baths have something for everyone. Please join Chuck and Jordan on July 24th at 4:30. Doors open at 4:00. Event ends at 6:00.

Members of CCSM receive \$5 discount and you can purchase \$15.00 tickets on thelogosmethod.com website. Scroll down to events to book tickets.



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

Mary Ann Notz sends huge thanks to everyone who has been sending prayers and showering her with lots of love after — so appreciated.

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Jim Ingwersen, long time CCSM member, passed away at his home on June 19. Please pray for **Mo** as she adjusts to a very different life without him. She is very grateful to all who have rallied around her and Jim during his decline. Plans for his service are pending.

Prayers of comfort for **Lee Mullery** and family. Lee's brother, **Harry Wallace**, passed away in Wisconsin on May 15 at the age of 94.

Please continue to hold the **Neil/Cinq-Mars** family in your prayers as the need does not diminish with time. Please notice the beautiful flowers **Michele** recently planted in the garden. A memorial for **Kyle Neil** will be held at a later date.

PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT

Jo Buckham has moved to a hospice in Belmont, but welcomes cards and calls.

Stan Higgs will have hip replacement surgery on Thursday, June 30. Prayers for a quick recovery!

Prayers for **Ben Schroeter** and his family, as Ben

navigates the difficult road through cancer.

Prayers for **Genel Morgan** as she recovers from a procedure on her hand on June 16.



Melodie Lew and family delivering a birthday posy to Dottie Scott in Pleasanton

Prayers for **Jim Berthelsen**, who had knee surgery on June 16.

Prayers for **Michele Moffitt**, who had a heart procedure on June 17.

Andrew Lind has a new title: Senior Regional Emergency Coordinator for International Organization for Migration. He is now traveling to Slovakia, Poland and Ukraine to assess refugee conditions. He was recently in Brussels for an EU conference on refugees. Please keep him in your prayers. —**Phil and Betsy**

Please keep **Rev. Penny, Annlee, and Mercy** in your prayers as they settle into a different life-rhythm and discern Penny's future plans. Please also keep the CCSM staff in your prayers as we adjust to working without Rev. Penny, as we settle into new routines and responsibilities, and grieve the loss of daily contact with our mentor and friend. Please pray that all of the members of CCSM remain unified, patient and steadfast in all that Penny has taught and shared in the past 15 years; lift up those who are grieving that their tears include memories of joys shared, and love unchanging.

Continuing prayers of strength, encouragement, and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters:
Mary Ann Notz, Cynthia Carley's friend Diane Talgo, Cheryle Matteo's brother Lou Matteo; Barbara Knees; Joanie Kilroe's sister Kay; Albert C. Read III; Ruth Black; Gene Chelberg and David Meissner; Dorothy Gorman; Dr. Jim Groundwater; 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.

CCSM BLESSING BOX

MSJ is proud to support the construction and installation of CCSM's Blessing Box. It will be located to the left of the main church entrance on the sidewalk and will serve as a small public food pantry for non-perishable items. Anyone is welcome to either donate to it or take something they may need. Canned goods and dry foods like rice, pasta, tortillas etc all work well. Look for it soon and pass the word along to our neighbors!



INTERIM MINISTER FOUND!

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MODERATOR, JULIE LENDEN

The Board of Directors and I are pleased to announce we have hired an Interim Senior Minister, Melissa Douaire, who will start on September 1st.



Melissa Douaire

Melissa earned her MDiv from Chicago Theological Seminary and has served as an Interim Pastor and Pastor in the Chicagoland area. She has certificates in grief counseling and intentional interim ministry, among other disciplines.

The co-chairs of the search committee for the permanent minister, the Board of Directors, and the staff who met Melissa believe she is the right person for the right time. Her principles and goals for CCSM are aligned with ours. We have some tough work to do both spiritually and strategically, and Melissa will not only guide us through our feelings from the pulpit but will also be an advisor to the search committee and help the entire congregation engage in critical strategic visioning. Melissa is well aware of the tasks at hand and is eager to set the permanent Senior Minister and CCSM up for success in the long term. (go to tinyurl.com/CCSM-Interim to read more)

IN THIS ISSUE CLICK TO NAVIGATE TO PAGE

Upcoming Preachers: Summer Series	1
The Pilgrimage has Begun! - Rev. Sheryl	1
Celebrating Penny's 15 Years at CCSM	1
Children, Youth & Families News	2
More Graduation Announcements!	3
From Your Moderator	4
Note from Senior Minister Search Comm.	4
Gratitude from Penny	5
Savor Penny's Party: Links to photos/video	5
Photo Collage	6
Penny-Inspired Lyrics	7
Going Forward: Wisdom for What's Next	7
Fifteen Year Anniversary Song - Betsy	8
Top 10 Things That Will Be Different for Penny	8
Come Back to Community Off to a Great Start	9
Music and Art in Recess Till September 16	9
Contribute to Homecoming Sunday	10
Spiritual Conversations Coming in August	10
Feistiness Appreciated!	10
Was "Blind" But Now I See	11
New Members Joined June 5, 2022	11
We've Got Playlists!	12
Peninsula College Fund: A Worthy Cause	12
Sound Bath, July 24	12
Joys & Concerns	13
CCSM Blessing Box	13
Interim Minister Found!	14
Coffee Hour Helpers Needed	14

COFFEE HOUR HELPERS

*If you're available in July or August,
we need volunteers.*

What's Needed:

Oscar will make the coffee every week. **We need three volunteers each Sunday to bring snacks, host the coffee hour, and clean-up.**

Time Commitment:

9:45 - 10:30: Prepare the serving platters; set the buffet table

11:30 - 12:30: Assist participants who have mobility issues; welcome newcomers; clear tables and wash platters

Where to Sign up:

Sign up on the calendar that will be posted during the Coffee Hour.

For questions/comments, call/text Lin Fenn at 650-346-7763 or email lindajfenn@yahoo.com.

Thank you!