

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 71, #5 | ONLINE | HOMECOMING 2022

WELCOMING MELISSA

Hello Friends,

I hope your summer is going well and you are enjoying these last days of August. I am spending mine ordering from Wayfair and Target to set up my apartment and preparing for the 19 hour drive from Colorado to California!

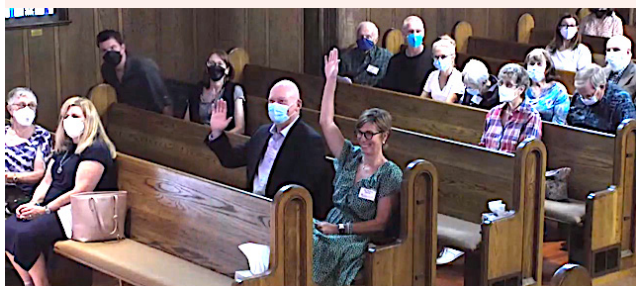
The past two months have been busy connecting and consulting with Board Members and the Search Committee teams to guide CCSM through a fruitful process to finding your next settled minister. As a congregation you are very well represented by the folks elected to serve in these capacities. I am so impressed with their passion, vision, and efforts on the behalf of the CCSM community!

In July, I met a few of you after worship and look forward to meeting many more of you as the program year begins and we come back into community from the summer break and the grasp of the pandemic. It is my privilege to walk with you during this transition and learn and understand who you are as a congregation and the beauty each of you bring as individuals.

[Here is a link](#) for an interview I did a year ago with Thrive Global. It will give you some insights on who I am and my journey with grief that led me into ministry.

With gratitude and excitement for our time together,

Rev. Melissa Douaire



HOMECOMING SUNDAY'S COMING!

09-11-22

So many reasons to show up at CCSM on Sunday, September 11!

It will be Rev. Melissa's first official Sunday, we'll have facepainting, games, bubbles, and a magic show for the kids, an enhanced Coffee Hour, information about the many opportunities to get involved with and reconnect with community, including events, groups, clubs, music, volunteer opportunities, an installation from the Liturgical Arts team, petitions to sign, information about our fundraising auction and Pick-A-Party, and lots of wonderful reunions!



Homecoming Sunday 2014



Congregational
Church of san mateo

225 TILTON AVENUE, SAN MATEO, CA 94401
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CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

by Rev. Sheryl Johnson

Our summer pilgrimage is drawing to a close, and the adventure of fall is nearing on the horizon. This is a season of hellos and farewells, as kids reconnect with friends and meet new ones and as we as a church get ready to welcome Rev. Melissa. We also are saying farewell to Emily Czarnik-Neimeyer who has been a wonderful asset to our youth programming this past year. I am so grateful for the time that Emily has spent with us: for her warmth and care, for all the ways she consistently goes above and beyond, for her creativity and insight. She will be missed, but we are so excited for her in her new and expanded role at Stanford.

Plans for this fall are shaping up for our children and youth programming. We are excited to start off with a fun day of activities on **Sunday, Sept 11**. Homecoming will be a great time to reconnect and to launch our fall programs with facepainting, games, bubbles, and a magic show. Hope to see you there! Youth are invited to help lead games and activities for the kids.

Please also mark your calendar for these other events:

Saturday, September 17, 10am: Bayfront Cleanup!

Join CCSMers and other community members to help clean up the bay. A great service project for all ages—especially youth!

Sunday, September 18, 12pm: First CCSM Playground Play Date! Families are invited to join the Held family for a fun time at the playground at San Mateo Central Park. Bring a picnic (treats will be provided) and stay for as long as you'd like! This is a great chance to meet other families and for kids to

get to know each other better. All ages welcome!

For youth, we are excited to continue our successful **60 Minutes program** each month. We also have a number of other fun plans in the works

including a retreat with other local UCC churches, Confirmation class, service projects, and more. Please watch your e-mail for more information to come very soon!

FAREWELL TO OUR YOUTH LEADER, EMILY CZARNIK-NEIMEYER

Hello CCSM Community,

Greetings to you all as we head into the fall season and continue with the cycles and the pilgrimages of our lives and our faith journeys through CCSM.



In the vein of change, I must share that I will be leaving my CCSM role as Youth Leader at the end of this month, August 2022, in order to work full-time in chaplaincy in Spiritual Care Service at Stanford Health Care. Working in Spiritual Care Service has been my "day job," and I am grateful for this next opportunity for my career. This decision is also bittersweet because it means saying (in my second language of German) "Auf Wiedersehen" - "Until we meet again" - to the CCSM community.

Over the course of this past year, I have witnessed and benefitted from the dedication, creativity, and flexibility of the CCSM youth and families on Wednesday evenings, Sunday mornings, and special events. From Los Posadas and crafts and dinners on Wednesday evenings, to spirituality & mental health and "60 Minutes" conversations and activities on Sunday mornings, to sandwich making, to kayaking, it has been a honor - and fun - to work with the youth and families of CCSM. In an ever-changing landscape of the pandemic, school, society, and the C/church - all interwoven with our lives - CCSM families have been real about the landscapes, and the youth have shown up and contributed their time, ideas, and spiritualities. It is clear to me that the CCSM community has a long, rich history of coming together in times of both "stormy and calm waters," and I see the light of Christ and justice shine through in these ways and beyond. I believe it will continue to be so. To the youth, may you know that CCSM can be a place of support for you - and you are not alone. You have my prayers and blessings for all that is and all that will be.

Emily



SENIOR MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT

The Senior Minister Search Committee is focusing on Congregational input during the months of August and September. We want to hear from you about what you love about CCSM, what you're looking forward to in a new minister, and any feedback you have about how you would like the church to grow and change as we move into this new chapter.

The widest-reaching piece of this process will be the early-September congregational survey that we will ask all congregants to complete, with questions for you to answer and space to provide additional feedback. The survey will be digital, and there will be tech assistance provided as well as paper copies as needed. Your input is greatly appreciated and will help us finalize the job description and skill set criteria used during the interview process.

In addition to the survey, there will be other opportunities to meet and talk with the Search Committee members in the next few months. Each Sunday in August, members of the Search Committee will host a table at Coffee Hour so that you can meet us and ask us any questions you may have about the process.

We are also available to meet one-on-one with any members of the congregation who are interested in providing more detailed in-person feedback or opinions. If this is something you would like, please reach out to the co-chairs Alexandra Gillen (alexandragillen@yahoo.com) or Dave Olson (dave.olson17@comcast.net) to request a meeting with a Search Committee member.

Lastly, the Board of Directors and the Search Committee will be holding Second Hour roundtable discussions on September 18th and 25th centered around our programming, our budget, and how we hope to move forward. We very much look forward to hearing from you so that we can do our best to get the right Senior Minister for our beloved CCSM community.



PRAYERS ANSWERED THIS SUMMER

Over the last 20 years, our family has been lucky to make regular pilgrimages to Hawaii. Each trip has been linked by one common activity, decorating beach rocks. Particularly during the Pandemic, I craved the joy of sharing activities like our beach rock projects with our family.

This is not a solitary activity. We all go foraging together for rocks, shells, beach glass, and interesting flotsam and jetsam washed ashore. Then it's decorating time with the help of lots and lots of glue!

These simple rocks remind me of what I cherish most. Relaxing at the seashore with my family. Observing the joy my granddaughter experiences when she finds that special shell. Adding one more rock to the growing pile of sweet memories at home.

This year, for the first time since the Pandemic began, we enjoyed the freedom of being together at the beach and foraging for our beach rocks.

During the past two years, a lot of us prayed for the freedom to reengage with the activities and people that are truly important in our lives. For me, that was sharing time with family in a relaxed and beautiful place. My prayers were answered this

summer, and I have the beach rocks to prove it!

Laura Pierce-McKenzie

Team Lead, Liturgical Arts Ministry

Note: We'd like to share your experiences this summer at Homecoming. Please see the article on p. 10 in this issue, or in the Sunday bulletin or Connections email to find out how.



CARNE ASADA FEAST RESCHEDULED TO SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8, 5:00 – 7:00PM!

Host: Rev. Jorge Bautista
\$15/person or \$30/family

You don't want to miss Pastor Jorge's Carne Asada feast on October 8. He will be cooking up a storm to serve guests on the CCSM lawn, and it promises to be a great family experience. We are asking guests to pay \$15/person or \$30/family to attend, but if that doesn't fit your budget right now, don't let that stop you. Just sign up and come enjoy some amazing food.



Let Jorge, (jbautista@ccsm-ucc.org) Sandy McNabb (Sandra.j.mcnebb@gmail.com, 650-678-5650) or Diane Kalliam (dkalliam@gmail.com, 415-279-1359) know you're coming.

CONTRIBUTE TO CCSM'S NEW BLESSING BOX ON THE FRONT LAWN

The MSJ is proud to support the construction and installation of CCSM's Blessing Box. It is 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.



Food insecurity is a very real problem in our city. Since 2019, 40% of those who have visited a food bank requesting assistance are there for the very first time.

If you have any extra non-perishable food items please bring them to church to help stock the Blessing Box. Canned foods, pasta, rice, cereal, granola bars, crackers, etc. all work well. We have noticed that within about a half hour of placing food in the box, it is taken. So clearly there is a need for this!

Thanks so much for your help.

OPEN CATHEDRAL UPDATE / OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE

As most of you know, the CCSM community has been generously supporting Open Cathedral, run by Night Ministries, for the past 14 years! On the 4th Sunday of every month, volunteers make sandwiches in the CCSM kitchen and deliver them to the Tenderloin, where they are distributed by Night Ministries at their weekly Open Cathedral Sunday services, open to all, and attended primarily by people who live in the streets in San Francisco.

CCSM now has two new co-coordinators of the program, Becky Duffy and Kate Gerwe. Kate will be managing the deliveries and helping out with sandwich making with her high school son Jack, and will also coordinate communications and outreach. Becky will be coordinating the volunteer efforts to ensure that there is a team each month to make the sandwiches. And also a huge thanks to Gail Held, who continues to manage shopping for the supplies every month! If anyone is interested in volunteering, please reach out to Becky at duffy239@yahoo.com. The commitment is about an hour of time after service on a 4th Sunday of the month (or more if you are interested!)

Finally, a big shout out and THANK YOU to Nancy Diguez, who has been coordinating the program for the past few years. We are so lucky to have Nancy, and incredibly grateful for her dedication and commitment in coordinating the efforts of all the volunteers, so that CCSM can help Night Ministries administer to the homeless in San Francisco. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you Nancy.

Again, email Becky Duffy (duffy239@yahoo.com) if you are interested in helping out!



an Open Cathedral service during COVID

BIG THINGS HAPPENING WITH CCSM MUSIC

by Lynnelle Bilsey, Director of Music

CCSM's music programs have been going strong throughout the summer months this year. I'd like to take a moment to share CCSM's deep appreciation with all the talented musicians who have shared their gifts, lifted their voices and truly embraced our blessed community at CCSM with love over the past several months. I know I write on behalf of everyone to say how truly touched we have been by these wonderful musicians and the musical joy they've brought to our worship services.

Huge thanks to our special musicians including: Chase Olson (organ), Stephen Bell (trumpet, trombone & euphonium), Scott Bell & McKinnon Violette, (trumpet) & Karen Hutchinson for her inspirational music on piano. In addition, Julie Berk, Christian LaPaglia, Martin Benvenuto and all the members of our Chancel Choir who have dedicated so many hours of service and singing since this past March. I also want to be sure we all share our love and appreciation to Angela Kraft Cross and Melanie Dresbach for sharing their talents, dedication and musicianship throughout the pandemic with all of us.



First upcoming highlight I'd like to share is about our upcoming **Combined Bell Choir Service. The Sunday service on August 28** will be filled with the sounds of CCSM's **Carillon Ringers and the Burl-Pres Bell Band ringers**. The combined bell choirs will be leading the music for the service with fifteen ringers and engaging all five octaves of bells (which we haven't played since 2019). If you are a fan of the bell choir, this is a service you will thoroughly enjoy.

In September, all our music programs are returning including the Chancel Choir, Carillon Ringers, Joyful Noise Choir and more. See below for rehearsal schedules—everyone is welcome to join us. For more information, please be sure to visit the music tables hosted by CCSM's Music Ministry Team on 9/11 at the Homecoming celebration following the service.

Chancel Choir rehearsals: Wednesday evening rehearsals at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary (beginning 9/7); returning in service on 9/11.

Carillon Ringers: Thursday evening rehearsals from 7:00 - 8:30PM in the Choir Room upstairs (beginning 9/8).

Joyful Noise: Sunday rehearsals following the service in the Community Room (beginning 9/18). Please see Julie Berk's note on the next page for more information.

SAVE THE DATE:

MUSIC PROGRAM SOCIAL SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 12:30PM, KLOSS HALL

We had to postpone our music social in June, so to kick-off the Fall, the music social is being rescheduled in September. All choir, bells and musicians connected with CCSM are invited to join us for a special gathering following coffee hour in Kloss Hall. **Please bring your lunch;** beverages and dessert will be provided for all.

14TH ANNUAL FALL BENEFIT CHORAL CONCERT SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 5:00PM, ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL (Burlingame)

This wonderful concert is returning again this year, hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame. Participating churches this year include CCSM, St. Paul's, BurlPres, St. Catherine's and San Bruno LDS Community Choir. We will all sing individual works and combine together for two joint pieces, truly a celebration of choral singing and a chance to support families in need on the Peninsula.



Photo from the 9th annual concert, 2017

BURLINGAME MUSIC CLUB AT CCSM

FALL DATES: OCTOBER 10, NOVEMBER 14, DECEMBER 12, 1:00PM

The Burlingame Music Club which began meeting at CCSM last spring invites CCSM members to come join them at their concerts, which are held monthly on Mondays in Kloss Hall at 1 pm. Karen Hutchinson, president of the club, extends an open invitation to the CCSM community to come join their musical events. Please contact Lynnelle Bilsey, Director of Music if you have any questions at ltbmusings@gmail.com.

ANGELA'S NEW BOOK!

Angela Kraft Cross is thrilled to announce the publication of her fourth book of organ solos by Lorenz/Sacred Music Press. **House of Love** volume includes *Variations on Ode to Joy*, *Petite Messe d'Orgue*, *Fantasie on Ubi Caritas*, *La Pietà* and *Homage to Henri Nouwen: From the House of Fear to the House of Love*.

ORGAN TRIP

In July, Angela Kraft Cross (and Robert) were in Europe enjoying an organ-themed time overseas. Angela performed in a master class about the music of César Franck with Olivier Penin at Ste. Clothilde in Paris where Franck was organist. Later in July, she played a concert at St. Bride's in London (pictured here), a concert delayed three years due to a lightning strike and then two years of pandemic.



FRANCK RECITAL

On Sunday, August 14, an enthusiastic audience enjoyed an organ recital celebrating the 200th birthyear of César Franck, the father of the French Symphonic School of Organ composition! CCSM Organ graduates who have just finished their freshman years as Oberlin organ majors, Chase Olson and Nataly Pak performed followed by Angela Kraft Cross. Chase played *Pièce Héroïque* and *Pastorale* then Nataly performed *Prelude*, *Fugue* and *Variation* and *Choral 3* before Angela finished with the *Grande Pièce Symphonique*. Click [HERE](#) to watch the concert on YouTube!

Chase shared that Franck's composition *Pièce Heroique* was composed in response to the Franco-Prussian war and he dedicated his performance of the work on Sunday to Prayers for Peace in Ukraine.



A JOYFUL NOISE RETURNS!

After a hiatus of over 2 years, the Joyful Noise Choir will be meeting IN PERSON once again! **Rehearsals are scheduled to begin on Sunday, September 18th**, immediately following worship in the Community Room.

All ages are welcome! Our goal is to build our youth community while finding the joy in making music together once again. All youth are invited to join for lots of singing, instrument playing, fellowship, and fun!

For further information contact Julie Berk at (650) 400-9808, or teacherjulie@pacbell.net.



Joyful Noise 2020



Well..... summer temperatures breaking heat records, wild fires, floods and extended drought are certainly further evidence of the reality of climate change. All highlight the need for more action on environmental issues. One positive note was the recent passage of the Inflation Reduction Bill. Now a federal law, it includes important elements for reducing dependence on fossil fuels, helping utilities move to lower emission sources of energy and encouraging Americans to buy electric vehicles and electric home appliances through tax credits.

GOING SOLAR: At CCSM, we're moving forward on the Going Solar project. The process of getting approval for our project from the City of San Mateo is complex and has been lengthy. EEJ member Jim Granucci reports that we are diligently providing documentation for the project and expect to have a permit issued in October or November. Once approved, the construction can begin.

POTENTIAL DROUGHT TOLERANT LANDSCAPING: EEJ is gathering information which we expect will result in a recommendation to the CCSM Board and Congregation to modify our church landscaping to be more drought tolerant while keeping functional lawn where appropriate. Jim Schwandt (Building and Grounds and EEJ) is taking the lead in this area (see article below).

RECYCLING: We hope you are more motivated to do a better job recycling during coffee hour after meeting the Reese Eikle family during the skit in the worship service at church on Aug. 21. (Check out the Recycling Chart on the next page!)

PERSONAL: In following our belief that "God has No Hands but your Hands" – please consider and modify your personal behavior toward more environmental responsibility. Your impact is evident in how you consume, reuse or recycle, use transportation and energy, who you vote for, etc. Enjoy and respect the beauty and wonder of Our Earth – God's creation and our only home!

DROUGHT-TOLERANT LANDSCAPE: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

by Jim Schwandt, Building and Grounds

I'm looking for a few folks who are interested in working with a team to help plan the relandscaping of the church to a drought tolerant landscape. The central grass section will stay for receptions, etc. on the lawn. We are looking at a slight revamp of the areas around the central lawn as well.

Once it's completed we will need a group to maintain it, monthly or as necessary to keep it clean and debris free. If you have been involved with a project like this elsewhere, great!

Interested? Please email me, jimschwandt@gmail.com! Thanks!



music & art

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 • NOON • BUCKHAM ROOM

Music and Art has been in recess over the summer, but we have been planning our 2022-2023 season. We are inviting more folks to join us for our first meeting on Friday, September 16 when Emily Beach will entertain us with her guitar (remember, she played for Penny's farewell). The new interim minister will also join us. It's a good way for a small group to get better acquainted with her.

We always meet on the third Friday of every month at noon in the Buckham Room for a "Bring Your Own Bag Lunch" (due to a variety of dietary requirements). Beverages and dessert are provided. A brief devotion and business meeting are on the agenda followed by the program of the day. Tables will be set up for 5 persons to keep COVID away. Further information will follow regarding RSVP's. Please join us to begin the new season of Music and Art and enjoy the fabulous programs and wonderful friendships.

RECYCLE

COMPOST

LANDFILL

Put clean and dry recyclable items loose in the blue cart **EXCEPT** for shredded paper—place that in a paper bag labeled “shredded paper.”

NO PLASTIC BAGS

Glass Bottles & Jars



Plastic Containers, Bottles & Tubs



Metal Cans & Aluminum



Clean Paper Products



Put food scraps, food & beverage soiled paper, and yard/landscape materials in the green cart.

No glass and plastics (including Bioplastics).

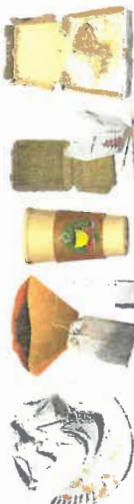
Food Scraps



Yard Trimmings



Food & Beverage Soiled Paper Products



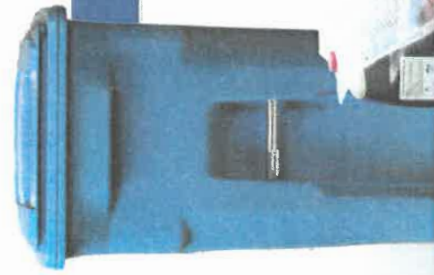
Kitchen Pail

Residents are provided small kitchen pails at no charge, to make it more convenient to collect compostable materials at home. Simply use the pail for food scraps and food/beverage soiled paper, then empty the contents into your green cart.



USED MOTOR OIL & FILTERS

can be placed in a clear screw top container and clear zip-top bag **NEXT TO THE BLUE CART.** You may request a container and bag from Recology.



HOLIDAY TREES

may be placed **NEXT TO YOUR GREEN CART** from Jan. 2 to Jan. 31. Trees longer than 8 ft. in length will need to be cut up and placed next to your green cart.



Put non-recyclable, non-organic, and non-toxic items in the black cart.

Snack Wrappers, Chip Bags, Juice/Soup Boxes



Foam Packaging Bags, Bubble Wrap



Pet Waste & Diapers



Plastic Wrap & Bags, Plastic Cutlery & Black Plastic

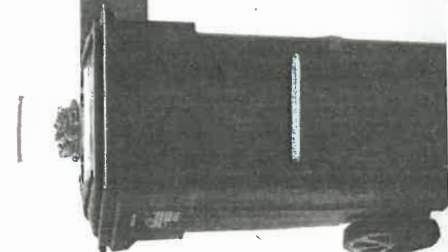


Broken Ceramics, Mirrors, Toys



USED HOUSEHOLD BATTERIES

and cell phones can go in a clear sealed bag **ON TOP OF YOUR BLACK CART.**



Need more help deciding which items go into what bin? Get answers at:

WhatBin.com

COME BACK TO COMMUNITY – SUCCESS AND CLOSURE

by Michele Merfeld Hale

Whenever I see a beautiful photo of the setting or rising sun, with no other information provided like what direction the photographer was facing, I often have a difficult time determining whether it's a photo of a sunset or a sunrise. Have you ever had that experience? And I often conclude – it doesn't matter. I can simply enjoy the beauty and the reminder of God's creative and never-ending rhythm of life.

As our effort with Come Back to Community draws to a close I find myself making some parallels to this sunset/sunrise experience. Because as a church there were always gatherings occurring before CB2C and even after we officially declare CB2C to be over, there will continue to be gatherings. The rhythm of CCSM beats on as does the building of community, which was the main objective of CB2C. Come Back to Community simply provided a means, post-COVID, to emphasize something we already do well – gather together, play together, commune and worship together. And in doing so, we can and will see many more sunsets and sunrises together.

To wrap up the CB2C events, the **San Jose Giants game** held on August 12 was a big “hit”! Old and new members and friends/neighbors of members enjoyed Turkey Mike's BBQ, discovered the joys of minor league baseball, and were thrilled with great fireworks. While a win wasn't in the Giants favor, no one seemed to mind. As one guest commented, “This was a wonderful CCSM bonding event at the San Jose Giants. It was great fun to be together again and see old faces and meet new friends. And the fireworks for a punctuation mark at the end – we'll never forget.” Thanks to Kay and Mike Harris for hosting this event!

Family Fun Night hosted by Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh and Chris Yeh will have occurred by the time PineTree goes to press but we can safely assume a good time was had by all. Word has it there were s'mores! The **September 'Praise Sing'** hosted by Melanie Dresbach and Don Ruthroff has been rescheduled and re-imag-



San Jose Giants' game fans

ined to a December event. Stay ‘tuned.’

Finally, the **Carne Asada Feast** has been rescheduled to October 8. While it was fully registered when initially offered, spots may open up due to the rescheduling. Let Rev. Jorge (jbautista@ccsm-ucc.org), Sandy McNabb (Sandra.j.mcnabb@gmail.com) or Diane Kalliam (dkalliam@gmail.com) know if you'd like to be on a wait list.

Many many thanks to all our CB2C hosts: Sandy McNabb, Diane Kalliam, Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Emily Czarnik-Neimeyer, Melanie Dresbach, Siew Kang, Rev. Jorge Bautista, Kay and Mike Harris, and Chris Yeh and Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh for offering and implementing these gatherings. Your efforts truly helped make Come Back to Community a successful effort. We appreciate you too, Allison Rock and Chris Wuthman, for offering to do the hike even though illness prevented it from happening.

And thank you Chuck, Zoe, and Chase! The committee is very appreciative for all your help with administration, graphics, scheduling, and help during this effort. I wish to thank CCSM for the opportunity to serve on this project committee along with Sandy and Diane – it was a great way to get to know fellow members and be of service. God Bless you all!

VOLUNTEER OF THE WEEK

PLEASE NOMINATE A VOLUNTEER TO RECEIVE RECOGNITION IN CONNECTIONS!

Each week we are recognizing one of our wonderful volunteers in our weekly Connections email. Do you know someone who stands out to you as deserving of recognition? If so, please write up two or three sentences about them, and send to Zoe at zmullery@ccsm-ucc.org. We will find a photo, unless you have a great one you would like to share. Thanks!



CONTRIBUTE TO HOMECOMING SUNDAY, SEPT. 11TH!

—from the Liturgical Arts Ministry

Earlier this summer, we asked everyone to contemplate a simple question: **WHAT WAS SOMETHING YOU MISSED OR GAVE UP DURING THE PANDEMIC THAT YOU RECONNECTED WITH THIS SUMMER?** Was it a spiritual experience, an event, a person, or place?

Whether you attend worship at 225, on Wednesday evenings, or virtually, we invite



art by Carol Aust

you to share your experiences with your CCSM family. The Liturgical Arts Team will create an installation for Homecoming Sunday with anything you provide that represents your experience. It could be a photo, poem, art work, rock, flower, or anything that evokes your experience.

This is a wonderful way to enrich the life of our community!

To participate, bring your item(s) to the Church office between **August 19 - Sept. 5**. FOR OUR VIRTUAL COMMUNITY, mail to CCSM (225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo, CA 94401) with Attn: LAM Homecoming on the outside of your package or envelope. All items will be returned if possible. You can also email any stories or pictures to Laura Pierce-McKenzie. Her email is in the Directory.

Please include:

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

TO GIVE IS TO RECEIVE

by Michele Merfeld Hale and Sandy McNabb

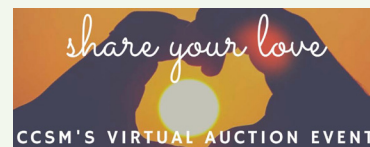
Great news, fellow members! Two important community and fundraising events are returning this Fall:

- A. The **Share Your Love online auction** to bid on “treasures” members donate for sale
- B. **Pick-a-Party** – small ‘parties’ created, sponsored, and held by members for members to raise funds and provide gatherings to grow and build on our love for one another
- C. Both events are designed to involve **local members AND our virtual community**
- D. If participation in one or both events is not an option, **personal donations are welcome**
- E. More details on these events will be available at the **CCSM Homecoming!** Until then find brief descriptions below. If you have ideas and/or questions feel free to contact Michele Merfeld Hale at kaymerf@yahoo.com or Sandy McNabb at Sandra.j.mcnabb@gmail.com.

SHARE YOUR LOVE ONLINE AUCTION – TO BE HELD MID-NOVEMBER

What can I donate? Consider:

- Things you could give as a gift or would like to receive as a gift
- How much you would like to spend for your donation – keep in mind that the objective is to raise funds for CCSM so the committee will be auctioning off your donation starting at or near your listed value
- Items successfully auctioned the last time included craft items, food and beverage items, stays at member cabins/condos, cooking/music lessons, art, handmade clothing and personal items, tickets/passes (sporting games, theater, symphony, museum), and others.



PICK-A-PARTY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES – SIGN-UPS TO BE HELD EARLY JANUARY

- This event is likely familiar to many CCSM members but due to COVID it's been a few years since it was last held. For those new to this concept, it's essentially a several months-long opportunity to attend small gatherings of ‘parties’ and activities.
- One big change this time is to also be thinking of ways to include our virtual community. What kind of Zoom parties could you host?

Once again, all details for BOTH event fundraisers (including critical dates) and personal donations will be provided beginning September 11 at CCSM Homecoming and in subsequent CCSM communications through the Fall.



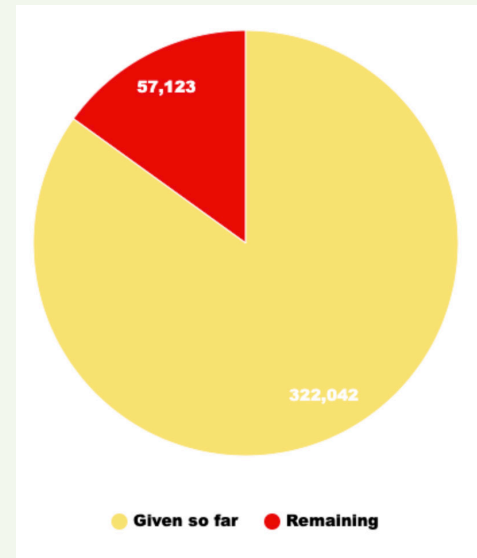
GIVING REPORT

by Veril Phillips, Treasurer

As you are no doubt aware, CCSM gives away its plate offering almost every week to a nonprofit partner in social justice. During the first seven months of 2022, you have given \$69,669 in plate offerings. Thank you so much for your generosity.

However, during the same seven months of 2022, we are running 15% behind the anticipated giving toward the General Budget. Although it is not unusual to fall behind during the summer months, I invite all of you to consider bringing your pledges up to date or giving generously to the General Budget to help pay our clergy and staff and to keep CCSM operating at a highly functional level. Here are the numbers: You have given \$322,042 toward the General Budget – most, but not all of it toward pledges made for the year. This is 85% of the year-to-date budgeted amount of \$379,165. You may donate to the General Budget at any time online by clicking [here](#) and selecting General Budget in the drop-down menu, by texting “CCSM \$<amount>” to the number 73256, or by writing a check to CCSM with “General Budget” in the “For” line and mailing it to 225 Tilton Ave, San Mateo, CA 94401.

Thank you so much for your support.



OREGON BEAUTY

by Veril Phillips and Beverley Knowlton

In mid-July, Veril and Bev drove to Oregon to take in some sights and to meditate in their beauty. One of the highlights was driving the rim of Crater Lake, which was formed from a massive volcanic eruption 7,700 years ago. Another highlight was visiting the Lava Beds National Monument in northeastern California on our way home. Eruptions occurring 30,000 to 40,000 years ago formed more than 900 lava tube caves in the park. Contemplating the time frame and soaking in the beauty of these two prominent parks provided a wonderful spiritual experience.

If you'd like to see some pictures or read more about our time there, you are welcome to visit travelwithveril.com.



RIDE TO END HOMELESSNESS

LIFEMOVES 8TH ANNUAL RIDE TO END HOMELESSNESS:
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

Please join us for this wonderful event based out of Flood Park in Menlo Park. There are four routes ranging from family friendly to advanced.

For more information or to register for the event click [HERE](#) or type in tinyurl.com/LifeMoves-8th-Ride



Our official Pine Tree mascot, Mavis, checks out Chucks office and considers what setting she'll choose to be photographed in for the next issue...

KOREA PEACE APPEAL



The UCC has received an urgent appeal from the National Council of Churches in Korea, a long-term mission partner of the UCC Global Ministries, for signatures to work toward peace on the Korean peninsula. Collected signatures will be delivered to the UN and to the governments of the countries involved in the Korean War including the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States, and the People's Republic of China. If interested in signing the petition, please email fred.kerwood@gmail.com and he will forward you a DocuSign request. Please include Korea Peace Appeal in the subject line. **There will also be an opportunity to sign the petition in person during CCSM's Homecoming on September 11th.** Thank you for being a peacemaker!

kerwood@gmail.com and he will forward you a DocuSign request. Please include Korea Peace Appeal in the subject line. **There will also be an opportunity to sign the petition in person during CCSM's Homecoming on September 11th.** Thank you for being a peacemaker!

- End the Korean War and establish a peace agreement.
- Create a Korean Peninsula and a world free from nuclear weapons and nuclear threat.
- Resolve the conflict with dialogue and cooperation instead of sanctions and pressure.
- Break from the vicious cycle of the arms race and invest in human security and environmental sustainability.

It is time to End the Korean War. Click [HERE](https://globalministries.org) for further information at globalministries.org.

UCC PASTORAL LETTER / TOOLKIT URGES SUPPORT FOR TRANS, NONBINARY PEOPLE

by Hans Holznagel

National and regional leaders of the United Church of Christ issued a pastoral letter June 8, calling on churches to publicly resist a wave of “attacks on people of transgender or nonbinary experience.”

Its signers are the UCC's national officers and Conference ministers and the leader of its [Open and Affirming Coalition](#). The [letter](#) is posted on the UCC website and it is being distributed widely via the church's Conferences, social media and other networks.

The letter calls on the UCC's “congregations and ministry settings” to respond in word and deed. “We ask you to surround persons of transgender or nonbinary experience and their families and loved ones with compassion and care,” the letter said.

The UCC also has a new toolkit of worship, social media and other resources to help local churches welcome and speak out for trans and nonbinary people. [The toolkit can be found here.](#)



Intercommunal Preschool honors Phil Lind and Betsy Woodward

with a plaque on the school wall, placed on the 50th anniversary of the school's establishment. The current board and staff of the school surprised Phil and Betsy with this special honor as the founders of the school. We also are grateful for the tremendous gift this school is to the community of San Mateo, and are so proud Phil and Betsy are part of our CCSM community!



JOBS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT HOMEWORK CENTRAL!

Homework Central is hiring and seeking volunteers for the fall. This church-sponsored after-school tutoring and family support program provides free tutoring after school for neighborhood students who need assistance. We are seeking dedicated persons who care about children and educational equity, and wish to become involved in our community.



There are paid positions for Program Director and Site Coordinators. In addition, volunteers are needed at each tutoring site, San Mateo Park School, Baywood and Sunnybrae. Volunteers generally come once a week for two hours. Wednesday volunteers are particularly important, as high schoolers can't volunteer on early dismissal days. It's a wonderful feeling to use one's skills to make a difference in a young persons' life.

Please check out our website: homework-central.org for more information and photos!

For more info on jobs go to homework-central.org/about/careers.

For volunteering, email info@smhwc.org, or talk to Betsy Woodward, Tony Gallo or Lani Leydig. We are veteran Homework Central volunteers.



Dorothy Gorman (left) and Ursula Baker (right) receive their posies from the Posy Posse!

Joys and Concerns

CCSM Pastoral Care Team

Please share your prayers with the pastoral care team, **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

Cheryle Matteo reports that her brother **Lou** is cancer free once again! She shares, "We know that, is in part, due to the outpouring of love and prayers that our family has received."

Rebecca Ruedy-Whelan and **Michael Whelan** share the happy news of the birth of their first grandchild, a baby girl born to daughter **Emilie Whelan** and **Daniel Duque-Estrada**. **Olivia Jeanne** was born on July 27 at Kaiser Hospital in Modesto and both mother and baby are doing well. Her parents and all the family are overjoyed.

CCSM's new interim minister, **Rev. Melissa Douaire**, will start September 1st!

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Jim Granucci and **Kibbie Ruth's** grandson **Kyle Caverly** (who Kibbie and Jim raised) was killed July 26 in a solo motorcycle accident; he was 23. There will be a small family service in August in Napa. Prayers of heartfelt care and condolence for the family, including Kyle's sister **Cammy**, at this unimaginable tragedy.

Please hold **Jim Schwandt** and family in your prayers — Jim's mother **Phyllis Eugenia (Main) Schwandt** passed away in Coeur d'Alene, ID on Aug. 1 at 100.5 years old. A beautiful woman, she was so loved and very missed by her whole family. Jim shared that Phyllis' 24th grandbaby was born the day after her passing and in her honor was named **Calvin Main Siami**.

Prayers for **Dorothy Skanderup** and her family as they mourn the loss of Dorothy's husband **Dean**, who passed on July 6 at the age of 96.

Mark Drisko let us know that his mom, **Betty Drisko**, passed away on June 28. Betty was a very active member at CCSM until a few years ago. She was married at CCSM in 1946, and one of the stained glass windows was dedicated to her father-in-law, **Thomas Drisko**.

Sandee Schlickman requests prayers of comfort as she mourns the loss of her very dear friend **Doug McCool** who passed away on August 4. Doug was Sandee's first friend after moving here from the Chicago area, and through time became her best friend. Their friendship grew with each passing day; some days he needed her support and others she needed his. She will miss him.

PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT

Mary Ann Notz fell recently and spent a few days in the hospital. Please keep her in your prayers as she recovers now at home. Cards sent to her home are greatly appreciated.

Stan Higgs recently had some neurological symptoms which are concerning. Please pray as he works with his doctors to determine what the cause is.

A recent online visitor, **Kathleen-Marie Foley**, requests prayers for the success of a project she is working on called *Sustainable Stability*, which would house the chronically housing-insecure mentally ill on therapeutic farms.

Prayers for **Cari Parker**, experiencing newly diagnosed health challenges. Cards appreciated; please mail to **Julie Berk**.

Please continue to pray for **Ben Schroeter** and family as he seeks treatment for an aggressive cancer. **Trish Schroeter** is posting updates on Ben's progress on a Caring Bridge website at www.caring-bridge.org (search under Ben's full name).

Prayers are requested for **Judy Hermann** for healing, being stronger, and easier breathing. Judy replies: *Thanks to all folks who have reached out with thoughts, flowers, notes. Being shut-in is not easy but I am adjusting. Peace, Judy Hermann*

Prayers of recovery for **Michele Merfeld Hale** who underwent carpal tunnel surgery on July 26.

Please pray for **Tatyana**, her mother **Valentina**, her brother **Michael**, and also for **Angela, Eugene, Andrey, Alex** (who is fighting for Ukraine), **Nikolay and Natalya** (in Donetsk), for financial assistance and peace in Ukraine. This request came to us through our website.

Continuing prayers of strength, encouragement, and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters: **Jan Eustis'** friend, **Sue Kane** and her brother **Bob** and sister-in-law **Peggy**; **Mo Weimer**; **Andrew Lind**, the **Neil/Cinq-Mars** family, **Jo Buckham**, **Mary Ann Notz**, **Cynthia Carley's** friend **Diane Talgo**, **Barbara Knees**; **Joanie Kilroe's** sister **Kay**; **Albert C. Read III**; **Ruth Black**; **Gene Chelberg** and **David Meissner**; **Dorothy Gorman**; **Dr. Jim Groundwater**; **Mike and Lee Mul-lery**; **Clare Naegle**; **Dottie Scott**; **Gary Steele**; **Jim Dresbach**; **Don** and **Jonathan's** brother **Chuck Ruth-roff**; **Michele Moffitt's** brother and his daughter; **Krystal Burndon's** sister **Janelle Sharp**; **Cynthia Carley's** friend **John Gallegos**; **Ada Harrigan**.

THE GRAPHICS TEAM FOR SUNDAY LIVE STREAM IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS. You'd be responsible for the onscreen graphics that we see in the livestream. Our goal is to get 4-6 volunteers to take a shift every 4-6 weeks, and be able to cover someone if they can't make it. Basic computer skills are handy. Jennifer Jacoby-Yeh is happy to train newcomers.

Contact Chuck at chuck@ccsm-ucc.org.

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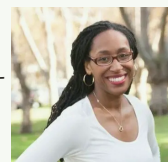
UPCOMING PREACHER SCHEDULE

Look who we have coming in the last weeks of summer. You'll be glad you came!

AUG 28: REV. TALITHA AMADEA AHO serves as a pastor at Montclair Presbyterian Church in Oakland, California, where she is responsible for children's and youth programming. She has been in ministry to the young since she was old enough to qualify as a chaperone at Presbyterian camps and churches. She holds an MDiv and an MA in biblical studies from San Francisco Theological Seminary and the Graduate Theological Union.



SEP 4: REV. RHIANA SHAW ROBINSON is the Minister of Formation at Oakland City Church—a community that seeks to be People Who Don't Belong Together, Gathered Around Jesus, For the Sake of Those That Don't Belong. Riana expanded the church's City Engagement partnerships and spearheaded efforts to help the community live more deeply into its anti-racist values through teaching, relationship building, and deep listening. She feels called to name the work and abiding hope that is necessary to create the Beloved Community.



Riana is ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Reformed Church in America. She holds a Masters of Divinity at Pacific School of Religion and a B.A. in Ethnic Studies from Mills College. Before stepping into vocational ministry, Riana worked at various non-profits that focused on racial, social, and environmental justice. She served on the Steering Committee of the Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy and is passionate about faith-rooted advocacy.

SEPT 11: REV. MELISSA DOUAIRE — OUR NEW INTERIM SENIOR MINISTER!

Melissa earned her MDiv from Chicago Theological Seminary and has served as an Interim Pastor and Pastor in the Chicagoland area. Melissa has certificates in grief counseling and intentional interim ministry, among other disciplines. You can hear some of her past sermons [here](#).



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