



**STEWARDSHIP 2023:
BETTER TOGETHER
IN GIVING**

The Stewardship Ministry is preparing for our annual giving season, coming up in November. Our theme this year is Giving Thanks. We are thankful for everyone in our diverse and welcoming community and together we can continue to meet the financial challenges we face and support all the Ministries that bring joy to all of us.

The Stewardship Ministry has set a goal this year of full participation from everyone in our community. No amount is too small or too big! We urge you to look over your monthly budgets to determine your level of giving and when the time comes make a promise to pay a certain amount every month.

Let's all Give Thanks for the wonderful opportunities that CCSM gives to all of us.

**BETTER
TOGETHER**

*living into
community*

ALL ARE WELCOME!



ccsm-ucc.org

YOU ARE THE CHURCH!



Hello CCSMers,
Thank you for the warm welcome into your community! My first month has been similar to being thrown into the deep end of a pool; however many of you have been available with outstretched hands, friendly introductions, and offers of a life preserver if needed. I am incredibly grateful to be with you during this critical time of self-assessment and aim to set the church community and next Pastor up for great success.

Your Search Team and Board of Directors have earnestly listened to your thoughts and hopes for the future of this congregation and the attributes you desire in a Pastor. Recently I facilitated a retreat for the Search Team and Board in order to formally exchange survey findings into directives for the Board and Congregation. You will soon begin to see the formation of Strategic Task Groups comprised of congregant volunteers and Staff/Clergy. Please know that all are welcome to join these Strategic Task Groups—reach out to Julie Lenden to volunteer for a group that best suits your interests (i.e. Children, Youth and Families Growth, Latino Ministry Direction, Christian Education, Balance – External Social Justice & Internal Congregational Care, and Progressive Christianity Messaging). These Strategic Task Groups will hold conversations, assess specific areas and develop new initiatives to lift the pri-

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CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

BETTER TOGETHER! What a great theme to explore this fall as many of us return from summer travels and experiences, and also many of us continue to re-emerge from a more isolated existence over the past few years.

This fall we are offering a variety of programs for children, youth, and families. On Wednesdays (and Sundays!), we are excited to welcome Elaine Kauff-

man into leadership (many of you will know her as a member of our church and also the coordinator of many wonderful summer programs for kids). Elaine has particular expertise in museum studies and bringing STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) activities to life for our kids as they explore spirituality. Already this fall kids have made



Indigenous games played by Ohlone peoples, participated in building activities using recycled materials, created origami, and much more. We are so delighted to have her working

on Wednesdays along with other leaders Elijah, Chris, and Jezz (and me, Sheryl!).

On Sundays, we continue to be blessed by the leadership of Lily in the nursery with our youngest kids (and some great youth volunteers - thank you Kayla and James!). For our K-5 crowd, we are expanding our Godly Play offering into a multi-age, multi-sensory, choice-oriented program. Each week, kids will hear a Bible story, reflect on that story and make connections to their own lives and the world, wonder about the story and what it means, and then respond to the story through art, drama, building structures, and service projects. We are working to really emphasize the idea that the Bible leads us to wonder, connect, and serve others. Thank you to Shannon and Elaine for leading this group!

For our youth on Sundays, Elijah and Sheryl are offering a study on the intersection of religion and

science. We will be exploring a variety of topics including creation, evolution, the differences and similarities between faith and science, how they can work together, how our faith can motivate us to care for the Earth, and much more. We will invite guest speakers who are scientists to share about how their faith and science connect and we have some fun outings in the works as well.

Also, once a month, Mike, Dave, Sheryl and others continue to offer our ever-popular program called 60 Minutes. For an hour, high school youth discuss a topic that is chosen by them. Recent topics have included the Russian invasion of Ukraine, community, and abortion rights. It is always a very thoughtful, respectful, and insightful conversation.

Recent special events have included the Life-Moves Bike Ride to End Homelessness, the Bay-front clean-up, and a wonderful family fiesta that brought together families from both our Wednesday and Sunday services to build community and connections! Everyone had a great time getting to know one another better!

Here are some upcoming events for our families:

Saturday, November 5 - tentative youth sleepover with other UCC youth in Danville! Plans are just starting for this fun event with our partner UCC churches in the Bay Area.

Other plans include **a joint confirmation class** in the spring with our local UCC partners, a partnership to offer **Our Whole Lives** (sexuality education program) with the San Mateo Unitarian Church, and **ongoing volunteer opportunities** like youth helping to make lunches on 4th Sundays for Open Cathedral.

To learn more about our children, youth, and family ministries, please contact Rev. Sheryl (sjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org).



YOU ARE THE CHURCH!

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orities of the Church as calls to action for all of us. Regardless of who the next settled pastor is, YOU are the Church!

Please continue to introduce yourself to me on Sunday mornings or as you walk past my office! I truly want to know you and hear your story. The world is small! One of the first people I met in Boulder two years ago was a former CCSM intern and worshiper who developed what is now the Urban Sanctuary in San Jose—Nicole Lamarche! She is now a Senior Minister at Community United Church of Christ in Boulder. This small world connection moment brought to you by Mark Meyers. I'm looking forward to finding more small world connections in our conversations.

Wishing you a blessed Autumn, a sense of inner peace, and a heartfelt welcome into all the CCSM community has to offer.

Peace and grace,

Rev. Melissa Douaire



Sebastian Steinbach reading scripture

FROM YOUR MODERATOR

Part of the gift of this Interim period is to **evaluate our ministries, lean into what continues to support our vision, and amend programs** that no longer serve our vision or that we cannot justify financially. As you may recall from the 2022 Annual Meeting or from the more recent round table discussions hosted by the search committee, due to a myriad of circumstances including the Pandemic, the cost of live streaming our services, and the passing of several generous donors, **CCSM is operating at a \$225,000 annual deficit** (although this year CCSM received a government stipend to minimize the deficit). Additionally, CCSM has been reviewing fair market compensation guidelines and has a goal of increasing many of our salaries for clergy and staff to better align with our values of equity and justice. As a result, **we need to increase annual pledging by 30%, find new revenue sources, amend some of our ministries, or some combination.**



There are also two capital campaigns on the immediate horizon—an \$85,000 campaign to act on our commitment to being a climate church and **install solar panels** (\$250,000 has already been pledged toward this project in a quiet campaign). We would also like to launch a second capital campaign to add to our **Senior Minister housing fund** (currently \$400,000), which would help attract ministers from all over the United States.

The results of the recent search committee survey are promising. Many CCSMers are eager to support the church with their time, talent and treasure, which will make it to possible to work toward a balanced budget. Our stewardship season will be shorter and earlier this year, to provide the finance committee a framework for building a budget that aligns with the values the congregation highlighted in the survey.

I am looking at this period of budget discernment and stewardship as an essential opportunity to improve the health and trust in our community. Because of each of you, I am also confident that we will arrive at a budget that aligns with our values and sets CCSM up for success in the long term.

—Julie Lenden



Fun at the Family Fiesta in September (see more on page 7)

IT'S TIME TO DONATE TO THE SYL ONLINE AUCTION!

On Homecoming Sunday September 11, CCSM launched the return of two beloved fundraising events—the “Share Your Love” online auction and “Pick-a-Party” gatherings and activities. A committee is now working to make these events as fun, rewarding, and joyful for you as possible.

Here is some critical information—more detailed information and handouts are provided in the links below:

1. **The “Share Your Love” online auction will be held this Fall.** Share Your Love (SYL) is a great chance to give and receive in an online auction format. You decide what you'd like to “donate,” submit the SYL form and photo, and we post your item to the auction site along with a starting bid (\$). You also get to bid on items when the auction goes live.

Critical dates and instructions are covered in a handout available [HERE](#) or type in tinyurl.com/SYL-Details-2022. **OCTOBER 16 is the deadline for submissions;** the Online Auction is open for bidding from **Oct. 30 - Nov. 6**. You can get started now! The October 16 submission deadline will be here before you know it.

The form for donation submissions can be accessed within the full SYL packet noted above, OR, if you prefer, you can also **complete and submit your donation form and photo** online at [this link](#).

2. **Pick-A-Party** is just what the name implies – opportunities to choose and attend a PARTY or ACTIVITY! While many CCSM members are familiar with this months-long fundraising event, it is a new concept to others. And this year's event will also include **virtual parties** for the first time!



CCSM's Fundraising Events

The “Pick-a-Party” gatherings and activities will begin with the distribution of more detailed instructions and submission forms on **November 6**. Party submission forms will be due by **NOVEMBER 27**. The list of parties will be distributed at a fun event planned on December 11 after worship service. Sign-ups will be held January 8. A calendar of all these critical dates can be accessed [HERE](#), or type in tinyurl.com/SYL-Calendar-2022.

Contact committee members if you encounter any problems or have any questions. They are happy to help!

Sandy McNabb:

Sandra.j.mcnabb@gmail.com; 650.678.5650

Michele Merfeld Hale:

kaymerf@yahoo.com; 206.612.6182

Diane Kalliam:

dkalliam@gmail.com; 415.279.1359

Please participate in these events if possible. Remember.... **To Give is To Receive!**

HOW TO RESERVE SPACE AT CCSM

Church activities are returning with vibrancy at CCSM! To be sure that your event is booked and set up just as you expect, when making a booking request, please download and complete the form at [THIS LINK](#) (or type in tinyurl.com/CCSM-Facilities-Form) and return to Chase with as much lead time as possible.

If you prefer, these forms are also available in hard copy form in the Main Office on top of the cabinet. Just complete and pop in Chase's mailbox. Oscar and Chase strive to be nimble and responsive, but you can help to make our jobs much easier and efficient if you give us all of your details all at once, and well in advance. We appreciate it!



13TH ANNUAL NORTH PENINSULA MULTIFAITH
CHORAL CONCERT

I will Trust in the Lord

IN BENEFIT OF LIFEMOVES

OCTOBER 16, 2022
5:00 PM

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
BURLINGAME
415 EL CAMINO REAL, BURLINGAME

PARTICIPATING CHOIRS FROM:

Congregational Church of San Mateo, UCC
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
First Presbyterian Church, Burlingame
St Paul's Episcopal Church, Burlingame
St Catherine of Siena Catholic Church,
Burlingame

No admission fee—
Suggested donation at the door
Reception to follow with refreshments

MUSICAL HAPPENINGS AT CCSM!

Don't miss the LIFEMOVES BENEFIT CHORAL CONCERT, October 16 at 5:00pm! See info above.

The ANNUAL HALLOWEEN ORGAN CONCERT is returning in person this year, **Friday, October 28 at 8pm!** Come out and have a Spooktacular evening of music and support our young organists studying with Angela.



Make a **JOYFUL NOISE** every Sunday after church! Children young and old are invited to join our Joyful Noise Music every Sunday after church in the Community Room. Come bang on the gathering drum or tinkle on a glockenspiel while singing some old favorite spirituals and songs. Young ones 3 and under please bring along your favorite grown-up to join in the fun!

For more info contact Julie Berk at teacherjulie7@gmail.com or (650) 400.9808.



Rehearsal Schedules

CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSALS: Wednesday evenings at 7:00PM in the Sanctuary.

CARILLON RINGERS: Thursday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30pm in the Choir Room upstairs.

JOYFUL NOISE: Sunday rehearsals following the service in the Community Room.



Sunday morning, September 25 with guest cellist Emma Mye



Energy + Environmental Justice

Our Going Solar project continues to move forward per Jim Granucci, our Project Manager. Our contractor and architect are still working with requirements set by the City of San Mateo with hope to begin construction in early 2023.

No further update on the Landscaping proposal for modifying our landscaping to more drought tolerant California native plants – the proposal and project are in the good hands of Jim Schwandt and Building and Grounds.

We hope you enjoyed meeting the Reese-Eickle family in church in September and expect they'll be back later to check on our recycling efforts at CCSM. We also hope you were in church or on-line Sept. 25 for the description of the mission and goals of our ministry.

Please do your part for environmental responsibility and sustainability. Thanks.

HOME AND HOPE HAS MERGED WITH LIFEMOVES

This is great news for the many supporters and volunteers of HOME and HOPE. The pandemic had drastically changed the model that HOME and HOPE used for years and it was not sustainable into the future. Families from HOME and HOPE were being housed in motels during the pandemic, which had quite an impact on the H & H budget. In addition, many of the churches had a drastic cutback in the number of volunteers willing to support the families when the families were being housed in their church. This was a major problem for CCSM as many of our volunteers either had died, moved away, or are no longer able support the work that was required to house the families in Kloss Hall.



The merger is even better news because CCSM now has many more ways to volunteer to help the non-housed families and individuals. Programs are ongoing at the housing locations that LIFE MOVES manages in San Mateo and Santa Clara. Two of those facilities are within walking distance of CCSM!

As CCSM's coordinator for HOME and HOPE I will now coordinate our involvement with LIFE MOVES. Melodie Lew, along with Candy Nagare and Brenda Kelley, are planning CCSM's Adopt A Family for Christmas gifts and gift cards. Are there two or three youth and older who would like to decorate one of the housing facilities for either Thanksgiving or Christmas (Happy Holidays theme)? Let me know and I can set you up. There will be many other ways to help out. I am hoping that beginning in January CCSM can provide 1-2 dinner meals per month at the First Step for Families shelter which is just north of the church.

Watch what comes up as a place where you might like to volunteer.

Donna Lindsay
 Volunteer Coordinator for LIFE MOVES at CCSM
 releduc@sbcglobal.net

**“The world says, the more you take, the more you have.
 Christ says, the more you give, the more you are.”**

— Frederick Buechner

music art

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21 • NOON • BUCKHAM ROOM

Guest artist for our October meeting program is **Nancy Woods**, born in London, but graduated from the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, PA. She has a passion for creating usable art. She initially pursued a career in industry, but her collection of furnishings is amazing. This will be a most interesting presentation, samples will be on display. You may be inspired to redecorate your home with a few fun pieces of creative furniture.



Remember to bring your own lunch: beverages and dessert are provided.

Please RSVP to Susan Duty at susanjd52@gmail.com. Tables will be set up for 5 - 6 persons to be Covid safe. Masks are suggested except when eating.

See you at church on 10/21 for this special program and a time of fellowship.

ALL-CONGREGATION CROSS-CULTURAL FAMILY FIESTA

The Latino/a Ministry's Cross-Cultural Family Fiesta on Saturday, September 17, drew more than 50 participants, mostly families with children - from CCSM's Wednesday and Sunday groups. Alicia Santamaria led several physically active games that enabled Spanish speakers and English speakers to connect with each other in high-spirited, laugh-filled ways that broke through inhibitions. Rev. Jorge cooked carne asada for all, and bi-lingual table leaders facilitated meal-time conversations that led to further engagement across cultural differences.



Click [HERE](#) to watch a video of Jorge sharing some history



WHERE IS GOD?

by Chase Montara

Ernest Kurtz, the author of “The Spirituality of Imperfection” wrote that to be human is to ask unanswerable questions, to persist in asking them, to be broken by those questions, and then to find a way to wholeness through the asking of them. Kurtz doesn’t say that we get the answers, exactly. That’s because we don’t.

I am finding that what gets us to a sort of closeness to the answers we seek is to look at life through a different set of glasses, and then to allow what we see into our hearts so it can surprise us. So that it can heal us.

When I facilitate spirituality groups, I have been witness to some wonderful questions. I am also witness to the brokenness of no answers. I am witness to the amazing alchemy that occurs when we relinquish our attachment to our questions for a moment and fall into the Mystery that seems to catch us if we do.

One day during such a group, we sang a song entitled “The heart of God has been revealed”, by Alana Levandowski. Afterwards, we were musing together about what those words meant to each of us. The group is comprised of people of various faiths, or of no faith—it makes no difference to us. We sing songs, say prayers, read sacred texts, and try our best to love one another.

A gentleman named Arnie is a regular attendee at this group. He most often sits away from the group, in a recliner along the wall. He wears dark sunglasses and seems to be almost consumed by his hooded sweatshirt. Arnie is 95 years old. Arnie was one of the thousands of Filipino prisoners of war that were forced to make the 65-miles Bataan death march during World War II. Arnie has seen things that no one should ever have to see, endured what no one should have to endure. He carries the scars of those things on his good heart.

When I invited Arnie to share his reflections on the song, there was a long pause before he spoke. It is always worth waiting for Arnie to speak. We all waited together. It was one of those moments when things get quite still, in an expectant way. Finally, in a near whisper, Arnie said “I would like to know where God is.”

One of the other group members hurried to fill the brief silence that followed with a cheerful “God is everywhere!” because sometimes when someone asks a hard question about God, we feel an impulse to put the questioner out, like their clothes are on fire and our words are an attempt to douse the flames. But this was not a “God is everywhere” moment, at least not yet.

I knew that Arnie was asking the unanswerable question, the awful, persistent question, the question that has been breaking him into pieces since 1942. It is a very human question, one that is so commonly asked that there is a name for it—“the theodicy dilemma.” This is the question that asks “If God is good and all-powerful, why do terrible things happen?”

Arnie said again, with more strength in his voice, “Where is God?” and then he dissolved into tears like a sand castle suddenly reclaimed by the sea. I went to him and sat on the arm of his chair, because sometimes we just need someone to sit on the arm of our chair. Sometimes we need the reassurance that we are not alone in asking our terrible question. We simply need each other’s presence.

As Arnie and I sat together, Mavis, my pet therapy dog, hopped down from her place on the couch and made her way over to Arnie. She put her two front paws tentatively on Arnie’s knee and looked lovingly into his eyes. It was one of those gestures that seems to arrive on wings, with perfect timing and simplicity. And with that simple gesture, Arnie smiled. He invited her onto his lap and held her close.

It felt as though order had been restored. It felt as though a tear in the fabric of things had mended. It felt like grace. Something was released and a richness entered the room, an invitation of some sort. And others began to cry and say that in their times of trial, they too have asked where God is. As they each spoke, Mavis went to each one of them, one at a time, gently bestowing on them her brand of canine grace, revealing to them the heart of God. And the moment broke open somehow and laughter entered.

We didn’t, of course, solve the theodicy dilemma. But we had, for a moment, put on different glasses through which to look at the question. We had fallen somehow into the Mystery where we were caught and held by Love.



Ann Lambertson enjoying Mavis' canine grace in Chase's office

Joys and Concerns

CCSM Pastoral Care Team

Please share your prayers with the pastoral care team, **Rev. Melissa Douaire, 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

Good news from **Betsy Woodward and Phil Lind: Andrew Lind and Margherita Maiello** and children **Livia and Filippo** have settled into an apartment in Geneva, Switzerland. They are so happy to be together again as a family! Livia and Filippo have started new schools, Margherita is working remotely for the World Bank and Andrew continues with IOM doing logistics for the Ukraine refugee crisis. Betsy and Phil plan to visit in the spring.

A note of thanks from **TOGETHER RISING (CCSM's plate offering on Penny's last Sunday, togetherrising.org)**: "Together Rising exists to turn our heartbreak into collective action. All of us at TR are so honored by your incredible gift of \$5,557. Thank you for showing up for families of Buffalo by championing our work—and for so graciously investing in the world we are creating together. With love, Gloria Goeres, Senior Program and Operations Manager"

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

James Gillen, spouse of **Fran Gillen** and father of **Alexandra Gillen**, passed away on September 14, after a lengthy illness. There will be a memorial service for him on October 22 at 3:00 pm at CCSM. Please keep Fran, Alexandra, and the circle of extended family and friends in your prayers.

Please keep **Tricia, Jacob, and Naomi Schroeter** and all those who loved **Ben Schroeter** in your prayers. Ben passed away on September 10 at age 58, after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. A beautiful memorial service was held at CCSM for Ben on October 1st.

Prayers for **Noel and Chase Olson**. Noel's mother, **Janice Hillcourt Carrell**, passed away on August 21.

Bill Knees let us know that his mother, **Barbara Knees**, passed away peacefully on August 12, 2022, at the age of 94. Barbara was married to **Bob Knees**, and she was a parishioner at CCSM—she joined the church in 1958—before she moved to live near Bill's family in San Diego four years ago. She wasn't in any pain and was surrounded by all the people who loved her. She spoke very highly of her experience at CCSM. The family is not planning any memorial, but Bill wanted us to know of her passing.

Eddy Xu asked that we continue to pray for the family and friends of **Lili Xu**, the Asian woman that was shot and killed in Oakland on August 22.

PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT

Bill Mellis was hospitalized 9/25 and is now at home recovering from pneumonia, Please pray for Bill and for his wife **Carole**, as his caregiver with new challenges.

Please continue prayers for **Bonnie Kitts**. She is having some challenges as she recovers from the gallbladder surgery she had on 9/19.

Krystal Burndon requests prayers for her sister, **Janelle**, as her cancer did not respond to chemo. While it is hard news to hear, Janelle is feeling grateful to not need to do any more rounds since they were pretty rough. The family is now hoping and praying that insurance will agree to pay for a pill that has been successful for others' colorectal cancer. It's much too expensive to pay for out of pocket and there doesn't seem to be another good option now.

Prayers for **Mel Thrash**, who has had a recurrence of prostate cancer and is undergoing further testing.

Please continue to pray for the **Board and the Search Committees** as they work together, and with us, to bring a settled pastor to us.

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

If we are to love our neighbors, before doing anything else we must see our neighbors. With our imagination as well as our eyes, that is to say like artists, we must see not just their faces but the life behind and within their faces. Here it is love that is the frame we see them in.

— Frederick Buechner

**SOUND BATH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 • 4 PM**

Reverend Melissa attended the Sound Bath in September and highly recommends it: "After a hectic Sunday morning, with more evening meetings, Chuck's sound bath was the exact right thing for me to do. If you have a racing mind and a hectic schedule a sound bath for self-care is an amazing way to refuel." Please join Chuck and Jordan to get your own experience.

eventbrite.com/o/the-logos-method-277414402



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GOD'S MANY FACES

by Dorothy Kogl

It's not enough to read or hear about loving kindness, I want to practice this virtue. I remembered that Buddhist Jack Kornfield in his book *The Wise Heart* suggests looking for

**GOD COMES TO
US DISGUISED
AS OUR LIFE.**
—PAULA D'ARCY

the inner goodness in three people for one day, gradually expanding the exercise to all people. A first step toward practicing loving kindness. I decided to try out this idea when I went to Draeger's market to pick up a few things that only they carry. At least I could be friendly toward the people I met.

I parked my dirty, 1992 maroon Camry, went into the market, bought my stuff, and returned to the parking lot. I saw that on my right a clean, new white Lexus was pulling in a little too close to my car. Not only was it going to be a challenge getting out, but a white pickup truck was parked in the space across from me, leaving little room for maneuvering. I had to be very careful backing up because my old car doesn't have a backup camera, my vision in my right eye isn't good, and I'm ninety years old.

As I was slowly backing up, I saw another car starting to back into the center lane behind me. No way was I going to get into a contest about who was there first! I drove back into my space. Then to my surprise, the driver of the Lexus, maybe a Filipina, was standing by her car, motioning that she would direct me out of my dilemma, helping me avoid hitting her car and the pickup. We let the oncoming car move up the lane then resumed our cooperative effort. When I was free, I thanked her, and another woman walking up the aisle, told me "Good job."

I looked for goodness and received kindness. As Paula D'Arcy writes, "God comes to us disguised as our life."