

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 73, #3 | ONLINE | SPRING ISSUE 2024



Beloved Community,

CHRIST IS RISEN, INDEED!

I love the season of Eastertide, the fifty days following Easter when we continue to celebrate life and love, resurrection and transformation.

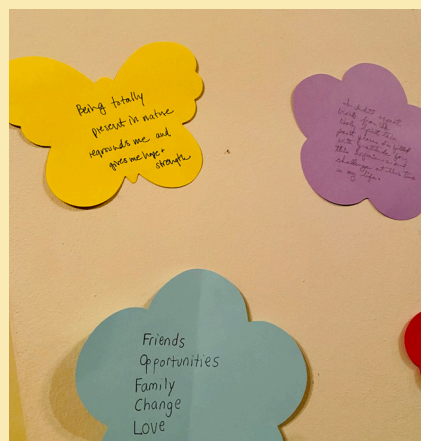
On Easter we distributed paper butterflies and flowers, and I invited those who worshipped with us in person at our Sunrise, Traditional, and Bilingual services to write down one of the following:

What gives you hope? Where have you experienced resurrection? Where do you see signs of new life?

We then collected these butterflies and flowers as part of our Easter offering and they have been on display outside the sanctuary, and will be until Pentecost, to not only mark this season of Eastertide, but to remind us that the power of God's love can transform even our darkest of days and that new life is blossoming around us.

Sometimes it's difficult to see that when we are wandering through our own valleys of the shadow of death, but that is what is so beautiful about this community. We journey beside each other through the good, the bad and the ugly. Feeding and being fed. Carrying each other when we can't walk on our own. We are an Easter people. We celebrate that love wins not just on Easter, or in Eastertide, but every day, and this love has the power to transform our world.

—Rev. Jessica



Congregational
Church of san mateo

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CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

These past months have been a meaningful season for our Children, Youth and Families ministries. We kicked off the **season of Lent** with a Mardi Gras/Carnaval/Pancake Tuesday celebration. The youth made delicious pancakes and the kids learned about how different cultures celebrate the start of Lent—and why we launch into a contemplative season with extravagant parties. Rev. Alvaro led us in learning about different traditions around the world. Activities included mask-making, edible bead necklaces, crowns, tambourine making, dance lessons, and alfajore cookie (and pancake!) eating. The kids also made their own Lenten commitments. On both Sunday and Wednesday we explored **forms of prayer**: the Lord’s Prayer, writing our own prayers, praying in color, praying with our bodies, praying using the Trinity (and learning about St. Patrick and Celtic prayer/drumming), and labyrinth and mandala prayers. Here is an example of one of the prayers the kids wrote:

In the name of God the Creator, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, let us pray:

Today we pray for our aunts and uncles, our grandparents, our best friends, our parents, and all others who are close to us. We pray for teachers, basketball coaches, and all others who guide us.

We give thanks for God and Jesus who lead us in good ways to live. We ask that our President and Governors would lead us well and take care of us and all people. We pray for inventors to create things that will improve our world. We give thanks for therapists who help those who are struggling in life.

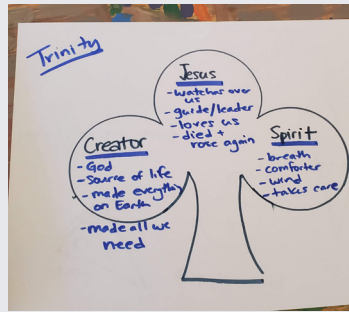
God, be with our classmates and friends who are ill today.

Be with those who are grieving, homeless, or have lost something they valued.

Finally, we pray for ourselves. May we be safe, be upstanders who protect others, and help us to remember to put others before ourselves. Amen.

This is an example of a “five fingers prayer” technique where you use each finger as a prompt for different categories to pray for. This is a helpful tool for people of any age—feel free to try it yourself or with the kids in your life!

We’re grateful for the **new book cart**, initiated by Mike and Sue Hill, which holds a collection of brand-new books on a variety of themes, in both English and Spanish, for kids to read at church or take home to borrow or to keep. This nurtures our kids’ love of reading and some of our older kids have been loving the chance to read



to the younger kids. Thank you, Mike and Sue!

Our **monthly first-Sunday playdates for families** continue to be a great time to connect. Recent events have included service projects, board games, and making sandwiches for the Night Ministry. It was amazing to see even our toddlers putting fruit and napkins into

the lunch bags (even though they needed some reminders to stop after one!). In April, we attended a bilingual kids’ concert at the King Center. These monthly gatherings are always a great time and all families are welcome—grandparents/aunts/uncles, etc. included!

On **Easter**, we enjoyed crafts, games, cookie decorating, and an Easter Egg hunt. We explored how the story of Jesus is both similar to and different from many

of the more secular aspects of the season such as baby animals being born, flowers blooming, and an Easter bunny bringing eggs. The kids found fresh connections (such as Jesus being like an Easter Bunny who can cheer us up and gives us what we need but does not always make it simple to find!). Thanks to volunteers who helped out with many activities (especially Holly Allen and Nicole Tocchini!).

Our youth have also been busy. On March 3 they, along

with youth from the Congregational Church of the Peninsula and Danville UCC, attended a dynamic worship service at **Glide Memorial Church**. The youth loved the upbeat music, women’s history month sermon, and powerful images. Afterwards we served lunch for the Glide lunch pro-



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES CONT.



offers scholarships to our graduating high school seniors as well as anyone attending their second year of university or beyond (including graduate/post-graduate studies).

I am grateful to our **CCSM Children, Youth and Families Ministry Team**, co-chaired by Kim Rey and Troy Grabow. We gather monthly to reflect on past programs and imagine and vision for the future. Thanks to all of you parents/caregivers who gave input in March on our survey and during our session to discuss plans and priorities.

We are preparing some special **Earth Day celebrations** for both kids and youth; youth will also lead parts of the service on Sunday, May 5, and scholarships will be presented that day as well.

This summer we're looking forward to **Camp Tamarack** and a **youth cabin weekend** at Mike and Lee Mullery's place. Our children will explore spirit-led work for social justice and service projects to support charities and NGOs. As I prepare to go on parental leave this summer, I am so grateful to our CYF staff and volunteers for their efforts, support, continuity, and love. I can't wait to hear about it all when I am back—and **I can't wait to get to share our CYF ministry activities with my own child.** Thank you all!

gram and reflected on why so many people rely on such programs. In the afternoon, we attended the San Francisco Night Ministry's Open Cathedral service and handed out blessing bags with socks, snacks, rain ponchos, toiletries, etc. It was wonderful to see where CCSM's monthly sandwich making efforts end up! We hope to do it again in the fall.

In our **60 Minutes conversations** youth have been exploring their chosen themes such as political, cultural, and religious differences, exploring college and other future plans, and sharing the ups and downs of life with one another. We show up for special events such as drama performances.

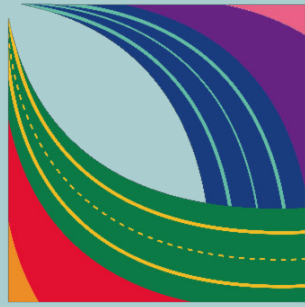
Our graduating high school youth also worked on their **CCSM scholarship applications**. CCSM now



UCC WESTERN REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT JUNE 23RD - 27TH, 2024 • CSU LONG BEACH

Western Regional Youth Event (WRYE) is an event that happens every four years. Youth (current 6th graders to current 12th graders) from churches in the United Church of Christ in the western half of the United States come together for music, inspirational speakers, direct service opportunities, workshops, games, fun, and this time we're also doing a day at Disneyland! We're inviting youth from thirteen states—from Hawaii to Colorado, from Washington to New Mexico. Because of the pandemic this will be our first chance to gather in six years! That's a whole generation of middle and high school! We're incredibly excited to make WRYE a reality again. Come join us and experience what it's like to be a part of something bigger than your local faith community as we join with youth groups from across the country!

For more information and to register, go to this link: wryeucc.org/register Registration deadline: **May 23.**



Nuevos Caminos

A church-wide discernment, re-envisioning Latino and Multicultural Ministry
Discernimiento congregacional para replantear el ministerio latino y multicultural

APRIL 7, 14, 28 AND MAY 5

12:00 - 1:30PM

KLOSS HALL

Last July our Board of Directors approved a letter of intent to work with Rev. Álvaro Durán as Transitional Minister to Latino Ministry, to be followed by a church-wide discernment process focused on who God is calling us to be as a multicultural congregation. Discernment is a spiritual journey in which we prayerfully make a decision as a community. These sessions aren't a workshop or a planning meeting, but an extension of worship. We have shared in communion in the form of lunch around tables, and our conversation has been a collective prayer and a practice of listening for who and how God is calling us to be.

An average of 55 people have gathered in person for our first two sessions. In our first session, Rev. Álvaro presented a sketch of CCSM's history of multi-cultural involvement that began with a Japanese congregation at the church in the 1930s. People felt pride in CCSM's efforts, but some also expressed sadness and embarrassment for the repeated tendency to maintain separateness and not embrace everyone as part of "us." In our second session, *Crossing Divides*, participants were invited reflect on the following questions: What do you think are the things that separate us in our congregational life? In our wider community? In our country? In the world? Conversation centered on language, race, economic level, and social class. Some tables discussed stereotypes, "isms," and misogyny, while others cited separation of neighborhoods as well as fear, "biases we've been taught," desire not to say the wrong thing, and assumptions about whose needs and wants should get the most consideration.

Two sessions remain, including a Potluck lunch for our last session on May 5. Even if you have not yet participated, we hope you can join us. A full summary, including next steps, will be shared later this summer.



EARTH SUMMIT: CELEBRATING CREATION CARE SATURDAY, APRIL 20 • 10AM - 2PM AT CCSM • FREE



CCSM'S Environmental Justice Ministry is hosting an **Interfaith Earth Weekend** event both in person and on Zoom. The Zoom call will be hosted by UCC National Environmental Ministry and will feature climate activist, Bill McKibben giving the Jim Antal lecture, followed by Q&A and a panel discussion with the co-founders of the International Monitor Formosa Alliance, a non-profit organization based in the U.S. whose mission is to seek financial compensation for victims of toxic spills.

A vegetarian lunch will be served at CCSM, followed by small group discussions on the climate actions church communities can and are already taking to address creation care.

To register, go to tinyurl.com/CCSM-Earth-Summit



You're invited to the
31st Annual
Spring Organ Concert
with Angela Kraft Cross!
Sunday, April 28, 3:00pm
CCSM Sanctuary, 225 Tilton Ave., San Mateo

Stay for the Ice Cream Social!

The program will feature works by Frescobaldi, Muffat, Couperin, Widor, Vierne and Duruflé (Angela will also perform these in August in Bordeaux, France, on historic baroque and romantic instruments).

Donation at the door supports CCSM Music Ministry.



MUSIC & ART: EMILY BEACH, MAY 17

music *art*

Music and Art wound up the 2023-24 season with a potluck lunch and time of fellowship April 19 at noon. On **Friday, May 17 at noon**, our program will feature Emily Beach, guitarist/vocalist. As usual, on that date it's BYOL (lunch) with beverages and dessert provided. Guests and new members welcome.

Be sure to RSVP to Don Harper, donaldgharper@yahoo.com or 650-553-1800.



THE 2023 ANNUAL REPORT IS READY!

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN MATEO
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



Baby dedication at our Wednesday evening service

2023 was quite a year... and our 2023 Annual Report documents some of the twists and turns of that. You'll find reports from all the ministries, and lots of photos too!

You can get a copy of the annual report online by clicking on this link:

tinyurl.com/CCSM-AnnRep23

Members of the Wednesday service assisted Chase and Oscar in creating a traditional alfombra for Good Friday. Alfombras are elaborate sawdust carpets that are used as street decorations in Guatemala, most typically during religious processions and ceremonies, and especially during Semana Santa, Holy Week. It is a way of rolling out the red carpet, so to speak, for the King. It should not go unsaid that the Spanish, when colonizing and evangelizing, took foundational Maya rituals such as these, and fused them with religious dogma to encourage conversion. That acknowledged, we are grateful that the beauty of this custom continues to be shared as part of being together in beloved community.



Oscar with the alfombra stencil before it was filled with dyed rice, sawdust, beans, and lentils

MUSIC NOTES

We have enjoyed an amazing few months at CCSM in our music family starting with a wonderful celebration in December with **"Everything Angela" 30th anniversary service** highlighting the gifts and service Angela Kraft Cross brings to CCSM in addition to the Advent & Christmas Season filled with music. The new year no more than started and we had a second **30th anniversary service for Lynnelle Bilsey**, Director of Music in February.

The Lenten season this year began on Ash Wednesday with a musical collaboration with several of CCSM's sister churches and our new Wednesday Night Service musician Rosa Los Santos. Joyful Noise Children's choir led our Palm Sunday celebration and Holy Week focused on beautiful, moving musical in collaborations with two choirs for Holy Thursday and five choirs for Good Friday. Chris Yeh's violin created a poignant opening and closing for the Good Friday service.

Susan Bell's acoustic guitar created an intimate morning for the Easter Sunrise service accompanied by sweet songs of the birds under the oak tree and Stephen Bell's trumpet resounded with our glorious Easter Service which also featured a wonderful piece that brought Kayoko Grech on piano, Angela with her organ, the Carillon Ringers and Chancel Choir all together to "Lift High The Cross."

Huge thank yous to all our fantastic musicians at CCSM, Emily Beach, Chris Yeh, the Bell and Olson Families, and everyone who blesses us with their musical gifts to uplift, inspire and touch our hearts each and every week. We truly are a blessed community.

—Lynnelle Bilsey, Director of Music

CHANCEL CHOIR NOTES:

Singing is good for the soul and at CCSM, we make music in service of faith, love and hope and welcome you to come lift your voice with us in choir. Rehearsals happen on **Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm**, usually in the sanctuary, but I encourage you to please check the weekly bulletin for any room changes.

If you have any questions, or would like to be added to the weekly choir update email, please contact me (Lynnelle Bilsey) at ltbmusings@gmail.com.

CARILLON RINGERS HANDBELL CHOIR

Do you enjoy making music? Are you interested in a weekly musical workout? Do you like to have fun in community while working together? If you answered yes to one or more of these questions you may love to try your hand at ringing bells with us. Ringing skills are not a requirement, but if you are able to read music that is a plus. We would love to invite you to come to a rehearsal and lend a hand ringing bells with us.

Rehearsals are **Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm** in the Choir Room. If you are interested, or have any questions, please email me (Lynnelle Bilsey) at ltbmusings@gmail.com.



Easter morning - Stephen Bell on trumpet



Singing a song to Angela for her 30th anniversary: "Joyful, joyful, we adore you, organist extraordinaire (words by Betsy Woodward)"



Lynnelle receiving appreciation at her 30th anniversary celebration, February 25, 2024

JOYFUL NOISE

2024 has started with CCSM's children's music program truly making a joyful noise in service, most recently with their singing on Palm Sunday. The children (and parents too) sang beautifully, and you all were a lovely and meaningful addition to the service.

Joyful Noise has become an intergenerational choir which the kids and parents are loving working with Julie Berk, music director.

The next singing date for worship will be for the **Mother's/Family Day service on May 12**. We will be learning a new song, *There's a Song of Love*, which also has some sign language. Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the Community Room in the CE Building. If you would like to learn more information, please contact Julie Berk at teacherjulie7@gmail.com



CHURCH FRIENDS

The popular song from the 1970's, "You've Got a Friend" rings true today, over fifty years since it was written by singer Carole King. The spirit of that timeless song will now be reflected in a new congregational initiative at CCSM called Church Friends.

The idea of the program is simple. If you are experiencing a difficulty in your life, you can be paired with a volunteer "friend" from the congregation who will provide a regular supporting connection with you. You might be experiencing loneliness, recovering from an injury or illness, experiencing a family crisis, or dealing with another challenge in your life. Whatever it is, your CCSM friend will attempt to be there for you as you navigate through the current challenge.

Your special CCSM friendship will be confidential and based on mutual respect. It might take the form of a friendly email to check in with you. It might be a phone conversation or an in-person meeting at a local coffeehouse. Whatever form it takes, your Church Friend will commit to making at least one monthly connection with you. Your

friend however will not provide therapy, give medical advice, nor offer any other professional service. They will simply provide friendship.



If you want to become a Church Friend volunteer, please contact Carol Henton, who serves on our Congregational Care Ministry and who is managing this new initiative (carolhenton@aol.com). If you already have a CCSM member in mind with whom you would like to be matched, let Carol know. She will do her best to match you with your preference based on the other person's willingness to participate.

If, on the other hand, you are interested in having a Church Friend, please contact the CCSM clergy (Jessica, Alvaro, Sheryl) or Carol Henton.

There will be a meeting on **Tuesday, April 30 at 7:00pm (via Zoom)** for all Church Friend volunteers.

Let's keep the spirit of that heartfelt song alive. Remember, you've got a friend at CCSM.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Congregational Care has been busy flying under the radar. Carol Henton had a successful launch of Church Friends, a group of folks ready to provide a listening and caring ear to those experiencing one of life's bumps or dips. Please see her article in this issue of Pine Tree.

"Month of Sundays" continues to drop encouraging and caring notes to those needing a bit of cheer and letting them know that their CCSM community is concerned about them. Under Sharon Tobin and Genel Morgan's guidance, "Month of Sundays" quietly supports these vulnerable members of CCSM. If you see some pretty note cards while you are looking for that special birthday or wedding card, please consider donating them to CCSM's "Monday of Sundays." Or if you are buying postage stamps and see an appropriate sheet, please buy some extra stamps to contribute. If you are interested in participating in other ways, please let either Sharon or Genel know.

Happily, coffee hour is beginning to expand its corps of weekly volunteers so that many hands make for less work each Sunday. Thank you to the new members and people who have signed up at the new year and to the seasoned volunteers who offer to partner with a person new to helping with coffee hour. CCSM can still use more helpers to bring a sweet treat or fruit/veggies, and/or cheese



and crackers. Please email me (Melodie Lew) or give me a phone call and I would be happy to sign you up for a Sunday. Know that you are helping to continue the worship service and build community by providing the opportunity of breaking bread together.

This segues into a four-month long "ask." **WE ARE STILL IN NEED OF A COFFEE HOUR COORDINATOR.** Lin Fenn has single-handedly revived our coffee hour post-Covid. Thank you, Lin! She initially did everything from providing the edibles to cleaning up afterwards by herself. Lin was Mother Coffee Hour! She is now seeking other ways of using her talents at church. Gradually, coffee hour is evolving back to having two families/people each week to share in the joys of providing goodies for the congregation. We also ask those responsible for bringing food on their Sundays to help clean up after the coffee hour.

This leaves one last point—the new coffee hour coordinator will be monitoring the Google Doc Coffee Hour Worksheet to keep track of our weekly coffee hour volunteers. The coordinator will need to occasionally send out emails asking for volunteers to sign up for a Sunday. If you would be interested in giving the coordinator's position a try, please email/call me. Looking forward to having many phone calls about helping in this capacity! Thanks.

—Melodie Lew

BUILDING AND GROUNDS MINISTRY UPDATE

Over the last three weeks many volunteers led by Charlie Dreschler have been working trimming trees and bushes enough to fill two dumpsters at 30 cubic yards each! Much of the campus has now been pruned back to allow for proper growth in the future. It may seem like a big change, but was long overdue. We are still adding up the hours but it's close to 100-200 hours of donated time!

Many thanks to Charlie, Peter Held, Mike Harris, John Fyfe, Warren Long, Phil Lind and Jim Lindsay for their hard work and commitment to CCSM.

If you want to help, please let me know!

Jim Schwandt
Building and Grounds Ministry Lead
jimschwandt@gmail.com



CONNECT AND CELEBRATE

PICK-A-PARTY UPDATE

There's been a party for everyone in 2024. Civil War aficionados shared historical information and gained a better understanding of that significant period in American history. Laura Peterhans opened her home to both CCSMers and neighbors for a German breakfast and lively conversation. And she joined with MaryAnn Notz to delight guests with musical and pastry delights at MaryAnn's home. Curiously, there are no photos of the "O'Hills" Irish party. Presumably, everyone really enjoyed themselves at that party!

3D ANNUAL PIE SOCIAL

Save Mother's Day happy coffee hour (May 12) for the Third Annual Pie Social! Watch for details in upcoming Connections and your bulletins.



Renato and Lauri Floresca shared their cooking expertise with willing students at their Cook the Part dinner party. Guests worked together to create a Greek dinner from scratch, following a team cooking plan. All agreed it was a ton of fun and a delicious meal!



A receptive group gathered at the Stoddard/Phillips home to engage with Rev. Alvaro and learn about his background and vision for his work at CCSM.



Never heard of Euchre? Next year you'll have to join the Reys, who hosted a fun evening for a dozen people who were learning the game or polishing their skills. (Phil may be cheating here 😊)



Even with cracked ribs, Sue Bullis managed to pull off her amazing Italian night extravaganza. Aided by Sandy McNabb and David Loughhead, Sue provided her family recipe lasagna for hungry guests who were serenaded by live music as they dined. The evening was capped by the traditional cannoli races, which were hilarious and delicious. —continued—

CONNECT AND CELEBRATE *CONT.*



A select audience got up close and personal with Angela's organ expertise as she showed them what she can do on her little Casavant!



Several dedicated quilters got together for sewing and socializing. They created a beautiful quilt which was donated to Life Moves First Step for Families. See Susan Bell if you'd like to keep this party going!



The Hentons lived up to their reputation for great food and hospitality at an intimate lasagna dinner (Byron Levy served as photographer).

DAVE OLSON'S CCSM SERVICE WORK

by Lin Fenn

Since I began working as the “Happy Coffee Hour” service coordinator a few years ago, I became curious about what other CCSM congregants have chosen as volunteer positions. In January, I posted an article in the Pine Tree about what I gained from working alongside Melodie Lew and Robert Leung in the kitchen—much more than I imagined when I first started out! This reflection sparked an interest in writing articles about other volunteers, and what they learned from their commitments. Going forward, my plan is to highlight various members’ service work in regular Pine Tree posts.

Dave Olson’s New Initiative

In March, I talked with Dave about his service commitments. During a recent church service, he announced the start of his tenure as lead of the Ministry of Spiritual Life, designing programs to meet the spiritual needs of current congregants as well as appeal to neighbors who may be interested in joining CCSM. CCSM has much to offer, such as the welcome we extend to members with diverse interpretations of Christian faith, support for parents who are looking for a values-based spiritual peer group for themselves and their children, and a supportive social community to foster new friendships. Other ideas for extending welcome will be discussed once he gets a CCSM team onboard. Let Dave know if you would like to participate!

Dave’s Past Service Work

Unlike me, Dave is not a newcomer to CCSM. He’s been an active participant for more than twenty years, and for twelve years he served CCSM teaching Sunday School. Betsy Woodward asked him to help teach fourth and fifth graders, and later Junior High kids during their Sunday School time. The idea appealed to him as an opportunity to offer kids a values-based perspective from which to process their concerns. Unlike many Sunday school curriculums, he opted to highlight important current events that the kids likely heard about from TV or on the news as points of discussion, inviting them to wrestle over problems from a variety of viewpoints and allowing uncertainty and

ambivalence to be a welcome part of the process. He shared his own problem-solving strategies which included re-examining past beliefs and resisting the impulse to find solutions before considering many options.

“If adults share things that are genuine and meaningful, kids respond,” he said.

He found that although many of his students were seemingly disinterested at first, they soon felt at home in Dave’s classes, and almost all actually did want guidance and looked forward to having their say and learning his viewpoints.

“Sometimes you have to listen with your eyes instead of your ears,” he said.

The New Minister Search Committee

More recently, another of Dave’s service commitments, was his participation in the New Minister Search Committee. He helped facilitate whole-church discussions in small and large groups. Congregants discussed the qualities and values of what they’d like to see in the new minister and ideas about the church’s future. There were many months of deliberation.

Once we voted in Jessica Vacketta, we all faced yet another organizational task. We needed to reconcile our multiple imagined views of the new minister with the work of actually getting to know her and giving her the space and time to know us. Dave compared this phase to any new beginning—a new friendship or a new job. As Dave spoke about this, I thought of the psychological task parents-to-be have when their long-awaited baby is born. Despite their many pre-birth fantasies, their task is to accept that they are starting off as strangers and have to learn cues from each other through attentiveness, empathy, and flexibility.

In summary, I was inspired by Dave’s deep dive into CCSM service work and the consistent optimism he shared in his varied roles. I felt attracted to the way he engaged with others to both spread and derive hope through connection and constancy.



Dave Olson

FROM THE ARCHIVES: THE WATSON MEMORIAL ENTRANCE

Upon entering the church from the parking lot through the office corridor and directly into the Sanctuary you have probably noticed the plaque that reads “Watson Memorial Entrance, Dedicated In Memory of Albert J Watson and Lesley Watson, devoted members of this Church.”

You might have wondered who they were and why an entrance is dedicated to their memory.

The story begins more than 100 years ago, during the Ministry of Dr. Charles L. Kloss who served as pastor from 1922 to 1931. Back then, the Sanctuary was in the building now known as Kloss Hall. In the late 1920's the church had grown too large for the old Sanctuary and so a building committee was put together. Eventually, the first phase of our current sanctuary opened in 1931.

During the following years and into the beginning of World War II the church continued to grow. An expansion of the Sanctuary was required. Albert J Watson was a Certified Public Accountant working for Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. of San Francisco. He organized a group of Church members who in the 1930's, agreed to act as guarantors in payment of a loan from The Board of Home Missions to “complete the construction of our present buildings.”

These buildings included the current Senior Minister's Office, the adjoining offices, an expansion of the Nave portion of the Sanctuary and the entrance to the sanctuary from the parking lot.

Albert Watson was born in Scotland in 1880, he married Lesley Fasset in 1910. He was a veteran of WWI, became a naturalized US citizen and. By securing funding from other church members, he was largely responsible for the construction of our beautiful sanctuary.

Lesley Watson was an active member of the church for many years, in church school, the Congregational Church Club – later to become Women's Fellowship. Albert died in 1970 and Leslie in 1967.

After their deaths the Church Council dedicated the entrance to Albert and Lesley Watson.

—Phil Lind, Church Historian



WEDNESDAYS AT CCSM

We are excited to have Rosa Los Santos as our liturgical musician on Wednesday nights! Rosa came to Oakland in 2001 from her birthplace in Lima, Peru and has been singing Latin and especially Afro-Peruvian music professionally for several years. We also have a children's program that coincides with worship. Come prepared to experience the Holy Spirit in loving community at our bilingual service with an inspiring sermon, music, communion, and a potluck meal, Wednesdays at 7:15 pm in Kloss Hall.



Joys and Concerns

CCSM Pastoral Care Team

Please share your prayers with the pastoral care team, **Rev. Jessica Vacketta, Rev. Dr. Sheryl Johnson, Rev. Álvaro Durán, and Chase Montara**. Share your prayers, your hopes, and your lives. You may connect in the following ways: by **filling out an [online prayer request](#)** or by **contacting us via staff emails** listed in your bulletin. 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

Ricardo and Nadia welcomed baby girl **Azareth** to the world on March 14.

Prayers of celebration as **Mary Ann Notz** is home from the hospital.

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Long-time member **Clare Naegle** passed away at age 105 on Friday, April 5. Please hold her family, especially her children, **Marilyn and Richard**, in your prayers. A memorial service will be held on **Saturday, May 18** at 10:00 am at CCSM.

Cheryle Matteo's brother **Lou** passed away on April 3. Cheryle and her 93-year-old mother were able to travel to see him and were at his bedside when he passed. Cheryle thanks the congregation for their prayers on Lou's behalf. Cheryle believes your prayers provided Lou with three more years of life and she is very grateful.

Prayers for **Lynnelle Belsey** and family on the tragic loss of her cousin **Jack Shovein** from a cycling accident in Arizona on March 23.

Sarah Iya thanks everyone for their prayers during her mother, **Jane Don's**, journey with ovarian cancer. Jane achieved her goal of reaching her 70th birthday and died peacefully at home the next day (January 27). Sarah is grateful for the weeks she was able to spend caring for her mother in the UK.

PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT

Prayers for **Gene Chelberg's** spouse, **David Meissner**, who entered hospice at their home on April 5.

Oscar Rosa asks for prayers for his friend and our previous custodian, **Trini Romero**, who has experienced a significant health event that will require long-term treatment. We will soon be sharing opportunities to support Trini and his family as they make plans for him.

Stan Higgs requests prayers for his close friend **Don Don**, who is living and working in Saudi Arabia under very difficult conditions.

Please pray for **Ben**, the 10-year-old son of one

of **Genel Morgan's** daughter's friends who was recently diagnosed with a brain tumor. Genel also requests prayer for her family member, **Jason**, as he continues to battle cancer.

Please pray for **Allison Rock** and **Chris Wuthmann's** friend, **Karen**, who has a recurrence of metastatic cancer.

We pray for **Deanna Riding**, who recently broke several ribs.

Prayers for **Nancy Nugent** who fell and dislocated her elbow.

Prayers requested by **Michele Merfeld Hale** for her sister-in-law **Mary Anne**, who had spinal surgery on March 12; for her friend **Susan** who is soon undergoing surgery to continue her recovery from a motor vehicle accident two years ago; for her friend **Camilla**, whose husband **Ron** recently passed away. And also for her friend **Glenda** and her husband and their son **Nathan**, all coping with serious health challenges.

We join faith communities around the world in praying for a **ceasefire in Gaza**. May the fighting and killing stop. May all hostages be released by Hamas. May food and medical aid reach all who need it. May the Peace that surpasses all understanding prevail.

CCSM's prayer ritual for **Ukraine**, originally held March 6, 2022, continues to be available at tinyurl.com/CCSM-Ukraine-Prayer.

CONTINUING PRAYERS

Continuing prayers of strength, encouragement, and healing for our beloved brothers and sisters: Mel Thrash; Anne and Steve Galli; Judy and Minsook, friends of Angela and Robert; Bev Knowlton; Alice Morison's close friend Cheryl R; Michele Merfeld Hale's friend Lee White; Cari Parker; Martha Clements; Bill Melis; Mike and Lee Mullery; George Vail; Martha Pierce; Jo Buckham; Ruth Black; Dorothy Gorman; Dr. Jim Groundwater; Dottie Scott; Don Jonathan's brother Chuck Ruthroff; Kay and Mike Harris' friend Mary-Helen McMahon; Caroline Reinke.

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Clare Naegle: April 30, 1918 - April 5, 2024

Clare Naegle died on Friday, April 5, just weeks short of her 106th birthday. She had been a member of CCSM for 77 years, since October 13, 1946.

In 1977 she and Mike Mullery initiated the first of numerous cycles of the *Edge of Adventure* program that engaged small groups of members in candid discussions about their lives and their spirituality. For a whole generation of CCSMers, this program enlivened the spiritual life of CCSM and also led to deep, lifelong friendships among participants.

Clare also catalyzed the Wolves, a group of women friends who met for decades, inspired by the book, *Women Who Run with the Wolves: Myths and Stories of the Wild Woman Archetype*. (The women in that dedicated group included Betsy Woodward, Lani Leydig, Annette Daniels, Dorothy Gorman, Deb Flaherty, Kathy Steinbaugh, Cari Parker, Laurel Torres, Roxana Wales, Shirley McKinnie, Karen Olsen Stern, and Clare.) Clare's Jungian spirituality inspired my late wife, Diane, as she began to sense a call to spiritual practice and later to ministry.

There will be a memorial service for her at CCSM on **Saturday, May 18 at 10:00 am.**

—Julien Phillips



Clare Naegle and Julien Phillips in 2021

