

CCSM PINE TREE

VOL. 73, #6 | ONLINE | FALL ISSUE 2024

A NOTE FROM JESSICA



Greetings, Church!

I must say, my first Homecoming at CCSM did not disappoint! I'm so grateful to our Connect & Celebrate Ministry for organizing such a wonderful event. It was a beautiful opportunity to share in fellowship,

delicious food, and the joy overflowing in laughter, music, and dancing. Whether you joined us in person or online, your presence made the day extra special!

Part of our Homecoming festivities included celebrating CCSM's official recognition as a United Church of Christ (UCC) Creation Justice Church. As one of UCC's eight [Just World Covenant Programs](#), Creation Justice Churches guide congregations in understanding how they can best embody a commitment to care for God's creation, and all who call it home. At CCSM we work together to feed the hungry, care for the sick, house those experiencing homelessness, and advocate for a more just society. ***From racial inequities to the ongoing legacy of colonialism, creation justice is deeply intertwined with multiple layers of justice.*** In order to receive this recognition, we needed to meet a number of requirements, including the development of a [Climate Pledge](#) and offering

—cont. on next page—



Congregational
Church of san mateo

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A NOTE FROM JESSICA CONT. FROM P. 1

comprehensive environmental education programs. CCSM's solar canopy, Precious Plastics Program, and exploration around becoming a Resilient Hub (*more information coming soon in a Second Hour presentation*) helped lead to this recognition. If you would like to join our Environmental Justice (EJ) Ministry Team in leading these efforts, please reach out to our EJ Ministry Lead, [Gary White](#), to learn more, or attend one of the several Second Hours hosted by our Environmental Justice Ministry this fall.

Throughout this issue of the Pine Tree, you'll find several photos from Homecoming Sunday, along with upcoming special events taking place this fall, like the annual Halloween Concert, All Saints Sunday and Dia de Los Muertos, a CCSM & You New Member Seminar, and much more. As I approach my one-year anniversary serving as your pastor, I truly feel at home with you at CCSM. I can't wait to see what God has in store for year two!

With gratitude, love, and hope,

Jessica

UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

our
faith
our
OTE
our
voice

FORTY DAYS OF PRAYER

AS OUR NATION PREPARES TO GO TO THE POLLS

As the election approaches, we encourage you to take a moment to pause, reflect, and center yourself from all of that is swirling in our heads and on the news. Launched by the Potomac Association, this 40-day prayer resource is adapted from Rev. Karen Winkel. It includes prompts for every day of the week. We encourage you to engage with this beautiful praxis as we approach an important time in our history. [Click HERE](#) for **all 40 days of prayers**, grab a copy of the prayers outside the sanctuary, or follow our Facebook stories for a daily post.

And don't forget, **through Sunday, October 13th we will have a table where you can get a packet of postcards, addresses, and voter information stickers to send** to encourage people in voter suppression states to vote. For more information, contact [Krista Hanson](#) (650-773-7276) or [Susan Lake Long](#) (650-576-4092). Join us in supporting our democracy!

PET BLESSING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6 • 5:00 PM
ON THE FRONT LAWN

Join us for a Pet Blessing!

World Animal Day is celebrated each year on October 4—the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, a nature lover and patron saint of animals and the environment. To celebrate, honor, and give thanks for the special creatures in our lives, we will hold a special Pet Blessing Service on Sunday, October 6, 5:00pm on the church lawn. This event is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other animal lovers in our community and receive a blessing for your beloved pets. All pets are welcome, but we do ask that you please keep your pets on a leash or in your arms during the service.

Let's come together to honor our furry (and not so furry) companions and show our gratitude for the gift of their presence in our lives.



CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

by Rev. Dr. Sheryl Johnson
Minister to Children, Youth and Families

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the CCSM community for the life-changing experience of spending the summer with my baby, Andrea (Andie) while on parental leave. It was such a blessing to be together as a family this summer to bond and cherish the first few months of her life. I am so grateful for everyone who stepped in to make this possible for me. Thank you also for the amazing baby shower and touching cards and gifts. I truly felt showered by your love and support.

Some of you have already met Andie, but for those who haven't, she is doing very well. She was born on May 3 and is now nearly 5 months old. She is a pretty cheerful baby and a good sleeper (normally at least!). She will be with me at church every other Sunday so I hope you will get to meet her very soon if you have not yet. She is so blessed to have this family of faith—so many honorary aunts, uncles, siblings, grandparents, and more!



Mike Mullery hanging out with Baby Andie and Sheryl Johnson at Coffee Hour

SUNDAY CHILDREN'S PROGRAM



WHO:	Kinder - 4th Graders
WHERE:	CE Building
WHEN:	10:30 AM Sunday mornings

Speaking of our family of faith, it has been so wonderful to return to work and the rhythms of the church year. On Sundays, Lily continues to care for our youngest kids offering art, toys, stories, and more. Our K-5th group has been learning about each of our Guiding Principles, exploring the related Bible stories we are reading in church, and engaging in art and service projects that help them respond to the theme in the ways that feel fitting to them. I am grateful to Elaine and volunteers for offering a caring, welcoming, and inviting community.

—cont.

On Sundays, during the Peace, children (4th grade and younger) and youth (5th-8th grades) are invited to attend our faith formation programs in the Christian Education Building by exiting out the back door of the Sanctuary with our adult program leaders. Parents/guardians are welcome to accompany kids to help them get settled. Children and youth are most welcome to remain in the service if they would prefer. Activity baskets with goodies for our younger kiddos can be found in the entry hall (narthex) at the Kids Table. After worship, kids can be picked up in their program room or Kloss Hall at Coffee Hour.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES CONT.

GRAN' ITS MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM



WHO: Middle Schoolers "Gran' Its"
WHERE: CE Building
WHEN: 10:30 AM Sunday mornings

Our middle schoolers (known as the Gran'its) in 5th-8th grades have also been exploring the Guiding Principles and Bible Stories in a more in-depth way, discussing what the Bible means for our lives and where they see similar (or different!) realities in their worlds. The youth always amaze me with the connections they draw, like the idea of apostles being like having followers on Youtube! We have been coming together as a community for a time of check-ins and prayer, asking about pow's, wows, and hows (pow = any negative experiences or worries, wows = highlights or special experiences, hows = how you saw God/Spirit/Jesus in the last week). Thank you also to the volunteers who have worked with me in this group!



Coastal cleanup project

HIGH SCHOOL



WHO: High Schoolers
WHERE: Fireplace Room
WHEN: Sunday at 10:30AM monthly

Our highschoolers have also re-gathered and had a meaningful conversation about their hopes for themselves, their community, and our wider world. The older ones gave advice about this stage of life to the younger ones. It is amazing to see! Next they'll focus on the US Presidential election and how faith and politics intersect (and don't!). There will also be lots of time for service projects and fun social events, including attending one another's sporting/musical/dramatic/etc events.

WEDNESDAYS FOR KIDS



WHO: Kids - Wednesday Service
WHERE: Kloss Hall
WHEN: Wednesdays at 7:15PM

On Wednesdays, we have also been exploring the Guiding Principles and Bible stories. After song and prayer, kids respond to the stories through art, games, and building with recycled materials (we have some very creative engineering minds). It is great to have the connection of kids on both Sunday and Wednesday exploring similar topics in their own unique ways.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES CONT.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT!



WHO: All parents
WHERE: Kim and Javi Rey's home
WHEN: Sat. October 5, 6-8pm

Let's connect over delicious pizza and great conversation! We invite all parents to join us for an evening of fun and fellowship. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet other parents, share stories, and build community. Childcare will be available on CCSM premises.

We are committed to building a strong community and providing opportunities for spiritual growth and connection for CCSM kids, youth, and parents! If you have any questions or feedback, or would like to help with our CYF ministries, please do not hesitate to reach out to our CYF Ministry Leads, Kim Rey (kim.bianco.rey@gmail.com) and Troy Grabow (grabrowt@gmail.com).



Kids enjoying Homecoming Sunday

If you would like to get more involved or learn more about our programs, please be in touch any time. I am so grateful for the love and support of the CCSM community on my own journey into parenthood!

—Sheryl

(sjohnson@ccsm-ucc.org)

JOYFUL NOISE CHILDREN'S CHOIR



Joyful Noise will share their voices and add to our Sunday services this Fall. The choir engages young folks and their parents in making a joyful and musical noise together. Music leader Julie Berk creates a welcoming environment for early music exploration for young children, as well as opportunities to play percussion instruments and part singing for older youth. Parents are welcome to participate with their kids, creating a wonderful intergenerational atmosphere in the choir.

Joyful Noise meets Sunday mornings at 9:45 am in the CE Building at CCSM. For more information and/or their Fall schedule, please contact Julie at teacherjulie7@gmail.com.

SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS: POWER AND LOVE

EVERY OTHER MONDAY EVENING, 7:15 - 8:45PM ON ZOOM

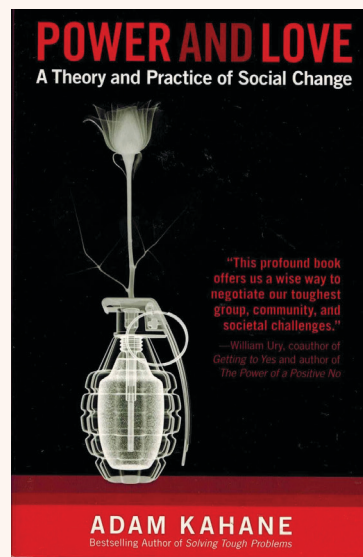
If you care deeply about wise ways to negotiate tough group, community, and societal challenges, please consider participating in the discussion group Spiritual Conversations. We began our fall series on September 30 with the book *Power and Love: A Theory and Practice of Social Change* by Adam Kahane, and will continue to meet to discuss the book every other Monday evening (**next meeting October 14**).

POWER WITHOUT LOVE IS RECKLESS AND ABUSIVE, AND LOVE WITHOUT POWER IS SENTIMENTAL AND ANEMIC.

—MARTIN LUTHER KING

As a negotiator Kahane shows how the drives of power and love can be integrated; he tells stories from his work in South Africa, India, and Israel. He also shares his personal learning process with honest self-reflection.

If you are interested, please contact Chris Wuthmann for the reading and Zoom link at cewuthmann@gmail.com. All are welcome.



CCSM & YOU: NEW MEMBER SEMINAR

TWO OPPORTUNITIES:

ONLINE: Saturday, November 9 • 12:00PM ([click HERE for Zoom link](#))

IN-PERSON: Sunday, November 10 • 12:00PM - 2:30PM, Lunch Provided

Maybe you're brand-new to CCSM, or maybe you've been part of this community for years and are looking to take the next step. Either way, CCSM & YOU is a seminar designed to answer your questions about membership: what it is, why it matters, and whether CCSM is a good fit for you. You'll learn about the United Church of Christ (our denomination), CCSM's history, Guiding Principles, and ways to connect and serve. This is also a great opportunity to meet other new (or newish) folks, as well as long time members.

Join us **on Zoom on Saturday, November 9** or **in person on November 10 (lunch included)**. These are two *stand-alone gatherings* where the same material will be presented. Reach out to Rev. Jessica, jessica@ccsm-ucc.org, to learn more and RSVP.

We're excited to walk with you as you explore this next step on your faith journey and would love CCSM to be your church home!



DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS & ALL SAINTS DAY

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 7:00PM - DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3 - ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Latino spirituality is a unique blend of pre-Hispanic cultural traditions and diverse beliefs. As articulated by Dr. Antonia Darder, **it embraces the sacredness of life, death, and the interconnections among all beings.** This unique viewpoint is beautifully showcased in Día de los Muertos, a beloved Mexican holiday dedicated to honouring deceased loved ones through vibrant altars and heartfelt offerings.

Throughout Latin America, the transitional days between October and November serve as a reminder that **death is not a conclusion but a continuation of bonds that transcend time**—an idea that fosters a comforting connection. Families engage in meaningful acts of love and devotion, constructing beautifully decorated altars (ofrendas) adorned with photographs, favourite foods, and cherished mementoes.

Día de los Muertos encourages us to celebrate life while harmonizing our memories with joy. These festivities promote a deeper understanding of existence, honouring both life and death with an inspiring reverence.

At CCSM, we invite you to join us on **Wednesday, October 30th, at 7:15PM.** Let's come together to create our communal remembrance altar, a symbol of our shared respect and love for our departed loved ones. **Please bring photographs, favourite foods, objects that remind you of loved ones, candles, prayers, and names written on cards.** Together, let us celebrate the transcendence of life and our connection to those we hold dear, even in their physical absence.

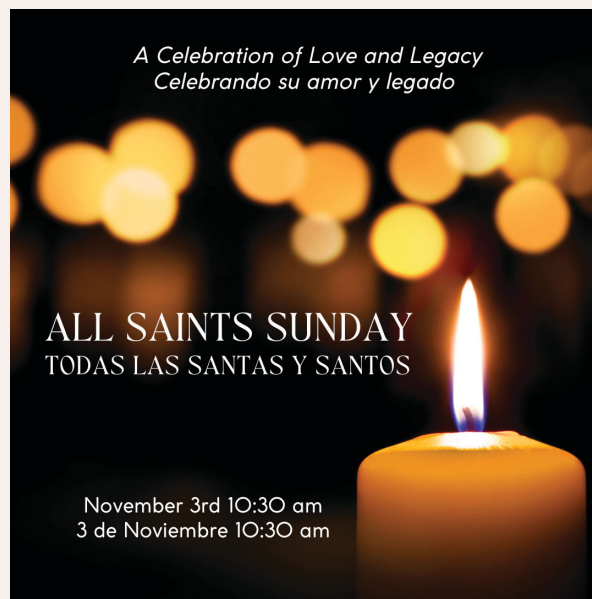


ALL SAINTS DAY

On Sunday, November 3, CCSM will observe **All Saints Day with a special bilingual worship service.** This vibrant service will blend traditions and languages, welcoming all voices as we honour the faithful departed. Come celebrate with us as we commemorate those who have shaped our lives, faith and community. During the service, we will read aloud the names of our beloveds who have passed on in the past year. You will also have an opportunity to light a candle in memory of the saints in your life, whether they passed recently or long ago. **We also invite you to bring a picture of your deceased loved**

one to place on our Saints table outside of the Sanctuary. If you would like us to share the name of a relative who has passed in the last year, please send their name to Jennifer Prince (jprince@ccsm-ucc.org) by Tuesday, October 29.

We hope you can join us for this special service of remembrance and gratitude as we honor all those who have gone before us. We look forward to sharing this sacred time with you!



LATINO MINISTRY UPDATE: ENGLISH TOGETHER

On September 16th the Latino Ministry kicked off an inaugural effort in collaboration with **English Together (Ingles Juntos)**. This is a program developed and grown by this wonderful nonprofit based in Palo Alto. We are fortunate to have enthusiasm from within our church community for our pilot effort this fall. As we launch our program, we have eight English-speaking practice partner volunteers paired up with eight Spanish-speaking adult learners. Each practice partner participated in a training session and has access to various materials to engage with their learner over the coming weeks. Our CCSM effort is part of an overall Cycle 9 for English Together which has partnered with other organizations throughout the Peninsula over several years.



At CCSM, from September through November we will be running 1-hour sessions on Monday evenings. English Together encourages practice and builds confidence for the learner. For us at CCSM it is also about building connections and strengthening our community. Over eight weeks these practice partners and learners will engage in various activities to strengthen their conversational English as a helpful alternative or complement to ESL structured learning. This commitment also supports our ministry mission of building cross-cultural and authentic relationships across our whole church.

If you would like to learn more about English Together or participate in a future iteration of this program, please reach out to Katherine (vegastultz@yahoo.com)



SECOND HOUR ON 11/17: END OF LIFE DISCUSSION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 • 12:00PM - 1:30PM - BUCKHAM ROOM (LUNCH PROVIDED)

SPEAKER: RHYENA HALPERN, END OF LIFE DOULA



What if we thought about “end of life” as not only a medical event, but more importantly a social and deeply spiritual event? Death is not only about taking care of a loved one, it’s about taking care of each other. Talking about death can bring us closer to the people we love.

There are many aspects to end of life including the pragmatic as well as the spiritual and soulful aspects. We may or may not have completed advanced directives, completed a trust and/or will, created a password safe for all our on-line passwords, etc. What’s important to us as we approach end of life? Have we made our wishes known? Is there unfinished business that needs to be addressed? Join us in deepening our learning about end of life.

HOMECOMING 2024 WAS WONDERFUL!

It was a beautiful day of good food, good fun, good conversation, and enjoying the gathered CCSM community. Here are just a few photos from that day. If you'd like to see the whole album, click [HERE](#).



SOLAR AMBASSADORS AT CCSM

Solar Ambassadors is a task force of CCSM's Environmental Justice Ministry. It serves to support "Going Solar at Home" in alignment with our values as a UCC Creation Justice Church.

Our mission is to encourage and educate CCSM members and friends to **GO SOLAR**, with all the economic and other benefits of adopting renewable/sustainable electrical energy choices on their homes, if eligible. This mission also entails facilitating the process of installing solar systems (panels, storage, etc.) on individual homes in partnership with a reliable solar energy resource program such as Powur, Sunrun, SF Green Construction or other selected solar supplier.



The advantages of using solar (photovoltaic) to produce electrical energy at home:

- ✿ **Save money** by lowering your home electricity costs, permanently, with \$0 out of pocket options.
- ✿ **Increase home value** for homes by installing a renewable energy infrastructure.
- ✿ **Live out your values as an Earth Caretaker.** Reduce your carbon footprint and the impact of climate change by ending the use of fossil fuels to power your home.
- ✿ **Support CCSM financially.** CCSM's members and friends who install a photovoltaic system on their homes through Powur will generate a \$1000 donation to CCSM.
- ✿ **Benefit your local community** by supporting sustainability as a key environmental, spiritual and moral imperative.

Steps to explore solar with Solar Ambassadors:

- ◆ **Sign up and submit your most current utility bill** to discover if your home is eligible for solar. You will need to provide a copy of your PG&E bill. Scan the QR code below or [click HERE](#).
- ◆ **Take a short phone call from the Rev. Ben Meyers** (a member of the EJM team) to gather information about your home and electricity usage needs.
- ◆ **Schedule a thorough evaluation with Powur, PBC.** The evaluation will:
 - compare current electrical use and costs with potential future costs and savings,
 - explore the most appropriate solar system design for your specific site and needs,
 - discuss optimal financing options available, and
 - provide other resources and partners for further consultation.
- ◆ **Schedule the installation of a solar PV system** on your home, as appropriate.



CONTACT:

Warren Long

Solarambassadors@CCSM-UCC.org

650-576-4093

Rev. Ben Meyers

ben@everyrooftopsolar.com

510-367-3789

SECOND HOUR ON 10/27: GOING SOLAR AT HOME

Thinking of Going Solar at Home? The Environmental Justice ministry and the Solar Ambassador task force is hosting a Second Hour program on **Sunday, October 27 at noon in the Buckham Room**. We will present how Going Solar can reduce your carbon footprint, discuss the advantages and process of installing photovoltaic cells on your home to produce electric energy sustainably and answer questions. If the article above has intrigued you, come to the Second Hour to find out more!



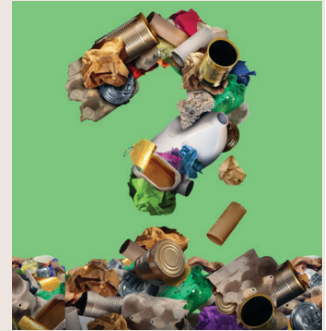
RECOLOGY HOME RECYCLING WORKSHOP

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22 • 12 NOON - 1:00 PM AT CCSM - LUNCH PROVIDED

The proper recycling of household items can be a confusing and frustrating experience. Does black plastic go in the outside blue recycling bin or in the black trash bin? Does a jar containing old use-by-date food go in the trash bin or the green composting bin? And what about paint or chemical fluids? Where do they go?

To help answer these and other questions you might have on municipal trash collection and recycling in San Mateo, Susan Lake and the Environmental Justice Ministry have arranged for a representative from Recology to come give a special workshop on home recycling and recycling at CCSM.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend. To help us plan for food, please email Susan at susan.a.lake15@gmail.com by **October 18** to let us know how many will be attending. Thanks!



SECOND HOUR: 10/13 HISPANIC/LATINO HERITAGE MONTH

As Hispanic Latino Heritage Month draws to an end, we invite you to join Rev. Álvaro for a special Second Hour after worship on **Sunday, October 13**, as we unpack the history of the month and why it's important for us to celebrate and observe as a congregation. This is sure to be educational and fun!

SECOND HOUR ON 12/1: CCSM AS A RESILIENCE HUB

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 • 12:00PM - 1:00PM - BUCKHAM ROOM



With potential floods, fires, earthquakes, and other natural or manmade disasters always looming in Northern California, the Environmental Justice Ministry is exploring the creation of a **RESILIENCE HUB** at CCSM.

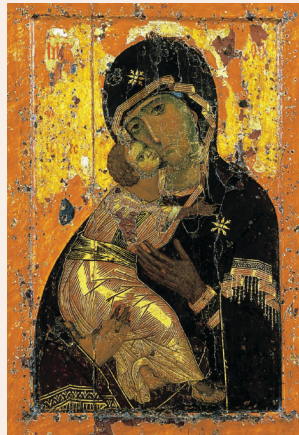
What is a resilience hub? A resilience hub is *a safe space for church members as well as local neighbors to go to when such a disaster strikes*. Coordinated with our local Red Cross, the hub would serve as an evacuation center that would enable people impacted to rest, charge their cell phones, have a warm meal, and plan their next steps for interim housing and other needed emergency services.

The EJ ministry will outline this pending project in an in-person Second Hour on Sunday, December 1st. All are invited to attend and to offer their thoughts on the project. See you at the Second Hour!

MUSIC & ART

FRIDAY, OCT. 18 • NOON • BUCKHAM ROOM

Bring your own lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. After lunch and a short business meeting we will have a very interesting program on art by **Doug Bell**. He is an artist/historian who lectures on Byzantine Christianity and its influence on Russian icon paintings, including his own. He will present slides of authentic icons, their place in time and symbolism. He will bring his own beautiful paintings and explain his inspiration in them.



Please RSVP to Genel Morgan at glmrn12@gmail.com or 650-759-7318 so we can have the right amount of tables and chairs. Thanks.

CELEBRATIONS OF LIFE

SATURDAY, OCT. 12 • 11:00AM • SANCTUARY

Join us for a celebration of the life of Ann Lambertson. Ann was a member at CCSM for 20 years and will be well remembered for her vibrant and caring spirit.



SATURDAY, OCT. 19 • 11:00AM • SANCTUARY

On the following Saturday, we will celebrate the life of Dr. Jim Groundwater, husband of Lorna Groundwater. Many prayers have gone up from this church on Jim's behalf over the years as he has been in poor health. Please join us to celebrate his life.



Logos Method Sound Bath coming! [Click HERE](#) for more information.

FALL WORSHIP SERIES: *HELP. THANKS. WOW.*

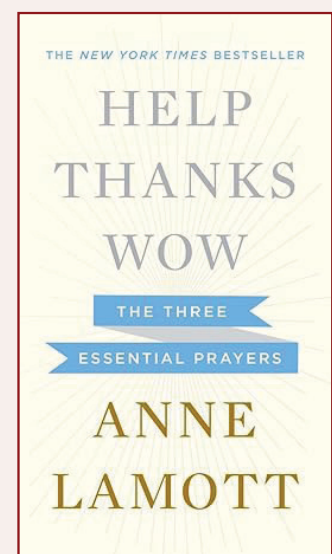
November 10 - 24

“I do not know much about God and prayer, but I have come to believe, over the past twenty-five years, that there’s something to be said for keeping prayer simple. Help. Thanks. Wow.”

—Anne Lamott

Help me. Thank you. Wow.

This fall, we’ll explore these three simple prayers from Anne Lamott’s best-seller, “Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers.” In this heartfelt memoir, Lamott invites us on a journey of gratitude, vulnerability, and awe. Join us for our November worship series when we’ll explore these themes and how they can sustain and transform us on the journey.



MUSIC AT CCSM

SUMMER MUSIC GRATITUDE

Thank you to all our special guest musicians for a fantastic summer and thank you to everyone who shared their favorite hymns with us over the summer too. It was so inspirational to learn about the songs and the deep meaning these beautiful works have for each of you. Sharing your stories and the songs—often ones we haven't sung for many years—as well as beloved favorites truly touched many hearts in our congregation. I look forward to revisiting this opportunity again soon with everyone.

In addition, a big thank you to everyone who contributed their time and talents at our summer sing-along this past July. The event was led by our talented instrumentalists Susan Bell, Chona Tendero and Siew Kang in a guitar trio with pianist Kathleen Nelson, all leading us through an eclectic list of popular songs. We all had a great time singing together including a few “blasts from the past” that brought smiles to all.



SPECIAL EVENTS THIS FALL

CCSM Music Ministry has several special events happening this Fall! We invite you all to join us.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 5:00PM: MUSICAL TAPAS WITH Z QUARTET



5:00 - 5:30pm | Welcoming Wine & Cheese Reception

5:30 - 6:30pm | Program

6:30 - 7:00pm | Mingling & Cookies

Come to Kloss Hall to sample a delightful mix of diverse sounds by composers including Rhiannon Giddens, George Walker, and Grażyna Bacewicz. This musical tapas, perfect for those who enjoy a variety of musical styles, is served to you by the Z Quartet, a string ensemble of community members and ardent musicians.

Enjoy some snacks and drinks before and after the program as you get to know your neighbors. It's a relaxing, easy, and fun evening out!

Childcare provided.

This event is free and open to the public. Please register at [THIS LINK](#) so that we can plan for you!



[cont. →]

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 5:00PM: 15TH ANNUAL PENINSULA MULTI-FAITH COALITION BENEFIT CONCERT AT BURLPRES

This amazing choral festival, a benefit concert supporting LifeMoves, brings together an amazing group of singers from five local churches. The singers lift their voices together in song with three inspirational pieces. In addition, each of the participating choirs perform solo works. CCSM Chancel Choir will be participating along with singers from BurlPres, St. Catherine's of Siena, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and a combined choir from the LDS churches of Foster City, San Mateo & San Bruno.

The concert accepts a free-will offering, but there is no admission price. A reception follows the performance. We look forward to seeing you.



15TH ANNUAL NORTH PENINSULA INTERFAITH CHORAL CONCERT

Show Us How to Love

IN BENEFIT OF LifeMoves

OCTOBER 13, 2024
5:00 PM

burlpres church of Burlingame
1500 Easton Dr, Burlingame

PARTICIPATING CHOIRS FROM:

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

No ADMISSION FEE / SUGGESTED DONATION AT THE DOOR
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW WITH REFRESHMENTS

LIFEMOVES.ORG



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 AT 8:00PM: CCSM'S ANNUAL SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN CONCERT

Are you looking for a fun, family-friendly Halloween event this year? Come join us at CCSM's Spooktacular Organ Concert in the Sanctuary at CCSM. The young organists of CCSM along with CCSM's own Phantom of the Casavant, Angela Kraft Cross, will perform a cavalcade of musical treats—you won't want to miss this evening. Everyone is encouraged to come in costume.

Suggested donation: \$20 for adults, \$10 for youth & seniors, children 10 & under free.

[cont. →]

MUSIC AT CCSM CONT.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17 AT 3:00PM:

PIANO CONCERT WITH ARTHUR TRACHENKO



CCSM's Music Ministry invites you to attend the concert of this brilliant young pianist right here in CCSM's sanctuary. Arthur is an 18-year-old award-winning musician from Lafayette, CA who began his musical studies at 7 on piano. And he is a phenomenal pianist (of any age) who has spent the last two summers in the legendary Tanglewood Festival. His program promises to have breathtaking virtuosity. In 2023, Arthur began studying organ with Dr. Angela Kraft Cross at CCSM.

Suggested donation: **\$20 for adults, \$10 for youth & seniors, children 10 & under free.**

If you would like more information about any of these opportunities above, or are interested in learning more about the musician ensembles at CCSM including the Chancel Choir, Carillon Ringers Handbell choir, Joyful Noise (family-friendly) Children's Choir or perhaps sharing your gifts as a soloist or small ensemble, please reach out to Lynnelle Bilsey, Director of Music at CCSM at ltbmusings@gmail.com.

PICK A PARTY SEASON IS HERE!



CCSM Fundraising Event
2024 - 2025

With a festive Homecoming celebration now behind us, it's time to launch Pick A Parties. As Jessica announced, this is a fund raiser and a fun raiser. We rely on these parties, and donated silent auction items, to help support CCSM's programs. They're also a great way to make new friends and socialize with long-time CCSMers.

Many of the parties offered are traditional favorites, including learning/playing cribbage and attending an Italian dinner with cannoli races. But CCSM members are resourceful, and new ideas surfaced last year, including an inside look at Burning Man and a bakery crawl in San Francisco.

If you need ideas, we have an idea sheet available at tinyurl.com/CCSM-2024-PaP-Ideas. If you've never heard of Pick A Party, please check out the information handout: tinyurl.com/CCSM-2024-PaP-Info. Please submit your party (or your silent auction item) **by October 13**, using the form here: tinyurl.com/CCSM-2024-PaP-Sub. You can bring it to church or email it to Sandy McNabb, sandra.j.mcnabb@gmail.com.

Party sign-up Sunday will be **November 17**. If you have questions, please contact any Connect & Celebrate Ministry member: Mike Harris, Sue Bullis, Nancy or Jerry Nugent, Diane Kalliam, Espie Abacan, Michele Merfeld, or Sandy McNabb, all listed in the church directory through [MyCCSM](https://www.mycosm.org).

A Pick A Party hike >>



JIGSAW PUZZLES



by Chase Montara

With the warm weather we have been having, it doesn't seem possible that Advent will soon be upon us (and us upon it). Soon we will be planning, decorating, singing, and meeting in anticipation of that meaningful season. With that in mind, I want to remind everyone how important it is to keep me in the loop of your preparations. Keeping a church of this size running without glitches is a wonderful challenge. Everything is important and it all has to fit together like a big jigsaw puzzle. **So please be extra mindful to keep me informed of your activities so that I can get you on the calendar, reserve a space for you, publicize your event and avoid scheduling conflicts.** Are you planning to plant some plants? Oops, did you know that outdoor space is rented today? Are you planning a quiet meeting? Uh oh, did you know the San Francisco Boys Chorus will be practicing scales next door? I can keep the bigger picture in mind, but only with your help. Here is the [Facilities Rental Request form](#) for your reference, which will show the information I need to ensure your event is a success.

And speaking of jigsaw puzzles, Oscar and myself, along with Jim Schwandt and the Buildings and Ground ministry, have completed a number of maintenance and repair projects over the summer. I want to take the opportunity to acknowledge Dana Scadden, who generously bequeathed funds in her will, and made these repairs possible. We have pruned the live oak tree by Ellsworth, which was overhanging our neighbor's roof; we have completed the repairs on the roof between the CE building and Kloss Hall; the storm drain system has been excavated and updated with new pipes and a bubbler on the Tilton Avenue side of the church; the sanctuary windows on both the Tilton and Memorial Garden sides have been prepped and painted; gutter shields have been placed on the downspouts; two doors in the CE building's Muslim Garden School have been repaired and repainted; we have treated the two live oak trees in the Memorial Garden for blight (a big thank you to Nancy Steele who donated funds to save the trees); all the fire extinguishers have been replaced or recharged; the fan system in the kitchen is being diagnosed for repair; and all five furnaces and multiple water heaters have had their annual inspection and maintenance so we will be ready when cooler weather hits. My deepest appreciation to Oscar and Jim Schwandt for their hard work on these projects. We have a few more projects we hope to accomplish before 2025, so we will keep you posted!

Thank you for your support in maintaining the precious church building for current and future members, as well as for our neighboring community.



NEW LOGGIA CHRISTMAS WREATHS



The Liturgical Arts Ministry (LAM) team reorganized the Christmas storage spaces and downsized our Advent decoration collection. On Sunday, September 22, members attended CCSM's first Liturgical Arts Christmas Boutique

on the Kloss Hall stage and took home our limited collection of colorful handmade bulb wreaths, the former Loggia red berry wreaths, and other mis-

cellaneous items. Yes, it was a fire sale in under 30 minutes. What joy filled the room and hearts.

Collected donations, totaling \$300 so far, will support the purchase of beautiful NEW Christmas wreaths for the loggia doors and be enjoyed for many years to come.

Would you also like to help underwrite the purchase of the new loggia Christmas wreaths? You can. Just make a check out to "CCSM" and memo "LAM wreath." LAM appreciates your generosity for this much needed upgrade of the collection. Please contact Pam Riddlehuber, pridlehuber@gmail.com, if you have questions.

AN UPDATE FROM ZOE... AND A LITTLE HISTORY



I started working at this job in October 1991, when Lynn Takacs, the former director of operations (I think it was called administrative secretary then), took a maternity leave. I had just moved back to the Bay Area to go to graduate school and needed some

work. I was happy to work at CCSM, where my parents were deeply involved, and where I had gone to youth group as a kid. CCSM kept me on as a part-time administrative assistant when Lynn returned. David Brown was the senior pastor then... and Betsy Woodward was my office-mate. That office (now the nursery) was called the Production Room because the Pine Tree was put together by literally cutting and pasting typed articles and adding clip art. We had files and files of clip art!

Now, 33 years later, I'm still here. I have also been teaching writing for 27 years in the prison system, 25 at San Quentin, and also recently a re-entry class. Some of you have come to our annual literary readings where my students get to read their stories to an audience. CCSM has supported both my San Quentin work and Portal Writing Workshop, the re-entry class, through plate offerings. I feel so fortunate to have found this work that I love, but it is not enough to live on. Working this sweet CCSM job has both supplemented my

income enough to allow me to continue teaching in prison, and has provided me another avenue of honorable work, where I can contribute in my small way to all the good that happens at CCSM.

More recently, as most of you know, my family has been challenged with my mom's illness and care. And between my work at San Quentin, my work here at CCSM, my responsibilities to my intentional community and the desire to spend more time with my mom, I find myself in need of rest and discernment about how to manage all of this going forward. I am grateful to have been granted a six-month leave of absence from CCSM wherein I will have the space and time I need to sort some things out and develop a clearer direction. While I have not carved out the details of my plans as to what will happen between now and April, please know that I will be in close contact with Rev. Jessica during my time away.

One thing I will be exploring are ways to fund the ongoing teaching and editing I want to do related to incarceration and re-entry. If anyone has ideas about possible grants for editing projects and teaching, please let me know. Meanwhile, thank you again for your patience with the inconvenience caused by yet another absence. I am so grateful to Jennifer Prince for filling in and helping to support the church while I'm away. Please be in touch with Jennifer (jprince@ccsm-ucc.org) with all the things you would normally email me about. I'll see you in April!

Joys and Concerns

CCSM Pastoral Care Team

Please share your prayers with the pastoral care team, **Rev. Jessica Vacketta, Rev. Álvaro Durán, Rev. Dr. Sheryl Johnson, 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 email**. 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

From the family of **Heather Nayak**: “Prayers of thanksgiving and prayers for blessings on the life of our new grandchild. **Max** had baby **Paxton** on 10-1-2024 and we are all in love.”

Alison and Jim Schwandt celebrate the birth of a new grandchild to their family! Their son **Ryan**, and his wife, **Ashley**, and big brother **James**, welcomed a baby girl to their family on August 27th: **Margot Danielle Schwandt**.

Anniversaries! **Alicia and Manuel Santamaria** celebrated their 25th anniversary on August 25! They were married at CCSM by Rev. Louise Bastille and a Catholic priest in a bilingual/bicultural ceremony. **Mike and Lee Mullery** celebrated their 67th anniversary on August 18!

PRAYERS OF LOVE AND STRENGTH

Ann Lambertson passed away peacefully on July 31, surrounded by her family. A memorial service for her will be held at CCSM on October 12 at 11am.

Prayers for **Lorna Groundwater** as her beloved husband, **Dr. Jim Groundwater**, passed away peacefully on September 2. A memorial service for him will be held at CCSM on October 19 at 11am.

Don Harper's sister, **Helen Lilly**, passed away on August 28. Please keep her husband **Paul** and children **Susan, Doug, Linda, and Diana** in our prayers along with Don.

We surround in prayer **Leo Yu** and his family following the death of his aunt, **Mrs. Yu, Cho Soak Fun**, on August 24.

PRAYERS OF HEALING AND SUPPORT

Please hold **Isabel Hernandez's mother, Ana Villalta** and family in your prayers, as she recovers from a serious fall. Isabel is her primary caregiver.

Please hold **Oscar Acuna and his mother** in your prayers, following her recent diagnosis of colon cancer.

Veril Phillips would like the congregation to know that his dear wife, **Beverley Knowlton**, has moved to Sunrise in San Mateo, where she is able to get all the assistance she needs. Veril is with her much of the time.

Melanie Dresbach's brother, Michael, is hospitalized with pneumonia. Prayers for his recovery and return to health.

Diane Kalliam asks for prayer for **Joey Sellers**. She is undergoing clinical trials in hopes of extending her life. She desperately wants to be able to go on a scheduled cruise with friends at the end of the month. May she be able to fulfill this dream.

Prayers for **Linda Stoick's friend, Susan B.**, who recently lost her mom.

Dawn Graves requests prayers for her step-mother **MaryAnn Clifford** who was diagnosed with Stage 4 double-hit diffuse Large B-cell Lymphoma. Dawn lost her sister, **Sheri Clifford**, a year ago.

Nancy Jalonen sends her best wishes to everyone! She is doing very well, but watches now online as she is no longer driving.

ONGOING PRAYERS

We join faith communities around the world in praying for a ceasefire in Gaza. May the Peace that surpasses all understanding prevail.

*Continuing prayers of strength, encouragement, and healing for our beloved siblings: **Judy and Peter**, friends of **Angela and Robert; Martha Pierce; Gaby Topete Eng Goon; Lani Leydig; Aiden Hsiu; Cheryl Granucci; Chris Yeh's mom, Betty Yeh; Genel Morgan's friend Susan; Trini Romero; Genel Morgan's family member, Jason; Allison Rock and Chris Wuthmann's friend, Karen; Mel Thrash; Lee White, friend of Michele Merfeld Hale; Cari Parker; Martha Clements; Bill Melis; Mike and Lee Mullery; George Vail; Martha Pierce; Ruth Black; Dorothy Gorman; Dottie Scott; Don and Jonathan's brother, Chuck Ruthroff; Caroline Reinke.***

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SOME UPCOMING CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS!

(go to ccsm-ucc.org/events for complete calendar)

OCTOBER

- 5 5:30PM Parents Night Out, childcare at church
- 6 12:30PM Family Playdate in Pacifica
- 5:00PM Pet Blessing
- 12 11:00AM Ann Lambertson memorial service
- 5:00PM Musical Tapas with the Z Quartet
- 13 10:15AM Youth Day of Service
- 5:00PM LifeMoves Benefit Concert, Burlpres
- Pick-A-Party Parties Submission Deadline
- 14 Office Closed - Indigenous People's Day
- 18 12:00PM Music & Art with Doug Bell
- 19 11:00AM Jim Groundwater memorial service
- 21 1:00PM Burlingame Music Club
- 22 12:00PM Recology Home Recycling Workshop
- 7:00PM Logos Method Sound Bath
- 25 8:00PM Spooktacular Halloween Organ Concert
- 27 12:00PM Second Hour: Going Solar at Home
- 30 7:15PM Día de Los Muertos, Sanctuary

NOVEMBER

- 3 10:30AM All Saints Sunday Worship Service
- 11:45AM All Saints Memorial Garden Remembrance
- 9 12:00PM CCSM & You, New Member ZOOM
- 10 10:30AM Fall Worship Series Begins: Help. Thanks. Wow.
- 12:00PM CCSM & You, New Member Seminar in person
- 11 Office Closed - Veterans Day
- 15 12:00PM Music & Art
- 17 9:45AM Pick-A-Party Sign-up Sunday
- 12:00PM Second Hour: End of Life Discussion
- 3:00PM Arthur Tkachenko Piano Concert
- 24 11:30PM Stewardship Campaign Celebration
- 27 7:15PM Latino Ministry Thanksgiving Potluck



Busting some moves at the Homecoming celebration!

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