



Sunday, September 21, 2025  
Annual Giving Season

# DREAMING GOD'S DREAM

No gift too small, no dream too big.

*"Because of who you are, and where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."*

Congregational Church  
of San Mateo  
Iglesia Congregacional de San Mateo



## New to our church? We're so glad you're here!

To celebrate, we'd love to pledge a \$5 donation on your behalf to a charity of your choice. Supporting other non-profits is something we do every week, and we'd love to include you in that practice.

**Simply scan the QR code and fill out the form!**

**Prelude**

*The Gift of Love*  
Hopson

Don Harper

**Welcome**

Revs. Jessica Vacketta

↑ **Call to Worship**

Warren Long

Leader: Come, dreamers, you who seek the sacred in the small and mighty.

**All: We gather to witness how God's Kin-dom grows quietly, yet powerfully around us-  
even though we may not always notice it.**

Leader: Let us plant our hopes and dreams, trusting in God's abundant grace.

**All: We believe no gift is too small when planted in faith, and that no dream is too big  
in God's love.**

Leader: Come, let us be partners in God's dreams for the world.

**All: Let us worship our Creator, whose dreams of justice, hope, and love are big  
enough for creation.**

For the beauty of the earth, for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth over and around us lies.

**Refrain:** God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light. **Refrain**

For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above, for all gentle thoughts and mild. **Refrain**

For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,  
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed. **Refrain**

### Children's Moment

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

### ↑ Sharing the Peace

Rev. Álvaro Durán

*During the Peace, **children (4th grade and younger)** and **youth (5th-8th grade)** 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. We're glad you're here! After worship, kids can be picked up in their program room or Kloss Hall at Coffee Hour.*

### Invitation to Offering

California Fire Foundation

Genel Morgan

Over 80% of Governor declared disasters since 2018 have been wildfire related. The purpose of the California Fire Foundation is to support survivors, firefighters and communities affected by natural disaster. The most recent wildfire in California wiped out the historic town of Chinese camp and burned thousands of acres across Calaveras, Tualumne, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties. The Foundation helps in so many ways during disasters.

#### **Give to CCSM with ease!**

- **Church Center App:** Download the new Church Center App, tap the "Give" icon at the bottom of the homescreen, add your amount, tap next and select "Plate."
- **Scan the QR code** to make a gift to the plate offering or the General Fund
- **Offering Plate:** Place your cash or check in the offering plate.  
*For checks, note on the memo line where you'd like the funds directed.*
- **Online Giving:** Visit CCSM's [ccsm-ucc.org/give/](https://ccsm-ucc.org/give/) and click the blue "Give" button.
- **Mail:** Send a check to the church office. (225 Tilton Ave, San Mateo, CA 94401)



**In addition to our plate offering, we gratefully accept gifts to our General Fund at any time.**

**Offertory***In Moments Like These*

Kayoko Hori-Grech

David Graham

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 13:31-32

Kathy Gallo

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

**Poem***On the Parables of the Mustard Seed*

Kathy Gallo

By Denise Levertov

Who ever saw the mustard-plant,  
 wayside weed or tended crop,  
 grow tall as a shrub, let alone a tree,  
 a treeful of shade and nests and songs?  
 Acres of yellow,  
 not a bird of the air in sight.

No, He who knew  
 the west wind brings  
 the rain, the south wind  
 thunder, who walked the field-paths  
 running His hand along wheatstems to  
 glean  
 those intimate milky kernels, good  
 to break on the tongue,  
 was talking of miracle, the seed  
 within us, so small  
 we take it for worthless, a mustard-seed,  
 dust,  
 Nothing.

Glib generations mistake  
 the metaphor, not looking at fields and  
 trees,  
 not noticing paradox. Mountains  
 remain unmoved.

Faith is rare, He must have been saying,  
 prodigious, unique —  
 one infinitesimal grain divided  
 like loaves and fishes,

*as if* from a mustard-seed  
 a great shade-tree grew. That rare,  
 that strange: the kingdom

a tree. The soul  
 a bird. A great concourse of birds  
 at home there, wings among yellow flowers.

The waiting  
 kingdom of faith, the seed  
 waiting to be sown.

**Reflection**

"Sacred Seeds"

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

## Our Stories of Generosity

Gary White



**Join us in Dreaming God's Dream!** Make your Estimate of Giving pledge today and help invest in CCSM's ministry and mission. Simply **Scan the QR code or fill out a pledge card** (found in your pew or at the Welcome Table in the Narthex). *Cards may be returned to an usher or the CCSM office (Attn: Cheryle Matteo).*

## Moment for Reflection

*Here Comes the Sun*

Don Harper

*You're welcome to sing along!*

## Congregational Prayer

Rev. Álvaro Durán

### In Unison\*

*\*This beloved prayer, often referred to as the "Lord's Prayer," has been adapted and translated countless times over the centuries. While we've provided two options below, we encourage you to use any version that resonates with you.*

Our Creator, Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre, venga tu reino, hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. Perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria, ahora y por siempre. Amén.

## ↑Closing Hymn

*Dream God's Dream*

**See back page of bulletin**

Bryan Sirchio

## ↑Benediction

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

## Postlude

*Trumpet Tune*

Don Harper

Purcell

## Special Thanks to:

Our Liturgical Arts volunteers: Alexandra Gillen and Kay Harris

Our Coffee Hour Hosts: Kathy and Tony Gallo

Our musicians leading worship: Don Harper, Kayoko Hori-Grech, and the CCSM Chancel Choir

*Music in today's bulletin printed with permission, CCLI #11035805. CCSM endeavors to use inclusive language in our worship services. Exceptions occur when we must be compliant with copyright laws.*

## Joys and Concerns

*Each week, the pastoral care team gives prayerful attention to the congregation's joys and concerns. Many of these come with a request to hold the contents in confidence; therefore they are not published below. The wonderful thing about prayer is one doesn't need a specific reason in order to lift another in the light of love and care. Join us in holding the named and unnamed in God's light and love. Prayers will be listed below for two weeks, unless otherwise requested.*

### Recent Prayer Requests

**Sue Bullis** requests prayers for continued healing for the shoulder injury she sustained in a fall. Also, the 15 years anniversary of the explosion and loss of her husband, son and mother-in-law was on 9-9-2025. Sue needs our prayers for strength and continued guidance on her faith journey.

**Don Ruthroff and Jonathan Kronn** offer prayers of thanksgiving for their brother-in-law, **Carl Middleton's** successful surgery for an abdominal aneurysm. Please continue prayers for **Jim Nickerson**, who is undergoing treatment for tonsil cancer.

**Genel Morgan** requests prayers for **her cousin, Terry**, who has been battling cancer and now has new health challenges as well.

### Ongoing prayer requests:

Continuing prayers for our beloved siblings: **Paul Nieberding; Heather Morgan; Sanjana**, friend of Susan & Warren Long; **Sophie Grace**, Carol Henton's grand niece; **Mike and Lee Mullery's nephew, Wally; Bob Plaisted**, friend of Angela Kraft Cross; **Lynn and Paul Nieberding; John**, Sharon Tobin's son; **Renato Floresca; Lynne and Peter**, friends of Lynn Nieberding; Chona Tendero's friend, **Feljohn Rancap; Aprille Espinuevas**, friend of Robert and Johann Leung; **Lani Leydig; Cheryl Granucci**; Allison Rock and Chris Wuthmann's friend, **Karen; Veril Phillips and Bev Knowlton; Mike and Lee Mullery; George Vail; Dottie Scott**; Don and Jonathan's brother, **Chuck Ruthroff; Caroline Reinke**.

## Bulletin Board

*If you wish to have an announcement added to the "Bulletin Board," please email Chase at [cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org)*

**SECOND HOUR "SUN" DAY • TODAY • 12PM • BUCKHAM ROOM** • Join Gary H. White and the Environmental Justice Ministry for a special program on the renewable energy revolution. We'll explore the origins of "Sun" Day, celebrate advances in renewable energy, and reflect on the role of faith communities in moving the needle toward a sustainable future.

**CALL FOR LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS:** The Leadership & Governance Committee invites you to prayerfully consider who among us has the gifts and spirit to serve in leadership for the coming year. Open roles include Board of Directors (Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Secretary, ), Ministry Leads (Liturgical Arts, Congregational Care, Service & Justice), and Committee Chairs (Stewardship, Building & Grounds).



Nominations may be submitted online (scan the QR code) or by email to Frank Garritano ([fgarritano@gmail.com](mailto:fgarritano@gmail.com)).

**Submission Deadline: Monday, October 6 at 5pm.**

**SUNDAY EVENINGS TOGETHER: Kids, Youth & Community** • Join us for this new rhythm of learning, connection, and fun! This new evening program is in addition to our Sunday morning offerings- join us for one, or both!

- **Faith Formation (4–5pm):** Separate groups for elementary and middle/high school with age-appropriate lessons, activities, and discussion.
- **Light Supper (5–5:30pm):** Share a simple meal and connect across ages.
- **Youth Group (5:30–6:30pm):** For middle & high school students- Games, service, laughter, and real conversations—a place to belong and grow.
- **Kids Club (5:30–6:30pm):** A fellowship space for elementary-age kids during Youth Group, with games and activities (*Kids Club Begins September 21*)

**A PILOT GROUP HAS FORMED** to explore mysticism through prayer (Lectio Divina), contemplation, and shared experience. The group will meet Mondays in October for an initial 4-week session, with hopes to continue beyond. Interested in attending future groups? Questions? Contact Chase Montara at [cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org)

**HELP US SHARE RADICAL HOSPITALITY!** Do you enjoy saying hello, offering a smile, or helping someone new feel at home? Our Greeter Team is the front door to CCSM's warm welcome. Whether it's handing out name tags before worship or hosting the Welcome Table afterward, your presence makes all the difference! **Serve just once a month** or swap with a friend if you're away—easy, flexible, and impactful. **Contact Alison, [alisonschwandt@gmail.com](mailto:alisonschwandt@gmail.com)**, if you're interested.

**JOIN OUR MINISTRY OF SERVICE AND JUSTICE!** At CCSM we believe we are all called to the work of service and justice, but to help organize, support, and connect our shared efforts, we need a core team of leaders. **Would you like to be part of this ministry?** Your passion and gifts can make a real difference in how we show up for our neighbors and live into our call to be peacemakers and justice seekers. **To learn more or get involved, reach out to our MSJ lead, Katherine Vega Stultz, [vegastultz@yahoo.com](mailto:vegastultz@yahoo.com)**

**SEEDS OF GRATITUDE TABLE, Sundays After Church • Kloss Hall** • The Spiritual Life Committee invites you to stop by and write a note of gratitude to someone who's made a difference in your life.

# Calendar

visit [CCSM-UCC.ORG/EVENTS](https://ccsm-ucc.org/events) for the full calendar of events and meetings

Below is a snapshot of this week's events, meetings, and activities. For more information—or to add something to the calendar—please reach out to the event host or contact Chase Montara at [cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org)

## Sunday, September 21

9:30 - 10:15 AM **Joyful Noise Children's Choir**- CE Building; (contact Julie Berk [teacherjulie7@gmail.com](mailto:teacherjulie7@gmail.com))  
10:30 - 11:30 AM **Worship Service** in person and online (FB and YouTube)  
10:45 - 11:30 AM **Youth & Children's Programs**, CE Building  
11:30 AM **Coffee Hour**, Kloss Hall (*CHURCH CENTER* support available- see Veril Phillips)  
11:45-1:15 PM **Second Hour- "Sun Day" with EJ Ministry** - Buckham Room  
12:00-2:30PM **Innovation Lab Team Meeting**- CE Building  
4:00 - 6:30PM **Sunday Evenings Together: Children & Youth Program**- Kloss Hall

## Monday, September 22

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM **Women at the Well Women's Group**, Fireplace Room (contact Siew Kang [internationalchoir@gmail.com](mailto:internationalchoir@gmail.com))  
4:00 - 6:00 PM **Samaritan House Meal Service today**  
7:00-8:30 PM **Council of Ministries Meeting**- Buckham (contact Kay Harris [communi\\_ks@me.com](mailto:communi_ks@me.com))

## Tuesday, September 23

10:00 - 11:30 AM **Men's Coffee Group**, Food Court, Hillsdale Mall (Contact Peter Held, [paheld1417@gmail.com](mailto:paheld1417@gmail.com))  
4:00 - 6:00 PM **Samaritan House Meal Service**, Kloss Hall

## Wednesday, September 24

4:00 - 6:00 PM **Samaritan House Meal Service**, Kloss Hall  
7:15 - 8:45 PM **Bilingual Worship Service**, Kloss Hall

## Thursday, September 25

9:00 - 11:00 AM **Casual Bike Riders**, CCSM Parking Lot; contact John Ebnetter, [jebnetter@aol.com](mailto:jebnetter@aol.com)  
10:15 - 11:30 AM **Women's Coffee Group**, Fireplace Room; contact [linda.skromme@gmail.com](mailto:linda.skromme@gmail.com)  
4:00 - 6:00 PM **Samaritan House Meal Service**, Kloss Hall

## Friday, September 26

4:00 - 6:00 PM **Samaritan House Meal Service**, Kloss Hall

## Saturday, September 27

8:30 - 10:30 AM **CC Riders Weekly Bike Ride** (contact Peter Held, [paheld1417@gmail.com](mailto:paheld1417@gmail.com))  
4:00- 5:30 PM **Circulo de Mujeres**- Buckham (contact Katherine Vega Stultz [vegastultz@yahoo.com](mailto:vegastultz@yahoo.com))

## Sunday, September 28

9:30 - 10:15 AM **Joyful Noise Children's Choir**- contact Julie Berk [teacherjulie7@gmail.com](mailto:teacherjulie7@gmail.com)  
10:30 - 11:30 AM **Worship Service** in person and online (FB and YouTube)  
10:45 - 11:30 AM **Youth & Children's Programs**, CE Building  
11:30-12:30 PM **Coffee Hour**- Kloss Hall  
11:30- 12:15PM **Open Cathedral Sandwich Making**- Kloss Hall Kitchen  
11:45-1:15 PM **Second Hour: CHURCH CENTER** for Group Leaders (contact Veril Phillips [veril.phillips@gmail.com](mailto:veril.phillips@gmail.com))  
4:00 - 6:30PM **Sunday Evenings Together: Children & Youth Program**- Kloss Hall, CE Building



For Staff, CCSM Board, and Ministries leads, go to [ccsm-ucc.org/welcome/#staff](https://ccsm-ucc.org/welcome/#staff) or scan the QR code. To contact your CCSM Board, email [Board@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:Board@ccsm-ucc.org). To contact anyone in the Council of Ministries, email [COM@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:COM@ccsm-ucc.org). To contact the church office, email [cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:cmontara@ccsm-ucc.org)

**Learn More!**



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# Our Guiding Principles:

**We are a Spiritual Community**

**We are Christian**

**We are God’s Hands, Feet and Face**

**We are Inclusive**

**We are Open Minded**

**We are Evolving**



We are a certified  
Cool Congregation  
of  
**Interfaith  
Power & Light**