



Congregational Church
of San Mateo
Iglesia Congregacional de San Mateo

Sunday, September 28, 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."*



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

Gabby Oberes-Padre

Welcome

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

↑ Call to Worship

Martha Brontisky

Leader: Come, beloved community, knowing that all people, without exception, are our neighbors, and that God's love calls us to open our hearts and doors to everyone.

All: We gather to celebrate that Christ's church is a place of healing, mercy, and hospitality for those seeking refuge.

Leader: Bring your gifts, your time, and all that you are. Here, no gift is too small, and no dream is too big.

All: In this place, God's love transforms even the simplest acts into avenues of change, justice, and hope. Here, the dreams of God's kin-dom come to life. Here, we celebrate our calling to be a generous and loving community, working towards healing and reconciliation in the world!

Leader: Come, let us worship our God who dreams big and cares deeply.

↑ Opening Song

Dream God's Dream

See next page

Dream God's Dream

Written as a theme song for the Illinois South Conference Senior High Youth
Retreat on Martin Luther King Jr.'s Holiday weekend, 1992

Words and Music by:
Bryan Sirchio

$\text{♩} = 69$

D Cadd2 GaddD D Cadd2 GaddD C D Em7

Chorus: Dream God's Dream!___ Ho-ly

7 D/F# G Bm7 F#m7

Spir - it___ help us dream of a world where___ there is jus - tice___ and where

11 G Em7 A A/G D/F# G Bm7 A

ev' - ry one is free to build and grow and love, and to sim - ply have e -

16 G D/F# Em7 Asus A7 D Cadd2 GaddD D

nough the world will change, when we dream God's Dream.

22 Cadd2 GaddD D Cadd2 G D

1.I'm dream-ing___ of a world, where the col - or of one's skin will mean
2.I'm dream-ing___ of the call God is of - fer ing to me how to
3.I'm dream-ing___ of the way that I want my life to go. I've got

27 Cadd2 Em7 D Cadd2 GaddD D

less than___ what's with - in the per - son's heart. A world where wa - ter's
use my___ en - er - gy and my best gifts; to do the work of
hopes and___ I've got goals I'd like to meet. I'm reach - ing for the

32 Cadd2 G D Em7

clean Christ and where air is safe to breathe. And ev' - ry___ chi - ld
stars, to say I God won't for - get my life scars to of spread Your___ heal - ing
who___ died to

36 D/F# Em7 G Asus D.S. al Coda D Cadd2 GaddD D Cadd2 GaddD D

born has e - nough to eat... dream.
love and to live Your Truth...
show that the Dream's for all...

↑ 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

CALL Primrose

Rev. Álvaro Durán

The mission of Call Primrose is to compassionately address the issues of hunger and food insecurity within our community by providing free, healthy groceries to those in need. In 2024, CALL Primrose served more than 110,000 bags of groceries to over 75,000 individuals in need. CALL Serves Individuals, Families, Seniors and those who are In Transition/Unhoused

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/ 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

Gabby Oberes-Padre

Scripture Reading

Luke 10:25-37

Martha Bronitsky

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Reflection

"Innkeepers"

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Our Stories of Generosity

Katherine Vega-Stultz & Jim Granucci



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

Don Harper

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.

Take my life, God, let it be consecrated faithfully.
Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my spirit, let it move at the impulse of your love.
Take my intellect and us all its powers as you choose.

Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwelling place.

Take my love and help it grow; let my loving overflow.
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's community.

↑Benediction

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Postlude

Gabby Oberes-Padre

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.

Special Thanks to those helping with today's service:

Our Liturgical Arts volunteers: Pam Ridelhuber and Marilyn Cintel

Our Coffee Hour Hosts: Robin Person and Carol Henton

Our musicians leading worship: Don Harper, Gabby Oberes-Padre, and the CCSM Chancel Choir

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

News has reached us of the passing of longtime CCSM member -- **Cliff Donley** in May who attended for many years with his wife Patricia (Pat). A memorial service for Cliff is set for October 18 at their home in San Mateo.

Don Ruthroff and Jonathan Kronn request prayers for their brother-in-law, **Carl Middleton**, who is

facing surgery for an abdominal aneurysm. Also for **Jim Aickerson**, who is undergoing treatment for tonsil cancer.

Ongoing prayer requests:

Continuing prayers for our beloved siblings: **Paul Nieberding; Heather Morgan; Sanjana**, friend of Susan & Warren Long; **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 Tenderso'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

ANIMAL BLESSING • SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 • 4PM • FRONT LAWN Join us for a special Animal Blessing service on the Feast of St. Francis (the patron saint of animals because of his love and respect for all creation). Bring your furry (and non-furry) friends for a blessing and a chance to connect with other animal loving members of our community. We'll also have a table set-up for a service project for one of our local animal shelters- toy making! *All animals are welcome, but we do ask that you please keep pets on a leash or in your arms during the service.*

THE VILLAGE POP-UP BAR AND CONVERSATION CENTER will be open for business again on **Thursday, October 9th**, from **7:00pm to 8:30pm**. We'll gather in the Fireplace Room, hang out, share some refreshments, talk, think, and laugh. This month will feature conversation prompts and small group discussions. We encourage you to invite a friend to join us, too!

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 (2 positions), Council of Ministries Lead, Ministry Leads (Liturgical Arts, Congregational Care, Music), and Committee Chairs (Stewardship, Building & Grounds).



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

Submission Deadline: Monday, October 6 at 5pm.

SUNDAY EVENINGS TOGETHER: Kids, Youth & Community • Join us for a 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

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

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**

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

Sunday, September 28

9:45 - 10:15 AM	Joyful Noise Children's Choir , Fireplace Room; contact Julie Berk, 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 - 12:30 PM	Open Cathedral Sandwich Making , Kloss Hall Kitchen
12:00 - 1:15 PM	Second Hour: CHURCH CENTER for Group Leaders; contact Veril Phillips veril.phillips@gmail.com
4:00 - 6:30 PM	Sunday Evenings Together: Children & Youth Program , Kloss Hall & CE Building

Monday, September 29

4:00 - 6:00 PM	Samaritan House Meal Service
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Tuesday, September 30

10:00 - 11:00 AM	Men's Coffee Group , Food Court, Hillsdale Mall; contact Peter Held, paheld1417@gmail.com
4:00 - 6:00 PM	Samaritan House Meal Service , Kloss Hall

Wednesday, October 1

4:00 - 6:00 PM	Samaritan House Meal Service , Kloss Hall
7:00 - 8:30 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal , Sanctuary
7:15 - 8:45 PM	Bilingual Worship Service , Kloss Hall

Thursday, October 2

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

Friday, October 3

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

8:30 - 10:30 AM

4:00 - 5:00 PM

CC Riders Weekly Bike Ride; contact Peter Held, paheld1417@gmail.com**Animal Blessing**, Front Lawn**Sunday, October 5**

9:45 - 10:15 AM

10:30 - 11:30 AM

10:45 - 11:30 AM

11:30 - 12:30 PM

4:00 - 6:30 PM

*World Communion Sunday***Joyful Noise Children's Choir**, Fireplace Room; contact Julie Berk, teacherjulie7@gmail.com**Worship Service** in person and online (FB and YouTube)**Youth & Children's Programs**, CE Building**Coffee Hour**, Kloss Hall**Sunday Evenings Together: Children & Youth Program**, Kloss Hall & CE Building

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