



**Congregational Church  
of San Mateo**  
Iglesia Congregacional de San Mateo

**Sunday, October 12, 2025**  
**18th Sunday After Pentecost**

*"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**

*Oh God, Thou Faithful God*  
Brahms

Don Harper

**Welcome**

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

**↑ Call to Worship**

Carol Henton

Leader: In a world where words are twisted and truth is contested,

**All: God's word of love still breaks through.**

Leader: When faith feels fragile and hope grows thin,

**All: Christ's faithfulness endures, unbroken and unbound.**

Leader: We come, not as the perfect, but as those in process, ready and willing to grow, transform, and serve.

**All: Let us worship the One who cannot be silenced, whose Spirit moves freely, whose grace makes us whole.**

Sing praise to God, our highest good, profound respect expressing.  
God gives us health, life, livelihood, with every needed blessing.  
To God, who wondrous works performs, creating life and calming storms,  
to God give praise and glory!

Creation thanks you, Holy One: you made us and renew us.  
Delighted at what you have done, you show your greatness through us.  
So may all living things proclaim the wonders of their Maker's name:  
to God give praise and glory!

What God has made, God will preserve, with righteousness unailing.  
Regardless what we may deserve, we see this good prevailing.  
To God who governs evermore with justice serving rich and poor:  
to God give praise and glory!

I cry to God, in pain and grief, "Please God of mercy, hear me!"  
My certain help provides relief, faith, hope, and love to cheer me.  
So let me sing, joyful and free: ah, thankful Christians, sing with me:  
to God give praise and glory!

↑ 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**

Nairobi International  
Lutheran Congregation

Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro

The plate offering today is for community outreach programs by the Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation. The church has a program to provide clean water at a low price in the surrounding community and also has outreach programs to widows, orphans, those with HIV/AIDS, and to teenage girls. Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, a member of NILC, is with us in person to briefly describe this outreach.

**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**

Nairobi International Lutheran Congregation Choir

*The music has been sent from Dr. Kanyoro's home church for whom we're collecting today's offering.*

**Scripture Reading**

2 Timothy 2: 8-15

Carol Henton

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;  
if we endure, we will also reign with him;  
if we deny him, he will also deny us;  
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—  
he cannot deny himself.

Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

**Sermon**

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

## Sermon Response

### *They'll Know We are Christians*

By Peter Scholtes

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord,  
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored. **Refrain**

**Refrain:** And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,  
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand,  
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. **Refrain**

We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
We will work with each other, we will work side by side,  
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride. **Refrain**

All praise the Creator, from whom all things come,  
And all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only son,  
And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one. **Refrain**

## 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

*Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

#77

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing; fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each your love possessing, triumph in redeeming grace:  
Oh refresh us, oh, refresh us, traveling through this wilderness.

We give thanks and adoration for your gospel's joyful sound;  
May the fruits of your salvation in our hearts and lives abound:  
Ever faithful, ever faithful, to the truth may we be found.

So that when your love shall call us, Savior, from the world away,  
Fear of death shall not appall us, glad your summons to obey:  
May we ever, may we ever, live with you in endless day.

## ↑ Benediction

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

## Postlude

*Praise the Lord*

Don Harper

Paxton

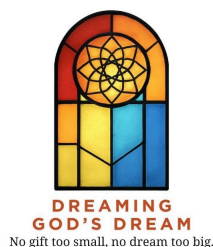
***Music in today's bulletin printed with permission, CCLI #11035805. CCSM endeavors to use inclusive language in our worship services. Exceptions occur when we must be compliant with copyright laws.***

### **Special Thanks to those helping with today's service:**

Our Liturgical Arts volunteers: Alice Morison and Linda Stoick

Our Coffee Hour Host: CCSM Board

Our musician leading worship: Don Harper



**Join us in Dreaming God's Dream!** Make your Estimate of Giving pledge today and help invest in CCSM's ministry and mission. We have 33 households/individuals who have pledged so far, totaling \$152,640. **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)*



# 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

Send along your prayers with our beloved custodian, **Oscar Rosa**, as he travels to El Salvador from 10/16 to 10/25.

**Nadia Hernandez** requests prayers for her father, **Joaquin**, who has recently had brain surgery.

**Genel Morgan** is asking for prayers for a family member **Lindsay** who is going through tests to determine treatment for an abdominal tumor. Please keep her and her family in our prayers for a positive outcome.

**Sharon Tobin** offers us an update about her college friend, **Maisie Moses**: "After a nearly miraculous course in the hospital, she is now at home recovering. She is frail, but gaining strength every day. We are convinced that the outpouring of prayers played a huge part in this unexpected course. Please keep your prayers coming--God is good!"

We surround in prayer **Peter Bayley and family** following the sudden death of his mother, **Sally Bayley**. Peter is in the UK making arrangements for her service.

**John and Ann Fyfe** are happy to share the news that a grandchild has joined their family. **Eloise Anne Harbison** was born to daughter Alison Fyfe, and Bill Harbison, on July 9. Eloise joins her brother Jack.

**Melanie Dresbach** appreciates all of your prayers following her recent surgery. She is home and recovering well.

Please hold **Dave Olson** in your prayers as he begins treatment following the return of prostate cancer. Doctor's reports are encouraging.

## 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; 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 Kim at [kim@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kim@ccsm-ucc.org)*

**\*\* Please note that the church and main office will be closed on Monday October 13 to observe Indigenous Peoples' Day. \*\***

**SECOND HOUR WITH DR. MUSIMBI KANYORO TODAY at 12pm.** Join us for a special Second Hour conversation with Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro, a global leader in philanthropy, women's rights, and international development, and a good friend of Warren and Susan Long. Dr. Kanyoro is the former President and CEO of the Global Fund for Women and has been recognized worldwide for her advocacy in health, education, and human rights. Learn more: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musimbi\\_Kanyoro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Musimbi_Kanyoro)

**SIGN UP TO CO-HOST HAPPY COFFEE HOUR:** Thank you to our Happy Coffee Hour hosts for strengthening our CCSM community! We still need 12 hosts for the 2025 schedule on: October 26 (2); Nov 16 (1), 23 (1), 30 (20); and Dec 7 (1), 21 (2), 28 (2). Please sign up by emailing Melodie Lew ([boygie.m2000@yahoo.com](mailto:boygie.m2000@yahoo.com)).

**PARENTS' NIGHT OUT, Saturday, October 25 from 6-8pm.** Mark your calendar for the next Parents' Night Out! This is a great opportunity to relax, enjoy great food, and get to know other families - without having to keep an eye on your kiddos!

- **Hosts:** John Ebnetter & Teresa Gebler (providing the main dish)
- **Bring:** A side dish or dessert to share
- **Childcare:** Available at CCSM from 5:30 - 8:30pm
- **RSVP** to [kim@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kim@ccsm-ucc.org) with how many will attend, and **let us know if you'll need childcare.**

**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.

**The Music and Art Guild** will meet on **Friday, October 17**, at noon in the Buckham Room. Please bring your lunch. Dessert will be provided. After a brief meeting, we will enjoy a performance by Ying Feng, a classically trained Chinese vocalist who regularly rehearses at our church, accompanied by Don Harper.

**All Saints Day** will be observed in worship on Sunday, November 2. We invite you to send in names of your loved ones to be remembered at our All Saints service. Please send those names to [kim@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:kim@ccsm-ucc.org) by Tuesday, October 28.



Order your tickets for the **42nd Chocolate Fest** hosted by the Congregational Church of the Peninsula on **Saturday, October 18**, 1 - 4pm and 5 - 8pm. An abundance of chocolate confections for tasting from 20 local chocolatiers - Live jazz - Champagne - Silent Auction - Prizes - A benefit for San Mateo County Health Foundation! Select your 3-hr tasting session when you order your tickets using the QR code.

**On Sunday October 19, CCSM will host Mission Hospice for a Second Hour** focused on their offerings and specifically to discuss grief support. Join us to begin preliminary talks about how we as a church community can better support our members through times of grief. This is part of a series of talks on end of life issues that we hope to offer throughout the year. Contact Betty Till for more information. [bettytill@comcast.net](mailto:bettytill@comcast.net)

Pacific School of Religion is hosting their annual Earl Lecture Series on the theme of **Migration: Shaping the Narrative**. The conference will bring together scholars, activists, and church members on Saturday, October 18. You can join in person or on-line. They are offering our congregation a 25% discount to join this important event by entering LASTCHANCE at checkout. [www.psr.edu/earl2025/](http://www.psr.edu/earl2025/)

**CCSM & YOU: NEW MEMBER LUNCH, Sunday, November 9, 12:00–2:00 pm** • Whether you're new to CCSM or have been around a while, come learn more about our church, explore ways to get involved, and explore why membership might be the right step for you. No pressure, just connection and conversation! Contact **Alison Schwandt** to learn more or RSVP, [alisonschwandt@gmail.com](mailto:alisonschwandt@gmail.com) —we'd love to welcome you more fully into the life of our church!

## Calendar

visit [CCSM-UCC.ORG/EVENTS](http://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, October 12

9:45 - 10:15 AM  
10:30 - 11:30 AM  
10:45 - 11:30 AM  
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM  
12:00 - 1:00 PM  
4:00 - 6:30 PM

**Joyful Noise Children's Choir**, Fireplace Room; contact Julie Berk, [teacherjulie7@gmail.com](mailto:teacherjulie7@gmail.com)  
**Worship Service** in person and online (FB and YouTube)  
**Children and Youth Faith Formation**, CE Building  
**Coffee Hour**, Kloss Hall  
**Second Hour— Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro**, Buckham Room  
**Sunday Evenings Together: Children & Youth Gatherings**, Kloss Hall & CE Building

### Monday, October 13

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM  
4:00 - 6:00 PM

**Women at the Well group**, Fireplace Room; contact Siew Kang  
[internationalchoir@gmail.com](mailto:internationalchoir@gmail.com)  
**Samaritan House Meal Service**, Kloss Hall

### Tuesday, October 14

10:00 - 11:00 AM  
4:00 - 6:00 PM

**Men's Coffee Group**, Fireplace Room; contact Peter Held, [paheld1417@gmail.com](mailto:paheld1417@gmail.com)  
**Samaritan House Meal Service**, Kloss Hall

### Wednesday, October 15

4:00 - 6:00 PM  
7:00 - 8:30 PM  
7:15 - 8:45 PM

**Samaritan House Meal Service**, Kloss Hall  
**Chancel Choir Rehearsal**, Sanctuary  
**Bilingual Worship Service**, Kloss Hall

### Thursday, October 16

9:00 - 11:00 AM  
10:15 - 11:30 AM  
4:00 - 6:00 PM

**Casual Bike Riders**, CCSM Parking Lot; contact John Ebnetter, [jebnetter@aol.com](mailto:jebnetter@aol.com)  
**Women's Coffee Group**, Fireplace Room; contact Linda Skromme, [linda.skromme@gmail.com](mailto:linda.skromme@gmail.com)  
**Samaritan House Meal Service**, Kloss Hall

### Friday, October 17

12:00 - 2:00 PM  
4:00 - 6:00 PM

**Music and Art Monthly Gathering**, Buckham Room, contact: [stoddardphillips@gmail.com](mailto:stoddardphillips@gmail.com)  
**Samaritan House Meal Service**, Kloss Hall

### Saturday, October 18

8:30 - 10:30 AM

**CC Riders Weekly Bike Ride**; contact Peter Held, [paheld1417@gmail.com](mailto:paheld1417@gmail.com)

## Sunday, October 19

9:45 - 10:15 AM

10:30 - 11:30 AM

10:45 - 11:30 AM

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM

12:00 - 1:00 PM

4:00 - 6:30 PM

**Joyful Noise Children's Choir**, Fireplace Room; contact Julie Berk, [teacherjulie7@gmail.com](mailto:teacherjulie7@gmail.com)

**Worship Service** in person and online (FB and YouTube)

**Children and Youth Faith Formation**, CE Building

**Coffee Hour**, Kloss Hall

**Second Hour** - Mission Hospice, Buckham Room, contact Betty Till

[bettytill@comcast.net](mailto:bettytill@comcast.net)

**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!



@ccsmucc



ccsm.ucc



ccsmMediaChannel



ccsm-ucc.org

# 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



## DREAMING GOD'S DREAM

No gift too small, no dream too big.

# Why Pledge

### WHY DO WE MAKE A COMMITMENT OF SUPPORT TO CHURCH?

**W**e can give to our congregation without turning in a commitment card. So, why write down our intention for the coming year? Of course, telling the church about our intention helps leaders plan. But we ask you to write down your intentions for another reason.

Jesus told us to love God with our heart, mind, soul, and strength; and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

A commitment card can engage us in all those ways as we express our love of God and neighbor.

**Heart:** we feel the love and support of people in the congregation. This is the place where we belong.

**Mind:** we think about our resources, both our income and our accumulated assets when deciding on what commitment to make in the coming year.

---

**Soul:** we experience the hope that comes from making a commitment to the future. A commitment card symbolizes our confidence in God's future and makes us part of helping that future come about.

**Strength:** we do what we can to help support our community.

We ask you to return a commitment card because it connects you to the mission and ministry of our congregation to our neighbors, near and far. Returning your commitment card affirms with all of your being that you are part of our response to God's dream.

### CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity.  
Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



**DREAMING GOD'S DREAM**

No gift too small, no dream too big.