



Congregational Church
of San Mateo
Iglesia Congregacional de San Mateo

Sunday, November 23, 2025
24th 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

Chorale Prelude on Now Thank We all Our God
Karg-Elert

Don Harper

Introit

Seasons to Behold
Jan Rapley

Joyful Noise

Welcome

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

↑ Call to Worship

Kim Rey

Leader: Holy One, we gather in gratitude today—for your presence in our lives and in this community we call home.

All: We are grateful for your steady love.

Leader: Guide us in building what is life-giving, planting what is hopeful, and nurturing the common good where you've placed us.

**All: Teach us to seek the welfare of our community
and to trust the future you are shaping among us.**

Leader: Remind us that hope can grow in unfamiliar places and uncertain times.

All: With gratitude and with courage, we come to worship you.

↑ Opening Song

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Alfred H. Ackley

Come thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come.
Come to trust at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God.
Came to rescue me from danger, precious body, precious love.

O, to grace how great a debtor — daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

Baptism of Kevin Austin Britt

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Son of Sarah and Matthew Britt

Little brother of Emma Britt

Special Music

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

Chancel Choir

↑ 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.*

Scripture Reading

Jeremiah 29: 1, 4-14

Kim Rey

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare. For thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let the prophets and the diviners who are among you deceive you, and do not listen to your dreams that you dream, for it is a lie that they are prophesying to you in my name; I did not send them, says the Lord.

For thus says the Lord: Only when Babylon's seventy years are completed will I visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

Sermon

Rev. Álvaro Durán

Sermon Response*Come and Find the Quiet Center*

Come and find the quiet center in the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter, find the fame where we are freed:
Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see,
All the things that really matter, be at peace and simply be.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
Let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
In the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

Congregational Prayer

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

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.

Invitation to Offering

Staff Love Offering

With love and dedication, often working behind the scenes, CCSM's staff helps support the ministers and congregation to fulfill our mission to be the hands, feet, and face of God to each other and to our community. Through this offering, we want to show our appreciation for all they do.

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

Give Thanks and Sing

CCSM Chancel Choir

Lloyd Larsen

↑ Closing Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices,
Who, from our parent's arms, has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
And keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills in this world and the next.

↑ Benediction & Choral Response

Postlude

Now Thank We All our God

Don Harper

Travis

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: Laura Pierce-McKenzie and Megan Goulden

Our Coffee Hour Hosts: Ministry of Service & Justice

Our musicians leading worship: Joyful Noise Choir, Julie Berk, Don Harper,
Dr. Ondine Young and the CCSM Chancel Choir

Welcome, Dr. Ondine Young!

We're excited to welcome **Dr. Ondine Young** as our Interim Choir Director! Dr. Young brings over 25 years of experience in choral conducting and sacred music leadership, with a DMA in Choral Conducting from USC. She has worked with ensembles across California, including the San Francisco Girls Chorus and National Children's Chorus, and has served in UCC, Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal, and UU congregations. A gifted violinist and violist, she performs with groups such as Philharmonia Baroque and American Bach Soloists and teaches with several Bay Area music organizations.



**DREAMING
GOD'S DREAM**
No gift too small, no dream too big.

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 **67 who have pledged so far, totaling \$318,520. Our 2026 Goal is \$560,000 in pledges. 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 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:

We surround in prayer **Don Ruthroff** and **Jonathan Kronn** following the death of their brother, **Chuck Ruthroff**.

Please keep **Nancy Nugent** in your prayers as she recovers from pneumonia.

Please continue to pray for **Heather Morgan** who is out of the hospital and recovering at home from her leg amputation surgery.

Ongoing prayer requests:

Continuing prayers for our beloved siblings: **Larry Anderson**, friend of Frank Garritano; **Joaquín, Nadia Hernández** father; **Paul Nieberding; 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 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; Caroline Reinke**.

Bulletin Board

If you wish to have an announcement added to the "Bulletin Board," please email Kim Rey at kim@ccsm-ucc.org

Second Hour: Innovation Lab TODAY The Innovation Team is focusing its efforts on the critical need to support working parents struggling with stress across work, family, and finances. Join them at noon today in the Buckham Room to learn what they've discovered and help shape the next steps for nurturing connection, faith, and well-being for these families.

****Thanksgiving Potluck Service**** Join us for a special bilingual Thanksgiving Potluck Service led by Revs. Jessica and Álvaro on November 26, at 7:00 pm in Kloss Hall. It will be an intimate gathering around tables to share prayers, break bread, and express gratitude for our year of blessings. The church provides the turkey; please bring a favorite side dish or dessert to share!

****Family Tree Lighting Festival, November 30, 5-7pm**** CCSM's Tree Lighting Festival is coming! Let's kick off the Advent season with our neighbors — with chili, cocoa, carols, cookies, and crafts. Join in the countdown to our outdoor tree lighting at 6 PM. It's the perfect way to welcome the season of hope and light — bring your family, invite your friends, and come celebrate!

Thanksgiving

Potluck Service

Wednesday, November 26
7:00 PM

"Celebrate God and share with everyone what has been done for you.
Praise and sing hymns in honor of God.
Do not grow weary of expressing gratitude."
Tobit 12:6b PAR

All are welcome!

 Congregational Church
of San Mateo
Latino Ministry
CCSM-UCC.ORG



FAMILY TREE LIGHTING FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOV 30
5 - 7 PM

Join us for chili, cocoa, cookies, carols,
and crafts as we light up the night!

Activities for all ages, plus the lighting of
our outdoor Christmas Tree at 6pm.

All are welcome – bring your neighbors
and friends!

Congregational Church of San Mateo
225 Tilton Ave



Slow-Read Book Club: You are invited to join a new Slow-Read Book Club focusing on books by Christian women authors, designed for deep reflection by spending three months on each selection. Our first book is *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor, with meetings starting in January 2026 (1/26) at 11:00AM in the Fireplace Room. Contact Siew internationalchoir@gmail.com.

Pick-A-Vent Submission Form Live: We're excited to announce a new name and sign-up date for our annual fundraiser! Formerly called Pick-A-Party, we are rebranding to Pick-A-Vent (short for "Event") and shifting the sign-up date to February 22, but activity submissions are available now (<https://forms.gle/QsMBSPb6vcWas7h67> or clickable in Connections). This popular fundraiser connects members through unique hosted activities, with proceeds supporting CCSM's goals.



Giving through Serving



	Nov 23	Nov 30	Dec 7	Dec 14	Dec 21/28
BLESSING BOX DONATIONS	Single-serve, non-perishable, ready-to-eat items (pop-top cans preferred; no glass). <u>Where:</u> Kloss Hall, after worship service				
WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE	Donate winter items (new or gently used & clean): coat/jackets, hats, gloves, scarves, sweaters, hoodies, new socks <u>Where:</u> Box in Narthex (outside sanctuary)				
COFFEE HOUR CO-HOSTS	2 hosts needed to provide treats during Coffee Happy Hour		2 hosts needed to provide treats during Coffee Happy Hour		
WISH LISTS W/ LIFEMOVES	Pick an ornament, purchase the requested item, and return to CCSM by Sun, Dec 14. <u>Where:</u> Wish List Tree on the Loggia after service on Sundays				
POINSETTIA VOLUNTEERS	Help distribute poinsettias after worship				

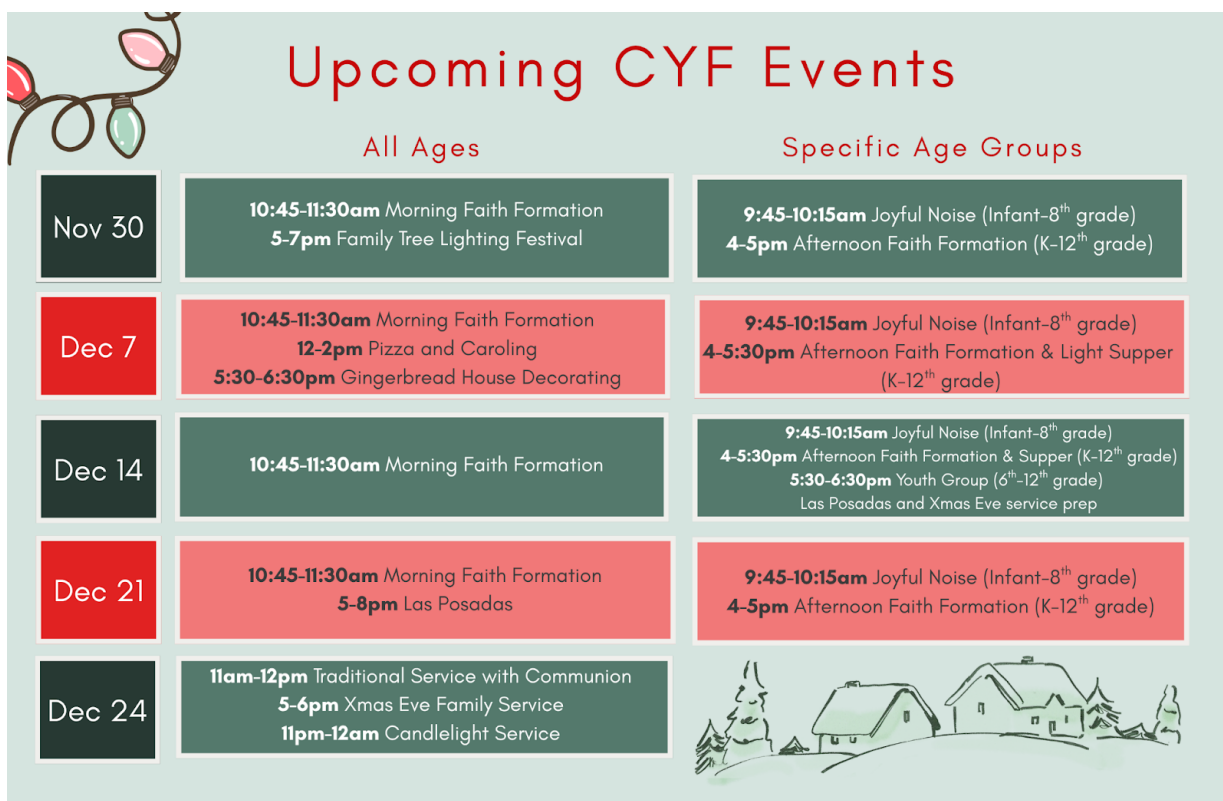
Coffee Happy Hour & Blessing Box Donations: The Ministry of Service & Justice is hosting Coffee Happy Hour **TODAY**. Please help us stock the Blessing Box! We are requesting single-serve, ready-to-eat, non-perishable foods (pop-top cans are ideal; please avoid glass containers).

Winter Clothes Donation Drive (Jericho Road): Help us keep our neighbors warm this winter! We are collecting essential winter items—including coats, hats, gloves, and new thick socks—to distribute to those who receive meals at CCSM through Samaritan House. Please place your new or gently used, clean donations in the box in the Narthex until November 30.

Sign up to Co-Host Happy Coffee Hour: Thank you Happy Coffee Hour hosts for strengthening our CCSM community! We still need 5 hosts for the 2025 schedule on: Nov 30 (2) and Dec 28 (2). Also, 2026 sign ups are open. Please sign up by emailing Melodie Lew (boygie.m2000@yahoo.com).

Wish Lists: CCSM is partnering with LifeMoves (First Step for Families & The Vendome) this holiday season to collect essential necessities for local homeless families and adults. Select an ornament from the WISH LIST Christmas tree on the loggia after the service, and return your purchased gift to CCSM by Sunday, December 14. Questions, contact: Melodie Lew (boygie.m2000@yahoo.com).

Poinsettia Volunteers Needed: Help distribute poinsettias on **December 7** and spread Advent joy and connection throughout the congregation. Contact Diane Kalliam (dkalliam@gmail.com).



	All Ages	Specific Age Groups
Nov 30	10:45-11:30am Morning Faith Formation 5-7pm Family Tree Lighting Festival	9:45-10:15am Joyful Noise (Infant-8 th grade) 4-5pm Afternoon Faith Formation (K-12 th grade)
Dec 7	10:45-11:30am Morning Faith Formation 12-2pm Pizza and Caroling 5:30-6:30pm Gingerbread House Decorating	9:45-10:15am Joyful Noise (Infant-8 th grade) 4-5:30pm Afternoon Faith Formation & Light Supper (K-12 th grade)
Dec 14	10:45-11:30am Morning Faith Formation	9:45-10:15am Joyful Noise (Infant-8 th grade) 4-5:30pm Afternoon Faith Formation & Supper (K-12 th grade) 5:30-6:30pm Youth Group (6 th -12 th grade) Las Posadas and Xmas Eve service prep
Dec 21	10:45-11:30am Morning Faith Formation 5-8pm Las Posadas	9:45-10:15am Joyful Noise (Infant-8 th grade) 4-5pm Afternoon Faith Formation (K-12 th grade)
Dec 24	11am-12pm Traditional Service with Communion 5-6pm Xmas Eve Family Service 11pm-12am Candlelight Service	

Campfire for All Kids, Youth & Families: Join us on the front lawn on Sunday, **TONIGHT from 5 - 6:30pm** for hot dogs, smores, camp songs, stories and more!

More info in the Children, Youth & Families Scoop weekly newsletter. If you didn't receive Friday's email, please contact kim@ccsm-ucc.org.

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, November 23

9:45 - 10:15 AM	Joyful Noise Children's Choir , Fireplace Room; contact Julie Berk, teacherjulie7@gmail.com
10:30 - 11:30 AM	60 Minutes High School Discussion , Fireplace Room
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Worship Service in person and online (FB and YouTube)
10:45 - 11:30 AM	Sunday Morning Faith Formation , CE Building
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Coffee Hour , Kloss Hall
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Open Cathedral Sandwich Making , Church Kitchen
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Second Hour - Update on Innovation Lab , Buckham Room
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Sunday Afternoon Faith Formation , CE Building
5:00 - 6:30 PM	Campfire for all Kids, Youth and Families , Front Lawn

Monday, November 24

11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	Women at the Well Group , Fireplace
4:00 - 6:00 PM	Samaritan House Meal Service , Kloss Hall

Tuesday, November 25

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

Wednesday, November 26

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

Thursday, November 27 Church is closed in observance of Thanksgiving: **No Samaritan House Dining**

Friday, November 28 Church is closed in observance of Thanksgiving: **No Samaritan House Dining**

Saturday, November 29

8:30 - 10:30 AM	CC Riders Weekly Bike Ride ; contact Peter Held, paheld1417@gmail.com
-----------------	--

Sunday, November 30

9:45 - 10:15 AM	Joyful Noise Children's Choir , Fireplace Room; contact Julie Berk, teacherjulie7@gmail.com
10:30 - 11:30 AM	First Sunday in Advent Worship Service in person and online (FB and YouTube)
10:45 - 11:30 AM	Youth & Children's Programs , CE Building
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Coffee Hour , Kloss Hall
4:00 - 5:00 PM	Sunday Afternoon Faith Formation , CE Building
5:00 - 6:30 PM	Family Tree Lighting Festival , Kloss Hall, Front Lawn



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

If you didn't receive the Saturday Worship Links email, please contact kim@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