



**Congregational Church
of San Mateo**

Iglesia Congregacional de San Mateo



**August 16, 2026
Back-to-School
Sunday**

Welcome to CCSM!

We are so glad you're here! To celebrate your visit, we'd love to make a \$5 donation on your behalf to a charity of your choice. Supporting 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!**



Children & Youth

We love having kids at CCSM! Please choose the option that works best for your family today:

- **Stay in the Service:** Children and youth are always welcome in the Sanctuary! Feel free to grab toys/activities/color sheets from the basket at the Kids Table in the Narthex.
- **Go to Faith Formation:** After the blessing of the backpacks, kids (up to 8th grade) are invited to head to the Christian Education Building with our leaders. Parents are welcome to walk them over.

Pick-up: If your kids attend Faith Formation, you can meet them in their program room or Kloss Hall during Coffee Hour.

Get Connected We'd love to get to know you!

- **Connect Card:** Fill one out and drop it in the offering plate or hand it to a greeter. Or fill out the "Contact Us" form at ccsm-ucc.org.
- **Stay in the Loop:** Email kim@ccsm-ucc.org to get our weekly *Connections* newsletter, *Worship Links*, or biweekly *Family Scoop*.
- **Get the App:** Download the Church Center app on Google Play/App Store (Search: Congregational Church of San Mateo)



church center

- **Follow Us:**  @ccsmucc  ccsm.ucc  ccsmMediaChannel  tinyurl.com/CCSMspotify

Accesibilidad / Accessibility

En el nártex hay dispositivos de asistencia auditiva e instrucciones para traducción (inglés-español). Por favor, diríjase a un acomodador si necesita ayuda.

Order of Service

↑ Please rise | Spoken together | Music | 🎵 Sung together

Prelude

C.J. Briggs

Welcome

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

↑ Call to Worship

Tony Gallo

Leader: We come from different neighborhoods, generations, cultures, and experiences.

All: God gathers us into one beloved community.

Leader: Whether we're returning to familiar places or beginning something new, God calls us forward in hope.

All: We come ready to learn, grow, and serve.

Leader: Jesus teaches us that every person we meet is our neighbor.

All: Here, we belong to one another.

Leader: Come, let us worship the One who is still teaching us the way of Love.

↑ 🎵 Opening Hymn

Gather Us In

Chalice Hymnal, #284 vs. 1,2,4

Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, our spirits in flame.
Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young, our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty, gather us in, the proud and the strong;
Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away,
Here in this place the new light is shining, now is God present, and now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever, gather us in and make us your own;
Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Blessing of Backpacks

Students of all ages and educators are invited to come forward at this time to receive a backpack tag, and special blessing.

↑ Sharing the Peace

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

🎵 Centering Song

C.J. Briggs

Invitation to Offering

El Concilio

**Adriana Fernandez Arriaga &
Hannah Doress**

El Concilio is committed to increasing education, employment and access to quality of life services to underserved communities in San Mateo County. Their Climate Justice program works to ensure that Latino, immigrant, and low-income communities have a voice in shaping environmental policies and solutions, so that all families can live free of pollution, displacement, and the impacts of climate change.

Give to CCSM with ease!

- **Church Center App:** Download the 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**Homeward Bound**
Marta Keene

Ondine Young & C.J.Briggs

Scripture Reading

Mark 12:28-34

Tony Gallo

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; and 'to love him with all the heart and with all the understanding and with all the strength' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself'—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

Reflection

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Congregational Prayer

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 Song

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

NCH #76

Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.

The service is ended, O now be extended the fruits of our worship in all who believe.
The seed of the teaching, receptive hearts reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, and love shall unite us
to work for God's realm and to answer the call.

With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
The tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, love ever caring, embracing God's children of each tribe and race.
With your grace you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving give honor to Christ
and that name which we bear.

↑ Sending Forth & Benediction

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Postlude

C.J. Briggs

Special thanks to those helping with today's service:

Liturgical Arts team

Thank you to our BBQ volunteers and staff who helped with the special lunch and activities after church
Musicians leading worship: C.J. Briggs and Ondine Young, members of the Chancel Choir

Joys and Concerns

Prayer connects us in love and care, whether we have specific requests or simply wish to hold someone in God's light. To share a request, fill out a connect card in the pew and place it in our offering plate, give it to a minister, visit ccsm-ucc.org or the Church App. Prayers will be listed below for two weeks, unless otherwise requested.

Recent Prayer Requests:

Katherine Vega-Stultz requests prayers for a **dear friend** who is making the unselfish decision to donate one of her kidneys to her brother. Prayers for her and her brother and for all those touched by this life-saving decision.

Connie Harris, who broke her femur in July, is now recovering at the Marbella Assisted Living facility in Redwood City. She expects to be there for two months before returning home.

We surround in prayer the family of **Rev. Derek Terry** and all who know him. Rev. Terry served as the Executive Director of The Opening and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, and joined us for our joint Pride services earlier this summer with our sister UCC churches.

Ongoing prayers: **Sue Young**, Ondine's Mom; **Terri and Gary Bullis**, Sue Bullis' family members; **Lena Respass**, Rylee Corradini's family member; **Nicolasa**, Josefina's mother; **Jerry & Nancy Nugent**; **Joel Uribe**, father of Victor de la Torre; **Andrew Lind**; **Sabrina**, friend of Mike & Sue Hill; **Heather Morgan**; **Larry Anderson**, friend of Frank Garritano; **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 Leung; **Lani Leydig**; **Cheryl Granucci**; Allison Rock and Chris Wuthmann's friend, **Karen**; **Veril Phillips & Bev Knowlton**; **Mike & Lee Mullery**, **Dottie Scott**

Bulletin Board

Please join us in welcoming **our new part-time custodian, Phillip Lopez**, who will be with us now each Sunday!

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY • TODAY • Join us for Back to School Sunday, our new Homecoming. We'll have a backpack blessing during worship for students and educators, followed by a BBQ with food, music, and games.

HELP LEAD WORSHIP • Month of August • During the choir's summer sabbatical, we are looking for voices to help support our worship music by leading hymns with Ondine and CJ from the Chancel. All are welcome to join at 9:45am to review the music and help make a joyful noise! Questions? Email Ondine@ccsm-ucc.org ***Note*** Chancel Choir rehearsals resume on Thursday, September 3.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING • Tuesday, August 18, at 6:30pm via Zoom • All are welcome to attend the next Board of Directors meeting tinyurl.com/3s9ztcn3.

SECOND HOUR: TRANSIT FOR A GREEN WORLD • Sunday, August 23 • Following worship on Sunday, August 23, join us in the Buckham Room for Second Hour to hear activist and friend of Zoe Neil, Una Fonte, discuss the critical intersection of green transit, disability access, and social justice.

CHASE'S FAREWELL BRUNCH • Saturday, August 29 • 10am - 12pm • Join us for a Farewell Brunch Open House for Chase in the Buckham Room! Stop by anytime to thank her for her years of dedicated service. If you'd like to contribute to a love offering in her honor, you can donate online by scanning the QR code and selecting "Love Offering" from the drop-down menu.



SF GIANTS GAME • Wednesday, September 23 • Connect with friends from CCSM and local UCC churches for a 10AM discussion on faith and sports followed by an SF Giants game. \$14 tickets available at the link thru August 24: www.gofevo.com/event/Danvillecongregational2

SUPPORT THE BENCH & PLANTER PROJECT: Thanks to your incredible generosity, our benches are fully funded, but you can still help by sponsoring the remaining planters, plants, or soil. To contribute any amount, visit the Church Center Give page and select "Loggia Bench Project" from the drop-down menu.

HELP KEEP COFFEE HOUR GOING • We need co-hosts to bring sweet or savory treats to share. We have openings the remainder of the year.. It's a simple, wonderful way to welcome newcomers and bless our community. To sign up, please email **Melodie Lew** boygie.m2000@yahoo.com and she'll send you a sign up link.

TABLET DONATION: Have an old, working iPad or tablet you're ready to part with? We are seeking two donated devices for our media and event teams—drop yours off at the main office!

Calendar visit CCSM-UCC.ORG/EVENTS or our **Church Center App** (click the calendar icon at the bottom of the homepage) for the full calendar of events and meetings.

Sunday, August 16

10:30 - 11:30 AM

10:45 - 11:30 AM

11:30 - 12:30 PM

BACK TO SCHOOL SUNDAY

Worship in person and online (FB and YouTube)

Children & Youth Faith Formation, CE Building

Back to School BBQ, Front Lawn

Monday, August 17

12:00 - 1:00 PM

3:30 - 5:30 PM

Posy Posse, Kloss Kitchen

Samaritan House Meal Service, Kloss Hall

Tuesday, August 18

10:00 - 11:00 AM

3:30 - 5:30 PM

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Men's Coffee Group, Hillsdale Mall Terrace; contact Peter Held, paheld1417@gmail.com

Samaritan House Meal Service, Kloss Hall

Circulo Mujeres ZUMBA, Kloss Hall

Wednesday, August 19

3:30 - 5:30 PM

7:15 - 8:15 PM

7:15 - 8:30 PM

Samaritan House Meal Service, Kloss Hall

CYF Prayground, Buckham Room

Bilingual Worship Service, Kloss Hall

Thursday, August 20

9:00 - 10:30 AM

10:15 - 11:30 AM

3:30 - 5:30 PM

7:00 - 9:00 PM

Casual Bike Rider's Group, meet in Parking Lot

Women's Coffee Group, Fireplace Room

Samaritan House Meal Service, Kloss Hall

Circulo Mujeres ZUMBA, Kloss Hall

Friday, August 21

3:30 - 5:30 PM

Samaritan House Meal Service, Kloss Hall

Saturday, August 22

8:30 - 10:30 AM

CC Riders Weekly Bike Ride; contact Peter Held, paheld1417@gmail.com