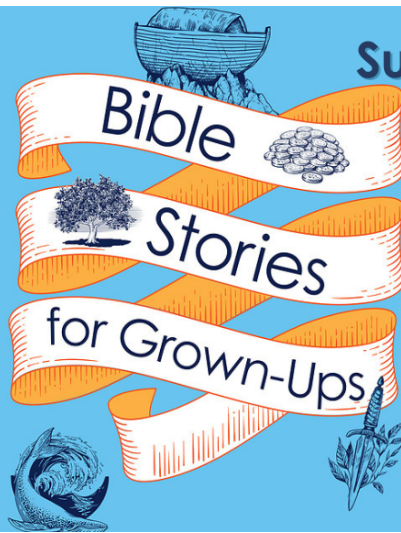


**Congregational Church
of San Mateo**
Iglesia Congregacional de San Mateo



Sunday, September 13, 2026

16th Sunday after
Pentecost

A worship series based on the
book by Josh Scott.

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 passing of the peace, 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.

- **Join us for Youth Group:** 1st–12th graders are invited to join us every Sunday from 12–1 PM in the Community Room! Connect faith to daily life through games, service, and fun activities.

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

Adorn Thyself, My Soul, with Gladness

C.J. Briggs

J.G. Walther

Welcome

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

↑ **Call to Worship**

Holly Allen

Leader: God is an invitation. An opening. A chance to do things differently.

All: Always before us, God is the possibility of transformation.

Leader: Love comes to meet us, reminding us that we are not powerless in the face of what is.

All: The power of God is alive within us and among us.

Leader: Together, we can imagine another way and help bring it to life.

All: We come to worship the Living God, who is still creating, still calling, still making all things new.

↑ 🎵 **Opening Hymn**

Praise to the Living God

NCH #8, vs. 1, 3, 4

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns and set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nature, making all a cosmic unity.

Praise to the living God, who knows our joy and pain,
Who shares with us our common life, the sacred and profane.
God toils wher-e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill;
And deep within the human heart God leads us forward still.

Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind, but whom we know as love.
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

↑ **Sharing the Peace**

Rev. Álvaro Durán

Invitation to Offering

Second Harvest

Natalie Lee

One in six people in our community relies on Second Harvest of Silicon Valley for nutritious food, and half are children and seniors. As the costs of food, housing, child care, and other essentials continue to rise, many families are struggling to make ends meet. Cuts to critical food and health care assistance programs are placing even more pressure on already stretched household budgets. Second Harvest helps bridge the gap by providing reliable access to healthy food. Your generosity brings strength, stability, and hope to our neighbors. Thank you for caring. Learn more at www.shfb.org.

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

Jesu, Joy
J.S. Bach

Chancel Choir

Scripture Reading

Matthew 25: 14-30

Holly Allen

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Sermon

Jesus in Unexpected Places

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Song of Response

The Summons

vs. 1, 2, & 5

Music Printed on the back of the Bulletin

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.*

Welcoming New Members

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Rosa Fonseca, Randy & Alicia Mazzuca, Laura Argento & Sally Elliott, Ann & Richard Wind

Congregational Response:

As members of the Congregational Church of San Mateo, we joyfully welcome you into this beloved community! We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share in life and ministry; enfolding you in love and committing ourselves to your care. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we grow together in God's transforming love as we seek to be people of peace and justice, following Jesus's way of life and unwavering welcome to all.

↑ 🎵 Closing Song

Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers

#397

Thank our God for sisters, brothers, one by grace, in harmony,
Joining heart to heart with others, making strong community.
With the cross of Christ our standard, let us sing as with one voice,
Glory, glory, yours the promise: we who are the church rejoice.

Praise to God for congregations, keeping faith with Christ as guide;
Many tongues of many nations, song and service unified.
Sweet the psalm and sweet the carol, when our song is raised as one.
Glory, glory, yours the power, as in heaven your will be done.

Holy is your name forever! Heal divisions that remain;
Bless the church's new endeavors; make our witness one again.
One in Christ and in Christ's gospel, make us one we now implore.
Glory, glory, yours the glory, then and now and evermore.

↑ Sending Forth & Benediction

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Postlude

Adorn thyself, My Soul, with Gladness
Telemann

C.J. Briggs

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:

Liturgical Arts Volunteer: Pam Ridelhuber

Coffee Hour: Ministry of Service & Justice

Musicians leading worship: C.J. Briggs, Ondine Young, Chancel Choir

New Members - September 13, 2026



Randy & Alicia Mazzuca

Randy and Alicia are excited to be joining CCSM as members. Coming from the Pacific Northwest, they've both lived in the Bay Area for fifteen years, with Randy working in wildlife conservation and Alicia working for the Grocery Outlet corporate office. After moving from Daly City to San Mateo, they started coming to CCSM this past Easter. Alicia's grandparents, Wilson and June Schute, and their children Lloyd and Shirley (Alicia's mom) were also members for many years.

Rosa Fonseca



Originally from Guanajuato, Mexico, Rosa has lived in San Mateo for 28 years. She loves dancing, good food, and spending time in community. Rosa found her way to CCSM and chose to make it her faith community because of its open-mindedness and theological breadth, its genuine commitment to breaking down linguistic and cultural barriers, the richness of its intercultural life, and the creativity and variety of its programs and activities.

Sally Elliott & Laura Argento

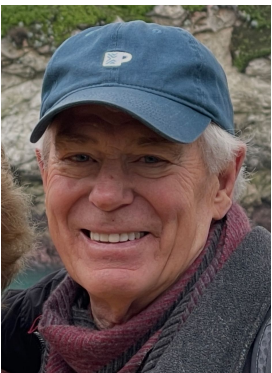


Born in Brooklyn and raised on Long Island, Laura graduated from Hofstra University before dedicating her career to trade book and educational publishing in New York and San Francisco. A long-time resident of Half Moon Bay alongside her partner Sally Elliott, Laura spent five years in Angels Camp, singing in the Murphys Congregational Church and Columbia College choirs before returning to HMB. While publishing was her profession, theater and choral music remain her passions; she currently sings in the CCSM choir. Looking for an adventure, she and

Sally also owned and operated a cooking store in Half Moon Bay—and had fun doing it! Laura is happy to be joining this wonderful congregation.

Born in New Jersey, Sally moved to California in 1981, settling in Northern California in 1983. Her career centered on education, first as a textbook publishing executive and later in educational technology. While living in Murphys with her partner Laura, Sally helped manage their local church's family dinner night program. Upon retiring, she took on the role of church treasurer during COVID—quite the challenge! Sally enjoys traveling, taking long walks, and spending time with family and friends. She looks forward to becoming a member in this beautiful and community-oriented church.

Richard & Ann Wind



Born and raised in a small Iowa farming community, Richard served four years as a musician in the U.S. Air Force before spending over 40 years teaching high school instrumental music across California and Minnesota. Now settled in the area, he enjoys hiking,

cooking, singing, spending time with friends, and fully exploring the Northern California experience. He is glad to be connecting with this community!

Born in Florida, Ann has moved around the country and is happy to now call this area home. A UCC member since her 8th-grade confirmation in 1961, she began singing in the children's choir in 4th grade and hasn't stopped since. Born with a lifelong love of music, Ann has spent her life singing in choirs, playing in orchestras, and conducting groups. She enjoys photography, camping, exploring new places, hiking, puzzles, and attending music, art, and gardening events, and looks forward to making new friends here at CCSM.

Ann and Rick are the proud parents of Mike Wind and Emily Wind Sideris, and the doting Noni and Papa to Elizabeth and Melody Sideris. Life is Good!

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:

We surround in prayer **Robert Mathura, Suzanne Roseman, and Kayla Mathura** following the death of their son and brother, **Frank Mathura**, on Sunday, September 6. A Memorial Service will be held at CCSM on Sunday, September 20 at 3pm, with a reception to follow in Kloss Hall.

We ask your prayers for **Imelda Navarro, Dorita Fausto, and Maricela García** as they mourn the sudden death of their cousin, **José Natividad Mexia Partida**, in an accident in Sinaloa.

We hold **Julien Phillips'** friend, **Sharmeen**, in our prayers as she recovers from a recent surgery in her fight with cancer.

We give thanks to God for **Fernanda Baez's** successful surgery and encouraging start to her recovery, and for **Evan's** safe return to the United States.

Genel Morgan requests prayers for her cousin's husband **Terry** who has been diagnosed with a new cancerous tumor in his lung in the midst of a long battle with this disease.

Nancy Nugent is rehabilitating at the Belmont Healthcare Center, a skilled nursing facility in the Carlmont area, where she is getting respiratory therapy, PT, and OT. She would enjoy visitors and/or phone calls. A good time to reach her is the late afternoon.

Katherine Vega-Stultz requests prayers for a **dear friend** who is recovering from donating a kidney to her brother this week.

Ongoing prayers: **Connie Harris; 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; 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**; **Bev Knowlton**; **Mike & Lee Mullery**

Bulletin Board

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

HELP STOCK THE BLESSING BOX • TODAY • Join MSJ for Coffee Happy Hour on September 13th and help stock our Blessing Box! We kindly ask you to bring 1–2 small-to-medium protein items—like canned chicken, SPAM, chili, peanut butter, or shelf-stable milk—to help care for our neighbors.

JOIN THE CHOIR! Do you love to sing? Join our CCSM Chancel Choir! Choir rehearsals are in the Sanctuary on **Sundays at 9:15am** and **Thursday evenings** (warm-ups at 7:15pm, rehearsal starts at 7:30pm). For more information email sandra.j.mcnabb@gmail.com. All voices welcome!

MUSIC & ART GUILD SEASON KICKOFF • Friday, September 18 • Kick off the Music & Art Guild's new season at noon with a live performance of C.J. Briggs's original Seventh Piano Sonata, dessert, and updates on the 2026–2027 schedule. Please bring your own lunch and RSVP to Genel Morgan, glmrn12@gmail.com.

COASTAL COMMUNITY CLEAN UP • Saturday, September 19 • Join us for coastal cleanup with the Coastside Land Trust on Saturday, September 19, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Venice Beach! Supplies are provided, so if you'd like to join the CCSM group or carpool from the church, contact Katherine Stultz.

LOVE OUR NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP • Sunday, September 20 • We'll gather in the Youth Community Room (Upstairs CE Building) at 12PM for lunch before heading out in teams at 12:30 PM. All ages are welcome! We'll supply vests, gloves, bags, and grabbers—just bring your water bottle and personal gear. See you there!

SLOW READ BOOK CLUB RESUMES THIS SEPTEMBER • Monday, September 21 • 11AM - 12:30PM • Join us as we kick off with *How We Learn to Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. For questions, book suggestions, or help getting a copy, please contact Betsy Woodward or Siew Kang.

SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH WITH TEAM CCSM AT NAMIWALKS • Saturday, Oct. 3rd • Join our church team as we walk for mental health awareness. To register with CCSM or get more details, email Katherine at vegastultz@yahoo.com or visit namiwalks.org.

ANIMAL BLESSING • Saturday, October 3 • 4PM • FRONT LAWN Join us for a special Animal Blessing service on the Feast of St. Francis. Bring your furry (and non-furry) friends for a blessing and a chance to connect with other animal loving members of our community. All animals are welcome, but please keep pets on a leash.

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.

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. A weekly events list is posted on the pillar in the Narthex.

Our Guiding Principles:

We Are...

A Spiritual Community

We welcome the full participation of believers, agnostics, and skeptics from all faith traditions. We are all at different places on our spiritual journeys, and we come together to support each other as we seek connection with God through ritual, artistic expression, nature, study, and fellowship.

Christian

We welcome the full participation of believers, agnostics, and skeptics from all faith traditions. We are all at different places on our spiritual journeys, and we come together to support each other as we seek connection with God through ritual, artistic expression, nature, study, and fellowship.

God's Hands, Feet, and Face

We welcome the full participation of believers, agnostics, and skeptics from all faith traditions. We are all at different places on our spiritual journeys, and we come together to support each other as we seek connection with God through ritual, artistic expression, nature, study, and fellowship.

Inclusive

We welcome the full participation of believers, agnostics, and skeptics from all faith traditions. We are all at different places on our spiritual journeys, and we come together to support each other as we seek connection with God through ritual, artistic expression, nature, study, and fellowship.

Open Minded

We welcome the full participation of believers, agnostics, and skeptics from all faith traditions. We are all at different places on our spiritual journeys, and we come together to support each other as we seek connection with God through ritual, artistic expression, nature, study, and fellowship.

Evolving

We experience faith as a quest, not a set of absolute truths. We welcome change, seek transformation, and explore new ways of being faithful because we know that God is still speaking.



We are a certified
Cool Congregation
of
Interfaith
Power & Light



The Summons

2130



1. Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3. Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4. Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? ____ Will you go where you don't know and
 your name? ____ Will you care for cruel and kind and
 your name? ____ Will you set the pris - oners free and
 your name? ____ Will you quell the fear in - side and
 my name. ____ Let me turn and fol - low you and



nev - er be the same? ____ Will you let my love be
 nev - er be the same? ____ Will you risk the hos - tile
 nev - er be the same? ____ Will you kiss the lep - er
 nev - er be the same? ____ Will you use the faith you've
 nev - er be the same. ____ In your com - pa - ny I'll



shown, ____ will you let my name be known, ____ will you
 stare ____ should your life at - tract or scare? ____ Will you
 clean, ____ and do such as this un - seen, ____ and ad -
 found ____ to re - shape the world a - round, ____ through my
 go ____ where your love and foot - steps show. ____ Thus I'll



let my life be grown in you and you in me? ____
 let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me? ____
 mit to what I mean in you and you in me? ____
 sight and touch and sound in you and you in me? ____
 move and live and grow in you and you in me. ____

WORDS: John Bell
 MUSIC: Traditional Scottish

KELVINGROVE
 13 13 7 7 13

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