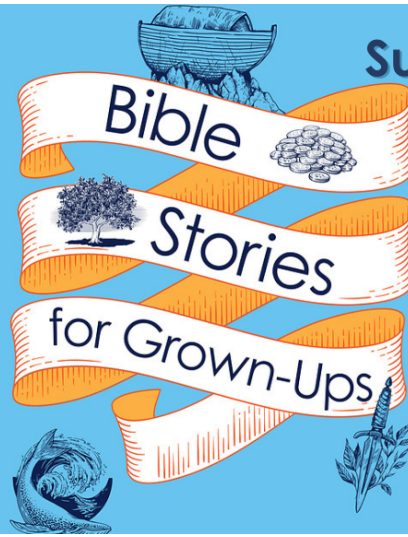


**Congregational Church
of San Mateo**
Iglesia Congregacional de San Mateo



Sunday, September 27, 2026

18th 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

Z-Quartet

Welcome

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

↑ Call to Worship

John Ebnetter

Leader: We come as we are, carrying what we know and what we are still discovering.

All: We come with open minds and open hearts, ready to look again at stories we thought we knew.

Leader: Faith was never about having an answer or seeing everything clearly.

All: Faith is trusting there is always more to learn, and more love than we have yet imagined.

Leader: God meets us in our questions and our wonder. God meets us in who we are still becoming.

All: God meets us in one another, as we walk this road together.

Leader: Together, let us worship the Living God!

↑ 🎵 Opening Hymn

Holy Wisdom, Lamp of Learning

Tune: Beach Spring

Holy Wisdom, lamp of learning, bless the light that reason lends.
Teach us judgment as we kindle, sparks of thought your Spirit sends.
Sanctify our search for knowledge, and the truth that sets us free.
Come, illumine mind and spirit, joined in deepest unity

Vine of truth, in you we flourish; by your grace we learn and grow.
May the word of Christ among us, shape our life, our search to know.
Joined to Christ in living, dying, may we help the church convey
Witness to the saving gospel, bearing fruit of faith today

Holy God, the hope of nations, tune us toward your righteous will,
As the symphony of ages, claims our best, our finest skill.
Shape our search for peace and justice, through prophetic deed and word.
Christ, conduct us, set our rhythm, that God's praise be ever heard.

↑ Sharing the Peace

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Invitation to Offering

HUGS

Frank Garritano

The Help Us Give Smiles (HUGS) Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing free, life-changing reconstructive surgery for children born with facial deformities, such as cleft lips and palates. Each year medical volunteers travel to underserved regions around the world to deliver this critical care to families who otherwise would not have access to it. Our mission goes beyond the operating room; we strive to give these children a chance at a healthier, happier life free from stigma.

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

Summa
Pärt

Z-Quartet

Scripture Reading

Mark 8:22-26

John Ebnetter

They came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Can you see anything?" And the man looked up and said, "I can see people, but they look like trees, walking." Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again, and he looked intently, and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Then he sent him away to his home, saying, "Do not even go into the village."

Sermon

Updating Our Lenses

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

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. 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.*

Sing them over again to me, wonderful words of life;
Let me more of their beauty see, wonderful words of life;
Words of life and beauty teach faith and duty. **Refrain**

**Refrain: Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.
Beautiful words, wonderful words, wonderful words of life.**

Christ, the blessed one, gives to all wonderful words of life;
sinner, wake to the loving call, wonderful words of life;
All so freely given, our sure hope of heaven. **Refrain**

Sweetly echo the gospel call, wonderful words of life;
Offer pardon and peace to all, wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior, keep me with you forever. **Refrain.**

↑ Sending Forth & Benediction

Rev. Jessica Vacketta

Postlude

Musette
Kat's-Chernin

Z-Quartet

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: Kay Harris & Annette Daniels

Coffee Hour: Judi Powell & Becky Duffy

Musicians leading worship: C.J. Briggs, Chancel Choir, and

Z-Quartet: Violins: Chris Yeh, Kim Williams, Viola: Marty Lee, Cello: Amy Brooks

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

It is with great sadness that we share that **Nancy Nugent** passed away peacefully on the afternoon of Sunday, September the 20th, surrounded by her beloved husband, **Jerry**, and their children. Please keep the entire Nugent family in your prayers. A **Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, October 17 at 1pm** in the Sanctuary, with a reception to follow in Kloss Hall.

We surround in prayer **Ondine Young**, and her children, **Talia and Liam Young-Skeen**, following the death of her mother, and their grandmother, **Sue C. Young** on September 21. Ondine is currently on bereavement leave and expresses gratitude for the support and patience shared with her and her family at this time.

Please keep **Betsy Woodward** in your prayers as she is home and recovering from a recent hospital stay.

Mike and Sue Hill ask for prayers for **Sue's brother Barry** as he prepares for the next step in his ever

changing medical journey.

Pablo Rubio asks for your prayers for his upcoming open-heart surgery on September 28, and for his beloved son, **Nicolás**.

Ongoing prayers: **Connie Harris; Terri and Gary Bullis**, Sue Bullis' family members; **Lena Respass**, Rylee Corradini's family member; **Nicolasa**, Josefina's mother; **Jerry 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 Tendero'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

JEAN CHAMBERLAIN IS TURNING 100! • Jean Chamberlain will be 100 on Oct 10! Let's shower her with love by mailing a birthday card by the end of the month. Email Carol Henton, carolhenton@aol.com for her address.

OPEN CATHEDRAL TODAY Help make sandwiches after church TODAY. Join our all-ages assembly line to pack 100 lunches for Open Cathedral to distribute in San Francisco! Meet in the church kitchen after worship.

VILLAGE PUB IS BACK • Friday, October 2 • 7PM - 8:30PM • Join us on Friday, October 2nd for a Piano Bar edition of the Village Pub in the Fireplace Room, featuring music from CJ Briggs! Enjoy drinks, snacks, and great conversation with your community—all ages are welcome, and childcare is provided.

SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH 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.

ANIMAL BLESSING • Saturday, October 3 • 3PM • FRONT LAWN • Our Blessing of the Animals is expanding into a Community Pet Fair from 3-5PM, featuring the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA. The event includes a bilingual pet blessing at 4PM and a drive to collect unopened, unexpired pet food and treats for community members. If you would like to volunteer to help with hosting, set-up, or clean-up, please contact Rev. Álvaro.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY & POTLUCK LUNCH • Sunday, October 4 • Join us after worship on World Communion Sunday for a global potluck lunch! Bring a favorite dish reflecting your family, culture, or traditions to share as we celebrate our unity around the table (beverages provided).

YOUTH GROUP REUNION • Sunday, October 4 • Calling all CCSM Youth Group alumni, staff, and volunteers from around 20 years ago! Join us next Sunday for a Youth Group Reunion. We'll gather for worship, share lunch, and spend time catching up and sharing old memories. RSVP to kim@ccsm-ucc.org to let us know you're coming.

SAVE THE DATE - THE EXAMINED LIFE SPEAKER SERIES KICKOFF • Monday, November 16 • 7PM - 8:30PM • We are excited to launch our new series, *The Examined Life*, featuring Stanford Psychology Professor Gregory Walton, PhD, author of *Ordinary Magic*. Dr. Walton's work invites us to reimagine the everyday moments of our lives to unlock deeper purpose. More details on ticket purchasing will be available soon.

Calendar visit [CCSM-UCC.ORG/EVENTS](https://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 follow Jesus's example as a way of life and a way of love. Following Jesus is rooted in our identity as Christians, and we cherish our tradition's sacred book, the Bible, for its spiritual wisdom contained in symbol, metaphor, and history. We also explore other faith traditions and learn from other sacred texts as we seek to answer Jesus' call to love.

God's Hands, Feet, and Face

We work together to feed the hungry, care for the sick, house the homeless, and advocate for a more just society. We do this knowing that God has no hands but our hands, no feet but our feet and no face but our face.

Inclusive

We celebrate Jesus' teachings of radical equality and the differences among us including, but not limited to: race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, education, sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, language, age, and mental and physical disabilities. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Open Minded

We recognize the inherent worth of each of us, and we listen to different points of view in order to learn and grow. We strive to practice empathy and compassion, and we seek to understand one another.

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.

