

# The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo  
United Church of Christ

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## Holy Week and Easter Celebration Calendar

**Sunday, March 28, 10:30 a.m., Palm Sunday,**  
*The Practice of Palm Sunday*, Rev. Penny Nixon.  
Children's Processional

**Thursday, April 1, Holy Thursday Service.**  
**Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m., Kloss Hall**  
**Service begins at 7:00 p.m., Kloss Hall**

**Friday, April 2, 7:00 p.m., Good Friday Service.**  
*Seven Lost Words of Christ, Reflections* by CCSM members.

**Easter Sunday Celebration, April 4**  
7:30 a.m. **Early Service, led by the Confirmation Class with Rev. Naylor and Betsy Woodward.**  
8:30 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**  
9:45 a.m. **Easter crafts begin**  
10:00 a.m. **Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn**  
10:30 a.m. **Easter service—Rev. Nixon Experience Resurrection!**

## Spring Celebration Calendar

Join us Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

**April 11,** Conference Minister Rev. Mary Susan Gast preaching. Two baby baptisms.

**April 18,** Former Senior Minister Rev. Jim Keck preaching.

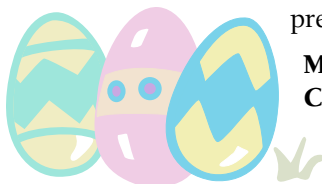
**April 25,** Children's Musical: *It's Good!*

**May 2,** *Celebrating Pine Ridge Outreach Trip with Senior High*, Rev. Steve Naylor

**May 9,** Family Worship/Mother's Day Sermon: *The First Blanketeers*, Rev. Nixon preaching, Children Baptisms

**May 16,** Sermon: *Breaking Free*, Rev. Nixon, preaching

**May 23, Pentecost Concert** with celebration of Jerri Handy (Jerri preaching)



## Notes from Penny

There's an old spiritual that gets sung in the midst of troubling times—*It's Good Friday, but Sunday's comin'!* While we have shared a meaningful Lenten season together, I am ready for Easter! I am ready to embrace more life, more life, more life!

I came across this poem by R. Preston Price which captures how I feel about Easter—resurrection is not meant to be “explained” but “experienced!”

*Like a blade of grass pushing up stubbornly through the sidewalk.*

*Like the butterfly emerging from the tomb-like chrysalis.*  
But much more.

*Like the seed after years of dormant death sending up sprout.*

*Like the brown bulb breaking forth from brown earth into brilliant color.*  
But much more.

*Like brilliant daybreak after a stormy, darkened night.*

*Like a rainbow mystically appearing amidst the rain.*  
But much more.

*Like a patient making an unexpected, unpredicted turn for health.*

*Like the pine cone opening to spread seed only after touched by fiery death.*

But much more.

*Like a beautiful vase emerging from a lump of clay in the potter's hands.*

*Like a hidden spring burbling forth in the middle of a barren desert.*

But much more...

So, it comes.

Nothing else like it.

No image adequate.

No simile.

No metaphor.

*Unable to talk about it but inadequately*

*We celebrate this great, real mystery that*

*Neither language nor*

*imagination can encompass.*

Easter!

I hope you'll walk through the rare beauty of Holy Week this year and journey all the way through to resurrection. I have had a few glimpses of resurrection already and look forward to sharing them with you.

Until then, come and shout Hosanna! on Palm Sunday and witness the joy of the children and prepare for the greatest gift given, the gift of life itself.

—Peace, Penny



## Youth & Family News

### Church School News Palm Sunday, March 28

Our children begin the service with a glorious Palm Processional. We invite ALL the church school children to participate and come to the Sanctuary at 9:45 a.m. for our mini rehearsal. We will practice carrying the palms while we sing our song. There will be palms and ferns for everyone. The children have learned the song. To help them remember the words, Betsy will send an email for the families. It is a very special day so please bring your children to church!

### Easter Is A Wonderful Day For Children And Youth At Our Church!

**7:30 a.m. The Early Easter Service** on the lawn led by our Confirmation class.

**8:30 a.m. Easter** early birds will find a delicious Easter breakfast in the Buckham Room provided by **Marion Faber** and her team.

**9:45 a.m. Easter crafts begin.** Come decorate your bag for the Easter egg hunt!

**10:00 a.m. SHARP! The Easter Egg Hunt** begins on the lawn for ages 10 and younger.

**10:30 a.m. Our wonderful Easter service begins.** After the children's moment, our children and youth will come to Kloss Hall for Easter Festival Crafts! Butterflies and crosses will decorate Kloss Hall as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection.

### Sunday, April 25! The Children's Musical is Back!

On Earth Day Sunday, our children and youth choirs will present the musical, *It's Good!* The musical is based on the story of Creation. Look for God, the angel choir and more. Julie Berk, our choir director, says the rehearsals are going very well, and the choir members are very enthusiastic about the upcoming performance. April 25th will be a Family Worship Sunday. We invite children of all ages to stay in the Sanctuary and enjoy the musical. Sit up close so you can get a good view.

### Our Toddler And Nursery Room Needs Volunteer Caregivers!

Our Toddler Room now has six children attending and our Nursery has four babies that come and go. So Lily could use some volunteer helpers to hold babies in the Infant Room, or help with snacks and playtime in the Toddler Room. It is very rewarding to get to know our church's youngest members and their families. If you could spend one Sunday morning a month with the littlest ones, please let Betsy know. [bwoodward@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:bwoodward@ccsm-ucc.org)

### Mid High Events

#### Sun., Apr. 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m.: Mid High Fellowship

Mid High will discuss our Spring outreach collection for Guide Dogs for the Blind.

Make sure to keep this date in mind! If you have any questions or would like information, email Joliene ([joliene.wade@gmail.com](mailto:joliene.wade@gmail.com)).

### Senior High Events Sunday March 28th:

**10:00 a.m.** A quick **60 Minutes** with Mike Mullery in the Fireplace Room followed by a blessing ceremony during the church service for all the people going on the mission trip.

**11:45: Final Parent & Student Meeting:** Steve will join parents and students in the Fireplace room to review final details about the Mission trip.

### Outreach Trip Update

By Steve Naylor

We are reaching the final weeks before 14 students and 7 adults depart for a week-long cultural emersion and outreach trip to work with the people on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota. We are thankful for all the support we have received from the entire congregation and for the bonds we have built within our group preparing for this transformational week. Thank you to everyone who has supported the youth ministry program. Please continue praying for our entire group and the people on the reservation.

—Blessings and gratitude

### Church Scholarships Available For Graduating Seniors!

The Ministry of Children, Youth and Families is soliciting candidates for the youth scholarship funds: the **Arthur J. Younger Fund**, the **Bracamonte Memorial Fund**, and the **Macon Banks Memorial Fund**. In 1978, Norma Younger established the Arthur J. Younger Scholarship for youth and seminarians. In 1985, the Bracamonte Memorial Fund was established by Dorothy Bracamonte, in memory of her husband Reginald. In 1999, Tom Banks established the Macon Banks Memorial fund for youth.

Scholarship applicants need to be high school seniors who are members of the church and active in the church, their school and community. The applicants must be continuing their education in the fall.

All applicants will be considered for all of the scholarships. Application packets are available to eligible high school seniors in the church office. Each packet includes a letter of recommendation form that must accompany the scholarship application plus a current photo. The scholarships are reviewed and awarded by the Ministry of Children, Youth and Families. Please submit your completed applications to Kristy Everson, CYF Ministry, no later than **Sunday, April 26, 2010**. Please call Kristy (650-348-1173) for more information.

## Join an Affinity Groups

**Music And Art Circle: On Friday, April 16**  
**Pearly Masters** will share treasured childhood memories as she talks on **Growing up as a minority in Pakistan**. Come at **noon** to the Buckham Room, bring a sandwich. Dessert and beverages will be served. Guests are welcome, and should call Barbara Mollison at 349-0336 to reserve.

**Kaleidoscope Women's Group will meet on Monday, April 5th from 7:00-9:30 p.m.** in the Buckham Room. Shirley McKinnie and her daughter, Anne Higginbotham, will teach us how to get started on scrap booking. You will learn how to organize a family history album, recall a favorite trip or just do something about those boxes of pictures. Bring two or three photos to the meeting. Shirley and Anne will provide materials to get you started. Don't forget that quick and easy potluck dish and please invite a friend to join us!

**Book Exchange in Kloss Hall!** Great ideas come from affinity groups! After Melodie Lew spoke at Kaleidoscope about her gathering of books for children in Nepal, Shirley Mckinnie came up with a great idea. Why not have a book exchange in Kloss Hall and raise money for the Nepalese children? We can donate our already read books and exchange for others while adding a donation for the Books for Nepal fund! **It will begin this Sunday, March 28; so bring your books into the Book Exchange cart in Kloss Hall!**

**Monday Night Book Group will meet March 29, 7:30-9:00 p.m.** in the Fireplace Room. Please join us in a lively discussion of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* by Steig Larsson. Also the movie created from the book is now showing at the Guild Theater in Menlo Park. It is a thrilling and graphic movie, but only around through Thursday! Our April meeting will be **Monday, April 26** and our book is on the bestseller list, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. We have very interesting and provocative discussions, so please come and join in the fun. To be included in the email blast, email Susan Stoehr at [s\\_stoehr@hotmail.com](mailto:s_stoehr@hotmail.com)

**20-30s will meet on Wednesday, March 24th, 7:00-8:00 p.m.:** Final Lent Taize and on **Saturday, May 8: Habitat Build Day**—Put Your Faith in Action! We have 10 spots reserved for 20-30s!



## Joys & Concerns

A heartfelt thank you for all the emotional support I received from so many of you on the passing of my beloved younger brother, Rayo. The amazing number of cards, ecards, emails, flowers were so calming and considerate. The sweetness of your sentiments and the compassion of your words made me realize how grateful I am to be a part of CCSM. Fondly, Pearly.

### Prayers of Joy and Gratitude

**Xol Taylor Safai, Veril Phillips and Doris Godinez-Phillips'** granddaughter, was born on March 11, 2010. Her mother and father, **Yadira Taylor and Ahsha Safai**, and her grandparents are grateful for this wonderful blessing.

**Michelle Wright** reports that food tastes normal again so eating is no longer a chore and they have joyously celebrated little Sammy's first birthday.

**Alison Schwandt** is getting back to her energetic self after cardiac ablation to get her heart beating normally.

**Zee Larrew** is feeling well and keeping very busy.

**Lisa Farina** has a new address, 5625 Crescent Park West, #417, Playa Vista, CA 90094.

**Pat Barrett** has moved into Sunrise Senior Living, 955 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, 94402. Her phone number is 401-6002.

### Prayers of Comfort

**Gay Kocmich**, who joined CCSM in 1958, passed away peacefully on March 11 at the Peninsula Regent. Our prayers and love surround the Kocmich family.

**Pearly Master's** beloved brother, **Rayomond Masters**, passed away peacefully on March 6, 2010.

**Jack Booch**, former interim Minister of Youth at CCSM and an award winning actor and director, passed away Feb 11, 2010. A complete obituary is available outside the church office.

### Prayers of Healing and Support

**Mark Meyers** has turned a corner and is recovering more each day. He is still at Oakland Kaiser. We look forward to having him back in Redwood City soon. For updates and sending messages to Mark go to [www.FriendsOfMarkMeyers.com](http://www.FriendsOfMarkMeyers.com).

**Sandi Blodgett** is still waiting to see just what the change in her blood work means. Prayers for best outcome.

**Don Loomis** is closer to 101 than 100 years old now. Jim Shaul continues to visit him faithfully and can still get him up for a walk around the building but Don is finding it harder to figure out cribbage these days.

Continued prayers for strength and healing for **Marge Marchant, Margi Stone, Scottie Scott and Gary Steele** who are all continuing cancer treatments.

**Eric Errichson** has moved to The Elms, San Carlos. Prayers for comfort for Eric and Ronnie.

**Prayers for Jerri Handy as she and her team head to Haiti this week.**

## Visionary Voices Coming To CCSM



CCSM is launching an educational and inspirational speaker series, Visionary Voices, with the first event scheduled for the weekend of **April 17 and 18**. Our inaugural participants for this new series are **Rev. Dr. Jim Keck**, CCSM's former Senior Minister (from 1999 to 2006) and our current **Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Penny Nixon**.



Jim and Penny have each played a significant role, at CCSM and in the larger community, increasing awareness and acts of social justice and serving as visionary voices of Progressive Christianity.

The upcoming weekend will provide a number of educational and social opportunities to interact with Jim, who is currently the Senior Minister at First-Plymouth Congregational

Church in Lincoln, Nebraska, and his family. Jim's wife Karen and their two sons, Alexander and Bryce, are coming too.

With more details to follow, keep the dates open to participate in this exciting and fun-filled inaugural weekend:

### Friday Morning, April 16 - Golf Outing

Contact Peter Held ([heldpainting@aol.com](mailto:heldpainting@aol.com) or 345-1120) if you are interested in participating.

### Saturday Morning, April 17: Educational Forum

*The Beauty of American Religion* led by Jim Keck  
9:30-11:00 a.m., College Heights UCC, 1150 West Hillsdale Blvd., SM  
Contact Lani Leydig ([lani.leydig@gmail.com](mailto:lani.leydig@gmail.com) or 349-8475) for more information.

### Saturday Evening, April 17 Visionary Voices Celebration & Fundraiser Dinner

Cocktails (6 p.m.) Catered Dinner and Speakers (7:00-10:00 p.m.)  
\$75 per person. Tickets will be sold during Coffee Hour in April or contact Deanna Riding ([deannariding@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deannariding@sbcglobal.net) or 574-0557) for more information. Proceeds will go to CCSM Mission and Social Justice.

### Sunday Morning, April 18

Worship Service—Sermon by Jim Keck followed by a Reception

## Church Day Thank You!

Barbara Broadbent and the Conference office sent a giant thank you for the wonderful hospitality CCSM offered for Church Day. It was the best Church Day ever! Over 160 people attended the daylong event. Attendees comments were that: they were inspired by the morning worship, felt very welcomed by our volunteer greeters, were filled with good ideas from the workshops, devoured the scrumptious lunch and enjoyed sitting outside in the sun during the break times. All in all, it was a very successful day. Thanks to all our dedicated volunteers and to Bill Coyle, Betsy Woodward and Rev. Steve Naylor who helped organize the day!



## Habitat Announces Special Work Day For CCSM

Habitat for Humanity has designated May 8 as a special day for CCSM volunteers to participate in the construction of homes in Daly City. We need 20 volunteers to make this day a success! Participants must be 18 years old and be physically able to be on their feet and work for eight hours. No construction skills are necessary. If you wish addition information or wish to sign up, please contact: Anne Fuller at [afuller@fullerthaler.com](mailto:afuller@fullerthaler.com) or 650-340-1479 or Steve Naylor at [snaylor@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:snaylor@ccsm-ucc.org) or 650-343-3694. Volunteers may also sign up during April in Kloss Hall after the Sunday service.

## Two Opportunities to Explore CCSM Membership

Interested in exploring what membership means at CCSM? Come and join our staff for a class on **Sunday, April 25** for a light lunch and conversation following the church service or come on **Wednesday, April 28 at 6:00 p.m.** for a quick supper with class to follow. We'll hear about each other's spiritual journeys and talk about what it means to take the next step in your spiritual journey by becoming part of a spiritual community. Whether you are new to the church, or have been attending for a while and have not taken the next step, this exploration is for you. This is an opportunity for you to meet some people who care deeply about welcoming others into our spiritual community. Childcare provided upon request. Please RSVP to Pam Larsen at [plarsen@ccsm-ucc.org](mailto:plarsen@ccsm-ucc.org) or call the church office 343-3694.



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A newsletter for the families & friends of the  
Congregational Church Of San Mateo, U.C.C.

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