

The Pine Tree

The Congregational Church of San Mateo
United Church of Christ

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Christmas Services

December 24th, Penny Nixon preaching

Come celebrate Christmas Eve with us!

5 p.m. A lively Family service sure to keep the little ones engaged, with special Christmas moments for everyone, young or old.

11 p.m. A mystical and magical candlelight Christmas Eve service concluding with communion at midnight. Beautiful music and inspirational readings. Experience the meaning of the season with all the tradition honoring the mystery of Christ among us.

December 25, Christmas Morning, Jerri Handy preaching

We wait with wonder for the dawn of Christmas morning and at 10:30 a.m. celebrate the end of *The Journey of Advent*. Now we will rejoice in the wonder of this baby born so long ago, imagine the difference one life can make, and experience anew the joy of ushering in the *Twelve days of Christmas*.

We will sing some of the familiar carols on Christmas morning. Bring your family and friends. Families worship together.

EPIPHANY: Bread, Bath and Beyond!

Jan. 1, Bread, Penny, Raj and Bonnie preaching

Begin the new year by celebrating communion with your faith community. This New Year's Day will be an informal service imagining the gifts of the Magi relevant for today; Bring your holiday goodies to share at Coffee Hour.

Epiphany Festival for children.

Jan. 8, Bath, Penny Nixon preaching

What could baptism, one of our sacraments, really mean in our everyday lives? Acts 19:1-7. Several college students will participate.

Jan. 15, Beyond Belief, Feast of Martin Luther King, Jr., Penny Nixon preaching

How can we go beyond our own beliefs and assumptions about where God shows up? Can we move beyond these to open our eyes to the holy in unexpected places and people?
John 1: 43-51.

Jan. 22, Beyond the Horizon, Rev. Dr. Carlos Correa preaching

Where God calls us just might be beyond the horizons we now see for ourselves.
Mark 1:14-20.

Continued on page 4

Guest Preacher: Carlos Correa

The team that went to **Centro Romero** this past September is thrilled to bring **Rev. Dr. Carlos Correa** to CCSM. We were so blessed by his ministry that we wanted our church community to meet him, and for him to meet the wonderful folks here at CCSM.

Carlos is currently the Director of Centro Romero, a border ministry of Justice and Witness Ministries and the Southern California-Nevada Conference, United Church of Christ.

Rev. Correa is a key organizer of a significant number of environmental initiatives in Latin America and the Caribbean, and the author of many published academic articles and chapters. He is the former UCC Minister for Environmental Justice, Fellow of the International Water Advocates Association, a Member of the Board of Directors of the Amazon Defense Fund and a founding member of Red Vida Brazil, an environmental network dedicated to the defense of the natural resources in Amazonia and the rights of the Brazilian indigenous people.

Correa's current research and studies are in the areas of historical and cultural roots of the Latin American indigenous peoples and their principles of ecological interconnectedness and spirituality and the eco-theological consequences of the European Spanish colonization of the Americas and their intersection, through migration, with the United States' (Northern European) social, economic, and cultural values and norms.

Correa obtained a Masters of Divinity, a Doctorate degree in Counseling Psychology with specialization in violent behaviors (family violence and sexual abuse) and is currently working toward a Ph.D. degree in eco-theology at Oxford University, U.K.



Youth & Family News

Children's Christmas Pageant, Sunday, December 18th

During worship, our children will delight us with their annual Christmas Pageant. This year our roving pageant reporters will be returning to Bethlehem to broadcast the events of Christmas Eve. Watch for shepherds and angels to appear while the lavishly dressed Magi wend their way to the newborn baby. All Church School children are invited to join in the pageant processional, and also the ending song, *Go tell it on the Mountain!* On Sunday, Dec. 18th, pageant characters, narrators and children's choir singers need to come at 9:30 a.m. Church School children come at 9:50 to rehearse. There is no church school today. Everyone is in the Sanctuary celebrating the pageant: come early to choose your pew!

Church School Outreach

Sunday, December 18; Christmas Caroling after church! After the pageant, come join us as we are God's voice in the community! We will share a quick lunch of soup and bread and then gather in small groups to go out caroling to members who cannot enjoy the Christmas festivities. They are blessed by our singing and we are blessed by their smiles and happiness.

Saturday, December 24th Christmas Eve, 5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service. Join us for beautiful carols and readings plus some fun Christmas songs for kids. We always end with candlelight and a special memory of Christmas Eve at church. Childcare for the smallest ones is provided.

Yes, We Do Have Church On Sunday Christmas Day And New Years Day!

10:30 a.m., Sunday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day. Join us for an informal worship service where Rev. Jerri preaches on *Wonder* and we celebrate Jesus' birthday. Families worship together today! Infant and toddler care will be available.

10:30 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 1. Worship service with Epiphany Children's Festival. Children of all ages are invited into the Buckham Room after the children's moment. We will hear the story of the Magi, create beautiful crowns, bake 3 kings bread and explore gold, frankincense and myrrh. All are welcome!

Church School Teachers Meeting Sat., Jan. 21, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Youth Room

It is time for a new schedule and new lessons for the winter and spring. Join your fellow teacher partners as we discuss curriculum plans for January, February and Lent in addition to teaching practices. Our church is blessed with full classrooms of eager and enthusiastic children. Enthusiasm means filled with God's spirit, so we hope to have energetic ways of teaching to capture the imaginations of our children and youth. Bring your calendars, and good ideas. Please call Betsy if you need childcare.

Church School Lessons, January 2012

- Jan. 1: Epiphany Festival, ages 3 years to 8th grade, Buckham Room
- Jan. 8: Baptism: Jesus' Baptism and our Baptism
- Jan. 15: The Vision of Martin Luther King
- Jan. 22: The Calling of the Fisherman
- Jan. 25: Jesus' Inclusive Vision: Beyond the Boundaries

Mark Your Calendars! All Aboard for Train Day, Saturday, Feb. 4, 3:30-5:30 p.m.!

Our very popular Train event is coming back soon! Bring your children, friends and neighbors plus any train buffs to enjoy this wonderful afternoon. You can listen to and watch the electric trains in the Buckham Room, or play with Brio Trains and create train crafts in Kloss Hall. There will be goodie bags for the young train buffs and cake for all! Please bring your favorite train finger food to share. Invite a friend and RSVP to 343-3694!

2012 Confirmation Class

We are excited about our new confirmation curriculum and look forward to the opportunity to learn with the eighth-graders this winter and spring. This course is all about exploration and discovery of one's faith identity, or not. We will talk about things that matter to everyday life. The confirmation experience is designed to be a spiritual rite of passage—just one of many over the lifetime of each person's spiritual journey.

On Sunday, June 3, the entire church family will celebrate confirmation with our confirmands as full adult members with voice and voting privileges. For more information or to enroll your child, contact: Bonnie Rambob, brambob@ccsm-ucc.org.



Educational Programs For Parents

Wed., January 18, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Navigating the World of Technology with Your Teen: Raj Rambob, facilitator

Parenting Teens Sanelly Discussion (PTSD): Provides an opportunity for parents of pre-teens and teenagers to come together and discuss issues specifically related to parenting teens. Prior to each meeting, parents will receive a topic-related article to peruse as a springboard for the discussion. However, parenting is a very active, dynamic and spiritual endeavor. Some of the best ideas and answers will likely come from members of the group as we share our experiences, knowledge and questions.

Moms of Young Children:

Rev. Nicole Lamarche, facilitator

Join us for an informal Tuesday morning gathering to build connection, share resources and support one another as we find God in motherhood. We will gather with our babies and toddlers. The frequency of the meeting is TBD. Starts in the new year. Contact Nicole for more details: revlamarche@gmail.com

Advent Workshop opened the season with an afternoon of fun and crafts.



Important Information for Senior High Youth

After consultation with teens, the Sr. High leadership team and CYF, the CCSM Sr. High Youth Program will take a slightly different course in 2012. Please pay close attention to the schedule below and if anything confuses you, send us an email so we can try to help—bonrambob@yahoo.com, rajrambob@gmail.com. **Please disregard the calendar distributed at the beginning of the school year.**

There will be no more regular Sunday group meetings. REMEMBER that there WILL be 60 Minutes every 4th Sunday DURING church and there will be Mission Trip Meetings on some Sundays. The Mission Trip calendar is under development and will be out soon.

This is the “official” January to June 2012

CCSM Senior High Youth Program Guide

- Dec. 18 Caroling after church
- Jan. 8 12-2:00 p.m. *after* Christmas Party
- Jan. 8 2-2:30 p.m. Mission Trip Meeting required (fundraising)
- Jan. 22 10:30 a.m., 60 MINUTES, every 4th Sunday of the month
- Jan. 25 3:30 p.m., *Meet-Up at Jamba with Bonnie and Raj at Jamba Juice, San Mateo (On the 25th...we're buying.)
- Feb. 6 7:00-9:00 a.m., **Group Study Time, Youth Room

* **Jamba Juice Meet-ups** will be on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month.

** **Group Study Time** will be on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month through the school year. Informal time together and get homework done. Snacks provided and there is wi-fi.

Youth Connection Trip

The youth have spoken (actually you/they voted). We are going to work with the **Appalachia Service Project in Tennessee, the week of June 17**. Final travel dates are yet to be set.

Mid High Events

Sun., Dec. 11	10:45-11:30 a.m.	Church School	Youth Rm
Sun., Dec. 18	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Christmas Pageant	Sanctuary
Tues., Dec. 20	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Christmas Party w/Jimenez family	Youth Rm
Sun., Dec. 25	No Church School		
Sun., Jan. 1	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Informal Church School	
Wed., Jan. 4	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Youth Group	Youth Rm
Sun., Jan. 8	10:45-11:30 a.m.	Church School	Youth Rm
Sun., Jan. 15	10:45-11:30 a.m.	Church School	Youth Rm
Wed., Jan. 18	6:30-8:00 p.m.	Youth Group	Youth Rm
Sun., Jan. 22	10:45-11:30 a.m.	Church School	Youth Rm
Sun., Jan. 29	10:45-11:30 a.m.	Church School	Youth Rm

Blanketeers Update

by Linda Skromme

We would like to thank everyone for supporting the quilt drawing, auction and sale. The lucky winners of the drawing were Anne and John Fyfe. With your help we raised **\$2,500** and will be able to donate a substantial portion of these funds to a local food bank. Next project is to supply quilts for all of our Adopt-a-Family for the holidays.



Blanketeers sale.

An Outpouring Of Generosity Creates A Good Time For All

by Lee Mullery

The Basket Silent Auction at the Christmas party was a huge success. MSJ extends a giant thank you to all those who were a part of providing 40 fantastically creative gift baskets and bottles of quality wine. Also, most appreciated are those who so generously kept outbidding their competitors, making the profits zoom upwards. The result is **\$3,615** was raised to help the local Samaritan House Meal Service Program and Mother of Peace orphanage in Zimbabwe. Thank you all for being the hands, face and feet of God.

CCSM Sunday Celebrations

Continued from page 1

Jan. 29, *Beyond the Boundaries,* Penny Nixon preaching

Where are we called beyond some of the false boundaries we have made for ourselves? Mark 1:21-28

Congregational Meeting after service.

Feb. 5, *"Beyond the Chaos," Penny Nixon preaching*

When the chaos is just too much, what do we do? Work harder? Worry more? Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 12, *"Beyond the Hype," Raj Rambob preaching*

In a society where hype can harm rather than help our ability to do the work that needs to be done, how can we move beyond the hype to what is most important? Mark 1:40-45

Feb. 19, *"Beyond the Fear," Jerri Handy preaching*

Do you feel like there are extraordinary things you could do if only you could move beyond the fear? Mark 9:2-9

**Winter/Spring Program
brochure coming soon**

Silicon Valley, United Church of Christ *bravely inclusive. boldly Christian. blatantly spiritual*

By Nicole Lamarche

We are living in a time when our country doubts the relevance of religious institutions. But we also live in a time where people are hungry for a place to find meaning, hungry for a safe place to ask profound questions, hungry for a place committed to making the world a better place. The Congregational Church of San Mateo is just such a place and because of our vitality and position as a leading progressive Christian voice, I am seeking to join our energy and spirit to start a new United Church of Christ congregation. I was a CCSM intern in 2002-2003 and since that time have served as Pastoral Resident at Wellesley Congregational Church outside of Boston and pastor of Cotuit Federated Church on Cape Cod.



Silicon Valley United Church of Christ is aimed at young professionals who are turned off by Christianity because of what it has become, but open to the ideas that can be found in the teachings of Jesus. It is so exciting to imagine the possibility of CCSM helping to launch another radically inclusive, progressive Christian community! On November 20th, the Board of Ministries approved my request to bring this before the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 29th. I have already raised \$117,000 for this new church start. Now I am asking CCSM to serve as the Mother Church and to call me in a three-way covenant, put me on CCSM's liability insurance and payroll and allow use of 501c3 (non-profit) status. The costs incurred will be taken out of the money raised. I'm grateful for the prayers and support that CCSM has already offered. Look for me in Kloss Hall to ask questions and join in conversation or be in touch by e-mail, revlamarche@gmail.com

Saturday Morning Educational Programs *(Childcare is provided)*

Saturday, January 7, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

A Strange Book—Thank God! Reading the Bible for Theological Insight and Spiritual Liberation

Rev. Dr. Jay Emerson Johnson: facilitator

How can Christians read the Bible both responsibly and faithfully? Why do Christians keep reading the Bible today? Can we still discern a “living word” in those ancient texts? How can we do that if we don’t read the Bible “literally”? In this workshop, rather than finding just one “correct” way to read the Bible, we’ll consider multiple ways of reading that can surface both theological insight for our lives of faith and sources of spiritual liberation. We’ll also consider the variety of ways the Church has read the Bible over the centuries—some of which seem quite strange today. The Bible itself is a strange book, after all, and that’s part of what makes it such a gift to Christian faith communities.

The Rev. Dr. Jay Emerson Johnson is an Episcopal priest and a member of the core doctoral faculty at the Graduate Theological Union. Jay also serves as Director of Academic Research and Resources at the CLGS in Religion and Ministry at Pacific School of Religion.

Saturday, January 21, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Forensic Activism: A Way to Announce the Presence of God.

Rev. Dr. Carlos Correa: facilitator

What does the Bible say about immigration? What might be a Christian response to immigration? How do we look at social issues and activism as people of faith?

Carlos Correa is the Director of Centro Romero (see bio under guest preacher)

Prayer Shawl Ministry Begins

by Jerri Handy

Knitting with a purpose! Do you knit or crochet? We have a group for you. The **second Tuesday evening at 7:30-8:30 p.m.** of each month I invite you to my home to knit and crochet with a purpose. As we gather each month, we will pray together for the work that we are doing. As we create prayer shawls we will pray for that shawl and for the person who will receive the shawl. It is exciting to create a shawl that will be a tangible sign of love for someone. For more information contact jhandy@ccsm-ucc.org.



Saturday, February 11, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Forgiveness: What It Means, And Why It Is Important.

Rev. Jerri Handy: facilitator

Forgiveness is something each of us deals with in our lives. Some things are easy to forgive and some things are very difficult to forgive. This workshop will offer an opportunity to explore what forgiveness means for ourselves and for the one we forgive.

We will also practice crafting words of forgiveness.

Saturday, February 25, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

The History of Progressive Christianity:

Getting the Show Back on the Road

Dr. Randi Walker: facilitator

What has the progressive Christian movement accomplished in the past 30-40 years (essentially since the civil rights movement) in making the United States a more just society? What are the markers of effectiveness for progressive Christianity? Is there a difference today between the progressive Christian agenda and the liberal political agenda? Who are the progressive Christian leaders who are making a difference?

Dr. Walker is ordained in the United Church of Christ and has served as a pastor in the Southern California Conference. Her current research focuses on the cultural diversity of Protestantism in the North American West from 1850 to 1950, including Mexico, the United States and Canada. Dr. Walker studies the places of interaction across lines of race and culture among Protestants in the North American West, particularly with regard to public policy issues relating to race and culture. Her writings include *The Evolution of a UCC Style: History and Ecclesiology of the United Church of Christ* (2005), *Emma Newman: A Frontier Woman Minister* (2000) and *Protestantism in the Sangre de Christos 1850-1920* (1991).

Membership Inquiry Lunch

Sunday, January 22, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m.

New to CCSM? Want to find out more about what CCSM is about and where you might fit into this spiritual community and the UCC? Want to hear other people’s spiritual journeys and experience the diversity of faith backgrounds around you? You are invited then to join Penny and members of the staff for a light lunch on Sunday January 8th following the worship service. Please RSVP to Penny at pnixon@ccsm-ucc.org. Childcare provided.

Connections

For Men: Band of Brothers (BOB), Two Groups

Spiritual Journey group meet 2nd and 4th Saturdays for fellowship and spiritual conversation. Currently reading Brian McLaren's, *A New Christianity*. Contact: Mike Mullery leeandmike@cs.com.

Modern Men group meet every other Tuesday at the home of Peter Held. Contact Peter at heldpainting@aol.com

For Women: Women's Spirituality Group Forming

Several CCSM women are forming a spirituality group for women. Karen Holderbein is willing to help facilitate this happening. If you are interested, bring a bag lunch on **January 8th** following the worship service and share ideas and help create a group to meet the needs of CCSM women on a spiritual journey.

Monday Night Book Group

Join us on **Monday, January 30** to review our January book **Sarah's Key** by Tatiana de Rosnay. It is a fascinating story about a journalist whose research connects her own life to a Jewish family in 1942. Susan Stoehr is our email guru. Contact her for more information at s_stoehr@hotmail.com.

Kaleidoscope Women's Group

We will meet **Monday, Jan. 9, from 7:00-9:30 p.m.** in the Buckham Room. All are invited to an informal women's group which gathers for good food, fellowship and the sharing of ideas. Since we are all in the mood to de-clutter, bring your top ten organizing tips, plus a quick and easy potluck dish. Shirley McKinnie is our group contact; she would love to answer your questions, 650 486-1449.

Music And Art Circle

Remember our Christmas gathering this **Friday, Dec. 16** is at Bonny Armacost's home at 5 Homeplace Ct., Hillsborough. Call Karin Albright (375-1921) for information or if you need a ride.

January Meeting: The Magic Of Dolls. On **Friday, Jan. 20**, Dona Gaffney, a master doll-maker and apparel designer, will show many of the dolls she has created using a variety of media. Bring a sandwich to the Buckham Room at noon; dessert and beverages are provided. Start the New Year by joining our group that explores all the arts. Guests are welcome and should call Karen Albright (375-1921).

Time Out for Lunch/Dinner

About two years ago, two groups of about eight people each formed to have lunch in one another's homes. The groups decided to meet often enough for every member to co-host a lunch within that six-month period. At the end of six months the groups were re-organized.

Our purpose is to enjoy a meal in others' homes while getting to know one another better. We also started two dinner groups.

Our Time Out For Lunch/Dinner groups are soon to re-organize. We would happily welcome new members into either group. Should you be interested please call the church office or Trudy Duncan at 573-7053.

Wise and Wonderful Seniors!

Wednesday, January 11, 2012. Seniors

Gathering: 10:30 -11:30 a.m. with a box lunch! Our program is "Housing Options for Seniors" with Sherry Plambeck. Ms Plambeck is a regular speaker on the housing choices for seniors on the Peninsula and employed by The Magnolia; however, she brings information about a variety of options. She will also bring a box lunch for 25 people. So please RSVP to the church office **if you plan on attending.**

Tuesday, January 24, 11:00-2:00 p.m. Lunch at It's Italia in Half Moon Bay! Back by popular demand popular demand, seniors will AGAIN carpool to Half Moon Bay to *It's Italia*, a great Italian restaurant owned by former member Betsy Del Fierro. The restaurant is right on Main Street so we might have time to wander in a few shops. Please RSVP to the Church office by Sunday, January 22 and let Betsy know if you are willing to drive.

Looking for the Young-at-Heart

Do your friends often make fond remarks about you like: "He/she's just a big kid." or "We're still waiting for her/him to grow up?" Have you retained a measure of youthful energy that needs some direction? Do you enjoy spending time talking with teenagers about their lives, ideas, and dreams? If you've answered "yes" to the above questions, you may be perfectly suited for youth ministry. To find out more about becoming part of the Youth Ministry Team at CCSM, please contact Raj Rambob, rajrambob@gmail.co, or Bonnie Rambob, brambob@ccsm-ucc.org.

20/30s Lunch Dates

All 20 or 30-Somethings are invited to a monthly lunch gathering on the second Sunday of the month right after church. Sometimes we go to a restaurant; sometimes we potluck or picnic or have a home-cooked meal prepared for us by one of our own (most recently, Chef Amber Piatt). The next gathering is January 8—the place is yet to be determined. To join the Facebook group or email list, contact Raj Rambob, rajrambob@gmail.com.

Sign-up Now For e-Pine Tree

Receive *The Pine Tree* hot off the press on our church website, ccsm-ucc.org! To subscribe for the **e-Pine Tree update notice**, email Kay Harris (kay@communi-ks.com).

Church Offices Schedule:

Church offices will be closed December 26 to 30.

Pearly will be on vacation December 15 to 20.

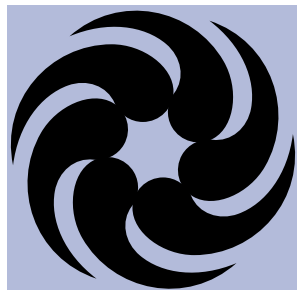
Circles of Trust

By Jerri Handy

Do you ever wish for a moment when life can slow down enough for you to collect and sort out your thoughts? Have there been times when you wish someone would simply listen to you, without giving advice? **Circles of Trust** provides time, space and structure and creates a sanctuary for your soul. Parker Palmer has developed valuable tools to enrich one's life. Parker's basic premise is, **"when soul and role are in line, life is joyful and productive."**

A Circle of Trust is a group that gathers at regularly scheduled meetings (monthly or quarterly). These meetings are an opportunity to reflect, write, listen, learn and share your inner truths. In a Circle of Trust, we move beyond shallow listening to deep listening with open and honest questions. It becomes a safe sanctuary to share, listen and trust with this intentional inner group.

Circle #1, currently meeting on the 4th Tuesday evening from 7-9 p.m., is now a closed group. They are learning the power of deep listening, asking open and honest questions, and trusting the wisdom of the soul.



Circles of Trust

Here at CCSM we *intentionally* wish to draw our circle wider. In January there are opportunities to join as 2 more Circles of Trust are offered.

Circle #2 will meet the **4th Wednesday of each month from 2-4 p.m. here at the church.** This group is focused for those who wish an afternoon group.

Circle #3 will meet once a quarter: **February 11, April 21, July 21, and October 20th in the Library/Conference room upstairs from 10 a.m.-12 noon.** This group is focused for those with a busy schedule but still want to make time for soul work.

I am truly excited by this work and invite as many as are interested to make time to join a Circle of Trust. If you have questions or want to sign up for one of these groups, contact jhandy@ccsm-ucc.org.

Joys & Concerns

Prayers of Joy and Gratitude

George Kromhout celebrates his 94th birthday on December 16th.

Betty Stout will celebrate her 90th birthday on January 3rd.

June Schutte celebrates her 90th birthday on January 6th.

Congratulations George, Betty and June!

Prayers of hope for the New Year to bring moments of remarkable peace to our world.

Prayers of Comfort

Zee Larrew passed away December 4, 2011. Please pray for **Cliff**, and the rest of the family. A memorial service celebrating her courageous life will be held **Saturday, January 7 at 2 p.m.**

Jayne Cox (20's), step granddaughter of **Marjorie Marchant**, passed away in a tragic accident. Please pray for her family and all who loved her.

Evelyn MacDougall passed away on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2011. **Judy** lived with her mother and is deeply impacted; continue to pray for the family.

For all in our congregation who are grieving the loss of someone they loved.

Prayers of Healing and Support

Lynelle Bilsey is recuperating at home. Pray for continued strength and healing of her foot.

Families of **Carol Henton** who are in treatment for cancer. Carol and Doug had a good visit back East with the families over Thanksgiving.

Bob McCune continues to be at home; please pray for Bob as he has good days and bad days.

Lynnette Kady as she tries to live her best self even though it is difficult for her.

For all who are unemployed or under employed. Some among us are feeling the effects of the recession. Please pray for continued economic recovery, strength of character, and hope.

Several people in our congregation have indicated that family members have been diagnosed with cancer. Please hold prayerfully all of those who are dealing with this new diagnosis as well as the families who surround them.

The Pastoral staff thank you for sharing your joys and concerns with us. There are many that we pray for each week; some we can share with the congregation and some that we are asked to hold in confidence. Please know that all of your joys and concerns are important. You can contact the church office or email care@ccsm-ucc.org if you need support.

Global Missions Highlight

Where is Love in Justice?

In the courage of those who use their freedom to set free those who are coerced into involuntary servitude and debt bondage.

In the persistence of those who use their pens to author policy and legislation, creating tough consequences for those who commit crimes against humanity.

In the eloquence of those who use their voices to expose the camouflage hiding sex trafficking of young girls and uproot the foundation of gender-based violence.

In the strength of those who serve as bands of love to foster human security around the world, including the United States.

January 11th is Human Trafficking Awareness Day. The words above are from the Global Ministries website listing resources and information for ways our congregation can be

involved in raising awareness. CCSM is already active in response to the Centro Romero trip. We heard from our own people how they were deeply moved by the stories of Human Trafficking they heard.

Human trafficking, sometimes called modern-day slavery, affects all of our lives and communities. Some of the food we eat may be harvested or prepared by women and men whose labor comes with a heavy price to them. They may be in debt bondage or their identification papers confiscated to prevent them from leaving or reporting abuse to the

authorities. A house down the street may be a place where young women and girls are taken to be sexually exploited and runaway teenagers are preyed upon by traffickers who target vulnerable people.

Churches can be part of the effort to end human trafficking by becoming educated and connecting with those who work to end such violations of human rights.



Choir Boot Camp: Call For Men & Women

Beginning Jan. 4—Wednesdays in Jan., 7-8:30 p.m.,

If you've ever been interested in singing in a choir or wondered what goes on under the robes, this is for you! Come one and all to these free sessions designed to get you into choral shape! Dr. Kathleen McGuire will unravel the mysteries of how to follow along using sheet music, how to understand what the conductor's doing, how to sing in a group setting and hold your own part, and she will answer any burning questions you may have about music in general. The music used in the sessions will be included in our January services, so it will have hands-on, real-life application. Immediate satisfaction guaranteed!

Christmas Concert Success

The Chancel Choir's Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 11 was an impressive success. Featuring *Carols & Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest* by local composer Conrad Susa, selections from Handel's *Messiah*, and sing-along carols, the choir rose to the occasion under its new leadership.

"This fall has been an exciting time of transition for the Choir," said Minister of Music and Arts, Dr. Kathleen McGuire. "I hope that some of the congregants who have sung in the past, or who have always wanted to join, will come and be part of the Choir in 2012."

Angela Kraft Cross skillfully accompanied the Choir at the organ and the piano, along with members of the Community Women's Orchestra, and congregant Chris Yeh on violin. The concert ended with an encore of *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen* sung by the Merry Gentlemen (Band of Brothers) of CCSM. Angela also played some stirring solo organ selections throughout the program.

Our Kathleen McGuire Receives Award

On Tuesday, December 13, our Minister of Music and Arts, Dr. Kathleen McGuire, received an award as a 2011 **ABC7 Profiles of Excellence** honoree. The ceremony, held at the ABC Broadcast Center in San Francisco, included ABC7's President and General Manager Bill Burton, plus several ABC7 on-air personalities. The award was for her work in the Bay Area as a community leader with such groups as CCSM, Singers of the Street, San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus, and the Community Women's Orchestra. Congratulations, Kathleen!



The Pine Tree

A newsletter for the families & friends of the
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