



October 2020 THE MESSENGER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BELMONT

751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont CA 94002 • 650-593-4547 • CCB@ccbelsmont.org • www.CCBelmont.org



CCB youth joined others from the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition to clean up Poplar Beach on the San Mateo County Coast on their school holiday in October. More photos appear on Page 2.

It's time! Our StoryCatchers are ready for you

Dear CCB Members and Friends,

This letter comes to invite your participation in CCB FutureCARE 2020: A Social and Spiritual Exploration of the Future in a most important way — story sharing.

There are other ways to take part but this is the one way we hope everyone will join in the next month. Please read on and take your step to move this community closer to the future that beckons.

Make a Date With StoryCatchers

First, find a date and time with the StoryCatchers so you can join a 90-minute gathering on the veranda or on Zoom. You can do this by going to the SignUpGenius link [here](#):

If you would prefer an in-person, mask-to-mask driveway or garden visit, we will make every effort to accommodate you. Just

let me or Lea Mavroudis, our wonderful Office Administrator, know your preference by phone at (650) 593-4547 or by email at office@ccbelsmont.org.



Pastor Liz Clement

let me or Lea Mavroudis, our wonderful Office Administrator, know your preference by phone at (650) 593-4547 or by email at office@ccbelsmont.org. By the way, StoryCatchers are those lovely folk who will facilitate these sessions to mine the many stories in this congregation and bring them to light and to life. They include Leslie Marx, Garrett House, Danielle Chamberlin, Elizabeth

Nordt, Maura Whitmore and me. (I wouldn't miss this for the world!)

Who? How?

As we sometimes say where I come from, "Y'all come!" Members and friends who happen, for whatever reason, not to be members, all are welcome. If you can see yourself as part of this community in the future, we want you to sign up and join in.

You can sign up as an individual, as couples and families or as entire pandemic pods. If you would like to host a gathering on your porch, the veranda here, or the amphitheatre out back of your home, we will do our best to find StoryCatchers to be with you.

Four to six people is a nice number. For more people, add more time.

See STORYCATCHERS, PAGE 7

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation valuing everyone's race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, class, physical and mental abilities.

Covid forces Family to Family into new shape

By Irene Hall

Family to Family has always been an important holiday tradition at CCB, but this year will be different in how Samaritan House, through its donors like us, will be supporting families and seniors in need.

We will not be adopting individual families as we usually have done. We will be giving in specific ways, and the families will pick up their gifts by driving through at Samaritan House.

Here's how we can help!

1. Purchase a warm jacket or coat for children and teens, any color, any size. Please do not wrap. Drop them off at church in the barrel in the Narthex. Or purchase jackets and have them sent to the church to the attention of Lea Mavroudis, the CCB admin.

2. Make a cash donation by mailing a check made out to CCB to the church to the attention of Lea. Please write Family to Family in the memo line on your check. Or you can donate using your credit card by going to the CCB Square account and typing Family to Family in the box that asks for the address for the tax deductible letter. This money will be used to buy Target and Safeway gift cards for the families.

The deadline for our gifts to be received at the church is Nov. 22. This early date will allow Samaritan House to organize the drive-through pick-ups.



Thank you for all your support this year from the Family to Family team, which includes Andrew Altorfer, Elizabeth Nordt and me.

The need has tripled. Please let your family and friends know they can donate jackets and money too.

Missing our CCB community? Join us in a virtual Harvest Dinner Nov. 21

By Steve Chamberlin

Have you missed the feeling of shared community with your church friends?

On Saturday Nov. 21 at 7 p.m., we hope you'll join us for a special edition of the church's annual Harvest Dinner.

Due to COVID-19, this year's event will be moving online over Zoom, so that we can include the largest possible number of people without needing to worry over health risks.

You can sit by your fireplace with a glass of wine while enjoying conversation with distant friends who miss seeing you as much as you miss them.

In place of our traditional Thanksgiving meal, this year we're encouraging everyone to bring a special holiday dessert to eat during the Zoom event.

Maybe it's an old family recipe, or a cultural tradition, or simply food that makes you happy. During the call we'll talk about what we brought and why it's significant to us.

We'll have a chance to share those recipes, tell stories of our favorite holiday traditions, and chat about whatever else comes to mind.

The more, the merrier, so mark your calendar for Nov. 21!



Magazines are being collected for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service in January. You are invited to leave your magazines (with your address label removed) in the plastic bin on the front porch of the church. The Peninsula Multifaith Coalition will deliver them to nursing homes.

To go to the Congregational Church of Belmont website, click on [CCB](#).

**CALIFORNIA STATE
NOVEMBER ELECTIONS 2020**

**FAITH
VOTES**
FOR LOVE AND JUSTICE



VOTER GUIDE

For Faith And Spiritual Communities Concerned About Racial Justice in California



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Unlocking the Power of People™

Published by PICO CA Action Fund, whose mission is to help build a world where everyone belongs, everyone thrives, and has agency over their lives.

Get your copy [here](#).

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CROP Walk rides (this year) to ease hunger

By Georgi LaBerge

The parking lot of Congregational Church of Belmont was the starting point for the Oct. 18 Car Parade to raise funds for the 2020 CROP Hunger Walk.

Due to the pandemic, supporters formed a car parade instead of walking together on the usual route in Menlo Park. The parade traveled to the Ecumenical Hunger Program in East Palo Alto where donations of staples were delivered.

CCB members were joined in the parade by reps from First Church Redwood City and Hillsdale Methodist Church.

In CCB's parking lot, cars were decorated with posters and inspiring messages written on car windows, and cash and check donations were collected.

The parade of cars began at 1:30 to make its way to EHP to deposit a substantial supply of beans, rice, canned goods and cleaning supplies. Paraders were welcomed by director of the program Nevada Butler and her development associate Ellen Izuka.

Some church members took advantage of the opportunity to tour the warehouse facility that serves hundreds of needy people in the county every week.

CCB has participated in the hunger walk for many years which is sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to alleviate hunger around the world. One quarter of what is raised by Peninsula CROP Walk goes to the EHP.

You can still make a financial dona-

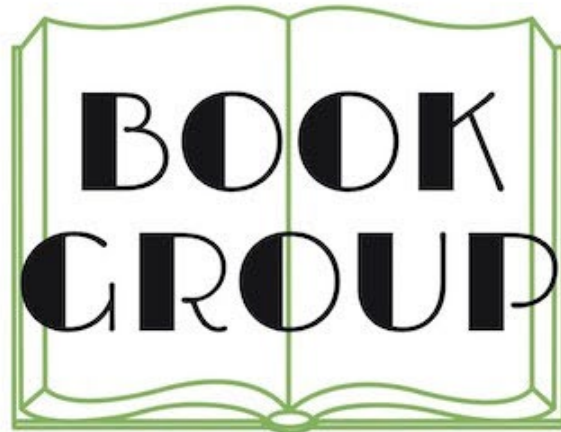


tion to this worthy cause, and send it to the church office. Make your check out to CCB and write on the memo line: CROP Hunger Walk.

To go to the Congregational Church of Belmont website, click on [CCB](#).



Peninsula Multifaith
Coalition invites you
to our first monthly



Tuesday, November 10 • 7-8 pm

**SEE NO
STRANGER**

**A MEMOIR AND
MANIFESTO OF
REVOLUTIONARY
LOVE**

VALARIE KAUR

How do we love in a time of rage?
How do we fix a broken world
while not breaking ourselves?
Valarie Kaur—renowned Sikh
activist, filmmaker, and civil
rights lawyer—describes
revolutionary love as the call of
our time, a radical, joyful practice
that extends in three directions:
to others, to our opponents, and
to ourselves. It enjoins us to look
at others and say: *You are part of
me I do not yet know.*

RSVP to revkristi@aol.com

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StoryCatchers

Continued from Page One

What you can expect

In these story-sharing sessions, we will experience the CARE practices:

- Create a space for exploration;
- Ask self-awakening questions;
- Reflect theologically; and
- Enact or experiment.

In these practices, we create together a safe and welcoming place to look within and beyond and, most importantly, we have time to visit and deepen relations among ourselves. (There are four CARE practices but the greatest of these is this space.) And we will be careful to honor the time and the stories you share.

What is CCB FutureCARE 2020?

FutureCARE 2020 is the “futures journey” CCB has begun as part of my work here as your interim pastor.

Since March, a small group of members and I have been working to create this “journey” toward the future with fresh vision and new leadership. It is the whole community engagement about which you have been hearing and reading. Just to refresh your memory, the FutureCARE FAQ is included below.

I am excited about this new beginning (can you tell?) and eagerly looking forward to getting to know many of you much better and to meet others. Until then (and very soon),

Grace upon grace,

Rev. Elizabeth M. Clement

The FAQs: WHAT is it?

A social and spiritual exploration of the Future.

• A congregation-wide, learning journey to help CCB make wise, realistic and sustainable decisions about the future of CCB, and to accomplish these outcomes:

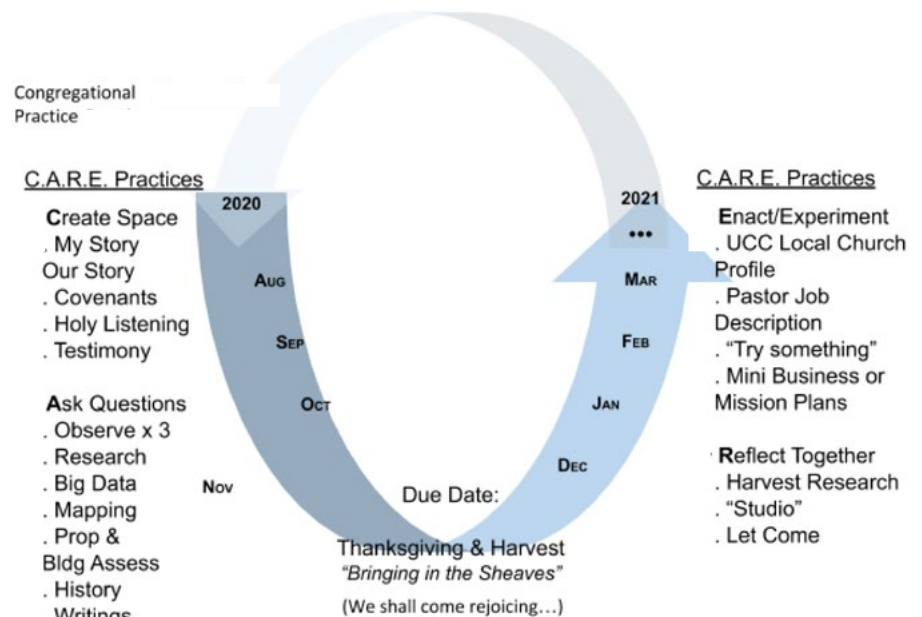
• Complete the UCC local church profile equipped with a comprehensive sense of the strengths and challenges faced, as well as a realistic picture of possible future directions as CCB seeks to refresh its mission/ministry in the future.

• Describe clearly the leadership required to serve that future story and begin the search for appropriate candidates.

• Practice communal discernment to follow God’s leading in choosing future

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The UPath



direction and ministry opportunities in this community.

• Learn, discuss, explore and move to action in healthy, generative and highly collaborative ways in which the collective good takes priority over the sum of any parts.

• “...the whole congregation journeyed by stages...as the LORD commanded.” (Exodus 17:1a)

WHY is CCB doing this?

To explore and clarify who we are and are becoming, what we care most about, and what we/CCB intend to give ourselves and resources to in the future as a congregation of God’s people. This approach involves every member who will take part in discerning what mission and ministry God calls this congregation to going forward. When that is clear, we/CCB will know what pastoral leader to seek to serve among us.

ONE BIG ASSUMPTION: Historically, Christians believe congregations form in response to a call by God to live fully, authentically in our unique gifts and experience, joining in God’s work for good in the world God so loved, and each of us, too. That is the “future story” we want to know more about.

Q: WHO is responsible?

We all are; everyone who is willing to

participate. FutureCARE uses a “community approach” that grows relationships, spiritual practice, communication and leadership skills as we go along.

We will use a particular kind of story — our personal stories and our shared stories — as a space to explore while making the shift from what has been to what will be. Stories are excellent containers for the truth of our lives and our deepest intentions; they help us become aware of what we care most about and what we desire give our time, talents, and resources to in the future.

HOW will CCB do this?

A: CCB will embark on a learning journey together to sense and name emerging future possibilities (rather than reacting to or continuing patterns of the past). The social and spiritual “path” (UPath) of discernment we use adapts approaches taken in Forum for Theological Education’s VocationCARE, Marshall Ganz’ (Harvard) Public Narrative and Otto Scharmer’s Theory U (MIT).

WHEN will FutureCARE happen?

We’re starting this week and, our journey should be drawing to an end in December or early January. Many of the tasks and practices can be done simultaneously. The energetic participation of everyone in this community is urged and desired.



Boost our Chocolate Fest Partners — place your order, share the program with friends

By Micki Carter

Last month we should have been deep into preparation for the 38th edition of Chocolate Fest at the Congregational Church of Belmont. We would have thrown open the doors to welcome old friends and new chocolate-lovers and introduce longtime chocolate dessert makers who have been our Chocolate Fest partners over the years.

But, of course, it's not to be. What we are really deep into is Covid, and Chocolate Fest is just one of its victims this year.

But instead of grieving (and day-dream-

ing about Oct. 15 and 16 next year), we want to offer you the chance to show our partners some holiday love.

Nearly all the chocolate dessert makers who offer their wares for sampling, year after year, at Chocolate Fest are struggling in this pandemic, so we have created an opportunity for them to pick five items from their repertoire that we will showcase for holiday ordering.

Those partners who jumped at the chance are Brehmer's Candy, 3D Candies, NeoCocoa, CocoTutti, Jade Chocolate, Charlotte's

Truffles, The Cocoa Exchange and Preston's Candy, who was our first Chocolate Fest partner 38 years ago.

We've wrapped the items they've chosen to share in a convenient [order form](#) which we hope you will use and share with friends and family.

This is how it works:

After perusing the offerings of each of the partners featured, you choose the items you want on the pull-down menu under each item and then add the required contact information at the end.

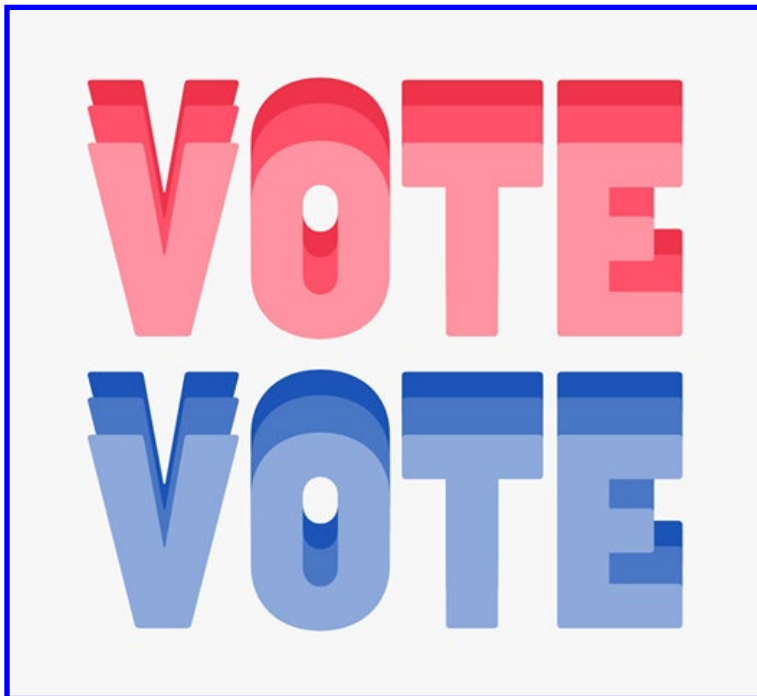
We forward your order to the partners whose product you have selected, and the partners will contact you to accept your payment.

Each of the partners will deliver your orders to the church, and we will contact you to arrange for free pickup. You also have the option to have your items shipped for an additional shipping fee.

That's it!

Our wonderful partners will be returning a portion of the amount they receive from this program so future Chocolate Fests (and community organizations like Samaritan House and Second Harvest) benefit as well. However, you must use this Chocolate Fest Partners [order form](#) to provide this additional benefit.

We hope Boosting Our Chocolate Fest Partners will keep Chocolate Fest 2021 (on Oct. 15 and 16) and our incredibly valuable partners in the front of your mind this holiday season.



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Children's Sabbath focuses on justice and joy

By Danielle Chamberlin

During the month of October, our youth worked together over Zoom to put together CCB's first virtual Children's Sabbath – a huge success. Our big thanks and a big round of applause goes to Elizabeth Nordt for once again leading the kids in this October tradition.

If you didn't get a chance to watch it live on Oct. 18, I highly recommend you watch the recording [here](#). Our kids shared with us their wisdom and advice on the topic of "Justice and Joy for all Children."

Especially for this voting season, they explained what issues are important to them and why – even though children can't vote. It's important for adults to vote with our children's best interests in mind.

They shared with us their efforts towards climate justice at the Peninsula Multifaith Beach Clean-up, and even taught us a new, inclusive way to say "Peace be with you" in American Sign Language.

November brings us both Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving. Linda Howard has volunteered to lead our youth in an activity to



Andrew demonstrates how to sign "Peace Be With You."

share how we are thankful for our veterans.

And building on our very successful virtual Children's Sabbath, we will be starting to plan for our first virtual Christmas

Pageant this year. We're looking forward towards more fall fellowship, finding new ways to preserve old traditions in this challenging year.

December Messenger deadline will be Monday, Nov. 23



THE MESSENGER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BELMONT
751 ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS
BELMONT CA 94002

CCB Admin Lea is now in the church office on a regular basis. New church office hours are 1-5 p.m. Mondays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. If you need to come in, call the church office at 650-593-4547. Lea will let you in. Be sure to wear your mask and observe social distancing.