



The youth of CCB spent their last two Saturday sessions at Thornhill and Garrett House, and then planting the veggies building raised bed planters, under the direction of Greg for their Pizza Garden. See more photos on Page 3.

Pastor Liz feels the tug of home once again

My dear Friends,
Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) Acts 8:26

The one thing about interim ministry is you're always coming and going, and one is always easier than the other.

For the coming, a congregation sends out a call, I come, and we make a path together.

Short of being shown the door, when is the right time to go? Going is harder for all



Pastor Liz Clement

sorts of reasons and knowing when is even harder. It always helps if an angel speaks to you, even if all they have to say is, "it'll be a wilderness road."

For some weeks now, "something" has been pulling me toward home and whispering voices are saying, "It's time for you to go home."

Was it an angel? Don't I like to think? More important, I have heard: It's time for me "to get up and go" just like Philip down that wilderness road.

I've never faced the "right

time" question without considering carefully the condition of the congregation I leave. This is not exactly the same as asking "have I done what I was called to do" but certainly related. What we are doing together during my tenure has everything to do with your readiness to move on beyond me.

So, is CCB in a good place for me to move on? My answer is a resounding Yes!

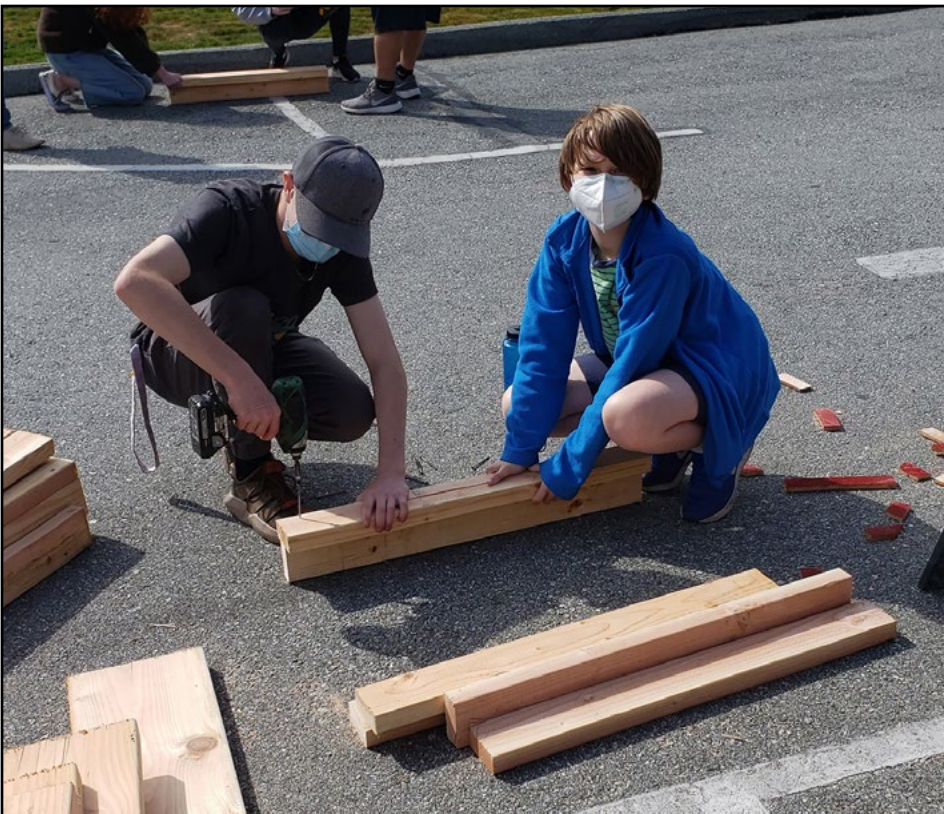
There can be no question after last Sunday's worship. Confined to my bed following a medical misadventure, you stepped up on virtually no notice to create an excellent worship experience. That show of readiness was streamed for all the world to see.

I tried not to take it personally. Every
See PASTOR LIZ, Page 7

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



CCB youth (and lots of adults) dedicated two Saturday afternoons to building raised garden beds and then planting them with tomatoes, peppers, onions and other vegetables as part of their Pizza Garden project that is now in place at the southwest corner of the church (in all-day sun, protected from the wind, close to water and away from the deer!) Stop by to take a look at their Earth Day project at CCB!



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



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An almost normal Easter with all that jazz!

On just our third Sunday back in the Sanctuary, we celebrated a unique Easter Sunday with some of our traditional trappings as well as masks and social distance to remind us that we are still in the grip of the pandemic although its grasp make be relaxing a bit. To make it particularly celebratory, the Michael Medwid Trio set up

drums, vibes and a bass in the Sanctuary to create an Easter in jazz! We decorated the flower cross to for the altar, as we do every Easter, and then the children went out onto the front lawn in search of Easter eggs that some secret bunnies had hidden. This year members had to bring eggs that were hard-boiled and DYED as well!



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Kids get a lesson in transformation and magic!

By Linda Howard

Spring is a time of transition, rebirth and metamorphosis. What could be more metamorphic (besides rocks) than caterpillars turning into butterflies? It's a Cinderella story of the humble, caterpillar turning into a winged beauty we know as a butterfly.

Several children in our church took on the task of adopting mail-order caterpillars and nurturing them as they turned into butterflies. Like all births, the process was miraculous.

Initially, the caterpillars are placed in small, plastic containers with a light brown substance at the bottom. This is their food for the next 10 days or so. Eventually, the caterpillars crawl to the top of the containers and hang down in a J formation. The process of building the chrysalis begins.

After several days, the butterfly emerges from the chrysalis. The change is complete. Without any instruction or guidance, after a feeble flapping of wings, the butterfly takes flight and begins a new life.

A few human butterfly parents were asked to comment on the experience of raising a caterpillar into a butterfly. The following are their observations and/or questions:

- Eventually they made cocoons. This seemed to take a long time. We kept waiting and waiting. We checked them daily.
- How did they move around and make it to the ceiling?
- One day they were so small and suddenly they got so big.
- The butterflies enjoyed the flowers and fruits that we placed inside.
- It was exciting seeing them fly away. They rested on the calla lilies in the backyard.
- I felt like I had a responsibility to take care of the butterflies.
- Maybe next year we can raise tadpoles!

Raising butterflies in the spring has become an annual tradition at the Congregational Church of Belmont. It is magical to see the transition from a caterpillar to a butterfly. Miracles happen!

Diapers for Samaritan House

Samaritan House has made an emergency request for disposable diapers and pull-ups. All sizes are welcome. Please bring diapers or pull-ups to church in the next two weeks. The diapers can be brought by on Sunday or any other time during the week.



Lunches for Open Cathedral

The youth of our church will meet on the veranda to make sandwiches for the Open Cathedral Night Ministry program on Saturday, May 29, at 3:30 p.m.

Then on the next day we will need additional help loading the sacks with the sandwiches and other food items. We will do this before the church service, starting at 9:30. All volunteers are welcome either Saturday or Sunday, but we especially need help Sunday morning to get the sack lunches ready.

As usual, wear masks and prepare to assemble lunches 6 feet apart.

In addition to these dates at our church, the youth will have another opportunity for service at 11 a.m. May 22 in Foster City. The Teen Multi-Faith group will meeting to assemble sandwiches for Open Cathedral as well.

Child care will be back in May

By Danielle Chamberlin

We will restart child care for younger kids in our service on May 16. By then our childcare workers will be fully vaccinated.

Our three childcare workers — Josette, Renee and Kendall — will supervise our children on the playground or with crafts for the remainder of spring and summer.

We look forward to restarting our Sunday School lessons in September.

Family Camp will return July 16-18 to Monte Toyon; sign up right away

By Henry Altorfer

Family Camp is returning to Monte Toyon July 16-18, and we've again booked Cary Lodge.

Only an hour away in Aptos, Monte Toyon UCC Campgrounds are beautiful and peaceful. We arrive after dinner on Friday in time for the first campfire and stay through lunch on Sunday, after a simple celebration of the sacred in the chapel.

We have a second campfire on Saturday.

In between we are off the clock and able to enjoy one another as in no other environment. The hiking is fantastic!

Check out the slide show on the [CCB website](#) for photos from 2019.

Adults are \$150 per person and children 6 to 12 are \$90. Children under 6 are free. Scholarships are available for everyone who asks Pastor Liz in confidence.

To register (as early as possible, please), send your name and the number of kids in each category to Lea at Office@CCBelmont.org. Pop a check made out to CCB (with Family Camp on the memo line) in the mail to cover the cost. Invite your friends as well!

Additionally we may rent the climbing wall for \$250 on Saturday morning from 9-11 a.m. We'll have to give them a commitment on that by early June.

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

Finances look good as CCB moves out of shelter-in-place

By Mike Venturino
Treasurer

In May of 2020, shortly after the first pandemic shelter-in-place order, the church applied for and was granted a loan of \$19,609 under the government's Payroll Protection Program.

Under that program it was possible for all or part of the loan to be forgiven if the money were used for approved purposes. We applied last December to have most of the loan forgiven.

The church was recently advised by our bank, Bank of America, that the portion of the loan that we asked be forgiven (\$17,211.06) had indeed been forgiven. We were not able to use all the money that we applied for during the period specified by the program.

The remaining amount is a simple term loan at one percent interest. The Trustees will decide whether to repay it in full, use it as a loan or something else.

Also, at Annual Meeting, the congregation asked for periodic updates on our fiscal

situation. So, three months after seems like a good time to report that the Congregational Church of Belmont is in remarkably good shape, financially.

Pledges are coming in as promised, and longterm renters have been meeting their obligations. Some (such as Cathedral de Familia, the congregation that uses our Sanctuary on Sunday afternoons) have reduced the amount of space they rent, but that is expected to return to pre-pandemic levels by the end of the year.

Perhaps most encouraging of all has been the giving response from the distant members of our congregation who have become regular live-stream viewers. Some give on a monthly basis, and many have made generous one-time gifts.

This is particularly good news since we're never sure if anyone's actually on the listening and viewing end of our Facebook video.

Finally, I want to offer special thanks to Keith Howard for taking over the responsibility of Financial Secretary. Thanks, Keith!

Pastor Liz

Continued from Page One

pastor hopes for such a seamless transition when it's needed. Even behind the camera, literally, we saw a younger generation stepping up and into the roles needed.

That is happening throughout the life of this congregation and, in my mind, is only the start of a new beginning.

In the ministry of transitions, my job is to notice, name and nurture the gifts and callings of the members here. My call includes seeing in CCB what you may not see in your own selves. And I have that luxury in my role.

My calling is to help you notice, name and nurture YOUR calling, and then to live towards that together, confident and joyful. (That's my favorite part of the work and why I am confident and joyful to keep living in this coming and going calling, wilderness roads notwithstanding.)

Looking back over these last 14 months with you — and what a year it has been! God, in God's mercy, heard our prayers.

Even in this pandemic storm, CCB has identified and grown its collective gifts, raised up leaders, discovered new focus and direction for ministry, and begun to reach toward the future with hope, imagination and confidence (visioning).

We have come quite a way together, and we can all be thankful for that.

With this confidence in your readiness, by this document, I submit to the Congregational Church of Belmont, United Church of Christ, 90 days' notice of my intention to vacate the position of Interim Pastor among you.

I have notified the Rev. Davena Jones, Associate Conference Minister for the Northern California Nevada Conference of this, and envision taking leave in early August 2021.

The good news is that this gives us ample time together to grieve some (I will need this), to discern how best to move smoothly to the next season with joy, and be prepared to welcome another, new voice in your midst.

This is an important part of the "right

Removal of choir loft in the works

Prepare yourself for some changes in the looks of the Sanctuary in the next few months.

Church Council voted at its April meeting to remove the choir loft in the southwest corner of the Sanctuary. The Trustees were asked to submit a plan for the removal and the development of the space for the Council's review.

The Choir Loft hasn't been used much in the last 10 years since the acoustics in that corner are particularly daunting. The walls seem to absorb the sound of the voices rather than reflect them back to the congregation.

It's also difficult for the choir to hear the musicians from there.

As a result, the choir almost always gathers on the altar stairs and sings from there. They can hear and be heard much better from that position, especially when they are joined by the Youth Choir.

The Council will study the possible uses for the added Sanctuary space, but primary among them will be additional room for flexible uses.

time" question, and you can count on me to be here for you and with you for these three months.

Where am I going? I don't know exactly where "home" is right now (a long, down-sizing story lies ahead) but I know it's in the direction of Atlanta and east of here. Pray that an angel will speak to me and Mr. Clement in these next three months so we can give the movers direction. And I will be listening for my next call.

How can I possibly say goodbye to you? I face that difficult challenge with both sadness and joy for the time we have journeyed together. God has favored and blessed us in this time, without doubt.

Speaking for myself: CCB, I thank God for you and for the blessing you are to me and will be always as I continue to live in my calling to serve the church in transition.

We will meet again on this road and we will sing together, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

Grace upon grace,
Rev. Elizabeth Mitchell Clement
Serving the Church in Transition

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ANNUAL RAMADAN INTERFAITH PENINSULA IFTAR 2021

"RAMADAN AS A CELEBRATION OF
COMPASSION AND UNITY"

In honor of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, Pacifica Institute and Peninsula Multifaith Coalition invites everyone to discuss the many lessons of Ramadan, including the importance of being charitable and especially generous with those in need, and how these injunctions are particularly relevant during this challenging time.

Join us in the Holy Month of Ramadan for an inspiring interfaith program while enjoying community breakout sessions, speakers, Call to Prayer and more...

Monday, May 3, 2021 · 7pm to 8pm

June Messenger deadline will be Monday, May 24



**Do you have a graduate in
your family this spring?**

**Please let us know so we can honor all our
graduates, from pre-school to college.**

**Send an email to Office@CCBelmont.org so
we can acknowledge them all
and celebrate together.**

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