



Trains of Thought Pastor Sally leaps into her recurring role with CCB

By Interim Minister Sally Train

The last three weeks have been a delightful whirlwind of worship, re-introductions and catching up.

What a joy it has been to see you all again! I am so delighted to be here. I am looking forward to learning more about your journey over the last 17 months and your hopes and dreams for the future.

As you may know, I am a bi-vocational minister. That is a fancy word for saying I have another half-time job. I teach reading and spelling to students who struggle in those areas. I live in Walnut Creek.

I am currently driving to Belmont on Sunday mornings for worship, meetings, and/or visits. I work from home during the week and am happy to meet with people online.

If you wish to talk with me, just call, text, or email me and I will be happy to set up an appointment. If there is an emergency or pastoral concern, I want to hear from you.

Contact information

Email: Pastor@ccbmont.org. I tend to check my emails in the morning and may not get back to them until the next morning. So be patient. I will reply.

Phone: 925-216-9706. If I am with a student, I will not pick up, but please leave

See Trains of Thought, Page 8



Rev. Sally Train



Remember those raised garden beds that the Tweens and Teens of CCB built last spring? Well, it's harvest time, and the kids used their first basket of garden bounty for four pizzas (which they shared with the congregation). They were just sad that they couldn't grow any mozzarella. That they had to buy! Now they're deciding how to get those great veggies to people who use our Blessings Box. Stand by.



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



Honoring Bob Donovan on his centennial!



Happy 100th Birthday, Bob!

Your friends at the Congregational Church of Belmont want you to know how much we have valued you as a friend, longtime member and energetic participant in the life of this church!

To show our love, 30 of us are going to join you at the ballgame on Sept. 5 to watch the San Francisco Giants take on the dreaded Los Angeles Dodgers.

Our seats at Oracle Park are as close to the Section 313 View Reserve seats that your baseball consortium held for nearly 20 years as we could get!

We'll pick you and Ella Mae up in a limousine and bring you right to the gate and take you home again! A ballpark dinner of your choice is on us!

We're taking you out to the ballgame!



Click [here](#) to see how the City of Belmont honored Bob.



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



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Snapshots from Family Camp



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

CCB transition goes on under new leadership

By Danielle Chamberlin

Over the summer, the CCB search committee of Greg Thornhill, Elizabeth Nordt, Linda Howard, Danielle Chamberlin, Garrett House and Kendall House has continued to draft our Local Church Profile.

What is a Local Church Profile? The UCC describes it this way:

“The new Local Church Profile supports the calling and discernment of United Church of Christ congregations with their current or future pastoral leadership.

“For many congregations, the interim time between ministers is an intentional season that is guided in part by the preparation of a Local Church Profile.

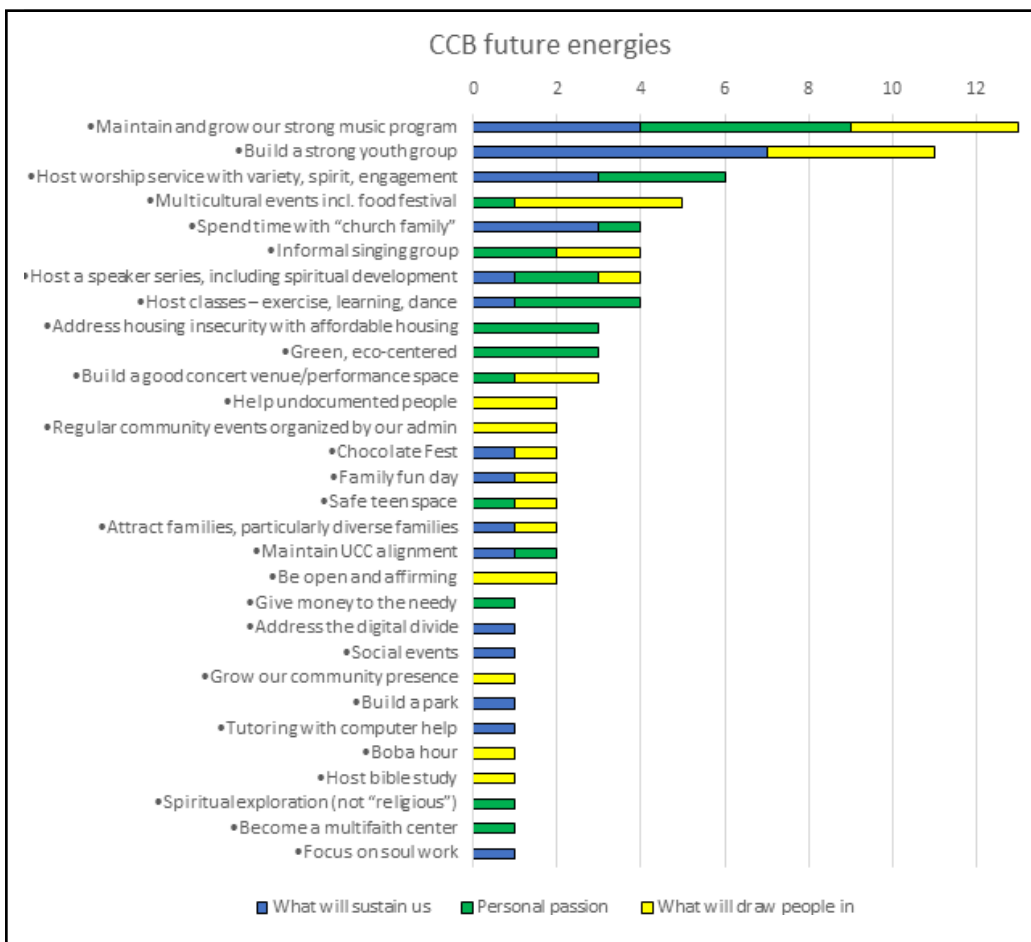
“Using the profile, the church can discover its data and express its story for the reliable discernment of a search committee and the beginning of a new pastorate. Searching ministers will want to see this document in its entirety.

“The interim season is not the only time in a church’s life when it’s valuable to give attention to explore a congregation’s vocation. Three sections of the Local Church Profile – Who are we now? Who is our neighbor? Who is God calling us to become? – are meant to be updated every three-five years.”

We are incorporating the feedback the congregation provided via the church visioning process about where our energies lie and our priorities for the future – the branches from the “Tree” we put together. The results of the sticker voting we did in the Narthex can be seen in the bar graph below.

Next, the visioning committee, together with Council, will be working on the “trunk” of the tree – what structure the church should take to implement those priorities going forward.

Pastor Sally Train has come to us with new energy and great ideas for leading us through this process going forward, and we look forward to working with her through the fall.



Dealing with the apartment’s piping

By Greg Thornhill

With the vacancy of the apartment upon Pastor Liz’s departure, Trustees decided to take on a much-needed and long overdue project — addressing the water supply issues in the apartment.

Water pressure was notoriously low so that getting hot water to the shower took several minutes, and as previous plumbers have told us, wasn’t allowing the dishwasher to work properly.

The issue seems to be that the original galvanized pipes had become gummed up, not only restricting water supply, but creating the constant risk of leaks.

So we’ve brought in plumbers to bring a new water supply into the apartment and to cap off the old galvanized pipes as far back toward the source as is possible. Additionally we’ve taken some initial steps to getting

a washer/dryer unit in the apartment itself.

The plumbers wrapped up the initial phase of the work with all the apartment fixtures replumbed. After we patch various access holes they had to make in the walls, they’ll come back for the finish work.

This issue goes back as far as I can remember but has progressively gotten worse. It was simply time to get it fixed.

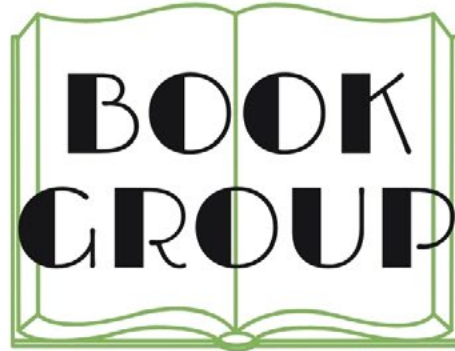
After getting multiple bids, Maura Whitmore was able to connect us with a neighbor’s son who is, in his words, giving us “the Paul Anderson discount.”

What a great treat it was to deal with Frankie from North South Plumbing (I highly recommend his crew). Not only did we get an extremely reasonable price from him, but the added benefit of reminiscing on how much we loved and miss Paul.

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



Peninsula Multifaith Coalition
invites you to our monthly



Tuesday, Sept. 14 • 7-8:30 pm

**"The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone
and How We Can Prosper Together"**

by Heather McGhee



Heather McGhee's specialty is the American economy—and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. From the financial crisis to rising student debt to collapsing public infrastructure, she found a common root problem: racism. Racism has costs for white people, too. It is the common denominator of our most vexing public

problems, the core dysfunction of our democracy and constitutive of the spiritual and moral crises that grip us all. But how did this happen? And is there a way out?

(Part I: We'll explore Part II in October)

RSVP to revkristi@aol.com

We can cover the cost of the book, if needed

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

Crop Hunger Walk will be the Special Offering for September



Mid-Peninsula CROP Hunger Walk *

WHAT is the CROP Hunger Walk?

Each year, our community comes together to raise money and awareness for hunger relief locally and around the world through the CROP Hunger Walk. Roughly 1,000 CROP Hunger Walks happen every year in the United States. Walkers ask family, neighbors, colleagues and places of worship to pledge dollars for their participation in a .6 mile, 1 mile, 3 miles, or 5 mile walk. Our steps symbolize the daily journey others must make for food and clean water.

WHEN?

The Mid-Peninsula CROP Hunger Walk will be held on **Sunday October 3, 2021** beginning at 2:00 pm. (Registration begins at 1:00 pm)
AND VIRTUAL August 1 – October 3, 2021!

WHERE?

Nealon Park, 800 Middle Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025
AND VIRTUAL on the Mid-Peninsula CROP Hunger Walk Facebook page and Instagram page <https://www.facebook.com/midpencrowwalk>

WHO gets the money?

One-fourth of the funds raised stays in our community to support local hunger and poverty fighting programs. This year's walk will support the work of **Ecumenical Hunger Program**. The remaining money is used by **Church World Service** to alleviate hunger in poor communities throughout the world. Donors can also allocate 75% of their donation to a cooperating U.S. based international relief agency, with 25% going to the **Ecumenical Hunger Program**.

WHO is helped?

In addition to assisting hungry families in our area, CROP helps families in the United States and around the world who are victims of disasters like Hurricane Sandy, the earthquake in Haiti, and refugees fleeing war or famine. CROP also supports development projects in the world's poorest communities - agricultural training, health clinics, micro-businesses, schools, and fresh water wells.

WHO should participate?

EVERYONE! CROP Hunger Walks are community events involving everyone who wants to fight hunger around the block and around the world. Our walk encourages teams and individuals from public and private schools, civic and cultural groups, area businesses, and all faith groups.

COST?

There is NO FEE to participate. All donations are helpful, but each walker is encouraged to raise \$100 or more.

For more information, contact Mary Beth Train, 650-324-7346 – mbt3305@yahoo.com

<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/menloparkca>

* Formerly San Francisco Peninsula CROP Hunger Walk

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



CCB said goodbye to Pastor Liz with a fabulous taco bar dinner (thank you, Greg Thornhill!) July 30 with line dancing as an added benefit. Pastor Liz has returned to the Florida church she had served before coming to CCB.

The Pop-up Chocolate Shop will open at CCB on Oct. 9

By Micki Carter

Chocolate Fest 2021 will take a new shape this year when CCB launches its Pop-up Chocolate Shop Oct. 9.

The usual three-session chocolate-tasting event, now in its 38th year, will defer to the ongoing Covid-19 crisis again this year and opt for a safer way to showcase our Chocolate Fest partners, both in-person and online.

Ten of our faithful chocolatiers will offer their products for purchase in a Pop-up Chocolate Shop from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Dining Room of the church, which will be decked out in its usual Chocolate Fest finery. Guests will be invited to shop for their holiday chocolate gifts then — and until Thanksgiving, using the Chocolate Fest online shopping site which will open that day as well.

The Chocolate Fest silent auction will be featured as well.

The Pop-up Chocolate Shop and the online site will again offer our partners the opportunity to connect with Chocolate Fest fans until we can return to our usual

chocolate-tasting format.

A portion of our proceeds once again will benefit the community through organizations like Samaritan House and Second Harvest.

We will ask that our in-person shoppers at the Pop-up Chocolate Shop be vaccinated and masked; others are of course welcome to use the online shopping site.

Look for more details at ChocolateFestofBelmont.org; Eventbrite invitations will go out soon. We are asking for RSVPs so we know to how many to expect although there is no door charge for the Pop-Up Shop.

We will be needing CCB volunteers for the Pop-up Chocolate Shop to handle a variety of tasks including decorating the Dining Room, setting up the shop and staffing it on Oct. 9, handling the logistics of the silent auction and clean up. If you are willing to take on any of these responsibilities, please speak to Danielle Chamberlin or Greg Thornhill.

For the online shopping site, volunteers are needed to staff pick-up, sort product and fill orders. If you're willing to help with those tasks, please let me know.

Backpack drive of Samaritan House boosted by \$500+

By Linda Howard

The Social Action Team continues doing “the work of the church,” supporting our community, the Bay Area and the wider world through the Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC.

Locally, financial aid was given to the Samaritan House Back-to-School Backpack Drive. Our church, through Special Offerings and additional funds from Social Action, contributed more than \$500 to this cause. Funding school supplies for our children supports our belief that children deserve everything they need to learn. Education for all children is an equity and social justice issue.

The Social Action Team continues to organize and fund lunches for Open Cathedral worshippers in San Francisco. On Aug. 29, volunteers from CCB and the Island United Church in Foster City assembled sack lunches to distribute to the people who attend worship at Open Cathedral in San Francisco. About 75 people gather each week to receive spiritual and nutritional sustenance.

This year the Social Action Team will oversee the Special Offering Program. Throughout the year an appeal will be made for donations for needs other than those included in the budget. Some of these donations will be channeled into local needs and some will go to the programs of the United Church of Christ.

Special Offerings will be dedicated to six areas. On a local level, the Special Offerings will go to Samaritan House, the Crop Walk, Puente De La Sur and Family-to-Family. Special Offerings going to the national denomination are Neighbors in Need and Disaster Relief Fund.

An appeal for Special Offerings will occur approximately every other month. If other needs arise such as natural disasters or humanitarian crises, additional Special Offerings will be initiated.

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

Train of Thoughts

Continued from Page One

a message. I will call you back as soon as I can.

When I returned here, I was not sure what to expect after almost a year and half of dealing with a pandemic.

I have been very impressed with how well this church has managed to keep people safe while still nurturing their spiritual growth, worshipping and carrying on the ministries of the church.

It has not been an easy time for anyone. The dedication of your church leaders is inspiring. I see a real commitment to the work of the church and a real commitment to forge a path forward. It will require a clear vision and perhaps some bold choices.

My hope is that all of you can support your church during this time of transition with your presence, participation, patience, and prayers.

As we move forward with the visioning process, I hope you recognize one of the greatest gifts you have been given: this church and your companions on the spiritual journey. You are indeed blessed.



Let's Sing a New Song!

Now that we are back together in the sanctuary, there is a desire for worship to lift our spirits. We want to make a joyful noise and sing songs of praise to our God. One of my tasks as pastor is to select the songs or hymns for the congregation to sing in worship. I need your help in finding upbeat joyful songs that you would sing with enthusiasm. This is the perfect time to learn some new songs – perhaps more contemporary or from genres we have not explored. If there is a really good song you would love to sing in church, please let me know. It does not have to be in our hymnal. As you know, we have two hymnals – The New Century Hymnal and Sing! Prayer and Praise. If your song is not in either of them, send it anyway. We will see if we can get permission to print and sing it. Please email your suggestions to pastor@ccbmont.org. — *Pastor Sally Train*

October Messenger deadline will be Monday, Sept. 27



To go to the Congregational Church of Belmont website, click on [CCB](https://www.ccbmont.org).