



The deck of the Carter/Venturino house was warmed by two heaters and the Thornhills' fire pit for the Caroling After Party Dec. 19. After two hours of caroling at six different locations, the chilled carolers gathered under a huge moon for pizza and good cheer. More photos appear on Page 4.

## Trains of Thought

# Unwrapping a fresh new year to begin again

By Pastor Sally Train

There is something satisfying about putting away all the Christmas decorations – tidying up – incorporating new gifts into our daily lives. The joy of Christmas is replaced by the joy of a New Year – a chance to start fresh.

As we tidy up our homes, we can tidy up our souls as well: Let go of ideas or thought patterns that no longer serve us; forgive past hurts; blow out the flame of resentment. Begin again.

We can take stock of the gifts that came into our lives this year, new gadgets...new learnings... new accomplishments... new



Rev. Sally Train

friends... new ideas... new perspectives. We can take the time to consciously plan how we are going to fully enjoy and utilize what we have been given.

When are we going to see that new friend again? How are we going to put into practice our new learning? How are we going to structure our time to include spiritual reflection?

The New Year is a time to start fresh. We would do well to dream a little about how we would like

to live it.

Some people like to make resolutions, but I prefer visualizations. It feels gentler

and relies less on my will power and more on my higher power. In my mind's eye, I visualize what I would like to see happen in the coming year.

I see myself doing the things I want to do. I see myself behaving at my best, radiating calm acceptance and love. I see my loved ones happy and peaceful.

I live in hope that what I visualize will come to pass. It is a kind of prayer, and I trust it will be answered.

I believe that our conscious intention calls forth the Spirit to aid us. I believe that God walks with us when our path is pure.

I pray for each of you a blessed New Year filled with hope and goodwill. Happy New Year!

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





**Christmas Pageant this year was a movie, shot on location around CCB!**

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

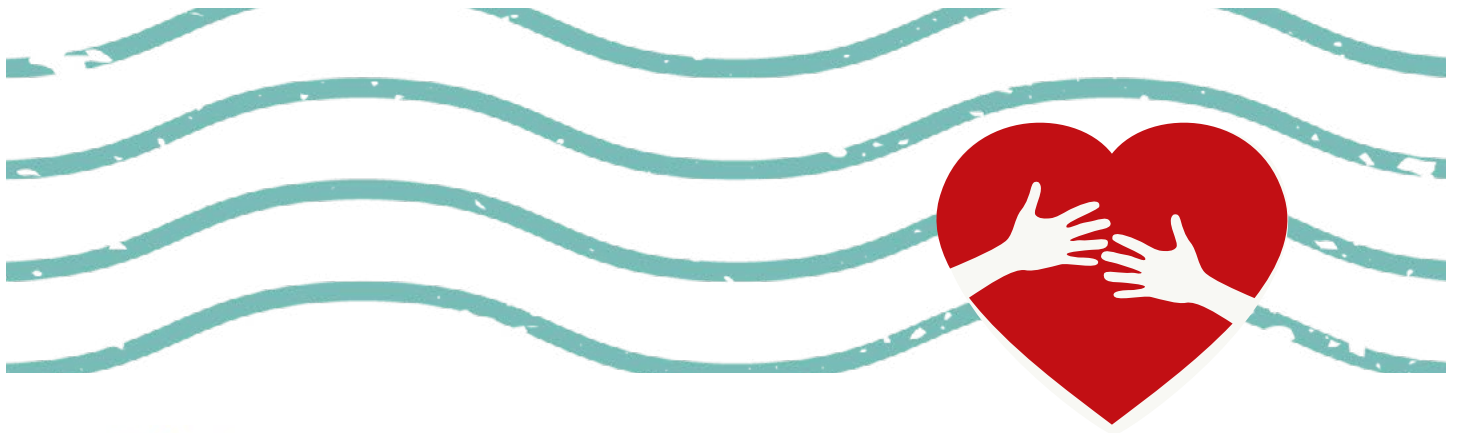




## Caroling with Christmas cheer



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



**Peninsula Multifaith Coalition's  
10TH ANNUAL  
MLK JR. MULTIFAITH DAY OF SERVICE  
Monday, January 17, 2022**

Please join us for this unique opportunity to work side by side with people of other faiths and cultures to benefit our local community. This year we will include a mix of outdoor, indoor, and online family friendly projects. San Mateo County mandated Covid safety protocols will be followed.



*Bringing together our diverse community to build bridges of understanding and respect*

**Register by January 9**  
**<https://pmcmlk2022.eventbrite.com>**

Ahmadiyya Muslim Community of Silicon Valley • Baha'i Faith of Mid-Peninsula • Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints • Congregation Beth Jacob • Congregational Church of Belmont • Congregational Church of San Mateo • Episcopal Church of St. Matthew • First Church of Redwood City, UCC • First Presbyterian Church of Burlingame • Hindu Sanatan Mandir of San Bruno • Holy Trinity Lutheran Church • Island United Church • Jewish Community Relations Council • Pacifica Institute • Peninsula Sinai Congregation • Peninsula Temple Beth El • Peninsula Temple Shalom • St. Andrews Lutheran Church • St. Matthias Catholic Church • Saint Bartholomew Parish • Saint Paul's Episcopal Church • Shinnyo-en USA • Sikh Gurdwara, SSF • Sisters of Mercy • St. James A.M.E. Zion Church • Trinity Baptist Church • Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City

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## Social Action has been busy during holiday season

The Social Action Committee sponsored three Special Offerings supporting special causes since mid-November.

### Family-2-Family

The appeal for cash donations for Family-2-Family garnered \$1,320. In addition to the cash donations for gift cards, our church donated canned goods and clothing.

Samaritan House provides safety net services such as groceries, medical care and financial assistance to people needing support in our community. Providing basic needs is the first order of business but, on an emotional level, the F2F program gives families the holiday joy to share with their children.

### Severe December Storms

A second Special Offering appeal went out to CCB. So far \$1,142 has been collected and sent to United Church of Christ Disaster Relief Agency. These funds will go to help the people affected by the December tornadoes in the Midwest.

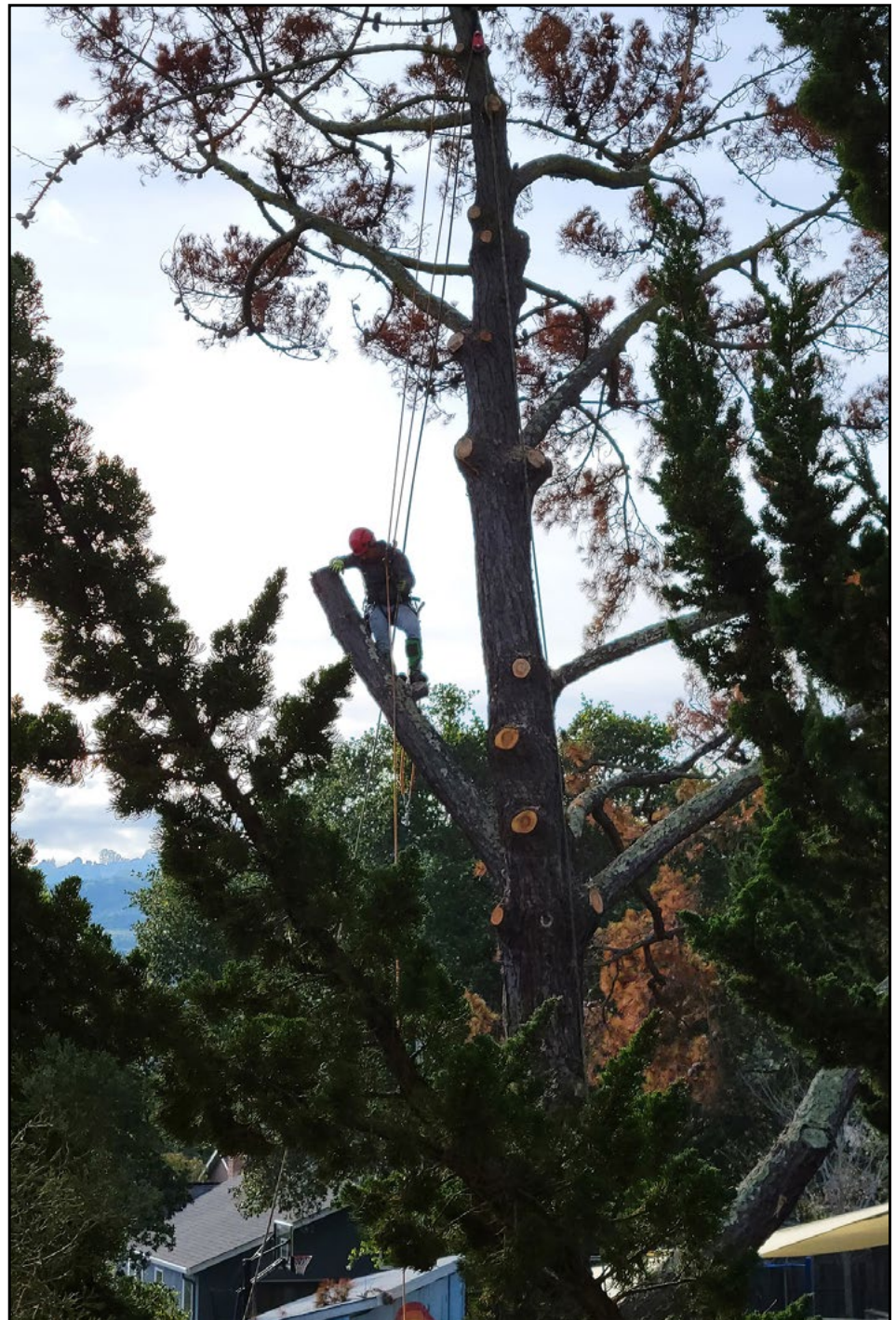
### Second Harvest

November's Special Offering supported the Second Harvest food bank. Although there are more requests for food during the holiday season, food insecurity is an ongoing need in our communities.

### Future Special Offerings

The Guardian Scholar Program at San Francisco State University will assemble care packages for students who have moved out of foster care. It is the hope of the committee that this might be a project that the youth could undertake. Social Action funds will be used to make purchases.

We have been in touch with Home & Hope. Since Covid, H&H is no longer sponsoring families at participating churches. They are planning a walk/run fundraiser in the Spring. They also are asking for food donations for their clients; canned goods can be dropped off at their office in Burlingame.



## Dead backyard pine removed

The huge pine tree that has been a fixture of CCB's backyard for at least 50 years — a tree that we had managed to save 20 or so years ago after much expert consultation and prayer — finally succumbed to the ravages of drought, beetles and age. At a cost of about \$5,000, a crew from JC Tree Care climbed, sawed and mulched and, in the course of the day, the tree disappeared. Now there is nothing but mulch inside of the CPNS planter boxes. We'll probably miss the shade of the tree, but we may also be treated to new wonders created by the extra light.

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

# CCB Calendar for January 2022

2 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
6 Thu	7:30PM - 9PM ✉	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir practice
8 Sat	3:30PM - 5:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	CCB Youth Group on the Veranda
9 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
13 Thu	7:30PM - 9PM ✉	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir practice
16 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
17 Mon	9:00AM - 5:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	MLK Day of Service
20 Thu	7:30PM - 9PM ✉	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir practice
22 Sat	3:30PM - 5:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	CCB Youth Group on the Veranda
23 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
24 Mon	7PM - 9PM ✉	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Council Meeting
27 Thu	7:30PM - 9PM ✉	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir practice
30 Sun	9:00AM - 10:30AM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Sandwich-making for Open Cathedral
	10:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour

## Council creates position of building assistant, tackles audio/visual issues

In an effort to make the church building more secure, the Church Council has created the position of Building Assistant and hired Garrett House for that job.

Garrett will make two circuits of the building every day, morning and evening, to see that doors are locked, lights are out and we have no water issues. If he finds any major problems, he will alert Trustees or call a repairman.

Because Garrett is living in the upstairs apartment, it's convenient for him to take

on this task.

The Council also has established an Audio/Visual Advisory Committee to deal with the ongoing microphone and recording issues that continue to plague us on Sunday mornings. The committee also will seek to better integrate our listening devices for the hearing impaired into the sound system in the Sanctuary.

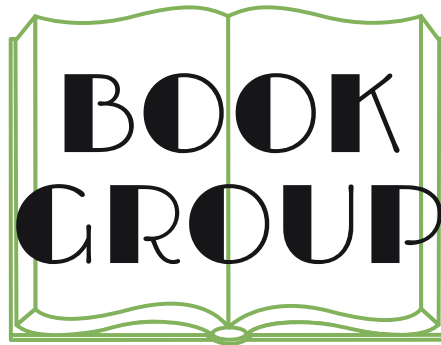
Elizabeth Mye and Danielle Chamberlin will lead the effort and welcome the help of anyone who has expertise in this area.

**Annual Meeting  
after worship  
Sunday, Feb. 13.  
Come and enjoy  
a soup lunch and  
then share in  
the work of the  
church.**

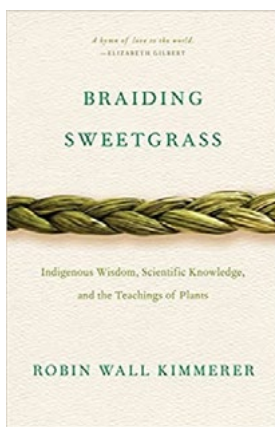
To go to the Congregational Church of Belmont website, click on [CCB](#).



Peninsula Multifaith Coalition  
invites you to our monthly



**Tuesday, Jan. 11, 2022 • 7-8:30 pm**  
**"Braiding Sweetgrass"**  
**by Robin Wall Kimmerer**



As a botanist, Robin Wall Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Kimmerer brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take us on “a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise” (Elizabeth Gilbert).

**RSVP to [revkristi@aol.com](mailto:revkristi@aol.com)**  
*We can cover the cost of the book, if needed*



# Join us Jan. 3 to crystallize the vision of CCB

**By Danielle Chamberlin**

The start of a new year is time for personal reflection and planning, and CCB would like to make some plans for the new year as well.

As we described in last month's Messenger, in 2021 we have been busy, under the leadership of Pastor Sally and Pastor Liz, collecting many ideas and pieces of information for the CCB Local Church Profile.

The Local Church Profile, the document which a UCC church uses to discern what it needs in its next leadership, essentially asks: "Who are We? Who is my Neighbor? and What are we called to do?"

We have sufficient information on the first two questions from data and demographic profiles. The next step is to synthesize the deep visioning work we have done over the past year and a half into a succinct, clear statement of what we are called to do.

Our stewardship season highlighted the great work we are doing in the community through our social action, our youth, our music and our building.

As mentioned in the stewardship letter sent out by Garrett House in early December:

"The thread that appears, when reflecting over our work, is 'creating space for spiritual

growth.' Through our worship service, our Social Action team, our youth program, our music, and the stewardship of our building, we provide both literal and spiritual sanctuary for growth and healing."

We would like to invite everyone interested in the future vision of the church to a Zoom meeting from 6:30-8 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 3, to crystallize this vision of our calling, so the Local Church Profile can be completed.

The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3569400875>.

We hope to see you there to help create our CCB New Year's resolution.

**February Messenger deadline will be Wednesday, Jan. 26.**



**Please take the time  
to consider your pledge  
to expand the music, youth  
programs, outreach and  
spiritual message  
of this church.**

**Email it confidentially to  
Financial Secretary Keith Howard  
at [Financial.Secretary@  
CCBelmont.org](mailto:Financial.Secretary@CCBelmont.org) today.**

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