



April 2022

THE MESSENGER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BELMONT

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



Garrett House is peeking out from behind the new front sign he and Mike Venturino put up last week. Greg Thornhill soon will install new vertical banners on either side of the front stairs of the church, one is a rainbow flag and the other in a Black Lives Matter banner. Once they are installed, we will fly a Ukrainian flag on one of our flag poles.

Trains of Thought Recognizing the real power of the Holy Week story

By Pastor Sally Train

Our theme for the season of Lent is Celebrate Your Story!"

We have been treated to some wonderful stories of blessings, struggle, resilience, perseverance, growth, transformation, inspiration and hope.

We have been touched and moved by the way the Divine Spirit has been present in the lives of our members and in our church as a whole. Hearing these stories has brought us closer together and nourished our faith.

As we move into Holy Week (April 10 -17), we will hear once again the story of how Jesus went to Jerusalem for Passover, was arrested, tried, crucified, buried and rose from the dead.

It is a powerful story. A story that has changed the world and can change our lives. I urge you to attend all of our worship services that week to hear and contemplate the story in its entirety:

April 10 – Palm Sunday

April 14 at 7 p.m. — Maundy Thursday

April 17 – Easter Sunday.

This church year, we are emphasizing the Gospel According to Luke. At the beginning of Advent, I gave you an orientation to Luke, his understanding of Jesus, and his world view. In order to preserve the integrity of the story, I have selected readings from Luke's gospel for all three worship services.

Most of us are in the habit of coming
See Holy Week, Page 6



Rev. Sally Train

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



CCB Youth Sarah Brown and Andrew Altorfer were joined by Elizabeth Nordt and Danielle Chamberlin as they “gleaned” the navel oranges from Jane Fernald’s tree. Some of the huge harvest was sold as a fundraiser for the Campership Fund (and a few are still available); some were donated to Rev. Thomas Crosby to share at the Veterans Hospital where he is chaplain. He reports that they were a great hit!

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

CCB lifts Covid mask mandate for vaccinated; unvaccinated to be asked to mask

By Micki Carter

CCB Church Council has voted to loosen its Covid Policy to bring it in line with the guidelines of San Mateo County.

Effective immediately, masks will be required only for unvaccinated people who remain indoors. However, we will continue to request that those at worship in the Sanctuary or at any other inside events of the church continue to wear a mask in order to protect the most vulnerable among us.

New visitors will be asked if they are vaccinated. If they report that they are not, we will give them a mask and ask them to wear it while they are inside or find them a seat outside on the veranda.

We continue to monitor carbon dioxide levels in the Sanctuary, and Danielle Chamberlin reports that those levels continue to be quite safe.

We will keep the windows open so remember to bring a coat; it can be chilly in the Sanctuary.

We plan to post signs that urge mask-wearing but do not require it.

The CCB choir will be evaluating whether they will continue to sing with masks over the next few weeks.

This policy, of course, is subject to change as the county monitors Covid data and alters its policy.

The Council is interested in your thoughts about CCB's Covid policy, and you are welcome to send your comments to Council@CCBelmont.org.

If you would like to dedicate an Easter lily in honor or memory of someone, sign up on the list in the Narthex April 3 and 10.

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

Reparations for Spirituals project is launched at CCB

By Danielle Chamberlin

During worship on March 20, we sang *Over my Head and Standing in the Need of Prayer*. On February 27, we sang *This Little Light of Mine*.

These are among our favorite hymns at CCB, but did you know the authors of these songs were never paid for writing them?

Spirituals, as these songs are known, are a part of America's history and have influenced nearly every genre of modern American music from gospel to jazz to rock to hip hop and everything in between.

But their authors were slaves who created music in the oral tradition. Nothing was written down, and their names have been lost. In our hymnals, they are simply referred to as "traditional."

To help repair this injustice, many churches are considering paying reparations, most notably the United Parish Church in Brookline, Mass. They have launched the Negro Spiritual Royalties Project.

According to their website, "We will begin collecting 'royalties' for the African American, or Negro, spirituals we sing in worship.

"Unlike other hymns and worship music, Negro Spirituals were not published until after the names of their creators were long forgotten, if they were ever even known. They are both witness to the horrors of slavery and racism, and witness to a merciful, faithful, and just Christianity which we still aspire to live into today.

"As an artform, Negro Spirituals are the unacknowledged intellectual property of the enslaved Africans in America. Many of these songs were eventually written down and have become the source of literally countless musical arrangements and compositions published and sold to churches, schools, community choruses, orchestras, bands and all manner of musical organizations."

When CCB uses other hymns and anthems in worship, royalties are paid to the owner of the intellectual property.

"The fact that this music was never acknowledged as belonging to the enslaved Africans in America is not just a justice issue that demands voice," according to Daniel

Ross-Jones of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the UCC, "but a legacy of slavery that requires some form of reparations."

He noted that United Parish Church has decided to pay those royalties to organizations that support the development of Black musicians. "Every time a Negro Spiritual is used in worship, they will collect an offering that will be sent as royalties to a particular organization."

To support the Reparations for Spirituals project, CCB has decided to make a donation from our Music Fund of \$200 to Hamilton-Garrett Music and Arts. This amount is equivalent to our yearly CCLI license.

Hamilton-Garrett is affiliated with the historically black Charles Street A.M.E Church in Roxbury, Mass. This non-profit is committed to the development of the next generation of innovative artists through the celebration and preservation of Black music.

If anyone knows of a similar organization in Northern California, we would love to support them in future years!

Donate to Ukrainian relief through the UCC

CCB's Board of Social Action launched a drive to collect money for Ukrainian relief through the UCC Ukraine Relief Fund.

So far \$500 has been raised and the Social Action Board has voted to match those donations.

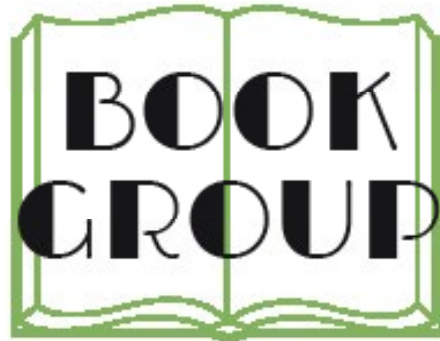
The Ukraine Relief Fund is supporting refugees and other vulnerable people who have been displaced within Ukraine and are unable to leave. Money is being offered through the Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, the relief agency of the Reformed Church in Hungary.

Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund will provide shelter, food and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people as well as refugees and asylum seekers from African and Middle Eastern countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced.

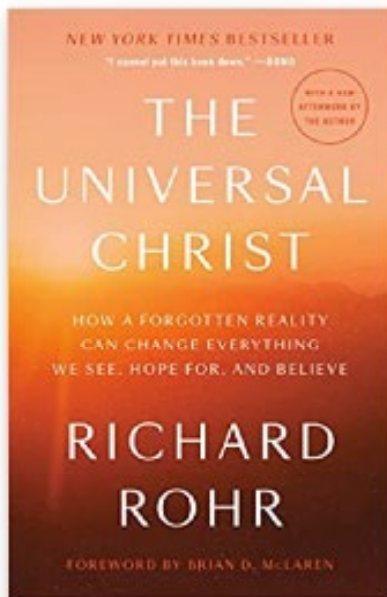
You can donate [here](#). Note that your gift is for Ukraine relief.



Peninsula Multifaith Coalition
invites you to our monthly



Tuesday, April 12 • 7-8:30 pm
"The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr
(Part 2)



In April, we will continue our discussion of "The Universal Christ" by Richard Rohr. Christianity has over 800 denominations and many "free" churches with no affiliation so calling a particular book Christian may invite discussion in and of itself. We hope to honor all perspectives as we tackle this particular popular Catholic Franciscan's point of view.

RSVP to revkristi@aol.com
for the Zoom link

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

CCB Calendar for April 2022

3 Sun	9AM - 10:30AM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Worship Preparation
	10:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Communion worship with Pastor Sally Train: The Anointed One
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
7 Thu	7:30PM - 9PM ☹️	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir practice
9 Sat	8:00AM - 5:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Trip to Monterey Aquarium
10 Sun	9AM - 10:30AM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Worship Preparation
	10:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Palm Sunday worship: Hosanna to the Hero
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
14 Thu	7:00PM - 8:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service
17 Sun	9AM - 10:30AM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Worship Preparation
	10:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Easter Sunday worship: Resurrection Faith
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
	11:30AM - 12:30PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Easter Egg Hunt on the front lawn
21 Thu	7:30PM - 9PM ☹️	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir practice
24 Sun	9AM - 10:30AM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Worship Preparation
	10:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship with Pastor Sally Train: Breath of Life
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
25 Mon	7PM - 9PM ☹️	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Council Meeting
28 Thu	7:30PM - 9PM ☹️	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir practice
30 Sat	3:30PM - 5AM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Youth Group Garden Maintenance

Holy Week

Continued from Page One

to worship on Sunday mornings. It is the Thursday evening service we will be tempted to skip.

You do not want to miss Maundy Thursday this year!

We are collaborating with three other churches to create an evening of story, song, candles and beauty. We will hear the Passion Story according to Luke, brought to life by four readers, and amplified with moving music, anthems, and hymns.

Together we will reflect on the wonderful love that was revealed through Jesus.

The churches that will join us for this service are Island United Church of Foster City, First Church of Redwood City, and the Congregational Church of San Mateo.

Their choirs and singers will join with our amazing choir to bring depth and texture to the story and touch our hearts.

They will join their voices to sing Randall Thompson's solemn *Allelulia* written during the Battle of Britain.

Music is the language of the soul, and we are deeply grateful to these musicians for offering their gifts to us.

Please come with an open heart and welcoming spirit.

A note from Ella Mae

By Ella Mae Donovan

Please come sit with me on Maundy Thursday at 7 p.m. April 14.

It is the most impressive service of the year.

A reader has a Bible verse relating to Jesus going to cross and the choir responds with beautiful anthems. A candle is extinguished after each reader and, after the final reading, we are in darkness.

Then a solist sings *Were You There?* and the cross on the altar is draped in black. We leave, and the service leads to a joyful Easter Sunday.

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

Elizabeth Nordt's film explores WWII racism

By Elizabeth Nordt

I'm in a movie!

Enduring Democracy: The Monterey Petition premieres this month as part of the Cinequest Film Festival. It is available for [streaming](#) April 1-16 and will be screened live in San Jose in August.

The documentary shares the story of how many in the community in Monterey welcomed back Japanese Americans from their incarceration during World War II — even in the face of strong, racist opposition.

Eighty years ago, CCB wasn't around yet, but our parent church, the Congregational Church of San Mateo was thriving.

In 1942, when Executive Order 9066 forced all people of Japanese ancestry to leave their homes and businesses on the West Coast — regardless of citizenship, without evidence of wrongdoing or trial — the church faced a great test.

CCSM had many Japanese American members, all of whom were forced into camps for three years. The book *Congregational Church of San Mateo: Celebrating 150 Years of Faith in Action* says that some families were able to store their belongings at the church, a huge blessing.

Senior Minister Sidney Buckham stayed in touch, writing to his congregants. He visited them while they were held at Tanforan Assembly Center and later at Topaz, in the Arizona desert. Yet his "sympathies were



Elizabeth Nordt in her role in *Enduring Democracy: The Monterey Petition*.

not supported by a large contingent of the CCSM Congregation."

We now know that not a single person taken by EO 9066 was ever found to have helped the enemy. What can we learn from this? What are our civil rights worth? How

do we live the example of Jesus Christ? What does it mean to be an "ally"?

If you have a story to share, I'd love to hear it.

If you are interested, but have any trouble seeing the film, let me know!

New fund to support CCB's own seminarians

By Danielle Chamberlin

At our annual meeting in February, CCB approved the appointment of Garrett House as our "Member in Discernment" and created a Discernment Committee to steward Garrett through finding his calling in ministry.

Garrett is currently enrolled in the Master of Divinity program at Pacific School of Religion.

Garrett is not our first member to do this! Throughout CCB's history, members have felt "the call" and decided to pursue a degree in ministry.

Janelle Osborne Nichols, who grew up in the church, was ordained in the CCB Sanctuary around 1980. She became a

military chaplain. We also ordained Wendy Taylor and Thomas Crosby

Pastor Sally reminded us at our last Council meeting that in order for churches to thrive, they need to steward a new talent pool of leadership. Since it has been about 40 years since our last member graduated, Council considered how we could further support this cause.

Many of us have benefitted from the great blessing of having our education supported and financially funded by our family. We decided that perhaps there could be an opportunity for our "church family" to support the seminarians that "grow up" from our church and pursue ministerial education.

With that in mind, the Council voted in

the Feb. 28 meeting to create a new fund at CCB, called the Seminarian Fund.

Money donated into this fund will be used directly to pay the educational expenses of a CCB Member in Discernment, covering tuition, room and board, and books. Money would be disbursed directly from CCB to the educational institution or landlord.

To donate to the fund, checks may be made out to CCB with Seminarian Fund in the comment line, or through our Square [donation site](#) with "Seminarian Fund" in the comment box.

We hope you will consider supporting this new ministry of our church, which we feel is directly in line with our mission to provide safe space for spiritual growth!

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



Firehouse Square

Apply online and find more information regarding eligibility at www.midpen-housing.org/firehousesquare. Application period opens March 21st, 2022 at 8:30am and ends on April 11, 2022 at 5:00pm.

Serving as a mixed-income community, Firehouse Square offers affordable rents for up to 80% AMI.



Located in one of the most premiere locations in the city of Belmont, Firehouse Square is situated within walking distance to restaurants, grocery stores, parks, mass transit and more. The historic, 66-unit building offers mixed-use, affordable housing, and is loaded with amenities, for families and individuals, including those with supportive housing needs. When you move into one of our pet-friendly homes, you'll enjoy community green spaces, a BBQ picnic area, playground, community room, bike room and much more. These beautiful, newly-built homes come with all the features you need, at a price you want. Don't miss out on your chance to live in this vibrant, sustainable community.



Standard features include:

- Pets allowed
- Ceiling Fans
- Community Green Space
- Playgrounds
- BBQ area with picnic tables
- Smoke-free community
- Within walking distance to trails, parks, restaurants, shopping and schools
- Bike Room
- Low Move-In deposits

Studio

Sq/ft - 350 -677
\$792 - \$1,477

1 bedroom

Sq/ft - 514-638
\$896 - \$2,075

2 bedroom

Sq/ft - 688-952
\$1,059 - \$2,538

3 bedroom

Sq/ft 1,012- 1,281
\$1,200 - \$3,127

*Rents are subject to change



Firehousesquare@midpen-housing.org | Temporary Leasing office: 707 Bradford St, Redwood City, Ca 94063 | 650-270-2140 | Office hours | M-F 8:30am - 5pm





Share Holy Week with us — and see how this Progressive Christian Church does Easter!

Palm Sunday, April 12, 10:30 a.m.

Celebration of Jesus's life

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m.

Tenebrae service with chorale and extinguishing of lights

Easter, April 17, 10:30 a.m.

Celebration with Sanctuary Choir

Easter egg hunt for children on the front lawn after church

Congregational Church of Belmont

United Church of Christ

CCBelmont.org • 650-593-4547

May Messenger deadline will be Monday, April 25.



United Church of Christ

751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont CA 94002 • CCBelmont.org
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