



September 2022 THE MESSENGER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BELMONT

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A group of CCB youth and adults took to the rapids of the American River's South Fork in mid-August. By all accounts, the trip was a blast, and everyone is already excited to go again next year. A story and more photos appear on Page 5.

Trains of Thought

A time of transition in store for CCB

By Pastor Sally Train

September is a time of transition—a transition from summer to autumn. A transition from vacation to school year.

It is fitting that during this month we, as a church, take some time to think seriously about the transition we are in.

The Pastoral Search Committee has started interviewing candidates in hopes of finding a settled minister that is a good fit for this congregation. It is an awesome responsibility. I hope you are all holding them in your prayers and asking the Spirit to guide them. We need prayers for a match truly made in heaven.

Not only do we pray for a good match



Rev. Sally Train

find that your little church has expanded in unexpected and wonderful ways.

We are also in conversation with College Heights Church about the possibility of sharing a minister. Who knows where

for this congregation, but also for the congregation CCB may become. Our congregation is in transition. We are in serious conversation with the First Church of Redwood City exploring options for partnership or merger. You may

that partnership may lead?

As you open your doors to new people and a new minister, remember to open your hearts as well. New people can bring new ideas, which can be stimulating but also challenging. These are the times to listen deeply, reflect prayerfully, and respond from the highest parts of yourselves.

Change is coming. Whether the transition is smooth or bumpy will be determined largely by us. May we bring our best selves to meet the moment with integrity, kindness, faith, and generosity. May the God of Hope lead us.

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

Moderator's Report

CCB is a place where dreams become reality

By Danielle Chamberlin

In the March council meeting, Linda shared a dream. She said, "Hey everyone, I have an idea – we could do rummage sale again, but do it 'lite' and not overwork ourselves – just one day on the front lawn."

In February, Micki had a "love your church" suggestion that we could do a fundraiser to eliminate medical debt.

Sarah had a wish this spring that we would go river rafting again this summer.

Greg has had a dream for a while that our church should serve REALLY good coffee.

Steve has had a dream for many years that we unite with other local churches to combine forces and make light work with many hands.

Elizabeth N. has been dreaming that CCB could use our bouncy house to do outreach to children and families in our community.

Our little church has many dreams about how we could reach out into our community and extend our love, bringing people into our safe space. On Aug. 13, we did go river rafting, and everyone who went brought a friend! Thirteen of us had an exhilarating and wet ride down the South Fork of the American River. No one from our group fell in, and we even rescued some people from another boat who fell out.

On Aug. 27, we held our yard sale on the front lawn (and extended it into the din-



ing room and sanctuary). Linda and Micki reached out to other churches, and we had a great time getting to know new friends from College Heights and Redwood City. We served coffee with the REALLY good espresso machine that was donated to us by Elizabeth and Henry in July. Alice enjoyed being a barista, and reported that one of our guests said "Is this really just coffee?"

Henry, Greg, Ken, Mike, and Garrett put up the bouncy house at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday morning, to provide a big inflatable sign of our welcoming presence to the neighborhood. At least a dozen children

from our community enjoyed bouncing (and parents had a hard time leaving). I spoke to one five-year-old who said she did not remember ever being in a bouncy house before – because she could not remember a time before Covid, and these types of experiences have been missing for the past two and a half years.

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in the event, making it a phenomenal success. And especially big thanks to our brave leaders Linda and Micki, who were not afraid to lead us to do something new and big!

What's next?

Garrett, Lea, Kendall and others have a dream that we will put on a multicultural music festival on the front lawn in the spring, raising funds for the Trevor Project (an organization supporting LGBTQ+ youth).

Kendall and Becky are planning a Youth Mental Health Council which will support teens in our community. They will start meeting on Sept. 11, heading down to Jamba Juice after church.

What are your dreams, and how can we help?

Choir performances to resume in September

By Elizabeth Mye

Calling CCB Sanctuary and Youth Choir members and anyone who would like to join us for our 2022/2023 Choir Season!

Choirs will sing Sunday, Sept. 11 at 9:30 a.m. pre-service rehearsal.

We will kick off our choir season Sept. 11. The Sanctuary Choir will meet at 9:30 am for our pre-service rehearsal. We will sing two familiar pieces, Fill-A-Me-Up and How Great is our God.

First Adult Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal will be Thursday, Sept. 8, 7:30 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir rehearsals are held every Thursday evening from 7:30-9 p.m. The Adult Sanctuary Choir performs every

other Sunday and more frequently during the holiday seasons.

First Youth Choir Meeting –after service Sunday, Sept. 11

We will call together all youth on Sept. 11 and talk after service about the schedule and music.

Youth Choir is scheduled to sing on Sunday, Oct. 16; Thanksgiving Sunday, Nov. 20; Christmas Pageant Sunday, Dec. 18 or 25 TBD (voice and handbell choirs), Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and Recognition Sunday at the end of the choir season in June 2023.

Special Music

In addition to the choir schedules, there

are opportunities for solos and special music performances during our choir season. Music is an important element of worship and input from the congregation and our choirs is important!

You can contribute by offering your musical/artistic gifts or suggest a piece of music that you would like the choir or a soloist to perform. You may email your suggestions to choir@ccbmont.org.

Thank you to our talented and dedicated musicians, and to our wonderful congregation!

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

Penninsula Multifaith Coalition

BEACH CLEANUP

VENICE BEACH(HMB)

SEPT 6TH
6-7PM

COME HELP US KEEP OUR BEACH CLEAN

Join with many friends and youth of many faiths as we learn and serve together!
SOME grabbers, bags, gloves, buckets provided. Prizes given for trash picked up!
Parking passes given upon arrival. Pull in and meet us in the far north parking lot!

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CCB river rafting trip a great success

By Henry Altorfer

Thirteen of us from CCB, including extended friends and family, drove to Coloma for some white water rafting on the South Fork of the American River on Aug. 13.

After getting bussed from the All-Outdoors Rafting center to a point nine miles up the river, we were in the water before 10 o'clock. We decided to split into an adult raft and a youth raft. It was a beautiful day,

sunny and warm, and the river was running at an ideal flow. We experienced a variety of rapids up to class 3 1/2.

There were exhilarating moments, and the youth raft got temporarily stuck sideways on a rock, but nobody fell out (last year we had a few people tossed out of the bucking boats). However, we were able to pull two people from another group out of the river after taking an unwanted dip in the rough-

est section.

We stopped for a well earned lunch, and were fed chips, sandwiches and cookies. We got back in for another hour and a half of fun that included some voluntary swimming by several members. Fun was had by all and we look forward to doing it again next year. Hope you can join us in 2023!



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Worship Themes for September

September 4, 2022 *In the Hands of the Potter* Communion Sunday

Scripture: Jeremiah 18: 1-11

The ancient prophet Jeremiah paints a vivid picture of God as the master potter shaping, changing, and destroying nations and kingdoms. The message is clear: we are all like clay in the hands of the potter. Pastor Sally will reflect on this image and the fact that change is not always comfortable, but necessary if we are to keep improving and evolving.

September 11, 2022 *Rev. Thomas Crosby*

Rev. Crosby will lead worship and preach. It is the 11th Anniversary of his ordination. Pastor Sally will be on vacation.

September 18, 2022 *Third Sunday Theological Reflection*

We will once again meet on the veranda for coffee, contemplation, and reflection. We will use readings from the previous two Sundays as starting points for discussion and reflection.

September 25, 2022 *Field of Hope*

Scripture: Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15

The great prophet, Jeremiah, buys a piece of land at a time when it makes no rational sense to do so. His country is about to fall to a foreign power and his deed will be worthless. Yet he buys it. Why? Because he has a vision that his country will be rebuilt. He acts on that vision with faith, hope and trust.

Pastor Sally will reflect on the power of a clear vision when we commit to it in word and deed.

CCB and First Church Redwood City continue their collaboration on ways to share resources

By Micki Carter

CCB is continuing to build bridges with First Church Redwood City.

During the summer, members of FCRC joined us in worship one Sunday morning, and last Sunday we worshipped with them via Zoom at 5 p.m. They also participated in the Yard Sale for Medical Debt Relief.

We've discovered a number of shared values (besides the fact that we are both UCC churches), but we have differences as well. Their service is interactive and our regular Sunday morning service offered online via Zoom is not. Music, which is an important part of the CCB worship experience, is largely absent in the FCRC service. The Council continues to look for ways for both churches to cooperate in the future. We've even discussed a merger.

We have already taken one significant step in sharing resources: Our office administrator, Lea, is now working about 10 hours a week as an admin for FCRC, and we are

charging them for her time. We expect to work out a sharing contract that will allow us to move Lea to full-time with health benefits in the next month or so.

Council is also talking with College Heights UCC (which also helped out with the Yard Sale). They would like us to consider sharing a new called pastor, but this proposal has not been yet been explored.

Stay tuned! Change is in the air!



One of CCB's resident deer explores the back parking lot.

Vacation for Pastor Sally, Thomas Crosby to lead worship

Pastor Sally will be on vacation Sept. 5-11. Rev. Thomas Crosby will lead worship and preach on Sept. 11. He is delighted to share that Sunday with CCB because it is the 11th anniversary of his ordination.



Emma and Kendall hang out in Emma's Jeep.

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CCB's 'little' summer Yard Sale raises thousands for Medical Debt Relief

By Micki Carter

The little Yard Sale that Linda Howard proposed for the front of the church last Saturday just grew... and grew... and GREW! Donations poured in, and we filled the Dining Room, Sanctuary and East Veranda as well as the driveway and lawn in front!

And as a result, the Medical Relief Fund now has reached about 75 percent of its goal of \$5,000!

The Yard Sale brought in a little more than \$2,000 and attracted about \$600 in cash donations as well.

The rummage collected came from CCB, College Heights UCC and First Church Redwood City, and members from all three churches had the chance to work together for a terrific cause. Friendships were forged over pricing and selling bicycles, china, shirts, pots and pans, a "sustainable energy" lawn mower, tons of toys and a stunning ceramic pheasant serving platter that is still on display in the Narthex!

CCB also launched its new espresso

machine which Elizabeth Nordt and Henry Altorfer donated to the church. Alice Chamberlin served as our in-house barrista and served up exotic coffee drinks for the Yard Sale crowd. Bakers donated a variety of handmade treats for the shoppers, and we froze the leftovers to provide amazing Coffee Hour treats for several Sundays to come.

Special thanks to a terrific clean-up team of Greg, Wesley, Henry, Andrew, Mike, Keith, Linda (times two), Mary Beth, Cassie, Danielle, Steve, Jane and others. We closed at 3 p.m. and, by 5:30 p.m., you would never have known we were there. Amazing!

Some CCB'ers have agreed to match a portion of the sales so we may be even

closer to our \$5,000 goal, which will alleviate \$500,000 in medical debt. Talk to me if you'd like more information.

Meanwhile, as we work toward \$5,000, I'm willing to bake Key Lime (or other) pies for a \$25 donation to the Medical Debt Relief Fund. Any takers?

More photos on Page 8.



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CCB Calendar for September 2022

4 Sun	9AM - 10:30AM	Church Events	Worship Preparation
	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday communion worship with Pastor Sally Train: In the Hands of the Potter
	11:30AM - 1:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
8 Thu	7:30PM - 9:00PM	Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
11 Sun	9AM - 10:30AM	Church Events	Worship Preparation
	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday worship with Rev. Thomas Crosby
	11:30AM - 1:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
	12:00PM - 3:00PM	Church Events	Diversity Fest
15 Thu	7:30PM - 9:00PM	Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
18 Sun	9AM - 10:30AM	Church Events	Worship Preparation
	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday worship with Pastor Sally Train: Third Sunday Theological Reflection
	11:30AM - 1:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
22 Thu	7:30PM - 9:00PM	Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
25 Sun	9AM - 10:30AM	Church Events	Worship Preparation
	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday worship with Pastor Sally Train: Field of Hope
	11:30AM - 1:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
29 Thu	7:30PM - 9:00PM	Church Events	Choir Rehearsal

October Messenger deadline will be Sept. 26.



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