



Scouts of Troop 27 and their parents took on projects in a Scout Work Day Sept. 23 that cleaned, decluttered and repaired things throughout CCP. After gathering for breakfast and planning,, they spread out to pull debris from the Back 40, remove the plywood platform from the Sanctuary, touch up the paint in the Dining Room, paint the vanity in the bathroom, straighten the banner poles by the south driveway and clean the Blessings Box. By the end of the day, the church positively sparkled! Thanks, Scouts! More photos from the workday appear on Page 9.

Moderator's Report Taking joy in community and caring for one another

By Danielle Chamberlin

I've recently been reading *Inciting Joy*, a book of essays by poet Ross Gay, in which in each essay he investigates the joy we create when we care for each other, in community – even through (and sometimes especially because of) times of hardship.

Each chapter has a different theme -

skateboarding in one, the culture of musical artists covering each others' songs in another, building a community orchard in a third, even (challengingly) exploring joy through the death of his own father to cancer. I highly recommend the book. Although you may want to ask for your money back because the title is Inciting Joy and you're in tears at the end of Chapter 2, keep reading.

It is these life experiences – joy through building community – that I feel like the Congregational Church of the Peninsula brings to us all. And we have so many opportunities!

We are continuing the First Church tradi-Continued on Page 3.

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

Moderator's Report: Taking Joy

Continued from Page One

tion of the Good Hope Luncheon. We had more than 100 people at church on Scout Sunday combined with music from the San Mateo Senior Band. Troop 27 had a workday Sept. 23 and deep-cleaned and fixed up the whole Belmont property.

The Social Action Board has made Graband-Go bags which they are selling to people who would like to give support to homeless people we meet. It's also working to distribute funds to local charities, including Second Harvest Food Bank, Sierra Service Project and Puente de la Costa Sur.

Choir has started again, and Elizabeth Mye is putting together a band. Rev. Penny Nixon will speak on low-income housing on Oct. 1, the first in a recurring series of community forums. And the 40th edition of our biggest event – Chocolate Fest – is coming together quickly through the hard work of many hands working together and, once again, it's going to be a PARTY!

Not all of this work is always quick and easy – sometimes our democratic style of leadership leads to things taking longer than they might in, for example, a top-led corporation. On this topic, Ross Gay writes:

"The inefficiency, the incompetence, the ineffectiveness, the dismal rate of production, the off-taskness, the wandering, the flabbiness, the consensusing, the play, the listening, the dreaming, were all just ways of being together.

"It was hanging out, it was growing closer, it was mycelial, its product was itself, its product was connection, friendship, it was care, it was I'm making jam on Saturday if anybody wants to join me, it was let me help with hauling the limestone, it was you can leave your kids with us as long as you need, it was take my car, it was whatever you need, if I got it you got it, that was the product, which is to say the product was our needs offered to each other, held to each other, held by each other. Our product was the dream of connection, which, oh yeah, we were living.

"And part of that living included, also, disagreeing, struggle, tussling. Because our dreams were not always the same."

Ross Gay wrote this while building a community orchard to provide "Free Fruit for All!" in his hometown of Bloomington, Ind. Last year, we planted a persimmon tree in an empty spot on the Belmont front lawn with the hopes that many years from now, with love and nurture, it too will bear free fruit for our community. While it looked like we had planted a dead stick for many months, it is now covered in green leaves and beginning to grow. May it be so too with our newly formed church.



Pastor Warren's Wonderings

By Rev. Warren Dale

A friend that walks with us from the Redwood City Veterans Center told us of a four-episode series called, *Live to 100, the Secrets of the Blue Zones* viewed on Netf-lix. The host starts with the premise that he would like to live a long time.

Something prompts him to search for places that have the most 100-year-old folks. He locates three places: Okinawa, Sardinia, and Loma Linda in the U.S. He notices certain common experiences and wisely thinks we do not have to all move to Okinawa. We could:

· Eat plant-based foods

· Share in a community

• Move...naturally (garden, walk rolling hills, dance)

- Laugh
- Do something purposeful
- Share in a spiritual journey

Well, I was wondering if one looks at the above, we here at the Congregational Church of the Peninsula offer most of these...though I am a bit challenged to fudge in the Chocolate Fest into plant-based foods. But we do share in community:

• Worship on Sunday mornings, evenings

- Chair-a-sizing with Millie and Peggy
- Projects that help others with Linda
- Laughing

• Travel our spiritual journey through prayer times: 11 AM Wednesday, Thursday evening

• Book Club with Steve and Pastor Jim

Well, Georgi and I are working with some folks to start a Blue Zone Group that incorporates the above. And with the Fall return of the choir and our music, we can once again dance together.

You can help others join our over 100 club here at CCP. Tell them, "You want to live to be 100, we have the most 100-yearolds on the Peninsula."

Blessings to you all, The Rev. Warren

Counting down the hours until Chocolate Fest 2023!

By Micki Carter

Ooh, we're counting down to launch date now! Oct. 20 and 21 are just around the corner!

The beautiful, hand-crafted CHOCO-LATE sign (made for us years ago by Bob Donovan!) is on the roof, thanks to an assist from the Scouts and Scout leaders on Scout Sunday! The tickets are selling, and lots of chocolate lovers from around the Bay Area have added Chocolate Fest to their calendars.

The Chocolate Fest banner over Ralston Avenue will go up Oct. 9, and the flyers are getting posted all over. The press releases are posted online, and all of us are sending online invitations to our friends. If you want to know how to do this, send me an email and I will set you up!

And we're ordering tickets here!

We are gathering gifts for door prizes now, and we could use your help. Do you have anything to donate? Bottles of good wine are perfect as are gift cards (ones that you've received and don't plan to use or ones that you pick up at the grocery store or pharmacy as a donation to Chocolate Fest) or that nice gift that you received and plan to re-gift someday. Special thanks to Gwen Jeong for making follow-up calls to prize donors. That, in itself, is a huge gift.

Bring these items to church on Sunday and give them to Jill Visor, Jane Fernald or me or take them up to the office and leave them on Lea's desk with a note "For Chocolate Fest prizes"! And if you are willing to make some calls as follow-up to the prize request letters, let Lea know at <u>office@</u> <u>ccpeninsula.org</u>.

If you haven't signed up for your volunteer slots for the Chocolate Fest sessions, some openings remain. Sign up <u>here</u>.

We will open the Chocolate Fest room downstairs on Oct. 17 when the Scouts will help us haul up everything we need for this year's event. Maura Whitmore, who's handling decorations, will pointing at all the boxes needed upstairs. They will be bringing the tents and heaters from the storage container and setting up tables as needed.

Then, Tuesday through Thursday, Maura will direct and the rest of us will follow as the transformation of the Dining Room,



The Scouts helped CCP volunteers hoist up the Chocolate Fest sign on Scout Sunday.

Narthex and both verandas into Chocolate Fest Central! If you have some time free on one of those days, head over to church and follow the directions on the To Do chart. We'll be working until around 9 each night.

On Friday, the vendors will be in and out setting up their tables and booths, and the guest tables will get their tablecloths and centerpieces. Then at 7 p.m. the 40th edition of Chocolate Fest will go live after three years in pandemic-induced darkness. Thank you, Jill Visor, for resurrecting this lovely benefit that has been supporting local charities like Samaritan House and Second Harvest since 1983.

Unlimited tasting of chocolate confections from more than 20 different vendors Live Jazz • Champagne • Prizes Child care available at all sessions

Order tickets now for the 40th



October 20 & 21, 2023

Three sessions

Friday: 7-9:30 p.m. Saturday: 1:30-4 and 7-9:30 p.m. Entry fee includes everything! \$25 pre-paid; \$30 at door Seniors/children: \$16 pre-paid, \$25 at door



To order tickets, use the QR code or go to:

ChocolateFestof Belmont.org

Congregational Church of the Peninsula

751 Alameda de las Pulgas Belmont • 650.593.4547







Now we really are the Congregational Church of the Peninsula! The aluminum sign on a wooden frame was constructed by Mike Venturino, and he got some muscle from Garrett House and height from Steve Chamberlin to hang it from our cross sign-post in the front of the church on Sept. 20, just three weeks after we adopted the logo. Hope you like it!









The Scouts of Troop 27 joined us for Scout Sunday on Sept. 17. It was an inspiring day of fellowship made even more special by the presence of the Peninsula Senior Band, who performed during worship.







Forum looks further at ending homelessness in SM County

By Linda Howard

In May, approximately 75 people gathered at the Congregational Church of San Mateo for the Faith Summit on Ending Homeless. Individuals from the county and various faith communities met to learn what is being done and to make plans of action to address the issue of the unhoused in San Mateo County.



Rev. Penny Nixon

County of San Mateo's MLK award, and became a sanctuary church. She also served as pastor of an LGBTQ church in San Francisco for 12 years.

A community leader and political activist, she has received numerous awards for her work, the most recent being named 2019 Woman of the Year for Assembly District 22. She also is the founder and co-director of the Peninsula Solidarity Cohort.

Online Book Group with Island United Church

The group meets via Zoom on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Here is the <u>link</u>. The selection for October will be *Just Action* by Richard and Leah Rothstein. We will have the chance to hear the Rothsteins in October.

The selection for November will be *From Under the Russian Snow* by our very own Micki Carter, who will join us to talk about the book on Nov. 14. We have a few autographed copies available for those who would like them. They are also available at the library, book stores and as an ebook online.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: CREATING COMMUNITIES OF BELONGING Congregational Church of San Mateo, 225 Tilton Ave Thursday, October 5, 2023 10 AM - 1 PM Lunch provided TOMIQUIA MOSS Keynote Speaker Founder & CEO, All Home PENNY NIXON Host Faith Communities Housing Liaison PENINSULA SOLIDARITY COHORT FORALL

To continue the good work and momentum, a second sum-

mit is being planned for Oct. 5. The theme of this faith summit will be Affordable Housing: Creating Communities of Belonging. Crucial information will be provided about the various options available to faith communities who have an interest in being part of the housing solution.

The second summit will focus on:

· How to build housing

 Various options of financing affordable house

• Inspiring congregations about the need for more housing

If you would like to register to attend the Summit on Homeless, click here.

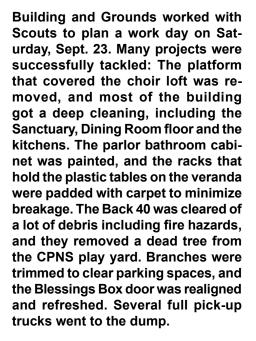
In addition to the summit, we have been invited to tour the Navigation Center in Redwood City from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Oct. 6. E-mail Linda Howard at roswell. linda20@gmail.com. If you would like more information on the Navigation Center in Redwood City, click here.

Members of CCP will have a chance to hear the Rev. Penny Nixon, Faith Director of the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo and Faith Communities Housing Liaison for San Mateo County, when she preaches on Sunday, Oct. 1. She will then lead a discussion about housing for the underserved in San Mateo County in the Dining Room over a potluck lunch.

Nixon served as Senior Minister of the Congregational Church of San Mateo 2007-2022 and was honored with the title of Minister Emerita upon retirement. She was the first woman to hold that position. With her leadership the church thrived, became known for social justice work, received the

Scouts Work Day a success









Remembering Chinedu Okobi: a police killing that hit much closer to home

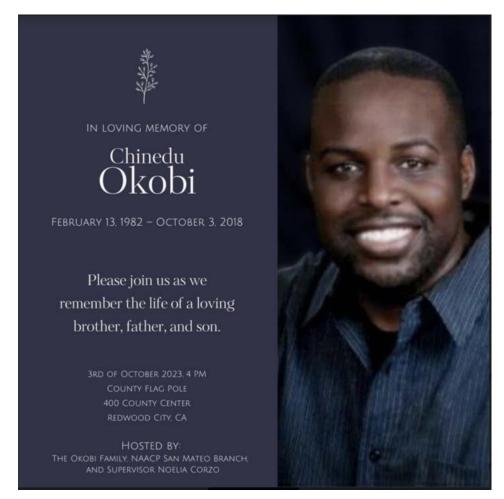
By Lea Mavroudis

We see it all too often: another news story of a Black person senselessly killed by the police. We mourn these losses and feel anger and frustration at a system that is clearly long overdue for change. We might like to think that things like this only happen in big cities, far away from our peaceful, progressive enclave on the Peninsula. But five years ago, we saw it happen much closer to home, and in fact only a few blocks from where I grew up.

Chinedu Okobi was a 36-year-old unarmed Black man who died after being repeatedly tased by San Mateo County Sheriff's Department deputies in Millbrae on Oct. 3, 2018. Okobi was initially stopped for jaywalking across El Camino Real, but he was experiencing a mental health crisis at the time of his death. His was one of four deaths in San Mateo County involving the use of tasers in 2018 alone. The San Mateo County Sheriff's Department later implemented changes to their policies on the use of force. They incorporated feedback from the ACLU, who cited Okobi's death as evidence of the need for changes.

The San Mateo County District Attorney cleared the officers of any wrongdoing, but the county settled with the family in Feb. 2023 for \$4.5 million. Of course, no amount of money will bring back this beloved father, brother, and son.

Island United Church in Foster City will hold a memorial for Chinedu at 2 p.m. on Sunday Oct. 1. There will also be another memorial gathering on Oct. 3 by the flagpole at the County Center in Redwood City. More information appears on the flyer below.



It's fall and time to think about Stewardship

By Elizabeth Nordt

We're approaching the first-ever Stewardship Season for the Congregational Church of the Peninsula.

Our newly merged resources of time, talent, property and money offer tremendous opportunities — if we steward them wisely.

In order for our congregation to flourish and sustain itself into the future, we all must continue to give what we can.

In order to plan and budget for 2024, the process has to start now. Start thinking about what you have to offer and look forward to celebrating the work of our church and the joy of being part of this beloved community!

An invitation from CCSM to join Spiritual Conversations

The Congregational Church of San Mateo has invited members of CCP to take part in their Spiritual Conversations every other Monday from 7:15-8:45 p.m. on Zoom.

They generally read a chapter or two, 20-30 pages, from a designated book for each session. A different participant guides the discussion each time, usually sending a few questions for preparatory reflection in advance.

They write that, "there are just six of us, so we're not in imminent danger of getting too large for good conversation.

"On Monday Oct. 2, we will begin discussing *The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality* by Ronald Rolheiser. Read the Preface, Introduction, and Chapter 1."

Chris Wuthmann is the organizer-moderator of the group. If any CCP members would like to join Spiritual Conversations, they should e-mail Julien Phillips at <u>41julien@gmail.com</u>.



Bob celebrates his 101st birthday in July 2022.

CCP patriarch Bob Donovan participates in a national study on longevity of life

By Micki Carter

The long life of Bob Donovan, now 102, is getting some national attention. The Veterans Administration and the National Institutes of Health contacted Bob about a longevity study called All of Us.

"The goal of All of Us is to help researchers learn more about why we get sick or stay healthy," Bob said. "People who join will share information about their health and, habits and what's it's like where they live. It might also be about family history and genes.

"At the moment, health care is 'one size fits all.' But imagine a future where your health care is tailored to you. The researchers hope to achieve that. All eligible adults over 18 living in the USA can join. Contact All of Us at NIH.gov."

He agreed (of course!) and they sent out a team to do a thorough examination and blood draw that took nearly all day. He's also heard from Albert Einstein School of Medicine in New York about a longevity study after someone saw Bob on KTVU's filming of his 102nd birthday party at the Fish Market in San Mateo. "Perhaps," Bob said, "I will help researchers find answers helpful to others."

Good Hope Luncheon at Harry's Hofbrau Oct. 3

The Good Hope Luncheon, a relaxed gathering of CCP members with no agenda other than to enjoy each other's company, will take place Tuesday, Oct. 3, from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at Harry's Hofbrau, 1909 El Camino

Real, Redwood City.

RSVP to Peggy Smullin, 650-575-4806, or Gabriella Simon <u>gsbaja@yahoo.com</u> by Oct. 2.



Mark your calendars for Harvest Dinner at 6 p.m. Friday, Nov. 17, in the CCP Dining Room!

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN MATEO 225 TIIton Ave San Mateo Detables 26 7-9 p.m. INTERSTACTOR SAN MATEO DETABLESSION OF SA

In *The Color of Law*, Richard Rothstein explored the history of how government at all levels created residential segregation.

Financial sponsorship provided by the San Mateo Anti-Displacement Coalition



Join us with *Just Action* co-authors Richard Rothstein and daughter Leah Rothstein to learn what we can do now to challenge this segregation and help remedy America's profoundly unconstitutional past.

Planning sponsors for this event include:

To register for the event: https://bit.ly/47aNaFR Questions? Email onesanmateo@onesanmateo.org



Troop 27 is selling holiday greenery for fundraiser

Item	Description and Price	Description and Price	
	Local Delivery (by Scout)	Direct Mail (Gift)	
	W2 - \$31 22-inch Noble Fir wreath with snowy pine cones	Not available	
Station -	W4 - \$31	W4M - \$50	
	22-inch Mixed Evergreen	Gift wreath with	
	wreath with red faux berries	checkered tree bow.	
		(cost includes shipping)	
Statistics .	W3 - \$43	W3M - \$62	
	28-inch Mixed Evergreen wreath with red faux berries	Gift wreath has red and gold snowflake bow	
		(cost includes shipping)	
	C5 - \$26	C5M - \$45	
	Centerpiece - Mixed greens,	Gift centerpiece also	
CALL AND	approximately 12" in diameter, real juniper berries, red faux	includes 10" LED taper candle	
	berries and snowy pine cones, candle holder insert.	(cost includes shipping)	
	Local delivery does not include candle.		

Troop 27, the Scouts that CCP sponsors, are selling holiday greenery as a fundraiser. Here are some of the offerings. The troop retains 20%-40% of the purchase price. A poster with a complete list of the items will be posted at church. If you would like to place an order, contact Elizabeth Nordt or Andrew Altorfer by Oct. 31.

Calendar for October 2023

1 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday worship with Rev. Penny Nixon/World Communion Sunday
	12рм - 4рм	Church Events	Potluck Lunch and Forum on Housing
	5:00PM - 6:00PM	Off-site events	Zoom Evening Worship
Tue	12:30pm - 2pm	Off-site events	Good Hope Luncheon at Harry's Hofbrau
	1:30pm - 2:30pm	Off-site events	Online Book Group
4 Wed	11ам - 12рм	Off-site events	Bible Study (Zoom)
5 Thu 6:00pm - 7:00pm 7:30pm - 9:00pm	6:00pm - 7:00pm	Off-site events	Talk, Pray, Connect
		Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
8 Sun	10:30am - 12:00pm	Worship	Sunday worship with Rev. Jim Mitulski/Blessing of the Animals
	11:30AM - 1:00PM	E Church Events	Coffee Hour
	5:00рм - 6:00рм	Off-site events	Zoom Evening Worship
10 Tue	1:30рм - 2:30рм	Off-site events	Online Book Group
11 Wed	11ам - 12рм	Off-site events	Bible Study (Zoom)
12	6:00рм - 7:00рм	Off-site events	Talk, Pray, Connect
Thu	7:30рм - 9:00рм	Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
15	10:30am - 12:00pm	Worship	Sunday worship
Sun	11:30AM - 1:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
	12рм - 1рм	Church Events	Social Action board meeting
	1рм - 9рм	Chocolate Fest	Chocolate Fest prep
	5:00рм - 6:00рм	Off-site events	Zoom Evening Worship
16 Mon	9ам - 9рм	Chocolate Fest	Chocolate Fest prep
17	9ам - 9рм	Chocolate Fest	Chocolate Fest prep
Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Off-site events	Online Book Group
18 Wed	9ам - 9рм	Chocolate Fest	Chocolate Fest prep
	11ам - 12рм	Off-site events	Bible Study (Zoom)
19 Thu	9ам - 9рм	Chocolate Fest	Chocolate Fest prep
	6:00рм - 7:00рм	Off-site events	Talk, Pray, Connect
	7:30рм - 9:00рм	Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
20 Fri		Chocolate Fest	Chocolate Fest
220	9ам - 9рм	Chocolate Fest	Chocolate Fest prep
21 Sat		Chocolate Fest	Chocolate Fest
22	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday worship with Rev. Jim Mitulski
Sun	11:30AM - 1:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
	5:00рм - 6:00рм	Off-site events	Zoom Evening Worship
24 Tue	1:30рм - 2:30рм	Off-site events	Online Book Group
25	11AM - 12PM	Off-site events	Bible Study (Zoom)
Wed	7:00рм - 9:00рм	Off-site events	CCB Council Meeting
26 Thu	6:00рм - 7:00рм	Off-site events	Talk, Pray, Connect
	7:30рм - 9:00рм	Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
27 Fri		Admin Schedule Change	Admin Out of Office
29 Sun	10:30am - 12:00pm	Worship	Sunday worship with Rev. Jim Mitulski
	11:30AM - 1:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
	5:00PM - 6:00PM	Off-site events	Zoom Evening Worship
30 Mon		Admin Schedule Change	Admin Out of Office
31	1:30pm - 2:30pm	Off-site events	Online Book Group



November Messenger deadline will be Oct. 25.

