



September 2023 THE MESSENGER

751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont CA 94002 • 650-593-4547 • office@ccpeninsula.org • www.ccpeninsula.org

A new logo to go with our new name

By Micki Carter

A logo that combines the rainbow tree of the old CCB logo with an overarching umbrella that reads “Congregational Church of the Peninsula” was the unanimous choice of the CCP Church Council on Aug. 21.

The Communications Board brought four possible designs for a logo to Council — the rainbow tree, a sunrise design from UCC General Synod, and two from Brent Gannetta, a member of Island United Church who manages the graphic elements of their on-screen and online presentation of their worship service. Brent is also a graphic designer, and he had been asked to see if he could come up with a design that merged elements from the CCB and the First Church Redwood City’s logos.

However, as soon as Paul Michel and Pastor Warren Dale suggested that the Redwood City folk had no great attachment to their heart-and-cross logo and expressed happiness with the rainbow tree, the discussion was short-lived and the vote unanimous.

With the choice of the logo, the Communications Board can now get to work on a new sign out front, new letterhead, business cards and dozens of other applications on-line and in print (including on the masthead of The Messenger!)

Oh, and we also adopted CCP as our preferred acronym for internal usage. We encourage you to use it too.



Lisa Lucett (left) and Linda Howard of the Board of Social Action are assembling Grab ‘n’ Go bags that include new socks and a McDonald’s gift card along with a list of social service providers in San Mateo County and their contact information. Congregants can take home bags and keep them in their cars to hand out to someone in need. Individuals, of course, could add other items to the bags if they wished. Social Action is requesting a donation of \$10 per bag so that they can reinvest the funds in more bags. For more information, contact Linda or Lisa.

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

Pastor Warren's Wonderings

By Rev. Warren Dale

Previously appearing in First Church of Redwood City's monthly newsletter, Rev. Warren Dale's column will continue in The Messenger, the newsletter of the newly merged Congregational Church of the Peninsula.

Recently I studied, took the exam, and passed my driver's license written test. It was challenging trying to note the details of the various laws.

But one thing I noticed in this year's DMV booklet is an emphasis not just on the laws, but also how to approach and move safely through different situations.

For example, it may not be a law as how to signal awaiting in a left turn lane, but doing so reminds all around the intersection, and particularly pedestrians who cannot see you are in a designated left turn lane, that one is about to turn left.

I also noted words of caution to take when going through construction zones.

Well, then, as any good theologian does, I examined what this says about merging:

"When merging onto a freeway it is the responsibility of the person merging on to get into traffic safely. One of the most common causes of frustration with drivers is a merging driver that forces their way into the lane with no regard for the vehicles already established.

"This is especially true when a vehicle traveling excessively slow (say 45 MPH or below) enters the freeway causing vehicles behind to have to slam on their brakes to avoid a collision."

So, what does this mean for First Church of Redwood City or the Congregational Church of Belmont? The law says the one who is merging in is asked to get up to speed as quickly as possible so as not to make the one in the established lane slam on their brakes.

Thus, First Church needs to ramp up its speed to catch up to the wonderful ministries of Belmont. Oh, wait a minute. I am wondering: are we merging into them, or are they merging into us?

Therefore, Belmont is asked to speed up to First Church's wonderful ministries.

Or, wait a minute, maybe we are both on freeways of life traveling along at sometimes



Pastor Warren led worship on Aug. 27 and offered a dramalogue on justice with the title, "The Farmer's Market." He dressed the part and used appropriate props. Sarah Thornhill asked him to pose for The Messenger.

greater speeds and sometimes slower speeds. Maybe God is reminding us...

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one

another— "and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Thus, a new church is emerging... The Congregational Church of the Peninsula.

Blessings to you,
The Rev. Warren

To go to the Congregational Church of the Peninsula website, click [here](#).

Lots of 'new' to burnish the time-tested 'old' at Chocolate Fest 2023

By Micki Carter

Chocolate Fest 2023, the 40th edition of this community fundraiser on Oct. 20 and 21, will feature lots of new elements built on a time-tested foundation.

Jill Visor, this year's chair, has about 16 vendors already lined up, and many of them are brand new to Chocolate Fest — Al Chocolat, Sonoma Chocolatiers, 1.2.3 Chocolat, Coba and R&J Toffees — and some who have been with us for 40 years — Kathy's Creative Kakes, Guittard's and Preston's (with a new owner!).

One of our every-year favorites was A-Lot-A Gelato whose owners retired in 2019. To take over the corner ice cream station, we've snagged the fabulous Mitchell's Ice Cream of San Francisco which is available nearby at Preston's Candies in Burlingame and Mollie Stone's Market in San Mateo.

Michael Medwid will be back with his jazz ensemble playing on the veranda for all three sessions, and the lighted Chocolate Fest sign (made by our own Bob Donovan!) will be installed above the front porch Sept. 17 by the Scouts of Troop 27! Thank you, Scouts!

The most significant "new" thing is that vendors will be allowed to sell their product in the Dining Room, for a participation fee, so the Chocolate Boutique has been eliminated. Sad for many of us who loved to do our holiday shopping there, but a huge benefit in saved time and energy.

Again, thanks to the Scouts, we will be launching Chocolate Fest prep on Tuesday evening when we will have an army of young people who will be hauling the boxes of decorations, silver platters and paper products from the Chocolate Fest room downstairs up to the Parlor, stringing the wires in the Dining Room and Narthex for decorating, setting up tables and chairs on the verandas, bringing the pop-up tents and heaters from the storage unit and washing windows. All that in 90 minutes! After that, the usual decorating and set-up will go on through Thursday evening under the direction of Maura Whitmore.

Thanks to Garrett and Kendall House, we will have child care available for all three sessions again. Steve Chamberlin is



managing the staffing, and we've had friends from College Heights and Island United (and Scouts) choose the volunteer slots they want. Many tasks are already fully subscribed so go to [SignUpGenius](#) to indicate how you will help.

Jane Fernald is managing the Silent Auction, and she already has a vacation cabin or two, a flightseeing tour and gift certificates. She can use many, many more so if you have something to donate (an unused gift certificate, a skill to offer like cake decorating, cooking or drawing or a week at your vacation cabin), please talk to Jane.

Equally important is the effort to round up gifts for the door prizes. Lea Mavroudis is sending out the request letters, but she could use help in picking things up and handling the door prizes at CF itself. Let Lea know if you can help.

Greg Thornhill is doing the heavy lifting with the broad category of Operations. He has a monumental to-do list and can always use people who can run errands.

Publicity is already well under way, but if you can help put up flyers or send out reminders to friends, let me know. The No. 1 assistance that's easy to provide is to like and follow the Chocolate Fest [page](#) on Facebook so you can share updates.

Finally, buy tickets for friends and family. Tickets to Chocolate Fest are a great thank-you gift for anyone important to you. Use the QR code on the next page or follow this [link](#) to order tickets. Mike and I will be selling tickets at church the last two Sundays before Chocolate Fest if you really want those hard copy tickets to give away.

Merging of the two churches' finances is nearly complete

By Mike Venturino, CCP Treasurer

The process of merging the finances was the topic of a meeting on July 12 between Paul Michel (former FCCRC member), Larry Keiffer (CCP bookkeeper) and me, the CCP Treasurer. We discussed the steps to consolidate the finances of the merged churches. As of the end of August, the process was still ongoing.

The new church will continue to use Johnson Lyman to manage the investment accounts formerly held by First Church Redwood City. We will sign a management agreement under the name of the Congregational Church of the Peninsula in September. The CCP Bank of America checking account will be linked to our investment accounts.

Checking accounts held by FCCRC need to remain open until all checks clear and automatic withdrawals can be switched to CCP's credit card. Once those things happen, the accounts will be closed and the balances transferred to CCP's BofA checking account.

The FCCRC Cornerstone Fund account has been transferred to CCP. Depending on the cash needs, all the Cornerstone accounts of the merged church may be consolidated.

FCCRC donor information will be passed to the CCP Financial Secretary (Keith Howard) to be integrated with the current system of recording pledges and donations.

Overall, the mechanics of the financial changes required by the merger have been straightforward, and there have been no surprises — so far. No changes to our bookkeeping system are necessary. The numbers may be bigger, but the accounting system built by the church formerly known as The Congregational Church of Belmont and its accountant are easily up to the task.

Unity Choir concert Sept. 10 in the CCP Sanctuary

The Unity of Marin Choir will perform a concert from 1:30-2:30 p.m. on Homecoming Sunday, Sept. 10, in the CCP Sanctuary. They will also sing during worship that morning. We will enjoy a potluck luncheon between the events.

To go to the Congregational Church of the Peninsula website, click [here](#).

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

Chocolate Fest

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:

ChocolateFestofBelmont.org

**Congregational Church
of the Peninsula**

751 Alameda de las Pulgas
Belmont • 650.593.4547



To go to the Congregational Church of the Peninsula website, click [here](#).

Moderator's Report

Lots of CCP talent goes to work on the nuts and bolts of effecting a new merged church

By Danielle Chamberlin

The merger is now complete – and the hard work for the Communications team has just begun! Micki and Lea have been hard at work updating our website and our communications to change all our messaging to say the “Congregational Church of the Peninsula.”

The new website is up and shows the photo we took of our combined congregation on July 30 on the home page, along with a description of our church merger. All the information on the website has been updated to include the information about all our worship services, Bible studies and prayer meetings. The history page includes the history of both churches.

The new CCP (our newly adopted acronym) letterhead is already in use.

After Church Council adopted the new Congregational Church of the Peninsula logo at its last meeting, the Communications team can go to work on a new church

sign (long overdue!) and the design of new literature like the in-pew church brochures, welcome cards, business cards and building use brochures.

We also need to order new mugs to hand out to our visitors and guests.

A HUGE shout-out to Micki and Lea for tackling this all in such a short time!

For this month, thankfully Steve Chamberlin, Greg Thornhill and Paul Michel have been supporting the technology migration as well. With incredibly heavy lifting from Steve, Greg, and Paul, we have:

- 1) Registered the new domain “ccpeninsula.org”
- 2) Moved the ccbelmont.org website to ccpeninsula.org
- 3) Migrated all email addresses, distribution lists and shared drives from ccbelmont.org to ccpeninsula.org
- 4) Merged the membership lists of both churches to a new combined membership list and email distribution list

5) Created new email addresses for Jim and Warren (pastor.jim@ccpeninsula.org and pastor.warren@ccpeninsula.org)

6) Set up forwarding of the first-churchrwc.org website to the ccpeninsula.org website

7) Set up forwarding of the First Church RWC emails to new ccpeninsula.org emails

8) Copied over the First Church RWC Onedrive files to the ccpeninsula.org Google Drive (in process).

9) Canceled the professional service that handled the First Church RWC website now that several of us (mostly Lea, with several stand-ins as needed) can provide that service for CCP

This is a tremendous amount of work, even for IT professionals, and we are blessed to have the kind of talent in our church to navigate the IT and design work necessary to merge two corporations!



The family of Inkang Kim and Heeryoung Park offered a moving rendition of *You Raise Me Up* during the worship service of Aug. 27. Inkang was on vocals, Heeryoung on cello, Harin on violin and Gunwoo on piano. It was enthusiastically received.

To go to the Congregational Church of the Peninsula website, click [here](#).

Several Scouts events coming up in September

By Elizabeth Nordt

September brings several opportunities for Church and Scouts to get to know each other better!

Sept. 17 is our first Scout Sunday where the Cub Pack, Troops and Crew will participate in our worship service. We currently have 27 Cubs and 87 Scouts, so it could be a very full house!

If you are counting on your regular pew, you may have to ask politely for someone to move or consider taking the opportunity to see the service from a different vantage point. Better yet, introduce yourself and share the space!

Friday, Sept. 22, the Troops will have their first Court of Honor in our Sanctuary. While recognition is given at the time advancement or merit badges earned, this event publicly celebrates the achievements of both youth and adults in the last six months. You are welcome to attend!

The next day, Saturday, Sept. 23, the Scouts will be back to work on a variety of buildings and grounds projects as a Day of Service!

Updated CC Peninsula email addresses

By Lea Mavroudis

As you read in the Moderator's Column, the church has recently migrated all of our email addresses and website to a new domain, ccpeninsula.org. Please add the following email addresses to your contacts to make sure you don't miss any church communications.

- office@ccpeninsula.org
- news@ccpeninsula.org
- pastor.jim@ccpeninsula.org
- pastor.warren@ccpeninsula.org
- rentals@ccpeninsula.org

The old ccbelmont email addresses are set up to automatically forward to their new counterparts so that we won't miss any messages from people who may have not seen the updates. However, it's still best to send messages to the new email addresses going forward. Contact me with any questions.

Online Book Group fall selections

The group meets via Zoom on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Here is the [link](#). The September selection is the widely available *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano. Here is a great interview with Napolitano.

The selection for October is *From Under the Russian Snow* by our very own Micki Carter, who will join us to talk about the book in October. 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.

Annual 9/11 Multifaith Peace Picnic & Prayers

Monday, Sept. 11, 6:15-8:15 p.m., King Plaza, 250 Hamilton Ave in Palo Alto

This multifaith gathering honors the victims and first responders, as we strive to transform this day into one of peace and community building. It will be hosted by American Muslim Voice in partnership with Multifaith Voices for Peace and Justice. Questions? Contact Samina Sundas [here](#).



Photo from 2022 event

Update to Zoom links for worship and prayer time

We have made some changes to our Zoom worship and prayer meeting links. The links, meeting ID and password for a given meeting may have changed since you last logged in. The up-to-date information is below as well as on our [website](http://ccpeninsula.org) and weekly bulletins. If you have any trouble logging in, please send a message to office@ccpeninsula.org.

The Wednesday morning prayer time with Pastor Warren, Thursday evening prayer time with Pastor Jim, and Sunday evening service with Pastor Warren will all use the same [link](#), meeting ID, password and dial-in phone number. The Sunday morning worship service will use a different link due to the necessity of different settings.

For the Wednesday morning, Thursday evening, and Sunday evening meetings, the Zoom information is as follows:

[Link](#)

Meeting ID: 840 1756 8492

Passcode: 751ccb

To dial by your location:

+1 669 444 9171

Meeting ID: 840 1756 8492

Passcode: 464714

For Sunday Morning worship ONLY, the Zoom information is as follows:

[Link](#)

Meeting ID: 857 2992 3218

Passcode: peninsula1

To dial by your location:

+1 669 444 9171

Meeting ID: 857 2992 3218

Passcode: 2704219389

Looking for Pastor Jim's column?

Due to recovery from his recent surgery, Pastor Jim was unable to write a column for this month's newsletter. His column will be back next month in the October *Messenger*. Feel free to send your well wishes to Pastor Jim at pastor.jim@ccpeninsula.org.

To go to the Congregational Church of the Peninsula website, click [here](http://ccpeninsula.org).

Racially motivated attacks vandalize UCC churches

By Renee DeLuca
From UCC.org

Recent vandalism at two United Church of Christ congregations around their Black Lives Matter banners and inclusivity has church leaders concerned.

This comes after recent violence this summer around LGBTQ+ affirming churches.

Earlier in August, Grace UCC in the Holly Hills neighborhood of St. Louis was victimized when “White Lives Matter” was spray painted across the wall of the church. The words were sprayed below signs that read “Reject Racism” and other slogans showing their open and welcoming nature.

The UCC’s Associate General Minister the Rev. Traci Blackmon is from the area and said she has been following Grace’s story.

“As often as it happens, I am still confounded whenever messages of love by the church are challenged,” she said. “The words of scripture recorded in 1 John 4:7-21 remind us that the very essence of God is love, and yet there are those who are so accosted by the mere suggestion of such that they would desecrate holy ground.”

So far, no one has been charged in this incident.

“I believe these actions are carried out by people who have lost their love, and the only response to such acts of aggression is to love louder,” Blackmon said, echoing a recent UCC campaign to promote “Love Is Louder.”

Banners promoting love and inclusion were destroyed at Little River UCC in Annandale, Va.

In Annandale, Va., in mid-August, banners that declared “Black Lives Matter,” “Be the Church,” “Reject Racism” and



Grace UCC in St. Louis was vandalized with a spray painted racist slogan.

“Embrace Diversity” were torn down at the Little River UCC. Its senior pastor, the Rev. Shelli Poe, said that, while people in their congregation are upset about it, they are taking it in stride.

“In fact, I think, it is helping people recommit to the work that needs to be done,” she said. “People are paying attention.”

She noted that church members are asking for new banners to be put up right away. The church was founded as a desegregated congregation in 1955 when segregation was the law of the land.

Poe said the local community is rallying around the church as well. They received a letter of support from the Interfaith Communities for Dialogue in Springfield, Va. Little River is a new member of the organization and felt lifted by the gesture. The letter read, in part, “Unfortunately, systemic racism remains very real and very present in America. Our shared humanity compels us to speak out and to affirm that it cannot be tolerated in a civil society.”

That systemic racism also was tragically evident in Jacksonville, Fla., this past weekend, when a gunman who left behind racist writings and was known to use racial slurs shot and killed three Black people inside a Dollar General store. The 21-year-old shooter was armed with an AR-15 style rifle and a handgun. The Justice Department is now investigating the shooting as a hate crime and an act of racially motivated violent extremism, Attorney General Merrick Garland said Sunday.

Addressing the climate of racial violence that has led to these acts of aggression, Blackmon said, “Let us continue to join together to support our churches who boldly declare God’s love, lighting a pathway of belonging for those who have not been loved well by the church and those who have lost their love along the way.

“We are not alone.”

To go to the Congregational Church of the Peninsula website, click [here](#).



Prayers for Peace

**Monday, September 4 at 10 a.m.
Twin Pines Park, Belmont**

Join us as prayers are offered by representatives of diverse faith traditions unifying our collective plea for peace.

Potluck to follow, please bring your own drinks and a dish to share.



The Peninsula Multifaith Coalition brings together our diverse faith communities to build bridges of understanding and respect.

To go to the Congregational Church of the Peninsula website, click [here](#).



#ADVENTUREON!

Join Us!



Join Cub Scouts today at pack27.org



Cub Scout Pack 27 Fall Registration & Parent Information Event!
6pm • September 12th • Congregational Church of the Peninsula

751 Alameda De Las Pulgas, Belmont, CA (in the Parlor Room)

Open to boys and girls in K - 5th grades | Questions? Contact sanmateopack27@gmail.com

To go to the Congregational Church of the Peninsula website, click [here](#).

2023

Saturday, October 14th
Seal Point Park, San Mateo



NAMIWalks

*San Mateo
County*

Time: 9am
Location:
Seal Point Park
1901 J Hart
Clinton Dr
San Mateo, CA
94404

**Come join the National Alliance on
Mental Illness (NAMI) San Mateo
County as we walk a 1k or 5k
#together4mentalhealth.**

**There will be food, an emcee, music
and resource fair to enjoy with
everyone.**

**Spread the word in your community,
create a team, join a team, come
alone, bring your pets and share a
fun day with NAMI SMC!**



Learn more at
namiwalks.org/sanmateo

To go to the Congregational Church of the Peninsula website, click [here](#).

CCB Calendar for September 2023

1 Fri	7:00PM - 9:00PM ✉	Off-site events	CCB Council Meeting
3 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
5 Tue	12PM - 2PM	Off-site events	Good Hope Luncheon
	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Off-site events	Online Book Group
6 Wed	11AM - 12PM	Off-site events	Bible Study (Zoom)
7 Thu	6:00PM - 7:00PM	Off-site events	Talk, Pray, Connect
	7:30PM - 9:00PM ✉	Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
8 Fri		Admin Schedule Change	Admin Out of Office
10 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday worship with Rev. Jim Mitulski/Homecoming Sunday
	12PM - 1PM	Church Events	Potluck Lunch in the Dining Room
	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Church Events	Unity of Marin Choir Concert
	5:00PM - 6:00PM	Off-site events	Zoom Evening Worship
12 Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Off-site events	Online Book Group
13 Wed	11AM - 12PM	Off-site events	Bible Study (Zoom)
14 Thu	6:00PM - 7:00PM	Off-site events	Talk, Pray, Connect
	7:30PM - 9:00PM ✉	Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
17 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday worship with Rev. Jim Mitulski/Boy Scout Service
	11:30AM - 1:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
	12PM - 1PM ✉	Church Events	Social Action board meeting
	5:00PM - 6:00PM	Off-site events	Zoom Evening Worship
19 Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Off-site events	Online Book Group
20 Wed	11AM - 12PM	Off-site events	Bible Study (Zoom)
21 Thu	6:00PM - 7:00PM	Off-site events	Talk, Pray, Connect
	7:30PM - 9:00PM ✉	Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
23 Sat	7AM - 9:00PM	Church Events	Scout work day
24 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday worship with Rev. Elisabeth Middleberg
	11:30AM - 1:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
	5:00PM - 6:00PM	Off-site events	Zoom Evening Worship
26 Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Off-site events	Online Book Group
27 Wed	11AM - 12PM	Off-site events	Bible Study (Zoom)
	6:00PM - 7:00PM ✉	Off-site events	Deacons' meeting
	7:00PM - 9:00PM ✉	Off-site events	CCB Council Meeting
28 Thu	6:00PM - 7:00PM	Off-site events	Talk, Pray, Connect
	7:30PM - 9:00PM ✉	Church Events	Choir Rehearsal

To go to the Congregational Church of the Peninsula website, click [here](#).



**WHAT DOES OUR
WORLD TELL YOUNG
CHILDREN ABOUT...**

Being a "boy"
or a "girl"?

Who can be
a family?

This **free webinar** is for parents, caregivers, and anyone who wants a more expansive, welcoming world for young children.

2023 DATES: 2/15, 4/19, 6/21, 9/7

RAINBOW KIDS
Register: bit.ly/Rainbow-Kids

 Community
Equity
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 SAN MATEO COUNTY
PRIDE CENTER

SVCF

October Messenger Deadline will be Sept. 25.



To go to the Congregational Church of the Peninsula website, click [here](#).