



# December 2023 THE MESSENGER CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE PENINSULA

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

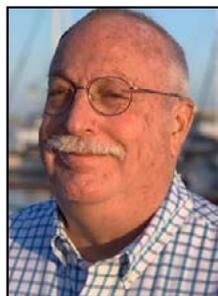


The new CCP Worship Band debuted during service on Nov. 12, featuring Calyx Liu and Elizabeth Mye on vocals, Jeffrey Jones on piano, Michael Medwid on drums, Justin Porto on bass, and Alex Makeev on guitar. Featuring songs such as *Somewhere Over the Rainbow*, *Your Love Never Fails*, *Awesome God* and *Hear Our Prayer*, the band's first performance was a great success. They will perform again with the Sanctuary Choir on Dec. 10.



## A holiday note from Pastor Jim

*O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope- the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!*



Rev. Jim Mitulski

*O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!*

**By Rev. Jim Mitulski**

Dear friends,

Our Advent theme of "How does a Weary World Rejoice" references a line from the traditional Christmas hymn, "O Holy Night." When you join us on Christmas Eve at 9 p.m., you'll hear a special and beloved soloist render it memorably for us. Throughout

the month we'll be looking at how it is we find joy in an uneasy world, drawing on our faith and our relationships with each other. I hope you'll join one of the prayer gatherings and attend the services so that Christmas this year can be a vibrant and tangible source of comfort for you, your families and your friends. In addition to the customary activities, there are some new ones this year too. You'll especially enjoy the music service on Dec. 17. If you have family or friends visiting you for the holidays, be sure to invite them along and make an effort to

**See PASTOR'S COLUMN, Page 13**

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

## Moderator's Report

# Finding joy in the holiday season

By Danielle Chamberlin

This December, Pastor Jim will be leading us through an Advent series called “How does a weary world rejoice?” As we enter this season with wars and conflict in many places around the globe, it somehow seems wrong to celebrate. But the world of first century Palestine was also not a world of peace, and yet it was in this world that the Christmas story unfolds – a story of the birth of the Prince of Peace.

At the Congregational Church of the Peninsula, we find joy in this season through our sharing music and community, in the hopes that it will extend peace through our community.

On Dec. 3 after our 10:30 a.m. service, we will make ornaments for our tree and join in a light soup luncheon. We hope you will join us!

At 7 p.m. on Dec. 3, we have invited the Mountain View Madrigals Singers to perform a holiday concert in our Belmont sanctuary. This is a longstanding tradition from the First Church of Redwood City, and

they are a talented group that is not to be missed! Please come for the concert, and we hope you will join us for a potluck Christmas dessert party afterwards. Bring your favorite cookie or holiday treat to share. We will fire up the chocolate fountain again!

On Dec. 10, we will collect our gifts for the Samaritan House Family Sharing program. This is a longstanding tradition from the Belmont Church, and we are happy to continue to support families in need in the holiday season. If you would like to participate and didn't get a chance to pick up a gift tag from the Social Action Board on Nov. 26, financial donations are still appreciated [here](#). Please note “Family Sharing Program” in the memo.

The third weekend of Advent will be “Caroling weekend” for the Congregational Church of the Peninsula. On Friday evening, Dec. 15, we will meet at the VA chapel at 795 Willow Rd. in Menlo Park 6:30 p.m. and then sing to the veterans at 7 p.m. On Sunday morning, we will sing along with our new CCP Worship band in our 10:30 a.m.

service. On the evening of Dec. 17, we will have another opportunity to carol for seniors in the Belmont/San Carlos/San Mateo community, followed by pizza (and more carols) at Bob Donovan's house in Belmont.

On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, we will culminate the Christmas season with our “Pick-up” Christmas Pageant at the 10:30 a.m. morning service. Come ready to put on a costume (provided) and participate with your “one-liner” – or just watch and enjoy our creative retelling. At our 9 p.m. candlelight service, our choir will share our favorite Christmas anthems and carols as we walk through the traditional scripture.

If during this season you still find yourself in need of a heavy dose of Christmas music in the in-between moments of all of these events, please check out our Christmas playlist at [ccpeninsula.org/Christmas](http://ccpeninsula.org/Christmas). We hope the spirit of love and community, shared with a liberal dose of music, will spread peace through our community and the wider world this season.

## Pastor Warren's Wonderings

By Rev. Warren Dale

“A fiddler on the roof. Sounds crazy, no?”

But in our little village of the Peninsula, you might say every one of us is a fiddler on the roof, trying to scratch out a pleasant, simple tune without breaking his neck.

It isn't easy. You may ask, why do we stay up there if it's so dangerous? We stay because the Peninsula is our home. And how do we keep our balance? That I can tell you in one word...Tradition.”

Tradition...

Each year we help “Chase the Chill” by knitting socks, scarves, caps, gloves for those who live in the cold. TRADITION...

Each year we ring the bell for the Salvation Army and we add a check to the amount the grocery shoppers give. TRADITION...

Each year we invite the Madrigal Singers from Mountain View High School to share traditional holiday music. TRADITION...

Each year we sing to the Vets at the VA



Rev. Warren Dale

Hospital. TRADITION...

Each year we select special gifts honoring families in need. TRADITION...

Each year we light Advent Candles celebrating the birth of Jesus. TRADITION...

Each year we sing carols,

listen to the music of the season, and pray for peace everywhere. TRADITION...

Each year we think of what this world needs and share in the prayers for God's creation. TRADITION...

Each year we gather in various groups like the Good Hope Luncheon, Christmas Eve Service, family gatherings, friend groups and more, to celebrate the love we have for each other. TRADITION...

I wonder what we would be without our TRADITIONS.

Blessings to you all.

The Rev. Warren

# Stay after worship on Sunday, Dec. 3, to make ornaments for our Christmas tree and enjoy a soup lunch!



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



Please join us at the Good Hope Luncheon at 12:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month. The luncheon had an excellent turnout in November at Yat Sing Restaurant, pictured above. On Dec. 5, the group will meet at the home of Phyllis Cooper. There is nothing on the agenda except socializing and catching up. Everyone pays for his or her own meal and joins a table of CCP friends. RSVP to Gabriela Simon at [gsbaja@yahoo.com](mailto:gsbaja@yahoo.com).

## NA Thanksgiving Narathon a success; more to come for the holiday season

By Lea Mavroudis

Narcotics Anonymous leadership reports that their Thanksgiving Narathon was a great success this year. Every year during the holiday season, NA offers round-the-clock support in the days surrounding Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years.

The holidays are one of the hardest times for people struggling with addiction, and providing a place to go for fellowship along with a warm meal goes a long way. CCP is proud to contribute by offering a venue for these events for the third year in a row.

There were a few hiccups over Thanksgiving with noise complaints from the neighbors and some waste left behind, but the NA team was very responsive and has vowed to keep a closer eye on these issues next time.

We're looking forward to hearing more about their Christmas and New Years events!

## Chocolate Fest donors deserve our business

The Chocolate Fest team thought you might like to know which local businesses are Chocolate Fest supporters.

If you patronize these businesses, let them know that you are there because they supported Chocolate Fest. They deserve our thanks for helping to ensure the success of Chocolate Fest.

Belmont: Vivace Ristorante, Divino Ristorante Italiano, Village Host Pizza, Cafe Bliss, Hobe's Restaurant, Godfather's Burger Lounge

San Mateo: Looking Good@Visible Changes, La Lanterna Ristorante and CurriOdyssey

San Carlos: Hiller Aviation Museum, Fly Bay Area and SusieCakes

Others: Artist Dusty Cox, Hillbarn Theater, Cafe Society, Redwood Symphony, Applebee's

## Stewardship 2024: Please pledge now

By Elizabeth Nordt

Stewardship Season is in full swing. We kicked it off with our traditional brunch with Greg Thornhill's amazing blintzes on November 12th. Thank you to those of you who have submitted pledges! We need more before we can get a sense of the budget for 2024. Please consider your commitment and ability to support the Congregational Church of the Peninsula. Pledges can be submitted confidentially to our Financial Secretary, Keith Howard. Mail them in, deliver to the offering plate, place in the white wooden box on the wall between the stairs and the dining room door, or email them to: [financial.secretary@ccpeninsula.org](mailto:financial.secretary@ccpeninsula.org).

## Annual Reports are due by Dec. 30

CCP officers and board and committee chairs will need to get their Annual Reports to Lea by Dec. 30. That will allow enough time for Lea to assemble and produce the Annual Reports for the Annual Meeting after worship on Jan. 28.

If you aren't sure if you need to produce a report, ask Lea.

## CCP has a Christmas Playlist for you

Need a boost to get into the spirit of the season? Use the Congregational Church of the Peninsula's Christmas Playlist. Go to [CCPeninsula.org/Christmas](https://CCPeninsula.org/Christmas) and listen to the audio tracks created by the choirs of CCP!



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

# Stewardship Brunch 2023

Greg Thornhill did it again, producing unbelievably delicious blinis for the Stewardship Brunch last month. Surrounded by Trustees (whom we're told were also having a business meeting while they cooked), the kitchen team turned out blinis, sausages, bacon, fresh fruit and lots and lots of great coffee.



CCP's three veterans, Bob Donovan, Bob Shouse and Mike Venturino, shared brunch together on Veterans Day Sunday.



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

## Transgender Day of Remembrance vigil, co-sponsored by CCP, offers touching tribute to the trans community



On Monday, Nov. 20, the community came together at the San Mateo Public Library to honor Transgender Day of Remembrance. Many San Mateo County organizations came together to sponsor the event, including CCP and Island United Church. Rev. Michael Cronin of Island United spoke at the event, which featured photos and short bios of trans individuals who were tragically killed in the past year. Pastor Jim attended, along with Rev. Jessica Vacketta from Congregational Church of San Mateo (both pictured above). He reports that it was a powerful and moving event attended by over 100 people and he hopes to organize a coalition from CCP to attend next year.

## Should we do Chocolate Fest again? What should we change (or keep) if we do?

By Micki Carter

After an incredibly successful — and crowded — Chocolate Fest this October, members of the Chocolate Fest leadership gathered at the home of Chair Jill Visor Nov. 28 to debrief on what worked, what didn't and what might change to address concerns.

The team acknowledged that Chocolate Fest has a role in the community, and that it was clearly missed during our Covid hiatus.

This year's event was the most profitable ever — net proceeds in excess of \$20,000 — and no decision has yet been made on which organizations will receive the half of the proceeds that will go to charity.

Without a doubt, the biggest concern was the overcrowding and the noise level in the Dining Room where the vendors offered their chocolate wares for tasting.

And the vendors, who for the first time paid a fee to participate and were free to sell their product at their tables, were invited to express their opinions in a survey after the event.

So how might we address those concerns? Here are some possibilities:

- Change the format to a one-day session on Saturday that would run from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., or something similar.
- Sell tickets for a fluid or defined time period.
- Reduce the number of vendors.
- Move some vendors like the ice cream and chocolate fountain outside to the verandas.
- Open the back of the Sanctuary (where the Boutique used to be) for

some of the vendors.

- Set up guest tables on the CPNS lawn.
- Create comfortable seating downstairs for parents who have children in child care.
- Change the fee system for vendors, perhaps eliminating the flat fee and substituting a percentage of sales.

And, of course, there's always the possibility of thanking our guests for a great 40-year run and saying good-bye.

*The Chocolate Fest team would like to hear your input as well. Send your comments to [Office@CCPeninsula.org](mailto:Office@CCPeninsula.org), and be sure to let us know if you'd like to take on a leadership position in the future.*

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

# Conference Ministers share lament, commit to action for Transgender Day of Remembrance

From [ucc.org](http://ucc.org)

*In observance of Transgender Day of Remembrance, Nov. 20, the Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ have released a letter lamenting for and confessing to harm caused to trans and nonbinary youth and adults, as well as pledging a commitment to action and solidarity.*

Scripture tells us that “we are one body in Christ.” That if “one part of the body suffers, we all suffer, and if one rejoices, we all rejoice” (1 Corinthians 12:12-26). Trans and nonbinary youth and adults are sacred members of our collective kin-dom. Without their tapestry woven into our story, we are missing vital pieces of God’s creation.

Indeed, from creation to this moment, God charges us to tend to one another’s bodies, minds and spirits as part of all creation. We all share the imprint of the Image of God, and we hold a responsibility to the tender care and love of one another. How can we embrace the abundance that God gave us to flourish if we cannot see that its flourishing lives within the multitudes of God’s children?

On this Trans Day of Remembrance, we remember and name those who have been killed because of their trans identities. It is also an opportunity to notice the many other ways Christ’s Body, one body that identifies in many ways, including trans and nonbinary, is wounded. If one part of the Body experiences harm, the entire Body is harmed. At this very moment, the Body of Christ is considering suicide because the hormone blockers she was counting on to survive the cruelties of puberty are now against the law. The Body of Christ is confused because his elementary school teachers believe they are now forbidden from talking about his lesbian mothers. The Body of Christ is angry because their teacher, protected by law, refuses to call them by their name. The joy of the Body of Christ is stifled because his love of makeup and dresses is forbidden in public spaces.

Today is a critical moment in which we are called to confess our missteps, ground our feet and act in protecting and celebrat-



ing the lives of trans and nonbinary youth and adults.

As siblings in Christ and members of the United Church of Christ, we look to Jesus for guidance. Jesus said, “Just as I have loved you, you must also love one another.” (John 13:34). Jesus didn’t go to the margins and bring those suffering, injured or persecuted to the center. Jesus stayed with and at the margin. Jesus declared boldly this is what love looks like in action.

Therefore, we embrace our siblings, sisters and brothers in Christ who are trans, nonbinary and gender-expansive. With them, we rejoice in their resiliency and joy in the face of unprecedented legal and bodily assaults on their personhood. With them, we grieve and decry all attempts to erase them and their experiences from schools, libraries, hospitals and other public spaces. We remember those who have been killed and grieve with those who love them still.

We also confess that we have not always loved our neighbor as we love ourselves. We lament the broken covenants between churches, Conferences and other settings of the church, and our beloved siblings who are diminished, erased or left behind.

- We confess that not all of us in the Body of Christ view the life and joy of trans, nonbinary and gender-expansive people equally, and that this breaks the Body of Christ.
- We confess that not all the doors of our sanctuaries, our ministries and our Conferences have been kept open wide enough, inclusive enough

for the fullness and richness of the Body of Christ that encompasses the vast experiences and lived realities of LGBTQIA+ people of faith.

- And we confess that our confessions are not enough. We must act with our feet, our mouths, our eyes and our hearts toward liberation of all LGBTQIA+ people in this moment and beyond.

So, with this confession, we pledge to act collaboratively:

- We pledge to listen to those in the Body of Christ who are trans, nonbinary and gender-expansive.
- We pledge to invite the experiences of trans, nonbinary and gender-expansive people to inform our spirits, our minds, our theologies and our ministries.
- We pledge to voice opposition to any legislation or policy that diminishes the health and flourishing of our trans, nonbinary or gender-expansive siblings, or that seeks to exclude these siblings from public spaces.

As our siblings, sisters and brothers in Christ, and as members of the Body of Christ, we invite all members and friends of the United Church of Christ to join us in this lament, confession and pledge to action.

We are always yours in Christ Jesus,

The Council of Conference Ministers of the United Church of Christ

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

# CCP Harvest Dinner 2023: fun, fellowship, and a feast!

Harvest Dinner took center stage on Nov. 17 as CCP recreated a Belmont standard. This year we had such a crowd that we had to set up more tables to accommodate CCP people as well as guests from several churches, including Island United, College Heights UCC and San Carlos Community Church as well as a Methodist Church (although we're not sure how they heard about us!) It also provided an opportunity to use the matching china, glassware and silverware that we brought from the storage units that hold the treasures saved from the old First Congregational Church of Redwood City when they sold the building. Special thanks to Maura Whitmore (who roasted the turkeys), Mike Venturino and Micki Carter for unpacking nearly a dozen boxes of kitchenware in time for Harvest Dinner. Each piece was wrapped in paper, and they had so much paper Mike had to climb in the blue dumpster to pack it all in! More photos are on the next page.



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



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



**Second Harvest organized a food distribution event in November to provide assistance to families in need. This effort attracted a significant turnout of enthusiastic Scouts from Troop 27, who are sponsored by CCP. They worked hard to gather and distribute food items, demonstrating their commitment to serving the community. The event not only helped those facing food insecurity but also allowed the Scouts to earn valuable service hours as they contributed to this worthy cause.**

## Samaritan House Family Sharing Program 2023

**By Linda Howard**

The term Good Samaritan has become synonymous with someone who shows mercy. Many organizations use the name to show how they care for people. Samaritan House in San Mateo is one such organization. Through the years, the Congregational Church of the Peninsula has contributed to the good works of Samaritan House. In the past, Covid dampened the participation, but now the program is in full operation.

This year the Samaritan House projects that approximately 200 families will receive some Christmas cheer through the Family Sharing Program (FSP). The numbers have increased with the lessening of Covid restrictions. Senior citizens are receiving support through an alternate program.

Inflation and the high cost of living in the Bay Area hits the Samaritan House clients harder than most. Many of their jobs are in the service sectors of the economy such as restaurants, hotels, housecleaning, etc. – all of which are affected by rising costs.

Samaritan House's services include food, medical, clothing and rental assistance among others. The Family Sharing program is another aspect of support services. This program gives our church the opportunity to provide pleasure and joy – not just the basics — during this season.

Volunteers from our church interviewed the families at the end of November, gathering information and a “wish list” for gift requests. Red and green paper stockings “hung with care” will soon adorn the Christmas tree in the Narthex. The names of the family members and their gift request will be written on the stocking tags.

In addition to buying gifts, financial contributions are welcome. Special Offering envelopes are in the pews if you wish to contribute money for Safeway gifts cards. You may also donate by clicking [here](#). Be sure and write Family Sharing in the memo line.

If you have further questions or are looking for advice on gift ideas, please contact Linda Howard at [roswell.linda20@gmail.com](mailto:roswell.linda20@gmail.com).

com or Lisa Lucett at [lkucett@gmail.com](mailto:lkucett@gmail.com)

### IMPORTANT DATES

Nov. 26 – Volunteer shoppers are invited to take a tag or two off the tree, and shop for the family member whose name is written on the stocking tag.

Dec. 3 – Return the purchased gifts to the church. Be sure the gifts are wrapped and the tag with the name of the family member is attached to the gift. (This is important!)

Dec. 10 – The second and final week to bring in the gifts. (Wrapped with tags attached as mentioned above). This is the last day to bring gifts.

Dec. 10-17 — Gifts will be delivered by the volunteers.

Many of the families who register for the Family Sharing program work hard to make ends meet – sometimes holding down two jobs just to survive. Participating in FSP is a gift you can give yourself this holiday season. Your gifts really make a difference in people's lives.

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

# View From the Pew: Thoughts about community and caring

By Gwen Jeong

CCP Council met on Oct. 25 for the monthly two-hour meeting to discuss items submitted for the night's agenda. One of the items was about removing a pew on each side of the Sanctuary for accessibility and moving them to the back. After some discussion about the finer details of the move and the replacement chairs, there were some spoken and unspoken wondering about the prolonged discussion on this topic when there were other items waiting their turn. A partial answer in the form of a question came towards the end. "Will there be enough seating for the wedding?" (More WHY) Whose wedding?

Island United Church Foster City's next virtual Book Club met on Nov. 14. The discussion book was *From Under the Russian Snow* by our own Micki Carter. Micki is a noted author, professional journalist with a long career in local newspaper publishing, International traveler and Graduate/Post Graduate classroom teacher. In 1995 she was a Professional in Residence at the Russian-American Press and Information Center (RAPIC) in Moscow.

The prospect of getting an inside scoop on behind the scenes of news/public information access in the USSR prior to it being Russia could not be resisted. I expressed my intention to participate in the Book Club meeting and received a signed copy of

Micki's book. It is a FASCINATING read. It is autobiographical more than academic. Within the contexts of the Russian side and the USA side of the stories is the history of Congregational Church of Belmont. For example, it provided the name of the person who is having a wedding: David Carter, son of Laurie and Micki Carter. (Because... with Heart)

Dr. James Doty, Neurosurgeon and Neuroscientist and self professed Atheist, was the guest preacher at College Heights UCC's Nov. 5 worship service. He has a podcast called "Into the Magic Shop." He does not like the label of any particular denomination which puts him outside of any other. Nor is he a pantheist. Among many things in the sermon, he mentioned the Blue Zones where a high proportion of the population are centenarians live vibrantly well. He stated "Yes, do the Mediterranean diet, exercise; but the BIG influencer is communal and intergenerational Caring and Sharing.

*From Under the Russian Snow* introduces the reader to the deeper side of CCP people you already know or are getting to know. They have lived lives of communal and intergenerational Caring and Sharing. Today, more than ever, we each need each other. (Because...with Heart).

# Help us recycle and reuse these special items

By Micki Carter

CCP is beginning the process of emptying out the storage units that are filled with the beautiful things that First Congregational Church of Redwood City brought to our merger.

At Harvest Dinner, you may have noticed the complete set of lovely china, glassware and matching silverware that have a new home in the CCP kitchen. The downstairs kitchen now is completely outfitted with the china from upstairs.

Some of the elegant wall hangings and altar paraments from FCCRC will be used in the Sanctuary in the coming days along with a spectacularly beautiful communion set.

And you won't be able to miss the comfortable blue chairs that have replaced the third pew on each side of the Sanctuary to allow room for wheelchairs and walkers.

However, some things we just can't accommodate so we're offering them to you and your friends and family. Just make a donation to the church and a Wurlitzer electronic organ, an \_\_\_\_\_ baby grand piano and an electronic keyboard are available now, and more items to be offered in the coming months can be yours.

Contact Lea at [Office@CCPeninsula.org](mailto:Office@CCPeninsula.org) if you're interested or know someone who is.



The rabbis of the Jewish congregations in San Mateo County invited the clergy from Peninsula Multifaith Coalition to a special Solidarity Prayer Vigil at Saint Bartholomew's Catholic Church in San Mateo, on Nov. 18. Pastor Jim attended and is pictured above with Sister Joan and Pastor Katie of St. Bartholomew's.



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



CCP co-hosted a special worship service on the morning of Thanksgiving day. Members of our church gathered with members and pastors of several UCC, Baptist, Unitarian Universalist and Jewish congregations at St. James African Methodist Episcopal Church. Especially moving was when the multifaith, multiracial and multigenerational group formed a large circle to sing “I Need You to Survive.

## Pastor’s column

Continued from Page One

invite people that you know to Christmas Eve. Let’s come together to pray for Peace, especially in the places we’ll be reading and singing about from ancient times. Come see what God is doing at the emerging Congregational Church of the Peninsula!

With love,  
Pastor Jim



Evensong for Epiphany

Please join us for  
the Installation of the Rev. Jim Mitulski  
as the pastor of  
the Congregational Church of the Peninsula



At 3 p.m. Saturday, January 6,  
at the church:  
751 Alameda de las Pulgas  
Belmont, CA 94002  
with a reception to follow.

Rev. Todd Atkins-Whitley preaching  
Clergy are asked to robe.

Please RSVP to: [Office@CCPeninsula.org](mailto:Office@CCPeninsula.org) • 650-593-4547

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

Peninsula Area of  
Narcotics  
Anonymous ©

Contact Mario C. 650-287-5287

www.peninsulana.org



# NARATHONS

Location: Congregational Church of the  
Peninsula, 751 Alameda de las Pulgas,  
Belmont, CA 94002

## 2023

Need food, and cash donations along  
with volunteers! POT LUCK!!

24 HOUR  
MEETINGS

Thanksgiving Narathon –  
Nov. 22nd (4pm) through  
Nov. 24th (last meeting at 11:00am)

Holiday Narathon –  
Dec. 24th (4pm) through  
Dec. 26th (last meeting at 11:00am)

New Year's Narathon –  
Dec. 31st (4pm) through  
Jan 1st (last meeting at 11:00am)

24 HOUR  
MEETINGS

**NEW YEAR'S EVE DANCE,  
DEC. 31ST AT 9PM**



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

# Calendar for December 2023

3 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	<a href="#">First Sunday of advent worship with Rev. Jim Mitulski</a>
	11:30AM - 1:00PM	Church Events	<a href="#">Soup Lunch and Ornament Making</a>
	5:00PM - 6:00PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Zoom Evening Worship</a>
	7:00PM - 8:30PM	Church Events	<a href="#">Madrigals Concert</a>
5 Tue	12PM - 2PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Good Hope Luncheon</a>
	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Online Book Group</a>
6 Wed	11AM - 12PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Bible Study (Zoom)</a>
7 Thu	7:30PM - 9:00PM ✉	Church Events	<a href="#">Choir Rehearsal</a>
10 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	<a href="#">Second Sunday of Advent worship with Rev. Warren Dale</a>
	11:30AM - 1:00PM	Church Events	<a href="#">Coffee Hour</a>
	5:00PM - 6:00PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Zoom Evening Worship</a>
11 Mon	6:00PM - 9:00PM	Church Events	<a href="#">Bookies Book Club holiday party</a>
12 Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Online Book Group</a>
13 Wed	11AM - 12PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Bible Study (Zoom)</a>
14 Thu	7:30PM - 9:00PM ✉	Church Events	<a href="#">Choir Rehearsal</a>
15 Fri	7:00PM - 9:00PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Caroling at the VA Hospital</a>
17 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	<a href="#">Third Sunday of Advent worship with Rev. Jim Mitulski</a>
	11:30AM - 1:00PM	Church Events	<a href="#">Coffee Hour</a>
	5:00PM - 6:00PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Zoom Evening Worship</a>
	5:00PM - 8:00PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Community Caroling</a>
19 Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Online Book Group</a>
20 Wed	11AM - 12PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Bible Study (Zoom)</a>
21 Thu	7:30PM - 9:00PM ✉	Church Events	<a href="#">Choir Rehearsal</a>
24 Sun	10:30AM - 11:30AM	Worship	<a href="#">Pick-Up Christmas Pageant</a>
	5:00PM - 6:00PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Zoom Evening Worship</a>
	9:00PM - 10:00PM	Worship	<a href="#">Christmas Eve worship with Rev. Jim Mitulski</a>
26 Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Online Book Group</a>
27 Wed	11AM - 12PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Bible Study (Zoom)</a>
28 Thu	7:30PM - 9:00PM ✉	Church Events	<a href="#">Choir Rehearsal</a>
31 Sun		Church Events	<a href="#">Deadline for Annual Reports to Lea</a>
	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	<a href="#">New Year's Eve worship with Rev. Jim Mitulski</a>
	11:30AM - 1:00PM	Church Events	<a href="#">Coffee Hour</a>
	5:00PM - 6:00PM	Off-site events	<a href="#">Zoom Evening Worship</a>

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

# THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!



Dec. 3 at 7pm — Madrigal Singers Concert

Dec. 17 at 5pm — Community Caroling

Dec. 24 at 10:30am — Pickup Nativity Pageant

Dec. 24 at 9pm — Candlelight Chorale  
Christmas Eve Service

Please join us! Details at [CCPeninsula.org](http://CCPeninsula.org)

Listen to the music of Christmas at [CCPeninsula.org/Christmas/](http://CCPeninsula.org/Christmas/)

**January Messenger deadline will be Dec. 26.**



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