



December 2025

# THE MESSENGER

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE PENINSULA

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



## Harvesting some happy times at Harvest Dinner

Great food from CCP cooks drew a nice crowd for Harvest Dinner Nov. 22. Above, Gabriela Simon and Peggy Smullin greet each other. Below, Henry Altorfer wins points in the kitchen, and at the left, Maura Whitmore and Ken Koval (who cooked the turkey!) shared time with their granddaughters, Robin and Kit. More photos appear on Page 8.



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





On Thanksgiving Sunday, the congregation of CCP surrounded Rev. Thomas Crosby for a blessing before he left the Bay Area to move to Dallas where he will be a chaplain at the Veterans Administration Hospital. Thomas served as chaplain at the VA hospital in Menlo Park in covenant with CCP. Thomas was ordained at our church in 2011 after serving as a student minister under the guidance of the late Pastor Kristi Denham.

In observance of World AIDS Day on Dec. 1, the Metropolitan Community Church will offer a 30-minute reflection at 8 a.m. (PST). You can register for the service [here](#). The CEO of the National AIDS Memorial wrote this year: “I am outraged and deeply disappointed by the U.S. government’s decision to cancel this year’s World AIDS Day-related activities. ... For decades,

World AIDS Day has served as a vital moment to honor the millions of lives lost, to stand with survivors, to promote prevention and treatment, and to demand justice and support for communities impacted by HIV.

Canceling it sends a message: that the pain, loss, and resilience of those affected no longer matter. ... On Dec.

1 — and every day — we will mark World AIDS Day ourselves. We will light candles, we will tell the stories of lives lost and lives saved, and we will demand accountability. We will not let this government erase our history — or our future.” You can also watch recent interviews with Pastor Jim about the history of AIDS activism in the ‘80s and ‘90s with a particular focus on San Francisco and Dallas (Part One) [here](#) and (Part Two) [here](#).

**MCC**  
METROPOLITAN  
COMMUNITY CHURCHES

# WORLD AIDS DAY

30-MINUTE OBSERVANCE  
OF REFLECTION & HOPE

DECEMBER 1								DECEMBER 2	
PT	MT	CT	ET	BRT	GMT	CET	SAST	PHT	AEDT
8:00 AM	9:00 AM	10:00 AM	11:00 AM	1:00 PM	4:00 PM	5:00 PM	6:00 PM	12:00 AM	3:00 AM

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

## Warren's Wonderings

# Recalling gatherings all the world over

By Pastor Warren Dale

On our bike rides through the Rancho San Antonio Park, Coyote Creek Trail and the Sawyer Camp Trail, we often see a raft of turkeys. On the most recent rides I have noticed that the flocks are missing. Perhaps they knew what was coming...

That's right, friends, Thanksgiving, the one time when the Native Americans and the new immigrants celebrated together. Yes, we shared the bounty of our land.

When I think of Thanksgiving time, I think of the get-togethers that occur. It reminds me of the Country and Western song, *I've Been Everywhere, Man*:

I've been everywhere, man  
I've been everywhere, man  
Crossed the desert's bare, man  
I've breathed the mountain air, man  
Of travel I've a-had my share, man  
I've been everywhere  
[Verse 1]  
I've been to Reno, Chicago, Fargo,  
Minnesota  
Buffalo, Toronto, Winslow, Sarasota  
Wichita, Tulsa, Ottawa, Oklahoma

Tampa, Panama, Mattawa, La Paloma  
Bangor, Baltimore, Salvador, Amarillo  
Tocopilla, Barranquilla, and Padilla"  
I've been everywhere, man...

Our family started with our blended family Thanksgiving on the Saturday before Thanksgiving. This year we gathered in the Fresno Foothills, 40 of us at our daughter's home. Our hearts were filled with old ones, new ones, the emerging ones.

On Thanksgiving weekend, we met with friends from the Monterey Peninsula with whom we have been gathering for close to 40 years. We have skied, hiked and eaten together. We share stories, books we've read, and wonderful gourmet vegetarian and gluten-free meals.

And among this all, we gathered together at church times. The Harvest Dinner, the Thanksgiving services, and Zoom gatherings.

We hope that all you did brought renewal of wonderful connections, new memories and the blessings of the season.

In conclusion, we invite you to invite others to our services. There are some out

there who are alone this season:

Click [here](#) to join us. Or type in a browser "Zoom.us/join," and then provide mwweeting ID: 840 1756 8492, and passcode: 751ccb

Or launch the Zoom application and provide the same meeting ID and passcode.

## Pastor Warren offers a little turkey humor!

- Why did the turkey bring a microphone? — He was ready to roast.
  - Which side of a turkey has more feathers? — The outside.
  - What do you get when you cross a turkey with a centipede? — Drumsticks for everyone!
  - How does a turkey travel? — By gravy train.
  - What do you call a turkey the day after Thanksgiving? — Lucky!
  - What sound does a turkey phone make? — Wing-wing-wing.
  - What did the turkey say to the turkey hunter on Thanksgiving Day? — Quack, Quack!
- Blessings to all.



The Madrigal Singers of Mountain View High School will present a concert of Christmas music at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 7, in the Sanctuary of CCP. This free concert is a gift of Pastor Warren Dale and his wife Georgi LaBerge. Bring Christmas dedsccookies to share at the reception after.

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



# Congregational Meeting called to vote on repairs

By Elizabeth Nordt

The Trustees have called a Special Meeting of the congregation, per Article XIII, Section 3 of the Church Constitution, on Sunday, Dec. 7, after service, approximately 11:50 a.m..

The Buildings and Grounds Committee has been hard at work and has projects that should be shovel-ready before our next Annual Meeting where we will approve the 2026 budget.

Our current rules require a congregational vote to spend more than \$5,000 on a project.

The Trustees bring the following motions to the congregation:

1) Motion to approve spending up to \$20,000 for sidewalk improvements mandated by the City of Belmont and improving deteriorated parts of the parking lot. Work will be done with appropriate permits by a licensed contractor. Funded out of the existing Capital Improvements Fund balance.

A yes vote allows CCP to comply with Belmont's mandate to fix the front sidewalk along with some driveway/parking lot repairs.

A no vote means we do not spend this money, which risks fines from Belmont.

**Background:** A trip hazard complaint was made against us to the City of Belmont. We received a warning letter to mitigate the hazard.

Buildings and Grounds has worked with the city and chosen a qualified vendor to complete the necessary repairs. There will be three concrete dikes (like a berm) along the street. They will be 4-6" tall and counter-sunk below street level. These will be on the downhill side of each driveway for a total of 40-50 feet.

Additionally, asphalt repairs to the sidewalk and entrance will be done along some deteriorated edges of the driveway, and a significant pothole near the southern end of the front parking lot will be fixed.

2) Motion to approve spending up to \$75,000 for guardrail replacement along the main floor perimeter of the building on the north, east and south sides.

A yes vote allows the Buildings and



Examples of railing failures.



Grounds Committee to proceed with necessary replacement of rusted iron railings for safety, bringing it up to code, and preparing for the deck sealing (water-proofing) of the patio in 2026 to address long-standing leaks.

A no vote leaves the railing as is and makes deck sealing (water-proofing) ineffective.

**Background:** Although a testament to the beautiful country club our building once was, the iron railings have out-lived their functional and aesthetic use. Rust has deteriorated and weakened the safety rails and some places are fully broken. The height and gap width are far from current standards of safety.

This project will replace the iron with a similar aesthetic metal rail that will meet current safety codes.

Replacing the rail is a necessary first step to solving the waterproofing problem on the deck off the Sanctuary. It is concrete and serves as the roof over a large area of

## Moderator's Report New bylaws give a fresh look to filling CCP roles

By Maura Whitmore

Happy December Advent to all. I hope your Thanksgivings were peaceful and bountiful.

To inform you all of goings on, in regard to issues that we as a congregation face in the very near future, please know this.

The Bylaws committee will meet very soon to address our upcoming shift to a new organizational system. We will finalize the opening structure and operating rules, so that everyone can understand and work with this starting point.

That, as we all know, includes: A nomination process for the board, committees and teams. Our current/old process is that the Vice Moderator would canvas/recruit folks to positions and boards that fit their passion to serve.

In some way, this will happen again. ByLaws will have an initial meeting, then in subsequent meetings we welcome all to outline/map out together.

I urge everyone to think about serving. This is how we thrive and carry out our mission.

As I noted in last month's Messenger article, we had to put off the congregational vote to call Rev. Sheryl Johnson as a pastor. Council will meet on Dec. 3 to finalize strategy and understanding of the particulars, that we were not ready to articulate to the congregation on Oct. 19.

Merry Christmas!

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our rented space downstairs.

After 100 years, this concrete has leaks. We have done our best to patch and cover, but we need to fully coat the surface to ensure that it is waterproof — especially for our lease-holders. This is a project for 2026.

The coating will seal around the edges of the railings, making it essential that the railings be stable and secure before the coating is applied.

Feel free to walk around and inspect. Here are links to video tours:

[Kitchen/veranda](#) and [patio/deck](#).

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

# St. Francis Center: Creating change

By Linda Howard

“Leading with love, compassion without judgment, a place to build memories. We are creating change here. It feels like part of the neighborhood.”

These are direct quotes from the staff, volunteers and children describing St. Francis Center, a recent recipient of a CCP Board of Social Action grant.

St. Francis is a holistic social service center located in the North Fair Oaks area of Redwood City. It partners with individuals and families in North Fair Oaks and surrounding communities to provide education, essential services, youth and community programs and housing.

Education is essential for an individual to become a successful and contributing member of society, they believe. St. Francis Center operates a K-8 micro-school focused on education for students and their families. Education continues through the eighth grade, but most graduates receive offers to attend private schools with no cost to their parents.

There are currently 29 students enrolled in the school. Education is a family affair. Parents attend a class one day a week to advance their English skills and to earn a GED. Continuing education for the parents empowers them.

After school, youth can gather at the Siena Youth Center where the belief is “that every young person deserves a safe space to grow and connect.” Open Monday-Friday from 3-8:30 p.m., the center serves youth 10-17.

Beyond traditional school, the children who come to Siena receive academic support, recreational activities and mentoring. Parents are encouraged to participate through a Parent Action Team. Last year 270 youth played, learned and formed friendships at the Siena Youth Center.

Along with education, the center serves the community by operating a Clothes Closet and a Food Pantry. An attractive room houses “gently used” or new clothing for adults and children. The Food Pantry provided 4,707 members with 31,479 bags

of food in 2,024. This Thanksgiving turkeys were provided to the families.

St. Francis currently operates 268 units of affordable housing. A place to return to at the end of the day where a family feels secure is not a luxury, but a necessity to improve one’s mental health and sense of stability.

Rent is charged on a graduated scale depending on the size of the family and income.

The executive director of St. Francis Center, Kate Young, describes the center this way, “Volunteers do not come to serve with a charity mindset; we’re coming together as a community.”

Social Action donated to the St. Francis Center because it is an organization dedicated to supporting a local community where individuals can thrive — not merely survive.

If you would like to drop off clothing or food at the St. Francis Center, the address is 151 Buckingham Ave., Redwood City. If you would like to donate or volunteer, call 650-365-7829 or use this [link](#).



Kris Speer would like to make us aware of an excellent non-profit called [Peninsula Food Runners](#) that needs more volunteers to transport unused school lunch food, farmers market produce, corporate lunches and more to a wide variety of distributing organizations on the Peninsula. “I’ve been using their app to do several assignments,” Kris said, “and it’s a pretty great system! There is a particular need for volunteer drivers.” Here, Kris and daughter Margot picked up 200 prepared salads from Sweetgreens in Burlingame and delivered to Casa de Redwood.

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





## Some Centennial treasures turn up after the Centennial celebration has winded down

By Micki Carter

Karl Middelstadt, president of the Belmont Historical Society and a guest at our Centennial Celebration in September, has come up with two treasures related to our 100-year-old building that we didn't uncover in our Centennial research.

He emailed me the fantastic photo of the clubhouse of the Belle Monti Country Club, our church 100 years later, taken from the northeastern hills of Belmont.

The photo is tiny and somewhat degraded but it appears it was taken in 1925-26 before the golf course was finished (or almost finished).

It's a view that we don't have among our framed Dining Room photos. I Photoshopped the JPEG that Karl sent for the picture you see above, but once I have the original, we may be able to improve the quality and add it to our historical photo gallery.

How did he acquire it? "We visited a couple up on Valley View Avenue today. They bought the home in 1985. The original owner of their house was Mary Alice Cavanagh, a stock broker in SF. She had the home built in 1926 as a vacation home.

"The current residents got the photo from a neighbor who knew Cavanagh."

The very next day, Middelstadt opened a dusty folder in the Historical Society office and a yellowed newspaper clipping fell out. It was the Belle Monti Country Club advertisement that appears on the left of this page.

This is the best rendition of the Belle Monti logo that we've ever seen.

Once you start poking around and asking questions, you never know what you might find!

Middelstadt is still amazed at learning about the boarding school that the country club building housed during World War II. No reference to that has surfaced, but, of course, we learned the story from someone who lived it!

By the way, you might have noticed that most of the lightpole banners along Ralston Avenue that celebrate the centennial of our building are still hanging.

Julie Freitas in the Belmont Public Works office says they will stay up (even though we only paid for July, August and September) until some other group decides to rent the lightpoles!



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## More photos of Harvest Dinner



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



From Pastor Sheryl

# Invite friends to the Pop-up Pageant!

By Sheryl Johnson

November has been a good month for our children, youth and family ministries!

Our youth (and young adult) outing to the pumpkin patch at the end of October was wonderful!

The rain didn't dampen the fun of seeing the animals, eating pie and taking lots of photos! We hope to make it an annual event and try one with a great maze next year.

Other special events have included attending Andrew Altorfer's amazing show, *Into the Woods*, at Hillsdale High School. These productions are incredible and are on par with professional performances!

Coming up on Nov. 30 we will gather for our usual monthly youth/young adult outing to go for crepes and bubble tea and learn about our new church app Church Center (so that we can be "tech support" for other members of the church when it is rolled out over the coming months). All are welcome to join — no age limit!

This month we have also been focused on trying to make our Sanctuary and our worship more inviting to children and families. In addition to our monthly playdates and preparation of Godly Play curriculum materials, we have new text for the weekly bulletin that helps families know about the choices they have on Sundays.

(Kids are both totally welcome in the service and totally welcome to attend our kids' programming.)

We are also preparing a new brochure welcoming families and new signage for our kids' activity bags.

If you see kids in worship, please help them to feel welcome by introducing yourself, starting a conversation, waving or even just offering a warm smile.

We want everyone at our church to feel welcome and relaxed, knowing that silence isn't a requirement and that we are all welcome to move our bodies, leave the Sanctuary as needed, and do whatever will help us be present during the service (i.e. knitting, drawing, etc.).

This month has also been a time of

**Congregational Church of the Peninsula**  
751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont CA

## POP UP CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & FUN!

**Sunday, Dec 14: 10:00am-1pm**  
10am: Choose a costume and enjoy some snacks!  
10:30am: No-lines, no-rehearsal Christmas pageant for all ages during our worship service (featuring festive Christmas carols!)  
11:30am: Special Christmas crafts  
12:00pm: Free kid-friendly lunch!

All ages are welcome; kids must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Progressive, multi-cultural, LGBTQIA+ affirming church  
All religious/spiritual backgrounds welcome!

Questions or RSVP: [Sheryl@ccpeninsula.org](mailto:Sheryl@ccpeninsula.org)

preparing for the Advent and Christmas seasons! We are working to publicize our Pop-Up Christmas Pageant on Sunday, Dec. 14 (and are grateful that CPNS has allowed us to give out flyers, attached to sticker sheets, to their kids) and to better network in the community so that we can have a good turnout.

We also plan to participate in other congregational activities such as Christmas caroling on Dec. 21. We look forward to welcome home many of our young adults who will be visiting over the holidays.

Please help us to extend a warm welcome to anyone visiting over this special season!

**Print some copies of this page, clip out the flyer  
and share it around your neighborhood!**

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



# Meet some of the families we'll help with the Christmas Giving program

By Micki Carter

Providing families in need with a real Christmas with gifts for the children (and mom and dad as well!) and food for the dinner table has long been a Christmas Giving tradition at CCP.

Most often, in recent years, we have partnered with Samaritan House. This year, we are planning to work with Faith in Action Bay Area.

The plan is to serve the 37 families that are under the care of the Community Fund of FIABA. These are all families that have been affected by ICE arrests and deportations.

In most cases, these are the mothers and children left at home after the fathers have been forcibly removed. Some are in detention centers, and some have already been deported.

Two families have had both parents arrested and detained or deported. The children are in the care of distant relatives.

In addition, we are including the families that CCP's Circle of Care fund has been able to help.

I thought you might like to know something about these families as well — although we have to protect identities.

One family are members of the persecuted Kurd community in Turkey. The father, who was in the process of having his asylum claim adjudicated, was arrested Oct. 1 and is now incarcerated at an ICE detention center in Bakersfield.

The family includes three children under 11, one of whom is a special needs child, and the mother is due to give birth in February.

The Circle of Care fund was able to provide three months rent for this family, starting in December, after the FIABA Community Fund's support runs out.

Because the mom has no baby things, CCP's Christmas Giving program will be stepping in to help.

Another refugee family is from the oppressed Buryatia region of Siberia in Russia. This family of four, including a daughter, 7, and a son, 5, made their way to Tijuana early this year and spent weeks in Mexico filing asylum claims online, as they were instructed to do.



**Carol Chivers chooses a gift tag to provide a gift for families who have suffered from ICE actions. Keith Howard signs the Christmas cards that will be delivered, with gift cards, to all the families in the care of Faith in Action.**

They finally received clearance that they could enter the country to pursue asylum, but immediately after crossing the border, they were arrested. Both parents were sent to the Bakersfield detention center, and the children went into foster care.

The mom was released this past summer, and she was able to regain custody of her children.

In October, she was summoned to ICE offices on Sansome Street in San Francisco and, after a five-hour wait, with her children, she received approval to proceed with the asylum case for her and her children. Her husband remains jailed.

Another family, a mother and three daughters under 13, had their husband and father arrested at his work site. They have been dependent on the FIABA Community Fund until their support ran out. Circle of Care was able to provide three months rent while they seek an attorney to take on the father's case.

If you would like to provide financial assistance to CCP's Circle of Care, you can put a check in the collection plate (with

Circle of Care in the memo line) or use the church's [QR donation code](#), noting Circle of Care in the memo line,

The tags with the gifts that have been requested have all been picked up!

Those gifts must be returned to church by Dec. 14 when Circle of Care team members (Jill Visors, Jane Fernald, Steve Chamberlin, Pastor Jim and I) will deliver them to the families in time for Christmas.

We will also provide a \$100 Safeway gift card and a \$100 Target gift card for each of the 37 families under the care of the FIABA Community Fund — along with a box of truffles from Preston's Candies, the longtime Chocolate Fest supporter.


Special thanks to the Social Action team for a donation of \$4,000 to pay for the cards for food.

You can help provide the other gift cards by using the red Christmas Giving envelopes in the pews or using the church's QR donation code with Christmas Giving in the memo line.

Thank you!

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

# CCP's December Calendar

<b>2</b> Tue	12:00PM - 1:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Good Hope Luncheon
	1:30PM - 2:30PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Book Group
<b>3</b> Wed	11:00AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Prayer Time with Pastor Jim and Pastor Warren
	7:00PM - 9:00PM 	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	CCB Council Meeting
<b>4</b> Thu	6PM - 7PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Thursday Night Prayer & Check-in
	7:30PM - 9PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
<b>7</b> Sun	9:30AM - 10:15AM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Preschool Playgroup with Rev. Sheryl
	10:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
	12PM - 12:15PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Congregational Mtg.
	5PM - 6PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Zoom worship with Pastor Warren
	5PM - 7PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Madrigals Concert
<b>8</b> Mon	5:00PM - 9:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Bookies Book Club holiday party
<b>9</b> Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Book Group
<b>10</b> Wed	11:00AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Prayer Time with Pastor Jim and Pastor Warren
	7PM - 9PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Trustees Budget mtg
<b>11</b> Thu	6PM - 7PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Thursday Night Prayer & Check-in
	7:30PM - 9PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
<b>14</b> Sun	10:00AM - 1:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship - Pop-Up Christmas Pageant
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
	5PM - 6PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Zoom worship with Pastor Warren
<b>16</b> Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Book Group
<b>17</b> Wed	11:00AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Prayer Time with Pastor Jim and Pastor Warren
<b>18</b> Thu	6PM - 7PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Thursday Night Prayer & Check-in
	7:30PM - 9PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
<b>21</b> Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
	12PM - 1PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Social Action Meeting
	5PM - 6PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Zoom worship with Pastor Warren
	5PM - 8PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Community Caroling
<b>23</b> Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Book Group
<b>24</b> Wed	11:00AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Prayer Time with Pastor Jim and Pastor Warren
	9PM - 10PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Christmas Eve worship
<b>28</b> Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
	5PM - 6PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Zoom worship with Pastor Warren
<b>30</b> Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Book Group
<b>31</b> Wed	11:00AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Prayer Time with Pastor Jim and Pastor Warren

You can access the entire CCP December calendar [here](#).



## THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!



**Dec. 7** at 5 pm — Madrigal Singers Concert  
**Dec. 14** at 10:30 am — Pop-up Pageant Sunday  
**Dec. 20** at 10 am — Cookie-making Party  
**Dec. 21** at 4:45 pm — Community Caroling  
**Dec. 24** at 9 pm — 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/)

## Join us for Good Hope Lunch Dec. 2 in CCP Dining Room

The Good Hope Luncheon will celebrate the holidays in the Dining Room at CCP at noon, Tuesday, Dec. 2, and we are eager to have you attend!

Instead of gifts for each other, we are invited to bring baby gifts or disposable diapers for the baby boy who will be born to one of Circle of Care families.

The mom of the family (who is to give birth in February) is caring for three children under 11, one of whom is a special needs child. Her husband was arrested by ICE

Oct. 1 and is incarcerated at the Bakesfield Detention Center.

Pastor Warren and Georgi LaBerge are gathering supplies for gift bags for people living on the streets. They will be putting together 50 gift bags after the luncheon.

The gift bags will consist of toothbrushes, toothpaste, trail mix snack packs, fruit snacks and socks. Please email [warren@ccpeninsula.org](mailto:warren@ccpeninsula.org) to let him know if you can help fill gift bags!



Pastor Jim joined other local clergy at the Thanksgiving Day service at Trinity Baptist Church in San Mateo. CCP's Audrey Boyd and Justin Porto sang.

## Need a nudge to remember to pray? We're here to help

It can be hard to remember hope, peace, love and joy in the world right now.

So let us help!

Each day during Advent, you will receive a texted prayer at a random time in the day (8 a.m. to 8 p.m.), a quick reminder that the holy is always nearby and love can break through at any time.

To receive texts, text the word "JOIN" to 510-488-5810.

Advent Flash Text Prayers is a project of Into the Wilderness, a church "pop-up" supported by Plymouth Jazz and Justice UCC and coordinated by the Rev. Leslie Leasure.

This year, the Rev. Penny Nixon will be the featured prayer writer in celebration of our tenth season of Flash Text Prayers!

### December

Dec. 7, Advent 2 with Pastor Jim preaching at 10:30 a.m., Holy Communion, Madrigals Concert, 5 p.m.  
Dec. 14, Advent 3, Pop-Up Christmas Pageant, Hanukkah  
Dec. 20, (Saturday) Christmas Cookie-Making, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Dec. 21, Advent 4 at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Jim preaching. Caroling to our housebound, 4:30-8:30 p.m.  
Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, 9 p.m. — handbell choir, Communion and carols by candlelight  
Dec. 28, Christmas 1, Kwanzaa, New Years, 10:30 a.m. worship at Congregational Church of San Mateo.

### January

Jan. 4, Epiphany, Pastor Jim preaching, Holy Communion, Congregational Potluck Lunch  
Jan. 11, Baptism of Christ, and Baptismal Renewal Sunday, Pastor Jim preaching  
Jan. 18, Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday, Pastor Jim preaching  
Jan. 25, Renewal of Covenant/Membership Sunday, Annual Meeting. noon, in the Dining Room.

To go to the Congregational Church of Peninsula website, click on [CCP](http://CCP).





# Christmas Caroling

Sunday, Dec. 21, 4:45 p.m.

We will only make three stops this year:  
Carlmont Gardens to sing to Brenda Garner;  
Millie Cole's house to sing to Millie;  
and Sterling Court to sing to Doris Brown.

Then we will come back to the church for pizza!

Please join us  
and plan to carpool from CCP!

**January Messenger deadline will be Dec. 22.**



Congregational Church of Belmont/First Congregational Church of Redwood City  
751 Alameda de las Pulgas, Belmont CA 94002 • [CCPeninsula.org](http://CCPeninsula.org)  
650-593-4547 • [Office@CCPeninsula.org](mailto:Office@CCPeninsula.org)



**Audrey Boyd and Justin Porto cut the November birthday cake Nov. 9 during Coffee Hour.**

**To go to the Congregational Church of Peninsula website, click on [CCP](http://CCP).**