



March 2026  
**THE**

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE PENINSULA  
**MESSENGER**

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



## Troop 27 honors us with Scout Sunday

Scouts of all levels filled the pews at CCPeninsula Feb. 8 to observe Scout Sunday. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, a Girl Guide from Canada, brought the message. The morning began with a pancake breakfast fundraiser for the Scouts' super trip. (We saw a video of last year's trip to Iceland!) During worship, a parade of young people spoke about what Scouting has meant to them, and Andrew and Naomi offered a beautiful duet of *Ave Verum Corpus* by Mozart. At Coffee Hour, the Scouts provided an abundance of goodies and the opportunity to chat with — and thank — the young people who have become an integral part of the Congregational Church of the Peninsula.

More photos appear on Page 9



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



# Tell Me Something Good!

## Join us for Holy Week and Easter

**Palm Sunday — March 29 at 10:30 a.m. here**  
Outdoor processional and reading of the Passion

**Maundy Thursday — April 2 at 7 p.m. here**  
Combined Choirs, Worship Band and Holy Communion

**Good Friday — April 3 at 7 p.m.**  
The Seven Last Words of Non-Violent Jesus  
At Congregational Church of San Mateo

**Great Vigil of Easter — April 4 at 7 p.m.**  
At College Heights UCC in San Mateo

**Easter Sunday — April 5 at 10:30 a.m. here**  
Giant Easter Egg hunt here at noon after worship!

# Congregational Church of the Peninsula

United Church of Christ - [CCPeninsula.org](http://CCPeninsula.org) - 650-593-4547

## Sign up for Lenten prayers via text!

It can be hard to remember where good news may be found in the world right now. So let us help!

Each day during Lent, 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. Everyone who signed up for Advent prayers will receive Lenten prayers unless they opted out.

Lent Flash Text Prayers is a project of Into the Wilderness, a church "pop-up" supported by Plymouth Jazz and Justice UCC. This year, Rev. Penny Nixon will be our featured prayer writer in celebration of our tenth season of Flash Text Prayers!

## Updates for your CCPen calendars

**March 1**, Second Sunday in Lent, Holy Communion, installation of new Board of Directors, Rev. Jim Mitulski

**March 8**, Third Sunday in Lent, Rev. Warren Dale; Death Cafe in Dining Room at 12:30 p.m.

**March 15**, Fourth Sunday in Lent, Rev. Dr. David Vasquez-Levy, president, Pacific School of Religion; San Carlos Community Church joins us for worship; Pi(e) Sunday

**March 22**, Fifth Sunday in Lent, Rev. Jim Mitulski; Youth Group event after worship

**March 29**, Palm Sunday, Rev. Jim Mitulski, with palm processional and reading of the Passion.

**April 2**, Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m. worship featuring the combined choirs,

CCPen Worship Band and Holy Communion.

**April 3**, Good Friday, 7 p.m. worship at Congregational Church of San Mateo, 225 Tilton Ave, San Mateo

**April 4**, Great Vigil of Easter, 7 p.m. College Heights UCC, 1150 W Hillsdale Blvd, San Mateo

**April 5**, Easter Sunday, 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service at the Belmont campus this year, and 10:30 a.m. celebratory worship at the Belmont campus, with Easter Egg Hunt, crafts and lunch after.

**April 12**, Rev. Jim Mitulski, with Death Cafe at 12:30 p.m. in the Dining Room

**April 19**, Rev. Jim Mitulski, Youth Group event

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

## Warren's Wonderings

# Join Warren on the Pastoral Care Team

By Rev. Warren Dale

Well, our Annual Meeting is over, and our hopes are established through a new configuration of our church — new goals, new ways of empowering all of us to be what our Scripture calls us to be:

God has shown you, O mortal, what is good.

And what does the Holy One require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy  
and to walk humbly with your God.

As I wonder about all of this, I ask myself how then do I find my role in all of

this? Well, I asked the great “AI” in the sky for the duties of the Pastoral/Congregational Care Committee.

And here is what it said ... wrote ... put forth for our consideration:

“A church pastoral care committee serves the congregation by providing compassionate, practical, and spiritual support to members in need, acting as a ‘ministry of presence’ through crisis, illness and life transitions.

“Key roles include visiting the sick and homebound, organizing grief support, providing meals for those in need, offering prayers, maintaining confidentiality and fostering a welcoming community.”

In reading this, I thought of those in our church who are indeed being a “ministry of presence,” much of which I wrote about in last month’s newsletter.

Well, today, my friends, after noting those who are being present with those in need, I am asking if you would like to be a part of this “ministry of presence?”

If so, please join me after our morning church service on March 1. We will have the opportunity to discuss the roles, the ways and the means for being a part of this most rewarding Pastoral/Congregational Care Team.

Blessings,  
The Rev. Warren



Gin Mon Restaurant in the Carlmont Shopping Center in Belmont was the setting for February’s Good Hope Luncheon on Feb. 3. The luncheon will return to Harry’s Hofbrau, 1909 El Camino Real, Redwood City, at noon on March 3. The Good Hope Luncheon, which takes place on the first Tuesday of every month at noon, came to CCP via First Church of Redwood City where it had been an established monthly event for years. It’s at a local restaurant — or another location to be announced — and everyone is welcome. Each attendee pays for their own lunch although some events are hosted. If you would like to have the cost of your meal covered, speak to Pastor Jim, and he will take care of it, confidentially, no questions asked. Everyone of every age is welcome — if you’re free midday, come meet new friends.

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

**Psst! We're having an Easter Egg hunt!**

**We're going to  
hide Easter Eggs  
on our lawn  
at noon Easter  
Sunday, April 5.**



**Then join us  
in the church  
Dining Room  
for lunch and  
Easter crafts!**

**Come fill your Easter baskets!**

From Pastor Sheryl

# Faithful Parenting book club launches

By Rev. Sheryl Johnson

Our programming continues to go well with our Children, Youth and Family ministries.

In February, we observed Black History Month and Scout Sunday, with strong youth participation in the service that day. I was delighted to have the opportunity to preach and also to meet with the Scouts and their leadership.

I look forward to deepening this partnership over the coming months and years.

Our special February youth and young adult event including lunch and skating, an activity chosen by one of our youth, has been rescheduled for March 8. It will be a great time to build connections and try an activity that many of us are relatively inexperienced with!

We are grateful to our youth for their assistance with choosing and planning our Easter activities. In March, we plan to fill Easter eggs for the egg hunt, and in April, we will make care packages for our college students and young adults. More information to follow!

We are grateful to be receiving a large donation of Godly Play Sunday School materials from a church that no longer needs them in the upcoming weeks.

We look forward to offering Godly Play classes for children in the near future. This is a Montessori-based approach that invites kids into an imaginative, creative and personal connection to Biblical stories.

Looking to March, we are excited to launch our Faithful Parenting book group on Zoom. Please help to spread the word as you are able.

Thank you for all of your support of our younger members!

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Faithful Parenting

## BOOK CLUB

1st Wednesdays  
starting Mar 2026 | Zoom | 8-9PM

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Join us monthly on Zoom to discuss *Bless this Mess* by Rev. Molly Baskette and Dr. Ellen O'Donnell. The book is rooted in science, psychology, and progressive (LGBTQIA+ affirming) Christian faith. All are welcome regardless of beliefs, traditions, or family configurations!

Free copy of the book provided by mail.  
Come even if you don't have time to read the month's chapter!

Facilitated by Rev. Sheryl Johnson (Congregational Church of the Peninsula & toddler parent!) and Rev. Emily Czarnik-Neimeyer (Chaplain and expectant parent!)




Register: [sheryl@ccpeninsula.org](mailto:sheryl@ccpeninsula.org)

To go to the Congregational Church of Peninsula website, click on [CCPen](https://www.ccpenn.org).

# Georgi LaBerge (believe it or not) is 90!

*This article appeared in the Sustainable San Mateo County blog and website in February. It is reprinted by permission.*

## By Terry Nagel

Sustainable San Mateo County Board Member Georgi LaBerge is turning 90 this month, and she shows no signs of slowing down.

She regularly attends workout and balance classes, goes camping and competes every year with her husband, Warren Dale, in the National World Senior Games in St. George, Utah, where they have won multiple gold medals in power walking and volleyball.

Upon joining SSMC's board in 2018, she focused on fund development, helped expand the annual awards program and taught local students how to advocate in local government. She usually has a clever idea to add to any discussion.

A native of Colorado, Georgi moved to Redwood City in 1958. She volunteered with the Cub Scouts, Campfire Girls and her four children's schools before she was appointed to the city's Parks and Recreation Commission in 1982, where she started a program inviting people to "adopt" city parks. Her passion for public service was apparent. She was elected to the City Council in 1986 and served three terms, including two years as mayor.

As a council member and community leader, Georgi helped create Redwood City's child care policy, launched the city's Pride and Beautification Committee and promoted tree planting with CityTrees.

She and her husband, Rev. Warren Dale, developed a city task force to prevent domestic violence in Romania, trained U.S. mayors with USAID in fostering citizen involvement, and were active in developing a human trafficking awareness campaign in the city that resulted in a weeklong display and conference on the topic at the San Mateo County Fair.

After leaving the council, she co-led a \$400,000 fundraising campaign to renovate the old Redwood City courthouse, and it was transformed into the stately San Mateo County History Museum, now a landmark of Courthouse Square.

She went on to serve as executive direc-



**Georgi LaBerge (center) is joined by Mike Venturino and Jane Fernald to cut the February birthday cake during Coffee Hour Feb. 1. Turns out CCPen has a bumper crop of February birthdays, but only Georgi has reached 90!**

tor of the San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation for seven years, raising \$4.5 million for scholarships and grants, and co-founded the Redwood City Library Foundation, where under her leadership a Traveling Story Time program was developed to encourage family reading, and a computer study center for teens was established.

Georgi was inducted in the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame, received the Athena Business Woman of the Year Award and was presented the Sequoia Citizen of the Year Award jointly with her husband.

Warren is an avid volunteer, too, who served 20 years on Redwood City's Arts Commission, co-founded the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center and is an internationally known expert on traumatic stress recovery, a mission that took him on more than 40 missions overseas to help survivors of war and disasters.

He is currently the associate pastor of the Congregational Church of the Peninsula in Belmont.

We can't wait to see what they decide to do next.

## Dumpsters will soon be locked

### By Philip Broadus

To address ongoing unauthorized dumping on church property, new locking bars will be installed on all dumpsters beginning March 19.

These measures are intended to help reduce excess waste costs, maintain cleanliness, and ensure that disposal capacity remains available for church ministries and building users.

For congregational convenience, dumpster keys will be stored in the kitchen behind

the warming oven by the door to the veranda. After use, please return the key and ensure that the dumpsters are securely locked.

Your cooperation in keeping dumpsters locked when not in use will help protect church resources and maintain a clean, welcoming campus for all.

If you have questions or require access support, please contact the church office.

Thank you for your care and stewardship of our shared space.

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

# Writing a requiem for our pipe organ

By Mike Venturino

A bittersweet project is under way. The pipe organ, which infused our worship with what might be said to be literally “the breath of god” for over 50 years, is being dismantled.

It was donated and built by the late Gary Brandenburg with help from his family.

Gary’s mother, Reba, made it sing until she had to retire. It has continued to fill our hearts with music under the fingers (and feet!) of Craig Norris, Joe McClain, Stephen Lind and Jeffrey Jones. It fell into disrepair once Gary was no longer able to give it the weekly care it required.

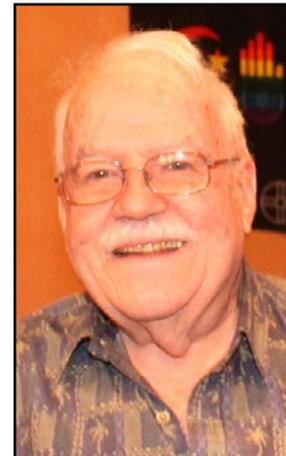
Fittingly, the last time it was played was at Gary’s memorial.

All pipe organs are unique, but ours is perhaps more unique than others. The unorthodox wiring and Gary’s unique designs made it such that no professional organ company would take on repairing or maintaining it. If the church wished to have a pipe organ, the only practical course was to replace it. One way or the other, the existing organ needed to be removed.

Although straightforward (the organ builder we spoke with simply said, “Just don’t let anything fall on you when you take it apart.”), the scope of the project is



Mike works on the organ console.



Gary Brandenburg

next room will remain until plans for the Sanctuary redesign become clearer. The other metal pipes will either go to an amateur organ builder (the professionals have no need for them, even for free) or to scrap. The tin has value and

can live on in another use. still a little daunting: 50 ranks (rows) of pipes ranging from a few inches to 16 feet tall, plus all of the support structures, piping and wiring.

The professional organ builders advised us that the only items of value were the metal pipes. The extra electronics that Gary had installed to increase the organ’s range have been removed and taken to e-waste. The console will be dismantled, the electronic parts sent to e-waste and the wood recycled.

The pipe façade behind the altar and the shutters between the sanctuary and the an-

chor can live on in another use. While it is hoped that the pipes will sing in another organ, the reality is that they will probably be recycled.

I have developed an informal workflow in dismantling the console, pedals and ranks. Henry Altorfer is researching options other than scrap for the pipes. Let either of us know if you have time to help, and we’ll put you to work.

We’ll be working with love to honor the legacy of the instrument and the man who built it.

## The pipe organ that Gary Brandenburg built

*Longtime member Kathy Simmons wrote this history of the pipe organ for CCB’s 50th Anniversary Storybook in 2004.*

By Kathy Simmons

From its humble beginnings in 1919, in another church, our pipe organ has gone from a modest seven sets of pipes to the 15 sets we enjoy today. Considering there are roughly 60 pipes per set, our organ has 900 pipes, plus the 36 pipes for the pedals. That’s a lot of lung power!

I spoke to Gary Brandenburg one morning about the history of our pipe organ.

In 1955-56 an electronic organ was donated as a memorial. In 1959 Gary’s Mom, Reba Brandenburg, became our church organist, and Gary sang in the choir. They both dreamed of a pipe organ for the Sanctuary. Gary said, “In 1963 we got wind of a pipe organ in a Redwood City church.”

Eventually that church said, “We’ll let

you have it, if you’ll just take it out!”

There was no place at the Congregational Church of Belmont to put the organ for the tune-up work that needed to be done. Gary’s parents had a garage and that’s where the organ was re-built.

It took Gary a year to go over every part and re-build it. Once it was ready, Gary tested it out in the garage. “I started to play, and it just came alive.”

The organ’s motor has 1.5 horsepower, and, after he finished playing, Gary went outside and saw that the power of the motor had blown all the leaves off the tree that stood above it!

A pipe organ can’t ever be perfectly tuned because, as soon as it is tuned, it starts to drift. Therefore, the pipes will always have a slightly different pitch. “People think that’s the beauty of the organ,” Gary said, “to have it slightly out of tune.”

The big, brass pipes that frame the back of the altar are the foundation of the organ. Played alone they have a big, lush, romantic quality.

“Then you add other sounds around the foundation to give it other qualities. The organ can play down to a whisper and up to the full sound of a symphony,” Gary explained.

In 1964, the organ was set up in the church, and almost immediately another set of pipes was added. Gary saw an ad for a set of trumpet pipes for \$65. Gary said, “I bought them, but the trick was to add them on.”

Designing, re-building, enlarging and maintaining this wonderful instrument has been a labor of love for Gary for many years. Each Sunday we who sit in the pews are able to benefit from his experience and care.

One thing is for certain, our pipe organ is unique, and nothing can match its sound!

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# Board gets organized with new bylaws

By Danielle Chamberlin

The CCPen board thanks the congregation for the honor of electing us to lead the church in 2026.

The board met virtually on Feb. 4 at 6 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, with many thanks to Maura Whitmore dialing in from her vacation in New Zealand (3 p.m. on Feb. 5 for Maura!)

An important first act for our new board was to elect officers and establish the board members' terms.

The board elected:

**Maura Whitmore**, president;  
**Greg Thornhill**, vice-president;  
**Elizabeth Nordt**, corporate secretary;  
**Danielle Chamberlin**, treasurer.

Board members **Paul Michel** and **Calyx Liu** will have one-year terms. **Maura, Greg, Danielle and Elizabeth** will have two-year terms. The board will re-elect new officers each year, however, so the 2026 role assignments may change next year.

As explained at Annual Meeting, Calyx plans to step down mid-year as she will be moving to Texas, and **Mary Beth Gray** has agreed to be appointed in her place for the remainder of her one-year term.

We still have one seat open on our



Ken and Maura in New Zealand

seven-person board. If you are interested in serving, please talk to a board member.

The new board has duly adopted our new bylaws as voted in by the congregation. The appointment of officers was an important first step for the filing of our new Articles of Incorporation with the state, as the new Articles must be filed by our secretary and president.

The board has voted to file the new Articles as soon as possible now that we have officers (even threatening to meet Maura in baggage claim to get her signature as soon

as she gets home from New Zealand!).

After we have a return receipt from the Secretary of State, our Finance Committee will work to change all our financial accounts from our old business name (Congregational Church of Belmont) to our new business name (Congregational Church of the Peninsula).

The board also voted to appoint the following members to standing committees:

**Finance Committee:** Danielle Chamberlin (board representative), Elizabeth Nordt

**Human Resources Committee:** Greg Thornhill (board representative), Elizabeth Nordt, Steve Chamberlin and Philip Broadus

**Nominations Committee:** Maura Whitmore (board representative), Danielle Chamberlin

**Facilities Committee:** Greg Thornhill (board representative), Mary Beth Gray, Henry Altorfer, Philip Broadus

This will be a busy year for the new board. Thank you all for your support and trust as we work to reorganize the church for more efficient operations with our hardworking core of volunteers.

# A memoir in vignettes for March reading

The online book group with Island United UCC in Foster City meets via Zoom on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m.

The book for March will be *In My Heart, a Volcano: A Memoir in Vignettes* by Rhina Mercedes Ramos.

It tells the extraordinary stories of ordinary people, people who survived their own destiny of violence and war and women who liberate themselves from abuse and give wings to other women.

It features the memories of a Salvadoran girl that inspire hope and make readers feel joy, sadness, resolve and triumph.

Other upcoming books are:

**The Worlds I See** by Fei-Fei Li, San Francisco Public Library's One City One Book. (April)

**The True Story of Raja the Gullible (and His Mother)** by Rabih Alamedinne (May), the 2025 National

Book Award Winner for fiction.

**Enormous Wings** by Laurie Frankel (June)

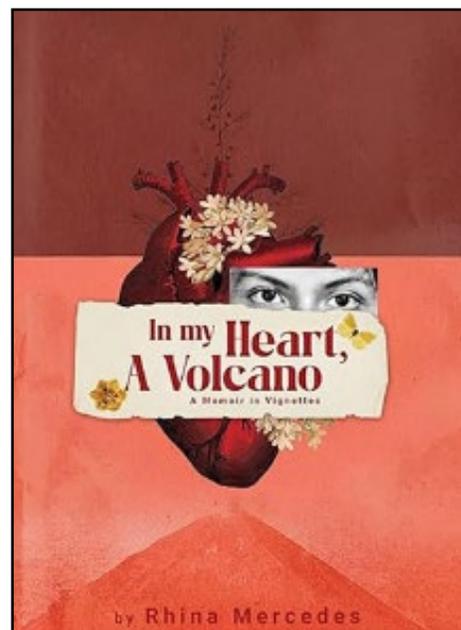
**The Human Scale** by Lawrence Right (July)

**I See You've Called in Dead** by John Kenney. (August)

This schedule is subject to revision. Books are generally available at the rear of the Sanctuary. They are free, but you are welcome to make a donation to cover the cost for yourself or others.

Books are also available in e-book format, and/or from the public library. Here's the link to join Book Group online.

It's always okay to come if you aren't caught up with the reading and newcomers are always welcome. Many non-church goers, some from all around the country, participate in the online discussions which have been known to get animated.



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

## Social Action

# New Social Action team to assist CORA

By Lisa Lucett

The 2026 Social Action Committee is off to a good start.

At the Feb. 22 meeting, the group voted to support CORA (Community Overcoming Relationship Abuse), a San Mateo County non-profit committed to ending domestic violence and abuse through intervention and prevention efforts.

CORA offers a range of services such as a 24-hour hotline (to provide immediate support and guidance during crisis situations), support groups, legal services, emergency and transitional housing and community education programs.

In March, the committee plans to strategize on reviewing past donations for re-



consideration and how we might ensure a balanced approach of donating to a variety of causes while still leaving room to address urgent social issues as they occur.

If you are interested in learning more about this wonderful group, our meetings

are open, and we would love to have you.

While we generally meet after service on the fourth Sunday of the month, our meeting calendar is also published in the online [church calendar](#).

## Performance reviews for staff to begin

By Steve Chamberlin

The Personnel Committee is introducing something new this year: a formal performance review process for members of our growing church staff.

This is the first time CCPeninsula has attempted a structured process like this, and it's part of a broader effort to support our staff and introduce more employment-related best practices from similar organizations.

The review process is beginning now, and will continue through the months of March and April.

"Performance reviews" may sound stiff and corporate, but the goal is simple. We want our employees to have an opportunity to reflect on their work and to receive thoughtful feedback and encouragement.

A healthy church doesn't just hope things are going well, nor avoid difficult conversations, but instead makes space to talk regularly and openly about what's working, what isn't, and where growth is possible.

A good review process also helps support making informed decisions about salary increases.

The reviews will include several separate pieces: a self-reflection by the employee,

a written evaluation from the employee's supervisor, and 360 degree feedback from colleagues.

That 360-degree feedback is a review system where an employee's review is based on feedback from all directions, including from their supervisor, their colleagues and their subordinates (if any).

It's an alternative to a more traditional system where the employee's supervisor writes their review without consulting anybody else.

As members of the church congregation, you may also be "colleagues" to our staff members, by virtue of your church volunteer roles. If you're asked to provide 360-degree feedback on an employee, your review will go to the employee's supervisor and be combined with other similar feedback, paraphrased and shared anonymously.

Our deadline for collecting feedback is

March 4, so we appreciate you responding quickly to help meet this deadline.

The review system will apply to all employees, including our teen staff members.

For parents of teen staff, please know that this process is intended to be supportive, focused on guidance and development. It will feel similar to evaluation processes that young people experience in school or in other early jobs. The goal is to help young employees grow in confidence and responsibility.

Because this will be the church's first time using a formal review process, we expect to learn along the way, listen carefully to feedback, and make adjustments as necessary in future years.

As always, thank you for your trust and for being part of a church community that cares enough to keep improving how we work.



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# What a lot of elbow grease can do!

By Greg Thornhill

It's no secret that our church building is a frequent topic of conversation. In various settings, I often hear concerns that our church home is in need of deep repair, that it isn't "presentable," or that it lacks the polish to be appealing for rentals.

While I hear and understand those concerns, I take an immense amount of pride in this building. To me, it's a space with soul and character.

This past Valentine's Day, I had the personal blessing of hosting my niece's wedding here. It was the perfect opportunity to prove that with a little love and elbow grease, our building can truly shine.

## The Perfect Trifecta

They say timing is everything, and for this project, the stars aligned perfectly. We had what I call the Perfect Trifecta of motivation to tackle several weeks of intense work:

1. A helping hand: A family friend needed service hours for a grad school application.
2. The opportunity: A some downtime in my own schedule.
3. The goal: The motivation to make the building sparkle for a family wedding!

## The Full Court Press: What we accomplished

We focused on a mix of high-visibility cosmetic refreshes and essential infrastructure "behind the scenes." Here is a look at the work completed:

- The Narthex: We patched and painted the walls and trim — the first time in at last 20 years, by my count!
- We also removed defunct wiring and old speakers, replaced all switches and cover



plates for a consistent look, and patched the walls accordingly. It's a great start, and I'd love to keep that momentum going up and down the stairways.

(If you're interested in partnering on more painting, let me know!)

- Dining Room: We performed significant touch-ups on the woodwork and painted the lower wall panels all the way around. We also replaced a broken glass pane on one of the French doors.
- The Parlor: The west wall had been touched up with mismatched colors over the years; the west wall and trim was repainted. We also swapped the old ceiling fan for a newer model to provide much-needed light to the room.

• Parlor bathrooms: Both bathrooms received a full refresh with new paint on the walls and trim, along with significant wall patching and door jamb repairs.

• Entry and accessibility: We painted the front stairs, landing and the rear ramp off the Dining Room French doors.

We used a specialized non-skid paint with an anti-slip additive. This means we should never need to use that anti-slip tape again (please) — which was not only short-

lived but a bit of an eyesore!

• Kitchen and grounds: We replaced missing kitchen tiles and fixed a serious electrical safety issue in the front landscaping where water was entering the conduit.

• Exterior maintenance: We addressed significant rot in the partition wall between the exterior apartment stairs and the veranda.

We dug out the rot, stabilized and sealed the wood, and replaced boards with epoxy. This remains a work in progress, but it is now stable!

We also gave the deck off of the Sanctuary a deep cleaning, washing away an incredible amount of gunk and stains.

• Smart Climate Control: We updated the thermostat for the Dining Room and Parlor. A single unit now controls both rooms with "landlord controls." This allows us to set a maximum temperature and, crucially, automatically clears any "Hold" overrides each night.

No more arriving to find the furnace has been running at 80 degrees for two days!

## The Verdict

The feedback from the wedding guests was overwhelming. People who had never stepped foot in our church before commented on its beauty

It reminded me that while we have significant and important long-term goals for our facilities, we already have something truly special.

When we invest our time and pride into these walls, it shows.

**Daylight Savings Time  
starts on March 8.  
Move your clocks ahead  
so you're not late to church!**

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



## Snaps from Scout Sunday



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

# CCPen to host lunch for PSR president

Pastor Jim Mitulski has sent this invitation to the CCPeninsula family:

Because you care about the future of the Progressive Christian movement and how it will be embodied in the church, we hope you will be our guest at a special lunch on Sunday, March 15, in support of Pacific School of Religion, hosted at the Congregational Church of the Peninsula.

The lunch will coincide with a visit to our congregation from PSR President David Vasquez-Levy who will be our preacher in worship.

We are living in a time of profound challenge and possibility — and PSR is rising to meet this moment with renewed vision, deep commitment and bold action.

The school has been transformed and is expanding its reach — preparing a new generation of courageous pastors and equipping congregational leaders and spiritually

rooted changemakers across every sector of society.

This is a critical time to invest in progressive Christian leadership. During the lunch, we will hear from Vasquez-Levy about how PSR — unafraid to rise to the demands of each generation since 1866 — is preparing leaders who will help shape a more just and compassionate future.

Date: Sunday, March 15

Time: Noon – 2 p.m.

Dining Room of the Congregational Church of the Peninsula

Lunch will be provided. Please let us know if you will be able to join us by Monday, March 2, by contacting Rebecca Perry, [office@ccpeninsula.org](mailto:office@ccpeninsula.org).

When you RSVP, please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions.

We hope you'll join us for this urgent and inspiring conversation.



David Vasquez-Levy

## UCC president speaks out on sexual abuses

By Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson, UCC General Minister/President

As people of faith, our commitment to justice must include willingness to speak truth to power.

The church cannot be silent and watch from the sidelines as power skirts accountability. The church cannot shroud itself in silence and pretend that it has not played a part in silencing the voices of women, girls, men, boys and transgendered people who were raped, sexually assaulted and sexually harassed by clergy and lay leaders.

In supporting heteronormative and gender roles for years, the church and the Bible have been used to suppress the rights of women and girls.

Lent invites confession and repentance as a part of the journey to the cross. The church is complicit in its support of nationalism and a rape culture when it stands on the side of rapists and pedophiles over the truth of the gospel.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE PENINSULA

DEATH CAFE

TALK ABOUT DEATH AND END-OF-LIFE ISSUES AMONG FRIENDS. IT'S NOT AS DARK AS IT SOUNDS - SOMETIMES WE LAUGH!

MAR. 8, APR. 12, MAY 10

SECOND SUNDAYS 12:30 - 2 PM

751 ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS, BELMONT, CA

DEATHCAFE.COM

CCPENINSULA.ORG

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

# CCP's March Calendar

1 Sun	9:30AM - 10:15AM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Preschool Playgroup with Rev. Sheryl
	10:10AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship
	11:10AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
	5PM - 6PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Zoom worship with Pastor Warren
3 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
4 Wed	11:00AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Prayer Time with Pastor Jim and Pastor Warren
5 Thu	7:00PM - 9:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
7 Sat	9:30AM - 1:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Board of Directors mtg Dining Room mw
8 Sun	10:10AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship
	12:30PM - 3PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Death Cafe
	5PM - 6PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Zoom worship with Pastor Warren
10 Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Book Group
11 Wed	11:00AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Prayer Time with Pastor Jim and Pastor Warren
12 Thu	7:00PM - 9:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
15 Sun	10:10AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship
	11:10AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
	12:00PM - 1:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Pi(e) Sunday
	5PM - 6PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Zoom worship with Pastor Warren
17 Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Book Group
18 Wed	11:00AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Prayer Time with Pastor Jim and Pastor Warren
19 Thu	7:00PM - 9:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
22 Sun	10:10AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Sunday worship
	11:10AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Coffee Hour
	12PM - 1:30PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Youth Group
	5PM - 6PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Zoom worship with Pastor Warren
24 Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Book Group
25 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	Church Board Meeting
26 Thu	7:00PM - 9:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Church Events	Choir Rehearsal
29 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Worship	Palm 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
31 Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	<input type="checkbox"/> Off-site events	Online Book Group

You can access the entire CCPen March calendar [here](#).

