



What does God call this congregation to be?

By Pastor Liz

Over the last few weeks, a number of us have come together to begin to think about how the Congregational Church of Belmont will move forward with congregational engagement of the tasks of the interim period and toward the call of your next pastor.

These have been very preliminary discussions intended to come up with a kind of roadmap for the next 12 months or so. Of course, the global health pandemic and the protocols for social distancing have brought requirements to the work and ask us to widen



Pastor Liz Clement

our view of everything church.

Early last month, after one such gathering, I was asked to give an idea of what an all-church engagement might look like. What I shared with the “visioning team” was a sketch of a group process that drew largely from a series I designed and led in a previous congregation. Anything CCB decides to do would be re-designed and adapted for specific needs of this congregation. Yes, what we imagine is a process is intended for the whole congregation, that is, all those who will want to make a commitment over several weeks.

You won’t be surprised to know that I have strong feelings about such things as this, the ways by which congregations come to understand how God calls them — each and together — to take part in God’s good work in the world. The quality of our shared experience in completing the interim work will, I believe, ensure the quality of the



Kites lifted our Pentecost spirits on Sunday when the children of CCB starred in videos flying their kites. The videos were included in the live streaming of CCB’s worship on Pentecost. Emma Naomi Mye took to her bike to provide needed lift on her 15th birthday.

outcomes.

For this reason, a great deal of time is invested in cultivating a rich ground of personal stories and relationships, developing the ability to learn and discern together, so we can move into action together as a congregation. The period between one settled pastor and the next is the ideal time to “go deep” and that is what I would ask of you.

In my first meeting with the interim search committee and Council, I summed up my approach to the work of interim ministry in these two tasks: 1) I can help you explore what God calls this congregation as it is now to offer in service to God’s good

in the world, to name and to move toward faithful action in response; and 2) help you clarify and define what pastoral leadership you will require to move together in action (with deeper understanding and relationships among you).

The first of these tasks is the congregational discernment process which we are envisioning now. The UCC local church profile required for posting a pastoral search comes after this process. This responsibility will be taken on by the formal search committee which, by that time, will have a good sense of the will of the congregation, deep
See CONGREGATION, Page 8

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

Rentals create some COVID anxiety for CCB

By Greg Thornhill

The impact of COVID 19 and associated sheltering mandates are having a growing impact on our financials.

Before getting into too many details on that, a huge thank you goes out to CCB Treasurer Mike Venturino for his foresight and leadership in triggering the Payroll Protection Act loan. Without this, we would be in a much different financial position.

As you all know, rents are an incredibly important part of the financial viability of our church. Our building is an fabulous asset which allows us to rent to several organizations that benefit our local community with a preschool, an after-school program, occupational therapy services to children, art therapy to children, and another church.

But that same asset can be a double-edged sword. Who would have foreseen a situation in which we not only are seeing what we knew was a risk (i.e. any keystone tenant either leaving or not paying), but several of our tenants finding themselves in situations that result in CCB's near-term finances taking a significant hit?

This article is in no way meant to question the financial vitality of the church. If our tenants get back to normal in the next few months, we should be okay with the PPP loan plus additional reserves in our General Fund. But the extent of our revenue shortfall will exceed the entirety of the roughly \$19,000 PPP loan and then some.

As examples:

- CPNS has been unable to hold school and cancelled the remainder of the year with no tuition. RFK

similarly has not been able to offer their after-school care program.

- OT4Kids has chosen to exercise an abundance of caution and has been closed, with the goal of opening back up in June.
- Catedral Da Familia has not been able to hold services or any of their other recurring meetings
- Destination Science, is a wildcard, not knowing whether they'll hold sessions onsite this summer at all (depending on San Mateo County rules). Hopefully they will be onsite, but in a smaller capacity.
- The Trustees are actively engaging with our renters, many of whom have reached out asking for rent concessions, many simply unable to pay with no income streams.
- Beyond our renters, we do get a fairly substantial amount of revenue from occasional-use renters. Virtually all rentals on the books have been cancelled and no requests are coming in at this point. Even Myriad Music, which rents two entire weekends per year, cancelled their May rental.

Trustees has also initiated a process of assessing what we might be required to do as a landlord as our renters decide to open back up for business. There are many shared spaces that undoubtedly will require some extra diligence in sanitization or even rethinking when we can have overlapping renters. This process is just kicking off, and we simply don't yet know what will

Will we have a Chocolate Fest this year?

By Danielle Chamberlin

Earlier this year, we set aside the dates of Oct. 16 and 17 for our 38th annual Chocolate Fest. While this has been a long-running and beloved tradition in our church, it seems like we are highly unlikely to be able to have this event in its usual form this year, even by October.

While we expect many activities may normalize by October, gatherings of several hundred people sharing finger food does not seem like it will be advisable any time soon. At the same time, the current economy is difficult for our vendors, and some we know

have already gone out of business.

The Chocolate Fest committee is discussing what we should do, and we'd like to hear your input. One option would be to postpone the event – but it may be a while before we could feel confident in having an event like what we've had in the past. Another option would be to move to an online marketplace or sell "virtual tastings."

If you have a great idea for what Chocolate Fest should look like this year and would like to help us, please send me an email. We have until Aug. 1 to make a final decision for an event this fall.

be required – but our renters are certainly looking for some guidance here.

It is very tough to estimate what the total financial impact of COVID is going to be when there are so many unknowns. It is, however, feasible that we could see revenue shortfalls in the \$20,000 to \$40,000 range for 2020, offset partially by the PPP loan.

There is certainly a fair amount of uncertainty as we look into rental income for next year. Will any of our tenants need to close up shop or find our rents unsustainable? Will competing rents drop significantly such that we need to re-assess our rates?

Will large gatherings that trigger many of our one-time use rentals take time to come back in favor (birthday parties, anniversaries, holiday parties, etc.). It will likely take some time to find an equilibrium where we understand our new normal of rental income.

In the meantime, do reach out to Trustees with any questions. We are blessed with having a strong reserve based on a few events over the past few years, which creates a bit of a buffer as we weather this storm.

CCB receives \$19,600 in federal CARES Act loan to pay salaries

By Mike Venturino

After a virtual congregational meeting and vote, CCB applied for and received a CARES Act loan of \$19,600 in May.

This was less than what we had originally sought but still will be enough to pay all our employees through July 7 and some of our utility costs. During that time, we'll be keeping track, to the penny, of what funds are used to pay what costs.

Since this is exactly what the loan was meant to do, the church also anticipates that it will be forgiven under the terms of the program.

The next step for the CCB financial management team will be to work through the process of applying for forgiveness. In addition to applying, we will be praying. We hope that the Small Business Administration will hear our prayers and heed our application. We hope to have your prayers as well as we work through this process to help keep CCB's financial future as sound as possible.

Free GROCERIES

San Mateo County Community College District
Emergency Food Distribution

Fresh Produce. Healthy Options. On Us.

FREE DRIVE-THRU
COMMUNITY MARKET
at College of San Mateo

Every Friday (thru July)

11:00 am – 1:00 pm (or until all food is distributed)

LOCATION:

College of San Mateo
1700 W. Hillsdale Blvd.,
(Beethoven Parking Lot #2)
San Mateo, CA 94402

- COVID-19 guidelines will be observed
- Only drive-thru pickups will be served
- Open to students and the community
- This does not impact public charge
- No I.D. required to pick up food

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Social Action invites support for foster youth

By Linda Howard

There is a well-known proverb, "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will eat for a lifetime." This proverb could apply to the Guardian Scholar Program at San Francisco State University.

The Guardian Scholar Program (GSP), supports students who have been in foster care during childhood. The Social Action Board of the CCB has recently chosen to donate to GSP.

Former foster care youth experience higher rates of homelessness, lack of employment preparation, early pregnancy and lack of success attaining a high school diploma. If they are able to enroll in a program of higher education, they require specialized support.

Students attending college who have been in foster care face different challenges than students who have been raised within a family. Their needs go beyond financial. GSP offers students raised in foster care unique support tailored to their needs of emotional support, educational guidance and financial need. GSP offers this support



at San Francisco State University.

The program was started in 2005 to help address the needs of former foster care youth in college. The outcomes of this self-supporting, non-profit program are the following:

- Nationwide only 1-3% of former foster youth typically graduate with a four-year bachelor's degree
- 72% of San Francisco State former

foster students graduate within six years (compared to 59% of students nationwide)

- 92% of students return for their second year
- 85% of GSP students remain enrolled after being enrolled for 4+ years
- Only 1% of GSP students have had a child before age 25 and all of those students have graduated

Since its inception, the success of this program is impressive and worth supporting. Monetary support is of value obviously, but the contribution of money demonstrates care in the form of emotional support for these students who are attempting to better their lives through ambition, perseverance, and hard work.

The Social Action Board's decision to contribute to GSP is one example of our church's wider net of support within our community. If you would like to support this program you can make a donation online [here](#) or by mailing a check to: Guardian Scholar Program, Attn: Manny Nungaray, San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Ave., ADM 153, San Francisco CA 94132.

"Finding Joy and Hope" - A Zoom event from the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition



Pastor Connie Winter-Eulberg



Rabbi Corey Helfand



Rev. Thomas Skillings



Maha Elgenaidi

How do you find joy and hope in your life during these difficult times?

Tuesday, June 9
7:00-8:00 pm

<https://pmc-finding-joy.eventbrite.com>

How do you find joy and hope in your life during these difficult times? These speakers will offer experiences from their different faiths. Then, you will have the opportunity to meet and share your thoughts in break out "rooms" with eight other participants and a facilitator. The speakers will close with an inspirational message. This is a special invitation for past participants of Peninsula Multifaith Coalition community events. [Registration](#) is free, but space is limited. Registration will close Monday, June 1.

Meet new member Nancy Chambers up close

Nancy Chambers joined CCB just before Pastor Sally Train left, and we asked her what brought her to us. This is what she had to say, in her words:

"I don't know if this is my second act or only an encore, but the Congregational Church of Belmont sets the stage. Visiting this church from my home on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State was always on the schedule when spending time in Belmont.

You see, my ONLY grandchild lives here which equals many visits!

"Just before the Coronavirus swept the nation, I had come for another Belmont visit, but this time without our family's North Star, my husband, who had died within in the year, a huge disquieting change.

"It seemed it might be time for a permanent move to be closer to family, another change, albeit bittersweet. The winds of change were blowing steadily around me.

"I had no idea how much change is/was coming my way, but when my flight back home was cancelled and 'staying in place' meant I would be visiting here longer than anticipated, more change, but not just for me.

"Joining this church was important to me. Before the shutdown and before Pastor Sally or Pastor Liz, I witnessed what was truly remarkable. A small congregation, full of talented, kind people making the 'pastorless' church work. It appeared to be an intentional choice, and it was wonderful to



Nancy Chambers

witness. Upon joining, I learned that CCB was going through its own change and also making big decisions.

"Issues of compassion, peace and justice have always been a priority and, while living closer to Washington, D.C., in Bethesda, Md., I did monthly lobbying for the Presbyterian Church. I have served as an elder in the church and enjoy thinking about and making decisions regarding the life of the church.

"It seems to be a time of opportunity for all of us now — personally and at CCB. It's a time of putting together, in perhaps a new way, that which has fallen apart. I'm scared, but looking forward to changes to come."

CCB wrestles with the issue of when to re-open — and how; we need feedback and opinions

By Micki Carter

When are we going to try to gather as a church community again?

This question bubbles up whenever we together online for meetings, coffee hour or Tea With the Pastor. San Mateo County followed the state in issuing guidelines, effective Monday, in permitting limited and regulated worship services.

So what about CCB?

I can tell you that the church leadership is discussing this very question with the basic principle that whatever action we take, concern for the health of our congregation and worship leaders drives us.

We are incredibly lucky to have a large outdoor space around the church that may provide us with room to worship outdoors in socially-distanced space.

Church Council needs to hear from you about this issue. We know that church isn't a building, but it is a community and even

a family.

How important is it for you to be face-masked face to face-masked face on Sundays?

Is our well-conceived live-streamed worship service enough for now? Although you should know that we hope to be able to continue live-steaming even after we "open up."

What special concerns do you have that we might not have considered?

Please give church leadership the benefit of your thoughts. Send an email to ccb@ccbmont.org and put Opening Up in the subject line. Send just one line or an entire tome on the issue.

Or call the church at (650) 593-4547 and leave a message.

This is too important for us not to know what you think. We need you to give us the benefit of your experience and your feelings.

And please do it right away.

June Birthdays

- June 2 Bob Carter
- June 3 Peggy Robinson
- June 11 Peter Cross
- June 16 Bob Shouse
- June 17 Barbara White
- June 19 Jeffrey Jones
- Faye Tauscher
- June 22 Judy Brooke
- Audrey Denham
- June 25 Kathy Luce,
- Sarah Brown
- June 26 Susan Linares
- June 27 Jeff Mannie
- June 29 Dinae Cruise
- June 30 Laurie Carter

If we don't have your birthday listed, please email the church office with the date so we can add it to our list.

Both Family Camp at Monte Toyon and the Youth Mission Trip to San Diego have been cancelled. Most of our deposits for both will roll over until next summer.

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Liturgy for the season after Pentecost

Season after Pentecost Year A	First* reading and Psalm	Alternate* First reading and Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Trinity Sunday June 7, 2020 <i>First Sunday after Pentecost</i> ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 1:1-2:4a Psalm 8		2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Matthew 28:16-20
Proper 6 (11) Second Sunday after Pentecost June 14, 2020 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19	Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100	Romans 5:1-8	Matthew 9:35-10:8, (9-23)
Proper 7 (12) Third Sunday after Pentecost June 21, 2020 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 21:8-21 Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18	Romans 6:1b-11	Matthew 10:24-39
Proper 8 (13) Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 28, 2020 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 22:1-14 Psalm 13	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18	Romans 6:12-23	Matthew 10:40-42
Proper 9 (14) Fifth Sunday after Pentecost July 5, 2020 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 Psalm 45:10-17 <i>or</i> <i>Song of Solomon 2:8-13</i>	Zechariah 9:9-12 Psalm 145:8-14	Romans 7:15-25a	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
Proper 10 (15) Sixth Sunday after Pentecost July 12, 2020 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 25:19-34 Psalm 119:105-112	Isaiah 55:10-13 Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13	Romans 8:1-11	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Proper 11 (16) Seventh Sunday after Pentecost July 19, 2020 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 28:10-19a Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24	Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19 <i>or</i> <i>Isaiah 44:6-8</i> Psalm 86:11-17	Romans 8:12-25	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
Proper 12 (17) Eighth Sunday after Pentecost July 26, 2020 ART -- PRAYER	Genesis 29:15-28 Psalm 105:1-11, 45b <i>or</i> <i>Psalm 128</i>	1 Kings 3:5-12 Psalm 119:129-136	Romans 8:26-39	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52
Proper 13 (18)	Genesis 32:22-31	Isaiah 55:1-5	Romans 9:1-5	Matthew 14:13-21

Congregation

Continued from Page One

commitments and gifts alive here now.

While this, smaller group would be tasked with filling in the form, the entire congregation would be invited to contribute (especially to certain questions) and review the profile before it is released.

The second task is writing a job description for the pastoral search which goes to the UCC national office with the profile. That, too, is a discrete process that is usually undertaken by the search commit-

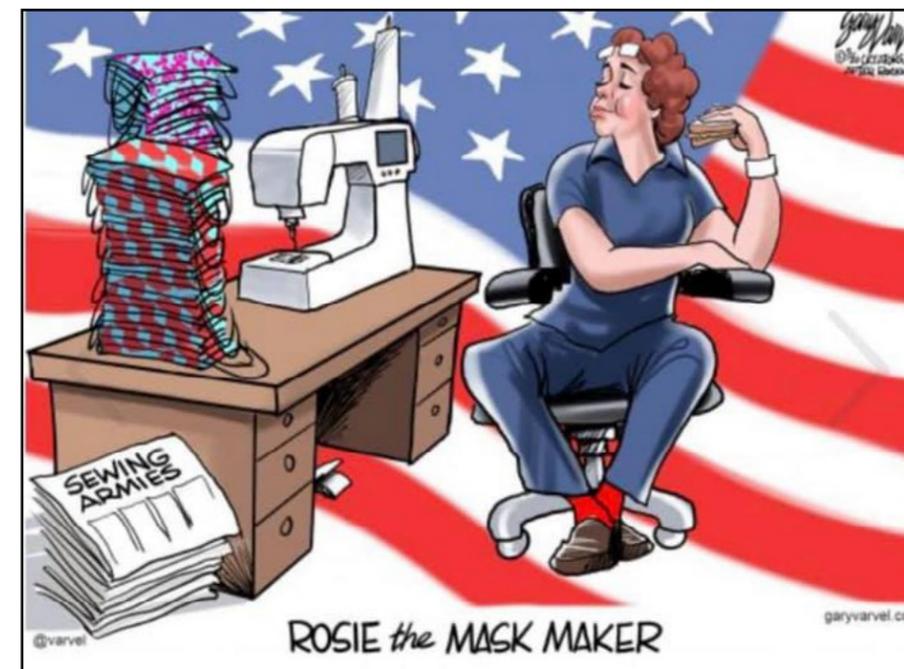
tee or some subset of it. And, again, before an opening at CCB is submitted, the congregation will be consulted.

As you will see, what I propose gives a lot of time to preparation for the big questions before us, time spent cultivating the relational spaces in and among the participants.

This is time that reveals its value in the quality of our dialogue and the responses we eventually come to. And, you will notice, this asks us to focus first on the people of God and the richness of our relationships with each other, our Creator and our neighbors.

For my way of thinking, this is the best part of life in the church.

SF Night Ministry thanks us for all our help



Rev. Valerie McEntee has expressed the thanks of San Francisco Night Ministry for “all of your wonderful support over the years, all the lunches, blankets, socks, warm things and funds” in one note as well as special thanks to Micki Carter and Danielle and Alice Chamberlin for the masks they’ve made for Valerie to distribute to the homeless in San Francisco. “Cloth masks are very much sought after among our folks. . . I deeply appreciate you for supporting our folks in this lovely way.” Micki has been sourcing elastic from odd places since elastic is a hot commodity during the quarantine. However, she reports that she finally located a gold mine of elastic and will be in business for awhile.

Lea explains that odd new URL you’re seeing

By Lea Mavroudis

By now, I’m sure you have seen CCB’s new website and received emails from “@ccbmont.org” addresses. You may have also noticed a message mentioning Google Groups at the bottom of some of our emails. You may have been wondering, why all the changes?

CCB has taken advantage of the business suite offered by Google, allowing us to create our own domain (www.ccbmont.org) and add email accounts within that domain, along with many other useful features. The new website was a team effort, spearheaded by Steve and Alice Chamberlin, Kendall House and Micki Carter. I think you’ll agree they did a wonderful job! Now the communications team and I are able to easily make updates and add new features to the site.

By pure coincidence, this all occurred right before quarantine started, which also happened to be when I started at CCB as the new office admin. With the quarantine giving us more time on our hands, and with the vision that CCB leadership had for the future, we started updating our communications. This seemed all the more vital since we were unable to meet in person.

Now, each person sending emails on behalf of the church has his or her own @ccbmont.org account, which provides some consistency in our communications and church “branding,” if you will. The Google Business Suite allows us to manage all these accounts centrally, making troubleshooting and record-keeping much easier. As a role at CCB transfers over to someone new, he or she can simply take over the account, allowing for a much smoother transition all around.

Under the guidance of Micki Carter and Greg Thornhill, I also took on the project of updating CCB’s distribution list processes. Previously, these were maintained primarily in individual email account contact lists or set up as Google Groups by chairs of committees. This made keeping them up-to-date across the board challenging. With the G Suite admin console, we can create a single email address for each distribution list. For example, we can now reach all 193 people on our current email list by typing in a single address. We also now have consistent distribution lists for all major CCB committees and boards.

Not only does this make reaching our

entire congregation much easier, it also allows us to centrally manage the contacts list, adding and removing people from a single, central place.

Another great feature here is the option to self-remove from the list; you may have noticed that short Google Group text at the bottom of our emails includes instructions on how to unsubscribe. We would hate to see you leave, but if you ever feel the need to be removed from our mailing list, you can now do so easily and anonymously.

Now the most important question: what does this mean for you? We hope this will help us keep in better touch with you and serve your needs more efficiently. And we hope you enjoy the new website. Other than that, we are still the same CCB you know, and very little changes on your end.

If you have any questions or concerns about how any of this works, I would be happy to address them. You can reach me at office@ccbmont.org or leave me a voice-mail at the church office (650) 593-4547. I check it every day even while working from home.

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Thanking the essential workers at the VA

By Thomas Crosby

A couple of weeks ago, a news article focused on folks showing appreciation to essential local workers. As a chaplain, I prefer face-to-face interaction as a means of showing support. This pandemic makes such communication nearly impossible.

The night I read the article, I ordered items from the website of a local office supply store that read “25% off custom-made posters.” An idea was born! Chaplains build a poster for passersby.

The poster had to be short enough for passersby to read and long enough to convey appreciation “THANK YOU for coming here today!” was the message of choice.

Two days later, arriving at work, I parked my car, walked to a visible spot, and took a deep breath. I raised the poster high greeting and waving to all entering the hospital campus. The looks I got were priceless. On Day One, most appeared uncertain of how to respond. I, too, wondered what the heck



I was doing.

However, upon arrival at my office, there was an email from a social worker. It merely said, “I appreciate you, and love your sign.”

My heart warmed. I had touched someone.

Reactions on the second day were different. People smiled and waved — a few stopped to take pictures; others sent emails of appreciation. The desired connection started.

The third day another chaplain joined, prompting more smiles, waves, photos and emails. By Day Four, the entire Chaplain Service staff had joined me. A much-needed show of appreciation became visible at VA-Menlo Park. For work ongoing despite COVID-19.

Editor’s note: Thomas has invited us to send cards to the health care team at the VA Hospital in Menlo Park. You can just say “Thank you!” and leave the cards in the box on the porch of the church.

July/August Messenger deadline will be Monday, June 29



THE MESSENGER
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BELMONT
751 ALAMEDA DE LAS PULGAS
BELMONT CA 94002

Come to (virtual) tea with Pastor Liz!

**You are invited to virtual BYO Tea
with Pastor Liz weekly from 4-5:30 p.m.**

Thursdays via Google Meets.

Stop by when you have time for a visit.

Join with Google Meet

meet.google.com/nma-cjgm-oqk

Or join by phone

+1 417-719-7746

PIN: 160 305 954 #

When you follow the link, click “Ask to Join,” and Pastor Liz will approve you to join the meeting. Oh, and don’t forget your tea.