



September 2024 CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF THE PENINSULA THE MESSENGER

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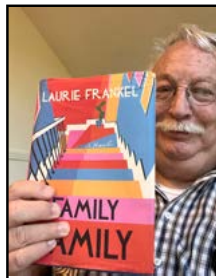


Pastor Jim and Pastor Warren were joined by other members of the congregation in blessing Garrett House after he officially became a Member in Discernment in Ministry in the United Church of Christ. Garrett appeared before the Northern California Nevada Conference Committee on Ministry and was accepted into discernment as he continues his path toward ordination after his graduation from Pacific School of Religion. During worship on Aug. 4, members of the congregation placed their hands on Garrett as Pastor Jim offered a prayer. We wish Garrett blessings in his studies and journey.

Welcome home! Pastor Jim returns from his travels

By Rev. Jim Mitulski

“Representation matters not just because it matters that you see yourself in the world but because it matters that you see yourself positively in the world. Representation matters because it matters that you see not-yourself — people who are unlike you, families that are unlike yours, possibilities you hadn’t thought of yet — and it



Rev. Jim Mitulski

matters that you see not-yourself positively too.”

“Families get formed in all sorts of ways.”

“Regardless of how they get made, family is a force to be reckoned with.”

“We are family family.”

These quotes are from the current novel *Family Family* by Laurie Frankel (NY: Henry Holt and Company, 2024)

Dear friends,

I’m just back from vacation and looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, Homecoming Sunday, Reunion Sunday, Rally Sunday. I spent the past three weeks traveling (Los Angeles, Maine) and indulged in my favorite sport, reading.

I love visiting friends and family in both Southern California and the opposite end of the country in Northern New England, in Friendship, Maine. I connected with people

See PASTOR’S COLUMN, Page 8

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

The Family Sharing Program needs a chair for this year

By Linda Howard

For many years, skipping only a year during Covid, our church has participated in Family Sharing. This is a program where various organizations adopt local families and provide Christmas presents. The program is administered by The Samaritan House. And this year, we need someone to lead Family Sharing at CCP.

Samaritan House acquires the names of families who wish to participate, and after some screening, passes the information about our families to us.

Our church has sponsored 2-5 families per year over the years.

In order to provide a nice Christmas for these families, the preparations start around the end of October. Family Sharing at CCP needs to find a chairperson to make this happen.

Family Sharing is not a one-way street. Our congregation shares in gift giving to others, but there is a reciprocal sharing in the joy that giving others brings – especially to the children.

If you have questions or are interested in volunteering to organize Family Sharing this year, please contact me at roswell.linda20@gmail.com.

The process for gathering names and pairing with organizations starts in mid-October.

Pastor Warren's Wonderings

By Rev. Warren Dale

Last Thursday evening was special for us. Georgi is a supporter of the National Parks Foundation, and thus, we were invited to a Napa winery for a reception, report and a thank you for her support.

We decided to take our pop-up trailer to Napa and camp at the Skyline Wilderness Park on Imola Street in Napa. The park is privately run; however, the land is owned by the Napa State Hospital adjacent to the RV park grounds.

As we passed, I shared with Georgi some of my memories of Napa State Hospital. Living in Napa, I knew several people who worked there. When I was 15 and 16 years of age and playing in a youth basketball league, one of the referees talked with me about his volunteer work with the youth patients and asked if I could bring our team out to play them. Twice we played them.

It was quite an experience. We all felt like for 45 minutes we were helping their youth and our team partner in being normal, playing by the rules, and supporting each other.

While in seminary, obviously many years later, I spent Friday afternoons there serving with Chaplain Eichorn in his chaplaincy internship program. There were several Fridays that I visited certain patients using the style of Carl Rogers — three at-



Rev. Warren Dale

titudes on the therapist's part that were key to the success of his person-centered therapy.

These core conditions consist of accurate empathy, congruence and unconditional positive regard. Certainly, as an intern in the back wards, loaded with the keys to all the doors, I must admit that I was, at times, incongruent (feelings and behavior of nervousness not matching unconditional positive regard).

However, I was amazed at the results. Just conveying positive regard toward someone who had been told they were an outcast seemed to make such a difference. I saw change evolve over the weeks. Now, I also know that they were also receiving support and therapy from others. They called it milieu therapy: a setting conveying acceptance, support and safety.

Well, my friends all this to say: this visit reminded me of just how precious each person is, no matter where their minds, bodies or spirits are. And if I and others are constantly navigating the star that says, Keep conveying UNCONDITIONAL POSITIVE REGARD for all of God's folks, good evolving will take place.

Blessings to you all and your unconditional positive regard for God's people,
Rev. Warren

CCP grants \$2500 from the Lyman Covenant to the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center

By Rev. Warren Dale

As one of the founders, board member emeritus and current volunteer, I am delighted to share our gratefulness for the Lyman Grant of \$2500 to the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center. Their mission is as follows:

PCRC Partners with the community to reduce violence, increase civic engagement, and strengthen community resilience through collaborative and innovative processes.

As a volunteer, in the last couple of years, I have co-facilitated housing for agricultural workers in Half Moon Bay, Board retreats for the Center for Independent Living with Disabilities, Church Councils, and church ad hoc committees. Our work has reached into schools, work places, ethnic groups, and neighbor to neighbor disputes. I am so grateful that our church is an active participation in collaborative approaches to community issues.



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

Chocolate Fest is coming soon - time for elves!

By Jill Visor

There are 51 days until Chocolate Fest – so it’s time for elves! Some of these elves will be CCP members, some will be Scouts and others will be volunteers through our beneficiary this year, Life Moves.

Just like the night before Christmas:

- The vendors are signed up (21 tables total)
- Communication and ticket sales are in full swing
- Floor plans, decorations, operations, silent auction and door prizes are all under way
- In hopes that our fundraiser will soon be a success!

But about those elves. Use the following SignUp Genius [link](#) to sign up for your favorite Chocolate Fest activities – whether it be setting up/decorating, assisting vendors, helping in the kitchen or serving champagne and wine – we have a volunteer spot for you!

Guaranteed it will be fun and interactive and you’ll be glad you gave a bit of

your time for such good causes – fundraising for CCP and for LifeMoves, a nonprofit that helps the unhoused return to stable housing and self-sufficiency.

This year is one day of festivities. Volunteer blocks will be approximately two hours and of course you can sign up for more than one – and they don’t have to be the same thing! CCP members will get first dibs and then Scouts and LifeMoves will help us fill in the rest of the volunteer positions.

If you ask what is needed most, it is CCP members to be Volunteer Leads. We will have many volunteers who, although experienced in food serving, have never been at Chocolate Fest. We need our church members to be the go-to persons for questions and provide oversight to make sure that attire and actions are professional and collaborative. And, yes, you ARE quali-



fied! And yes, the Chocolate Fest committee members will be there to support you every step of the way.

Let’s go CF Team!

P.S. Chocolate Fest tickets are available [here](#). Share with your friends and family!

Moderator’s report

Bylaws Committee is considering changes to streamline CCP’s organizational structure

By Maura Whitmore

In Council, we have had an important update from the Bylaws Committee. The initial goal of the committee was to create bylaws that were reflective of our current organization, while promoting future growth and nimbleness.

They quickly realized that our current organizational structure was the first challenge that needed to be solutioned: We have an opportunity to streamline our structure and make it more effective and sustainable, and serve us well into the future.

With an updated organizational structure, we would create a best-in-class “from scratch” set of bylaws that would serve our structure, are comprehensive enough to meet our needs and state law requirements but not more! Our “council/boards/committees” church governance system is a common system for small churches but maybe not

the best. The Bylaws Committee is currently referencing the book *Governance and Ministry* by Dan Hotchkiss. He outlines the best ways to “do” church:

- The top decision-making “board” is accountable to one thing: the mission of the organization
- Its job is to set the policies for the staff and teams to carry out the mission.
- It can create committees to do the work to recommend policies for adoption.

I know this is a lot to digest, but the best minds in our congregation are thinking long and hard about how to make this happen. To do these two things, it is imperative that we clarify our Mission Statement.

We ask you all to think carefully about our Mission Statement as it was amended at the 2024 Annual Meeting:

“As members of the Congregational Church of the Peninsula, United Church of Christ, we value each other’s diversity and remain open to one another’s spiritual interpretations as we strive to create safe spaces for spiritual growth and to do justice in God’s world.”

We adopted this Mission Statement at our Annual Meeting last January. Is it still good? Does it resonate? As a merged church, is this okay with everyone?

We might want something more focused, targeting loneliness? Hunger? Homelessness? Mental health? Climate change?

Please start to ponder this. We will be doing a survey by [Holy Cow Consulting](#) soon that will question who we as a church really want to be, going forward.

Thank you for your kind attention. Happy Labor Day!

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



The Sanctuary was packed Aug. 10 for the memorial service for Pastor Emerita Kristi Denham. Among the speakers were Miriam Zimmerman, professor emerita at Notre Dame de Namur University in Belmont; the Rev. Connie Winter-Eulberg of the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition, and Jane Courant of the Drop LWOP, a coalition which seeks to end the imposition of life without parole in our judicial system. Other speakers include Kristi's daughter-in-law Joy Reichenbach, Kristi's granddaughter Audrey Denham, Emma Naomi Mye, Sarah Brown and Kendall House. Pastor Jim, Pastor Warren and Rev. Thomas Crosby eulogized Kristi. The CCP Sanctuary Choir performed *O Love*, and Kendall and Garrett House sang *For Good*. Emma Naomi and Elizabeth Mye shared *Mary, Did You Know?* and Mike Venturino sang and played guitar on *Forever Young*. Kristi had specifically requested both of these songs. Her friend Yolanda Sanchez-Peterson performed *How Can I Keep From Singing* which she had sung at Kristi's ordination. For the reception, the Dining Room was decked out in purple, Kristi's favorite color!



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

Kristi was advocating for SB94 and we can too!

By Micki Carter

We all learned how deeply Pastor Kristi Denham had been involved in issues surrounding the incarcerated at her memorial, and now we have an opportunity to act on one of those issues she was advocating for — SB94.

Jane Courant from the Drop LWOP (Life Without Parole) Coalition spoke eloquently about Kristi's passion for this project at her memorial, and she promised to send more information about how to lobby for passage of this California Senate bill that would go a long way toward achieving their goals.

SB94 — **Judicial Review of Old Sentences** — was authored by State Sen. Dave Cortese. It would create rigorous sentencing review for some individuals serving life without parole for offenses committed before June 6, 1990, and who have served at least 25 years of their sentence.

Courts would review evidence of mitigating factors and rehabilitation, and judges would have the discretion to leave the sentence unchanged or to resentence the person with parole eligibility.

The bill has passed the Senate and now awaits action in the Assembly.

Courant forwarded a wealth of information about SB94 and how to lobby for it. Her organization has created an [SB94 Toolkit](#). In it is everything anyone needs to call or email Assemblymembers in support of SB94, including sample scripts for those emails or telephone calls, background information, fact sheets, graphics and sample social media posts.



Among the articles (with links in the toolkit) are some heart-wrenching stories about prisoners condemned to “death by incarceration.” Among the advocates are several prominent members of the judiciary who explain the reasons for their support.

If you are interested in gathering after church one Sunday to learn more about SB94 and to start writing those emails to our Assembly member, Diane Papan, let me hear from you. If there's enough interest, we will decide how we want to proceed.

Eagle Scout's project will spruce up the CCP nursery

By Elizabeth Nordt

Our Nursery is getting a face-lift, thanks to Arthur W.'s Eagle project.

After many years of shared use, CPNS no longer needs the church nursery. However, OT4Kids needs a private space for some of their therapy. The transition gives us the opportunity to repaint and freshen up the space to fit with its current use by church

and new needs of OT4Kids. They would like as open a space as possible. The Board of Christian Ed got to work identifying what they thought was essential for families with infants and small children to feel welcome. Among the items that will stay are a crib, a glider, changing table, books and some toys. Other items have been claimed by CPNS or given away.

In the coming weeks, Arthur will plan and lead Scouts to clean and paint the room. He will design and install a solution to divide the room, hiding the church furniture and toys while it is used by OT, but making it easy to uncover on a Sunday (maybe a curtain)? Hopefully we can have before and after pictures in the next Messenger!

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



At Pastor Warren's 85th birthday party, one of the speakers was 102-year-old Millie Cole who spoke about his importance to First Church Redwood City during its period as a "church without walls" (top). As part of the entertainment at Warren's birthday party, Garrett House and Danielle Chamberlin partnered in a comedy routine using a puppet called Little Joe (bottom).



Pastor Warren and Bob Donovan celebrate their shared birthday during coffee hour.



Two baby deer were "spotted" in front of the church.

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

Social Action in action: let's talk it out before taking it out (on others)

By Linda Howard

Miscommunication, disagreements, perceived slights, resentment or cultural differences can lead to negative interactions between human beings. From petty squabbles between families or neighbors to war between nations, misunderstandings can start very small and result in conflicts very large.

The consequences of not understanding others — with easy access to guns — is an important social problem to address. For this reason, the Social Action Board has chosen to donate money to Brady United Against Gun Violence and the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center (PCRC).

Brady United employs a three-pronged approach to end gun violence: changing the laws, changing the industry and changing the culture. It is similar to other successful social change campaigns such as curbing smoking and wearing seat belts.

POLICY REFORM — On state, local, and federal levels, Brady United works to pass laws and policies to prevent gun violence. According to their data, the impact has been 64% of Americans live in states with safe firearm storage laws, compared to only 46% a decade ago.

INDUSTRY OVERSIGHT — The gun industry contributes to and profits from America's gun violence crisis. Brady United initiated a program called Combating Crime Guns program which works to shut down or reform negligent gun dealers who flood the streets with illegal and trafficked guns. The Brady United legal team has won landmark cases that protect the public from gun violence. Many of these verdicts have ushered in major reforms of the gun industry.

CULTURE CHANGES — Changing the public's social norms and behaviors toward firearms is an important step in order to shift to a common-sense approach to gun ownership. Brady United created a program called End Family Fire, a public education program aimed at gun owners. This program



provides information on safe gun storage.

The PCRC focuses on programs that connect neighbors, community and organizations needing communication help, conflict resolution, and team building. The program has worked with neighborhoods, organizations, and incarcerated individuals. Recently the PCRC worked in a local high school resulting in a reduction in disciplinary actions.

The Social Action Board seeks to support programs that address social injustice. Gun violence often affects people who live in marginalized neighborhoods where there is little opportunity for young people to receive a better education or better jobs. However, gun violence metastasizes in all neighborhoods; school shootings are an example.

Common sense gun legislation and assisting people to become their “better selves” by effective communication and understanding another’s point of view is the goal of supporting these two organizations.

If you would like to contribute to Brady United Against Gun Violence or the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center, please send your donations to the Congregational Church of the Peninsula using the QR code or mail a check to the church. Please write in the memo which organization to send your donation.

Pastor's column

Continued from Page One

who have known me most of my life, and with friends from college, graduate school, and from churches I have served all around the country. I was fortunate to have the time to really relax and to be reminded of who I really am: unconditionally loved by God.

It was fun to visit other churches: a small town Episcopal Church in Maine, the Congregational Church in San Rafael where Kristi had been ordained, and one Sunday I communed with my cat Keats on the couch and read the New York Times Book Review and attended a Unitarian Church online.

My reading list was eclectic: an Orphan X thriller called *Lone Wolf* by Gregg Hurwitz, a memoir called *The Termination* by Honor Moore about securing an abortion in pre-Roe-v. Wade America, (all my male friends need to read this), and this novel about adoption called *Family Family* by Laurie Frankel. It's a powerful story told from many perspectives and I recommend it to everyone.

We have become more cautious about using the word “family” in comparison to church for many valuable reasons. Yet it does strike me that a church community is like an adoptive family (I grew up in one) because there is something powerful and beautiful however imperfect that comes from choosing to be a community.

I grew up hearing people ask me and my sister about our “real family” and we learned to say with conviction, “THIS is my real family, my family family.” And I had never seen this experience reflected in books or movies that I have always known to be true: the people we choose are the Real Family, the Family Family.

So it is with church — we choose it. These are the people with whom we chose to synchronize our spiritual lives, another kind of Family Family, Church Church!

Join us this Sunday, whether you were here last week, or have been away all summer, or even longer. Choose to be part of what is unfolding in the next chapter of the Congregational Church of the Peninsula United Church of Christ, as we continue to evolve into Church Church. Welcome Home.

With love,
Pastor Jim

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

Committee revamping bylaws to align with new structure and mission

By Greg Thornhill

In an ongoing effort to modernize and align its governance, the Bylaws Committee has been meeting biweekly throughout the summer. The committee, comprised of Carol Chivers, Pastor Jim, Henry Altorfer, Danielle Chamberlin, Calyx Liu, and Greg Thornhill, has embarked on a comprehensive overhaul of the church's bylaws.

The initiative to reimagine CCP's bylaws stems from two main factors: the church's current bylaws are outdated, based on the legacy CCB framework, and there's a strong sense of need to start afresh given our recent merger. Further we believe the existing constitution and bylaws no longer effectively reflect CCP's size and organizational structure.

In response, the committee decided to start anew, creating a bylaws framework that not only complies with state regulations but also provides for current sustainability and flexibility for future growth.

At the August Council meeting, Danielle Chamberlin and Greg Thornhill updated the council on the committee's progress. They outlined the essential steps taken and the forthcoming tasks, emphasizing the goal of finalizing and approving the new bylaws by

the next annual meeting. A summary of that update follows.

A few months back, Pastor Jim organized a Saturday leadership meeting, featuring Pastor Terri Echelbarger. Echelbarger's insights into bylaws and organizational structure spurred a sense of urgency among many on the committee. Her recommendation of Dan Hotchkiss's book, *Governance and Ministry: Rethinking Board Leadership*, has further guided the committee's discussions.

The committee has recognized that revising the bylaws is just one part of the broader task needed. They first needed to address the church's organizational structure, which has proven challenging given the size of the congregation and the workload placed on volunteers. Additionally, a refined Mission Statement is crucial — not only for compliance with state regulations but also as a guiding principle for church activities.

The draft organizational structure aims to achieve several key objectives:

1. Empowering the senior board to focus on strategic missions by establishing policies and guardrails, rather than managing day-to-day-details.
2. Enhancing collaboration among paid staff to align with and execute more closely

the church's mission.

3. Providing staff and volunteers with greater decision-making autonomy within defined boundaries.

During the council meeting, the Bylaws Committee underscored the need to update the Mission Statement. The committee requested Council to target November for this refinement.

As the committee moves closer to finalizing their proposals, they are planning to host informational meetings with the congregation during the fall. These sessions, likely scheduled during Coffee Hour, will provide an opportunity for congregants to engage with the proposed changes, offer feedback, and help fine-tune the final proposals. The committee encourages all members to participate in these discussions to ensure a smooth adoption and successful implementation.

Stay tuned for announcements regarding the upcoming informational meetings in November and December. Your involvement is crucial in shaping the future of CCP and ensuring that our governance structures support our mission and growth.



Scouts had a wonderful summer of adventures and are gearing up for another year. There are over 75 Scouts in the boys and girls Troop and more than 20 in the Cub pack. As their Charter Organization, CCP is serving a large and active group! And they, in turn, serve us. We have many Scouts who are Life rank, seeking to do service projects. Some of them will dedicate their work to our church. We are in the planning stages with a few. Stay tuned! September has two outings for the Troop: Yosemite Sept. 6-8 and Gold Rush at Boulder Creek Sept. 27-28. In between, the Troop Court of Honor will be in the sanctuary on the Sept. 13. Our Cubs plan to go apple picking on the Sept. 7. Scouts are selling popcorn as their annual fundraiser. Keep an eye out for them! And congratulations to Zachary L. whose Eagle Court of Honor was held Aug. 25.

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



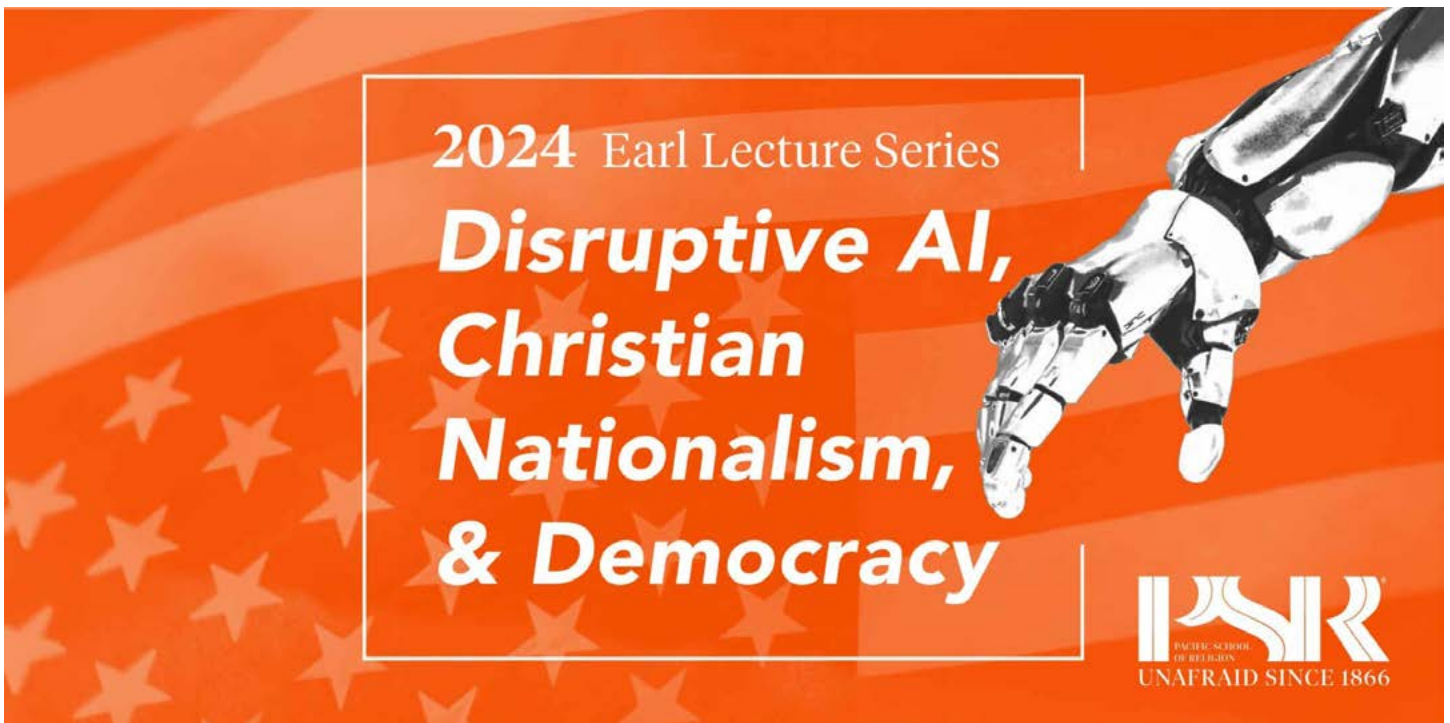
LifeMoves

10TH ANNUAL
RIDE TO END HOMELESSNESS

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14, 2024
STANFORD RESEARCH PARK


The poster features a blue background with three stylized cyclists in various colors (purple, green, and orange) riding towards the right. The text is prominently displayed in white and green.

More information and registration [here](#).



2024 Earl Lecture Series

***Disruptive AI,
Christian
Nationalism,
& Democracy***



PSR
PACIFIC SCHOOL
OF RELIGION
UNAFRAID SINCE 1866

The poster has an orange background with a pattern of white stars. A white robotic hand is shown reaching out from the right side. The text is in white and black, with the main title in a large, bold, italicized font.

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



Bob Donovan's vision for the Back 40 is coming to life with the help of team

By Greg Thornhill

At the 2024 Annual Meeting, Bob Donovan introduced an ambitious new project that has since captivated the church's imagination. Dubbed The Walk, this initiative aims to transform the sloped open space behind the rear parking lot—commonly referred to as the Back 40—into a serene and natural gathering area.

The project team is composed of dedicated members including Bob, Keith Howard, Maura Whitmore, Elizabeth Nordt, Andrew Altorfer and me, with added expertise from Troop 27 Scout Elliott and landscape architect Emily Izenson, who has strong connections with the Peninsula Multifaith Coalition. Their collective vision is to create a space where individuals can gather, meditate, or pray all while preserving the natural beauty of the environment.

The Walk is designed to be a versatile space that can be enjoyed by various groups, including OT4Kids and local Scouts, who may wish to use the area for their activities. One notable advantage of this project is its potential to support Scouts nearing their Eagle project deadlines. The committee is working to define an initial scope that aligns with the requirements of Eagle Projects, providing opportunities for Scouts to plan, fundraise, and execute their projects within the vision of The Walk.

The current scope of The Walk includes the construction of a winding trail and a platform towards the bottom of the hill. Despite the challenges posed by the steep slope, the design aims to be as accessible as possible. The envisioned platform, measuring approximately 12 feet by 16 feet, will feature benches and railings, offering a peaceful

spot to rest and enjoy the surroundings.

Additionally, two or three benches are planned for the top of the hill, near the edge of the parking lot, providing a vantage point for visitors to appreciate the view.

For those eager to see the project's progress, Andrew has video footage of the proposed path, and community members are encouraged to visit the site (with caution due to potentially slippery leaves) to view the staked-out path and landing area. Please reach out to someone on the committee if you have questions.

The Walk is set to become a valuable addition to the CCP property, offering a natural retreat for reflection and community gathering. Stay tuned for further updates on this exciting project as the team works to bring their vision to life.

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



Garage sale at our storage units in RC last month empties at least one of them

By Micki Carter

The two CCP storage units at Saf-Keep in Redwood City were one happening place on Sunday, Aug. 25.

Our units are all the way at the back of the property, so we didn't hold out a lot of hope that people would make their way back to find treasures we were practically giving away (or actually giving away!)

The goal of this sale wasn't to make money; it was to stop having to pay out money (the hundreds of dollars in rent for two units each month!) The Trustees wanted to clean out the unit that was packed with furniture, electronics, Bibles, file cabinets and any number of things in storage since the First Congregational Church of Redwood City sold its building.

We've been chipping away at it for more than a year. We found homes for two pianos (a spinet and a grand) and an electronic organ (as well as an antique pump organ). And we brought some beautiful china and kitchenware, sanctuary banners and communion service items back for use at CCP.

But we had hardly made a dent until the

Garage Sale that Saf-Keep had scheduled. We weren't expecting the huge crowds of shoppers who apparently know all about this annual event and poured in the gates even before the official opening at 9 a.m.

By the time we pulled down the doors on our units at the end of the day, we had sent happy shoppers home with a refrigerator, a large screen television, an amplifier, tons of electronic cables, two computer monitors, three filing cabinets, silver platters and coffee pots and nearly all of the more than 50 chairs. The papier mache Mary and Joseph did not find a home (but did later!), but enough did that we can certainly consolidate the two units into one. With a little more effort, we may empty that remaining one as well.

By the time we were telling shoppers to take what they wanted for free (about noon), we had a mantra: "Take what you want for free, but you have to take something you don't want for free as well." It may not have moved any merchandise but it did get a lot of smiles.



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

Calendar for September 2024

1 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday worship
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
	5PM - 6PM	Off-site events	Zoom worship with Pastor Warren
3 Tue	12:30PM - 2PM	Off-site events	Good Hope Luncheon
	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Off-site events	Online Book Group
5 Thu	6PM - 7PM	Off-site events	Thursday Night Prayer & Check-in
8 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday worship
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
	5PM - 6PM	Off-site events	Zoom worship with Pastor Warren
10 Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Off-site events	Online Book Group
12 Thu	6PM - 7PM	Off-site events	Thursday Night Prayer & Check-in
15 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday worship
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
	5PM - 6PM	Off-site events	Zoom worship with Pastor Warren
16 Mon	6:00PM - 7:00PM	Church Events	Deacons' meeting
17 Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Off-site events	Online Book Group
18 Wed	6:30PM - 8PM	Off-site events	Trustees Meeting (Zoom)
19 Thu	1:30PM - 3PM	Church Events	Death Cafe
	6PM - 7PM	Off-site events	Thursday Night Prayer & Check-in
22 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday worship
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
	5PM - 6PM	Off-site events	Zoom worship with Pastor Warren
24 Tue	1:30PM - 2:30PM	Off-site events	Online Book Group
25 Wed	7:00PM - 9:00PM	Church Events	CCB Council Meeting
26 Thu	6PM - 7PM	Off-site events	Thursday Night Prayer & Check-in
29 Sun	10:30AM - 12:00PM	Worship	Sunday worship
	11:30AM - 12:00PM	Church Events	Coffee Hour
	5PM - 6PM	Off-site events	Zoom worship with Pastor Warren

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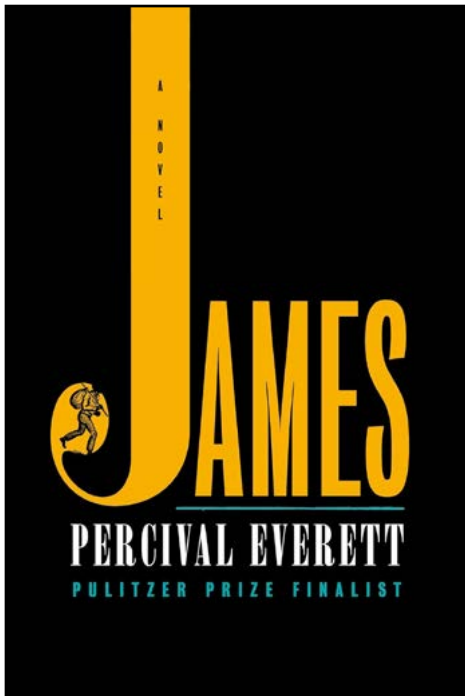
Book group begins their September book selection

The Chat 'n Chew book group continues meeting in September with *James* by Percival Everett. This book is based on a re-telling of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. You don't have to have read it, but you might enjoy re-reading or acquainting yourself with it (extra credit!). Here's an [article](#) about it.

Reading schedule:

- Sept. 12: pages 55-92, chapters 8-15
- Sept. 19: pages 93-185, chapters 16-32
- Sept. 26: part 2, pages 189-247, chapters 1-9
- Oct. 3: part 3 pages 251-303, chapters 1-12 (end of book)

The group meets via Zoom on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Join the Zoom at this [link](#).



Upcoming worship themes and leaders

September

- Sept. 8: Homecoming Sunday; Rev. Jim Mitulski preaching
- Sept. 15: Rev. Warren Dale preaching

Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month (mid September to mid October)

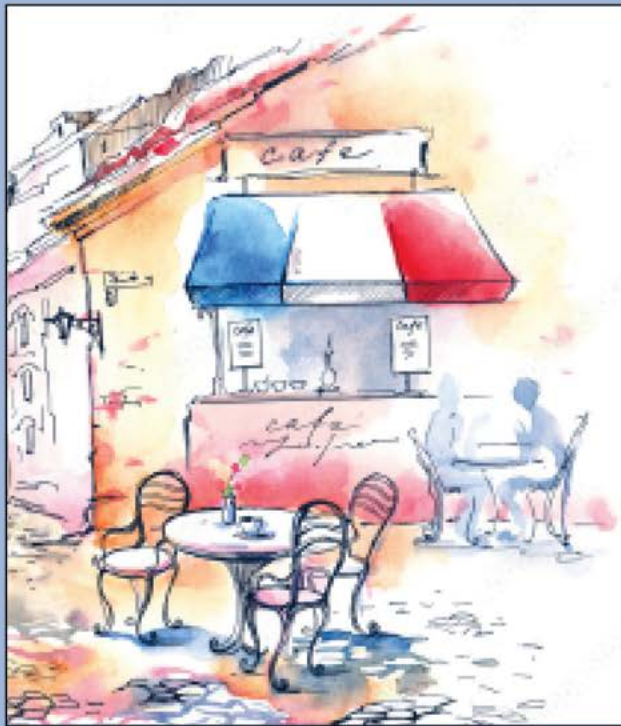
- Sept. 22: Rev. Jim Mitulski preaching
- Sept. 29: Rev. Jim Mitulski preaching

October

- Oct. 6: World Communion Day, Blessing of the Animals Rev. Jim Mitulski preaching
- Oct. 13: Rev. Roberto Ochoa preaching
- Oct. 20: Chocolate Sunday Rev. Jim Mitulski preaching
- Oct. 27: Reformation Day

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

Join us for a
DEATH CAFE
to discuss how we think about dying.



We promise it's
not as dark as it
sounds.

We talk about
end-of-life issues
(that we may not
even care to think
about) over coffee
or tea and cake.

Sometimes we
laugh!

Third Thursdays of the month,
at 1:30-3 p.m.

Sept. 19, Oct. 17, Nov. 21 & Dec. 19

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

CCPeninsula.org • 650-593-4547

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**The Pacific Islander &
Asian American Ministries**

Music Festival

Saturday October 26 2:30 PM

**The First Filipino American UCC
461 Linden Ave. San Bruno, CA 94066**

**Donation \$10 | Other donations will go toward
the Rev. Sharon MacArthur Scholarship Fund
and PAAM Youth & Young Adult programming**

refreshments to follow

October Messenger deadline will be Sept. 25



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