

2019 ANNUAL REPORT



*The 153nd Annual Meeting of the
Community Congregational
Church
United Church of Christ
Benicia, California*

Community Congregational Church, United Church of Christ Benicia, California

Contents

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2019	5
Pastor's Report	7
Associate Pastor's Report	8
Music Ministry	9
Moderator	12
Clerk	13
Financial Secretary	15
Treasurer	16
Building and Grounds	19
Welcome and Growth	20
Fellowship	21
Christian Education	22
Mission and Outreach	22
Worship	24
The Rolling Tones - Handbells	25
Congregational Care	26
Pastor Parish Relations	26
Stewardship	26
Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020	26
LEADERSHIP TEAM 2020	28

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2019

Nominating Committee
Leslie Lessenger and Pastor Renie

STAFF

Pastor	The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk
Pastoral Assistant	The Rev. Melissa McBride
Minister of Music	Dr. Barbara Hamm
Office Manager	Laurie Lopez

OFFICERS

Moderator	Leslie Lessenger
Vice-Moderator	Shelby Riddle
Church Clerk	Deborah Shanks
Financial Secretary	Nancy Gilman
Treasurer	Dale Olm

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building and Grounds Ministry	Jim Lessenger Nancy Gilman
Christian Education Ministry	Open
Congregational Care	Carolyn Osada
Fellowship	Open
Mission & Outreach	Laura Pyles
Stewardship Ministry	Nancy Gilman
Welcome and Growth	Pat Obendorf & Nora Gauger
Worship Ministry	Pricilla Lane & Marilyn Scrutchins
Members-At-Large	Kathy Dieden & ToddWolf

Pastor's Report

The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk

God blessed us immensely in 2019. Celebrating my 12th year with joys of many new faces and many new blessings!! We celebrated much but we also grieved the passing of our beloved Milly Thomas. Milly was an example of a woman of the church. She was active in everything from Holiday House to running Fellowship. Milly was a bright light in every room she entered and is greatly missed.



What a GREAT year 2019 was for Community Congregational Church. At the end of 2018, our budget and finance committee projected our 2019 budget would be in the red \$15,000. We started cutting, and we cut and cut, to everything we said “no, not this year.” Whittling away at every item, we presented a barebones deficit budget of -\$7,494. I remember saying “we are a people of faith, all will work out, you will see. Let’s Step Out In Faith!!” Not only did we end the year in the positive by \$12,522, we received over 100% of pledges. That’s right that’s over \$20,000 more than expected, thanks be to God!!!!



We took on new projects this year we had not planned for. We put in a new sound system, new lights, new carpeting and a ton of little projects. We were busy, we spent more time out and about giving generously to the community. We opened our doors more, made ourselves more accessible, bought a new beautiful flowing rainbow flag for the front of the church, gave more to our friends of the street and I spent more time with visitors. We brought in an Associate Minister, Rev. Melissa McBride, while I was out for surgery and recovering. Seeing how valuable a resource she

was to us the PPRC and Vice Moderator I discussed keeping Pastor Melissa on as the needs of our congregation have grown.

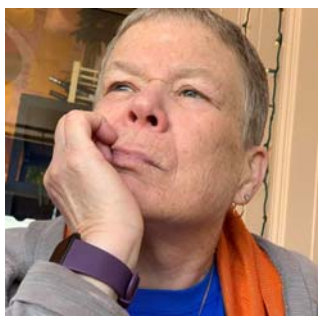
Community Congregational Church was truly church in 2019, as we came up with new ways to be church with each other with a new program of education called “After Word.” This ongoing program brings presenters who are either from our community or from outside our community who present on a specific subject. This attracted more folks from the Benicia area for our After Word. We also were a venue for various concerts held in our Sanctuary.

Speaking of music and sound, a new sound system was installed this year, this new sound system allows us to have six separate mics talking at once, in six separate locations in the church, a special bi-directional microphone, new hearing assisted devices for those who need them, and special country-man headset mics for three remote mics. These enhancements to our sound system not only enhance our Sunday worship but make our sanctuary space more attractive to those in our community who seek to use our space. We now live stream our worship service over the web, thus bringing in a larger community.

We also brought in 14 New Active Members this year, folks who hit the ground running, several of whom joined council right away! What an amazing bunch of faithful followers of Jesus! Speaking of faithful followers of Jesus, we had lots of little ones joining us in worship in 2019. We also put in a new rug and play area in the back of the sanctuary for our children and we have gotten a ton of complements about how welcoming that appears to young families and how it lets our little ones be more comfortable in worship.

Associate Pastor's Report

The Rev. Melissa McBride



I began our journey together last July when Pastor Renie was going out on medical leave. Little did I know what an incredible journey it would become. G*d really does have a sense of humor! While Pastor Renie was out on leave I attended worship each week and spent time in the office weekly. I made many phone calls to members of the congregation and developed pastoral relationships. Thankfully, we had no emergencies during this time. I attended church events and was present as often as possible. I grew to love this congregation, your compassion for the least of us, and for everyone else. This community really does live out that "all are welcome here." I witnessed this every Sunday in worship, every time someone new came to Dogs & Dominoes, game night, fellowship. This congregation draws folks in, loves them and holds them up. What a blessing for all!

When I was asked to stay on for a period of time, it was an easy decision to make. Ministry with this community is a gift beyond words. I am grateful and humbled by your call to serve. Thank you.



Music Ministry

Dr. Barbara Hamm, Minister of Music



Grateful: this is the theme of our church this year, and that's what I am as I reflect upon my music ministry this past year at CCC. I am grateful for the opportunity to immerse myself in something I love doing. I am equally grateful for the trust invested in me to lead CCC's music program, and I try to encourage as many people as I can to participate!

I am truly grateful for the Sanctuary Choir and the integral part it plays in the worship and ministry of CCC. The choir sings regularly for worship services most Sundays September through June. We perform as well for our Christmas concert and occasionally for memorial services; this last August we sang at the memorial service for Milly Thomas. The word seems to be getting out—we added two new basses a year ago, while this year we added an alto, Pat Obendorf, and two sopranos, Dona Bovey and Mary Susan Gast (who has frequently stepped in to help the last several years.) We always welcome additional singers for special services such as Christmas, Easter, Pentecost: this last year Nancy Gilman, Bret Lortie, Laura Pyles, Roger Reaber, and Dennis Meade joined us at different times.

Sanctuary Choir women join with additional women and girls to comprise the Women and Girls' Chorus, which sings occasionally for worship services and also for the Christmas concert. CCC is currently blessed with quite a number of children; the Children's Choir is always a highlight of the Christmas concert. The children also sing as part of their Children's Pageant the Sunday before Christmas.

The Rolling Tones Handbell Choir plays for worship services throughout the year and also occasionally accompanies choir anthems. They play for the Christmas concert and for the December Second Saturday feeding of our friends on the street in Vallejo. They also play for community events.

Two smaller groups also contribute to CCC's music program—Jazz Gorilla and the Hippie Chicks, both of whom perform for the Christmas concert. In addition to playing frequently for worship services at CCC, Jazz Gorilla performs for events beyond the local church, being the featured performance again this year at the Global Holiday Faire in December at First Christian Church of Vallejo. Individual soloists, both vocal and instrumental, offer their musical gifts to CCC as well. We are indeed blessed to have so many musicians who have found a welcome home at CCC.

The renovations in our sanctuary have made it a very acoustically attractive venue for visiting musical groups to perform in, and a number of them schedule concerts and/or rehearsals in our space: the Vallejo Choral Society, the Golden Gate Symphony Chorus, Soprano Alto Singers of Solano (SASS), and the Benicia Chamber Players. We are grateful for them all.

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Closely aligned with my music ministry and growing organically from it is my own hymn writing. I have conducted three workshops this year to introduce churches to my 2018 collection, *Table of Grace*, published by Hope Publishing Company in summer 2018. One of these was at the UCC Annual Gathering at Sonoma State University in June, and another was at Grace Presbyterian Church in Walnut Creek in August. In late October I spent a weekend at the UCC Tulare church in the Central Valley, conducting a Saturday hymnody workshop, presenting a number of my hymns during the Sunday morning worship service, and leading a Sunday evening Taizé service with musicians from that congregation. The Tulare Church retained several copies of my collection for use by their congregation. In December the First Christian Church of Vallejo bought a set for use by their congregation. I am always thrilled to learn that a congregation has sung a hymn of mine, more often than not “Come to the Table of Grace.”

Hope Publishing Company accepted five more of my hymns this year. And I have been invited by Oregon Catholic Press to submit hymn texts for its Women’s Hymn Text Project to be published in 2020. I have submitted several hymn texts to OCP for consideration. I have much for which to be grateful!

*Lists include names of anyone who participated at some point during the year in 2019.

Sanctuary Choir

Dona Bovey
Mary Susan Gast
Dean Gilman
Priscilla Lane
Bret Lortie
Cholé McGraw
Pat Obendorf
Laura Pyles
Roger Reaber
Jackie Sayles
Deborah Shanks
Susan Stofan
Todd Wolf
Andy Zinkevich
Barbara Hamm – Director

The Rolling Tones Handbell Choir

Nancy Gilman
Cholé McGraw
Kathy Monroe
Pat Obendorf
Keith Read
Laurie Read
Deborah Shanks
Kim Webb
Leslie Lessenger – Director

Women and Girls’ Chorus

Nancy Aldritt
Kathy Bery
Dona Bovey
Liz Cleves
Mary Susan Gast
Nancy Gilman
Priscilla Lane
Cholé McGraw
Pat Obendorf
Laura Pyles
Jackie Sayles
Sage Schultze
Deborah Shanks
Judith Smith
Susan Stofan
Letty Thomas
Maddie Vlnar
Barbara Hamm – Director

The Hippie Chicks

Liz Cleves – guitar
Marilyn Scrutchins – guitar

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Children's and Youth Choir

Avery Aldritt-Goad
Colin Cavagnuolo-Pyles
(Leader, Christmas concert)
Joelle Fernandes
Jacob Fernandes
Erik Gallmeyer
Elise Gallmeyer
Avery Koehn
Emmett Koehn
Isla Koehn
Miguel Pasqual
Natalya Pasqual
Colton Schultze
Sage Schultze
Emma Thomas
Donnie Vlnar
Maddie Vlnar
Barbara Hamm – Director

Jazz Gorilla

Dean Gilman – bass
Shelby Riddle – clarinet
Barbara Hamm – piano

Instrumentalists

Liz Cleves – guitar
Carlene Coury – ukulele
Lisa Dwiggin – cello
Dean Gilman – bass
Leslie Lessenger – flute
Bret Lortie – trombone
Adam Olm – fiddle
Dale Olm – mandolin
Shelby Riddle – clarinet, fiddle
Marilyn Scrutchins – guitar
Deborah Shanks – guitar, harp, organ, piano
Barbara Hamm – piano, organ



Moderator

Leslie Lessenger

2019 was an active and exciting year for us at Community Congregational. We had the unexpected event of Pastor Renie having surgery and being absent for 12 weeks during the summer. However, she had us well-trained and the church not only maintained, but flourished!

We were blessed with three pastors who are also members and who provided leadership in worship services. We cannot thank the Reverends Mary Susan Gast, Roger Reaber and Bret Lortie enough for their inspiration. They were ably supported by our very active Worship Committee, under the leadership of Priscilla Lane and Marilyn Scrutchins. Rev. Melissa McBride was hired part time to provide pastoral care, and she was so wonderful that we asked her to continue as Associate Minister after Rev. Renie returned.

Council decided we needed to be more visible to the community in our commitment to our open and affirming welcome and a rainbow flutter flag was installed in the front of the church. We also opened the use of our sanctuary to more groups, including the Golden Gate Chorale, Benicia Chamber Players and Vallejo Choral Society. Thanks to Jim Lessenger, the church Policy and Procedures Manual was reviewed, updated and approved by the Council. A meeting was held with City officials to gather information about the feasibility of selling part of our property along M Street. After review of the costs and process involved, no action was recommended.

Our building continued to need loving care and maintenance. A major project involved jackhammering the concrete slab at the front of the church and installation of carpet. Following that, a successful fund-drive resulted in new lights in the sanctuary, and final installation of a new sound system. CCC/UCC has entered the 21st century!

We introduced the idea of WYI (What's Your Idea?) at each Council meeting. This resulted in a renewed annual picnic in August, participation in a community video of "Benicia Our Home," and several forums after Fellowship which we called AfterWord:

1. Social Media and Your Kids (cancelled due to speaker called away in an emergency)
2. Caregiving
3. Animal Appreciation
4. End of Life

There is much more to read about our year in this report. We are thrilled to have Rev. Renie back in good health. We welcomed fourteen new members (Michelle Padilla, Carol Gieg, Todd Wolf, Dona Bovey, Bret and Cindi Lortie, Kathy Berry, Letty Tomas, Kathy Monroe, Andy Zinkevich, Kim Webb, Kim Osborn and Claire Hanson) and unexpectedly ended the year in the black. The GOOD NEWS is that CCC/UCC is thriving and working in the community to live up to our pledge to "live fully, love wastefully and lead courageously" as followers of Jesus.



Clerk

Deborah Shanks

Baptisms: None

Weddings: None

New Members

March 3: 4 new members

- Michelle Padilla [Letter of Transfer]
- Carol Gieg
- Todd Wolf [Letter of Transfer]
- Dona Bovey [Letter of Transfer]

November 3: 10 new members

- Bret Lortie
- Cindi Lortie
- Kathy Berry
- Letty Thomas
- Katrina (Kathy) Monroe
- Andre (Andy) Zinkevich
- Kim Osborn
- Claire Hanson [Letter of Transfer]
- Kim Webb
- Leslee Prah

Membership Withdrawn

Members placed on inactive list

Transferred Membership

Deceased

Milly Thomas – June 12, 2019

Total Members:

June 30, 2015	109
June 30, 2016	112
June 30, 2017	108
Dec. 31, 2018	87
Dec 31, 2019	100



MEMBER JOIN DATE

Member Name	Join Date
Mortensen, Eleanor	11/21/1954
Burns, Karen.....	8/16/1955
Estment (Wyatt), Patricia	10/9/1959
Stephens, Carol	11/4/1964
Stofan, Susan	2/24/1974
Hammonds, Maryo	9/15/1974
Hammonds, Sam	9/15/1974
Martin, Pam	10/22/1978
Osada, Carolyn	6/8/1980
Scrutchins, Marilyn	6/7/1981
Lane, Priscilla	12/5/1982
Read, Laurie	2/17/1985
Read, Keith	2/17/1985
Sayles, Jackie.....	4/5/1987
Koehn, Rebecca.....	5/7/1995
Read, Robyn.....	5/31/1998
Olm, Dale.....	9/27/1998
Conway, Debbie	4/25/1999
Murrell, Janet	11/14/1999
Taylor, Penny.....	11/14/1999
Thomas, Jett	1/16/2000
Blackie, Leslie	7/30/2000
Blackie, Jonathan	7/30/2000
McGraw, Chol�	2/25/2001
Cox, Daniel	5/12/2002
Cox, Regina	5/12/2002
Read, Kristen	5/12/2002
Sindt, Cassidy.....	5/12/2002
Hamm , Barbara	6/30/2002
Gilman, Nancy	7/20/2003
Watson, Jim	7/20/2003
Benton, Graham	1/25/2004
Thompson, Sarah	1/25/2004
Gilman, Dean.....	12/12/2004
Olm, Sam.....	5/15/2005
Blackie, Lindsay.....	5/15/2005
Schaffer, Larry.....	5/7/2006
Stamm-Kirk, Rev. Renie	6/3/2007
Riddle, Shelby	6/3/2007
Olm, Adam.....	6/3/2007
Stamm-Kirk, Allison	12/2/2007
Lessenger, Jim	6/1/2008
Lessenger, Leslie	6/1/2008
Nancy Schaffer.....	12/21/2008
Hanna, Christopher	5/17/2009
Cooper, Brent	6/14/2009
McDonald, Reiko	6/14/2009
Ensminger, Veronica	10/4/2009
Blackie, Stuart	1/24/2010
Gauger, Eleanor (Nora)	1/24/2010

Member Name	Join Date
Aldritt, Nancy	3/20/2011
Kidder, Natalie.....	3/20/2011
Stauffer, Cheryle	3/20/2011
Goad, Carla	3/20/2011
Dolter, Jean	3/20/2011
Dolter, Bill	3/20/2011
Cooper, Kieran	5/15/2011
Stamm-Kirk, Katie	5/15/2011
Cavagnuolo, Michelle	4/8/2012
Daffern, Tracy.....	4/8/2012
Hill, Donna.....	4/8/2012
Pyles, Laura	4/8/2012
Vlnar, Eric	4/8/2012
Vlnar, Maria	4/8/2012
Benton, Audrey.....	6/10/2012
Daffern, Kyle.....	6/10/2012
Daffern, Natalie	6/10/2012
Mitchell, Karyna.....	6/10/2012
Thomas, Debra.....	1/18/2015
Olm, Della.....	1/18/2015
Riggs, Trudy	1/18/2015
Jennifer Tubiello Riggs.....	1/18/2015
Gast, Rev. Mary Susan.....	1/18/2015
Straw, Rev. Roger.....	1/18/2015
Cleves, Liz	9/30/2015
Farrell, Moira.....	9/30/2015
Towery, Faune.....	9/30/2015
Coury, Carlene.....	4/1/2018
Dieden, Ed.....	4/1/2018
Dieden, Kathy.....	4/1/2018
Obendorf, Pat.....	4/1/2018
Schultze, Bobby.....	4/1/2018
Schultze, Shannon.....	4/1/2018
Purtle, Nancy.....	4/1/2018
Shanks, Deborah.....	4/1/2018
Shanks, Marlan.....	4/1/2018
Wolf, Todd.....	3/3/2019
Padilla, Michelle.....	3/3/2019
Gieg, Carol.....	3/3/2019
Bovey, Dona.....	3/3/2019
Hanson, Claire.....	11/3/2019
Thomas, Letty.....	11/3/2019
Berry, Kathy.....	11/3/2019
Lortie, Bret.....	11/3/2019
Lortie, Cindy.....	11/3/2019
Monroe, Katrina.....	11/3/2019
Osborn, Kim.....	11/3/2019
Prahl, Leslee.....	11/3/2019
Webb, Kim.....	11/3/2019
Zinkevich, Andre.....	11/3/2019

100 MEMBERS

Financial Secretary

Nancy Gilman

Community Congregational Church, UCC - Benicia CA
Donations Account Balances (01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019)

Tuesday, January 21, 2020

Page 1 of 1

Account	Period Activity	YTD Balance
<i>Giving Accounts</i>		
059 - Previous fiscal year pledges	552.00	552.00
060 - Pledges - Current Year	129,017.21	129,017.21
061 - Pledges - Paid Advance Next Year	2,000.00	2,000.00
065 - Parishioner Contributions	17,205.59	17,205.59
067 - In Kind Gift	3,617.09	3,617.09
071 - Building Use - Other	4,750.00	4,750.00
073 - Building Use - Playing To Learn	33,120.00	33,120.00
074 - Bldg Use, PTL Utilities	6,000.00	6,000.00
075 - PTL - Building Use - Property Tax	900.00	900.00
085 - Fundraiser - Stewardship	4,326.00	4,326.00
087 - Fundraiser - Crab Feed	5,686.00	5,686.00
098 - Refunds & Misc Deposits	2,179.23	2,179.23
409 - Puente de la Costa Sur	70.00	70.00
411 - Christmas Families	845.00	845.00
412 - Christmas Fund (Vets/Cross) (UCC)	1,008.00	1,008.00
426 - Feeding Friends on the Street	545.00	545.00
600 - Capital Imp/Bldg Fund - Pledge	25,440.08	25,440.08
605 - Capital Improvements	80.00	80.00
610 - New Sound System	5,475.00	5,475.00
612 - Sanctuary Chairs	800.00	800.00
703 - Concert Series (Music Series)	43.00	43.00
704 - Music Program Fund (Barbara's)	200.00	200.00
705 - Christian Ed / Sunday School	131.22	131.22
707 - Christian Ed/Adult	200.00	200.00
708 - Pastor Restricted Fund	2,917.50	2,917.50
711 - Weekend in the Trees	7,625.00	7,625.00
712 - FellowshipFreewillOff - Budget	600.00	600.00
713 - Worship Ministry Committee	250.00	250.00
714 - Xmas & Easter Flower Fund	1,550.00	1,550.00
715 - Welcome & Growth Ministry Comm	367.00	367.00
718 - Handbells	550.00	550.00
721 - Memorial Funds-Recent Contribu	7,570.00	7,570.00
725 - Special Renovation Projects	6,119.86	6,119.86
801 - Special Fellowship Events	341.00	341.00
Total Giving Accounts	\$272,080.78	\$272,080.78

Count: 34

Period: 01/01/2019 - 12/31/2019

Year: 2019

Treasurer

Dale Olm



This is our first fiscal year based on the calendar year. The years 2017 through 2018 were a transitional time from a July to June fiscal year to a January to December fiscal year.

Fiscally, the church is stable, with net cash reserves of \$36,135. Expenses averaged \$19,281 per month, so the cash reserves represent about 1.9 months of expense liability. We have been meeting our loan payments for the campus renovation/parking lot and paid \$6,759 off the principal on the loan (ending with remaining principal of \$322,763).

The Financial Secretary report shows that more funds were received by the church than is indicated in the revenue reported in the Treasurer report. This is due to funds received which were not included in budgetary revenue and which went into restricted accounts (such as the Weekend in the Trees retreat, the sanctuary renovations, and pledges paid in advance).

During the 2019 fiscal year, our revenue exceeded our expenses despite a predicted deficit budget. This was due principally to receiving pledges matching our budget (some individual pledges were not received, but some individual pledges were exceeded and some pledges from the previous year were met), an increase in loose offerings and increased revenue from building use. "Loose offerings" are contributions that were not pledged. Expenses were slightly higher than anticipated but were more than offset by the increase in revenue.



Community Congregational Church UCC, of Benicia							
Balance Sheet Summary (Current vs End of Last FY)							
As of December 31, 2019							Cash Basis
				Dec 31, 19	Dec 31, 18		\$ Change
ASSETS							
Current Assets							
Checking/Savings							
		US Bank 2241		18,781	15,446		3,335
		Payroll Services Direct Deposit		0	-1		1
		Cornerstone CD#9002 2/5/12		0	16,768		-16,768
		Cornerstone CD 1 year 02/09/xx		33,374	32,537		838
		Cornerstone CD 1 year 7/31/xx		10,355	10,099		256
		Vanguard Federal MMF		9,279	112		9,167
		Total Checking/Savings		71,789	74,960		-3,171
Other Current Assets							
		Petty Cash Accounts		171	171		0
		Total Other Current Assets		171	171		0
		Total Current Assets		71,960	75,131		-3,171
Other Assets							
		Campus Renovation 2015		322,763	329,704		-6,941
		Total Other Assets		322,763	329,704		-6,941
TOTAL ASSETS				394,723	404,835		-10,112
LIABILITIES & EQUITY							
Liabilities							
Current Liabilities							
Other Current Liabilities							
		Payroll Tax liabilities		-544	91		-634
		Total Other Current Liabilities		-544	91		-634
		Total Current Liabilities		-544	91		-634
Long Term Liabilities							
		Cornerstone Loan - Parking Lot		322,763	329,522		-6,759
		Total Long Term Liabilities		322,763	329,522		-6,759
		Total Liabilities		322,219	329,612		-7,393
Equity							
		Pastor Restricted Fund		2,694	490		2,205
		Total of All M&O Funds		10,244	8,335		1,909
		Bequests - Cap Impr. Fund		267	4,692		-4,425
		Capital Improvements - General		3,951	1,720		2,231
		Capital Impr. Special Projects		0	4,650		-4,650
		Sabbatical set aside (accrued)		5,761	10,716		-4,955
		Pledges Paid in Adv (use sub)		2,000	9,200		-7,200
		Set-asides for current yr exp's		93	248		-156
		Special Restricted Equity Accts		11,358	10,266		1,092
		Net Assets		21,831	6,950		14,881
		Net Income		14,304	17,956		-3,652
		Total Equity		72,503	75,223		-2,720
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY				394,723	404,835		-10,112
12/31/2019		NET CASH RESERVES		36,135	24,906		11,229

Page 18

Building and Grounds

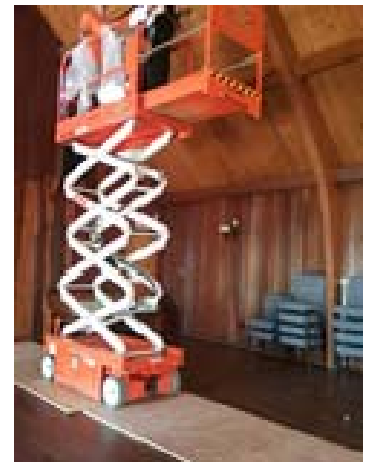
Jim Lessenger

Maintenance was continued on the buildings and grounds, including:

1. Weed-whacking, weeding, pruning, planting, sweeping, etc.
2. Repairs to doors, walls, etc.
3. Trimming palm trees.

The following projects were accomplished:

1. Completed the conversion to LED lights.
2. Removed the concrete altar stand on the stage.
3. Placed the carpet on the stage.
4. Cleaned and oiled the woodwork on the ceiling and back wall.
5. Sanded, oiled and coated the woodwork on the stage.
6. Installed new sanctuary lights.
7. Installed wall sconces in the sanctuary.
8. Installed window screens that block light.
9. Installed an e-lock on the kitchen door.
10. Installed new CO2 and smoke alarms in the CE building.
11. Compiled with the fire inspection requirements (including the disingenuous and ridiculous "candle tax" which is un-intelligent, un-American and anti-religion).
12. Repaired the waste line in the CE building.



Welcome and Growth

Nora Gauger and Pat Obendorf

The Welcome and Growth committee worked hard this year to make both newcomers and regulars at our church feel welcome and involved. Kathy Dieden, Chole McGraw, Nancy Purtle, Shelby Riddle, Marlan Shanks and, of course Pat Obendorf and myself, tried not only to greet everyone at the door, but to insure they were welcomed at the close of service and invited to join us for Fellowship. A special thanks to all our members who stepped up when we had more visitors than we could get to and engaged with the newcomers seated around them. Pat O did a great job of producing new name tags so that newcomers got a printed name tag right away.

Our attendance averaged 54 attendees at our worship services, with December having the highest numbers (115 at our Dec. 22nd worship) and May, June, and July being our low months. The children's average was 8, a number that increased this fall and Christmas season.

Other projects that Welcome and Growth worked on this year were:

- With the help of Deborah Shanks, Liz Cleves, Barbara Hamm, and Dennis Meade, we researched how to get the word out to the Benicia/Vallejo community about who we were as a church and what we had to offer them. We created a banner we can attach to a card table to set up at community events, 4x6 cards we can have available, and business cards that we have asked the congregation to take and hand out when anyone asks about our church. We have already used the banner, 4x6 cards, and card table at the Gay Pride event at the Gazebo Park and have the business cards available on the Welcome Podium in the Fellowship Hall every Sunday for visitors and members to take.
- It seemed just as important to have a place where our own church community can keep up with what CCC is up to, so we redesigned the bulletin board between the office and the sanctuary to have 3 sections: a place for a calendar of our regularly scheduled activities, a section where we put up flyers/posters for special CCC events or those put on by groups we support, and a third section for photos of all the wonderful activities our community takes on. Keeping that up to date has been a major production—we are always looking for photos. Please just email any you have taken of CCC activities to ngauger7@comcast.net— we will be sure they get posted.
- We sent welcoming notes to all first time visitors who signed the Guest register with addresses or emails, a total of 28 for this year.



Fellowship

This year our fellowship committee consisted of many volunteers just stepping up on various Sundays since we did not have a committee chair. But we could not have had fellowship this year if Nancy Gillman did not continue to buy our much-needed paper products, and of course our coffee. Susan Stofan was amazing again this year with her ever faithful stewardship of chili and mac and cheese and we are so very grateful to the countless folks who signed up week in and week out to bring a snack or a full meal for Sunday fellowship.

We at Community Congregational Church celebrated 2019 52 times this year always with some food, some talk and always a warm cup of coffee. In 2019 we made a decision to help normalize a culture of sustainability and be more environmentally friendly. We no longer use plastic utensils and so each Sunday our fellowship hosts or someone from the fellowship team wash all utensils in our sink for reuse thus saving our planet one fork at a time. Along with the positive environmental impact, there is also a clear financial incentive for this change.

Fellowship hosted many of the Building and Grounds Fellowship Days as well as Games Nights, our Annual Shrove Tuesday and our Annual Thanksgiving Feast with over 60 in attendance. 2019 was another great year for Community Congregational Fellowship.



Christian Education

Dale Olm

Sunday school was held following the children's sermon in worship on all Sundays except on Pageant Sunday. Average attendance was 5.4 children per Sunday ranging from none to 14. Whole People of God curriculum was again used in 2019.

Playing to Learn Child Care continues to provide contracted nurse and infant care during the worship service. "Miss Jessie" has been the principle care provider and has done an outstanding job.

Thanks to all our dedicated volunteer teachers during 2019: Nora Gauger, Deborah Thomas, Dale Olm, Liz Cleves, Marilyn Scrutchins and Della Olm.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have assisted teachers during 2019: Meadow Thomas, Kim Osborn, Adam Olm, and Jim Lessenger.



Mission and Outreach

Laura Pyles

Community Congregational Church's mission is to follow the example of Jesus by caring for and honoring each other and the world. Through the Mission and Outreach Committee, our church actively reaches into our local and wider communities in support of causes and good works which are in keeping with our values.

Five percent of our pledges go to the missions of this church, in addition to the individual contributions and donations for specific drives. This is a look back on where we put our resources in 2019.

- We are "Five for Five" church, allocating money in support of our UCC sponsored missions, including: Our Church's Wider Mission, Neighbors in Need, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, and the Christmas Fund (for pastors in need).
- In February, we collected hundreds of pounds of food from our members (and from Playing to Learn) to donate to the Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano.
- At Easter, supported by the collection for the "Lilies Fund", we purchased apartment starter kits and donated them to First Place for Youth to assist young adults aging out of the foster system with their new homes.
- Our congregation came together in the summer to put together backpacks with school supplies for young elementary students (and some for their teachers) who live in the farming communities around Pescadero. Each year we work with the people at Puente de la Costa Sur, the non-profit serving this impoverished community, to get the backpacks to these children.
- We donated funds to support the medical services provided by Planned Parenthood of Vallejo.
- We also donated money to support of Project Blessing Bags which makes hygiene kits for the homeless.
- At Christmastime, our congregation signed up to buy presents for Benicia families lacking financial resources to celebrate gift giving.
- We retrieved, stored and distributed the many coats collected by the Benicia Public Library over the holidays, giving them out to people living on the cold streets.
- Our "Poinsettias Fund" supplied money used to purchase scores of new underwear and socks for our homeless, which decorated our sanctuary on Christmas Sunday.
- We completed the 7th year of our continuing work each Second Saturday serving a hot, healthy breakfast, joyous music, and loving fellowship to our friends who live on the street.



Our efforts do make a difference. I am grateful to those who step up to make sure the work gets done. A special word of appreciation to committee members Nancy Gilman, Janet Murrell, Penny Taylor, Debbie Thomas, and Donna Hill, along with Nora Gauger and Kathy Monroe for the heavy lifting. My heartfelt thanks to the many more not named yet core to the functioning of our missions, who lend their time and energies caring for our community and helping make the world a better place for it.

Worship

Priscilla Lane and Marilyn Scrutchins



This year the worship committee consisted of Nancy Gilman, Barbara Hamm, Deborah Shanks, the Rev. Renie Stamm Kirk, Letty Thomas, and co-chairs Marilyn Scrutchins, Priscilla Lane. In addition, our church moderator, Leslie Lessenger, attended most of our meetings. We met at least one time per month.

The first theme of the year was Earth Justice that lasted through Lent. Pastor Renie's texts emphasized the environment and how we have lost our way in protecting it. Decorations included unique, beautiful shells, fish nets,

water fountain, bowl of sand, and dirt with seeds for planting.

The second theme of the year that went from September through Advent was Grateful Living. It culminated in Advent with large gift boxes filled with underwear for our friends on the street.

During Pentecost we brought out fire colors for decorating and then added Rainbow colors for Gay Pride for several weeks. Since we wanted new banners to hang during Ordinary Time (approximately May to Advent), Deborah Shanks researched and then generously donated three beautiful banners.

We hosted a Shrove Tuesday event with pancakes and games, a pancake breakfast and greening of the sanctuary day, held trainings for liturgists and acolytes, helped the Thomas family decorate for Millie's memorial service, and thanks to Pastor Renie's desire to save paper and ink, reduced the size of our bulletins. Marilyn Scrutchins wrote a touching pageant about a reunion of the animals in the manger that was presented on Christmas Sunday. Our children and Liz Cleves acted their parts well.

While our pastor was out on leave for surgery, the Rev. Doctor Mary Susan Gast, the Rev. Roger Reaber, and the Rev. Brett Lortie generously donated their time and amazing talents for many Sundays. In addition, the Rev. Melissa McBride connected with people before and after church and during the week. We were so grateful for their presence during this time.

Many thanks go to Millie and Jett Thomas for their contribution of \$250 to our flower fund, to Michelle Padilla for bringing flowers week after week, to Deborah Shanks for generous gifts of two brass candle holders, a new wickless candle lighter, the 6 colored glass sconces on the sanctuary walls, and the three banners previously mentioned.

Marilyn and Priscilla thank our faithful committee members. With many meetings generating many ideas, setting up and taking down of multiple decorations, all culminating in meaningful, spirit filled, smooth running services (hopefully) we are grateful to each of you: Pastor Renie, Barbara, Deborah, Letty, and Nancy.

The Rolling Tones - Handbells

Leslie Lessenger

On June 2 we celebrated 10 years of handbells at CCC/UCC! We have increased our instrument to within 2 bells of 3 octaves (we are missing F4 and F#4).

This year the Rolling Tones upped our game and tackled some more advanced pieces. Here is a partial list:

Triumphant Spirit by Nicholas Hanson

Meditation on Beautiful Savior arr. Cathy Moglebust

Oompah Loompa arr. Deborah Shanks

Morning Mist by William Billingsley, arr. Deborah Shanks

With Leslie Lessenger, flute

Frosty the Snowman by S. Nelson and J. Rolling, arr. T. Waldrop

Prepare a Royal Highway, Bereden vag for Herran, arr. C. Moglebust

With Shelby Riddle, clarinet

Joyful, Joyful!, Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. Valerie W. Stephenson



Cleaning the bells

We also accompanied several choral pieces, including: *All is Well*, *Christmastime*, and *Antiphon*.

In December we performed at the Rancho Benicia Clubhouse and provided carols for Our Friends on the Street on Second Saturday.

We are looking forward to a great 2020!



Rolling Tones 2019

Kim Webb, Deborah Shanks, Nancy Gilman,
Kathy Monroe, Leslie Lessenger (Director)
Laurie Read, Pat Obendorf, Keith Read
(missing Chol  McGraw)



Congregational Care

Carolyn Osada

The congregational needs to give itself a big thank you for all the care, meals, transportation and calls our church members has provided to our community. It is frequently after the fact, the congregational care chair hears of the helping hands that have supported those that needed a laugh, a ride, a meal, a visit.

Pam Martin, Marilyn Scrutchins, Kathy Berry, and Penny Taylor helped to send out over 100 birthday greetings. Cards and notes were also sent out to people on our prayer list.

Pastor Parish Relations

Shelby Riddle

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC), under the leadership of the Vice Moderator, met with the Pastor monthly or as needed.

Stewardship

Committee members: The budget committee doubled as stewardship. Many hands assisted with fundraisers. The fall stewardship campaign chair was Nancy Gilman and great assistance by Rev. Renie.



Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
1	Community Congregational Church UCC											
2	of Benicia				Approved	Actual	Proposed					
3	Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2020				Budget	R&E	Budget					
4	(January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020)				2019	2019	2020					
5												
6												
7	Funding (Operations and Ministries)											
8		Refunds & misc. deposits			0	32	0					
9		Loose Offering			6590	17206	12000	estimated non-pledged contributions				
10		Pledges			135,096	136,415	143,640	Total of Pledge cards received				
11		Capital Improvement/Loan Pledges & donations			22,824	26,660	23,620	pledged contrib. to reg. loan repayment & cap. Imprvt				
12		Cap Improvement Fund - non-pledged contrib.				80	0					
13		Use of Building			43,159	45,145	45,539	PTL (including utilities and taxes), 12 Step groups;				
14		Fundraisers			4,500	5,640	4,500	Auction and Crab feed				
15		Transfer from Reserves & Restricted accounts			3,704	12,363	3,805	to cover sabbatical set aside and sabbatical minister				
16		Transfer Net Reserves to reduce loan principal					2,500	to accelerate loan payoff (from reserves)				
17		Transfer to(-)/from(+) Cap Imprvmt/Parking Lot			-277	-2,828	-499	excess of pledges on line 12 transferred to Cap Imprvt				
18		Other funding (interest +)			2,770	3,181	2,942	CD Interest & rebate on loan interest				
19		Grants			0	0	0					
20	Total Revenues				218,366	243,894	238,047					
21	Expense (Operations and Ministries)											
22		B&G - Utilities			14,367	14,885	15,048	shared by PTL (share included in revenue)				
23		B&G - Custodial (contract)			7,200	7,200	7,800	Every 2 weeks; offset by church volunteers in between				
24		B&G - Maint. & Housekeep			7,391	5,835	7,726	Genesis House, contractors, repairs, supplies				
25		B&G - Property Taxes			744	744	804	Paid by PTL (included in revenue)				
26		B&G - Property Insurance			7,492	7,866	8,989	20% increase in 2020 d/t increased local building costs				
27		Cornerstone Loan Payments			22,547	23,515	24,119	Interest rate increased to 5.5%				
28		Additional Reduction in Loan Principal					2,500	accel's loan payoff by 4.2 yr; saves \$52,133 if annual				
29		Christian Education / Youth			600	351	400	curriculum & supplies for Sunday School				
30		Congregational Care			100	107	125					
31		Fellowship			1,150	866	1,050	food and supplies				
32		Music, Adult & Youth Choirs			1,163	808	1,110					
33		Stewardship			30	0	100					
34		Mission&Outreach (incl. OCWM)			6,755	6,422	7,182	5% of pledges rec'd; includes OCWM (UCC Support))				
35		Welcome			100	455	200					
36		Worship			360	411	360					
37		Other committees & Ministries			0	0	0					
38		Council & Discretion Funds			0	0	0					
39		Other Exp-Finance & Admin			3,661	3,936	4,625	Bank fees				
40		Office/Computers/Copier Supply			3,484	4,403	3,705					
41		Professional Expenses			790	745	875	required Pastor training, NCNC, dues, WITT				
42		Sabbatical set aside			3,704	3,704	3,805	for future sabbaticals (funded from reserves)				
43		Child Care during Worship			2,288	2,405	2,357	child care provided by PTL				
44		Staff			141,994	146,716	155,797	2020: Minister, PT Associate minister, Music Minister				
45	Total Expense				225,920	231,373	248,676					
46					-7,554	12,522	-10,629					
47												
48												
49												

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2020

Nominating Committee
Shelby Ridle and Pastor Renie

STAFF

Pastor	The Rev. Renie Stamm-Kirk
Associate Pastor	The Rev. Melissa McBride
Minister of Music	Dr. Barbara Hamm
Office Manager	OPEN

OFFICERS

Moderator	Shelby Riddle
Vice-Moderator	OPEN
Church Clerk	Kathy Monroe
Financial Secretary	Leslie Lessenger
Treasurer	Dale Olm

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Building and Grounds Ministry	Andy Zinkevich
Christian Education Ministry	Open
Congregational Care	Carolyn Osada
Fellowship	Letty Thomas & Michelle Padilla
Mission & Outreach	Laura Pyles
Stewardship Ministry	Nancy Gilman
Welcome and Growth	Nora Gauger
Worship Ministry	Pricilla Lane & Marilyn Scrutchins
Members-At-Large	Kathy Dieden & Todd Wolf

