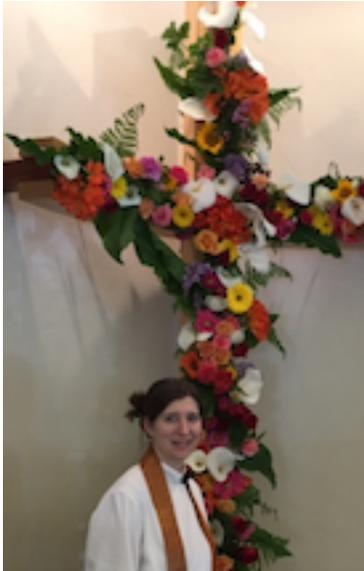


Everything Under the Sun....



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Easter came early this year, and as I write this I am still keenly aware of the Resurrection that we just celebrated. I am looking at all that is going on in society and all that this church has been working on since I began as your minister a year and a half ago. The Congregation, Council, and various teams have been working very hard to make plans, get ahead, reach out into the community, and build right relationships. I am so grateful to every single person who has helped to minister to our parishioners, keep me organized, grow new ministries, and build strong relationships.

As we move through this Easter Season, many good things are now springing forth. The Academic Summer Program we piloted last year will expand this year due to a generous grant of \$14,000 from the Pilgrim Park Board. Our youth are reaching out into the community and rallying local businesses to contribute to their Hygiene Kit project (see page 6). Many businesses have been thrilled to meet the kids, hear about the project, and learn more about our

church. We have a new Office Manager and she is helping us to get organized and plan ahead in ways that seemed unimaginable a year ago (see page 2).

We have new members serving on the Council and on every single board. We have children from the neighborhood attending church regularly and visiting us on campus all the time just to say hi or stop by to talk. Our collaboration with the Unitarian Universalist Association of Marin on the Our Whole Lives course had led to requests for more collaboration around youth projects and fellowship.

We have guest preachers throughout the year from both inside and outside the church. There are multiple Prayer Retreats planned for this year, and our Youth Calendar for the year is full of discipleship events as more and more children are getting involved. Last week I was astonished to hear a relatively new member ask when we were going to get an Outreach Team going, and I am excited to nurture this new enthusiasm.

During the Easter Season, we revisit stories from scripture that talk about Jesus appearing to all sorts of people after His death and resurrection, repeating again and again that they should “receive the Spirit,” “follow me,” and “you will be my witnesses.”

I invite you to pray with me that as we move through Easter Season and hear all of this good news, that we continue to receive the Spirit and be witnesses as we follow the path that Jesus set for us. I pray that every single person will be so filled with the Spirit and joy of what is happening that she or he will tell friends and neighbors about it and invite them to come be part of it.

Blessings, *Pastor Tracy*

MEET OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER GWENDOLYN MORGAN

We are delighted to announce that Gwendolyn Morgan has accepted the position of Office Manager. Gwendolyn comes to us with years of experience as an administrator, coordinator, and program assistant for various non-profit organizations as well as working for the City of Oakland Department of Human Services. She specialized in working with low income and welfare individuals so that they could gain the experience needed to return to the workforce.

After retiring, Gwendolyn turned her attention to developing and creating unique crafts and jewelry pieces, which she sells at local craft fairs. Gwendolyn enjoys spending time at the gym, camping and outside hiking. She volunteers for the NorCal Poodle Rescue and the Marin Valley Mobile Country Club Home Owners League where she lives with her partner Gail Chadbourne and a spoiled beautiful poodle named Jasper.



Gwendolyn started March 16. Her office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 AM until 1 PM. You can reach her at the church office email, which is office@fccsan-rafael.org, or at the church phone, 414 479-2747.

Please stop by on one of her office days and welcome Gwendolyn.



SPECIAL GUEST PREACHER – APRIL 17

Our special guest, preacher, Rev. Jones, is Associate Conference Minister for the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. She was called to this ministry November 16, 2015. Previously, she has served as the Associate Pastor of Pilgrim Community Church UCC in San Francisco. She has also served throughout the Conference and Wider Church. Davena earned her degree from Pacific School of Religion. She lives with her husband and daughter in Solano County and is a member of Pilgrim Community Church, United Church of Christ, in San Francisco.

PRAYER PARTNERS

Please remember the following members of our church family in prayer. Pray for their welfare and growth in faith and discipleship.



April 3 - 9
Marion Long

April 10 - 16
Randy and Susan MacKenzie

April 17 - 23
Nancy and Ekhard Mahl

April 24 - 30
Helen MacLam

May 1 - 7
Alan and Barbara Miller

Come and
Worship
w i t h u s !



April 3 John 20:19-31 Doubting Thomas

Doubting Thomas is a familiar story from the Bible, though he takes a lot of blame for a common occurrence throughout scripture. Please join us for Pastor Tracy's Sermon: "Receive the Holy Spirit" as she looks at this familiar but much more complex interaction between the risen Jesus, Thomas, and the other disciples and how it may inform our own understanding of the resurrection and our call to discipleship amidst doubt.

April 10 Acts 9:1-22 Paul's Vision and Conversion

Scripture tells us that after Jesus' resurrection he appeared to many people. This appearance to Paul is one of the most powerful and transformative stories in the Bible. When we put it into its historical context of Roman-Israelite relations, its parallels to our modern struggles with race-relations and the refugee crisis are striking. Please join us as we explore the transformative power of Jesus' resurrection story in Pastor Tracy's sermon, "Open My Eyes."

April 17 Acts 9:36-43 Life-Giving Acts

Please join us as Rev. Davena Leancé Jones explores the story of the resurrection of Tabitha from Acts 9:36-43 in her sermon, "Life-Giving Acts." Our special guest, preacher, Rev. Jones, is Associate Conference Minister for the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. She was called to this ministry November 16, 2015. Previously, she has served as the Associate Pastor of Pilgrim Community Church UCC in San Francisco. She has also served throughout the Conference and Wider Church. Davena earned her degree from Pacific School of Religion. She lives with her husband and daughter in Solano County and is a member of Pilgrim Community Church, United Church of Christ, in San Francisco.



April 24 Genesis 1:26 - 2:15 Earth Day

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22, and we join with over 192 different countries in our commitment to environmental activism. We will explore the story of creation and Adam's charge to till and keep the garden. As we look at ancient scripture, we can learn much of the ancient people's relationship with the land and their understanding of our responsibility to the earth and how its well-being affects our own. Please join us as we explore this familiar scripture with a fresh lens in Pastor Tracy's sermon, "A Dome in the Midst of the Waters."



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS - MAY 1

You can help end hunger around the world in just a few minutes. We'll provide pens, paper, sample letters, envelopes, stamps, and encouragement. All you need to contribute is a little time. On Sunday, May 1, after worship, the Board of Mission will sponsor an Offering of Letters. See page 5 for more information and sample letters.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING UPDATE



This Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ supports disaster, refugee, and development actions. This year our congregation contributed \$855 to this important offering. In addition, many in our congregation have contributed both money and items for the youth Hygiene Kit project, also part of our participation in One Great Hour of Sharing. See page 6.

R.E.S.T. DINNER IN APRIL

The First Congregational Church of San Rafael - Mission Board is happy to provide dinners for homeless women during 2015-16 Winter REST Program. We are feeding 15-20 homeless women, at the Wellness Center in San Rafael. We also eat and chat together with our guests before we clean up. It all begins at 5:45 PM to set up tables, chairs, and place settings. The guests arrive at the center and are ready to be served by 6:00 PM. We eat with them, and then we clean up the dishes and are usually done by 7:30 PM.

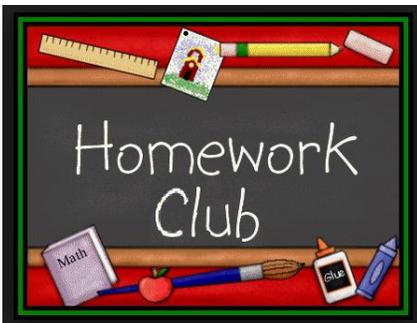
Our final REST Dinner date this spring is Monday, April 25

We need your help on April 25th **ONLY** with table set up, food serving, and clean up. You can sign up to help on line at Sign-up Genius:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/805044bada829a20-rest>

If you have any questions, please call Sher Ripley on her cell at 415-577-6104 or email sher_ripley@comcast.net

HOMEWORK CLUB MEETS on WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS



Sponsored by the Board of Mission, the Homework Club serves children from Pilgrim Park and provides support and tutoring as they complete their school homework assignments.

About 10-12 children attend each Wednesday and Thursday from 4-5 PM in the Oak Room. We are definitely **in need of more tutors** to help staff this vital program. If you are able to volunteer as a homework helper, please contact Pastor Tracy. The last session of Homework Club this spring will be May 26.

You can help end hunger around the world in just a few minutes. We'll provide pens, paper, sample letters, envelopes, stamps, and encouragement. All you need to contribute is a little time.

On Sunday, May 1, after worship, the Board of Mission will sponsor an Offering of Letters. Working together with many other denominations across the country and with Bread for the World, we will write letters to our U.S. representative and our U.S. Senators urging them to act to help end hunger around the world. More information and sample letters will be available on April 17 and 24, as well as on May 1. Or, you can use the sample letter below and bring your letters to church on May 1.

The U.S. Congress can and needs to play an important role. Congress should increase funding to at least \$230 million for programs for mother and child nutrition. This increase should happen in the State Department Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill's Global Health Account.

Your letters can help Congress to see nutrition for mothers and children as an investment in people's lives long-term and in the economies and security of both other countries and our own. Your letters can help Congress see the importance of building broad, bipartisan support for this in the House and Senate and continue supporting the U.S. government's leadership in this area.

[Date]

Dear Senator _____ :
or Dear Representative _____

Sample letter

Our country has led the way in improving the nutrition and health of mothers and children so they can achieve their full potential. We have seen tremendous progress, but our work remains unfinished. My faith calls me to urge that we continue until every mother and child has the chance to survive and thrive. Every life is precious.

As Congress considers funding for next year, I ask you to support at least \$230 million for international maternal and child nutrition programs in the Department of State appropriations bill's foreign operations global health account.

Sincerely,

[your name]
[your address]
[city, state, ZIP]



Senator Barbara Boxer
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Diane Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative. Jared Huffman
1630 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC. 20515



NEWS ABOUT KIDS

Wednesday, April 20 at 6:00 PM in the Oak Room - Parents Meeting for the Academic Summer Program. This will be an info-sharing and brainstorming meeting as we make plans for the Academic Summer Program. Your perspectives on the kids' academic progress and needs are crucial to our planning, and we encourage you to be there!

Sunday, May 15 - We will be blessing all students finishing their academic year during worship. All of the Homework Club kids are invited, as well as any special students of all ages in your life.

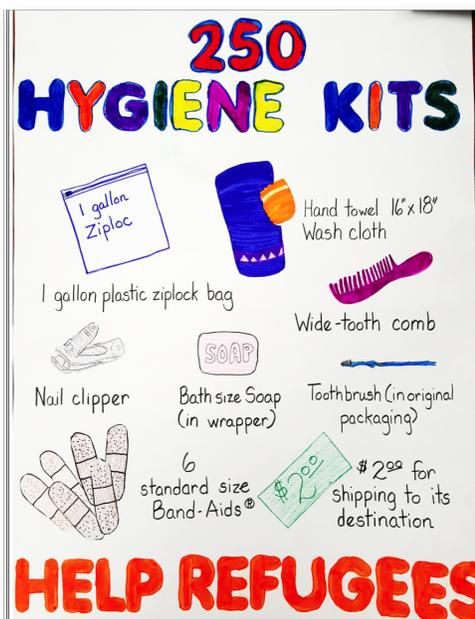
Thursday, May 26 - Last day of Homework Club for the 2015-2016 School Year. Plan on staying that evening for end-of-the year potluck and festivities in the Community Room

Monday, June 20 - Friday, July 29 - Academic Summer Program. All of you are invited to participate as teachers or classroom aides according to your comfort level.

Friday, July 29 - Academic Summer Program Celebration - 9 AM - 12 Noon. Please plan to come celebrate with the kids!

Wednesday, August 24, 2016 - Homework Club Resumes at 4:00 PM in the Oak Room.

HYGIENE KITS UPDATE—IT'S ALL ABOUT SOAP



This spring the youth at First Congregational Church and at Pilgrim Park have been working on a project to respond to the refugee crisis in Syria. They have set a goal for making 250 hygiene kits, which will be sent to the displaced people through One Great Hour of Sharing.

They are nearing their goal for almost all of the need items in each kit. However, they have a big need for one particular item:

90 Bars of soap.

These must be bath size in their original wrapper.

If you can contribute bars of soap, please let Pastor Tracy or a youth know as soon as possible.

BUDGET

FCC OF SAN RAFAEL QUARTERLY BUDGET REPORT

Through the first quarter of the year, both our spending and our income are tracking only slightly below where we need them to be to finish the year without a shortfall. The things to note in the numbers below:

1. The apparent shortfall for the quarter mainly reflects two late rent checks (\$4,000) which should be in hand by the time you read this. Our “real” shortfall in income is only about \$2,000.
2. Note that we expect our expenses to be significantly less than income at this time of year. Several major cost items are always loaded toward the second half of the year.

Operating Results January – March 2016

	Annual Budget	Expected 1 st Qtr.	Actual 1 st Qtr.	Variance
Spending (all)	192,829	41,500	41,189	(311)
Income (all)	192,779	49,684	43,713	(5,970)
Surplus (Shortfall)	(30)	8,184	2,524	(5,660)
<i>Pledges/Offerings</i>	<i>99,650</i>	<i>24,913</i>	<i>23,248</i>	<i>(1,665)</i>
<i>Rents & other</i>	<i>9,6149</i>	<i>24,772</i>	<i>20,465</i>	<i>(4,306)</i>

So the good news is our balance sheet continues strong. We have cash in hand (not counting our “rainy day fund”) for 96 days’ operating expenses.

SPRINGTIME AT PILGRIM PARK



Green lawns filled with dandelions, showy Clivia, spring bulbs, etc. These are noticeable new things happening these days in Pilgrim Park. In addition, food deliveries continue, the ladies meet Tuesday and Thursday mornings for coffee and news exchange, etc. And oh yes, we’ve started computer classes for the residents.

Board of Directors – At a recent meeting, the Directors received an update on management activities, our financial condition and maintenance projects. Pilgrim Park continues to generate sufficient extra cash to pay for the needed maintenance projects and replacements of spent assets. The Board approved funding for summer school for elementary school children in Pilgrim Park (see page 1 and 6). The Board greatly appreciates the church managing both the Homework Club and the Academic Summer Program.

Maintenance Projects – We are inching forward on both the solar and ADA compliant apartment projects. We have signed contracts with both a roofer and the solar installer. We have the building permit for the ADA project in which an outside contractor, our maintenance staff, and the plumber we normally use will combine forces. After about a month, our wheel chair bound tenant will again be able to shower.

Recycling – Thanks to Marin Sanitary, every resident now has a special lidded bucket for food scraps and is enthusiastically participating in this program.

Bob De Haan

MOVIE NIGHT APRIL 22 - BROOKLYN

A young woman in 1951 leaves her family and home in rural Ireland to move, alone, to New York in search of a better life. That may sound like any of a dozen movies about the immigrant experience in America, but *Brooklyn* is much more than that. Nominated for three Oscars, including Best Picture, the *Washington Post* called it "the kind of movie that Hollywood rarely makes anymore: a sincere, unabashedly tender coming-of-age tale that, for all its deep feeling and wrenching twists and turns, never gives in to sentimentality or maudlin theatrics."

Brooklyn was adapted from Colm Toibin's best-selling novel by screenwriter Nick Hornby (*About a Boy*, *An Education*). It stars Saoirse Ronan in a career-making performance that earned an Oscar nomination, her second. (Her first was at age 13 for *Atonement*.)

Her transformation from a shy, uncertain stranger in a new land to a smart, self-assured woman is a wonder. It also serves to remind us that the success of immigration to America has always been rooted in the strength of the people willing to undertake that voyage.



7 PM Friday April 22 in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park



“Something in the richness of its relationships puts an essential truth before us - the brevity and immensity of life. We know all about that, of course, but that's the beauty of great art: It takes what you already know and makes you feel it.”

Mick LaSalle, *San Francisco Chronicle*

Links to the trailer and complete review are on the FCCSR website

BOARD OF MINISTRY MEETING

Sunday, April 10, immediately after worship, in the Plum Room.

BOARD OF MISSION MEETING

The next Board of Mission meeting will be on Sunday, **May 15**, immediately after worship in the Oak Room.





APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 — Bob Spofford
- 4 — Colleen Beery
- 9 — Bob Bandettini
- 11 — Jill Krippendorf
- 14 — Hilary Spaulding
- 15 — Rosemary Barnowe
- 24 — Lucinda Ray
- 26 — Michael Meehan
- 27 — Barbara Miller

GOLDEN GALS — Tuesday, April 12

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesday, April 12, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



MEN'S GROUP — Saturday, April 30



Do you want to discuss a wide range of important topics, including current events? Plan to attend the next men's group meeting on Saturday, April 30. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the community room at Pilgrim Park. Bring your favorite sweet roll. Coffee is provided. We normally meet for about two hours.

TIE DEADLINE for the May Issue - Mon., April 25

The deadline for articles and news for the May 2016 issue of The TIE is Monday, April 25. Please have all articles for the May issue at the church office by Sunday, April 24th. Or, email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Tracy Barnowe – *Pastor*

Tuesday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Available by appointment on other days

Cell Phone (510) 703-0108

revtracybarnowe@gmail.com

Gwendolyn Morgan – *Office Manager*

Tuesday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Wednesday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Thursday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

FCC Calendar APRIL 2016

<p>3</p> <p>10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>							
<p>4</p> <p>10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>							
<p>10</p> <p>10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p> <p>11:30 am - 12:30 pm Board of Ministry</p>							
<p>17</p> <p>10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>							
<p>24</p> <p>10 am</p>  <p>Worship, Church School & Child Care</p>	<p>25</p> <p>5 pm - 6 pm TIE Deadline for MAY issue</p> <p>5:30 pm - 6:30 pm</p>  <p>REST dinner for Homeless Shelter</p>						
<p>5</p>							
<p>6</p> <p>4 pm - 5 pm</p>  <p>Homework Club - Oak Room</p>							
<p>7</p> <p>4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club - Oak Room</p> <p>7:40 pm</p>  <p>Choir Rehearsal</p>							
<p>8</p>							
<p>9</p>							
<p>14</p> <p>4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club - Oak Room</p> <p>7:40 pm</p>  <p>Choir Rehearsal</p>							
<p>15</p>							
<p>21</p> <p>4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club - Oak Room</p> <p>7:40 pm</p>  <p>Choir Rehearsal</p>							
<p>22</p> <p>Earth Day</p> <p>7 pm</p>  <p>Movie Night: Brooklyn De Haan Center Pilgrim Park</p>							
<p>23</p>							
<p>28</p> <p>4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club - Oak Room</p> <p>7:40 pm</p>  <p>Choir Rehearsal</p>							
<p>29</p>							
<p>30</p> <p>8:30 am</p>  <p>Men's Group</p>							

This calendar is also available on the church's website in interactive form. There you can click on any event to see more details. Check it out at www.FccSanRafael.org.