

## *Everything Under the Sun....*



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I have always marveled at the synchronicity of Mother's Day and Pentecost. They always seem to fall within a month of each other and they have so many parallels. Acts 2 describes a wild scene with twelve disciples being blown out onto the street by the Holy Spirit and speaking about God's deeds of power. They are surrounded by crowds of people who are widely diverse in nationality, religion, language, and ethnicity. The disciples are all speaking in their own languages, but everyone listening hears it in their own Mother Tongue. This is the tongue that speaks to the heart, that takes you back to that place of comfort, that reminds you of where you come from, that within one second can take you back years. This is the voice and language that can make crying babies snap instantly calm and listen with raptly for more.

Pentecost is the birthday of the church. It was on this day almost two thousand years ago that the first Christian community was formed, birthed out

of tongues of fire, rushing wind, and thousands of people feeling a voice pull on their hearts and give them new hope.

Mother's Day was started by Julia Ward Howe, a woman who was upset by watching mothers mourn the loss of the sons they had sent off to the Civil War. She was incensed that after birthing them and raising them to be gentle and kind, mother's sons were sent off to kill other sons who had been taught the same. Howe's Mother's Day Proclamation is a poignant appeal to the hearts of mothers worldwide to gather and demand peace. What few people know is that only a few years before she had been the biggest proponent of war, writing the Battle Hymn of the Republic, and she had been transformed.

When we listen to Peter's speech in the story of Pentecost, he issues a call to all present to save themselves from this corrupt generation. He appeals to them to follow a path of peace, to come together despite differences and join in harmonious community.



Both Peter and Julia Ward Howe recognized that forces of Empire greater than common people were pushing them into conflict. In Howe's time it was the United States of America and Confederacy, but there were also conflicts erupting in New Zealand, Germany, and the United Kingdom. In Peter's time it was the Roman Empire and all of the nation-states that they had colonized and suppressed. Both of them called for unity and peace in the face of division and war.

(continued on page 2)

## Pastor Tracy's letter Continued

As we move into the month of May, I ask that you pray with me that the Holy Spirit will so inspire us, will so fill us with passionate fervor that we will be able to come together with and for the oppressed of this world. As we celebrate the birth of our church and mothers who birthed us, I ask you to pray with me that we will hear that voice that will pull on our heart strings, calms us instantly, and have us listen raptly for more good news, more cause for hope, more inspiration to act for peace.

Blessings,

*Pastor Tracy*

## SAVE THE DATE - FALL RETREAT - September 24 and 25

Our annual church family camp retreat will be held at Walker Creek Ranch on Saturday and Sunday, September 24 and 25, 2016. This year's theme is

**"Telling Stories of GOodness" Seeing GOD in the Good**

Activities include: games, nature walks, crafts, folk dancing, meditations, campfire and songs, worship, chocolate cake, and plenty of free time.

Lower priced lodging available in bunk beds or tents, and semi private lodging also available as in past years. Sign up with Mary Dowling after church in the Community Room.

Donations to the Retreat Scholarship Fund are gratefully appreciated. See Mary Dowling or Judy Girard for details.



## PRAYER PARTNERS

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



**May 1 - 7**  
Alan and Barbara Miller

**May 8 - 14**  
Jean Nadell

**May 15 - 21**  
Teresa Novak and Anne Spatola

**May 22 - 28**  
Ray and Jean O'Leary

**May 29 - June 4**  
Jeff Paul and Trista

The graphic features two vibrant pink hibiscus flowers with white centers and yellow stamens. They are positioned on either side of the text. The word 'Come' is in a black cursive font at the top left. 'Worship' is written in a large, flowing pink cursive font across the top. Below it, 'with us!' is in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The entire graphic is set against a white background with a light green vertical bar on the left side of the page.

*Come*  
**Worship**  
**with us!**

**May 1                    Leviticus 19:1-2a    and    Ruth 1:22-2:10**

**Ruth the Gleaner** We will explore ancient biblical laws and their impact through the story of Ruth, and we invite you to join us as Pastor Tracy delves into the nuts and bolts of a just society in her sermon, “Bread for the World.” After church we will gather to write letters as part of Bread for the World Sunday, immediately after service in the Community room.

**May 8                    Acts 1:1-21**

**Ascension Sunday and Mother’s Day** Acts 1 tells the story of Jesus after his resurrection and subsequent appearances to the disciples. When we put this story into its scriptural and social context, the message is one of great hope and assurance of God’s agency for justice throughout history. We will wrestle with this complex piece of scripture in Pastor Tracy’s sermon, “Baptism by Fire and Water.” We also celebrate Mother’s Day! Bring any moms in your life for a special blessing and gift.

**May 15                  Acts 2:1-21**

**Pentecost Sunday and Blessing of Students** Pentecost Sunday is affectionately known as the Birthday of the Church. It was on this day that the Disciples were overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit, spoke in many tongues surrounded by tongues of fire, and formed the first Christian community. We will dig into the scriptural account of how baptism by fire transformed into a community of Love and how it informs our own efforts to build Beloved Community in Pastor Tracy’s sermon, “Baptism of Fire, Community of Love.” We will also be blessing all of the graduates and those completing a year of school.

**May 22                  1 Samuel 16:14-23**

**Saul and Mental Health Month** We will be delving into Mental Health in the Bible. The relationship between Jonathan is complex much debated. What is clear is that Saul suffered from some mental illness, and his court and David found a way to be present with him, comfort him, and accept him during his episodes. Almost all of us struggle with mental health issues in a loved one or at some point in our own lives. Scripture can inform us in a compassionate and accepting response to those who struggle as Pastor Tracy explores this story in her sermon, “David’s Lyre, Saul’s Servants.” We will also be blessing the REST Shelter Dinner project and all those who have contributed to make it happen.

**May 29                  Acts 10:9-28, 34-35, 44-48**

**Peter’s Vision** This story of Peter’s dream is vivid and strange, especially when followed by his sudden decisive action amidst conflict in his community. When put back into its socio-historical context it reveals a powerful message about forgiveness, acceptance, and how God works to bring together people from all walks of life for social change.

We explore this fascinating scripture in Pastor Tracy’s sermon, “Cleanliness is Next to Godliness.”



## 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. **If you can't be at church on May 1, see last month's TIE** for more information and sample letters.

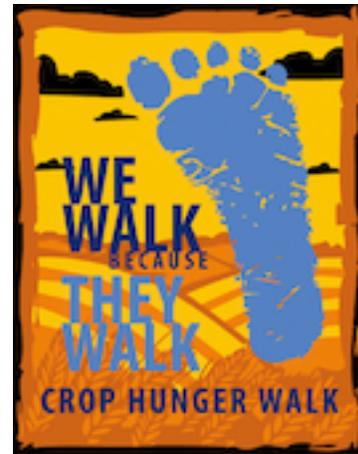
### CROP WALK - JUNE 12

The 18th annual Marin CROP Hunger Walk will be held Sunday, June 12. The starting point: First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael, 1510 Fifth Street, San Rafael. Start time: 1:30 p.m.

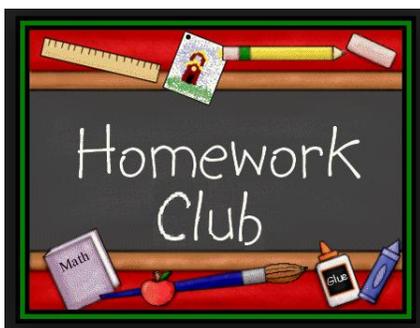
This year in Marin we expect participants from congregations, youth groups, and organizations to walk the 3-mile course through downtown San Rafael to raise funds and increase awareness of the huge hunger problem, locally and around the world.

There are various ways you can participate:

- Sponsor a Walker with a donation. Get a corporation or business to match your gift! Be as generous as you can be.
- Sign up to be a Walker, and get your CROPWALKER ENVELOPE. Find as many sponsor/donors as possible and collect all donations. (Checks should be made payable to CWS/CROP.)
- Volunteer on the Walk Committee to help with refreshments, water stations, or at the registration table. Join in the festive atmosphere!



Our church goal is to uphold our first-place-in-Marin record, raising over \$3,000 – all for the benefit of the international aid organization, Church World Service, and three local service organizations: the SF/Marin Food Bank, St. Vincent de Paul free dining room in San Rafael, and the Marin Interfaith Street Chaplaincy. For more information and to sign up for our team, go to [www.crophungerwalk.org/sanrafaelca](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/sanrafaelca), OR call Sue Spofford (415-305-4042).



### HOMESCHOOL CLUB continues, 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. The last session of Homework Club this spring will be May 26.



## YOUTH ASSEMBLE 145 HYGIENE KITS

The youth gathered on April 10 to count items collected. On April 17 they blessed them during worship and then spent two hours assembling 145 kits. In the end, it was the wide-toothed combs that ran out before anything else, so there are still tons of supplies left.

Our kids have done an amazing job of approaching over twenty local businesses to ask for items to go into the kits. One enterprising youth organized a comprehensive effort within her school. There were so many hygiene kits that the pile on the table kept sliding onto the floor.

The next steps are to finish the remaining kits and ship them to One Great Hour of Sharing, from where they will be sent to refugees in need. One local business has agreed to help with the cost of shipping the kits to Cleveland, and we have qualified for a \$250 matching grant from One Great Hour of Sharing that will help with shipping costs and any last-minute supplies. Stay tuned for more news on the 250 Hygiene kits, and visit our website to see a photo gallery of their efforts so far..



## MORE NEWS ABOUT KIDS

**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

**Tuesday, June 7** - **OWL Celebration in the Courtyard 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM**

Five youth from First Congregational Church of San Rafael joined with seven youth from Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Marin to spend a year studying the Our Whole Lives curriculum for grades 7-9. All are welcome as we gather in the courtyard for both a special blessing and closing ritual. We will also be grilling fajitas, toasting marshmallows, and dancing under the stars.

**Monday, June 20 - Friday, July 29** - **Academic Summer Program Begins.** 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.

## WISDOM FOR PARENTS, CHILDREN, AND YOUTH

Here are some nuggets from “A Guide for Youth and Parents,” submitted by Denise Walker.

### For Parents

- Each child is an individual and needs individual love and attention.
- Children want limits and need them to develop properly, despite the occasional conflict that may arise.



### For Children

- Treat others the way you want to be treated.
- There are interesting things and people all around you. The more you learn about them in and out of school, the happier your life will be.

### For Youth

- Train yourself to be an individual. Have fun with your friends, but don't become “just one of the crowd.”
- Develop pride in yourself, your abilities, and accomplishments.

## NEWS FROM PILGRIM PARK

### Major Maintenance Projects

1. We now have all the permits and contracts in place to begin the roof replacement and solar project tentatively scheduled to during the week of May 9th.
2. We are awaiting contract proposals before beginning the remodel of one, two-bedroom apartment to be fully ADA compliant.
3. We are reviewing a landscape plan for the renovation of the area at the corner of Merrydale and North San Pedro.
4. We are continuing to investigate alternate LED lighting to replace most of the present outdoor lighting.



### Budget

It appears that Pilgrim Park will end its fiscal year on June 30 with a positive year financially. As the above described projects tell, we are using these good results and past accumulations to make Pilgrim Park a better place.

### Resident Computer Classes

These classes have been very well received and will continue.

### Personnel News

Francisco Galindo, our resident maintenance expert, is recovering from an appendectomy.

Bob De Haan

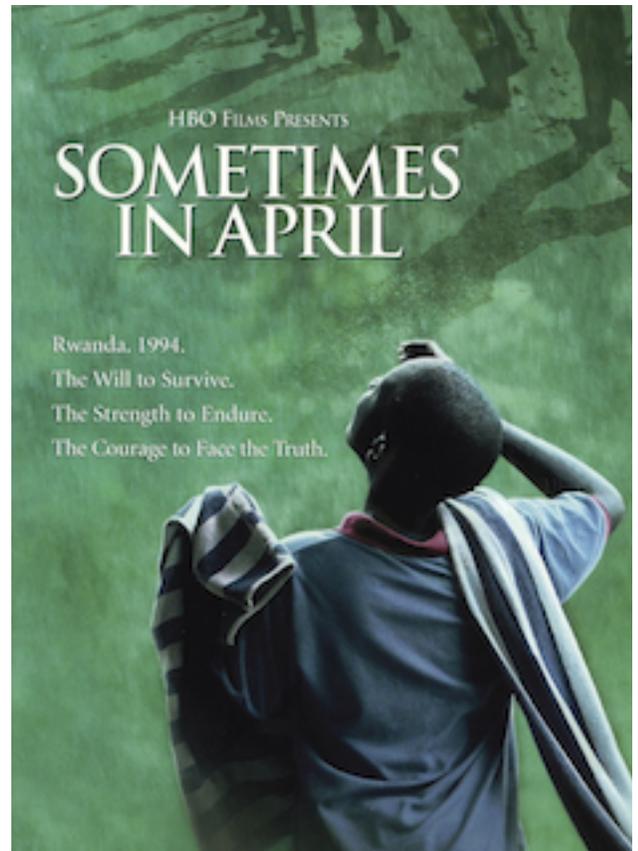
## MOVIE NIGHT - MAY 27 - SOMETIMES IN APRIL

A country descends into violent chaos. Corrupt leaders exploit ethnic differences to further their own ends, and innocent, helpless people on all sides suffer. The leaders of the free world wring their hands and express condemnation, but do nothing. It happens again and again, and all we can ask is “why?”

Perhaps the clearest, most intense example of this ancient pattern was the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. In less than 100 days, over a million of the Tutsi minority were slaughtered by the Hutu majority while the world stood by.

The best movie about Rwanda was never shown in theaters. *Sometimes in April* was produced by HBO for TV, and was the only drama about the genocide actually shot in the country. At its center are two Hutu brothers, both educated, middle class, “good” men. One works with Tutsi school children and becomes a target for trying to save them. The other is a radio announcer who descends into becoming the voice of the terror, on the air hour after hour, urging Hutus to kill the Tutsi “Cockroaches.” The film is less about the violence than it is about each brother’s inner journey, both during the killing and 10 years later, when they meet again at the UN reconciliation hearings.

Join us. It will be a thought-provoking evening.



**7 PM Friday May 27 at the De Haan Center in Pilgrim Park.**

“Haunting and elegiac, this film demands of its characters, and of its viewers, to find within themselves the courage to allow healing to take root.”

Andrea Chase, *Killer Movie Reviews*

View the trailer for “Sometimes in April” on the FCCSR Website



### **BOARD OF MINISTRY MEETING - May 8**

Sunday, May 8, immediately after worship, in the Plum Room.

### **BOARD OF MISSION MEETING - May 15**

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

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



- 2 — Joshua Siroky
- 4 — Jean Nadell
- 10 — Val Sherer
- 10 — Brandon Siroky
- 11 — Mary Dowling
- 18 — Mary Lou Doodokyan
- 23 — Cathi Fuller
- 23 — Loreen Jackson
- 25 — Colin Templeman
- 28 — Lynn Grant

## GOLDEN GALS — Tuesday, May 10

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



## MEN'S GROUP — A May Saturday to be announced



Do you want to discuss a wide range of important topics, including current events? Stay tuned for an announcement about the exact date of the May meeting. We generally 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 June Issue - Monday, May 23

The deadline for articles and news for the June 2016 issue of The TIE is Monday, May 23. Please have all articles for the June issue at the church office by Sunday, May 22nd. Or, email your articles to [lucindaray@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto: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 MAY 2016

|  |  |  |  |   |   |                  |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|------------------|
| <p><b>1</b></p> <p>10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p> <p>11:15 am  Read for the World LETTERS</p>  | <p><b>2</b></p>  | <p><b>3</b></p>  | <p><b>4</b></p> <p>4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room</p> <p>7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p><b>5</b></p> <p>4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club - Oak Room</p> <p>7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p>    | <p><b>6</b></p>   | <p><b>7</b></p>  |
| <p><b>8</b></p>  | <p><b>9</b></p> <p>10 am  Mother's Day</p> <p>10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p> <p>11:30 am  Board of Ministry Meeting</p> | <p><b>10</b></p> <p>10 am  Golden Gals' monthly meeting</p> | <p><b>11</b></p> <p>4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room</p>   | <p><b>12</b></p> <p>4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club - Oak Room</p> <p>7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p>   | <p><b>13</b></p>  | <p><b>14</b></p> |
| <p><b>15</b></p> <p>10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p> <p>10 am  Blessing of Graduates</p> <p>11 am - 12 pm  Board of Mission Meeting</p> | <p><b>16</b></p>   | <p><b>17</b></p>   | <p><b>18</b></p> <p>4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room</p>   | <p><b>19</b></p> <p>4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club - Oak Room</p> <p>7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p>   | <p><b>20</b></p>  | <p><b>21</b></p> |
| <p><b>22</b></p> <p>10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p>  | <p><b>23</b></p> <p>5 pm  TLE Deadline for JUNE Issue</p>   | <p><b>24</b></p>   | <p><b>25</b></p> <p>4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room</p>   | <p><b>26</b></p> <p>4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club - Oak Room</p> <p>7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p><b>27</b></p> <p>7 pm  Movie Night: Sometimes in April, Die<br/>Hahn Center Phorum Park</p> | <p><b>28</b></p> |
| <p><b>29</b></p> <p>10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p>  | <p><b>30</b></p> <p> Memorial Day</p>   | <p><b>31</b></p>   | <p><b>1</b></p>  | <p><b>2</b></p> <p>7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p>  | <p><b>3</b></p>   | <p><b>4</b></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](http://www.FccSanRafael.org).