

## Everything Under the Sun....



Dear Friends,

Three things are about to converge all at once: the Presidential Election, our Stewardship Drive, and All Saint's Day. While seemingly separate, they are inextricably connected. The celebrations surrounding All Saint's Day and All Hallows Eve (commonly celebrated in its commercial form as Halloween), many cultures celebrate their ancestors, their recently departed, the Saints in our lives and traditions who came before us. While in more recent American tradition the focus is often on trick-or-treating, carving pumpkins, and costume parties, the concept of taking time each year to remember and honor those who came before us is a much older and cross-cultural custom.

Similarly, we approach the Presidential Election. While the focus is on America's future, we cannot forget our past. It behooves us to remember our shared history, those who fought for the rights that we enjoy, the mistakes we have made as a country and the lessons we have learned as a people. We stand on the shoulders of our ancestors as much as

individuals on a branch of a family tree as we do as the most recent additions to the great melting pot.

As we enter our Stewardship Drive, it is a poignant time to reflect on not only our past year together, but also on our past history together. It behooves us to look back to the beginnings of this church, the denomination, and the Church universal and all of the people and experiences that have made us who we are. If we are to look to the future, we must acknowledge how far we have come. We have a sacred opportunity to consider the gifts we have been given in life, and the ways in which the church has made an important difference in our lives and in the lives of others. As we consider the future of the church, the direction we are going, and how we work together, I urge you to consider how you might contribute to make that future a reality.



Just as voting is a sacred right that we can use to shape our communities, nation and world for the better, so being responsible stewards of all we have been given is a sacred task. I urge you to exercise your right to vote for truth, justice, peace, and equality just as I urge you to pledge.

I ask you to pray with me to ask God's guidance as we reflect on our histories and ancestors, as we consider how to cast our votes, and as we decide what portion of income and time to give to our church that has a long history of fighting for truth, justice, peace, and equality. We stand today as products of a long and rich history of people who stood, fought, and died for these things.

Use your voice, use your vote, use your time, use your talent, and use your treasure. Loving God, Your will be done. Amen.

Blessings, *Pastor Tracy*



## SPIFF UP THE CHURCH - SAT. NOV. 19

A Spiff-up-the-Church Day will be held Saturday, November 19 from 10-1. This is our chance to make the church sparkle for the holiday season. We will whistle while we enjoy together the satisfying tasks of cleaning, pruning, washing, sorting, organizing, dusting, planting, painting, polishing, kibitzing, repairing.....

Have you seen something around church that "somebody otta do something about"? This is your chance!

### FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PROJECT ALMOST DONE

The dry rot is gone, the woodwork outside is painted, the roofing seams are sealed, and it all looks beautiful!

This fall's Facility Improvement Project is just about completed. The only thing remaining is the arborist work on the trees on the street side of the sanctuary, which is slated to begin later in November. The total cost of the painting and repair was slightly less than our high-end budget for the building repair of \$26,300. The dry rot was less deep than feared, but the rot was in more beams than anticipated so that the carpentry work was more expensive. The painting part of the project was a little less than budgeted, and the roofing was at the lower end of our estimates, even though new flashing and sealing were done around the entire perimeter. The total cost was \$26,012.

We already had about \$11,000 in our capital and facilities budget and have received pledges of about \$10,000. The rest will be borrowed from the Pilgrim Hill Fund through an arrangement with the Mission Board, or from a now-approved 5-year equity line loan from the Cornerstone Fund of the United Church of Christ.



If you haven't taken advantage of your chance to buy a paint bucket or beam repair, you still can. Add it to this year's Stewardship Pledge or fill out the Paint-the-Church form at church.

### PRAYER PARTNERS

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



**October 30 - November 5**  
Christine and Bob Bandettini

**November 20 - 26**  
Jack Bransford

**November 6 - 12**  
Rev. Tracy Barnowe, Faye and Rosemary

**November 27 - December 4**  
Paul and Marcy Brooks

**November 13 - 19**  
Colleen Beery



# Time Talent Treasure

## THANKSGIVING GIFTS

Increasingly the Thanksgiving holiday is getting crowded by the marketers of Christmas consumerism. But it is truly a time to celebrate the many, more important gifts we already have. It is out of this sense of celebrating these gifts that we begin our annual stewardship pledge drive in the Thanksgiving season.

We have much to be thankful for in the life of this congregation. We have inspiring music and worship and have seen an increase in attendance in worship. We have supported important mission work in community organizations, among our neighborhood children through tutoring and the summer academic program, and in providing needed supplies to homeless programs. We have provided REST Dinners for homeless women, and even raised the most again in Marin County to support Church World Service through the Crop Walk. Youth are involved in the life of the church. We've held prayer retreats and healing services. We have a supportive and nurturing community and have a facility which is a sacred space and community resource. And we have the gift of each other!

This next year we want to continue to enhance these gifts through our time, talent, and money.

We have many goals for next year:

- We want to support and extend our mission projects seeking inclusion and justice for all.
- Closer to home we need a volunteer treasurer and book-keeper or we need to hire somebody to do some of these tasks. Those currently doing these vital jobs have done this far longer than is fair.
- We need to restore some items temporarily cut from last year's budget.
- We would like to be able to host a seminary field-work student.
- We need to pay down our facilities improvement loan.

We ask the congregation to tithe by returning 1/10 of income to enable God's work among and through us. Tithers-in-process give at least 1% of their income closer to this goal. Please **turn in your pledge by Sunday, November 20th** when we will have a special Thanksgiving blessing. If you did not receive a pledge form in the mail, more are at church, or let the office know..

David Knopf  
Chair, Board of Trustees



## GOLDEN GIRLS GIFT

The Board of Trustees has received the following letter. Be sure to thank them!!

The Ladies Group ("The Golden Girls") wishes to use funds in the Budget at their discretion to purchase the hot water heater unit and pay for its installation in the "kitchen" of the community room.

*Colleen Trudeau, Jean Nadell, Marion Long, Nancy Mahl,  
Hilary Spaulding, Dorothy Trotter, and Denise Walker*



# *Come and Worship*



**w i t h u s !**

**October 30            John 6:25-35**

**World Communion Sunday**

**November 6            Luke 6:20-31**

**All Saints Day        The Beatitudes**

**November 13         Luke 19**

**The story of Zaccheus the Tax Collector**

**November 20         Guest Preacher**

**Blessing of the Pledges**

**November 27         Isaiah 52:7-10 and 61:1-4**

**First Sunday of Advent**

## **GOLDEN GATE ASSOCIATION MEETING SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

Please join your Golden Gate Association for our annual Fall Gathering at First Congregational Church San Rafael UCC from 10 AM -2 PM.

The program will include Worship followed by lunch and a community workshop for all of our churches to share what we are doing now as well as a workshop to help us better stay connected and work together to build support for our shared ministries.

We have over 30 churches in our Association, and it will be great to hear your voice.



# KIDS! UPCOMING EVENTS



**EVERY SUNDAY: 10-11:15 AM - Church School**

**NOVEMBER 12: - 6:45-9:15 AM - Food Pantry**



All youth are invited to join us as we serve at a local food pantry. We will meet in the church parking lot at 6:45 AM and walk together to Anthem Church to help them setup and serve. We should be done and back at the church by 9:15 AM. We will look forward to seeing you there!

**NOVEMBER 12: - 2:30-4:30 PM - Bowling for Youth 12-18**

The Unitarian Universalist Association is inviting our youth (ages 12-18) and any of their friends to meet in Petaluma for some afternoon bowling and hanging out.

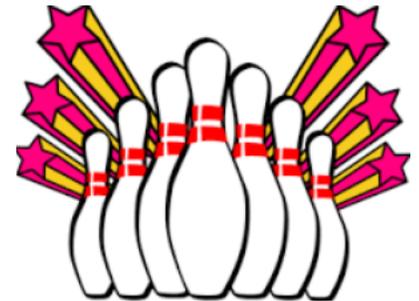
AMF Boulevard Lanes  
1100 Petaluma Blvd., South  
Petaluma, CA 94952

<https://www.amf.com/location/amf-boulevard-lanes-ca/party>

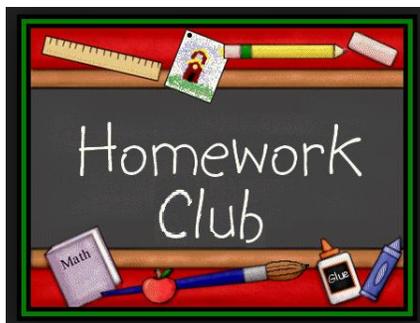
The party/group price of \$18.99 per person, includes:

- 2 hours of unlimited bowling on 3 lanes starting at 2:30 pm
- Shoe rental
- 2 slices of cheese pizza per person
- Unlimited Soft Drinks

We can carpool. Contact Pastor Tracy:  
[revtracybarnowe@gmail.com](mailto:revtracybarnowe@gmail.com)



## **HOMEWORK CLUB Wednesdays and Thursdays**



Sponsored by the Board of Mission, the Homework Club is back in session on Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. The Homework Club serves children from Pilgrim Park and provides support and tutoring as they complete their school homework assignments.

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 Mission Board chair Lucinda Ray or Pastor Tracy.



## BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



### **DINNERS FOR HOMELESS WOMEN RESUME NOV. 7 (THE R.E.S.T. PROGRAM)**

The First Congregational Church of San Rafael - Mission Board is happy to provide dinners for homeless women during 2016-17 Winter REST Program. We will be feeding 15-20 homeless women, at the Wellness Center in San Rafael. The Mission Board Team prepares and brings everything needed for a hot, nutritional and tasty meal for these women. 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 REST Dinner dates - All on Monday nights**

**Nov 7 - Dec 19 - Jan 9 - Feb 13 - Mar 6 - April 3**

We need your help with table set up, food preparation (we can also pick up any dish/item you make/donate prior to 5:30, if needed), food serving, and clean up. Whatever the donation, help or time you can offer is appreciated.

See the various sign up opportunities online at **Sign-up Genius...**

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

If you have any questions, ideas to help, suggestions for dinner themes, please call Sher Ripley on her cell at 415-577-6104 or email [sher\\_ripley@comcast.net](mailto:sher_ripley@comcast.net)

### **FAMILY TO FAMILY GIFT COLLECTION - NOV. 6 - 27**



The Board of Mission invites you to help provide Christmas gifts for two small families in our county. Each year, members of our congregation contribute gifts for this important project organized by Ritter Center in San Rafael. Ritter Center interviews needy families throughout the county and finds out what special wishes the children and adults have for the holiday. Then they provide us with that information for two small families, so that we can provide items they really long for. On Sunday, November 6, Judy

Girard will have a sign up sheet available in the Community Room after worship, so that you can choose what gift you wish to contribute. On Sunday, November 27, we will collect all those gifts after worship, and members of the Board of Mission will deliver them to Ritter Center for distribution to the families.

More information about the specific gifts will be available on November 6, 13, and 20, and the Board of Mission hopes many of you will want to participate. If you want to participate but shopping is difficult for you, please let Judy Girard know, and someone on the Board of Mission will do the actual shopping for you.

## MOVIE NIGHT November 18 *SWEET LAND*

Thanksgiving is the time we celebrate the origin stories that define us as a nation, and often define our own families, too. Our November movie tells a tale not unlike the first Thanksgiving, but set 300 years later and a thousand miles west of Plymouth Rock.

In 1920, in rural Minnesota, a young girl named Inge steps off a train, having traveled all the way from Norway to marry Olaf Torvik, a man she has never met. Such mail-order marriages weren't unusual in that place and time. (Garrison Keillor didn't invent his "Norwegian Bachelor Farmers" out of whole cloth.)

However, their planned marriage is derailed when the locals learn that Inge is German, not Norwegian. We'd just fought a war with Germany, and "She won't fit in here." From that start, *Sweet Land* quietly tells a tale of how the young couple's humanity, faith in themselves and backbreaking work overcome prejudice and all other obstacles to create a lasting heritage.



*Sweet Land* was shot in 2005 by Minneapolis director Ali Selim and stars Elizabeth Reaser, Tim Guinee and Alan Cumming. Critics loved it and it won many awards on the indie film circuit, but it never broke through to mainstream success. It is definitely a film you'll remember.

**7 PM Friday November 18 in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park.**

That Selim is the son of Egyptian immigrants clearly helped him convey the intensity and desperation of the immigrant experience, as well as what it means emotionally to be an American. Everyone who worked on *Sweet Land* seems to have understood why this story mattered, everyone felt its emotional power, and it's hard to imagine an audience member who won't feel it as well.

Kenneth Turan, *Los Angeles Times*

Links to the trailer and complete review are in the FCCSR website.



### MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS

**NOVEMBER 16** The Church Council meeting will be at 7 PM, Plum Room.

**NOVEMBER 29** The Pastor Parish Relations meeting will be at 9:30 AM in the pastor's office.

**NOVEMBER 29** The Board of Trustees meeting will be at 7 PM, Plum Room

## YOUTH SUNDAY IS A JOYFUL SUCCESS

On October 23rd we enjoyed a spirited worship service which was led by the youth. They led a very thoughtful and thought-provoking worship service. The youth tackled the theme of oppression and looked for inspiration to the story of Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3:1-12). Two very thoughtful preachers explored this passage and this theme – Reyna and Taylor. You can listen to their sermons online at [fccsanrafael.org](http://fccsanrafael.org).

Our youth also wrote the Pastoral Prayer, served as liturgists, ushers, and Communion Servers, and as part of the choir. They chose the music, decorated the Communion Table, greeted people at the door, and even led a very spirited Time With the Grown-Ups. We have very gifted young disciples in our church and we thank each and every youth who helped to plan, set up, and lead worship service that day.



## PILGRIM PARK UPDATE

**The Pilgrim Park Community** – Looked at from the vantage point of the church, you see carports, some waste bins and an occasional person. Looking from the interior courtyard, one can see folks taking their dirty clothes to the laundry, folks going and coming from the community center (some with food), kids playing, etc. Looking even closer, you see a diverse community of various ages, some retired, many working, kids playing, etc.



Even more closely, one can see several single residents struggling with the effects of strokes, several with attendants that help them get through the day, several that are struggling with ageing issues that affect their driver's licenses, one that has run afoul of the legal system, parents working hard at raising their children, many taking advantage of the food donated to Pilgrim Park, several hoping to buy their first house. In short, Pilgrim Park is a normal American community.

**Board of Directors' News** – Among other business at their last meeting, the board elected Carol Hodges as a director effective in 2017 when she finishes her term as church moderator. And, we received a final draft of the audited financial statements which showed that Pilgrim Park is in excellent financial condition with adequate reserves. While Nancy Smith is on medical leave, John Stewart executives Anna Chun and Loren Sanborn are supporting Margie, Asst. Manager.

**The Fence** – Thanks to Pilgrim Park, a new fence is going up on SMART property to prevent access to the tracks from the church parking lot and Pilgrim Way.

Bob De Haan



## EVERY DOLLAR FEEDS KIDS

Many church members and friends will remember that one of EDFK's principal efforts in 2005 to raise funds to feed children in our Mexican projects was through the publication of the book *Another Voice: Speaking About People*.

The book was a collection of some of Alan Miller's articles published between 1995-2005 in the *Marin Independent Journal*. A decade has now passed, and the EDFK board is happy to announce the publication of Volume 2 of Alan's *Marin IJ* articles.

Although we hope the book itself will be worth the purchase price, it is, of course, primarily a fund-raiser for EDFK. We hope many people will contribute at least \$15.00 for a copy of this 182 page book. We raised a good chunk of money last time and hope we'll do even better now with Volume 2.

Books should be available in the church in mid November.



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 8 — Jessica MacKenzie
- 8 — Ian MacKenzie
- 16 — Eckhard Mahl
- 25 — Deb Smith

### GOLDEN GALS — November 8

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesday, November 8, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



### MEN'S GROUP — November 26

The Men's Group will meet on Saturday, November 26. We meet at 8:30 AM 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 December Issue - Mon., Nov. 21

The deadline for articles and news for the December 2016 issue of The TIE is Monday, November 21. Please have all articles for the December issue at the church office by Sunday, November 20th. 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 PM – 1:00 PM  
Thursday 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
Office Phone: 415-479-2747  
[office@fccsanrafael.org](mailto:office@fccsanrafael.org)

# FCC Calendar NOVEMBER 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>30 10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p> <p>11:30 am Board of Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>31  Halloween</p>	<p>November 1</p>	<p>2 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club</p>	<p>3 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6 Daylight saving (End) 10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p>	<p>7 5:45 pm  R.E.S.T. Dinner</p>	<p>8 10 am  Golden Cals' monthly meeting</p>	<p>9 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club</p>	<p>10 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>11 Veteran's Day</p>	<p>12 6:45 am - 9:15 am Youth Event at Food Pantry 10 am - 2 pm Golden Gate Association Meeting 2:30 pm - 4:30 pm Youth event: Bowling in Petaluma</p>
<p>13 10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club 7 pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>17 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>18 7 pm  Movie Night: Sweet Land 'De Haan Center Pilgrim Park</p>	<p>19 10 am - 1 pm  Church Clean Up Day</p>
<p>20 10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care 10 am RETURN YOUR PLEDGE</p>	<p>21 5 pm  TIE Deadlines for DECEMBER Issues</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club</p>	<p>24  Thanksgiving</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 9:30 am  Men's Group</p>
<p>27 10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care 10 am First Sunday in Advent</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 9:30 am Pastor Parish Relations Committee Meeting 7 pm  Board of Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>30 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club</p>	<p>1 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</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).