

## Everything Under the Sun....



Dear Friends,

All around us are the signs of spring. One of the things I enjoy most about this time of year are the flowering trees. The sight of a bare, brown, empty tree suddenly bursting forth with bright blossoms never fails to take my breath away.

When I lived in Portland we would have long, cold, wet winters and the first blossom on my camellia tree would fill me with a joy that was indescribable. Then would come the crocus, then the daffodils, then tulips, hyacinth, and finally iris as the flowering trees showered the city with pink and white petals. If we had these year-round, they would not inspire us nearly as much. It is only because we have suffered through a long, dark winter bereft of blooms and had to look at bare, lifeless trees for months that we can truly appreciate this life that suddenly and unexpectedly bursts forth.

So it is with the Lenten season turning into Easter. Lent is a season when we remember the forty days when Jesus was tired, hungry,

isolated, and sorely antagonized. How could one endure so much? Was he almost at his breaking point when the angels appeared to tend to him?

When the first Easter dawned, it was an unexpected new life after an enormous suffering and death. It defied expectation. It is when we are in our deepest despair that Christ's resurrection gives us the most hope.

It is in when we are at our worst that Jesus' message of new life and new covenant restore us. Easter is a time to remember how bad things were and are, and how precious of a gift God gave to people when they were in a long, dark winter.



In today's world, I am hearing many signs of despair. People lament the political climate, they lament the state of the environment, they lament the hostility and polarization in society, the plight of immigrants and refugees, and social ills such as poverty and hunger.

These are exactly the same issues that troubled the people who were with Jesus, and Jesus spoke of them often. As we enter this season of Easter, let us remember how far we've come, how much we still need to do, and how much Christ's redeeming resurrection overcame

similar times and infused them with a new hope and new life.

I invite you to pray with me that we remember how much God loved the world, we remember the lessons that Jesus taught us in His words and actions, and we believe in the promise that was given when he overcame death and rose again.

Blessings, *Pastor Tracy*

## ORDER A LILY FOR EASTER

You are invited to order an Easter lily in honor or in memory of a loved one. The lilies will be placed in the altar area of the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 5th, 2015. The lilies are \$10.00 each and order forms are in the church office.



## LABYRINTH PREPARATION WED., APRIL 12 9 AM - NOON



Please join us if you would like to help build the labyrinth and stations. Bring comfy shoes and prepare for lots of bending, stooping, walking, and light lifting. We will look forward to seeing you there!

## GUEST PREACHER REV. JOSEPH MONDESIR - APRIL 30

Please join us on Sunday, April 30 to hear guest preacher Rev. Joseph Mondesir as he explores Acts 17:22-29 in his sermon, "The Unknown God."

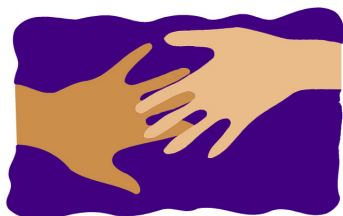
Born on September 30, 1970 in the South of Haiti (Les Cayes), Joseph was raised in a family deeply committed to Christ. He answered God's call to ministry by entering into the Evangelical Theological Seminary of Port-Au-Prince where he completed a Bachelor of Arts of Theology in 2003 while he was holding a secular job and some ministry responsibilities at his church. He was ordained six years later to preach the word of God.



After he immigrated into the United States in 2004, Joseph Mondesir has not only continued to serve Jesus in the Haitian community, but he is also engaged in various ministries at Valley Baptist Church of San Rafael, where he is an active member. He is also a student at the University of Texas of Permian Basin in Business Management. Joseph is a family man and the father of four beautiful girls (Esther, Sarah, Ruth, and Danielle).

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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



### April 2 - 8

Caryl Hodges and Sean and Allison Kaufman

### April 16 - 22

David Knopf and Cathi Fuller, Rachael and Rebecca

### April 9 - 15

Alana and Brandon Intrader, Emma and Jack

### April 23 - 29

Jill Krippendorf

# Come and Worship with us!



**April 2**                      **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

The Valley of the Dry Bones

**Palm Sunday**

**April 9**                      **Matthew 21:1-11**

Jesus Enters Jerusalem



**Maundy Thursday**

**April 13**                      **6:30 PM Service**



**Good Friday**

**April 14**                      **12 - 3 PM Meditation**  
**6:30 PM Service**



**Easter Sunday**

**April 16**                      **John 20:1-18**

Mary Magdalene Finds the Tomb Empty



**April 23**                      **John 20:19-29**

Doubting Thomas

**Guest preacher Rev. Joseph Mondesir**

**April 30**                      **Acts 17:22-29**

The Unknown God





# HOLY WEEK

## Sunday, April 9 Palm Sunday

All are invited to come early to the worship service so that they can participate in the Procession of Palms.



## Thursday, April 13 Maundy Thursday

**6:30 PM** Please join us for a multi-sensory Communion service with Hand Washing as you arrive in the Narthex.



**7:30 PM** A Soup Supper will follow the service in the Community Room

## Friday, April 14 Good Friday

**12 - 3 PM:** A labyrinth will be set up in the courtyard to allow for a walking meditation that follows the Passion of Jesus.



**6:30 - 7:30 PM:** Please join us for a service in the sanctuary, followed by a walking meditation of the passion in the courtyard labyrinth.

## Sunday, April 16 Easter Sunday

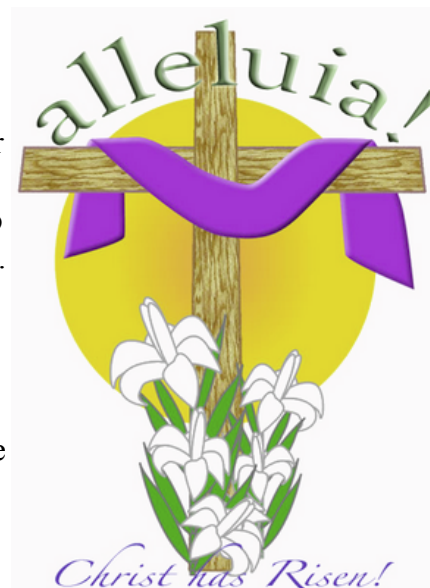
Easter Lilies will be used to decorate the altar on Easter Sunday. You may order your own Easter lily for \$10.00 and then take it home with you after the service. Please see your bulletin for an order form.

**9:30 AM Flowering of the Cross:** All are invited to bring flowers from their garden to decorate the cross. Please come half an hour early if possible to allow time for the decorating before worship begins at 10 AM.

**10 AM Easter Processional:** Children and adults are invited to come early and participate in this festive processional.

**10 AM Easter Worship**

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Children of all ages are encouraged to join in the Easter Egg Hunt.



# News For and About Kids



## **YOUTH EVENT SUNDAY APRIL 9 11:30 AM**

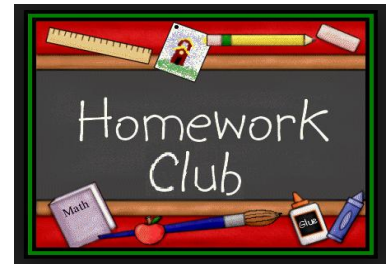
On Sunday, April 9, the youth will be going to Sunrise of San Rafael (an assisted living facility for older adults) to help them decorate for Easter. All youth are invited to participate. We will have lunch immediately following worship and then walk together to Sunrise.

Please RSVP to Pastor Tracy so that we can make sure to have enough food.

## **HOMEWORK CLUB 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 Mission Board chair Lucinda Ray or Pastor Tracy.



## **MEMBERSHIP CLASS MAY 7**



A Membership Class will be held on Sunday, May 7, from 11:30 AM – 3:00 PM in the Plum Room. Please come if you are interested in joining the church. We will explore such topics as the history of the church and the denomination, faith, social justice and our work in the community, stewardship, and polity.

All are welcome to learn more, ask questions big and small, and explore what it means to be a member at First Congregational Church of San Rafael. We will gather immediately following worship, have lunch, and should be done by 3:00 PM if not before. Please let Pastor Tracy know if you plan to attend no later than Thursday, May 4 so that food and materials can be arranged: [revtracybarnowe@gmail.com](mailto:revtracybarnowe@gmail.com)



## BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



### R.E.S.T. DINNER - APRIL 3

The First Congregational Church of San Rafael - Mission Board is happy to provide dinners for homeless women during 2016-17 Winter REST Program. We feed 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 5:30 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.



*As often as you did it for one of my least brothers, you did it for me.*

#### Our final REST Dinner date for this spring - Monday night 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. Please call Sher Ripley (415) 577-6104 or sign up at:

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



### UPDATE on CROP HUNGER WALK 2017

With its inception in 1969, the CROP Hunger Walks are viewed by many as the granddaddy of charity walks. This Walk's legacy is deeply entrenched even in our own community. Since 1997, Marin County has raised over \$175,000 through dozens of local school groups and churches.

This year, our 2017 Walk was sponsored by Church World Service (CWS) and the Marin Interfaith Council, and hosted by the First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael. **Our Marin County Walk, raised over \$17,550 this year and, of that, FCC raised over \$6,095.** (And, by the way, the totaling is not necessarily over), so if you want to, you are encouraged to donate more! Just go to the Marin Crop Hunger Walk Website: <http://www.crophungerwalk.org/sanrafaelca> Register with our FCC Team, and donate with your credit card.. Thanks!

We all walked the streets of San Rafael, along with dogs on leash and babies in carriages, and we all enjoyed a most magnificent, sunny day knowing that the contributions we might inspire will go to a great organization, Church World Service (CWS), and to effective local groups, like the Marin Food Bank.

Please celebrate with us and support worldwide efforts to provide emergency food and shelter to thousands in need round the world. Thank You !



## MOVIE NIGHT - APRIL 21 - THE SPANISH PRISONER

Our April movie is about an elaborate con game, a subject that Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright and filmmaker David Mamet has returned to again and again over his career. He once said “All drama is about lies – about something that is hidden . . . The better the play, the more surprising and inevitable the lie is.”

Mamet’s *The Spanish Prisoner* is about a innocent young man who has invented a formula of potentially great value. He is working with a group of investors who are supposedly helping him to bring it to market, but from the very start, we have the uneasy sense that nobody is quite who they seem



*The Spanish Prisoner* features a tightly knit ensemble cast, including Campbell Scott, Steve Martin, Ben Gazzara and Rebecca Pidgeon. Again and again, they win our confidence, only to shock us with their true motives . . . or maybe what is only just another layer in their con. Join us for some entertaining confusion.

### Friday April 21 in the De Haan Center in Pilgrim Park

*The splendid inspiration of Alfred Hitchcock is much in evidence, with Campbell Scott as a latter-day James Stewart, coping with the most extraordinary circumstances and later reeling from surprise after surprise. . . This is [Mamet’s] sleekest and most engaging film thus far.*

Janet Maslin, *New York Times*

You can view the trailer for *The Spanish Prisoner* on the FCCSR website

## TRUSTEES NEWS! NEW MAILBOX

Special thanks to Bob Spofford for installing a new locking mailbox by the parking lot. We have not had a secure place for small package delivery, and have had some mail missing from the old box, so this is a welcome addition.

It had to be installed on a slightly bent pole. Hopefully, this will be a reminder to all to watch where you are going when backing up.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

**TUESDAY APRIL 4:** The Board of Trustees meeting will be at 7 PM, Plum Room.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS



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

## GOLDEN GALS — APRIL 11

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesday, April 11, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



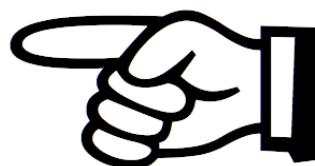
## MEN'S GROUP — Saturday, April TBA

Join us for an hour or so of fellowship and wide-ranging conversation. Our next meeting will be on a Saturday in April to be announced, at **8:30 AM** in the De Haan Community Center in Pilgrim Park. Please bring a breakfast pastry for yourself and one other person. We'll take care of the coffee.



## TIE DEADLINE for the MAY Issue - Mon., April 24

The deadline for articles and news for the May 2017 issue of The TIE is Monday, April 24. Please have all articles for the February issue at the church office by Sunday, April 23rd. Or, email your articles to [lucindaray@aol.com](mailto:lucindaray@aol.com) by Monday, the 24th.



## 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

[office@fccsanrafael.org](mailto:office@fccsanrafael.org)



# FCC Calendar APRIL 2017

<p>2 10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p>	<p>3 5:30 pm  R.E.S.T. Dinner</p>	<p>4 7 pm  Board of Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>5 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club</p>	<p>6 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7 8</p>
<p>9 10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care 11:30 am YOUTH EVENT! Decorating for Easter</p>	<p>10 10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p>	<p>11 10 am  Golden Girls' monthly meeting</p>	<p>12 9 am - 12 pm Labyrinth Preparation 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club</p>	<p>13 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 6:30 pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 12 am - 3 am Meditation and Labyrinth Walk 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  Good Friday Service</p>
<p>16 Easter 10 am  EASTER SERVICE</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club</p>	<p>20 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21 7 pm  Movie Night: THE SPANISH PRISONER: De Haan Center Pilgrim Park</p>
<p>23 10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p>	<p>24 5 pm  THE Deadline for MAY issue</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club</p>	<p>27 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 29</p>
<p>30 10 am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care 10 am Guest Preacher: Rev. Joseph Mendez</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club</p>	<p>4 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>5 6</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).