

## Everything Under the Sun....



Dear Friends,

Many people believe that Easter is just one Sunday, but it is actually an entire season that lasts from Easter Sunday until Pentecost. Easter is central to our faith, but the resurrection is a year-round mentality.

Immediately after Easter each year we hear the story of Doubting Thomas. I have preached many times on how I believe Thomas gets a bad rap. He was no different from every other disciple, in he wanted to see the risen Christ and wouldn't believe it until he had saw it for himself. What I think is often overlooked is Thomas' persistence. Even though he wasn't sure, even though he thought the disciples were telling him a crazy tale, he kept coming back. He kept asking questions. He kept getting involved. He kept praying. He kept breaking bread with the disciples.

What is also overlooked is Thomas' courage. While the rest of the disciples were holed up in the upper room, Thomas was out in the world. While they were avoiding society, Thomas was participating in it. While the disciples were isolating themselves, Thomas

stayed connected to both his church and his community.

As a result, Thomas was one of the most active, effective disciples that continued to minister and share the Gospel for many, many years. Legend has it that in forty years following Jesus' resurrection Thomas made it as far as India, baptizing people and founding churches. Thomas didn't experience the resurrection on Easter Sunday. He came to it slowly, asking lots of questions, demanding evidence, and holding out for the real deal. As a result, for him the resurrection became a practice, a mentality, a way of life.

Since Easter, many of us have slipped right back into the doldrums of everyday life, lamenting the state of politics and the world and generally feeling overwhelmed and hopeless. It is at times like this that the resurrection is most needed. Jesus' resurrection did not only conquer death, it also conquered the unchecked militarism, anti-Semitism, greed, colonialism, sexism, exploitation, theocracy, and distortion and denial of facts that caused his untimely death. We continue to work against these same forces in our time: as you all continue your work in the community, as you continue to march for the causes that are important to you, and as you continue to speak truths about social justice.



This Easter Season, I invite you to pray with me that we will be a resurrection people. May God continue to remind us that we are not alone in our individual struggles or even our communal battles. Our God is bigger than all of these forces, and if Christ could conquer them in his death and resurrection then with God's help we can conquer them again as the Body of Christ. Help us to be like Thomas – persistent, engaged, active in society, courageous, asking the big questions and not backing down until he got the answers and evidence he required, and living the resurrection every day of his life. Amen.

*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)

## SPIFFY SUCCESS !

Spiff-up-the Church Day made this place sparkle for Easter festivities.

Special thanks for the hard work of Jacob and Tristan Cline-Meehan, Anne Song, Catherine Hills, Louis Frost, Cathi Fuller, Megan Fuller, Nancy Mahl, Jim Turner, and Pastor Tracy. Some washed walls and windows, some pulled weeds, some cleaned the pews and cushions, some defrosted the fridge, some fixed things, some cleaned the kitchen area, some organized, and very few kibitzed! Thanks also to the Pilgrim Park landscape crew who mowed our front lawn.



## PRAYER PARTNERS

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



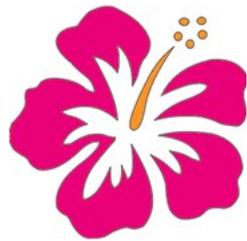
**April 30 - May 6**  
Marion Long

**May 1-27**  
Helen MacLam

**May 7 - 13**  
Randy and Sue MacKenzie,  
Jessica, Ian, Shauna

**May 28 - June 3**  
Alan and Barbara Miller

**May 14 - 20**  
Nancy and Ekhard Mahl



*Come*  
**Worship**  
with us!



**Guest preacher Rev. Joseph Mondesir**

**April 30**

**Acts 17:22-29**

The Unknown God

**May 7**

**Luke 24:13-35**

The Road to Emmaus

**May 14**

**John 14:15-31**

The Promise of the Holy Spirit and the celebration of Mother's Day

**May 21**

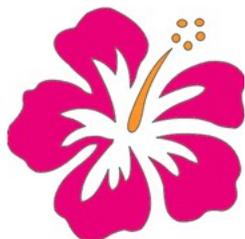
**Acts 1:1-11**

The Ascension of Jesus and **Blessing of the Graduates**

**May 28**

**I Corinthians 12:3b-13**

One Body, Many Parts





[Date]

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_ :  
or Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_ :

**Sample letter**

The Trump administration's fiscal year 2017 and 2018 budget proposals include deep and disproportionate cuts to critical anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs. I am deeply opposed to such proposals that, if passed, would increase hunger and poverty around the world and in the U.S.

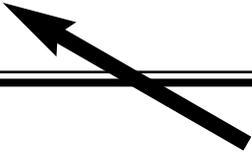
Right now, 20 million people are at risk of starvation due to famine, and near-famine conditions, in South Sudan, Yemen, Somalia, and Nigeria. U.S. foreign assistance funding, which represents less than 1 percent of the federal budget, means the difference between life and death for these people. But beyond saving countless lives, our own nation's security is benefited by alleviating suffering and decreasing poverty to create a more stable and prosperous world. These programs are critical to U.S. leadership in the world.

In the U.S., 1 in 8 families struggles to put food on the table. Cuts to programs that address economic development in struggling communities or provide energy assistance to some of America's poorest families will increase hunger and hardship.

As Congress works on the 2017 and 2018 budget and spending bills, I urge you to reject cuts to lifesaving programs.

Sincerely,

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



Be sure to sign and put your address at the bottom of the letter.

Please address each envelope using the addresses above, and add your return address.



Senator Kamala Harris  
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 Bldg.  
Washington, DC. 20515

# News For and About Kids



## CHURCH YOUTH HELP DECORATE FOR EASTER

Kids from our church, from Pilgrim Park, and from the Unitarian church all joined together on April 9 to help put up Easter decorations at the Sunrise assisted living facility in San Rafael.



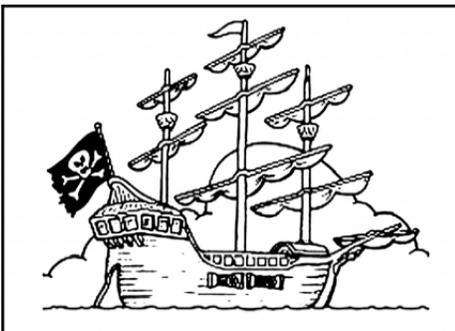
## THIRD ANNUAL SUMMER PROGRAM JUNE 19 - JULY 28

SAVE THE DATES! Our third annual summer academic program will be held from June 19 through July 28. See next month's newsletter for all the details about course offerings, times, and registration.

## SUMMER CAMPS - TIME TO SIGN UP FOR A GREAT EXPERIENCE

The United Church of Christ offers terrific week-long summer camps at two great locations. Check their website for details about these Summer Camps: <https://ncnucucc.org/yomc/>

## CREATIVE WRITERS FIELD TRIP



The Creative Writing Program that is part of the weekly Homework Club is concluding its spring session with another trip to the Pirate Store! Students who have successfully completed the session will travel to San Francisco on Wednesday, May 7, at 4 PM.

## MOVIE NIGHT - MAY 26 - *HOWARD'S END*

It's time for a masterpiece. Throughout the 1980s and 90s, director James Ivory, with his partners Screenwriter Ruth Praver Jhabvala and producer Ismail Merchant created a series of superb adaptations of great novels that is unmatched in film history. Many consider *Howard's End* the high point of their work.

*Howard's End* explores the changing relationships between the classes in Edwardian England through the eyes of three families: At the top are the wealthy capitalists, who are starting to challenge the hereditary aristocracy. These are the Wilcoxes, who often seem to care about nothing but money. In the middle are the enlightened bourgeoisie, represented by the Schlegel sisters, engaged in a raft of social issues, including women's rights. At the bottom are the Basts, a young couple struggling to remain in the middle class, but dreaming of more.

Friendships, marriages, births, deaths and all manner of plot twists work to reveal important human truths as well as the emerging shape of 20th century society.

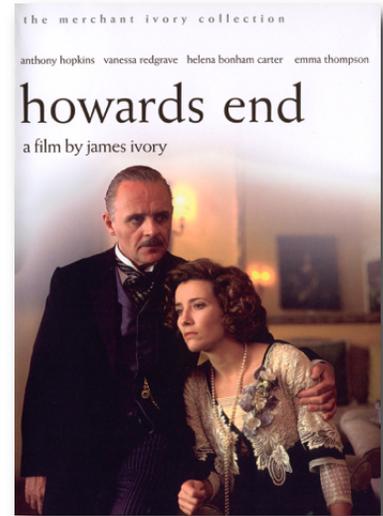
*Howard's End* stars Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Vanessa Redgrave, Helena Bonham Carter and many other great Brit actors. It was nominated for nine Oscars and won three, including Best Actress (Thompson) and Best Adapted Screenplay.

### Friday May 26 in the De Haan Center in Pilgrim Park

*What sets 'Howards End' apart is the complex emotional life of its characters. This is a film capable of setting off lasting and heartfelt reverberations below an admittedly exquisite surface. Every time you see it, it moves you in different ways.*

Kenneth Turan, *Los Angeles Times*

You can view the trailer for *Howard's End* on the FCCSR website



## PILGRIM PARK NEWS

**Solar update** – We won't know until July how much the solar electric generating system will have reduced our electric costs. The system has worked flawlessly since its installation last year in July. Preliminary guesstimates are that electric costs for Pilgrim Park will be reduced by the expected 80%. Residents pay their own electric bills.



**Lighting** – If you visit Pilgrim Park at nighttime you will gradually experience a change in lighting. We are gradually changing most lighting to LED's. All floodlights and pole lights have been changed. The final chore will be to change the 111 remaining outside lights.

**Winter repairs** – As usual we experienced a few very minor roof leaks. We will soon complete repairs and waterproofing of two second level decks on which the rain water didn't do what it was supposed to do.

**Staffing** – Nancy Smith, resident manager, will remain on medical leave for three more months. The John Stewart Company will hire a temporary, experienced property manager to handle some tasks which we can not postpone any longer. Meanwhile, Margie Rollman and Anna Chun (from the John Stewart Company) with the regular Tuesday visits of Bob have been able to manage.

Bob De Haan

## TRUSTEES REPORT MAINTENANCE OF CHURCH BUILDING AND GROUNDS



The Board of Trustees tries to keep up with the regular maintenance of the church and grounds. In addition to the smaller jobs the Trustees can do, some tasks require that we hire professionals.

This last month the upstairs and downstairs sewer lines were rotor-rootered, which needs to be done about twice a year. Also the pine trees were treated to prevent beetle infestation, and the cork trees in the courtyard were given a specialized fertilizer and supplement by Bartlette Tree Service.

During March we had the heaters serviced, some locks replaced, and the high gutters outside gutters cleaned.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

**TUESDAY MAY 23:** The Board of Trustees meeting will be at 7 PM, Plum 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 — MAY 9

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesday, MAY 9, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



## MEN'S GROUP — Saturday, MAY 20

Join us for an hour or so of fellowship and wide-ranging conversation. Our next meeting will be on a Saturday May 20, 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 JUNE Issue - Mon., MAY 29

The deadline for articles and news for the June 2017 issue of The TIE is Monday, May 29. Please have all articles for the February issue at the church office by Sunday, May 28th. Or, email your articles to [lucindaray@aol.com](mailto:lucindaray@aol.com) by Monday, the 29th.



## 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 MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>30</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am Guest Preacher: Rev. Joseph Mondair	<b>May 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club	<b>4</b> 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:15 am Prayed for the World Leader Writing 11:30 am New Members Class	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 10 am  Golden Girls monthly meeting	<b>10</b> 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club	<b>11</b> 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Mother's Day 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club	<b>18</b> 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Armed Forces Day 8:30 am  Men's Group
<b>21</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am Blessing of the Graduates 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Board of Mission Meeting	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7 pm  Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>24</b> 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club	<b>25</b> 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 7 pm  Movie Night: HOWARD'S END: De Haan Center Program Park	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>29</b> Memorial Day 5 pm  The Deadline for JUNE Issue	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club	<b>1</b> 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>

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).