

Everything Under the Sun....



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Three weeks ago I found myself again burning dried palm fronds in anticipation of Ash Wednesday. While there are many preparations that a minister may do alone, setting piles of dried leaves ablaze does not seem to be one of them. Each year I have had parishioners—and this year my own children—absolutely fascinated with reducing a mountain of spiky leaves to a handful of dust in a fiery inferno.

During Lent it is customary to give something up and make room for something better in your life. As I watched my children slowly feed the fire, I couldn't help but think how this is like making room for Easter. Churches usually save their palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday to make ashes for Ash Wednesday eleven months later. Each year we make room for the next years' palms and all of the new life that springs forth with the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

This Lent we are launching a lot of new things: an Ash Wednesday service, a Bible Study series, a

Homework Club, and a new Stewardship Campaign. I have watched over the past several months as people in the church have looked closely at resources, examined old habits, and looked carefully at all aspects of church life to see what needed to be discarded in order to make room for new ministries, new members, and new traditions. Months later, much like the long, lush tendrils of the green palms, new things are springing forth at FCC San Rafael.



In the end, Faye and Rosemary did all the work. In their enthusiasm they clipped the enormous pile of fronds into manageable barbeque-sized pieces, lit the matches, tended the fire, sifted the ashes, and Faye single-handedly mixed the ashes with oil and prepared them in the small dish I used during the worship services on Ash Wednesday. It reminded me that in the end a growing church is often about discipleship - inviting newcomers and the next generation to learn about our traditions, and then making room for new people and new traditions. It has always been so from generation to generation.

It is my prayer that we will continue to make room as individuals and as a church for new opportunities and new faces at the table.

Blessings,

Pastor Tracy

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN BEGINS



These are exciting times for our church. Many great goals are planned for the coming year. This year, as announced at the annual meeting, the Board of Trustees are approaching our annual stewardship campaign (both money and talent) from a goal oriented perspective.

Next week you will receive a stewardship package which will detail this exciting approach. The stewardship letter will also include a 'Story Budget' which relates our budget to the goals of the church.

We look forward to everyone's involvement in these great plans! ALSO, look forward to the new electronic giving option we are setting up to make giving easier for all.

Your Board of Trustees.

MARCH 15 — STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Over the past few months the individual boards and committees have worked hard to identify their accomplishments and come together around goals for the upcoming year. At the Annual Congregational Meeting on February 8, the Congregation approved those goals and adopted a challenging budget to be able to meet them.



Please read the letter and budget from the Board of Trustees and review the Annual Report that was distributed on February 8. We invite you to prayerfully consider how you might increase your pledge offering and in what areas of the church you might like to serve this year.

We will be blessing all of the pledge cards and volunteer forms on March 15, so please bring them on that Sunday. If you can't be there in person, please mail them or drop them off at the office so that they may be included in the blessing. We thank you for your generous support of our ministries.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



March 1 - 7
Alan and Barbara Miller

March 8 - 14
Jean Nadell

March 15 - 21
Jil and Douglas Nickels,

Mackenzie, Ford, and Amelia

March 22 - 28
Ray and Jean O'Leary

March 29 - April 3
Sung Park

Join the Soup Suppers and Discussion Lenten Bible Study



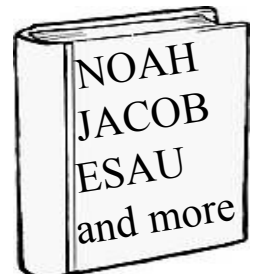
Each Wednesday, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM in the Community Room, we will break bread together with a simple soup supper, followed by a dynamic study series on Social Justice issues from biblical times to our modern existence and our church practices within the community and world. Emphasis will be on biblical relevance in modern times, spiritual disciplines for community service, and discerning God's agency in our work. Please join us for a dynamic learning and fellowship experience. And of course, **child care will be provided!**



MARCH 11 We will read passages from the book of Tobit, a little-known but entertaining diaspora story from the Apocrypha. Our discussion will relate to refugees, the work done through the organizations we support such as Canal Alliance and the current issue of immigration reform.



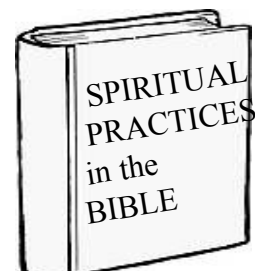
MARCH 18 We will read various etiological (how things came to be) texts from the Old Testament, such as the story of Noah, Jacob and Esau, Tamar and Ishmael, and Lot's daughters as we examine race relations in the United States and the work that the United Church of Christ has historically done and is currently leading in continuing fight against the legacy of prejudice and disenfranchisement against people of color.



MARCH 25 We will explore the story of the Widow's Oil, excerpts from the book of Lamentations and other stories of children in the Bible as we look at the work our church supports through Homeward Bound and Every Dollar Feeds Kids.



APRIL 1 During our final session we will examine spiritual practices in the Bible that inform and nourish our work with social justice issues in our community and in our world. Emphasis will be on bringing relevance to scripture, restoring our spiritual batteries, and discerning God's agency in the world.





March 1 Corinthians 11:17-24

Hunger and Paul's anger around abuses at the Lord's Supper

March 8 Luke 19:11-27

Homelessness and the Parable of the Talents

March 15 Genesis 17:1-8

Refugees and God's Promise of a Homeland to Abraham

March 22 Matthew 25:31-46

A Vision for a Just Society and Jesus' Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

March 29 Mark 11:1-11

Palm Sunday. See the next page for more details.

April 5 John 20:1-18

Easter Sunday. See the next page for many more details.

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.





Sunday, March 29 Palm Sunday

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

Thursday, April 2 Maundy Thursday 7:30 PM

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

Friday, April 3 Good Friday

Noon-3pm: A labyrinth will be set up in the courtyard to allow for a walking meditation that follows the Passion of Jesus. An additional silent, reading meditation will also be available.

6:30 pm: Please join us for a candle-lit, meditative Tenebrae (Light-and-Dark) service in the sanctuary, followed by a moonlit walking meditation of the passion in the courtyard labyrinth.



Sunday, April 5 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 or contact Patty Trosclair for more information.

Easter Processional: All children are invited to come early and participate in this festive processional.

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.

Easter Bonnet Parade and Contest: Calling all men, women and children to wear their fanciest and most creative Easter bonnets. There will be a parade and contest immediately following worship service.

Easter Egg Hunt: Children of all ages are encouraged to join in the Easter Egg Hunt after the Easter Bonnet Parade and Contest.



News For Kids



FOUR SPECIAL EVENTS FOR KIDS

March 29

On Palm Sunday, all children are invited to come early to the worship service so that they can participate in the **Parade of Palms**.



April 4

Easter Processional: All children are invited to come early and participate in this festive processional.

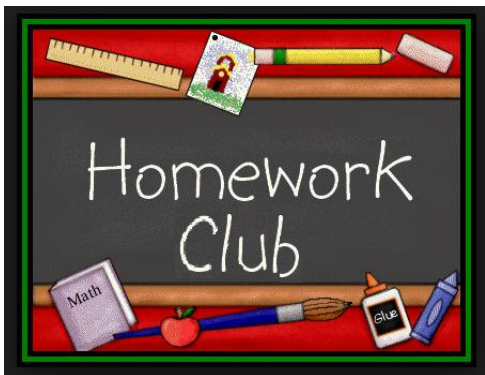
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HOMESCHOOL CLUB . . .

SNACKS NEEDED

The Homework Club at Pilgrim Park, a new outreach sponsored by the Board of Mission, met three times in February. Five children attended and we had enough tutors to provide one-on-one help for each child.

We are committed to providing healthy, high-protein snacks to the children as they are coming right after school, and it improves their focus when learning. Can you provide a nutritious snack?

The Homework Club meets Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4 to 5 PM. Good snacks include Tigers Milk bars, nuts, individual-sized tubs of yogurt, crackers, and fruit juice (no sugar added). If you would like to donate snacks or funds toward snacks, please contact Sue Spofford to coordinate drop-off, so that perishable items may be kept refrigerated and the table's offerings are balanced.



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



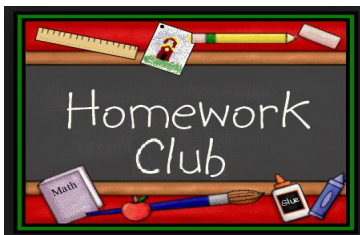
ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING - March 29

One Great Hour of Sharing is the Lenten Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development actions. The UCC works with international partners to provide clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, emergency relief, and advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.

The United Church of Christ responds to these development, disaster, and refugee needs in 138 countries and provides disaster relief in the United States. Through One Great Hour of Sharing, lives are literally changed daily by meeting immediate needs of people in the most vulnerable situations of their lives—those impacted by disasters, uprooted by violence, or experiencing poverty. Your support provides clean water, food, medicines, shelter, healthcare, education and so much more.



This year we will be collecting your One Great Hour of Sharing Offerings on Sunday, March 29. It will be one of the best opportunities to show our strength as a "mission church." If you can't attend on March 29, donations to the OGHS may be mailed in or dropped off at the church office any time. Checks should be made payable to FCC San Rafael with "OGHS" written on the memo line. When you make your gift, please give generously.



HOMESCHOOL CLUB OFF TO GOOD START WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

A new outreach program of the Board of Mission is up and running on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4-5 PM, offering individual tutoring to the children of Pilgrim Park. See page 8 for more details.

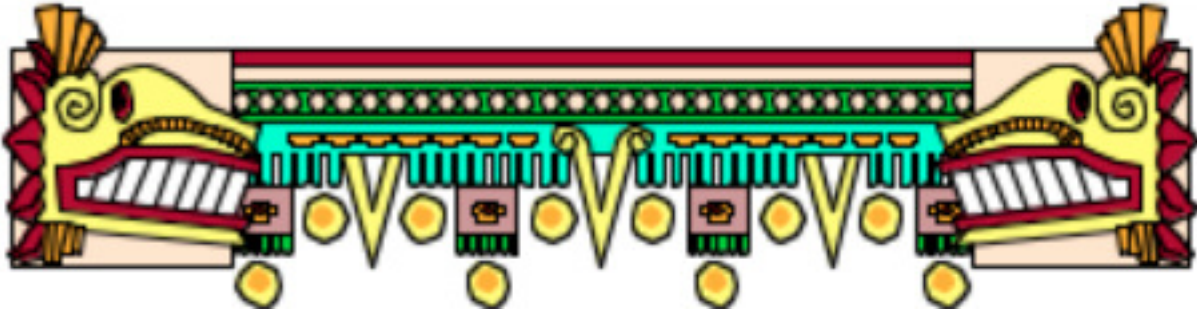
R.E.S.T. DINNERS CONTINUE — MARCH 23

The Mission Board will once again offering you an opportunity to provide meals for homeless women in Marin County at the Women's Winter Shelter Program in San Rafael. Officially called Marin REST, which stands for Rotating Emergency Shelter Team, this is a program of the St. Vincent dePaul Society,



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

Our congregation has been a faithful and important participant in this program for five or six winters. We have agreed again this year to provide the evening meal for a group of about 20 homeless women who are sheltered at the Wellness Center in San Rafael for one Monday night each month during the winter season. Our next dinner will be March 23. Contact Sher Ripley or Sue Spofford to participate.



EVERY DOLLAR FEEDS KIDS NEWS

Ole! Tacos and enchiladas and tamales, salsa, guacamole, chili, mole, chips and dips of every kind, and non-sugary sodas!

Every Dollar Feeds Kids is planning to once again sponsor a Latin Food Fair as a fund-raiser for our work. On Saturday, June 20th, from noon till about 3:00 PM, our church courtyard will be ringed with booths providing Mexican and Central American foods for on-site consumption or for take-out. Many people in the Latino community in San Rafael understand the importance of EDFK and are willing to prepare specialty foods for sale to benefit our EDFK kids.

Catherine John, who worked in our Cuernavaca projects, will bring a singing group to provide music during the event. Catherine spent a year working with VAMOS! and then served as music director at Maryknoll College in Cuernavaca. She currently serves on the staff of Enriching Lives Through Music (ELM) in San Rafael.

Lots of people who are not connected in any way to our church but who love the work EDFK does, will be making this gift of time and food and love, to help serve the kids we support.

ANNUAL CHURCH RETREAT - SAVE THE DATE!

FCC/SR WALKER CREEK RANCH RETREAT
Saturday and Sunday, September 12 & 13, 2015

This year's theme: "BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING"

Lower priced lodging available in bunk beds or tents.
(Semi private lodging also available as in past years)

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



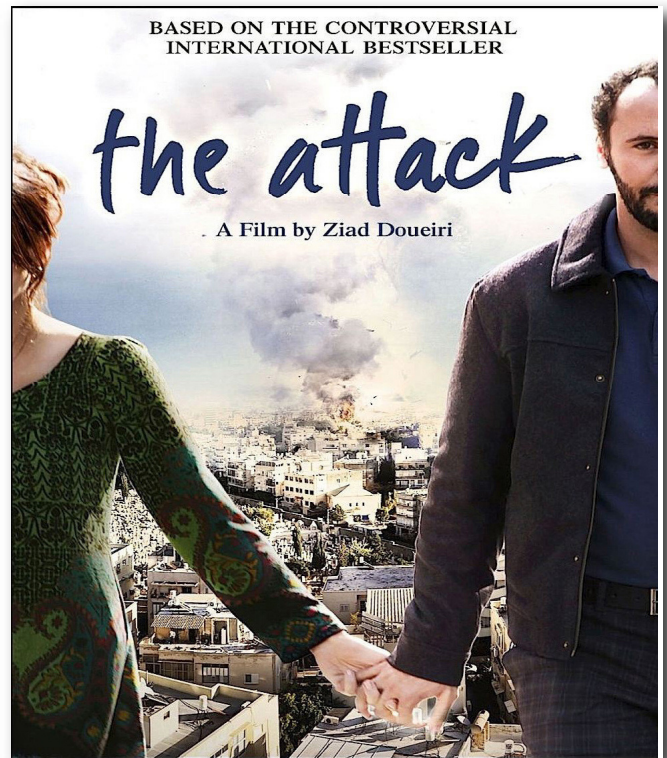
SIGN UP AFTER CHURCH IN COMMUNITY ROOM

This is our 9th annual retreat!
Come play and pray with us.

MOVIE NIGHT MARCH 27 **THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL**

After several Movie Nights devoted to light entertainment, it's time for something serious . . . very serious. As we try to make sense of conflict and terrorism in the middle east, most of us are drawn toward the people who we feel are like us . . . educated, economically secure, believers in freedom of thought and democratic values. Surely, we believe, they are the voices of sanity, joining the west in rejecting the nihilism and terror tactics that dominate the headlines.

This 2012 film from Lebanese director Ziad Doueiri challenges these convenient stereotypes. At its center is a secular Palestinian surgeon, living a successful, assimilated life in Tel Aviv. He is admired and accepted by his mostly Jewish colleagues and patients. Then there is a suicide bombing at a nearby restaurant, and he learns that his wife may have been involved. His quest to find out what happened and why make for gripping viewing. We learn once again that there are no easy answers in the tragedy of the middle east.



“The Attack” is the best kind of anti-war propaganda film, calm in feeling and mood, yet truly terrifying in showing the scourge of our age: terrorism. It’s also a love story, and a film about having it all. And then in an instant, losing everything. . . . It’s not so much the violence which comes through; it’s the polished look, for instance showing the bustling city of Tel Aviv with its brightly lit nighttime grid of cars whooshing alongside the overwhelming poverty of the Palestinian neighborhoods. It’s hard to think of a movie which as subtly, smartly presents various positions in a dispute, without coming down on any one side.”

Marsha McCreadie, Roger Ebert.com

7 PM Friday, March 27, in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park

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

UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL

APRIL 8 AND 22 BIBLE 101 - 6:00-7:30 PM

Please join us for a two-part study series in which we learn about the history, language, and sections of the Bible and how it was formed into the current canons.

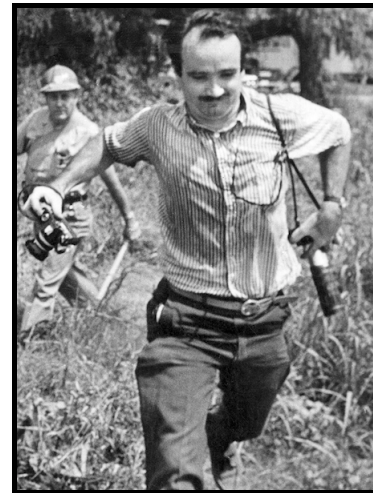
The class will focus on the individual books of the Bible and how they correspond to history and the social, historical and geographical context of the Old and New Testaments. For more information, please contact Pastor Tracy.



SUNDAY, APRIL 26 - 7 PM

Selma: The March for Voting Rights; Social Justice Issues Then and Now

"I'm Walkin For My Freedom," The Selma March and Voting Rights, is a 30 print show that begins with the voter registration problems that African Americans encountered prior to the 1965 march, then pictures the March, and finally ends by showing what the March accomplished. The show will be narrated by internationally acclaimed photojournalist, Matt Herron, a resident of San Rafael. This year of 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March for Voting Rights, the most significant of all the civil rights marches and the one that directly led to the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Mr. Herron's new book, *Selma: The March for Voting Rights*, will be available for purchase and personal autograph.



Matt Herron has been a photojournalist since 1962, and his pictures have appeared in virtually every major picture magazine in the world. Based in Mississippi in the early 60s, he covered the Civil Rights struggle for Life, Look, Time, Newsweek, and the Saturday Evening Post, as well as providing pictures and support for the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). In 1964 he founded and directed the Southern Documentary Project, a team of five photographers that attempted to document the process of social change in the South. In the 70s, Herron turned to writing, and produced a series of major articles for Smithsonian and other publications.

Many of us have seen the movie "Selma", a 2015 Academy Awards Best Picture Nominee; meanwhile, legislators in some states are busy curtailing those same voting rights that were the major accomplishment of the March. In the weeks following this "April 26th presentation, FCCSR will be hosing special events and sermons based on social justice issues then and now.

You may call the church office at 415-479-2747 to reserve your complimentary seat(s). You may also reserve Mr. Herron's book, as well. Additionally, an online registration will soon be available for the registration and book reservation.

We hope that you'll join us!



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

4 — Patty Trosclair	19 — Charles Little
8 — Sue Spofford	19 — Jim Girard
10 — Colleen Trudeau	24 — Blair Ripley
11 — Jackie Dema	25 — Milagro Rameriez
17 — Doug Nichols	26 — Susan Mackenzie

GOLDEN GALS — March 10

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



MEN'S GROUP — March



Do you want to discuss a wide range of important topics, including current events? Plan to attend the next men's group meeting on a Saturday to be announced in March. 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.

BOARD OF MINISTRY MEETING - MARCH 22

The Board of Ministry will meet immediately following worship on Sunday, March 22, in the Plum Room.



TIE DEADLINE for the April Issue - Mon., March. 23

The deadline for articles and news for the April 2015 issue of The TIE is Monday, March 23. Please have all articles for the September issue at the church office by Sunday, March 22nd. Or, email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Tracy Barnowe – Pastor

Monday 9 AM - 1 PM

Wednesday 9 AM - 1 PM

Cell Phone (510) 703-0108

revtracybarnow@gmail.com

Eric Rowe – Office Manager

Tuesday 12:00 – 4:00 PM

Friday 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

FCC Calendar MARCH 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	2	3	4 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club - Oak Room 6 pm - 8 pm Lenten Bible Study and Soup Supper in the Community Room	5 4 pm - 5 pm Homework Club - Oak Room 7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	6	7
8 Daylight Saving (Start) 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	9	10 10 am  Golden Girls' monthly meeting	11 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 6 pm - 8 pm Lenten Bible Study and Soup Supper in the Community Room	12 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 7:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 10 am Stewardship Sunday 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	16	17  St. Patrick's Day	18 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 6 pm - 8 pm Lenten Bible Study and Soup Supper in the Community Room	19 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 7:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal	20	21
22 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:30 am Board of Ministry Meeting - Plant Room	23 5 pm  TIE Deadline for April Issue 6 pm  Women's Sister Dinner	24	25 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 6 pm - 8 pm Lenten Bible Study and Soup Supper in the Community Room	26 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 7:30 pm  Choir Rehearsal	27 7 pm  Movie Night: The Attack!	28
29 10 am Palm Sunday 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	30	31	1 April Fools Day 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 6 pm - 8 pm Lenten Bible Study and Soup Supper in the Community Room	2 4 pm - 5 pm  Homework Club - Oak Room 7:30 pm  Maundy Thursday Service	3 12 pm - 3 pm  Good Friday Meditation and Labyrinth 6:30 pm  Good Friday Translucence Service	4

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.