

TRAINS OF THOUGHT by REV. SALLY TRAIN



“When the song of the angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and the shepherds have
found their way home
The work of Christmas is begun!”

Rev. Gary Davis

TI hope you had a joyful Christmas. It was wonderful to see so many of you on Christmas Eve. What a spirit-filled day it was!

As you know, this was my first experience of your famous Christmas Pageant with an original script every year. I could not have been more delighted! It was joyful, funny, insightful and included so many people - young and old. What a wonderful way to celebrate the birth of Christ!

The evening services were beautiful. I want to thank everyone who helped set up, prepare, decorate, read scripture, light advent candles, sing, play music, greet, manage the sound system, provide refreshments, clean up, and contribute with their

presence and love. It was a heart-warming experience of true community.

I look forward to the coming year with anticipation and hope. As the year unfolds with all its promise and challenge, we will face it together, supporting and encouraging one another. Together we will learn, grow, work, and celebrate the victories. Together we will hold the Christ light in our hearts and do the work of Christmas.

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR!**

As we discussed in November, one of the gifts that only a faith community can offer is Spirituality. Now, more than ever, there is a spiritual hunger in our country. Now, more than ever, there is a need for us to be spiritually grounded,

so we can face the challenges that are before us.

With that in mind, I plan to offer a series of sermons on spiritual disciplines with an emphasis on prayer. This series will start in January and continue until Easter. The hope is to guide and encourage our members in deepening and expanding their prayer lives and their relationship with the mystery we call God. Prayer is powerful. I hope you will make an effort to attend worship as often as you can. Every Sunday is important for spiritual growth. Every person is important to the spiritual community. Your presence and love make a difference to the members of your church family. We miss you when you are not there.

As we begin this new year, let us give thanks for our church community and every member in it. We are indeed blessed!

Pastor Sally



ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

Sunday, January 21st, is one of the most important days of the year for the church. On this day, immediately after church, the congregation will review the accomplishments and future goals of our ministry together. The meeting will begin immediately after worship.

During the meeting, boards and committees will briefly present their goals for the coming year, the council will offer to the congregation a proposed budget to accomplish these goals, and the nominating committee will propose a slate of officers and committee members. All are welcome, and members may vote.

And to make the day even better, there will be a potluck after church to celebrate the new year for our community!



REPORTS NEEDED

Church Officers and Board/Committee Chairs need to get their reports for our Annual Report in to Gwendolyn by January 9.

PLEDGES STILL NEEDED

Get your pledge counted in our budget planning for 2018 by turning it in this week. You can put it in the offering or mail it to the office. We have just a few who have not pledged yet, but every one is needed!



PRAYER PARTNERS

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



December 31 - January 6
Julie Dowling

January 7 - 13
Mary and Oak Dowling

January 14 - 20
Anice Flesh

January 21 - 27
Louis Frost, Melanie Sakskul

January 28 - February 3
Megan Fuller, Elisabeth and Will Godby

Come and Worship with us!



January 7
January 14
January 21
January 28

NEWS ABOUT KIDS



EVERY SUNDAY: 10-11:15 AM - Church School and Child Care
WEDNESDAYS: 4-5 PM - After-School Tutoring in the Oak Room

THE INTERIM PROCESS HERE ARE THE NEXT STEPS:

- ☒ We appoint an Interim Search Committee to locate and recommend an interim pastor
- ☒ We hire an Interim Pastor - **Rev. Sally Train began November 8.**
- ☒ We appoint a Search Committee -
Look for announcement soon of those who have agreed to serve on this committee.
- ☐ We create our Church Profile, a description of our church to be read by potential pastors
- ☐ The Search Committee will consider all potential candidates
- ☐ The Search Committee will select possible candidates
- ☐ The Search Committee will interview these candidates
- ☐ One candidate will be recommended to the congregation
- ☐ The congregation will have an opportunity to meet the candidate
- ☐ We will vote on the recommended candidate
- ☐ We will join in worship to install our new pastor



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



R.E.S.T. DINNERS CONTINUE JAN. 8



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

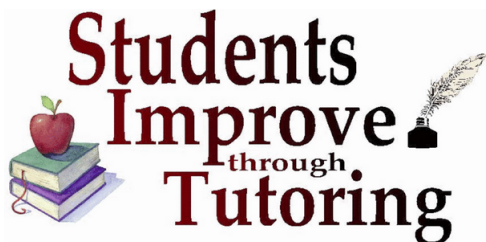
Sponsored by the Board of Mission, members of our congregation will be participating again with the REST program, which feeds and shelters homeless women at the County Wellness Center in San Rafael. This is the same place that has been used in the past. We'll be preparing to serve and share Monday night meals once each month. The dates are **Jan 8, Feb 12, Mar 12, Apr 9.**

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

If you can help be part of our REST FCCSR Meal Makers, **please contact Sher Ripley at 415-577-6104 or sher.ripley@gmail.com with dates you are available to help** and in what way (set up, main dish, salad or side dish, dessert, or goodie bags etc.). If you have a certain dish you would like to make please include that info in your message. Jackie Dema can also answer any questions and help pick up any donations.

DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK

You can leave your contributions for the Food Bank in the narthex. Peanut butter, tuna, canned soup, pasta, rice, and other staples are always needed.



AFTER-SCHOOL TUTORING MEETS on WEDNESDAYS 4-5 PM beginning January 24

Sponsored by the Board of Mission, After School Tutoring serves children from Pilgrim Park and provides support and tutoring as they complete their school homework assignments.

About 3-4 children attended Wednesdays in November and December in the Oak Room. We are definitely in need of more tutors to help staff this vital program. If you are able to tutor, please see Lucinda Ray.

Congregation Rodef Sholom presents

Rev. Deborah Lee

Sanctuary Today: A Faith Response for These Times

Rev. Deborah Lee is the newly appointed executive director of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity. As an ordained minister of the United Church of Christ, Rev. Lee has worked at the intersection of faith and social justice for more than 25 years as an educator and organizer on issues of race, gender, a just economy, anti-militarism, LGBTQ inclusion, and immigration. Deborah recently served as the Senior Program Director of Immigration with the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity since 2009. She works with faith communities to engage, accompany and advocate for the fair treatment and dignity of immigrants.



Join Deborah Lee to learn about the history of Sanctuary, the current climate for immigrants in California, and the work of the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity.

Tuesday, January 9, 7:00 pm

Rodef Sholom Sanctuary

170 N. San Pedro Rd., San Rafael

www.rodefsholom.org

Igniting the passion to connect.

IN A RUT?



Pastor Sally Train shared this story at the beginning of a recent sermon:

The US standard railroad gauge (distance between the rails) is 4 feet, 8.5 inches. That's an exceedingly odd number. Why was that gauge used? Because that's the way they built them in England, and the US railroads were built by English expatriates.

Why did the English build them like that? Because the first rail lines were built by the same people who built the pre-railroad tramways, and that's the gauge they used. Why did "they" use that gauge then? Because the people who built the tramways used the same jigs and tools that they used for building wagons, which used that wheel spacing.

Okay! Why did the wagons have that particular odd wheel spacing? Well, if they tried to use any other spacing, the wagon wheels would break on some of the old, long distance roads in England, because that's the spacing of the wheel ruts.



So who built those old rutted roads? The first long distance roads in Europe (and England) were built by Imperial Rome for their legions. The roads have been used ever since.



And the ruts in the roads? The initial ruts, which everyone else had to match for fear of destroying their wagon wheels, were first formed by Roman war chariots. Since the chariots were made for (or by) Imperial Rome, they were all alike in the matter of wheel spacing.

The United States standard railroad gauge of 4 feet, 8.5 inches derives from the original specification for an Imperial Roman war chariot. Specifications and bureaucracies live forever. So the next time you are handed a specification and wonder what horse's ass came up with it, you may be exactly right, because the Imperial Roman war chariots were made just wide enough to accommodate the back ends of two war horses. Thus, we have the answer to the original question.

Now the twist to the story:

There's an interesting extension to the story about railroad gauges and horses' behinds. When we see a Space Shuttle sitting on its launch pad, there are two big booster rockets attached to the sides of the main fuel tank. These are solid rocket boosters, or SRBs.



The SRBs are made at a factory at Utah. The engineers who designed the SRBs might have preferred to make them a bit fatter, but the SRBs had to be shipped by train from the factory to the launch site. The railroad line from the factory had to run through a tunnel in the mountains. The SRBs had to fit through that tunnel. The tunnel is slightly wider than the railroad track, and the railroad track is about as wide as two horses' behinds.

So, the major design feature of what is arguably the world's most advanced transportation system was determined over two thousand years ago by the width of a Horse's ASS!

MOVIE NIGHT JANUARY 26 - A UNITED KINGDOM

Our January movie tells the true story of Seretse Khama, heir to the throne of Bechuanaland (then a British protectorate, now the nation of Botswana). In 1947, while he was a graduate student at Oxford, he met and fell in love with Ruth Williams, a white office worker. When he announced their intention to marry, the British Government, afraid that an offended South Africa would cut off their supply of gold and uranium, launched a 20-year campaign of lies and dirty tricks to keep Khama from taking his position as leader of his people.

Much to their surprise, Khama was just as smart and sophisticated as they were in fighting to achieve both his marriage and his birthright. His 20-year campaign to outsmart the British, and his subsequent success in leading his nation through a peaceful transition to democracy and prosperity is an important piece of 20th century history that is virtually unknown in the USA.



A United Kingdom stars David Oyelowo (MLK in *Selma*) and Rosamond Pike (Oscar-nominated for *Gone Girl*). It was directed by Amma Asante (*Belle*) and is based on the book *Colour Bar* by Susan Williams.

7 PM Friday January 26 in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park

“Olelowo, in a virtuoso performance, shows us [Khama] the real-life figure – not as a bloodless idea, but as a morally responsible human being, done in a way that seems both timely and timeless. It’s a tender love story that never goes soft on its provocations. It’s a defiant cry from the heart.”

Peter Travers, *Rolling Stone*

You can view the trailer for *A United Kingdom* on the FCCSR website.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 — Chris Siroky
6 — Oak Dowling
20 — Doug Shannon
20 — James True
30 — Jeffrey Russell

GOLDEN GALS — January 9

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



TIE DEADLINE for the February Issue - Tues., JAN. 23

The deadline for articles and news for the February 2018 issue of The TIE is Tuesday, January 23. Please have all articles for the February issue at the church office by Sunday, January 21st. Or, email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Sally Train – *Interim Pastor*

Wednesday 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Phone (925) 216-9706

sallytrain@comcast.net

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

FCC Calendar January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	January 1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	5	6
7 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:30 am Board of Trustees Meeting	8 5:30 am - 7:30 am  REST Dinner	9 10 am  Golden Calf monthly meeting	10	11 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	12	13
14 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	15 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	16	17	18 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	19	20
21 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11 am ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK	22	23 5 pm  TIE Deadline for FEBRUARY Issues	24 4 pm - 5 pm  After School Tutoring	25 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	26 7 am  Movie Night/UNITED KINGDOM De Haan Center Pilgrim Park	27
28 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Board of Ministry meeting	29	30	31 4 pm - 5 pm  After School Tutoring	1 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	2 Grounding Day	3

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.