

March 2018
First Congregational Church of
San Rafael

The TIE

TRAINS OF THOUGHT by REV. SALLY TRAIN



I want to thank everyone who participated in the Celebration and Exploration Potluck on February 11.

I was impressed with how focused and thoughtful everyone was. We got a wealth of information from you! Thank you. I know my mind has been churning ever since with ideas for the future. I hope you have been thinking and planning as well.

More than anything, I keep thinking what a treasure you are! What a beacon of light! Now I think the task is to let that light shine ever brighter. Guide more and more people to the safety of this spiritual home. Share the treasure more widely.

I spent an evening with members of the Church Council pouring over your remarks. We came up with a number of ways to let our light shine more brightly and tell the world who we are and what we

offer. If you come up with more ideas, please share them with us. This is a time of unlimited possibilities.



Holy Week and Easter are quickly approaching. Our Conference Minister, Diane Weible, pointed out that this year Lent began on Valentine's Day and ends on April Fool's Day when we celebrate Easter. It is fitting that this sacred season should begin with Love and end with Laughter. Truly, what are more sacred than Love and Laughter?

In the weeks ahead, may your hearts be filled with love. May your homes be filled with the music of laughter. May your souls be nourished, and your spirits lifted. Shalom, my friends! I will see you again...very soon!

Pastor Sally



SPIFF UP THE CHURCH DAY **SATURDAY, MARCH 17 10 AM - 1 PM**

Come join the fun and whistle an Irish tune while we spiff-up the church on Saturday, March 17, from 9 AM-1:00 PM. We will clean, polish, wash, prune, dust, weed, sweep, fix, vacuum, and generally polish everything to make the church sparkle for both the EDFK Irish music concert AND Easter. The MDDL church will join us. There may even be some Irish shortbread and soda bread, a cup of scald, and undoubtedly a wee bit of craic (but probably no Guinness).

EASTER EGG HUNT **ON YOUR MARK, GET SET, GO!**

Children will hunt for Easter eggs on the front lawn after church on Easter Sunday. Since some of our older children are particularly adept collectors, younger children will get a head start. Our teens will help the Easter Bunny get organized to spread out the eggs which have prizes, candy, and some healthier treats inside.



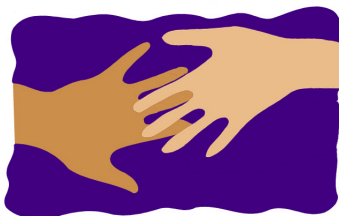
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME CHANGE **MARCH 11**

Daylight Savings Time in California will begin Sunday, March 11, 2018, at 2:00 am.

Turn your clocks forward 1 hour.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



February 25 - March 3
Catherine Hills, Audrey, Josie

March 4 - 10
Caryl Hodges

March 11 - 17
Alana and Brandon Intrater,
Emma and Jack

March 18 - 24
Lorene Jackson, Aaron, Alex,
and Jeffrey Russell

March 25 - 31
Amy Kaufman, Sean and
Allison



Come and **Worship** with us!



- March 4** **Communion Sunday**
Prayer of Intercession - Praying for Others
- March 11** **Psalms 32, 51, 103**
Prayer of Confession and Acceptance of Forgiveness
- March 18** **Luke 1:26-38**
Prayer of Surrender - Surrendering to God's Will
- March 25** **Psalm 1:1-6 Palm Sunday**
Listening to God
- March 29** **Maundy Thursday**
6:30 Soup Supper and Worship with Communion
- March 30** **Good Friday Prayer and Meditation**
12 noon to 3 PM
- April 1** **Easter Sunday Worship**
10 AM

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 1, 2018. The lilies are \$10.00 each and order forms are in the church office.





Thursday, March 29 Maundy Thursday

6:30 PM We will share a simple meal of soup and bread followed by a short meditative worship service that includes communion. Feel free to bring your favorite soup to share or a loaf of good bread.



Friday, March 30 Good Friday

12 noon - 3 PM: The sanctuary will be open and prepared for prayer and meditation. Taize songs will be playing softly – feel free to sing along if you wish.

There will be seven prayer stations to visit - each one focusing on one of the “last seven words of Jesus.” (“The last seven words” is a traditional way of referring to seven phrases or quotes that are attributed to Jesus during his last hours of earthly life. They are drawn from all four gospels.) Each station will be set up to enhance your prayerful contemplation and meditation with sacred objects, artwork, poems, quotes, and written reflections.

Pastor Sally will be available during that time if you wish to speak with her. Otherwise it can be a time of quiet. Come when you can, leave when you must.

Sunday, April 1 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 the church office.

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 Worship

Easter Egg Hunt: Children of all ages are encouraged to join in the Easter Egg Hunt following the worship service.



SUNDAY, MARCH 18, 2018 2 PM

IRISH MUSIC CONCERT



**Featuring Shannon Warty, vocalist
and Catherine John, violinist**

**Benefiting Every Dollar Feeds Kids -
Feeding, educating and empowering the poorest of
the poor in Morelos, Mexico since 1999**

Suggested donation \$20

**First Congregational Church of San Rafael
8 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael, CA 94903
fccsanrafael.org**



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



MARIN CROP HUNGER WALK MARCH 11

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events where folks from different faiths, cultures, and school groups work together to help address the horrors of hunger in our world – even for those battling hunger in our own city of San Rafael.

Everyone who wants to participate is asked to seek donations from neighbors, family, and friends. Then on the afternoon of Sunday, March 12, all who sign up to walk the 3K route in downtown San Rafael will be carrying banners and hoping to gather additional support from merchants along the way. The steps we take, and the funds we raise, will make a real difference!

Please ASK FOR DONATIONS of any size from as many friends and neighbors and relatives as you can. Donations of cash or check should go directly into an envelope to be delivered to your FCC CROP Recruiter (Lucinda Ray or Sue Spofford) on or before March 12, 2017, the day of the Hunger Walk. (Checks made out to "CWS/CROP")

OR you can contact your donors from your own online fundraising page on the CROP WALK Web Site, asking them to reply with a donation by credit card. This is how to set that up:

1. Sign up and Register on the CROP WALK Web site:
<https://www.crophungerwalk.org/sanrafaelca/>
2. Register with your name, email address, and password and don't forget to sign up for our TEAM: First Congregational Church of San Rafael (FCCSR).
3. This creates your own "account" which is your own online fundraising page on this website, where you will be able to direct your donors to support you with a credit card donation.

Meet on Sunday, March 11, at 1:30 PM, at the First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael.

Thank you! You are helping to end hunger one step at a time—in your community and around the world.

R.E.S.T. DINNERS CONTINUE March 12

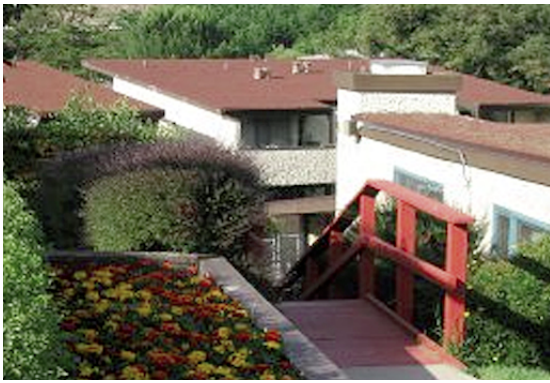
Sponsored by the Board of Mission, members of our congregation will be participating with the REST program, which feeds and shelters homeless women at the County Wellness Center in San Rafael. We'll be preparing to serve and share Monday night meals once each month.

The dates are **Mar 12 and Apr 9.**



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

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 **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, desert, 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.



PILGRIM PARK NEWS

Community Life – Because residents live close together, use the central laundry, come to the community center for food, to report repair needs, etc., the residents are very aware of what's happening to their neighbors, who is ill, etc. In short, it is a close knit community. The two recent deaths have been deeply felt and the remembrances in the community center well attended. Several serious illnesses have brought out the normal human caring. The unusual

number of recent vacancies, new arrivals, and movement of residents to different apartments will understandably change the dynamic among neighbors.

Management believes the vacancies are at an end for now. New tenants have been identified and are moving in. Converting one apartment to an ADA compliant apartment is in the final stage. Thus, we will be able to take care of a current resident's needs.

Selection of new tenants – We follow HUD rules for selecting tenants. If there are not interested applicants on our waiting lists by apartment size, we advertise in the IJ. Running the ad for one week produces enough applicants. We process the applicants on a first in basis. After a tenant is qualified, we maintain the remaining applicants on the list for the next vacancy in that apartment size. Whenever a vacancy occurs, we give preference to existing tenants who qualify because of family size for a larger apartment. Conversely, if a tenant's family size has decreased, we encourage them to downsize. Existing tenants can also qualify for a subsidized apartment when those become available. About half of the apartments are subsidized under Section 8.

Next Board Meeting – Scheduled for March 7 in the community center.

Church members or friends may contact me or Margie Rollman at Pilgrim Park to learn about vacancies. Margie receives inquiries daily. High quality affordable housing is scarce and in much demand.

Bob De Haan

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 -
**Megan Fuller, David Knopf, Alana Intrater, Anice Flesh,
Michael Meehan, Helen MacLam, Annie Song-Hill, Oak Dowling**
- ☐ 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

MOVIE NIGHT MARCH 2 - *SPOTLIGHT*

(Note: Due to scheduling problems this is the slightly-delayed “February” Movie Night. Our regular March movie night will be Friday March 30.)

The newsrooms big city newspapers have always provided a stage for great drama, and perhaps the endangered status of newspapers in the age of the internet explains the upsurge of terrific newspaper movies in recent years.

Arguably the best of the recent newsroom dramas is *Spotlight* which won the Best Picture and Best Original Screenplay Oscars for 2015. (It was also recently in the news again, when one of its central characters, Cardinal Bernard Law, disgraced ex-Archbishop of Boston, died in Rome in December.)



Spotlight tells the story of an investigative unit at The Boston Globe that set out to report on what they thought was a single rogue priest whose history of child abuse was being covered-up by the church. They persisted in their investigation despite efforts by most of Boston’s establishment to shut them down. By the time they published, a year later, they had lifted the lid on a self-inflicted wound to the Catholic church that is still not fully resolved.

Interestingly, *Spotlight* was written and directed by Tom McCarthy, who was previously known for small, thoughtful dramas like *The Station Agent* and *The Visitor* (both of which we’ve seen on Movie Night) and who is Catholic and a graduate of Boston College.

“The movie celebrates a specific professional accomplishment and beautifully captures the ethos of journalism. It is also a defense of professionalism in a culture that increasingly holds it in contempt. Everything in this movie works, which is only fitting, since its vision of heroism involves showing up in the morning and — whether inspired by bosses or in spite of them — doing the job.”

A.O. Scott, *The New York Times*

7 PM Friday March 2 in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park

You can view the trailer for *Spotlight* on the FCCSR website.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

8 — Sue Spofford
10 — Colleen Trudeau
11 — Jackie Dema
19 — Jim Girard
19 — Charles Little
24 — Blair Ripley
25 — Milagro Ramirez
26 — Sue MacKenzie

GOLDEN GALS — MARCH 13

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesday, March 13, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



TIE DEADLINE for the APRIL Issue - Monday, MARCH 26

The deadline for articles and news for the April 2018 issue of the April issue at the church office by Sunday, March 25. Or, email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by March 26.



New office hours
beginning March 14
Wednesday 9 AM - 3 PM
Thursday 9 AM - 1 PM

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 March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	26	27	28	March 1  7:40 am Choir Rehearsal	2  7 am Movie Night: Spotlight! De Haan Center Plgrim Park	3
4  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	5	6	7	8  7:40 am Choir Rehearsal	9	10
11 Daylight Saving (Start)  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 1:30 pm CHOP HUNGER WALK	12  5:30 pm - 7:30 pm Q.E. St. Dinner	13  10 am Golden Gate monthly meeting	14	15  7:40 am Choir Rehearsal	16	17  St. Patrick's Day 10 am - 1 pm SHUFFLE UP THE CHURCH
18  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 2 pm  Irish Music Concert: EDEX Benefit 12 PM	19	20	21	22  7:40 am Choir Rehearsal	23	24
25  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	26  5 am IE Deadline for March Issue	27	28	29  6:30 am Maundy Thursday Soup Supper and Worship with Communion 7:40 am Choir Rehearsal	30 Good Friday  12 pm - 3 pm Good Friday Prayer and Meditation 7 pm  Movie Night: De Haan Center Plgrim Park	31

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.