

April 2018

First Congregational Church of  
San Rafael

# The TIE

## TRAINS OF THOUGHT by REV. SALLY TRAIN



Can you feel it? Spring is in the air! Everywhere there are signs of new life, new beginnings, and new hope. It is the time of "B".

Outside the church there are Birds, Buds, and Butterflies. Inside the church there are Boys, Babies, and Baptism! (We like the girls too, but lately there seem to be lots of boys.)

Spring is a time of renewal that naturally brings a sense of joy and optimism.

FCCSR has a lot to be optimistic about.

- Church attendance is strong and growing.
- We had a great group of participants for the Crop Walk and likely to once again be named as the church that raised the most donations for this worthy cause.
- We hosted a delightful Irish concert that brought joy to lots of people and a sizable contribution to Every Dollar Feeds Kids.
- The Pastoral Search Committee is fully

launched and thoughtfully approaching the task of writing the Church Profile.

- People are growing in their faith, growing in their care for one another, and growing in their friendships.
- New ideas for church activities are being voiced daily. It will be fun to see which ones take root, grow and come to fruition.

It is a good time to be  
at FCCSR!



I am so looking forward to celebrating **Easter** with you - filling the beautiful cross with flowers and praising the Living Christ with music, prayers, and colored eggs for the children.

As the season unfolds, we will remember those for whom life is challenging - particularly those who have had to leave their homes and seek a new place to live. Globally, the number of refugees and people immigrating is the highest it has been since World War Two. It is truly an Immigration Crisis.

I am glad to know the United Church of Christ has people on the ground in refugee camps all over the world offering help and hope. In the United States, the UCC is there to aid folks who are resettling in what is, to them, a foreign land. This important ministry is funded primarily through One Great Hour of Sharing. On April 29, we will take a special collection for OGHS as one way of helping in this time great need.

I wish you a Spring filled with renewal. As the days get longer, and the sunlight brighter, may the Christ Light within you shine ever more brilliantly!

*Pastor Sally*

## OUR OFFICE MANAGER, GWENDOLYN, IS MOVING



Our office manager Gwendolyn Morgen's last day will be April 20. Her partner's elderly mother in Arizona is needing more attention, so they are moving south to be closer. We are going to miss her cheerful spirit and her hard work at trying to keep us organized.

## SPIFF UP THE CHURCH DAY MAKES US SHINE

Crews from our church and the Ministerios de Dios Latinos (MDDL) polished and vacuumed pews, pruned bushes, washed windows and walls, power spayed the courtyard, pulled weeds, picked up trash, and even cleaned up the pigeon mess on March 17. Special thanks to our young people who did a lot of dirty work!



## MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS

**APRIL 11: The Board of Ministry** meeting will be on Wednesday, April 11, at 11:30 AM.

**APRIL 15: The Board of Mission** meeting will be on Sunday, April 15, at 11:30 AM in the Oak Room.

**APRIL 24: The Board of TRUSTEES** meeting will be on Tuesday, April 24, at 7 PM in the Plum Room.



## PRAYER PARTNERS

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



### April 1 - 7

David Knopf and Cathi Fuller,  
Rachael, Rebecca

### April 8 - 14

Jill Krippendorf

### April 15 - 21

Marion Long

### April 22 - 28

Randall and Susan MacKenzie,  
Jessica, Ian, Shauna

### April 29 - May 5

Nancy and Ekhard Mahl

# *Come and* **Worship** **with us!**



## **April 1 Colossians 3: 1-3 EASTER**

We will celebrate the holiest day of the year with a cross filled with flowers, our sanctuary filled with music, and our lawn filled with Easter eggs for the children to find. We will hear again the amazing story of the Resurrection as told by the gospel writer, John. We will also read Colossians 3: 1-3 and explore how the living Christ is revealed through us and in us.

## **April 8 Psalms 1: 1-6 Meditation**

We will complete our series on Spiritual Disciplines with an exploration of Meditation – the art of listening to God. Our scripture reading will be from Psalm 1: 1-6. We will talk some about meditation and we will spend some time actually meditating.

## **April 15 Luke 24: 1-49 Resurrection Faith**

Our scripture reading, Luke 24: 1-49, describes three different mysterious encounters people have with the Living Christ after the crucifixion. Through these stories we will examine some of the ways people move from doubt to faith.

## **April 22 John 10: 22-30 The Good Shepherd**

We will read John 10:22-30 and that beloved passage – Psalm 23. The scripture assures us that if we follow the voice of the shepherd we will be led to green pastures and still waters. In a noisy and sometimes violent world, it is that voice that will guide us.

## **April 29 John 15: 1-8 Christ is the Vine**

We will talk about the vine of Life – naming the roots that feed us, why pruning is necessary, when we need to rest in the branches, and how to produce the sweetest fruit.

We will also collect a Special Offering for One Great Hour of Sharing which funds the UCC's ministry to refugees and immigrants all over the world.

**EVERY SUNDAY: 10-11:15 AM**

**Church School and Child Care**





## BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



### MARIN CROP HUNGER WALK A SUCCESS

On March 11, a team of 7 walkers, one runner, and a dog participated in the Marin CROP Hunger Walk. The team gathered donations totaling \$2,663. The total raised by all groups participating in the walk is \$14,678. Many thanks to all who participated by walking and/or donating!



### LAST R.E.S.T. DINNER APRIL 9

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. This is the last REST dinner, as the funding for the REST program is ending. So this is your final chance to participate in this outreach project.



*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](mailto:sher.ripley@gmail.com) if 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.

### BOARD OF MISSION MEETING APRIL 15

The Board of Mission meeting will be on Sunday, April 15, at 11:30 AM in the Oak Room.





**SUNDAY, APRIL 29**

## **WHAT IS ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING AND WHY SHOULD I CARE?**

Sponsored by our Board of Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing is an Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports disaster, refugee, and development actions. **The offering this year will be on Sunday, April 29.**

We live in the midst of the largest refugee crisis since World War II. One in every 122 people in the world today is forcibly displaced from their home, seeking refuge either within their national borders or beyond (according to the UNHCR).

Violent political actions all over the world—Syria, Iraq, Burundi, and Guatemala—have created waves of refugees and displaced people, unable to return home, fearing for their lives. Natural disasters have also disrupted communities, displacing people from their homes and livelihoods. In addition, chronic hunger, exaggerated by climate change, forces the migration of families for the sake of survival. Life in a refugee camp, without access to health care, defies the wholeness of individuals and communities. These realities may lie beyond our comprehension, but the people who live them are not beyond our collective hearts. Without OGHS donations this work would be impossible.

Yes, you can help! It all starts with your decision to give. Our One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (OGHS) will be on April 29. Thank you for your support.

### **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

## EVERY DOLLAR FEEDS KIDS CONCERT



The March 18 benefit concert for EDFK was a big success. The Irish music was beautiful and invigorating. The large crowd clapped and sang along. The refreshments were tasty. **And the donations totalled \$1305.** Many thanks to everyone who came and donated to this important project that supports nutrition programs in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

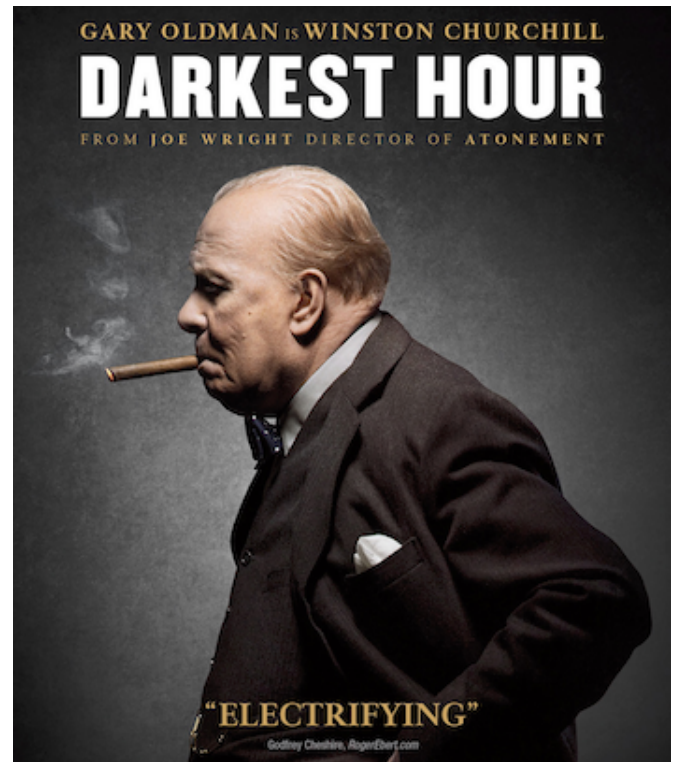
## WE CELEBRATED A JOYOUS BAPTISM ON MARCH 18



## MOVIE NIGHT APRIL 27 - DARKEST HOUR

By 1940, Winston Churchill had been somewhere in British politics for forty years, and during that time, he had become one of the nation's most controversial figures. However, with the German army rolling unchecked into France, and with Neville Chamberlain having failed in his attempts to appease Hitler, Churchill was the only person both parties could accept as Prime Minister.

*Darkest Hour* takes place entirely in the first month of Churchill administration. But, it was within this first month, with virtually the entire British army facing annihilation on the beach at Dunkirk, that Churchill had to convince the King, Parliament and the nation that all-out resistance was the only path forward.



Critics all hailed Gary Oldman's "electrifying," Oscar-winning portrayal of Churchill, and the film received five other Academy Award nominations, including Best Picture. However, the controversy lives on: Those same critics were divided on whether the script is an inspiring history lesson or a dangerous simplification of complex issues. Join us and decide for yourself.

**7 PM Friday April 27 in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park**  
You can view the trailer for *Darkest Hour* on the FCCSR website.



### NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

In March we had a new gutter installed over the corner of the Oak Room where the roof had sagged a bit. This had resulted in water flowing away from the drain and causing an overflow which had previously damaged the fascia boards. We also finally encouraged the pigeons in the portico to move on. A continuing problem has been the lighting in the Community Room where two of the overhead lights are not working. Hopefully new ballasts will correct this problem.

The church building has been particularly busy in the last few months and will continue to be until April 17. AARP is using the Community Room three days a week to assist people with their taxes for free. This is in addition to the two other churches who use our building, five 12-step groups, the Threshold choir, Marin Garden Club, and Head Start Meeting which use our facility on a regular basis.

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS



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

## GOLDEN GALS — APRIL 10

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



## TIE DEADLINE for the May Issue - Mon., APRIL 23

The deadline for articles and news for the May 2018 issue of The TIE is Monday, April 23. Please have all articles for the May issue at the church office by Sunday, April 22. Or, email your articles to [lucindaray@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:sallytrain@comcast.net)

**Gwendolyn Morgan** – *Office Manager*

Wednesday 9 AM - 3 PM





















Thursday 9 AM - 1 PM

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

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



# FCC Calendar April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> April Fool's Day Easter 8:30 am - 9:30 am Bring Flowers to decorate the cross 10 am  Easter Egg Hunt 11:15 am Easter Egg Hunt Easter Church School & Child Care 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>2</b> 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  P.E.S.T. Dinner	<b>3</b> 10 am  Golden Girls' monthly meeting	<b>4</b> 11:30 am  Board of Ministry meeting	<b>5</b> 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>9</b> 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  P.E.S.T. Dinner	<b>10</b> 10 am  Golden Girls' monthly meeting	<b>11</b> 11:30 am  Board of Ministry meeting	<b>12</b> 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:30 am - 12:30 pm Board of Mission Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Earth Day 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>23</b> 5 am  Life Devotion for March issue	<b>24</b> 7 am  Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 7 am  Movie Night: Darkest Hour! De Haan Center Pilgrim Park	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am One Great Hour of Sharing Offering	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	<b>4</b>	<b>5</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).