

May 2018

First Congregational Church of
San Rafael

The TIE

TRAINS OF THOUGHT by REV. SALLY TRAIN



I love Springtime because there is so much new life!
Flowers, butterflies and baby ducks everywhere!
There is New Life within our church as well:

New Member's Class is forming.

If you, or someone you know, has been attending worship with us and would like to explore the possibility of joining this treasure of a church, please contact Pastor Sally at sallytrain@comcast.net or call the church office. Once we know who is interested, we will find a couple of times when we can all meet to share our faith journeys, learn more about the United Church of Christ, and this extraordinary local congregation called First Congregational Church of San Rafael.

FCCSR is a church of radical welcome. "No Matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." Folks are embraced and participate fully without formal membership. Active Members, however, vote at congregational meetings. There is a very impor-

tant congregational meeting coming up in the not too distant future. The Pastoral Search Committee, through prayerful discernment, will select a candidate for the position of Settled Pastor. There will then be a congregational meeting in which Active Members vote to affirm or decline their recommendation. If you participate in the life of the church and would like to have a voice in that decision, you may wish to become an Active Member if you aren't already. That is only one reason to explore the joys and responsibilities of church membership. As with most things in life, the more we engage, commit, and participate, the more we receive and grow.

New Office Manager Amy Powers

I am delighted to welcome Amy as our new Office Manager and look forward to working with her. She has years of experience in church administration and I believe is a good fit for our congregation. Stop by and say hello to her when you have a chance.



New Care Teams Formed

A group of compassionate individuals have volunteered to serve on Care Teams which will ensure that our members are receiving the attention they need, especially if they are homebound, struggling with a serious illness, or recently hospitalized. This ministry is truly love in action and we are very grateful for those who have offered to help. (See page 6 for more details.)

New Outdoor Cross

Have you noticed the beautiful new cross adorning the exterior of our building? That was built and installed by the Meehan-Cline Family. What a lovely gift to the church! (see page 9 for more)

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

New Alto in our Choir: Lise Adams

Thanks to our Music Director, Jeffrey, we now have a new beautiful voice enhancing our worship services. Jeffrey invited Lise to join our choir, and she accepted the invitation. Welcome Lise! We are blessed to have you!

New Spirit is Moving: Pentecost Sunday is May 20

Wear Red on Pentecost Sunday to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit and how it is moving through our church today.

New Children in Sunday School

Thanks to our extraordinary Sunday School teachers, children love coming to our church. And we love having them! It gives us an opportunity to share our love and nurture faith and spirituality in the next generation.

New People in Worship

Almost every week we have new people joining us in worship. You are such a welcoming congregation, I do not need to remind you to introduce yourselves and extend warm hospitality to our visitors.

Praise God for the NEW LIFE bursting forth all around us!

Pastor Sally

WELCOME OUR NEW OFFICE MANAGER, AMY POWERS



Please welcome our new Office Manager, Amy Powers. She has been a church secretary for an Episcopal church in Novato for 12 years. She knows our area--graduating from Terra Linda High School, and currently living in Lucas Valley. Amy will be working 10-12 hours a week on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



April 29 - May 5

Nancy and Ekhard Mahl

May 6 - 12

Helen MacLam

May 13 - 19

Alan and Barbara Miller

May 20 - 26

Jean Nadell

May 27 - June 2

Ray and Jean O'Leary

The title 'Come Worship with us!' is centered at the top. 'Come' is in a black script font, 'Worship' is in a large, flowing pink script font, and 'with us!' is in a smaller, dark blue sans-serif font. Two pink hibiscus flowers with yellow centers are positioned on either side of the word 'Worship'.

Come Worship with us!

May 6 John 15:9-17

Communion

We will explore what it means to abide in Christ's love. As a community of faith, we live in an atmosphere of love and we practice love in concrete ways.

May 13 I Corinthians 13:1-7, 13 Mother's Day

Our Bible text is I Corinthians 13: 1-7, 13. It is Paul's magnificent ode to love. Pastor Sally, a mother herself, will reflect on the ways that children help us to grow in our capacity to love. Working with children as a parent, grandparent, teacher, or mentor is sacred work that benefits not only the child, but the one who undertakes this work. In the process, we, the adults, grow spiritually. (Those whose life work is in other fields, will nevertheless recognize the spiritual principles described and growth steps leading to spiritual maturity.)

May 20 John 14:8-17, 25-27 and Acts 2:1-21

Pentecost - Wear Red! R.E.S.T Volunteers Honored

Pentecost celebrates the day the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples filling them with power, so they could carry on the work Jesus had begun. We will first read John 14: 8-17 & 25-27 in which Jesus promises to send an Advocate or helper—the Spirit of Truth—to aid the disciples after He has left. We will then read Acts 2:1-21 which describes the coming of the Holy Spirit. It is the perfect time to explore these texts as the church is pondering what the Spirit is calling First Congregational Church to do or become.

May 27 Jeremiah 1:4-10

Memorial Day Weekend

We will continue our exploration of "Call" since it is such an important subject for our church right now. Our text will be Jeremiah 1: 4-10 in which God calls Jeremiah to be a prophet and promises to be with him. We will hear about some brave people and their experiences of answering their calls. We will also discuss the process of discerning God's call.

EVERY SUNDAY: 10-11:15 AM

Church School and Child Care





BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS - MAY 6



You can help end hunger around the world in just a few minutes. We'll provide pens, paper, sample letters, envelopes, stamps, and encouragement. All you need to contribute is a little time. On Sunday, May 6, after worship, the Board of

Mission will sponsor an Offering of Letters. **If you can't be at church on May 6, see the next page** for more information and sample letters.

Working together with many other denominations across the country and with Bread for the World, we will write letters to our U.S. representative and our U.S. Senators urging them to act to help end hunger in the United States and around the world.

In 2018, we are raising our collective voice to ask Congress to make funding decisions that put our country and the world on track to end hunger by 2030. Your messages to Congress will push legislators to make funding decisions that put us on track to end hunger by 2030 and will support vital anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs and policies.

Your letters can help Congress to see nutrition for mothers and children as an investment in people's lives long-term and in the economies and security of both other countries and our own. Your letters can help Congress see the importance of building broad, bipartisan support for this in the House and Senate and continue supporting the U.S. government's leadership in this area.

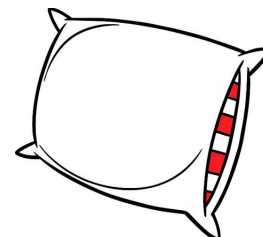


HONORING THE R.E.S.T. VOLUNTEERS - MAY 20

We will honor all those who have contributed to this year's R.E.S.T. program by working together to provide a monthly meal for homeless women in Marin County. We will recognize them in worship on May 20.

PILLOW SUNDAY IN JUNE 10

This year Homeward Bound is in need of clean, comfy pillows. We will have the collection on June 10. You may want to do your shopping soon due to vacation plans, family visits, etc. If you need to deliver your donation sooner, I think we can find somewhere to store it 'til the collection date.



This is something that has been so much a part of our congregation's commitment to outreach for many years. It brings joy, both to the givers and to receivers.

If shopping for pillows presents a hardship, please let a Mission Board member know. Thank you for your continued commitment to Homeward Bound's mission.

Lucinda Ray, Sue Spofford, Judy Girard, Megan Fuller, Cathi Fuller, Lynn Grant

[Date]

Dear Senator _____ :
or Dear Representative _____ :

Sample letter

As Congress works on the fiscal year 2019 budget and spending bills, I ask you to invest in and protect key programs that will reduce hunger and poverty.

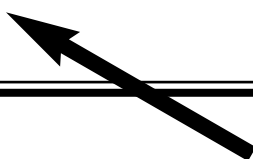
Our country and the world have made progress against hunger and poverty in recent decades. I want you to continue to invest in programs like WIC, SNAP, free and reduced-price school meals, and tax credits for low-income workers, which help people in the United States move out of poverty and feed their families. International programs like the global food security initiative, Feed the Future, and the McGovern-Dole school feeding program help millions of hungry people around the world.

My church is already helping by serving meals to homeless women and by collecting food for our local food bank, but I also expect you to pass budget and spending bills that will end hunger by 2030.

My faith calls me to urge you to make public investments that will move us toward the end of hunger.


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 these addresses, 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

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

NEW “CARE TEAM” PROGRAM BEGINS

What happens if you become ill and cannot attend church? How can you be in contact with church members and church developments if you are unable to attend services for a long period of time? A number of wonderful parishioners do visit many of those who are ill or homebound, and Pastor Sally visits those with particular needs. But her time is limited and the Board of Ministry would like to be more certain that everyone who wants a gets one on a regular basis.



The Board of Ministry has wrestled with this question, and at the suggestion of Pastor Sally, has developed the Care Team program. Here's how it will work:

- The year will be divided up among four teams – each team will have three members.
- Each team will be responsible for visits every four months, for a month at a time.
- Here are the team Captains, followed by their members:
 - Hilary Spaulding with Cathy Fuller and Annie Song-Hill
 - Jackie Dema with Tessa Templeman and Val Shearer
 - Charles Little with Amy Kaufman and Jim Turner
 - David Knopf and two members to be named

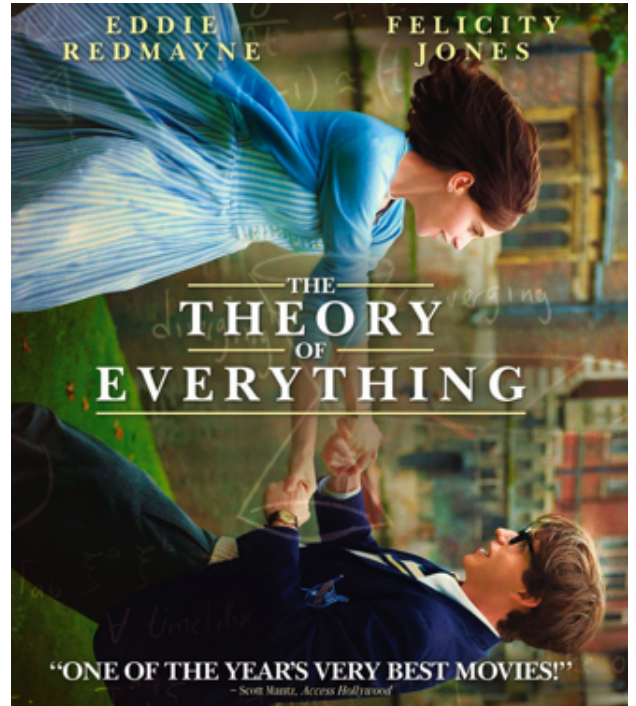
Pastor Sally has shared some important suggestions for effective visits with the teams. The program will begin in May.

Those wishing visits or suggesting folks who would like a visit, please contact Pastor Sally at sallytrain@comcast.net or 925-216-9706. Or contact the Care Team captain for that month. In May, the Team Captain is Charles Little. He can be contacted at barcaabuelo@gmail.com or 415-342-2720.

MOVIE NIGHT MAY 25 - *THE THEORY OF EVERYTHING*

Stephen Hawking, who died on March 14, was arguably the most creative mind in physics since Einstein. He made major advances in our understanding of black holes, the nature of time, and the connections between quantum mechanics and relativity. And, he accomplished all this while battling a rare, slow-moving form of ALS.

But who was the person behind the legend? *The Theory of Everything* is based on a memoir by Hawking's first wife, Jane, and focuses mainly on his days as a student and struggling young faculty member at Cambridge. Science aside, he was a complex, sometimes difficult character, and that is the focus of this intimate, very personal film. (Our guarantee: No Physics Required!)



Eddie Redmayne's portrayal of Hawking won the 2014 Oscar for best actor in a leading role, and Felicity Jones was nominated for the corresponding Best Actress award. In Britain, the film was nominated for 10 BAFTA Awards, and won 3, including Best Picture.

7 PM Friday May 25 in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park

The Theory of Everything succeeds as something deeper and more complex than facile great-man portraiture . . . [it] portrays its central love story not as the stuff of soap-opera melodrama or zero-sum ultimatums, but as a relationship between recognizably imperfect adults . . . It's an exceptional film not because of its protagonists impressive triumphs, but because it honors their struggle.

Ann Hornaday, *Washington Post*



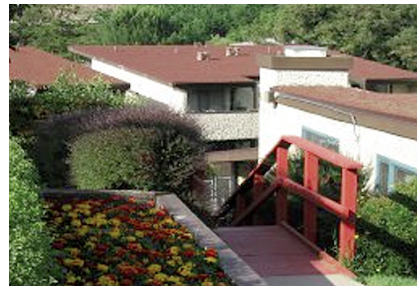
DID YOU KNOW?

The United Church of Christ came into being in 1957 with the union of two Protestant denominations: the Evangelical and Reformed Church and the Congregational Christian Churches. The Congregationalists evolved from the early Pilgrims and Puritans in New England and included some of the leading abolitionists. The Evangelical and Reformed Church was a union of several mostly German denominations and included some of the most influential theologians of the 20th century, including Reinhold Niebuhr and Paul Tillich.

PILGRIM PARK - A LITTLE HISTORY

Now that the recent flurry of move-outs, renovations and move-ins has almost been completed, it's time for a little history of the project.

The Beginning - When our church moved from downtown San Rafael, the congregation acquired a parcel that was much bigger than necessary. After selling off a little for an apartment house, the pastor and leadership decided to borrow \$1.5 million on a 1% government loan program for affordable housing and build Pilgrim Park. It opened in 1971. A separate legal entity was established, a management company was chosen, and the board of directors was selected from church members. History has proven that the overall design concept and size of the complex were excellent. History also disclosed some problems.



Some Corrections - The management company proved to be incompetent and dishonest. We brought in a new company, who promptly brought in new onsite management. Time proved that some construction details were not the best. We didn't have the money for the major repairs that were necessary. So, we borrowed \$4 million and corrected most of the construction faults and built a new community center. It's important that tenants adhere to lease terms. Old management was lax and let a drug culture grow in the complex. New management embarked on a multiyear project to rid the apartments of the problem tenants and to make the neighborhood safe. The fencing around the complex, the lights, the cameras and much tighter management are the result of these efforts.

What have we learned? Read next month's issue of "The TIE" to find out and to bring the history up to date.

Bob De Haan



COMING ATTRACTIONS.....OR UPCOMING FCCSR DO-IT-YOURSELF SUNDAYS

Pastor Sally will be away during four Sundays in June and July. The Board of Ministry has scheduled the following services in her absence.

- **June 3:** Julianne Stokstad will officiate on the anniversary of Jackie Dema joining the church.
- **June 17:** Pride Service. Michael Meehan will officiate. Readings, thoughts and music.
- **July 15:** Music Service. Congregation's favorite hymns and sing-along anthems, and readings.
- **July 22:** Sunday School Service. We learn about the Sunday School and do a project with the children.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



CROSS REBUILT

Special thanks to Michael Meehan and Jamie Cline for restoring the outside cross by the parking lot. The old wood had rotted and become a home for squirrels. The new cross has beautiful redwood, so it will last a long time. We will also be installing lighting so it will be visible after dark

ADOPT A PROJECT AND HELP FRESHEN UP THE CHURCH

Have you noticed a few places around the church are looking a little worse through the years? Perhaps **you** would like to adopt a small project and freshen up our facility.

David Knopf will spend most **Thursday mornings, 9:30-12**, working on some of these, so come join the fun and get the satisfaction of making our world a little more beautiful. Text David at 415 246-6570. Here is a list of projects, but perhaps you have noticed some others:

- Paint the bathroom entry by the classrooms
- Paint the kitchen cupboards
- Remove the peeling wallpaper and repaint the bathroom by the office
- Take a load of old wood and broken chairs to the dump
- Clean up the trash area
- Repaint the parking curbs
- Re-landscape around the front sign



VOLUNTEER TO HELP IMMIGRANTS?

Annie Song-Hill is looking for individuals who are interested in helping immigrants in our community. Please see her to get a survey and find out ways you can provide help.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pastor Search Committee continues to discuss the big questions which need to be addressed in our Church Profile, which goes out to prospective candidates are interested in becoming our settled pastor. These questions are:

Who are we?

Who is God calling us to become?

Who is our neighbor?

This is the slower phase of the process, but necessary in making an accurate and attractive profile. The Search Committee includes Oak Dowling, Anice Flesh, Megan Fuller, Alana Intrater, David Knopf, Helen MacLam, and Michael Meehan.





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

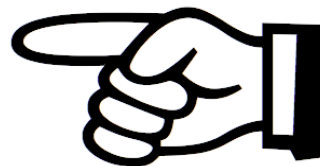
GOLDEN GALS — MAY 8

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesday, May 8, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



TIE DEADLINE for the June Issue - Wed., MAY 23

The deadline for articles and news for the June 2018 issue of The TIE is Wednesday, May 23. Please have all articles for the May issue at the church office by Sunday, May 20. Or, email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com.



MEETINGS, MEETINGS



MAY 9: The Board of Ministry meeting will be on Wednesday, May 9, at 11:30 AM.

MAY 23: The Church Council meeting will be on Wednesday, May 23, at 7 PM in the Plum Room.

MAY 29: The Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, May 29, at 7 PM in the Plum Room.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Sally Train – *Interim Pastor*

Wednesday 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Phone (925) 216-9706

sallytrain@comcast.net

Amy Powell – *Office Manager*











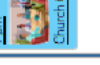






Wednesday 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Thursday 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

office@fccsanrafael.org

FCC Calendar May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am Q&A Guest Host of Sharing Offering	30	May 1	2	3  7:40 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 pm - 12 am Adopt a Project with David	4	5
6  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 11 am Board for the World Offering of Letters	7	8  10 am Golden Girls monthly meeting	9  11:30 am - 12:30 am Board of Ministry meeting	10  7:40 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 pm - 12 am Adopt a Project with David	11	12
13  Mother's Day 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	14	15	16	17  7:40 am Choir Rehearsal 9:30 pm - 12 am Adopt a Project with David	18	19 Armed Forces Day
20  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Recognize and thank BEST volunteers 10 am PENTECOST - Wear Red!	21	22	23  5 am TIE Dyeing for June issue 7 am  Church Council Meeting	24  7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal 9:30 pm - 12 am Adopt a Project with David	25  7 pm Movie Night: The Theory of Everything Asian Center Program Day	26
27  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	28  Memorial Day	29  7 pm Board of Trustees Meeting	30	31  7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal 9:30 pm - 12 am Adopt a Project with David	1	2

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.