

June 2018

First Congregational Church of  
San Rafael

# The TIE

## TRAINS OF THOUGHT by REV. SALLY TRAIN



Your Pastoral Search Committee is working hard to create a Church Profile. One of the questions they need to answer is this:

**“Who is God calling us to become?”**

The question is worth pondering.

The concept of “call” has fallen on hard times in the U.S. Many people think it is just another way of asking:

**“Who do we want to be?”**

But it isn’t. Those are two radically different questions. The first question would most likely be answered by the soul. The second question—by the ego.

Discernment of Call is a soulful process—process of listening, searching, contemplating. It requires humility and surrender. It acknowledges that we are not in charge. The truth is, we are not masters of our own destiny.

We are not, however, lackeys either.

Frederick Buechner says, “The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet.”

By this definition, we are co-creators with God, working as partners. We listen to the still small voice in our hearts and pay attention to what gives us real joy. We take a few steps. We initiate an action and then wait to see how the universe responds. Did our actions produce anything good? Did they fill a need or hunger? Did they bring joy to ourselves or anyone? Does it seem right to take another step?

Perhaps we pray for guidance and God responds. Maybe an opportunity opens up for us. Or an insight spontaneously occurs to us. Perhaps we experience a surge of energy focused in a particular direction. We then respond and follow the opportunity, insight, or energy flow. And so it goes. Like any partnership, it is an ongoing conversation.



If our intention is:

- To be in partnership with God,
- To complete the tasks placed before us with integrity and goodwill,
- To respond to the needs of those around us with compassion and care,
- To use our gifts and talents to make the world a better place,
- To stay in touch with our deep gladness and share it with the world,

Then we will have answered the call.

If we do these things we can trust that we will become the people, the church, God is calling us to be.

*Pastor Sally*

## EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Greetings to our beloved church family!

Several recent events have made us aware of how very important it is to have current and accurate emergency contact information for all of our members and those who regularly attend services. When accidents or medical emergencies occur at church, it is so helpful to quickly call that person's family member or close friend so they can offer help, advice, and support. Perhaps they would meet the person at the hospital, or drive them to a doctor, or bring from home any medications that person regularly takes. To respond quickly and effectively, we need to have the phone numbers close at hand. Cell numbers are probably the most useful.



We also need to know who to call in case someone suddenly stops attending and we are concerned about that person's wellbeing. As a church community, we care about each other and want to enfold one another in a network of love.

Recently, we invited people at church to fill out Emergency Contact Information forms which have been collected and are being compiled into a list. Jackie Dema generously volunteered to contact anyone who had not filled out a form and offer them the opportunity to supply that information. We hope you will share with us the names and cell phone numbers of those people who would be the most helpful to you in case of emergency.

Are you allergic to anything? If so, would you like to include that information on the list? It might be useful in case of an emergency. This is, however, completely voluntary. Only share as much information as makes you comfortable.

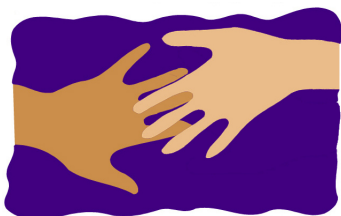
This list will not be published. A copy will be in the church office. Another copy will be given to the pastor.

We are so grateful for our compassionate and caring church.

*Pastor Sally*

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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



**May 27 - June 2**

Jean and Ray O'Leary

**June 3 - 9**

Jeff and Trista Paul

**June 10 - 16**

Milagro Ramirez

**June 17 - 23**

Lucinda Ray and Charles Little

**June 24 - 30**

Sher and Greg Ripley, and  
Blair

# *Come and Worship with us!*



## **June 3 Communion Sunday**

**Guest Preacher: Rev. Julianne Stokstad**

**Celebration of 10th Anniversary of Jackie Dema joining our church!**

We are delighted that our former minister can lead us in worship and communion on this special day. She will be preaching from Psalm 139: 1-18, a favorite of hers. It will be wonderful to see Julianne again.

Following worship, Jackie will host a quiche and salad lunch. It will be a day of great joy!

## **June 10 Growing Older, Growing Onward**

We will explore Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 4: 13 - 5:1 in which he says, "Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day." Pastor Sally will reflect on spiritual maturity in individuals and in congregations. We will explore how our church is being renewed day by day and who God is calling us to become.

Following worship, Oak Dowling will offer a presentation and discussion of the Trial of Jesus.

## **June 17 June is Gay Pride month!**

Michael Meehan will lead us in a celebration of LGBTQ Pride and the welcoming attitude our church extends to all of God's children. We will celebrate diversity, inclusivity, and unconditional love. The scriptures will be Matthew 22: 34-40 and Galatians 3: 21-29. Michael will share some of his own story and his thoughts on true Christian love. Please invite your friends and wear bright colors to the service

## **June 24 Sailing the Rough Seas**

The Gospel of Mark, Chapter 4, verses 35-41 describes a time when Jesus and the disciples were in a boat crossing the sea when a violent storm blows up and threatens to capsize their boat. We have all experienced storms in our lives. Jesus has the power to still the storm. It was true then, and it is true now. Pastor Sally will reflect on this powerful and inspiring story.

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

**Church School and Child Care**



## PRIDE MONTH - WHAT IS IT? WHY ARE WE CELEBRATING IT?



Gay pride or LGBT pride is the positive stance against discrimination and violence toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people to promote their self-affirmation, dignity, equality rights, increase their visibility as a social group, build community, and celebrate sexual diversity and gender variance. Pride, as opposed to shame and social stigma, is the predominant outlook that bolsters most LGBT rights movements throughout the world.

Pride month is celebrated in the month of June each year in commemoration of the Stonewall Riots in New York in 1969, where Gay Rights activists rioted to protest the harassment members of the Gay community were suffering at the hands of the police.

The United Church of Christ has been advocating for the support and inclusion of the LGBT community since April 12, 1969. In 1972 the UCC denomination ordained the first openly gay minister. The UCC has been on the forefront of fighting for the rights of the oppressed dating all the way back to the Congregationalists fighting for the human rights of the slaves that fought back on the Amistad in 1839, ultimately resulting in the Supreme Court declaring them to not be property and their ultimate freedom.

The First Congregational Church of San Rafael voted to become an open and affirming church in 1995, and has aggressively fought to help the outcast and welcomed those whom others have turned away. The church believes that “Jesus did not turn anyone away, and neither do we.” Let us enjoy this month of Pride and celebrate the great history of our church and the bright future of our world.

### **THE TRIAL OF JESUS SUNDAY, JUNE 10 - 11:30 AM**

Oak Dowling will be presenting a preview of his lecture and discussion titled "The Trial of Jesus." He intends to present this later in the summer at Dominican University.

The lecture will include film clips from the History channel featuring Biblical scholars discussing the historical context in which the trial of Jesus took place.

Oak found it to be very educational, interesting, inspiring, and challenging. He is excited to share with you what he has learned. There will be time for questions, answers, and discussion. We hope you will attend. The program will be about 1 hour and 45 minutes. Come if you can and leave when you must.



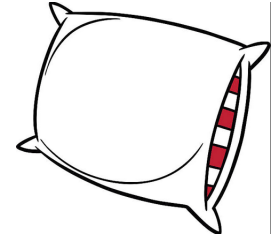


## BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



### PILLOW SUNDAY IN JUNE 10

This year Homeward Bound is in need of clean, comfy pillows. We will have the collection on June 10. If you need to deliver your donation sooner, contact Lynn Grant, so 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, so they can do the shopping for you. Thank you for your continued commitment to Homeward Bound's mission.

### THANKS TO THE R.E.S.T. VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all those who contributed to this year's R.E.S.T. program by working together to provide a monthly meal for homeless women in Marin County. Pictured below, from left, Lucinda Ray, Lynn Grant, Sue Spofford, Sher Ripley, Anice Flesh, Colleen Beery, Annie Song-Hill. Absent: Jackie Dema, Caryl Hodges, Betty Von Glahn



### BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS - 61



Thanks to everyone who participated in this important effort. After worship on Sunday, May 6, members of the congregation wrote 61 letters!

Your letters will 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 also 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. THANK YOU!



## 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 is working hard on this project.**
- ☐ 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 HAS BEGUN

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 works:

- 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 began in May.

Those wishing visits or suggesting folks who would like a visit, please contact Pastor Sally at [sallytrain@comcast.net](mailto:sallytrain@comcast.net) or 925-216-9706. Or contact the Care Team captain for that month. **In June, the Team Captain is Hilary Spaulding. She can be contacted at [hilary.spaulding@gmail.com](mailto:hilary.spaulding@gmail.com) or 415-215-5769.**

## MOVIE NIGHT JUNE 22 - MILK

June 23-24 will be Gay Pride weekend in the Bay Area, and this November will mark 40 years since San Francisco Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Mosconi were assassinated at City Hall. Also, we seem to be stuck in a time when brave, unselfish leadership on issues that really matter has gone missing.

Any of these would be a good reason to re-visit Gus Van Sant's landmark biography of Milk, but the most important may be that it is simply a terrific movie – possibly the most human depiction of a human rights figure ever filmed.

Sean Penn's Oscar-winning performance shows us the full scope of Milk's journey from a funny, self-effacing, aging hippie, to a political leader who was able to help people understand that the battle to end discrimination against any minority is really a struggle to free all of us from our demons.



**7 PM Friday, June 22, in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park**

*Sean Penn never tries to show Harvey Milk as a hero, and never needs to. He shows him as an ordinary man, kind, funny, flawed, shrewd, idealistic, yearning for a better world. . . There is a remarkable shot near the end, showing a candle-light march reaching as far as the eyes can see. This is actual footage. It is emotionally devastating. And it comes as the result of one man's decisions in life. -*

Roger Ebert



### DID YOU KNOW?

The United Church of Christ is the first historically white denomination to ordain an African-American, the first to ordain a woman, the first to ordain an openly gay man, and the first Christian church to affirm the right of same-gender couples to marry.

## 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.

**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.

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

Bob De Haan

## NEW MEMBERS' CLASS



If you have 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](mailto: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 in late June or July 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. Then we will welcome into membership those who wish to join.





## JUNE BIRTHDAYS

4 — Nancy Sangster  
7 — Sean Kaufman  
14 — Russell Roane  
18 — Robert Smith  
28 — Randall MacKenzie  
28 — Inham Girard  
30 — Bob De Haan  
30 — Christine Bandettini

## GOLDEN GALS — JUNE 12

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesday, June 12, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



## TIE DEADLINE for the July-August Issue - Thurs., JUNE 28

The deadline for articles and news for the summer July-August 2018 issue of The TIE is Thursday, June 28. Please have all articles for the July-August issue at the church office by Sunday, June 24. Or, email your articles to [lucindaray@aol.com](mailto:lucindaray@aol.com).



## MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS

**WED. JUNE 20:** The Church Council will meet at 7 PM  
**TUES. JUNE 26:** The Board of Trustees will meet at 7 PM.  
**SUN. JULY 1:** The Board of Mission will meet at 11:15 AM.

## 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)

**Amy Powell** – *Office Manager*

Tuesday 11 AM - 2 PM  
Wednesday 9:30 AM - 2 PM  
Thursday 9:30 AM - 2 PM  
Office Phone: 415-479-2747  
[office@fccsanrafael.org](mailto:office@fccsanrafael.org)

# FCC Calendar June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>27</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>28</b>  Memorial Day	<b>29</b>  7 am Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am - 12 am Adopt a Project with David	<b>June 1</b> <b>2</b>	
<b>3</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:15 am Quiche and Salad Lunch celebrating Jackie DeMa	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>  7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am - 12 am Adopt a Project with David	<b>8</b> <b>9</b>	
<b>10</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:00 am - 1:15 pm Pillow Sunday - bring pillows 1:30 am - 1:45 pm The Trial of Jesus Presentation	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  10 am Golden Gate monthly meeting	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>  Flag Day 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am - 12 am Adopt a Project with David	<b>15</b> <b>16</b>	
<b>17</b>  Father's Day  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am Praise Sunday	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am - 12 am Adopt a Project with David	<b>22</b>  7 am Movie Night: Milk, Die Haan Center Pilgrim Bible	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6 am ILE Deadline for July August issue 7:40 pm Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> <b>30</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).