

November 2018

First Congregational Church of
San Rafael

The TIE

TRAINS OF THOUGHT by REV. SALLY TRAIN



Season of Gratitude

Love and Gratitude are the two attributes that form the foundation for a spiritual life. I recently read that of the two, Gratitude is the most sublime. I was surprised to read that. It got me thinking and I realized there is some truth in that statement.

Love can be confusing and difficult. It is often accompanied with desire or need. We tend to want to possess or control that which we love. Finding the balance between self-love and love of the other can be tricky. Love tends to be active. We want to give to the other. But when are we giving too much for our own good? When are our “gifts” actually crippling the other – preventing them from growing into their best self? Most of us spend our entire lives trying to negotiate the pathways of love. Finding the balance between closeness and distance; between helping and challenging; between giving and receiving.

I have heard that in other languages such as Persian, there are numerous words for “love” which distinguish between all the different types. In English, we

have just the one word: “love.” That fact might account for a lot of the confusion.

Gratitude, on the other hand, is simple. We are simply grateful for what we have received and say “thank you.” We do not ask for more. We do not yearn for more. Thus, the attribute of gratitude fosters contentment and inner peace. A life of gratitude centers on noticing all the blessings we have received, all the gifts that surround us. A life of gratitude does not wait until we have acquired our dreams in order to be happy. It does not require everything to be perfect before we can feel contentment. A life of gratitude is a life lived with a sense of appreciation and wonder.

Gratitude is essentially receptive, not active. We simply receive the other with appreciation and do not try to change anything. In that way, we honor the other.

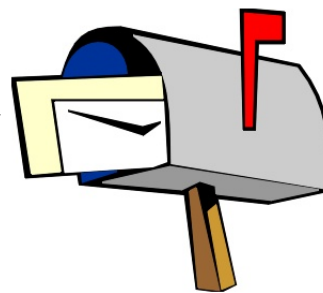
The word "gratitude" is written in a flowing, cursive script in a reddish-pink color.

Gratitude is sublime. In this season of gratitude, I invite you to focus on the gifts you have received, the beauty that surrounds you, the good that fills your world. I invite you to express words of gratitude to the people in your lives and prayers of gratitude to the God of your understanding. I invite you to notice what happens in your heart and soul as you carry out these simple acts. I suspect that the more we focus on gratitude, the easier it will be to express love appropriately.

Pastor Sally

COMING SOON TO A MAILBOX NEAR YOU...

Your chance to share in the Thanksgiving season by pledging your financial support to the church in the coming year. Your pledge helps the Trustees and Council make a realistic budget for 2019. This is particularly important as we move forward in our search for a settled pastor. With a solid budget we are able to attract and choose better candidates, so this is a particularly import year to consider how you are sharing with the church, and perhaps give a nudge more.



SURPRISINGLY FUN SPIFF-UP THE CHURCH DAY - DECEMBER 1

We will clean and polish the church to get ready for Advent on Saturday, December 1, from 9AM -12 noon. Fun in ways you'd never expect, and a great way to start Advent! Mark your calendars now!

BRING PHOTOS OF VETERANS SUNDAY NOVEMBER 11

Please bring photographs of veterans in your family to help decorate the communion table on Sunday, November 11, in honor of Veterans Day.



NOVEMBER CARE TEAM

The care team for November is headed by Hilary Spaulding (415 446-0125) with Cathi Fuller and Annie Song-Hill.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



October 28 - November 3

Jack Bransford

November 4 - 10

Paul and Marcy Burks

November 11 - 17

Cara and Eric Caindec

November 18 - 24

Michael Chan

November 25 - December 1

Jamie Cline and Michael Meehan
Taylor, Jacob, Michael, and
Tristan,

Come and Worship with us!



November 4 Communion Sunday Through Darkness into Light

Our gospel reading is from Mark 10: 46-52 – the story of blind Bartimaeus. We will reflect on the symbolic meaning of blindness and the healing of that blindness. We will talk about the transition from darkness to light. We will hear stories of the amazing ways God has brought light into hearts that were filled with darkness and despair. It will be an inspirational Sunday.

November 11 Gifts of the Spirit

We will celebrate the way the Spirit moved through our Biblical ancestors and the way that same Spirit moves through us and our church. We will review the story of Pentecost, found in Acts 2: 1-24, and then read Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians 12: 3b – 13 in which he talks about the gifts of the Spirit. We will reflect on the gifts we have each been given and the ways we can best use them for the good of all. We will have an opportunity to name the ways we would like to participate in the life of the congregation in the coming year.

November 18 Thanksgiving Sunday

As we move into Thanksgiving week, we will take the opportunity to review the story of that first feast and how it became a national holiday. We will recall the spiritual importance of giving thanks. We will read Deuteronomy 26: 1- 11 and reflect on our own stories. We will celebrate the ways God is at work in our lives and express gratitude.

After worship, enjoy Holiday Shopping in the Community Room featuring beautiful hand-made items from all over the world.

November 25 A Whole New World

In the Gospel According to Mark 13: 1-10, Jesus predicts the destruction of the great temple in Jerusalem but tells his disciples not to be alarmed. All the conflict is the beginning of the birth of a new world. We will reflect on this passage and the way God continually makes the world “new.”

EVERY SUNDAY: 10-11:15 AM
Church School and Child Care





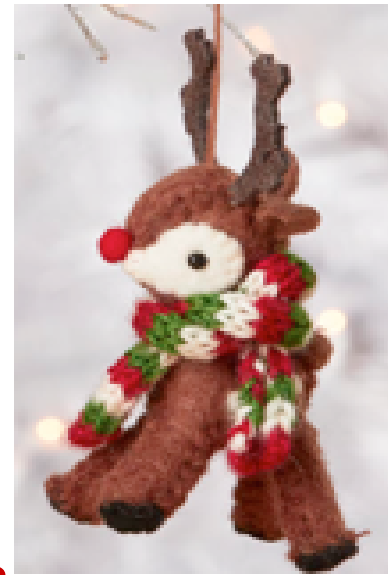
Holiday Shopping PARTY

**Saturday
November 17**

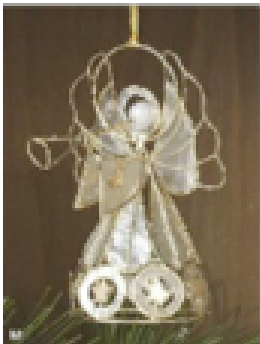
7:00-9:00 PM

Sunday November 18

11:30 AM-1:00 PM



Come and enjoy a cup of hot cider, chat with friends, and get a head start on holiday shopping. It's all happening on Saturday night, November 17th, from 7:00-9:00 PM, and Sunday, from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM in the Community Room of the First Congregational Church of San Rafael.



The Board of Mission is hosting this holiday event featuring items from Serrv, a nonprofit organization with long-term connections with disadvantaged artisans in 25 countries worldwide. So the gifts you buy will give twice! Once to the artisan who created it, since 90% of the purchase price goes to them. And then again when you give your purchase to a friend or family member.



A beautiful selection of high quality, fair traded gift and home items will be available. These unique gifts have stories behind them of an artisan or farmer receiving a fair wage for their work and earning income for a healthy future.

Refreshments for shoppers will also be available, so bring your friends and get ready for the holiday season at the same time.



A LETTER FROM YOUR CHURCH COUNCIL



Dear members and friends,

As you know, on September 16 and 23rd, Pastor Sally led us in an exercise that looked at the next big thing at FCC San Rafael. On the 16th we identified nine projects/efforts recommended by the congregation. They were:

REFLECTION AND DISCUSSION

A Day to Decide

1. Get the word out that we are a progressive church for the 21st century.
2. Special Events such as music concerts, lectures, and community cook-outs
3. Immigrant Support in partnership with Marin Interfaith Council
4. Meditation Group
5. Incorporate into worship more praise/contemporary/upbeat music
6. Fellowship Events
7. Refurbish Bathrooms
8. Improve Acoustics in Community Room
9. Adult Study Programs

On the 23rd, you voted for the projects that you could 1) put your energy into and/or 2) put money into. The following four were the top vote getters by far:

1. Get the word out that we are a progressive church for the 21st century.
2. Special Events such as music concerts, lectures, and community cook-outs
3. Immigrant Support in partnership with Marin Interfaith Council
4. Improve Acoustics in Community Room

The next closest down from these 4 was 'Incorporate into worship more praise/contemporary/upbeat music'.

Your council will be looking at these, anticipating what will be needed to get these programs started, and they will be incorporated into the search committee's church profile. We will be, over time, looking at people who want to commit their time and leadership in these tremendously worthwhile projects. I'd like to thank everyone who participated, as there were a lot of very good ideas, I think we have some great things to head towards.

Your Council,
Louis Frost, Moderator



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



FAMILY TO FAMILY GIFT COLLECTION - NOV. 4 - DEC. 1



The Board of Mission invites you to help provide Christmas gifts for two small families in our county. Each year, members of our congregation contribute gifts for this important project organized by Ritter Center in San Rafael. Ritter Center interviews needy families throughout the county and finds out what special wishes the children and adults have for the holiday. Then they provide us with that information for two small families, so that we can provide items they really long for. On Sunday, November 4th, Judy

Girard will have a sign up sheet available in the Community Room after worship, so that you can choose what gift you wish to contribute. On Sunday, December 1, we will collect all those gifts after worship, and members of the Board of Mission will deliver them to Ritter Center for distribution to the families.

More information about the specific gifts will be available on November 4, 11, 18, and 25, and the Board of Mission hopes many of you will want to participate. If you want to participate but shopping is difficult for you, please let Judy Girard know, and someone on the Board of Mission will do the actual shopping for you.



Golden Gate Association
of the United Church of Christ

God
is still
speaking,

Fall Gathering: November 17, 2018

10:00AM - 1:00PM, followed by a simple lunch

at San Carlos Community Church UCC, 1336 Arroyo Ave., San Carlos

Come to the Golden Gate Association Fall Gathering! NCNC, PAAM, Common Global Ministries are co-sponsoring this event. Worship begins at 10:00am.

This event will be hosted by San Carlos Community UCC, along with Chalice DOC, Kalavaria UCC, and United Samoan Ministries.

FACILITY UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES

October Facility Update

During October we continued helping get ready for Abbey Montessori re-opening downstairs. We had all sewer-lines rotorized and are working with an electrician to get the outside downstairs lights working again.

In this area of high fire danger, we have had an arborist review our trees for both health and safety. It has been recommended that we remove the Eucalyptus trees between the pre-school playground and street as well as remove some other bushes and the smaller Monterey Pine mostly underneath the taller Stone Pine. This would be in addition to pruning the dead wood and low branches of the other trees. The arborist believes these recommendations will reduce fire danger and make our existing trees healthier. The Trustees are considering these recommendations. Don't be too surprised if you see fewer trees blocking the view of our church from the street.

Still high on the agenda is refreshing the restroom by the office, which has peeling wall paper. The broken mirror did get replaced, but we are hoping someone will take on the project of beautifying the walls. Please contact David Knopf if interested.



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, 2017.**
- ☒ 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

NOVEMBER 30 MOVIE NIGHT - *MOONSTRUCK*

For the holiday season, we all deserve a truly joyful movie, and *Moonstruck* could make the most hardened Grinch fall in love with New York at Christmas, going to the opera and Italian-Americans with big, operatic passions.

Loretta Castorini is a young widow, living with her family, who is about to settle into a “comfortable” second marriage with a man she merely likes. Then, in the most unexpected way, she discovers real love (and the opera) with a passionate baker who is, inconveniently, the estranged younger brother of her fiancé. It all ends well, and the complications are worked out against a visual love-letter to New York at the holidays and to the music of *La Bohème*.

Moonstruck was nominated for six Academy Awards and won three: Best Actress (Cher), Best Supporting Actress (Olympia Dukakis) and Best Original Screenplay (John Patrick Shanley.)

“Seeing [*Moonstruck*] again this week, I was struck by how subtle and gentle it is, despite all the noise and emotion. How it loves its characters, and refuses to limit their personalities to a few comic traits. . . . The movie makes you laugh, which is very difficult, but it also makes you feel more open to your better impulses, and that is harder still.”

Roger Ebert, 2003

7 PM Friday November 30 in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park

Trailers and links to reviews of *Moonstruck* are on the FCCSR website.

MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS

BOARD OF MISSION

NOVEMBER 11: The Board of Mission will meet Sunday, at 11:30 in the Plum Room..

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOVEMBER 27: The Board of Trustees will meet Tuesday, November 27.

CHURCH COUNCIL

NOVEMBER 28: The Church Council meeting is at 7 PM in the Plum Room.



A THOUGHTFUL LETTER FROM ONE OF OUR MEMBERS

Is It Time To Change the Name of the Dixie School District?

There is an excellent Kindergarten through 8th grade elementary school district called the Dixie School District in San Rafael. Both of my sons attended school in the district and got an excellent education. I am a former school board trustee. I served on the school board from 1991 to 1995. During this time, there was widespread belief that the District was named after the granddaughter of James Miller, who donated the land and labor to build the Dixie school house, now a historical monument adjacent to Miller Creek Middle School. There was also a popular teacher named Dixie who worked at Vallecito, one of the three elementary schools in the district at the time I was a trustee. The issue of a name change has arisen periodically since before my tenure on the Board.

We now know that the name of “Dixie” came as a reference to the Old South with its history of slavery and segregation. When the Old Dixie School House was seeking national monument status, testimony was given by the granddaughter of the original owner of the land that is now the Dixie School District. Her name was not Dixie, but actually, Frances. The application to the National Park Service in 1972 states,

“Mrs. Leits (Mrs. Frances Miller Leits, daughter of Bernard Miller and granddaughter of James Miller) also uncovered the origin of the school's name when she stated that her grandfather, not being a man to turn down a challenge, named the building on a dare. Marin County, in 1864, was hotly pro-Northern, and the fact that several "gentlemen" from the South helped construct the first schoolhouse prompted someone to dare James Miller to name the school "Dixie." He did. Thus Dixie opened in March of 1864.”

The Dixie School District was established during the Civil War (1861-1865). At the time, the Democratic party was strongly associated with the Confederacy. An article in the *Marin Journal* from June 4, 1891 states,

“The precinct or district itself (current area that includes the Dixie School District) has always been a Democratic stronghold, at some of the elections the entire vote polled being Democratic. During wartimes the district was called Dixie by the Republicans in derision, and the name clung to it ever since.”

However, whether or not this information came to light, it would still be right to change the name. The common understanding of the term, “Dixie” connotes the Confederacy. This is reason enough to change the name. At a recent school board meeting, several African American residents spoke about the hurt that the name evokes. With the heightened awareness of Black Lives Matter, and the statues of the confederacy coming down, what we choose to name our public institutions has meaning. It sends a message to the world about who we are. We need to change the name of the District because the common meaning of “Dixie” does not represent the district I know. I am joined by three former school board trustees who also have children who went through the school. Judy Tipple (Phyllis McGuire (1994-2000), and Florence Webb (1981-1997) join me in urging the current school board to begin the process of finding a new name for the District.

The Marin Interfaith Council is in the process of taking a stand on this issue. The Congregational Church is known for speaking out on social justice issues. I thought you might be interested in learning about an issue in our backyard. Our Church Council stated that it would be a longer process of discernment to determine if we, as a church would take a stand. It would also take a vote of the membership in order for the church to endorse the change. However, individuals in the church are free to add their name as a member of FCCSR,

If you would like more information you can visit: www.changethename.net

Annie Song-Hill



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

8 — Jessica MacKenzie
8 — Ian MacKenzie
16 — Eckhard Mahl

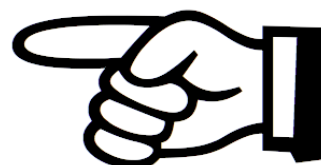
GOLDEN GALS — Tuesday, NOVEMBER 13

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



TIE DEADLINE for the November Issue - MON., NOV. 26

The deadline for articles and news for the December 2018 issue of The TIE is Monday, November 26. Please have all articles for the July-August issue at the church office by Sunday, November 25. 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

Amy Powers – *Office Manager*

Tuesday 11 AM- 2 PM







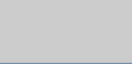







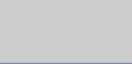




Wednesday 9:30 AM - 2 PM

Thursday 9:30 AM - 2 PM

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

office@fccsanrafael.org

FCC Calendar November 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	29	30	31  Halloween	November 1 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	2	3
4 Daylight Saving (End) 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	5	6	7	8 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	9	10
11 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	12 Veteran's Day	13 10 am  Golden Gals' monthly meeting	14	15 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	16	17 7 am - 9 pm  HOLIDAY SHOPPING PARTY
18 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	19	20	21	22  Thanksgiving 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	23	24
25 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	26 5 pm  TIE Deadline for November issue	27 7 pm  Board of Trustees Meeting	28 7 pm  Church Council Meeting	29 7:40 am  Choir Rehearsal	30 7 pm  Movie Night: MOONSTUCK! De Haan Center Program Desk	1 9 am - 12 pm  SPEED UP THE CHURCH DAY

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.