

October 2018

First Congregational Church of  
San Rafael

## The TIE

### **TRAINS OF THOUGHT** by **REV. SALLY TRAIN**



Your Pastoral Search Committee, after listening carefully to you, wrote the following statement to describe First Congregational Church of San Rafael:

Our congregation is a small, but mighty faith-based community that is welcoming, inclusive, theologically diverse, and seeking to deepen our spiritual lives as we journey together with God. We value diversity, embrace mystery, are open to growth, and provide a dedicated church family, concerned about each other, and striving for peace and justice, both locally and globally.

They then wrote the following in answer to the question, “Who is God calling us to become?”

God calls us to become a congregation that offers a diverse and inclusive community; one that nurtures and develops faith and acknowledges mystery. God's love leads us to welcome people of all ages and all racial groups, ethnici-

ty, sexual orientations, and gender identities. We are inspired to grow spiritually, follow the teachings and examples of Jesus, and express our faith through our missions and action, locally and globally. God guides us to be a light in the world, bringing hope, justice, and love and leading the way to overcome the darkness within us, among us, and beyond us.

Over the last few weeks we have talked about concrete actions we can take to embody this vision and make it a reality. I was delighted that our discerning process revealed a great deal of support for GETTING THE WORD OUT! Telling our neighbors who we are, what we stand for, and inviting them to join us. Putting together a “marketing plan” (to use a business term) to communicate to the world what we have that is unique and valuable.

As a minister, I tend to be creative and innovative. I tend to create new programs, events, or special

worship services. I have consistently found my greatest frustration to be this: if I am creating the event, I do not have time or energy to also creatively promote the event! I have always wondered why churches do not have “advertising departments.” Successful businesses do!



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When I first came to FCCSR, I read the By-Laws and learned that there are three boards: Board of Trustees, Board of Ministry, and Board of Mission. I began to muse, “What if we also had a Board of Celebration and Invitation?” A board whose sole mission was to celebrate whatever the church did – photograph it, write it up, and publish it – and invite others to join in. FCCSR is a treasure of a church. Why hide that radiant light? LET IT SHINE!

*Pastor Sally*



## **PASTOR SALLY'S TIME WITH US EXTENDED**

Our original covenant was for Pastor Sally to be with us at least until September 2018. At the recommendation of the Trustees, the Council voted to extend her covenant with us at least 6 months, until the end of March 2019.

The covenant may be extended after that on a month-to-month basis. Pastor Sally also now has a little more time available, so her time was increased from 45% to 55%. This will allow her a little more time for pastoral care and church growth activities such as helping us improve our social media presence. Her compensation was also increased \$1500 per month, with the intention this would enable her to purchase health insurance, now that she is more than 50% time.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

In September the older children focused on healing stories of Jesus and the early church. This month they will be considering the foundation stories of Moses--burning bushes, oppression and plagues, precarious escapes, mountain top revelations--dramatic stuff! Within it all are themes we still struggle with--what are we called to do, what is justice, who is God, how can we live together?



## **OCTOBER CARE TEAM**

The care team for October is headed by Jackie Dema (415 446-0125) with Val Sherer, Denise Walker, and Tessa Templeman.

## **PRAYER PARTNERS**

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



**Sept. 30 - October 6**  
Richard and Denise Walker

**October 7 - 13**  
Lise Adams

**October 14 - 20**  
Barbara Alexander

**October 21 - 27**  
Colleen Beery

**October 28 - November 3**  
Jack Bransford



# *Come and Worship* with us!

## **October 7      World Communion Sunday Neighbors in Need Special Offering**

We will gather around the communion table and share a sacred meal with millions of Christians all over the world. As we do this, we will reflect on what it means to be truly human. We will read Psalm 8 with that eternal question posed to God: "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?" We will also be mindful of our neighbors who may be in need and bring our special offerings for them.

## **October 14      Pilgrim Park Sunday**

Clean, secure, affordable housing is one of the essential elements of a stable life. Children need it to thrive. The elderly need it to survive. Everyone needs it as a foundation for living a productive life. Decades ago, Pastor Francis Geddes had the insight and vision to recognize that affordable housing was going to become scarce in Marin County. After prayerful reflection, the members of this church made the bold decision to convert their blessing of plentiful land into a blessing for others – affordable housing. And so, Pilgrim Park was built next door to the church.

We will hear the amazing story of how Pilgrim Park came to be and celebrate those who contributed their time, expertise, and money to the project. We will particularly celebrate with Nancy Smith, Margie Rollman, and Francisco Galindo who have managed the project for many years with grace and courage. Join us for this historic event.

## **October 21      Blessing of the Animals**

Bring the animal companions in your life and join us in the courtyard for a spirited (but brief) worship service in which we will reflect on the many gifts we receive from animals. In the spirit of St. Francis, each animal will receive an individual blessing, a prayer for its family, and a treat.

## **October 28      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.

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

**Church School and Child Care**





## BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

## NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING OCTOBER 7

On Sunday, October 7, we will receive your offering for Neighbors in Need. N.I.N. is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.

Also, one-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.

This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Our church, FCC San Rafael, has a long tradition of strongly supporting this offering. The Mission Board hopes we will all strongly support this tradition!

## PLEASE DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK

For some reason, our donations to the Food Bank have dwindled down alarmingly in the past few months, especially since we moved the collection barrel from the Narthex to the Community Room. But the need for your donations is as strong as ever.

You can leave your contributions for the Food Bank in the narthex. Peanut butter, tuna, canned soup, pasta, rice, and other staples are always needed.

Please pick up a few staples when you shop, and bring them with you to church!



## FACILITY UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES

September was a busy month for church maintenance. Abby Montessori Preschool wants to begin using again the downstairs preschool space they have been renting for several years, but seldom using. They had the space nicely cleaned and set up when they discovered water coming out from under the walls because the water heater in the long closets behind the walls was leaking. After some plumbing work and much mopping by Louis, David, Neko (their site director), and Francisco of Pilgrim Park, the water heater was replaced. Luckily, the leak was caught quickly, so the damage was minimal.



Other related maintenance has included replacing and painting many pickets in the fence and gate, and replacing the leaky irrigation valves near the preschool entrance.

We also owe thanks to Ronaldo of SOS Electric who repaired the overhead lights in the Community Room without charging us.

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

## OCTOBER 26 MOVIE NIGHT - CASABLANCA

**“Of all the gin joints, in all the towns, in all the world, she walks into mine.”**  
**“We’ll always have Paris”**  
**“Round up the usual suspects”**

It’s number 1 or 2 on every list of the best American movies ever made. We all think we’ve seen it. But when was the last time you really watched it . . . on a big screen . . . without interruption?

When you do, you’ll understand why it is such a classic.

Coming just a year after Pearl Harbor, *Casablanca* echoed and amplified much of what Americans were discovering about themselves: gritty, ironic humor in the face of mortal danger . . . determination to do the right thing, disguised with a shell of seeming cynicism . . . the inevitable heartbreak of love in wartime. All in just 102 minutes of perfect movie-making.

No commercials.  
Bring Kleenex.



**7 PM Friday October 26 in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park**

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



### MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS

#### BOARD OF MISSION

**OCTOBER 7: The Board of Mission** will meet Sunday, at 11:30 in the Plum Room. We will be organizing for the SERRV sale and the Ritter Center Holiday Family gift project.

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**OCTOBER 23: The Board of Trustees** will meet Tuesday, October 24.

#### CHURCH COUNCIL

**OCTOBER 17: The Church Council** meeting is at 7 PM in the Plum Room.

## PILGRIM PARK NEWS - WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED?

Pilgrim Park opened in 1971, 46 years ago. With one exception, church members have been the directors. We've had three professional management companies and many on site management personnel. The present team has been in place for up to 25 years.

Most importantly we've learned that high quality affordable housing can be successful, both financially and in meeting the housing needs of its tenants. But it hasn't been easy at times. Here are the important elements for success:



**Right Configuration** – The church founders chose a plan and size that facilitated effective management and fostered community.

**Affordable Cost Structure** – The cost of the church donated land and construction cost (financed by a government low interest loan) were low. Thus operations were not burdened by high costs. A project like Pilgrim Park would be almost impossible to create today in Marin without massive subsidies. Yes, in some instances original construction details were subpar and necessitated major repairs about 12 years ago.

**Right Management Team** – We had to fire the original management company for fraud and poor onsite management. The new management company brought in great on site management. Our current team runs a tight ship with great compassion.

**Tenant improvements and Services** – Interiors, landscaping, etc. are maintained like new. We provide extra services to tenants such as annual parties, free food, yoga, a community garden, social service assistance, etc. Thus tenants like where they live and help keep the community in great shape.

**Board Direction** – The Board has determined the above policies and manages only enough to make sure the policies are followed. The Board does not overmanage.

These are the major elements for success. There are many minor reasons for the success of Pilgrim Park.

**Conclusion** – Pilgrim Park is a valuable resource that meets a great community need. The project is financially strong and worth many times the original cost. It is a hidden gem which we can all be proud of.

Bob De Haan



## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

6 — Alan Miller  
 13 — Benjamin Dempsey  
 17 — Ann Dannecker  
 19 — Jean O'Leary  
 23 — Sher Ripley  
 25 — Tessa Templeman  
 25 — Deb Smith  
 31 — Bruce Weir

## GOLDEN GALS — Tuesday, OCTOBER 9

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesday, October 9, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



## TIE DEADLINE for the November Issue - TUES., OCT. 23

The deadline for articles and news for the November 2018 issue of The TIE is Tuesday, October 23rd.. Please have all articles for the July-August issue at the church office by Sunday, October 21. 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)

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

# FCC Calendar October 2018

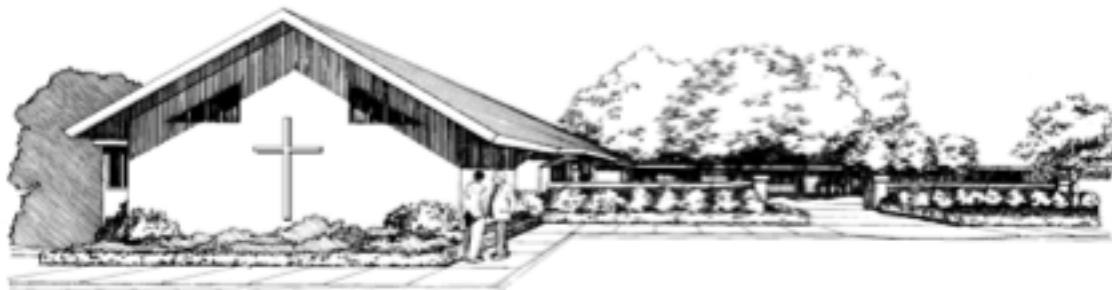
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>30</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>October 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am Neighbors in Need Offering 11:15 am Board of Mission Meeting	<b>8</b>  Columbus Day	<b>9</b> 10 am  Golden Gals monthly meeting	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am Pilgrim Park Sunday	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7 am  Church Council Meeting	<b>18</b> 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Sweetest Day
<b>21</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am Blessing of the Animals	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 5 am  TIE Deadline for November issue 7 am Board of Trustees Meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 7 am  Movie Night Casablanca De Haan Center Pilgrim Park	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>  Halloween	<b>1</b> 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	<b>2</b>	<b>3</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).

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**United Church of Christ**

**THE TIE**

**OCTOBER 2018**



**We're on the Web!**

*See us at:*

[www.fccSanRafael.org](http://www.fccSanRafael.org)

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(415) 479-2747***

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**Address Correction Requested**