

TRAINS OF THOUGHT by REV. SALLY TRAIN



Season of Change and Growth

Spring is here and with it comes warm weather, baby ducks, and wildflowers. It is a time of change and new growth.

The church is also looking forward to change and new growth. The Pastoral Search Committee has begun conducting interviews with potential pastors. I hope you are all holding them in prayer and asking God to guide their search and send just the right minister to be with this sweet community for the next few years.

With the new minister will come change and hopefully new growth in many areas. The new minister will come with his or her ideas, perspective, practices, talents, and understanding of God's call. It is my hope that you will embrace the person and the change he or she brings, thus opening yourselves to learning and new growth.

I want to remind you that in today's world, churches are called to transformation and growth in ways that move far beyond just welcoming a new minister. The Christian church in America is undergoing a profound transformation. As I have said before, Christendom is dead and with it the assumption that people will automatically join a church, bring their children to Sunday School, and contribute generously. Church attendance in America has been declining for decades. At the same time, there is a deep spiritual hunger and growing interest in spirituality.

Churches need to figure out how to respond to that hunger and provide spiritual nurture in ways that reach people's hearts and transform their lives. In order to fulfill that mission, they need to figure out how to keep their doors open and meet their financial obligations. Creative thinking and innovative approaches to both of those challenges are going to be key in the coming years. Change and new growth. Constantly assessing what the community needs and responding to those needs.



One of the religious organizations that has done this very well is the Sisters of Mercy in Burlingame. They were founded in 1854, five years after the gold rush. Their initial ministry was providing healthcare, something badly needed at the time. In the following years, they expanded their ministries to include care for women and the elderly. Noticing a need for education, they began building and staffing schools in 1870 and still sponsor two highly respected high schools in the Bay Area. In 1924 they acquired the Kohl Mansion in Burlingame.

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With the cultural revolution of the 1960's, they experienced a decline in young women joining the order. With 40 acres of land, a number of buildings to maintain, and an aging community of nuns, they pondered what to do next. They decided to specialize in contemplative spirituality. In 1981 they converted their novitiate building into Mercy Center, and began offering retreats, lectures, classes, conferences, Taize worship, and spiritual direction. They have a program in East West Meditation which explores the similarities between Buddhist meditation and Christian mysticism. They are a thriving center that serves people from all over the Bay Area who are of any faith - Catholic, Protestant, Buddhist, etc - or no religious affiliation.

What impresses me is their ability to consistently respond to the changing culture and needs of the world around them while remaining true to their traditions and values. Viewed from the outside, they appear to change and grow with integrity. They stand as a good example for churches in transition.

When I think of First Congregational Church, I see a church that is ahead of the curve in many ways. You embraced the joy of being a small church long ago and remodeled your sanctuary to beautifully accommodate a family sized congregation. You utilized your land to create a badly needed affordable housing community. You welcome various organizations to use your buildings and at the same time augment your budget. You founded a highly effect mission project (Every Dollar Feeds Kids) and sustain it with integrity. All this was accomplished through:

- * insightful assessment of the current culture
- * identifying the needs of the world around you
- * bold thinking
- * innovative actions
- * real commitment

In the coming years you are going to need to call on those same attributes to determine the best way to live into the future while staying true to your core values. The world keeps changing and so must the church. You have the skills. You have proved that. You now need to apply them to the current situation. I am going to enjoy watching you grow into your future.

Pastor Sally



MAY CARE TEAM

The Care Team for April is lead by Charles Little (415-342-2720), with Jim Turner and Amy Kaufman.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



April 28 - May 4

Jack Bransford

May 5 - 11

Paul and Marcy Burks

May 12 - 18

Cara and Eric Caindec

May 19 - 25

Michael Chan

May 26 - June 1

Caran Cuneo

Come **Worship** **with us!**

May 5 Communion Sunday Seeing the Light

We will read two powerful resurrection stories. In the first story, found in John 21:1-19, Jesus appears to several of the disciples as they are fishing. Under his direction, they catch numerous fish, enjoy a breakfast together, and talk about their work going forward. The second story is found in Acts 9: 1-20 and describes Saul's dramatic conversion experience which changed his life and led him to change his name to Paul. This was an experience that transformed not only him, but the course of history as well. We will reflect on these stories and what they can tell us about the joys and responsibilities of discipleship.

May 12 Mother's Day To Love as He Loved

In John 13: 31-35, Jesus commands the disciples to love one another. "Just as I have loved you, you should love one another." Pastor Sally will reflect on what it means to love as Jesus loved.

May 19 Mental Health Sunday

Pastor Sally and Michael Meehan attended a conference designed to help churches better understand and respond to people and families facing mental health challenges. Michael and Sally will share some of what they learned and some of their own reflections on this subject. Part of the purpose is to bring the topic of mental illness out of the shadows and into the light.

May 26 The New Way

John 5: 1-18 tells the story of Jesus ignoring the accepted practices of the day and healing a man simply through his word. His actions shatter the traditionally held beliefs about how grace and healing are dispensed. He also breaks the rules pertaining to working on the sabbath. His actions speak of a new way of relating to God, a way that was not welcomed by everyone.

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



SPIFF UP THE CHURCH DAY HELPED CHURCH SHINE FOR EASTER

Special thanks to the church members and crew from the MDDL church who washed, polished, vacuumed, weeded, scrubbed, pruned to help get the church ready for Easter.



NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Landscape Improvements Coming Soon.

Bob DeHaan has been leading an effort to improve the landscaping at the church entrance on North San Pedro. Pilgrim Park Apartments will assist with the prep work and purchasing while a group of Annie, Denise, David, Bob, Louis, and Val will be helping with plant selection and planting.

Another landscape improvement almost complete is the clearing and replanting of the hill behind the church office, courtesy of Pilgrim Park.

SEARCH COMMITTEE INTERVIEWS

The Search Committee has been reviewing candidate profiles for our 60% settled pastor position. Two candidates have been interviewed via Skype and Facetime, but no decision has been made.

The committee asks for continued prayers for wisdom in its discerning process.



MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS



MAY 21: The Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21, at 7 PM in the Plum Room.

MAY 22: The Church Council meeting will be on Wednesday, May 22, at 7 PM in the Plum Room.

JUNE 2: The Board of Mission meeting will be on Sunday, June 2, in the Oak Room.



[Date]

Dear Senator _____ :
or Dear Representative _____ :

Sample letter

I ask you to support legislation and increased funding to accelerate progress on global malnutrition.

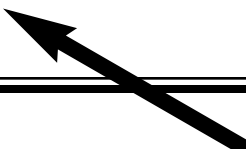
Almost half of all child deaths worldwide are linked to malnutrition. The children who survive remain at high risk of irreversible stunting, which affects their physical and cognitive development. For 151 million children under the age of 5, the majority in Central America, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa, stunting is a life sentence.

We are making progress, but it is far too slow. Increased access to nutritious food and vitamins, supporting breastfeeding, and ensuring safe drinking water and sanitation will enable more children to grow and reach their full potential.

My faith calls me to have compassion and stand alongside women and children around the world. I urge you to increase our nation's commitment and investment in efforts to advance global nutrition.


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

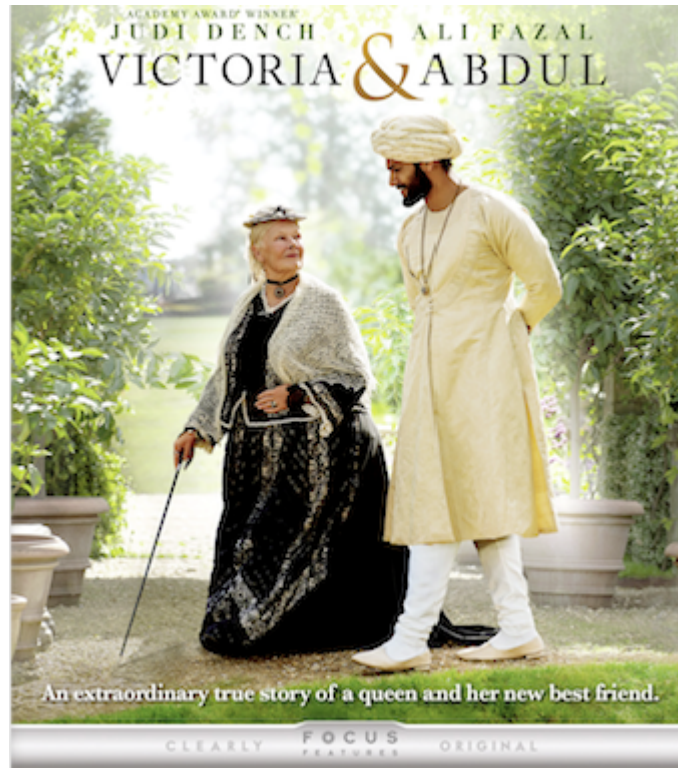
Senator Diane Feinstein
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative. Jared Huffman
1630 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC. 20515

MOVIE NIGHT MAY 24 - VICTORIA & ABDUL

For our May movie, we get one more chance to enjoy the marvelous Dame Judi Dench playing Queen Victoria, this time in a little-known episode from the end of her reign. It was little-known for a reason: after Victoria's death, the Royal Household attempted to erase the story of Abdul Karim from history.

Karim, known as "The Munshi," was an Indian clerk who became Victoria's personal attendant and unofficial counselor during the last 14 years of her life, much to the consternation of everyone else at Court. He was largely forgotten in England until his personal diary was found and published in 2010.



This "mostly true" film was made in 2017. It was written by Lee Hall (*War Horse*, *Billy Elliot*) and directed by Stephen Frears (*The Queen*).

"Judi Dench can do no wrong, and playing Queen Victoria for the second time [following "Mrs. Brown" in 1998] is an acting lesson par excellence that proves how rapturous it is to watch this great artist do everything right."
Rex Reed, *The Observer*

Friday May 24 7 PM in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park

You can view the trailer for *Victoria & Abdul* on the FCCSR website.



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 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 CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Alan and Barbara Miller, founders of Every Dollar Feeds Kids, were honored at the recent fundraising concert in April. EDFK raises funds to provide nutritious lunches and vitamins for needy children in Cuernavaca, Mexico. The 501 c3 organization has provided nearly 2 million lunches.

You can support this important program by mailing your check to EDFK, 8 North San Pedro, San Rafael, CA 94903 or through PayPal by clicking the donate button on the EDFK web site at everydollarfeedskids.org.





- 2 — Joshua Siroky
- 4 — Jean Nadell
- 10 — Val Sherer
- 10 — Brandon Siroky
- 11 — Mary Dowling
- 23 — Cathi Fuller
- 23 — Loreen Jackson
- 25 — Colin Templeman
- 28 — Lynn Grant

GOLDEN GALS — MAY 14

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesday, May 14, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



TIE DEADLINE for the JUNE Issue - Monday, May 27

The deadline for articles and news for the June 2019 issue of the TIE at the church office by Sunday, May 26. Or, email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by May 27.



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 May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:30 am Board of Mission Meeting	29 (Grey background)	30 (Grey background)	May 1 (Grey background)	2 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	3 (White background)	4 (Blue background)
5 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:15 am Bread for the World Offering of Letters	6 (White background)	7 (White background)	8 (White background)	9 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	10 (White background)	11 (Blue background)
12 Mother's Day 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	13 (White background)	14 10 am  Golden Gate monthly meeting	15 (White background)	16 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	17 (White background)	18 Armed Forces Day (Blue background)
19 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	20 (White background)	21 7 pm  Trustees Meeting 7 PM	22 7 pm  Church Council Meeting 7 PM	23 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	24 7 pm  Movie Night: Victoria & Abdul De Haan Center Pilgrim Park	25 (Blue background)
26 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	27  Memorial Day 5 pm  TIE Deadline for June 2019 issue	28 (White background)	29 (White background)	30 7:40 pm  Choir Rehearsal	31 (White background)	1 (Grey background)

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.