

July August 2019

First Congregational Church of
San Rafael

The TIE

TRAINS OF THOUGHT by REV. SALLY TRAIN



Last week, Taylor Meehan and I were privileged to attend the Annual Gathering of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ. For me, the purpose of the Annual Gathering can be summed up in the 3 R's – Relationships, Recreation, and Resolutions.

1. Relationships

Once a year, ministers and lay leaders from all over the conference spend three days together. The most important thing I did at the conference was build, strengthen, and renew relationships. I made new friends and met a lot of people for the first time. I caught up with old friends and deepened our relationship. I got to know some folks I had met before but never really talked to. And I got to spend some time in the car with Taylor.

Why is this important? Because we learn from each other. Because we support and encourage each other in our ministries. Because if we ever need to work

together, we will already have a connection and a level of trust. Because we find out where the resources are - who is an expert in a particular area of ministry – whom we can call if we have a question or need advice. But most of all, because we are the body of Christ – all of us – together.

2. Recreation

We are so busy at Annual Gathering I would not call it relaxing, but it is restorative.

- a. It is so nourishing to worship without having to preach. To drink in someone else's thoughts and wisdom. This year, the keynote speaker was Rev. John C. Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, and his words were uplifting and inspiring.
- b. It is also nourishing to laugh with a friend, eat ice cream, and enjoy the company of other

dedicated spiritual pilgrims.

It is time out of time, a break in the routine, and a chance to replenish your soul.

Everyone needs that from time to time.



3. Resolutions

It is at annual Gathering that we conduct the business of the wider church. There were four resolutions this year, and we passed three of them:

- a. Declaring Support for the Green New Deal
This resolution provides Synod (the National UCC) with the opportunity to declare its support for the Green New Deal, released by Congress on February 7, 2019. By declaring its support, Synod will proclaim the intersectionality of climate justice and all justice issues and offer a path of action and hope by

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which humanity can address the defining moral issues of our time.

b. Resolution to Become a WISE Conference for Mental Health To become a WISE Conference for Mental Health is to articulate a commitment to fully Welcome, Include, and Support people with mental health challenges and their loved ones and to Engage the intersections of mental health and spirituality/religion.

c. Establish an Action Team to Conduct a Listening Campaign and Bring Recommendations on the Future of Christian Witness at General Synod

The Action Team would conduct its business through the Biblical practices of relational meetings, as used in broad-based and community organizing, so that we may build understanding and trust throughout the settings of the United Church of Christ. Upon listening to members across the denomination, the Action Team will make a recommendation about what General Synod can learn from the Conferences and Local Churches in order to faithfully and relationally enact out wider church's Christian witness, in time for deliberation at General Synod Thirty-Three.

It was a full and productive three days. I hope more of you will schedule the time to attend next year. I think you will find it worthwhile. There is very real value in maintaining connection with our conference ministers and fellow UCC members. Together we are stronger and more whole.

Pastor Sally

JUNE 30 - POT LUCK LUNCH - FOR BETTER SOUND

Sunday, June 30, we will launch our final push to improve the acoustics in the Community Room with a potluck after worship.

Louis Frost, has created a plan for installing acoustic panels and adding improved speakers. We have a little more than half the total cost (\$7000) in dedicated funds, but in to finish the job without raiding our on-going budget, we need just a little more.

We will have great food, soft conversations, and maybe some sound surprises. So quietly throw a check in the kitty (or offering). Make the check to FCC San Rafael and put Sounds of Silence in the memo line.



PRAYER PARTNERS

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



June 30 - July 6

Julie Dowling

July 7 - 13

Mary and Oak Dowling

July 14 - 20

Mim and Scott Faraci, Sam, Ben and Emma

July 21 - 27

Anice Flesh

July 28 - August 3

Louis and Khamla Frost

August 4 - 10

Megan Fuller, Elisabeth and William Godbey

August 11 - 17

Judy and Jim Girard

August 18 - 24

Jon Girard

August 25 - 31

Lynn Grant

Come and Worship with us!

July 7 **Worship - Communion Sunday**
Pot Luck Lunch for Acoustics

July 14 **Worship**

July 21 **Worship**

July 28 **Worship**
Deck Party 1 PM

August 4 **Worship - Communion Sunday**
Pride Event

August 11 **Worship**

August 18 **Worship**

August 25 **Worship**

EVERY SUNDAY: 10-11:15 AM
Child Care



CHURCH VANDALIZED



Vandals struck our church signs several times the last week of June.

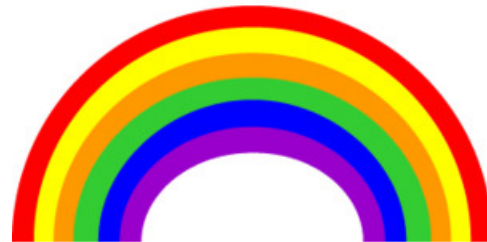
First, a large rainbow banner on the pre-school fence saying, “God Loves You,” and a rainbow flag on the entrance sign were torn down.

A day later a new flag was put up and the next night it was torn down and the flag holder broken. Two days later vandals destroyed the rainbow fish banner which said “Jesus didn’t turn anybody away. Neither do we. The United Church of Christ.”

We installed a third flag, this time straight up and inside the structure of the sign so that it would be harder to reach, but the next day this too was stolen, and the holder pulled out of its screws.

Police reports have been filed after each incident.

The rainbow symbols were put up in preparation for Pride Week to emphasize that we believe God welcomes all people. The rainbow has been a symbol of hope since the time Noah and the end of the floods. It has been used by early German Protestants, the International Cooperative Alliance in 1921, the World Buddhist Federation in 1885, the Peace Movement of the 60s, and many others.



The current Pride Flag dates from the San Francisco Gay Freedom Parade of 1978, shortly after the Stonewall Riots. Some versions add a black strip at the bottom to remember AIDS victims.

We will continue to find ways to keep the rainbow visible as an important symbol of God’s inclusive love in these times.

CARE TEAMS CELEBRATION - JULY 7

Care Teams Celebration and Reflection will be held on Sunday, July 7 after worship at 11:45, at the home of Annie Song-Hill, 31 Elda Drive, San Rafael. Lunch will be provided.



This celebration and reflection is for the members of the Care Teams only. The Care Teams have now been active for one year and done a spectacular job! We first and foremost want to thank you for your loving ministry. We also wanted to take a few minutes to reflect on how each team has approached this ministry, what has been most meaningful, what we can learn from each other, and what we might want to add or change.

We hope all Care Team members can join us for this delightful lunch and conversation. (Please let Pastor Sally know if you are unable to attend.)

REV. FRANCIS GEDDES MEMORIAL SERVICE - JULY 13

A memorial service will be held for former pastor, Rev. Francis Geddes, at 2.00 pm on July 13, 2019. The service will be at the Church of the Incarnation, 550 Mendocino Ave, Santa Rosa, CA.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE FOR NANCY MAHL - JULY 20

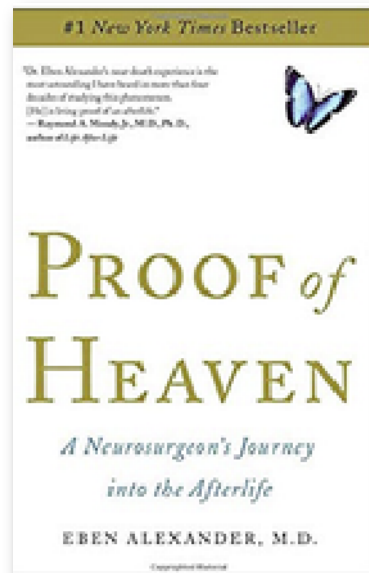


Please join us on Saturday July 20 to remember and celebrate the life of Nancy Mahl, who was such a vital part of our church family for many, many years. We'll remember her life with us in words and pictures, with a reception Lunch to follow.

We are collecting pictures of Nancy for an in memoriam slide show. If you'd like to submit a photo, please forward it as a jpeg file or attach a scanned copy and email to teutschfam@comcast.net Please feel free to call or contact Anne Teutsch, Nancy's daughter, at 925-989-1291 cell/text or teutschfam@comcast.net for further information or to answer questions regarding the service or luncheon.

BOOK STUDY AFTER WORSHIP AUGUST 11 AND 18

On two Sundays after worship, August 11 and 18, you are invited to participate in a books study. The title of the book is *Proof of Heaven* by Eben Alexander, M.D. The subtitle of the book is *A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife*.





VOLUNTEER FOR A HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY SATURDAY, JULY 6

Want to help with the problem of homelessness? Want to actually DO something that will help house people?

We're looking for volunteers to work on a build day we've scheduled for FCCSR at a Habitat project in Graton (near Sebastopol.) No carpentry or construction skills are required, only the ability to move about safely and a willingness to get a little dirty and tired. In return, you'll get the enormous satisfaction of knowing that you've personally helped a deserving family achieve affordable housing. Please contact Lucinda Ray (lucindaray@aol.com or 707-480-3233) if you are interested and available. Other dates are also available in July and August.

SUNDAY, JULY 28 PICNIC AND PADDLING

You are invited to our summer First Congregational Church of San Rafael family picnic on the dock (or on the couch) at Lynn Grant's home.

When: After church on Sunday, July 28, beginning at 1 pm

Where: Lynn Grant's patio in Bel Marin Keyes, Novato

What to bring: Potluck picnic foods such as salads, breads, desserts and cold cuts. Bring picnic plates, cups and utensils for your own family if you can. If you forget, come anyway; there will be extra dishes on hand as back-up.

AND Bring a friend!

What to wear: Comfortable clothes (a bathing suit and towel if you want to swim from the dock) so you can take a turn rowing in the canoe, kayak or paddle boat. Bring life jackets for your kids, please!





BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



BACKPACK SUNDAY, JULY 28

This is our annual gathering of school supplies for the Ritter Center kids. Please bring your donations to church on July 29, as they will be distributed to the kids at Ritter Center in early August, because the school start dates are early. Here's what is needed:

- New backpacks (boys and girls, high need for elementary school)
- Binders (small/large) and binder paper
- Tabbed dividers and zip pouches
- Pencils (#2/colored), pens, and erasers
- Glue sticks and index cards
- Rulers, staplers, and small scissors
- Markers, crayons, and highlighters
- Pocket folders and spiral one-subject notebooks
- Calculators (especially graphing calculators such as TI-83)
- Geometry drafting sets



There is always a GREAT NEED for department store gift cards and cash donations

→**TIP:** You may want to cut out this list for your purse or pocket.

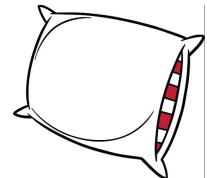


HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY JULY 6

See page 6 of this issue of the TIE for more details.

PILLOW SUNDAY NETS 30 PILLOWS

The mission board is grateful to all of you who contributed pillows in June! Thank you for your continued commitment to Homeward Bound's mission.



FOOD BANK CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED

Please remember that people experience food insecurity all year long. Your contributions of rice, beans, peanut butter, pasta, canned vegetables, and other staples are needed during the summer months. The collection barrel for the food bank is now located in the community room.

MID-SUMMER MOVIE NIGHTS

JULY 26 *THE SHAPE OF WATER*
AUGUST 16 *TOOTSIE*

This year, Movie Night is alternating contemporary films and classics. In July and August we'll view two films separated by 35 years that each broke new ground in exploring the nature of humanity and love.

July 26 – *The Shape of Water*

In a secret government research lab, scientists are studying an amphibious humanoid creature they captured in the Amazon. A lonely janitor starts to form a relationship with the creature as she cleans the lab each night. As she starts to comprehend the cruelty the scientists are inflicting, she vows to help him escape.

From there, the film soars into realms of fantasy, eroticism and action thriller that defy all genre boundaries and ultimately make a profound statement about what love might be. This utterly unique film took the 2018 Best Picture Oscar against a very strong field.



August 16 (note earlier date) – *Tootsie*

A desperate struggling actor puts on a dress and lands a female role in a hospital soap opera. Romantic complications ensue. That sounds like a great concept for a comedy, and it was. *Tootsie* was giant hit in 1982, second only to *E.T.* at the box office.

But, with insightful direction by Sidney Pollack and sensitive performances by Dustin Hoffman and Jessica Lange, it was much more: “Tootsie” went deep into issues of gender stereotyping and “me too” moments that are with us still. It was nominated for 10 Oscars, but won only for Lange in the year when “Gandhi” ran the table.

**7 PM Friday July 26 and August 16
in the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park**

Trailers and links to reviews of both films are 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

JULY AND AUGUST CARE TEAMS



July: The Care Team for July is led by Hilary Spaulding (415) 215-5769, with Cathi Fuller and Annie Song-Hill.

August: The Care Team for August is led by Anice Flesh (415) 306-7902, with David Knopf and Michael Chan.

MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS

AUGUST 20: The Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, August 20, at 7 PM in the Plum Room.

AUGUST 25: The Board of Mission meeting will be on Sunday, August 25, in the Oak Room.

AUGUST 28: The Church Council meeting will be on Wednesday, August 28, at 7 PM in the Plum Room.



JULY BIRTHDAYS

1 — Dorothy Trotter
3 — Jack Intrater
5 — Saba Dempsey
6 — Cyndi Siroky
26 — Tristan Cline-Meehan
Michael Cline-Meehan
Jacob Cline-Meehan
Taylor Cline-Meehan
27 — Louis Frost
27 — Amy Hodges Kaufman
29 — Catherine Hills



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

6 — Jamie Cline
6 — Audrey Borden
12 — Rebecca Knopf
13 — Allison Kaufman
17 — Helen MacLam
19 — Emma Intrater
19 — Melanie Sakskul
22 — Amy Smith
24 — Jakob Dempsey
27 — David Knopf
28 — Judy Girard

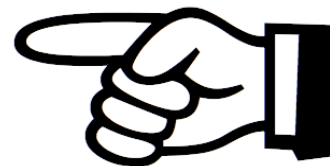
GOLDEN GALS — Tuesdays, JULY 9 and AUGUST 13

The Golden Gals will meet on Tuesdays, July 9 and August 13, at 10 AM, at the home of Jean Nadell. Bring a bag lunch.



TIE DEADLINE for the September Issue - Wed., AUGUST 21

The deadline for articles and news for the September 2019 issue of The TIE is Wednesday, August 21. Please 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 July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 11:15 am  POTLUCK LUNCH	July 1	2	3	4  Independence Day	5	6  9 am - 2 am Habitat for Humanity Work Day
7  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 12 am  Cure Team Celebration Lunch	8	9  10 am Golden Gals' monthly meeting	10	11	12	13  2 pm Des. Francis Caddes Memorial Service - Santa Rosa
14  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	15	16	17	18	19	20  11 am Nancy Mahl Memorial Service and Luncheon
21  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care	22	23	24	25	26  7 pm Movie Night: The Shape of Water! De. Haan Center Pilgrim Park	27
28 Parents' Day  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am Backpack Sunday 1 pm - 3 pm Book Party at Lynn Grant's	29	30	31	1	2	3

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.

FCC Calendar August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Parents' Day 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am Back-to-School Sunday 1 am - 3 pm Deck Party at Lynn Crants	29	30	31	August 1	2	3
4 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am PRIDE event	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 12 pm Book Discussion	12	13 10 am  Golden Girls' monthly meeting	14	15	16 7 pm  Movie Night: Tootsie De Jean Center Pligum Park	17
18 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 12 pm Book Discussion	19	20 7 am  Trustees Meeting 7 AM	21 5 pm  TIE Deadline for June 2019 issue	22	23	24
25 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care	26	27	28 7 am  Church Council Meeting 7 AM	29	30	31

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