January 2020 First Congregational Church of San Rafael

The TIE

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS REV. JEFFREY COCHRAN-CARNEY



I love the story of the Wise Men. We don't know much about them except the brief description Matthew provides in the second chapter. They were likely Persian scholars from the east who came to worship the baby Jesus. The Wise Men followed a star to the stable where they found the new born king.

From the story of the Magi we have the season of Epiphany. Epiphany means the "manifestation" of God's light in Jesus Christ, and follows Christmas on the church calendar. We are also invited to receive the light of Christ and carry it with us throughout the year.

Where will God's light and wisdom lead you in the year ahead? Will you be open to the plans God has for you? Like the Magi, we are also on a journey, and we rely upon the light of Christ for direction. Our destination is to worship him with reverent and believing hearts, just as the Wise Men did.

During the coming year, we may travel roads that are dark and challenging, but

we are not alone. With the star of Bethlehem as our guide, we can see Christ in everything we do. There will be signs and directions along the way when we worship and pray for God's guidance. When we follow the star, we discover God's purpose and plan for our lives.

As we begin the New Year, let us follow the star and seek the Christ child for ourselves, even though the way be dark and cold. The star will always be there to guide us, and is a good reminder that Christ the new born king will always walk with us. May God's light shine brightly on your path in the year ahead, and may the gifts of the Magi be yours in this season of Epiphany. Happy New Year.

Pastor Jeffrey



In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, Wise Men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

(Matthew 2:1-2)

SAVE THE DATE: FEBRUARY 2

Our congregation's **annual meeting** will be the first Sunday of February, the 2nd. The meeting will be immediately after church and be followed by our classic potluck.





JOHN PHILIP NEWELL CELTIC SPIRITUALITY RETREAT IN FEBRUARY

Celtic author and speaker John Philip Newell will be offering a Celtic spirituality retreat at Bishop's Ranch in Healdsburg on February 18-20.

Pastors Jeffrey and Cynthia will be attending if you are interested in going. More information may be found at Bishopsranch.org.

JANUARY AGAPE TEAM

Agape - Providing compassionate connection to our church community through words of encouragement, cards, calls, and visits. Our Agape leader for January is 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.



December 39 - January 4 Jeff Paul and Trista

January 5 - 11 Milagro Ramirez

January 12 - 18 Greg and Sher Ripley, Blair **January 19 - 25** Val and Ralph Sherer

January 26 - February 1 Cecil Sherrod



Come and







- January 5 The Wisdom of the Magi Isaiah 60: 1-6; Matthew 2:1-12
- January 12 It's About Time Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Galatians 4:4-7
- January 19 Don't Look Back Genesis 19:23-29; Luke 9:51-62
- January 26 The Faith of a Fisherman Psalms 27:1, 4-9; Matthew 4:12-23

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





BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK IN THE NEW YEAR



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



TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Several Improvements Completed

Thanks to the Church of God (Seventh Day), our Saturday renter, for painting the Oak Room. Check it out next time you are at church.

And also thanks to Bob De Haan and Pilgrim Park for landscaping our shared front entrance. Drought tolerant plants and succulents have been planted with drip irrigation. Next improvement coming up will be a repainted front sign and landscaping around the outside cross.

The Board of Trustees will meet on Sunday. January 12.





IT'S NOT TOO LATE...

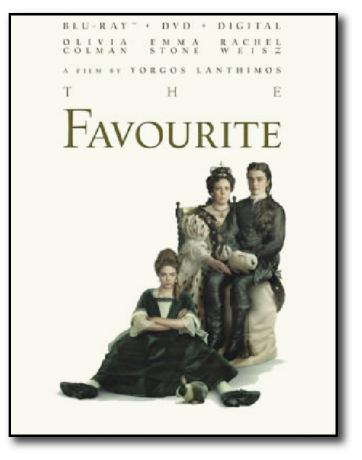
Thanks to all those who have pledged to support this church in making a difference in the lives of so many. **It is not too late to join in helping our church** start the year with a strong financial base by pledging for 2020. Green pledge and volunteer sheets are available every Sunday and in the church office.

MOVIE NIGHT JANUARY 24 - THE FAVOURITE

Movie Night will kick off 2020 with a costume drama for people who think they hate costume dramas and British history.

Queen Anne of England, who reigned from 1702 to 1714, is an unlikely subject for a major motion picture. She never produced an heir (despite 17 pregnancies) so the Stuart line ended with her. The picture we have of her as a sad and slightly comical figure comes from the memoirs of her supposed best friend, Sarah Churchill, Duchess of Marlborough, who battled with a cousin, Abagail Hill, to be the power behind Anne's throne.

Understandably, poor Anne never got her hour on Masterpiece Theatre. However, two years ago, Greek director Yorgos Lanthimos turned the story of Anne and the two battling cousins into an improbable and very dark comedy . . . a big-budget costume drama rendered with the sensibility of the Coen brothers or Monty Python.



The Favourite was nominated for 10 Oscars: Olivia Coleman (Queen Anne) won Best Actress and both Rachel Weisz (Sarah) and Emma Stone (Abagail) were nominated for Best Supporting Actress.

The Favourite is a wicked delight, a fantastic little cupcake of a movie laced with thistle frosting. This period drama or comedy, depending on your mood, is sort-of based on fact, gorgeous to look at, and features a trio of marvelous performances.

Stephanie Zacharek, *Time Magazine*

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

You can view the trailer for *The Favourite* on the FCCSR website.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Chris Siroky
- 6 Oak Dowling
- 20 Doug Shannon
- 20 James True

GOLDEN GALS — JANUARY 14

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



TIE DEADLINE for FEBRUARY 2020 Issue - Mon., Jan. 27

The deadline for articles and news for the February 2020 issue of The TIE is Monday, January 27th. Please have all articles for the January issue at the church office by Sunday, January 26th. Or, email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, the 27th.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

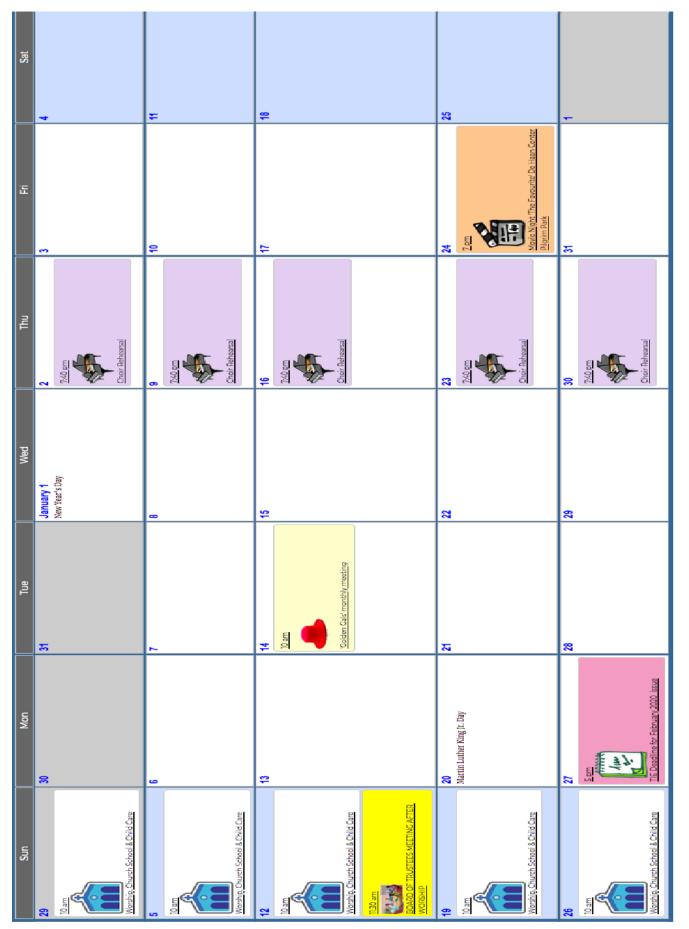
Rev. Jeffrey Cochran-Carney – *Pastor* **Amy Powers** – Office Manager

Mondays and Thursdays 8 AM - 4 PM Please call first for an appointment Phone (908) 487-8855 or (415) 479-2747

Tuesday 11 AM- 2 PM Wednesday10 AM - 2 PM Thursday 10 AM - 2 PM Office Phone: 415-479-2747 office@fccsanrafael.org

6 of 7 Page

FCC Calendar JANUARY 2020



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.

Page 7 of 7