

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS REV. JEFFREY COCHRAN-CARNEY



Easter Will Come: Being the Church During a Time of Pandemic

Dear Friends, I wrote my article for the April TIE last week, but since that time, so much has changed and it seems like a very different type of article is needed. I confess that when I first heard that churches and gathering places would be closed, my next thought was, “Well, at least we can look forward to being together for Holy Week and Easter.” As we know by now, the CDC came out and said public gatherings should be canceled for the next eight weeks. In addition, those over 65 should stay home. That leaves many of us out!

I have a lot of thoughts and questions during a time like this, as I’m sure you do too. I would like to share a few things with you in this space, while not going on for too long.

The first and most important thing I would like to say is, “Easter will still come.” It will come in ways, times and places we are not expecting, and maybe it will even come as an afterthought – something you will only recognize in hindsight. But Easter will come. It can come in large and small ways. A word of scripture might jump off the page for you in a way that has not happened before. Be sure to go back and reread the Easter narratives. A deep peace may descend upon you after a restless night. Unexpected help and assistance can show up in the kindness of stranger. And an ember of hope might be kindled in the hearts of parents who are worried about their children, or who are just trying to make ends meet during challenging economic times.



For me, Christ points the way to resurrection – the resurrection of all of life, including nature and in all of God’s creatures. Yet the resurrected life certainly goes beyond a Christian perspective. I believe new life . . . eternal life – is the archetype or prototype of all reality. It is my best cosmic hunch when I’m backed into a corner.

Recently I read a story told by the pastor Bruce Epperly. I think it has something to say to us during these anxious times. He writes: “The story is told of the night of the shooting stars. As the ancients saw the falling stars, the villagers ran for their lives. they came upon the wise women and men of the village. “The sky is

(continued on the next page)

(continued from page 1)

falling. We are doomed,” they cried. As they ran aimlessly through the village, they came upon the wise women and men of the village. “They stars are falling,” they shouted. The wise ones paused and looked at the heavens, and responded, “Yes, some stars are falling. But look and see all the stars that are standing still.”

Yes, look at the stars standing still. Look at the Infinite love of God present in the intimacy of our lives. In a changing world, God’s love endures forever. Epperly continues, “Last night I went outside. The sky was clear and full of stars, revealing the multi-billion-year evolution of our universe. I shared my faith that we lived in a grand universe in which God’s wisdom endures – like the stars – forever. The author of Lamentations lived through a time of uncertainty. His faith was in a God whose love joins the eternal and the temporary, the infinite and the finite.

Our hope is in the ever-present, ever-loving, ever-active God moving in and through our lives, providing for our deepest needs and sharing our journey in sickness and in health, death and life. Our ultimate relationship is with the faithful God whose mercies are new every morning. God loves each one of us as if there is only one of us, and loving all of us with great passion and care. We share in God’s infinity. With God as our companion, we can claim with Luther that ‘in the midst of life, we are surrounded by death, and in the midst of death, we are surrounded by life.’”

Surrounded by life – that is what I wish for you during these uncertain times. The good news is that Easter will still come – ready or not. In closing, I’m reminded of the words of Julian of Norwich: “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.” — Julian of Norwich

Be Well,

Pastor Jeffrey

APRIL AGAPE TEAM EXPANDS

Agape - Providing compassionate connection to our church community through words of encouragement, cards, calls, and visits.

Our Agape leader for April is Hilary Spaulding (415-215-5769) with **all** the Agape team members participating: Cathi Fuller, Annie Song-Hill, Charles Little, Jim Turner, Amy Kaufman, Jackie Dema, Denise Walker, Tessa Templeman, Anice Flesh, and David Knopf.



PRAYER PARTNERS

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



March 29 - April 4

Jim Turner

April 5 - 11

Richard and Denise Walker

April 12 - 18

Bruce Weir

April 19 - 25

Lise Adams

April 26 - May 2

Barbara Alexander



Come and **Worship** **with us!** **virtually, that is**



PASTOR JEFFREY IS PROVIDING A COMPLETE WORSHIP SERVICE VIA EMAIL EVERY WEEK. IT INCLUDES MUSIC, PRAYERS, AND A VIDEO OF THE SCRIPTURE READING AND SERMON.

April 5 Palm Sunday

From Poems to Protest Matthew 2:1-11

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem, he came in opposition to the power and corruption of his day. Today we are urged to work for peace and justice for all.

April 10 Good Friday

A Good Friday worship experience will be sent out.



April 12 Easter Sunday

Running towards Easter Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 28:1-10

After the resurrection, Jesus went on to Galilee and told the people to follow and go there if they wanted to see him. Today, Jesus still goes ahead of us, and urges us to follow, focusing on the future and not the past. Because of Easter we are a new creation, and can move forward with hope and joy.

April 19

Beyond a Doubt John 20:19-31

Jesus performed a miracle when he restored sight to a blind man. Today God challenges us “see” Thomas insisted on physical evidence before he believed in the risen Lord. Today, Jesus says to us what he said to the disciples” “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” Through faith and the presence of the Holy Spirit, we can encounter the risen Lord in everyday life.

April 26

A Case of Holy Heartburn Luke 24:13-35

Jesus met Cleopas and another person on the road to Emmaus, but it wasn’t until they had an encounter with the risen Lord that they recognized him. We can have the same experience today in our relationships with one another and the in the breaking of the bread.



To contact the pastor by email,
please use this email for all church correspondence.

fccsrpastor@gmail.com



ZOOM MEETINGS LET US GATHER TOGETHER SAFELY Fridays at 5 PM

On Friday evening, March 27, about 15 members of the congregation gathered together via a video meeting tool called Zoom. We could see one another, talk to each other, and share our experiences of the past several weeks. It was like being in a room together. Most people found it easy to do. Give it a try!

Another Zoom meeting will be held on Friday, April 3, at 5 PM. Pastor Jeffrey will send out instructions about how to join. You can use either your computer, your cell phone, your tablet, or even just call in from your land line. Below you can see a picture of Lucinda Ray's computer screen during our March 27 gathering. Pastor Jeffrey and his wife Cynthia are in the top left corner. Oak and Mary Dowling are in the top right corner.



PILGRIM PARK NEWS

Nancy and Margie quickly put Pilgrim Park into safety mode to guard against the virus. Here are the major precautions taken.

- Residents can only communicate with the office via the Internet or by phone.
- Food deliveries from Extra Food have been cut back.
- As there were no residents to handle the Food Bank Food, weekly deliveries were stopped.
- Bob De Haan now visits twice weekly by phone.
- Greg Ripley has postponed the scheduled board meeting. Bob now sends an E-mail periodically to board members.



For the last several weeks PP has been very quiet.

We were relieved that Nancy and Charles returned safely from a 10 day visit to their home in Georgia and to Nancy's mother in So. Florida.

The only outstanding repair project has been completed. The former community center/office building (now used mostly for the maintenance shop and Head Start) has been reroofed. The timing of this work depended on when the daycare kids were not in the building.

After losing three residents over the past several months, the apartments are fully occupied except for one apartment that needed complete renovation. That should be completed soon, and the already identified tenant will be able to move in.

Bob De Haan

BROADWAY SHOW INVITATION

Saturday, June 20, 2:00 pm
San Jose Performing Arts Center



You are cordially invited to join folks from First Presbyterian Church so see the hit musical "Come from Away." It is based on the true story of the amazing ways that the people in Gander, Newfoundland, Canada helped stranded airline passengers on 9/11.

Cost of Bus Trip and Show Ticket \$110

12:00 pm Leave San Rafael on chartered Marin Airporter bus

2:00 pm Matinee Performance

6:00 pm Arrive back in San Rafael

To make reservations, email Dinah McClure from First Presbyterian -- EventFPCSR@gmail.com
Checks made out to FPCSR. Note "ticket " on the check - and mail checks to Pastor Jeffrey.

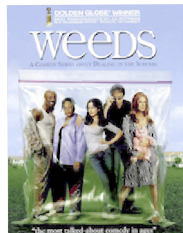
MOVIE NIGHT - APRIL

BINGE-WORTHY VIDEO FOR THE LOCK-DOWN

Like all face-to-face activities, our monthly Move Night has been suspended for the duration. Here are some ideas for great online entertainment we can share virtually. And, since we have a LOT of empty hours to fill, our recommendations are binge-worthy series, rather than feature films:



Slings & Arrows – A marvelous series from Canada that was never aired in the U.S. It follows the lunatic ups and downs of a major Shakespeare Festival through three seasons. Each season centers on the production one play . . . “Hamlet” . . . “Macbeth” . . . “King Lear” . . . and the backstage action mirrors the plot of that play. Available on Acorn TV (Lots of great British video. One-week free trial, then \$5 per month.)



Weeds – In order to hold her family together, a widowed soccer mom (played by Mary-Louise Parker) becomes the marijuana dealer for her picture-perfect Southern California community. The series won many Emmys when it aired on Showtime in 2005 – 2010. Available on Netflix



Arrested Development – A comedy about the dysfunctional family of an ethically-challenged real estate developer in Newport Beach. It originally aired on Fox and won critical raves and many awards, but never found a large audience. Now a cult favorite. Available on Netflix



The Man in the High Castle – Based on a Philip K. Dick novel, this dramatic series starts from the premise that the U.S. lost WWII. New York is the capital of the German-occupied east, San Francisco is the capital of the Japanese west, and the mountain states are a lawless no-man's land – a home to resistance guerrillas and the mysterious man of the title. Gripping drama. Available streaming on Amazon.



The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel – A Jewish-American Princess from the Upper West Side in the 1950s discovers her talent for stand-up comedy while coping with all sorts of family and marital issues. It swept all the comedy awards in its first season. Available streaming on Amazon.

That should be enough for one month. If we're still locked-down in May, we'll have some more recommendations.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



2 — Barbara Miller
3 — Bob Spofford
4 — Colleen Beery
9 — Bob Bandettini
10 — Scott Faraci
11 — Jill Krippendorf
14 — Hilary Spaulding
24 — Lucinda Ray
26 — Michael Meehan

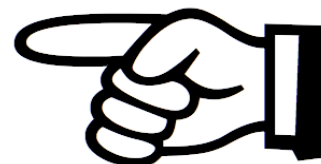
GOLDEN GALS — postponed this month

The Golden Gals usually meet on Tuesdays at 10 AM. However, the meeting will be postponed this month.



TIE DEADLINE for MAY 2020 Issue - Mon., April 27

The deadline for articles and news for the May 2020 issue of The TIE is Monday, April 27th. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, the 27th.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Both Amy and Jeffrey are working from home.

You can contact them via email

NOTE: Pastor Jeffrey's new email: fccsrpastor@gmail.com

Rev. Jeffrey Cochran-Carney – Pastor

Mondays and Thursdays 8 AM - 4 PM

Please call first for an appointment

Phone (908) 487-8855

fccsrpastor@gmail.com

Amy Powers – Office Manager

Tuesday 11 AM- 2 PM

Wednesday 10 AM - 2 PM

Thursday 10 AM - 2 PM

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

office@fccsanrafael.org

FCC Calendar APRIL 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29  10 am VIRTUAL Worship	30	31	April 1 April Fool's Day	2	3 5 pm - 6 pm ZOOM Meeting online 7 pm  Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 7	4
5  10 am VIRTUAL Worship	6	7	8	9	10 VIRTUAL Good Friday service 5 pm - 6 pm ZOOM Meeting online 7 pm  Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 7	11
12 Easter  10 am VIRTUAL Worship	13	14	15	16	17 5 pm - 6 pm ZOOM Meeting online 7 pm  Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 7	18
19  10 am VIRTUAL Worship	20	21	22 Earth Day	23	24 5 pm - 6 pm ZOOM Meeting online 7 pm  Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 7	25
26  10 am VIRTUAL Worship	27  5 pm TLE Deadline for March 2020 issue	28	29	30	1	2

Stay
Healthy
Everyone

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.