

October 2020
First Congregational Church of
San Rafael

The TIE

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS REV. JEFFREY COCHRAN-CARNEY



I Saw God in an Old Yellow Lab

Today while walking my dog, I saw God in the eyes of an old yellow lab. Jessie was his name – wise and mellow, weathered by his sixteen years, yet ready to greet his new friend Sophia. He came up to her and rubbed noses, and gave a weak wag of his tail. He had deep marks on his back where fatty tumors had been removed, and a face scarred over the years with growths and blemishes. Arthritis had gotten the best of his hind legs, but he kept moving, as if that’s all that mattered. “Yes, we’ve had Jessie for sixteen years, and God willing, we’ll have him for a few more,” his owners said.

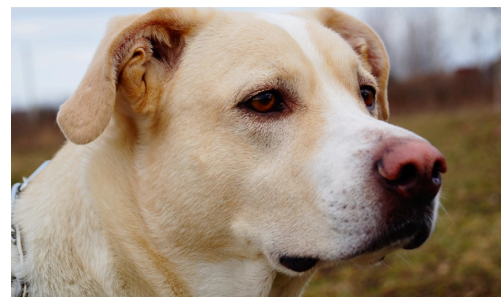
The couple was gentle and kind, and one can wonder, did they get it from their dog, or did their dog get it from them? “He doesn’t walk as much as he used to, but we put him in the car and drive him to new places. We walk a few minutes, then drive back home.”

I’m always amazed at how dogs open doors to connect with perfect strangers, who share their own dog stories without hesitation. “He has given us a lot of love,” they said with gratitude. I wish the conversation had lasted longer, for I knew I was in a sacred place with a couple and their companion. “I will see you again walking these trails,” I said, and hoped I would.

Maybe I should have gotten their name and number, for I will wonder about Jessie and how he is, and how his owners are doing when age inevitably takes its toll. “Yes, we slow down too,” they said. “But at least for today, we were able to walk with our best friend.”

“The present moment is all a dog knows or cares about,” I pondered. Maybe I should be that way too. As the Celts like to say, “God created all things, and there is something of God in everything.” Today I saw God in the eyes of an old yellow lab, and am already hoping I will see him again.

*Blessings,
Pastor Jeffrey*



PASTOR JEFFREY ON VACATION

Pastor Jeffrey will be on vacation from October 13 until October 20.



SPIRITUAL RETREAT: ALL ARE WELCOME - OCTOBER 3



“Light in the Darkness,” A Spiritual Retreat on Saturday, October 3, from 10 AM-12 Noon. We will gather (by ZOOM) to share how we have experienced LIGHT, have maintained hope and inspiration during times of pain, fear and sadness. We will explore this theme through music, art, movement, scripture and readings, meditation and intercessory prayer.

Please RSVP to Cathi Fuller if you are interested in attending. An invitation and schedule will be sent to your email or mail.

OCTOBER AGAPE TEAM

Agape - Providing compassionate connection to our church community through words of encouragement, cards, calls, and visits. Our Agape leader for October is Jackie Dema (415-259-8610) with the Agape team members 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.



September 27 - October 3

Catherine Hills,
Audrey and Josie

October 4 - 10

Caryl Hodges

October 11 - 17

Caryl Hodges

October 18 - 24

Alana and Brandon Intrater
Emma and Jack

October 25 - 31

Lorene Jackson



Pastor Jeffrey is providing a complete worship service via email every Sunday. It's a video including music, prayers, scripture and sermon. Check your email on Sunday morning.

Oct. 4 World Communion Sunday Around the Table, Around the World

1 Corinthians 10:14-17; Mark 14:22-25

Today we celebrate communion with Christians around the world. We are reminded that we are one body in Christ. As we share the bread of life and the cup of blessing, we proclaim our solidarity with our brothers and sisters everywhere. We can be strengthened by this meal during these challenging times.

Oct. 11 What Animals Teach Us about God

Psalm 104:10-25; Matthew 6:23-33

Today as a church we are focusing on the meaning of God's creatures in our lives and in our world. We thank God for our pets, and for creatures great and small. Our pets can be a source of comfort and companionship. Celtic spirituality teaches that "there is something of God in all things," and we can know something about the nature of God through animals and creation.

Oct. 18 Guest Pastor

Pastor Jeffrey will be on vacation.

Oct. 25 Starting What We Cannot Finish

Deuteronomy 34:4-5

Very often in life we start what we know we cannot finish. Plant redwood seeds, and you will not live to see them grow into giant trees. You may start to write the book you know you will not finish. You can work for world peace, but you may not see the peaceable kingdom in your lifetime. Our job is to plant the seeds and water them. God will sustain the growth. As the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God will reap the harvest." 1 Cor 3:6 Our job is to be faithful stewards for what God has called us to do, while trusting the end results to God.

All sermons are posted on the website in PDF format.

See the next page for our Sunday AM Zoom Coffee Hour Meetings.

ZOOM MEETINGS LET US GATHER TOGETHER SAFELY on **Sundays at 10 AM**

We are holding weekly Zoom meetings on Sunday mornings, so members of the congregation can gather together for “Coffee Hour” via a video meeting tool called Zoom. We can see one another, talk to each other, and share our experiences of the past several weeks. It is like being in a room together, but safely. Most people find it easy to do. Give it a try! You can use either your computer, your cell phone, your tablet, or even just call in from your land line.

Link to join all church Zoom meetings:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/813993981>

Meeting ID: 813 993 981

Password: 594741

Call in number 1-669-900-6833



OUTDOOR WORSHIP ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 10 AM



On October 11, at 10 AM, an outdoor worship service will be held in our courtyard. We will honor social distancing by spacing the chairs 6 feet apart, and other precautionary measures will be taken for everyone's protection: Masks are required. We will not be singing or passing the microphone, and will not be gathering afterward for coffee.

For those who cannot attend, Ralph Sherer will host our Zoom church social gathering at 10:00 AM on Oct 11th. See the article above.

MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS -- VIA ZOOM

(See the Zoom instructions above.)

OCTOBER 20: The Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, October 20, at 7 PM.

OCTOBER 22: The Church Council meeting will be on Thursday, October 22, at 5 PM.

OCTOBER 27: The Board of Ministry meeting will be on Tuesday, October 27, at 11:00 AM.





BOARD OF MINISTRY NEWS

Worship: We will continue to gather for Sunday worship with on-line service, and at 10 AM on Sundays, we will gather for our “Community Hour” by Zoom meeting link. We have no immediate plans for opening for in person services, except for the outdoor service on Oct. 11.

Music: Please reach out to Pastor Jeffrey or Jeff Paul if you have a musical performance video that you would like to share with the church family.

Community: If you need support or if you wish to share joys and concerns for the Prayer Chain, please reach out to Pastor Jeffrey, Julie Dowling (prayer chain) or Jackie Dema, our Agape team leader for October.

Spiritual Retreat: All are Welcome

See the article on page 2. Saturday, October 3, from 10 AM-12 Noon.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF OUR CHURCH THROUGH YOUR PLEDGES AND OFFERINGS



Thanks to all our members and friends who have continued to keep up with their pledges. We especially want to thank the members who have sent their complete 2020 pledge. Our expenses do continue so this helps us keep on track.

You have 2 options:

Option 1

Use PayPal. Go to fccsanrafael.org. On the home page, you will see the words GIVING ONLINE. Click on this and you will end up on a screen with a PayPal logo. Click on it and you'll see a place to enter your pledge or offering amount. You can use a credit card or your PayPal account.



You have the option to do a monthly donation this way as well. For your first time donating this way, Val Sherer will be happy to email you confirmation that she received your donation.

Option 2

You can mail a check to the church. Deposits will be made less frequently until we resume Sunday services, so don't panic if your check is not cashed as quickly as usual.



Feel free to email Val with any questions.



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



MISSION BOARD UPDATE

Dear FCCSR,

Thank you so much for all your support for past support of the Canal Alliance. As you know, that community has been hit particularly hard with Covid.

The Canal Alliance is continuing its hard at work offering financial assistance and pop-up pantry to support low-income, vulnerable immigrant families in Marin who have been affected by the COVID crisis. What they need most from us right now are Size 5 diapers, Visa gift cards and baby wipes. The gift cards are wanted for emergency and urgent food needs. Cards worth \$100 are most useful, although any value is fine. Please include pre-paid activation fees.

The Marin Interfaith Council Accompaniment Network is organizing local drop off locations to ease the burden at the Canal Alliance because of fewer staff and irregular hours.

The Canal Alliance has just made a new online page where people can make donations that will be used to purchase gift cards. The page also has instructions for how to mail gift cards to CA with appropriate documentation to receive a tax statement.

<https://donate.canalalliance.org/covid19giftcards>

To mail Visa Cards, send to:

Attention: Sara Matson
Canal Alliance
91 Larkspur St
San Rafael, CA 94901



You can purchase Visa Cards in store or at
<https://www.amazon.com/Visa-Gift-Card-plus-Purchase/dp/B01MSBQB1P>

For wipes, diapers and store bought Visa cards, please call, text or email either Janet Lipsey, Annie Song-Hill or Barbara Rowe and they will give you instructions for drop-off to their homes:

Janet Lipsey (lives in Terra Linda, San Rafael near Kaiser) 415-990-3521, jan@lipsey.to
Annie Song-Hill (lives in Terra Linda, San Rafael) - 415-516-5810, asonghill@gmail.com
Barbara Rowe (lives in Strawberry, Mill Valley) - 415-686-1549, barbrowe@aol.com

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For Donation Receipts:

For donors wishing to receive a tax receipt, CA will be happy to mail acknowledgment letters for tax purposes, but need the receipt and contact information to do so. Please send a copy of the purchase receipt as well as contact information and mailing address also to:

Attention: Sara Matson
Canal Alliance
91 Larkspur St
San Rafael, CA 94901

This news special tells it all -

<https://abc7news.com/society/the-one-neighborhood-bearing-the-brunt-of-marin-cos-coronavirus-cases-/6329375/>

Thank you so much for your support in these challenging times!

Annie Song-Hill

UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES



The Covid virus and related economic slowdown continues to affect church finances. Although members have maintained pledging, our rental income has decreased more than 50%. The slowdown also makes difficult creating a budget for next year.

Normally, about half of our income comes from rentals. This year we anticipate receiving about \$38,000, from rentals instead of the originally budgeted \$80,000, a decline of \$42,000. Due to declines in some expenses

and the Payroll Protection Program forgivable loan of \$12,500, the deficit for 2020 will be about \$19,000.

There will be a much larger deficit in 2021 if the renters are unable to return. The Montessori preschool expects to be paying full time rent starting in October. The Ministerios de Dios Latinos is now paying half rent for using our facility about half as often as they used to. A once-a-week yoga group and the 4H youth group are starting up, but the other renters such as the Church of God 7th Day and the various 12-step groups are not meeting.

In September, Marin County moved to the “red” stage, which means churches can meet inside at 25% of capacity if they can still practice social distancing, mask wearing, and other safety protocols. So far almost all use of the church has been outside in the courtyard.

The church does have reserves to cover the deficit this year, but would have difficulty sustaining such a deficit for an entire year more. The Trustees, as a result, are considering an extremely frugal budget for 2021. We hope to have better clarity in January when a budget will be formally presented prior to the annual meeting.

MOVIE NIGHT - OCTOBER - Charlie Kaufman's latest

For over 30 years, Charlie Kaufman has been the source of some of the most provocative, genre-bending ideas in film, from *Being John Malkovich* to *Adaptation* to *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* (all Oscar-nominated, all available on Netflix, Vudu and/or Amazon).



When he started directing his own films in 2008, things only got weirder. His first, *Synecdoche, New York* is a giant mess of a movie that nobody fully understands - - best saved for a later date. His second, *Anomalisa* is a quiet, moving story of two joyless people finding a little bit of happiness in a one-night stand at a business conference. It was Oscar-nominated as best animated feature, because it was shot entirely with stop-motion puppets! (Streaming on Vudu and Amazon)



Kaufman's third outing as writer/director is *I'm Thinking of Ending Things* which premiered **streaming on Netflix** this September. In it, a woman of indeterminate age agrees to accompany her new boyfriend on a visit to his parents out in the country, even though she doubts their relationship is going anywhere. The visit is so creepy and unsettling you may be tempted to give up. Don't. The film's second half is simply breath-taking in scope and emotional impact. The internet is buzzing with speculation about what it all means, but save that until you've seen this film at least once with fresh eyes.





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 — Meeting postponed

The Golden Gals will not be meeting this month due to the Shelter in Place order but hope to do so some time in the future.



TIE DEADLINE for NOVEMBER 2020 Issue - Mon. Oct. 25

The deadline for articles and news for the November 2020 issue of The TIE is Monday, Oct. 25th. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, the 28th.



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 OCTOBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am ZOOM Meeting, Virtual coffee hour	28	29	30	October 1	2	3 7 am  Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 8
4 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am ZOOM Meeting, Virtual coffee hour	5	6	7	8	9	10 7 am  Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 8
11 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am ZOOM Meeting, Virtual coffee hour 10 am OUTDOOR WORSHIP 10 AM	12  Columbus Day	13	14	15	16	17 Sweetest Day 7 am  Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 8
18 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am ZOOM Meeting, Virtual coffee hour	19	20 7 am - 8 am  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	21	22 5 am - 6 am  Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	23	24 7 am  Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 8
25 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am ZOOM Meeting, Virtual coffee hour	26	27 11 am  Board of Ministry Meeting 11:00 AM via ZOOM	28	29	30	31 Halloween 7 am  Movie Night at home. See suggestions on page 8

Stay Healthy

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.