

The TIE

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS REV. JEFFREY COCHRAN-CARNEY



What Abides?

Recently I was making some notes to share some of things that had happened at the church over the spring and summer, and I was reminded of several of our dear members we have lost. I am thinking of Marion Long, Chris Siroky, Richard Walker, and Jean Nadell. That is a lot of loss for a small church. I imagined an empty chair around a table, a space in the pew, and a phone call that wasn't made by someone we used to count on. Perhaps there has been a friend or family member you would add to the list as well.

How do we cope with such losses? How does faith play into it? This comes of course in the midst of the losses as a nation during the covid pandemic. But our losses are more personal. They touch us more deeply.

There were gatherings, suppers, and visits with family members. We attend memorial services, tell stories, show pictures, and give thanks for their lives.

I have also had to come to terms with such losses as a pastor for over forty years. What do I say when standing in the pulpit for a memorial, and look out at family members who need to hear words of comfort and consolation? What was it that made a difference for families when I was a hospice chaplain? Sometimes it wasn't words. Those were the days when it was still safe to give hugs! I think covid has made it even more difficult when we are supposed to keep a distance and hugs are discouraged.

There are some things that have brought me peace both personally and as a pastor. For over sixty years I have searched for the truth in matters of faith and belief. I have employed a healthy dose of skepticism and self-examination in order to separate my wishes from reality. In the end, you wager your life around what you believe as if your life depended on it, because it does. There is wisdom to be distilled, and the longer you live, the more important it becomes.



For me it has been simple: Life never ends. Love never ends. I believe in a Creator who fashioned us majestically after His or Her own image, who "made us just a little lower than God." (Psalm 8) Go and read the rest of the chapter, which tells you just about everything you need to know. Why wouldn't God finish what was started after creation?

(continued on the next page)

There are times I hear whispers that confirm these things are true. Am I hearing things? I hope so! It's the kind of hearing that comes from years of listening and keeping an ear to the ground. Finally, I think the Apostle Paul said it best as he pulled back the veil, with one foot in this world and one in the next --

"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:12-13



"Faith, hope and love abide." It is my prayer you have all three.

Blessings, Pastor Jeffrey

MODERATOR'S REPORT OUTDOOR SERVICES RESUME SUN., SEPT. 5

Well, here we are back under our lovely trees for worship service. I feel so fortunate that we have a lovely place to worship. We could be in a parking lot elsewhere. A majority of the Council members felt we would all be more safe and comfortable outdoors, as the Covid Delta variant is spreading. Hopefully very soon this will be easier for Bob, David, Jeffrey and Kevin to set up. For now we are all grateful for their expertise and willingness. I hope we can all enjoy the lovely weather until circumstances allow us to be safe and unworried indoors again.

Lynn Grant, Moderator



SEPTEMBER AGAPE TEAM

Agape - Providing compassionate connection to our church community through words of encouragement, cards, calls, and visits. Our Agape leader for September is **Anice Flesh (415-306-7902)** with the Agape team member **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.



August 29 - Sept. 4
Megan Fuller

September 5 - 11
Judy Girard

September 12 - 18
Lynn Grant

September 19 - 25
Catherine Hills, Audrey and Josie

September 26 - October 2
Caryl Hodges



Come and *Worship* with us!

***Worship is now being held outdoors every Sunday, with
masking and social distancing.***

Sept. 5 Saving the Sabbath Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 2:23-28

"Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy." (Exodus 20:8) Jesus himself was criticized by the Pharisees for healing a man on the Sabbath, and once again for providing food on the day of rest. On this Labor Day weekend, we are invited to reflect on the meaning of work, and the importance of the Sabbath. Does it still have meaning for us today? What if you are retired? Is there still a place for sabbath time? It may be the forgotten commandment for many, but it can still play an important role today.

Sept. 12 Outrageous Grace Jonah 3:1-5,10; Ephesians 4:1-10

Jonah couldn't believe his ears. God was asking him to go down and preach to the despised Ninevehites! Without his intervention, God would destroy their city. He couldn't stand the possibility that any good thing could happen to Nineveh, and so he fled. He boarded the first ship out of town. But Jonah couldn't escape God that easily. You might remember what happened next: Jonah was swallowed by a huge whale. After that, the adventure got even more amazing.

Sept. 19 Who is the Greatest? James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8; Mark 9:30-37

How do you define greatness? How many great people have you known in your life, and what made them so? The world has a standard for measuring greatness, but Jesus had his own criteria. It surprised even the disciples, who found themselves arguing about this very question.

Sept. 26 A Cup of Cold Water and a Pinch of Salt

Psalm 19:7-14; Mark 9:38-50

"For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, I tell you truly, he will not lose his reward." 9:41

"Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another." 9:50

Two aphorisms of Jesus, nine verses apart. What did they mean? Is there any commonality? Jesus was a man of compassion. As we have seen throughout Mark over the past weeks, Jesus often stopped for the individual, the forgotten, the outcast. Sometimes even his disciples were confused and dismayed. But he teaches his disciples that others who minister in his name will be honored in the same way as the disciples. The circle of compassion and kindness is broad. Jesus spoke using examples that were common in his day, and salt was a valuable commodity. He sums things up in the last verse: "Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another." Today he might tell us to go out and be "salty" Christians.



In addition to worship outdoors, **we are also livestreaming our 10 AM worship service on Zoom** for those who can't attend in person. Check your email on Saturday nights for more details!

ZOOM MEETINGS LET US GATHER TOGETHER SAFELY

Link to join all church Zoom meetings:

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

Meeting ID: 813 993 981

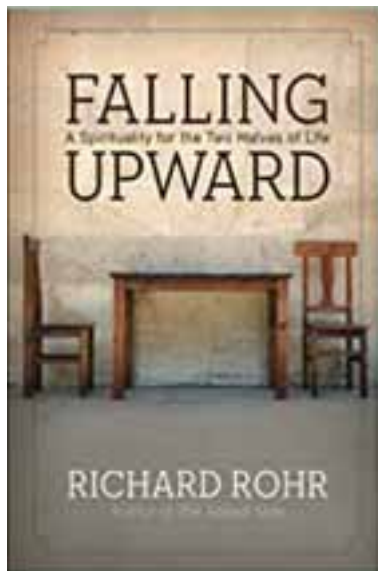
Password: **594741**

Call in number **1-669-900-6833**



Sunday, September 5 - Note the date change -Brown bag lunch in the courtyard- reconnect with each other directly after worship service.

Sunday, September 26 - Brown bag lunch 2 - discussion forum TBD



SMALL GROUP ON RICHARD ROHR'S BOOK

Beginning on Monday, September 13, from 7–8 PM, Pastor Jeffrey will be leading a small group based on Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life*. Rohr's book has been widely acclaimed, particularly as it addresses the opportunities and challenges to fashion a spiritual life in the second half of life. There are advantages as we age to integrate life lessons and wisdom that may not have been accessible in earlier years.

This is not a class to be "taught," but relies on group participation based on the readings, reflection, and personal life experience. We encourage a commitment to regular attendance and reading the chapter ahead of time. Rohr would suggest that the present moment brings rich opportunities to grow spiritually and draw closer to God. The book is available in a variety of formats,

and is available on Amazon. There is also a helpful companion journal available with questions and insights that is recommended as some of the questions and reflections will come from the journal. The group will begin meeting on Zoom and run to the end of October.

MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS -- VIA ZOOM

SEPT. 14: The Board of Ministry meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 12:00 noon.

SEPT. 21: The Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, Sept 21, at 7 PM.

SEPT. 22: Church Council will meet on Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 5 PM.





BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



WHAT A GENEROUS CONGREGATION!

Pillow Sunday Report

Hooray! Thanks to many generous people, we collected and delivered **46 new pillows** to Upward Bound on July 18.



Homeward Bound Update

Chair of the Board of Ministry, Caran Cuneo invited a former colleague, Mary Kay Sweeney, Executive Director of Homeward Bound, to speak to our congregation a few weeks ago. Mary Kay's presentation was well received and was both informative and inspiring. A member of our congregation was able to write and secure a grant from the Fullerton Family Foundation of \$5,000 to help retire Homeward Bound's debt for the construction of Mill Street House. In addition, several FCCSR members made a donation for the same purpose. We are indeed "small but mighty."



Ritter Center Gift Card Collection for Get Ready for School

In a third outpouring of generosity, we collected **22 gift cards** to give to Ritter Center. This collection was instead of our traditional Backpack Sunday, to help students prepare to go back to school. The total dollar amount these cards represent is \$625.

Save the date

The Board of Mission will be sponsoring our annual Neighbors in Need Offering will be taken on Sunday, October 3, 2021.



TRUSTEE'S REPORT



Bee Garden Coming

Thanks to a special gift, 4H members will soon create a bee habitat in the ameba-shaped planter of the church courtyard, according to 4H advisor Caryl Hodges. The group will plant and care for bee-attracting drought tolerant plants this fall. Caryl also leads 4H rabbit-care and dog agility training groups at church on several Sundays and Mondays each month.

Arborist Recommends Major Work

The church's regular arborist recommends removal of one of our Monterey Pine trees on the street side of the sanctuary. Arborist Adam Clarke of Bartlett Tree Experts says that one of the pine trees is being attacked by a beetle which attacks from the top down, and the tree should be removed to protect the other trees. This beetle is different from the common pine bark beetle, for which Bartlett regularly applies preventive treatment. Adam Clarke says our other trees look OK but will need extra watering to prevent stress-induced beetle spread.

Renting Church to Increase Evening Use

The church's most frequent renter will be increasing their use of our facility this fall to three nights a week. Ministerios de Dios Latinos will be using the church Monday, Friday, and Sunday evenings starting in September. They had been here Fridays and Sundays this last year, but before the pandemic had been in the church five nights a week.

Our other renting congregation, the Church of God, 7th Day, hopes to be able to return for part of Saturdays starting in September, but has not been able to confirm. In addition to pan-

BROWN BAG LUNCHES AFTER WORSHIP, SEPT. 5 AND 26



Bring a bag lunch with you to worship on Sunday, September 5 and 26, so we can have a chance to talk with each other in the courtyard.

We plan to have a focused discussion about the future during the September 26th Brown Bag lunch.

We hope to see everyone!

BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

The Board of Ministry welcomes Kevin Navarro, our new Music Director, to our team and appreciate his enthusiastic participation in planning worship as well as sharing his musical talent and knowledge.

CHOIR: In considering the resumption of in-person choir practices and performance, discussion and survey of congregation and choir members' was initiated. Board of Ministry members are researching the scientific findings regarding various types of singing masks and set practices to enhance the safety of all choir and congregation members. Our new choir director, Kevin, brings experience and helpful input to this process as well. Kevin has planned initial choir practices in the courtyard during this Covid surge. Masks for choir members will be provided.



MASKS: A reminder to all from the Board of Ministry (in accord with scientific studies on speaking and singing): Please wear a mask continually both during worship and Community Time while visiting with one another in the Sanctuary and out in the Courtyard.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP starting in SEPTEMBER

In response to many expressing a preference for outdoor worship due to both safety and aesthetics, the Board of Ministry proposed to the Council and Board of Trustees that we move forward with purchasing necessary sound and hearing support equipment to enable return to more outside services. The Church Council have approved this, and the first Sunday of September as the time to return to outdoor services.

JEAN NADELL'S MEMORIAL SERVICE: Pastor Jeffrey and Pastor Julianne Stokstad offered welcome, prayers, scriptures and message of comfort, family members shared personal memories and Kevin Navarro offered his musical gifts playing some of Jean's favorite hymns. The Nadell family provided a delicious luncheon in the patio, graced the church with bouquets of her favorite flowers and displays of photos and memorabilia that provided cameo glimpses into aspects of Jean's life and loves. Family members expressed their gratitude to the pastors, the church members who attended, and to the members who cleaned inside and outside and helped with setting up



and take down of the decorations and seating in the patio. Jean's love for her family and theirs for her was so abundantly experienced by all...even in the small practical gift of individually wrapped cookies from among Jean's and Fran's favorites that reminded us of all the church potlucks or parties when we had tasted delicious treats lovingly created and wrapped by Jean.

ZOOM BOOK STUDY GROUP: will be reading and discussing Richard Rohr's book, *Falling Upward*. For more details, see the article on page 4 of this TIE.

Next Board of Ministry Meeting: Noon, Tuesday, September 14th, 2021

Coming in October:

October 3: World Communion Sunday

October date to be determine: Blessing of the Animals

PRAYER FOR AFGHANISTAN

by Maren Tirabassi

God of many names, the Generous,
the All-Merciful, the Source of Peace,
we pray in thanks for Afghanistan
land of pomegranates and grapes,
birthplace of Rumi,
and 'I am the beggar of the world,'
landays of contemporary Afghan women.
We celebrate people –
Tajik and Hazaras, Uzbek and Pashtun.
We hear tabla, sitar, santur, tabur, flute,
and watch the attan danced.
We gaze upon art ancient and new –
miniatures and the weaves of rugs,
like no other in the world.
All earth opens its hands
and receives the gifts of Afghans,
and all the people pray,
each in their own many names and words
for safety of Afghans in these days –
seeking evacuation in the airport
moving quickly on the street,
hiding in homes,
wondering about schools.
For those who evacuate
and for those who wait for what is next,
for those who are foreign nationals,
and those bone-deep with history in the hills,
for faithful journalists still reporting,
and medical facilities desperate
for blocked supplies,
for Sikh and Hindu communities
and their holy places,
for the welcome of Australia,
and families across the ocean and near at hand
grieving loved ones lost,
life, body, mind in the long war.
for the afghan elder who has seen much
and the child born today
who will grow up to give a new gift,
we pray, O Compassionate, O Preserver. Amen

(submitted by Pastor Jeffrey)



DID YOU KNOW? DENISE WALKER WAS A CHILD EVACUEE DURING WWII

As the Nazis were sweeping across Europe and in England, families were doing whatever they could to protect their loved ones. Thousands of families evacuated women and especially children to the countryside, but some had to send their children across the Atlantic to be welcomed into homes in America and Canada or to New Zealand and Australia.

(Approximately 6500 “British Guest Children” came to Canada through the Children’s Overseas Reception Board program.)

Aboard one of these ships, were four siblings : the eldest sibling was 12-year-old Denise, along with her three younger brothers; the youngest only 4 years old. The overseas evacuations ceased soon after the *SS City of Benares* ship was attacked by a German torpedo in September 1940, killing 87 children. Denise and her youngest brother were fortunate to be taken in together by a lovely family where they remained for the duration of the war, while her other brothers were scattered among other families. Their parents remained in England, to whom they returned at last, after the War.



MY MOTHER WITH HER "PIONEERS FOUR"
A WEEK BEFORE WE SHIPPED OUT
TO CANADA



Denise speaks of her Canadian family with such warmth, and she stayed close to her Canadian “Aunt” and “Uncle” throughout their lifetimes. In later years, they often visited her family in England. Denise shared how fortunate she felt to have been placed with such loving people and especially grateful to have been able to stay close to her little brother.

Denise is quite certain that the positive experience in Canada at a young age gave her a sense of adventure and openness to travel. When Richard’s uncle encouraged them to follow him to the USA after they were married, they both thought the prospect of moving to America sounded like a fun adventure. She and Richard moved many times in their early years together, initially leaving their first home in the USA (in Manhattan) and driving all across country in an old truck to Texas. Later, they lived in a cabin in the mountains of Arizona and eventually moved further West to San Francisco, where they settled in Terra Linda to raise their young family (and where they joined the First Congregational Church of San Rafael). I would say that Denise’ open and adventuring spirit continues and brings her church family joy!



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



2 — Julie Dowling
4 — Greg Ripley
6 — Ray O'Leary
9 — Emma Faraci
10 — Joan Roane
10 — Megan Fuller
16 — Will Godbey
21 — Josie Borden Hills
23 — Paul Burks
25 — Tim Dempsey
25 — Caryl Hodges

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 OCTOBER issue - Mon., September 27

The deadline for articles and news for the October 2021 issue of The TIE is Monday, September 27th. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, September 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 SEPTEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am OUTDOORS. Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM	30	31	September 1	2	3	4  Movie Night at home.
5  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am OUTDOORS. Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM	6 Labor Day	7	8	9  7:30 pm - 9 pm Choir Rehearsal	10	11 Patriot Day  Movie Night at home.
12 GrandParents' Day  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am OUTDOORS. Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM	13  7 am - 8 pm Book Group on Zoom	14  12 am Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM	15	16  7:30 pm - 9 pm Choir Rehearsal	17	18  Movie Night at home.
19  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am OUTDOORS. Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM	20  7 pm - 8 pm Book Group on Zoom	21  7 pm - 8 pm BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	22  5 pm - 6 pm Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	23  7:30 pm - 9 pm Choir Rehearsal	24	25  Movie Night at home.
26  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am OUTDOORS. Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM	27  5 pm IIE Deadline for September 2021 Issue  7 am - 8 pm Book Group on Zoom	28	29	30  7:30 pm - 9 pm Choir Rehearsal	1	2  Movie Night at home.

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.