

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS REV. JEFFREY COCHRAN-CARNEY



Friends for Life

"I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world." Romans 1:8

As I write this on a warm day in late October, it is hard to believe that we are only four weeks away from Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving always brings for me an opportunity to reflect on all the spiritual gifts and blessings God has given to me as well as to our church. It is a time to count our many blessings and focus on what really matters.

When it comes to a spirit of thanks, I often turn to the Apostle Paul, for his letters embody a true sense of gratitude, and reminds us of the blessings we enjoy. Paul was close to all the churches he helped start, but he was particularly fond of the church in Macedonia. He describes in the beginning of the eighth chapter of Second Corinthians how the

churches in Macedonia were tested with afflictions and mired in poverty. Nevertheless, Paul writes that out of their abundance of joy for the Lord and his work, they overflowed with generosity when it came to giving. They gave lavishly of their financial resources, and also of their time and talent to the work of the Lord.

Like the Christians in Macedonia to whom Paul was writing, we have also been tested and mired in the grips of the covid-19 virus for well over a year and a half. Plans were put on hold, and life in many respects almost came to a halt.

We are far from out of the woods, but we look back at where we were a year ago, and today we can give thanks that vaccinations were made available to anybody who wanted them. We give thanks for our healthcare workers who went the extra mile for those who were ill. Today, more people feel safe to gather with family and friends. We can be grateful that we are able to gather as a church family for worship outdoors in a beautiful space again. Last year at this time, everything was recorded online. We can also be thankful that pledges were kept up to date throughout the year. We lost rental income, but the giving remained steady. If you are able, you might consider making a one-time gift to help bridge the gap.



Paul makes a compelling case for us today when it comes to supporting God's work in the local church. You are the body of Christ in the community and the world. Others can see the love and care of Christ reflected through you. It starts with a grateful

(continued on the next page)

heart and an appreciation for our blessings. In this season of stewardship, you could prayerfully consider increasing your pledge. If you are not already, you could consider volunteering your time to support the ongoing work of the church.

Your committees are at work planning ways to grow as a church as well as in our personal faith. You are a vital community who care for one another as well as your neighbors in need. Please be generous as you consider your giving for the remainder of this year and the New Year.



Rabbi Abraham Heschel once said, “If the only prayer you ever pray is ‘thank you,’ it is enough.” As we approach Thanksgiving, let us remember the many blessings of our church family. It is a privilege to give in order to support God’s work. As Paul reminds, “You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.” (2 Cor. 9:11)

Blessings, Pastor Jeffrey

AGAPE TEAM OUTREACH LUNCH MEETING NOV. 7



Sunday Morning November 7th after church - 1 pm

Agape teams are invited to gather for lunch and planning for the coming year in the Fuller-Knopf garden. Anyone interested in joining the Agape Team is welcome to join us without making a commitment. See **page 8** for more details about the Agape team.

SAVE THE DATE: NOV. 29

The Board of Ministry announces there will be Monday Zoom study sessions during Advent for another inspiring time together.
Advent Zoom Sessions: November 29, December 6, 13, 20



PRAYER PARTNERS

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



October 31 - November 6
Megan Fuller

November 7 - 13
Judy Girard

November 14 - 20
Lynn Grant

November 21 - 27
Catherine Hills, Audrey and Josie

November 28 - December 4
Caryl Hodges



Come and Worship with us!



***Worship is now being held in the sanctuary every Sunday,
with masking and social distancing.***

Nov. 7 A Widow's Might

Malachi 3:10-12; Mark 12:38-44

The Bible has a lot to say about what we do with our money. Yet, as Jesus is quick to point out, it is not just what we do with our money, but the attitude we have when giving. In today's reading, Jesus contrasts the giving habits between the rich and a lowly widow, with surprising results.

Nov. 14 An Unlikely Love

Ruth 1:1, 6-9, 14, 16; 4:13-22

Sometimes overlooked in the opening chapters of Ruth is the compelling story of Ruth and Naomi. Come and hear a story of courage, devotion, and obedience to God against overwhelming odds. In the midst of our struggles, God uses ordinary situations of fidelity and faithfulness to bless us with extraordinary love.

Nov. 21 Becoming a Thankful People

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18;

Matthew 5:1-12

A blessed people ought to be a thankful people. That is what Jesus concludes. Today we are reminded of his teachings in the Beatitudes, and a word from the Apostle Paul about gratitude. It is not only the season of Thanksgiving, but also Stewardship. As we give thanks for so many blessings, let us also give thanks for the church, and prayerfully consider what we can give in the year ahead.

Nov. 28 First Sunday in Advent

Standing at the Edge of Time

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13;

Luke 21:25-36

The first Sunday of Advent is the first Sunday of the New Year in the church liturgical cycle. It is also the first step in preparing our hearts for Christmas. Nevertheless, with it often comes bizarre images and teachings that seem out of sync to the modern mind. It speaks of the end times with teachings that are "Apocalyptic" and cataclysmic in nature. But for the Jewish people who were in exile, these would be welcome words of hope, and paint a picture of brighter days ahead. If we are able to get past these words and images that almost seem like science fiction, we can find stories and parables that are existential in nature, and remarkably relevant to the timeless truths and longings of what it means to be human. Then as now, telling stories is the best way to tell us who we are. Just like the ancient Israelites and the early Christians, we too are standing at the edge of time.



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**



MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS -- VIA ZOOM

NOV. 9: The Board of Ministry meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 12:00 noon.

NOV. 16: The Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 7 PM.

NOV. 17: The Church Council will meet on Wed., Nov. 17, at 5 PM, on Zoom.

NOV. 29: The Advent Devotions group will meet on Monday, Nov. 29, at 7 PM on Zoom.



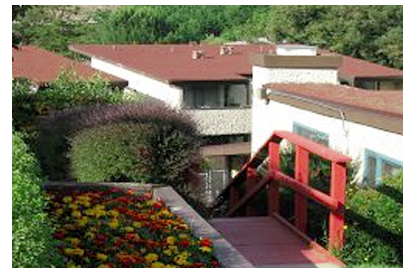
SPIFF UP THE CHURCH DAY NOV. 27, 9 AM - 12 NOON

Come one, come all, and spruce our church up before Advent! 9 AM until noon. Bring cleaning supplies. See more details on page 8.

PILGRIM PARK UPDATE

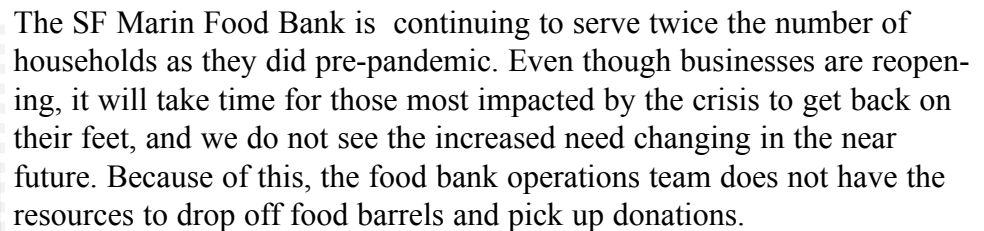
Pilgrim Park came through the first major storm of the season in great shape except for some flooding caused by an uphill neighbor. A neighbor's drain pipe clogged. Oops!

Pilgrim Park had to deal with the flooding on the Sunday morning of the storm. Les Santos, just returned from a brief vacation in Hawaii, mustered three other men and one teenager to fill sand bags and stem the flow onto Pilgrim Way and away from three apartments. Then, they began to remove the water, dry the carpets and clean up the debris. Two tenants moved temporarily to a hotel, and one tenant moved in with a friendly tenant. All should be back in their apartments soon.



Les has plans to build a more permanent dam to prevent future flooding from uphill neighbors.

Bob De Haan



During November please remember to bring your non-perishable food items in plastic jars (no glass due to the danger of breakage). Let's fill the barrel and then the Board of Mission will transport items to the warehouse.

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING UPDATE

Our congregation contributed \$885 to this important offering. Thank you for your generous contribution!

UPCOMING MISSION PROJECTS

Educational Outreach – Hosting a community education presentation with hopes to schedule Heidi Kuhn, Roots of Peace to present their mission and needed assistance for Afghan refugees that FCC can support.

IMMIGRANT ACCOMPANIMENT NEWS AND NEED

Dear Church Family,

In January of 2019, FCCSR formally voted to declare itself an Immigrant Accompaniment Congregation. Over the past few years, through our involvement in the Marin Interfaith Council Sanctuary Accompaniment Network, we have assisted individuals and families with various kinds of support such as housing, limited monetary support, and driving folks to court appearances. The Marin Interfaith Council Accompaniment Network recently decided to support a Venezuelan asylum seeker. This man (we are keeping his name private for now for security reasons) is 36 years old and here by himself. He is registered with the immigration system and awaiting his first court date. Due to severe trauma on the way to the states, he had to send his wife and son to Columbia in the middle of the journey, where they are now. He is humble, sweet, and resilient and is 100% ready to start his new life. He is Spanish speaking only. He was previously staying in a shelter in San Antonio and arrived in the Bay Area on October 12 assisted by our MIC Accompaniment Team. He is quarantining in a synagogue in Oakland for the next 1-3 weeks.



Annie Song-Hill, FCCSR's representative to the MIC Accompaniment Network, is working with a core group to provide various kinds of support. The immediate need is for housing. The Accompaniment Team from the Marin Interfaith Council would like to find him housing in the Marin area to be close to this support system.

Can you or somebody that you know host a Venezuelan asylum seeker in your house or do you have access to another apartment or living space? Each of us in the MIC Accompaniment Network are reaching out to our respective houses of faith with this request.



We are searching for a 3-6 month housing arrangement for him. **As a housing host, your role would be to provide a roof over his head. That is it!** There is no expectation that housing hosts provide any further financial or emotional support. More about the hosted housing program can be found on New Anchor's website. (This is a 501(c)(3) working to provide housing to refugees in the Bay Area.) We also have a rental stipend that we can use for room or housing rental, and our team is prepared to offer him resources, food support, transportation and other needs.

Housing requirements:

- Private bedroom with access to a shared bathroom and kitchen
- Located in Marin, access to public transit or walking distance to a grocery store is a huge plus
- Some Spanish preferred, but not required

If you think you can help out or have any questions, please get in touch by responding to me at asonghill@gmail.com or call or text me at 415-516-5810.

Thank you so much!!
Annie

BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

Music

Many have expressed delight to hear the Choir singing together familiar blessings at the close of worship. We are grateful to them for organizing and sharing their musical gifts with us in creative ways in light of the challenges of doing so without formal choir practices and while masked and distanced! We continue to enjoy the talents of soloists and visiting pianists. We had the pleasure of experiencing the varied styles of our visiting pianists: new welcomed Kenji Higashihama return in early October, we enjoyed the jazzy stylings of Gerry Grosz on October 17 and the elegance and playful talents of Paul Smith on October 24th. One member particularly enjoyed hearing the “elephants” make an appearance during our Blessing of the Animals service evoked by Paul’s special music playing from Saint-Saens’ *The Carnival of the Animals*.



We enjoyed the vibrant sound of our new portable digital Yamaha piano for our outdoor worship, thanks to an anonymous donor. Thank you Anonymous!

Worship

Our service for The Blessing of the Animals/ Feast of St Francis on October 24th was moved to ZOOM as we experienced our intense storm and lots of very welcome rain! Some of us who lost power found creative ways to join.

We enjoyed a beautiful service and got to introduce our animal family members to one another via Zoom.

STAY TUNED We plan to have a “rain-check” and schedule The Blessing of the Animals for a Sunday in November when blessings can be bestowed in person upon our pets.

Bring your people friends and family too!

Worship has moved indoors. We will be keeping the sanctuary well-ventilated by opening windows and doors (in other words...it could be cool!). A few clean small blankets will be available (If you use one, please do not take it home as a member has volunteered to wash them weekly).

We will require congregants to wear a mask and please social distance. Masks are also available if needed. Please, stay home if you have any symptoms of concern.

Live Zoom recording will continue to be offered on our church Zoom account.

Coming soon! ADVENT

Advent starts Sunday, November 28th! Yes, that means Christmas is Coming!

Please call Amy in the office or let Pastor Jeffrey or Cathi know if you would like to light an Advent Candle, provide music or read during an Advent service.

Education

Those of us who attended the *Falling Upwards* Book Study on Zoom these past 6 weeks, enjoyed the readings and, even more, the discussions with one another inspired by the thought provoking chapters. We are grateful for Pastor Jeffrey’s leadership and thoughtful questions.

We wish to continue our Monday Zoom study sessions and plan to meet during Advent for another inspiring time together.

Advent Zoom Sessions: November 29, December 6, 13, 20.



Agape Team Outreach

Sunday Morning November 7th after church - 1 pm

Agape teams are invited to gather for lunch and planning for the coming year in the Fuller-Knopf garden. Anyone interested in joining the Agape Team is welcome to join us without making a commitment.



What has the “Agape” Team been doing? “Providing compassionate connection to our church community through words of encouragement, cards, phone calls, home visits and other support as needed.”

- agape,”agapē (from Greek), used in the New Testament, ... as the reciprocal love between God and humans made manifest in one's unselfish love of others.

The Agape Team decided that word “Agape” sums up the motivation, ministry, and mission of our modern day discipleship. We also feel it implies the reciprocal gift we receive as a result of the interactions that occur through these visits with our wonderful members.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT



GRATITUDE IN ACTION

Is gratitude just the healthy emotion felt at that end of November feast? An oft-mentioned path of mental health? A passing whim? Perhaps it is a recognition of the gifts of life and time and resources to be shared.

You have an opportunity to put into action your gratefulness with this year's pledge of time, talent, and money. Creating inspiring worship, building community, responding to hunger, homelessness, and refugees, maintaining a beautiful space, learning and growing spiritually all take the efforts and resources of many.

The first week of November you should receive this year's Gratitude in Action pledge request. Your promise of financial support is an important part of our planning, but so is your pledge of helping on various projects and teams.

We will also have copies of this request available at church.

SPIFF-UP-THE-CHURCH DAY NOV. 27

Join in getting the church ready for Advent on Saturday, November 27, from 9-12. We'll polish, dust, scrub, clean, organize, wash, prune and find other creative ways to make the church sparkle for the holiday season. This will be particularly helpful as we emerge from the Covid quarantine time. The Real Life Church will also have a hard working crew joining us. Bring cleaning supplies and a good song to whistle as we work.





NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

16 — Eckhard Mahl

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 DECEMBER issue - Mon., November 22

The deadline for articles and news for the December 2021 issue of The TIE is Monday, November 22nd. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, November 22nd.



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 NOVEMBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31  Halloween 10 am  Worship Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM	November 1	2	3	4	5	6  Movie Night at home.
7 Daylight Saving (End) 10 am  Worship Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM 11 am KAREE OUTREACH LUNCH at Elder Howard's garden	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12	13  Movie Night at home.
14 10 am  Worship Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM	15	16 12 am  Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM 7 am - 8 am  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	17 5 am - 6 pm  Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	18	19	20  Movie Night at home.
21 10 am  Worship Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM	22 5 am  IE Deadline for November 2021 issue	23	24	25  Thanksgiving Day	26	27  Movie Night at home. 9 am - 12 pm  SPICE UP THE CHURCH
28 10 am  Worship Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is ALSO livestreamed on Zoom at 10 AM	29 7 am - 8 am  ADVENT DEVOTIONS via Zoom	30	1	2	3	4  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.