

February 2022

First Congregational Church of
San Rafael

The TIE

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS REV. JEFFREY COCHRAN-CARNEY



You have probably heard that I recently announced my resignation and subsequent retirement due to health and other personal reasons. Then, just this past week I tested positive for Covid. Maybe the wisdom of my body was saying it is time to rest and take care of myself.

This was a difficult decision, and came after a lengthy time of prayerful reflection. I have valued you individually and as a congregation. Covid shortened our time together in person, but we did manage to meet indoors for a while, and then in the courtyard where we were treated to God's lovely creation as we worshipped.

Also, it is becoming increasingly difficult for me to drive. Prior to moving to Marin County, I was involved in a very serious auto accident. Then there was a second accident a few months ago. As a result, driving has become very stressful. It is difficult for me to drive to make pastoral visits as much as I would like.

My last Sunday will be February 27. It is Transfiguration Sunday. It seemed significant to preach on that Sunday. We catch a glimpse of God's glory transfigured on the mountaintop. After living with Covid and other challenges for two years, we all need to take heart by a spiritual mountaintop experience that brings us strength and encouragement in the days ahead.

Following the transfiguration begins the season of Lent. Let me invite you personally and as a congregation to reflect on what God is doing in your life and where God might be calling you. Pay attention to what comes up for you during this time. We can all make a new start. We know Lent begins a journey to the cross for Jesus, but as people of faith, we also prepare ourselves to embrace the resurrection on Easter. I have always found this to be a meaningful time of discernment and growth.

I have known you to be a caring church family as you reached out to those in need.

You have made sure vital ministries continued. It has often been said that the church is not the building but the people, caring for others as Christ would. That is especially true for you.

It has been a privilege to serve the church over the past two years. Covid changed the landscape, but



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you showed perseverance and faithfulness. I especially appreciate the care and concern you have shown for my family.

Let me leave you with a couple verses from Paul's letter to the Philippians, which is my hope for you:

"Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:8-9

Blessings, Pastor Jeffrey



**SAVE THE DATE:
FEBRUARY 6 AT 11 AM**

Our congregation's **annual meeting** will be the **FIRST** Sunday of February, the 6th. The meeting will be immediately after worship.



Don't miss this important meeting. We need to make sure we have enough members present for a quorum!! It is the time when we briefly reflect on the past year, vote on the 2022 church budget, elect officers and members of boards and committees, and plan for the upcoming year.



Note: After February 28, the email fccsrpastor@gmail.com will no longer be in use. Please delete it from your contact list.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



January 30 - February 5

Michael Meehan and Jamie Cline,
Taylor, Jacob, Michael, and Tristan

February 13 - 19

Ray and Jean O'Leary

February 20 - 26

Milagro Ramirez

February 6 - 12

Alan and Barbara Miller

February 27 - March 5

Lucinda Ray and Charles Little

Come and

Worship

w i t h u s !



We will be worshipping via Zoom every Sunday in February. Please check your email on Saturday evening or Sunday morning for a link to the service.

Feb. 6 A Wedding Miracle

John 2:1-11

In John's gospel lesson today, we witness the first miracle Jesus ever performed, and it was at a wedding. In that day, the most serious thing that could occur on the wedding day is to run out of wine, but that is exactly what happened. There are different layers in this story. We have hints of Jesus' own ministry and sacrifice, a challenge to Jewish rites of purification, but above all, Jesus insured that this wedding would be a day of joy.

Feb. 13 A Divine Valentine I Corinthians 13; Matthew 22:34-40

Valentine's day is February 14. Is it just a sentimental holiday, or something more substantial? Did you know that the day is named after a famous saint? Historically, Valentine's Day is named after Valentinus, an early Christian martyr in ancient Rome around the 3rd century. We can learn from him along with the Apostle Paul about love – a subject that influences the relationships that matter most.

Feb. 20 Filling Your Empty Nets

Luke 5:1-11

We have a very rich passage from Luke today in the story of Jesus calling the first disciples. They had been fishing without much success when Jesus told Simon to "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Their catch was so great that the boat began to sink. What phrases and images in this amazing story strike you? This may be one of those passages where it is helpful to read in lectio divina style. Where is God calling you to "Put out into the deep water?"

Feb. 27 Glimpses of Glory **Transfiguration Sunday**

Matthew 17:1-9

Transfiguration Sunday is a transition Sunday. It is a bridge over which we walk to get to the season of Lent. We are not always sure we want to cross it. After all, after the transfiguration comes Lent, and talk about discipline, prayer, fasting and ashes. It is also the beginning of Jesus' journey that will lead to the cross. The transfiguration can prepare us for the journey, and remind us that a glimpse of God's glory can sustain us.

MEET OUR NEW CHURCH MUSIC DIRECTOR GERRY GROSZ



Originally from upstate New York, Gerry Grosz moved to the Bay Area in 1996, and has resided in Marin since 2005. He spends much of his time accompanying dance and movement classes for people with Parkinson's Disease and at local senior residences.

He is the concert choir accompanist at Tamalpais High School in Mill Valley, and teaches private piano locally.

Grosz is a prolific and stylistically-diverse composer and songwriter, and has done sound design and composing for five plays with Alter Theater Company in San Rafael.

Well-known on the Bay Area jazz scene as a spirited performer on both piano and vibraphone, he leads his own band, the Gerry Grosz Jazz Kitchen, has released two albums under his own name, and has played and recorded with many top Bay Area luminaries, including local Marin favorites Maria Muldaur and Dan Hicks. He previously held the Music Director position at San Rafael First United Methodist Church, and has worked with many other churches all across the Bay Area.

We are delighted to have such a talented musician as our church Music Director. Come to worship to enjoy his music!

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

We are holding weekly Zoom worship on Sunday mornings during February, so members of the congregation can worship “together.” You can use either your computer, your cell phone, your tablet, or even just call in from your land line.

Copy and paste this link to join all church Zoom meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2011092691?pwd=c2V0RXEvWXF4STNNSTlxbWFFTElNuZz09>

Meeting ID: 201 109 2691

Password: FCCSR!

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



MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS -- VIA ZOOM

FEBRUARY 6: The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational Church of San Rafael will be Sunday, February 6, at 11 AM.

FEBRUARY 8: The Board of Ministry will meet at noon on Tuesday, February 8.

FEBRUARY 13: The Agape Team will meet after the worship service (and on the second Sunday of each month in the future).

FEBRUARY 15: The Board of Trustees will meet at 7 PM on Tuesday, Feb. 15.





BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



MISSION UPDATE

Each year, the Board of Mission makes contributions to local organizations that improve the life of our community.

This year, benevolence from First Congregational helped Habitat for Humanity of Sonoma County make “Home for the Holidays” possible for future Habitat homeowners. The CEO of Habitat of Sonoma sent us a letter of thanks:



“Every person should have a safe place to call home, and because of your contribution, this will be a reality for more families. Your impact will result in four more affordable, energy-efficient, and healthy homes to be complete in 2023 in Sebastopol. Please know how grateful I am for your support. You are truly making a difference.”



Special thanks were also received from The Spahr Center and Dana Van Gorder, Executive Director:

“With your support, The Spahr Center is expanding vitally important programs and services to empower and build well-being for LGBTQ+ youth, seniors and everyone in between! We are also playing a pivotal role in seeing to it that HIV comes to an end in Marin. The Spahr Center’s Board and staff has released a visionary strategic plan that, titled Raising the Bar on Our Future, that addressed the most pressing needs and aspirations of the communities we serve. We greatly appreciate your help to position us for this new and exciting work. The plan is available to read at www.thespahrcenter.org”

DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK



As soon as we return to in-person worship services, remember to bring food items with you and deposit them in our Food Bank barrel. In the meantime, please contribute instead here:

<https://donate.sfmfoodbank.org/page/5009/donate/2>



Or, send a check to:

SF-Marin Food Bank
2550 Kerner Boulevard
San Rafael, CA 94901

UPDATE FROM THE TRUSTEES

PARKING LOT RESURFACING SCHEDULED

The parking lot, also known as Pilgrim Way, will be resurfaced Tuesday, Feb 15, and Wednesday, February 16.

Pilgrim Park Apartments, Inc, will be renewing all of the parking lots around the apartments and church.

Temporary parking is being arranged, courtesy of Valley Baptist Church across the street. **Cars parked in our lot during resurfacing have been towed in the past.**

Rain may modify the schedule. For more information contact Margie Rollman at Pilgrim Park Apartments, (415) 499 3350.

MORE TREE WORK PLANNED

In February, Bartlett Tree Experts will do more pruning of our Oak Trees as well as remove a pine tree due to more beetle infestation. Since Fire Departments are encouraging removing eucalyptus trees due to their fire explosiveness, the Trustees have decided to have the Ironwood Eucalyptus near the street sign taken down as well. Bartlett has also offered to add a replacement tree more appropriate to our setting.



NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR

Gerry Grosz, who has been playing the piano for our worship services since November, is now officially our new Music Director. See the article on **page 4**. We look forward to the new energy he will continue to bring to our worship.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE YOUR PLEDGE FOR OUR 2022 CHURCH BUDGET!



Still trying to decide about your New Year's resolutions for 2022? We need more pledges in order to meet our budget for the upcoming year. You can email Val Sherer to let her know the amount you want to pledge: **Valpub@sbcglobal.net**

BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

"Love recognizes no barriers. It jumps hurdles, leaps fences, penetrates walls to arrive at its destination full of hope."

Maya Angelou



Worship

Worship services will continue on Zoom at 10 AM through February with Pastor Jeffrey Cochran-Carney officiating. Please check weekly announcements regarding the worship Zoom link.

We are grateful for Pastor Jeffrey's inspiring sermons, his spiritual leadership during worship, meetings, devotional retreats, book studies and his caring pastoring. We wish him health and joy in "his journey."

The Ministry team, in coordination with the Trustees, are reaching out to guest pastors to establish worship leadership for the Sundays in March.

The Lenten Season

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd;

More information will be forthcoming in the March TIE.

A Lenten Devotional Study will be offered; all are welcome to join.

Lent and the Poetry of Emily Dickinson (from Salt Project) has been proposed in light of the positive responses to our previous study based on Mary Oliver poems. If you have a strong interest in another theme or book for consideration, please email Cathi.

"...All you'll need is your favorite Bible and a collection of Dickinson's poems... Week by week, we'll walk through the garden together toward Easter morning - with Emily Dickinson as our guide..."

February 13

Agape Team will meet after service on Zoom on the second Sunday of the Month.



Valentine's Day

Although several Christian martyrs were named Valentine, it is thought that the day is named for a priest imprisoned and killed by the Roman emperor around February of year 270. According to legend, the priest left a farewell letter signed "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended. Some stories say he healed her from blindness.

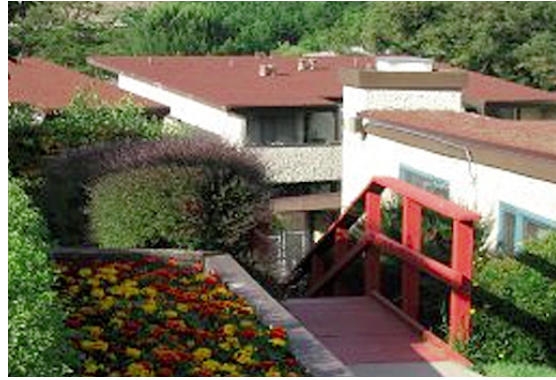
Many profound letters have been written by other prisoners of conscience from jail. Best known to us are the Apostle Paul, the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. and Archbishop Desmond Tutu

who passed away in December 2021. Tutu had these words to say about love: "We tend to think love is a feeling, but it is not. Love is an action; love is something we do for others."

May our Valentines be *acts* of love.

PILGRIM PARK NEWS

February Paving of Pilgrim Way -- The paving will occur during February in four phases. The area in front of the church will be the last phase in late February. Please contact David Knopf with questions.



Winter Flooding at Pilgrim Park -- There have been two instances of apartment flooding. The first occurred in the early rains, due to the city of San Rafael not clearing an uphill drain. Three apartments were flooded. The apartments were dewatered, the tenants were temporarily housed in a motel or with a friend, and they returned to their abode within about a week. The second instance was minor and affected only one apartment. The second instance disclosed a long-standing fault in the drainage system, which is being corrected.

Bob De Haan





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 — Jeffrey Cochran-Carney
6 — Ralph Sherer
11 — Samuel Dempsey
18 — Jasmin Morales
25 — Rachael Knopf

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 MARCH 2022 Issue - Mon. FEB. 21

The deadline for articles and news for the March 2022 issue of The TIE is Monday, February, 21st. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, the 21st.



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 FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM	31	February 1	2 Grounding Day	3	4	5
6  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM 11 am - 12 pm ANNUAL MEETING	7	8  12 pm Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM	9	10	11	12  Lincoln's Birthday
13  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM 11 am AGAPE TEAM MEETING after worship	14 Valentine's Day	15  Parking Lot Reopening All Day - DO NOT USE THE PARKING LOT 7 pm - 8 pm  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	16  Parking Lot Reopening All Day - DO NOT USE THE PARKING LOT	17	18	19
20  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM	21  Presidents' Day 5 pm  TIE Deadline for March 2022 Issue	22	23	24	25	26
27  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM	28	1	2	3	4	5

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.