

## **COME ONE, COME ALL ON MAY 15! - HEAR THE GOOD NEWS! PROPOSED TERM MINISTER**

Upon the upon the recommendation of the Interim Search Committee and the Church Council, we will have a Congregation Meeting of First Congregational Church of San Rafael on May 15th to prayerfully consider a call to Rev. Barbara Peronteau to be our designated term pastor for at least 18 months.

Rev. Peronteau has specialized in helping churches with transitions, is an excellent preacher, and comes with superb recommendations. On the next page, you will find a brief description of Rev. Peronteau.

A designated term call is a bit different from the usual Interim Call. An Interim pastor focuses on helping a congregation find a settled pastor, is open-ended, but the church may not consider the interim pastor for a settled position by UCC and Conference rules. A call to pastor to a designated term provides time for us to be the church, and to discern more fully our mission and ministry. After 18 months, the call may be extended, ended, or changed by a vote of the church council and the call renegotiated. It may be changed to a settled position (by mutual agreement) or changed to an interim agreement in which the congregation proceeds to create a Search Committee for a settled pastor, writes a profile, and seeks candidates. During the designated time, the church does not search for other pastors.

On Sunday the 15th of May we will be led in worship by Rev. Peronteau.

It will be a hybrid church service and meeting (both in church and on ZOOM) to allow the maximum number of our members to participate. Immediately afterward we will have a congregation meeting. Then, we will enjoy a delicious lunch in the courtyard and celebrate our community.

We look forward to presenting Rev. Peronteau to the congregation for your approval.

Louis Frost, Moderator



## **YES, THERE IS A FREE LUNCH! MAY 15, AFTER THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Don't miss it. A chance to socialize and eat together!  
What could be better? And no dishes to wash! See you there.

## INTRODUCING REV. BARBARA PERONTEAU

The Interim Search Committee, the Board of Trustees, and the Church Council are recommending Rev. Barbara Peronteau to be called by the congregation to be our Designated Term pastor for at least 18 months at 60% time.

She has impressed the Search Committee with how her faith journey led her to feeling called to intentional interim ministry. She has a depth of experience and training with pastoring church transitions. She most recently was the bridge pastor at Arlington Church in Kensington and an interim at St James Lutheran Church in San Leandro. She has also been interim pastor for churches in Pennsylvania, Colorado, and Ohio.

One reference told the committee “she has helped us with a vision while letting go of things holding us back, encouraging us to do better and not just go back to the good old days.”

Her references describe her as:

- an empathetic listener
- having a strong personal faith,
- able to speak of God in a down-to-earth way
- genuine
- a good communicator
- a strong preacher
- committed to social justice and inclusion
- gets along with everybody
- laughs easily
- clear about God’s grace.

She earned her Master of Divinity at Union Seminary in Virginia in 1988, and completed Level II Clinical Pastor Education Training in Reading, PA. She has also worked as a hospital chaplain and developed HIV/AIDs hospital chaplaincy as well as women’s transgender hospital chaplaincy. She was ordained as a UCC minister in 1988.

She is publishing a “side bar” on the Book of Judith for a biblical commentary to be published this fall and this month is one of three speakers on a nation-wide Zoom on pastoring in and with the transgender community.

The Interim Search Committee feels that Barbara’s passion and skills working with church transitions and pastoral care are just what will help FCC move on to a robust, healthy, church community.

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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



**May 1 - 7**  
Bob and Sue Spofford

**May 8 - 14**  
Tessa and Colin Templeman

**May 15 - 21**  
Patty Trosclair

**May 22 - 28**  
Dorothy Trotter

**May 29 - June 4**  
Colleen Trudeau

# Come Worship with us!

***We will be worshipping at 10 AM inside the sanctuary and for as long as it is safe to do so.***

***Check your email on Saturday and Sunday mornings.***

***The service will also be available simultaneously at 10 AM on Zoom.***

## **May 1     An Invitation to Breakfast on the Shore with Jesus** **Guest preacher: Rev. Kristi Denham**

The congregation participated through hymns, poetry, Communion and scripture based on the story in the 21st Chapter of John in which the Risen Jesus invites his disciples to breakfast on the shore at the Sea of Galilee.

Thank You to Rev. Kristi Denham for serving Communion and to all who participated in the planning, music, serving of communion and readings.

A Breakfast “picnic” in the sunny courtyard was enjoyed with fellowship together during our Community Time following worship.



## **May 8     Mother's Day     Eyes on the Scarred Sacred** **Guest preacher: Rev. Nichola Torbet**

Nichola Torbett is a spiritual seeker, gospel preacher, podcaster, writer, resistance fomenter, dog-walker, and nonviolent direct action trainer. Driven by her passion for both spiritual formation and social change, she co-founded Seminary of the Street, a training academy for love warriors, in 2009 and Second Acts, a liturgical direct action affinity group, in 2014. She is co-editor of *Resipiscence: a Lenten Devotional for Dismantling White Supremacy* and a frequent contributor to *The Word Is Resistance*, a podcast from SURJ-Faith, as well as to *enfleshed*, *radicaldiscipleship.net*, and *GEEZ* magazine, for which she currently serves on the board.

## **May 15     Guest preacher: Rev. Barbara Peronteau**

The service will be followed by a Congregational Meeting to vote on the option to call her as a “Designated Term Pastor” or as “Interim.” Following the meeting, a lunch will be provided by the Church Council in the courtyard. See pages 1 and 2 of this issue of the TIE for more details.

## **May 22     To Be Announced**

## **May 29     To Be Announced**

## ZOOM MEETINGS LET US GATHER TOGETHER SAFELY

We are also providing our Sunday worship service simultaneously at 10 a.m. on Zoom 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://us02web.zoom.us/j/2011092691?pwd=c2V0RXEvWXF4STNNSTlxbWFFTENuZz09>

Meeting ID: ID: 201 109 2691

Password: FCCSR!

Call in number 1-669-900-6833



## MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS -- VIA ZOOM

**MAY 3:** The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday**, May 3, at noon.

**May 17:** The Board of Trustees meeting will be on Tuesday, May 17, at 7 PM.

**May 25:** The Church Council meeting will be on Wednesday, May 25, at 5 PM.



## TRUSTEE'S REPORT

### Tree Planting culminates Earth Day Service

After celebrating Earth Day the last Sunday of April we planted a coast live oak on the East end of our property. The tree was graciously donated by Bartlett Tree Experts and the site prepared by arborist Adam Clarke. Last year we had to remove two older pine trees that had become beetle infested, so a new tree appropriate

for our environment is particularly welcome. Adam noted we have at least two other oak "volunteers" starting to grow nearby, so hopefully in a few years we will have a little native oak "forest!"

### Spiff-up-the-Church Day makes church sparkle for Easter

Special thanks to the hard working crew that cleaned windows, vacuumed pews, polished the cross, cleaned smudges, pulled weeds, and found so many ways to make the church bright and fresh for Easter.

Also thanks to the Real Life Church, which was unable to join us that day, but later did a massive amount of week wacking, brush clearance, and gum removal.







## BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



### UPDATE ON ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING



Thanks for your generous gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing. As you know, OGHS is the refugee, relief and development special mission offering of the UCC.

One Great Hour of Sharing is at work all around the year, all around the world—sharing resources and changing lives. The UCC works with domestic and international partners, to provide support to health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives.

This year's special offering for OGHS was received March 27, 2022, where \$820 was raised. The theme for 2022 of Love Remains, based on 1 Corinthians 13, was shown by our FCC church family.

Love is an active decision to think of others before self; to work on behalf of others; and to care for other with acts of kindness and advocacy. Paul taught that community is less about “me” and more about “us.”

### ORDERING BEAUTIFUL, STAINABLE GIFTS FROM SERRV BENEFITS THE CHURCH

Looking for a unique, hand-made gift for someone. If you order a gift from SERRV, **your purchase helps support a craftsperson from a developing country and it also benefits our Board of Mission.**

Recently our Mission Board received a check for \$35.95, since we receive 20% of the purchase price of whatever you order.



Here's how to order from SERRV: Use this link: <https://www.serrv.org/?a=FCCserrvsale>  
It will take you to the SERRV online catalog, and your purchase will be credited to our church.

### DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK



As we return to in-person worship services, remember to bring food items with you and deposit them in our Food Bank barrel.

In addition, please contribute here: <https://donate.sfmfood-bank.org/page/5009/donate/2>

Or, send a check to:

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

## BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

### April Worship

In April, we enjoyed joy-filled services with sermons filled with message of the Resurrecting power of Love from Guest Pastors, Rev. Brian Adkin, Rev. Julianne Stokstad, and Rev. Kristi Denham.



For Easter week services, we welcomed back Rev. Julianne Stokstad, who was our pastor from 2004 through 2008, and who led our celebration of both Palm Sunday and Easter. Rev. Kristi Denham also served at FCC when she started her formal ministry career and has come full circle to join us again in retirement (although we have been making it hard for her to stay “retired” as we have asked her to lead us in worship once a month as well as serve as our chaplain while in search of an Interim Pastor).

Other Lenten Activities included a four-week poetry devotional discussion group using some of Emily Dickinson’s poems. As always, the spending time sharing our thoughts with one another provides opportunity to get to know each other in new ways, even on Zoom, and according to one participant “is the best part.”

Floral inspired activities and surprises (adapted from a Salt Project resource) for each day of Easter week were delivered (even to Concord, Mass.) to families with youth. Emma and Jack sent a cute video saying they were enjoying one each morning. Cathi enjoyed some visits with families during the deliveries.

The Ministry Team offered a meditation walk in the Courtyard on Good Friday.

### **Thank you to all who brought flowers and helped fill our cross.**

Thank you Bob DeHaan who designed the cross to make this a favorite Easter tradition.

On Easter, we had the joy, after our Pandemic hiatus, of filling our cross with live flowers once again, brought from many members’ gardens. One member (Patti Trosclair), who was visiting in San Rafael from Tennessee, where she moved a number of years ago, called ahead of her visit to see if she could join in decorating the cross again.



### **Memorial Bulbs and Lilies**

Easter Lilies, daffodils, hyacinths, and tulips graced the sanctuary at Easter in honor and memory of loved ones.

- Caran Cuneo: In honor of Cathi Fuller & David Knopf, their tireless service to FCC
- Kristi Denham: In memory of her mom, Audrey M. Jones
- Jackie Dema: In honor of her family
- Anice Flesh: In memory of Beryl Flesh
- Louis Frost: In memory of Lucille and Charles Frost
- The Fullers and Knopfs: In memory of Bill, Glenn and Kay Fuller, M.A. Lindgren, Mac McQuern, Bob, Art and Dorothy Knopf and Shirley Cline
- Caryl Hodges: In memory of Gayle Kaufman, L.J and Sue Cox, Theresa Tompkins, David Hodges, Edward, Miriam and Ned Hodges  
In Honor of Sean and Allison Kaufman
- Cyndi Siroky: In memory of Mrs. Olive Brown, her son-in-law’s mother

continued on the next page

- From Our Church Family in memory of FCC members recently passed away:  
Jim Girard, Marion Long, Nancy Mahl, Jean Nadell,  
Chris Siroky, Richard Walker



### Memorial Trees

On Sunday, April 24th we celebrated Earth Day with worship, led by Pastor Kristi, in the courtyard. Following worship, we took turns shoveling earth around our new Coastal Live Oak tree. While Adam, the Bartlett Tree Expert, finished the job, we had a blessing circle and expressed our gratitude for the gift of trees and the loved ones in whose memory we planted the tree.



Notice also the beautiful Japanese Maple in our courtyard given by Denise Walker. It is from her garden in her Terra Linda home, from which she has recently moved.

An apt addition as we add these trees, we place a memorial stone in our garden, "In Memory of our Loved Ones, 2018-2022"

### Agape

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."

The word "agapē" (from Greek), is used in the New Testament, to mean 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 felt it implies the reciprocal gift we receive as a result of the interactions that occur through these visits with our wonderful members.

### Prayer joys and concerns

You can share your joys and concerns for prayers by filling out the prayer cards (in the narthex) to be read during the Sharing of Joys and Concerns or share them during the open mic time during Sunday worship. During the week, you can email your prayer request to Annie and she will include them on the prayer chain. Until we have a pastor, if you have need of a visit or would like communion in your home, you may connect with Rev. Kristi Denham.

**Next Board of Ministry Team Meeting** Tuesday, May 3rd at noon on the church Zoom site. You do not need to be a Ministry Team member to attend. If you have ideas to share that will enhance our worship or you want to see what we do, please join us on the church Zoom link.

### For reflection

Logos

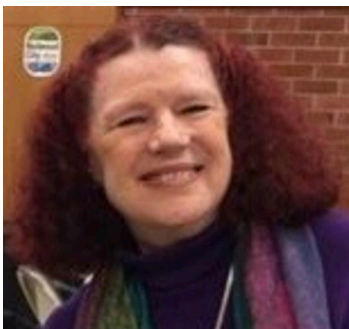
by Mary Oliver

Why worry about the loaves and fishes?  
If you say the right words, the wine expands.  
If you say them with love  
and the felt ferocity of that love  
and the felt necessity of that love,  
the fish explode into many.  
Imagine him, speaking.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



2 — Joshua Siroky  
10 — Val Sherer  
10 — Brandon Siroky  
11 — Mary Dowling  
23 — Cathi Fuller  
23 — Loreen Jackson  
25 — Colin Templeman  
28 — Lynn Grant

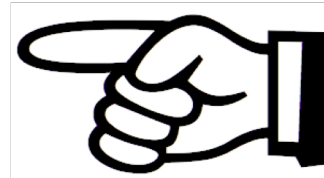


### EMERGENCY RESPONSE MINISTER

We are grateful that Rev. Kristi Denham has agreed to serve as our Emergency Response Minister during the next few weeks as we wait for our interim pastor. You can contact her for pastoral needs either by phone (650-218-3126) or by email: [revkristi@aol.com](mailto:revkristi@aol.com)

### TIE DEADLINE for JUNE 2022 Issue - Mon., May 24

The deadline for articles and news for the June 2022 issue of The TIE is Monday, May 24 25th. Please email your articles to [lucindaray@aol.com](mailto:lucindaray@aol.com) by Monday, the 24th.



### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

**Amy is working from home.**  
**You can contact her via email**

#### **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](mailto:office@fccsanrafael.org)











#### **Rev. Kristi Denham**

*Emergency Response Minister*

650-218-3126  
[revkristi@aol.com](mailto:revkristi@aol.com)



# FCC Calendar MAY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 12 pm  Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Mother's Day 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7 pm - 8 pm  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Armed Forces Day
<b>22</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM	<b>23</b> 5 pm  TIE Deadline for JUNE 2022 Issue	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5 pm - 6 pm  Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM	<b>30</b>  Memorial Day	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

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](http://www.FccSanRafael.org).