

The TIE

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR... REV. BARBARA PERONTEAU



The calendar is about to turn the corner as we move into yet another September. September always reminds me of school, of pens, pencils, pink rubber erasers, notebooks, slide rules, and the Brady Bunch. (What? Huh?) For me, September has always been a time to turn the corner. A time to put down the toys of summer and focus on what lies just beyond. September has always felt like a season for new growth, new learning, and new experiences.

This year, September opens with Holy Communion on September 4th. That same day is the launch of our maiden voyage into live streaming our worship services on our very own YouTube channel. Which means that people who are unable to attend church services, for whatever reason, may “attend” worship services live and in real time as they are happening. Following the live streaming, the recorded service will be up-loaded onto YouTube. That way you can also connect with your faith community later in the day, or week, at your convenience. Zoom has been good to us. By going on YouTube we are taking our technology and accessibility to a whole new level.

The week between September 4th and September 11 will be a week of unsettled nerves for me as I prepare for my Installation as your Pastor, called to a renewable (or not) Designated Term. The installation deserves a separate article, on page X in the TIE.

September 11th is also our Welcome Back Sunday. This is when you invite your friends, family, neighbors, and members of First Congregational Church we haven’t seen in a while and welcome them back to church.

Following the worship service on September 18th your Church Council will be going to a special lunch where we will begin the process of brainstorming ideas to help grow the church. The question I had posed to Church Council in August was, “That in order for the church to grow, we need to invite people (others) into our space, what is it we are inviting people into?”

October 2nd, which is World Communion Day and Our Neighbors in Need (NIN) offering, brings Holy Communion and also a Memorial Service for Dorothy Trotter during our regularly scheduled worship time of 10:00 AM. The service will be modified that day to Celebrate the Life of Dorothy Trotter.

October 9th begins our Stewardship Campaign with some unique and fun new experiences. October 16th brings the Blessing of the Animals. October 30 is the Sunday we Celebrate the Reformation in which the United Church of Christ has deep roots.

As you can see, First Congregational Church is not sitting on her hands. There is always something going on here at your church. Praise be to God.

Peace and Holiness,

Pr. Barbara K. Peronteau

**The Golden Gate Association
of the
Northern California Nevada Conference
United Church of Christ
Cordially Invites You to the
Installation
of
The Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau**



**to
First Congregational Church
of
San Rafael
8 N. San Pedro Rd.
San Rafael, CA 94903
415.479.2747 office@fcssanrafael.org**

September 11, 2022 ~ 2:00 P.M.

**Reception Following
Please RSVP by September 6**

**Clergy is invited to vest.
Liturgical color is Red.**

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



August 28 - September 3

Bob De Hann and Nancy
Sangster-De Hann

September 4 - 10

Jackie Dema

September 11 - 17

Julie Dowling

September 18 - 24

Mary and Oak Dowling

September 25 - October 1

Mim and Scott Faraci, Sam, Ben,
and Emma

MY JOURNEY AND OUR INSTALLATION

Sometime in January of 2011, I found out about the “YES! Coalition” who was hosting an event at a Synagogue in Fort Washington, a suburb near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The “Yes! Coalition” was an interfaith group creating an interfaith dialogue with various congregations of various faiths. The program for the evening in Fort Washington was a panel with a Gay man, a Lesbian, and a woman who is bi-sexual. LGB without the “T”. I learned some things that night I didn’t know.



During the reception I met a kind pastor, Rev. Beth Lyon, who was at the time the pastor at a UCC church in nearby Glenside. She asked the usual questions. My answer to one of her questions was that I wasn’t going to church anywhere. The answer to the next question was that I had been asked not to return to a certain UCC church in Reading. I didn’t know where else to go and felt I wasn’t welcome anywhere.

Rev. Lyon suggested I go see Rev. Steve Ohnsman at Calvary, UCC, also in Reading. Sometime later, after the “YES!” event, I contacted Rev. Ohnsman on the phone. We set up a time to meet.

In the middle of that week, I entered the office through the entrance under the stairs. I don’t remember what I was wearing. After greeting the secretary and announcing I was there for our meeting. Pastor Steve was accepting, affirming, inviting, and welcoming. He set me at ease. I knew there was a strong Open and Affirming trend in the UCC, but this was Reading, in the heart of Berks County, Pennsylvania. Being trans and finding a welcoming church was a different experience than say, here.

Pastor Steve asked questions. I answered most of them. My main question was, “Is this church, Calvary UCC, a place where I would be welcome to attend?” Pastor Steve couldn’t speak for the church as a whole, but said that most people would welcome me, and that he certainly did. I would be welcome anytime.

The following Sunday, I entered the sanctuary for worship as my “out, loud, and proud” self. I felt the warmth of the people of Calvary. Were it not for that meeting with Pastor Steve, my journey would have taken a different turn. It is with honor and a humble joy that Pastor Steve Ohnsman will be preaching the sermon at my Installation. I for one, am looking forward to that moment.



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In the meantime, I joined the leadership of the “YES! Coalition.” During my time with “YES!” I met a transgender man, a Rabbi who was out to his synagogue. I asked him why. He seemed fully male - in a cisgender way. He said he needed to be honest with himself and his congregation. Through trial and error, I would learn this lesson. It was always my dream to be “stealth,” not “out.” Christianity, and in particular the role of pastor, or Rabbi, requires that we be honest and “out.” Otherwise, I would still be hiding a large part of who I am. Ministry, and life itself, requires all of who we are. Not just part of who we are.

That brings us to now. Right now, there are 32 states with anti-transgender laws on the books. Mostly, these laws are fueled by bad Christian theology and a false narrative about what it is to be transgender.

The fact is most of what calls itself Christian is not accepting of transgender people. For First Congregational Church of San Rafael to unanimously vote for and call a transwoman to be their pastor is not only unique, but also historic, counter-cultural, and radically Christian.

On September 11 at 2:00 pm we will celebrate my Installation as your pastor. This isn’t just about me though. This day also celebrates the heritage, theology, and people of First Congregational Church of San Rafael. Come and celebrate. This is your party too.

The Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau



PICTURES FROM LYNN'S PARTY





Come and Worship with us!

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

The service will also be available streaming on YouTube (see next page).

Below are the scripture readings from the Revised Common Lectionary for September. The first set of readings from the Old Testament and Psalms is called semi-continuous. These readings loosely follow each other for several weeks.

The second set of Old Testament and Psalm readings is called complimentary (paired). In this set of readings, the connection to the Epistle and Gospel is a more obvious.

September 4 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 18:1-11	and	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
or		
Deuteronomy 30:15-20	and	Psalm 1
Philemon 1-21	and	Luke 14:24

September 11 14th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	and	Psalm 14
or		
Exodus 32:7-14	and	Psalm 51:1-10
1 Timothy 1:12-17	and	Luke 15:1-10

September 18 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 8:18- 9:1	and	Psalm 79:1-9
or		
Amos 8:4-7	and	Psalm 113
1 Timothy 2:1-7	and	Luke 16:1-13

September 25 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15	and	Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
or		
Amos 6:1a, 4-7	and	Psalm 146
1 Timothy 6:6-17	and	Luke 16:19-31

ZOOM MEETINGS LET US GATHER TOGETHER SAFELY

We are also providing our Sunday worship service streaming on YouTube at 10 a.m. You can use either your computer, your cell phone, or your tablet. See the Trustees Report below.

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

Sept. 6: The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday**, July 12, at 12 noon.

Sept. 8: Book study continues on **Thursday**, Sept. 8, at 7 PM and continues on Thursday evenings.

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

Sept. 28: Church Council will meet at 5 PM on **Wednesday**, Sept. 28.



BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S REPORT

New group now meeting at FCCSR

Toastmasters are using the Oak Room Wednesday evenings at FCCSR. No, they are not experts at browning bread. Instead, they are a group that practices and appreciates the verbal arts of public speaking and conversation. Ralph Sherer is the church's liaison to the group.

Streaming Enhancement

FCC now has a YouTube channel. We also expect to carry the Sunday morning service live on YouTube this month, which should give us better sound and more interesting visuals. Also, if you missed a sermon or need refreshment. 12 sermons are now available on this YouTube Channel as well. Check it out at:

<https://youtube.com/channel/UCbqIXLjsBEmjdGuoOKnOykA>

For more information, contact David Knopf



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING - OCTOBER 2



In 2022, Neighbors in Need “Behold” offering is focused on economic justice.

One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM).

Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC’s Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

This special UCC offering is part of World Communion Sunday, October 2nd. Make your check to FCC San Rafael and mark Neighbors in Need on the memo field. Thank you for your generous contribution.

BACKPACK SUNDAY BOUNTY

On Backpack Sunday, we collected 36 backpacks and 8 grocery bags full of binders, pencils, pens, paper, erasers, scissors, and many other items children need when they return to school, as well as four Target gift cards. These school items are distributed by Ritter Center to families who need them. THANK YOU!



PILLOW SUNDAY - 32 PILLOWS

On Pillow Sunday, we collected 32 pillows for contribution to Homeward Bound of Marin. Thank you so much for your generosity!

DON'T FORGET THE FOOD BANK

Remember to bring food items with you and deposit them in our Food Bank barrel.



BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

In August we enjoyed time together....

Sunday August 7, Waterplay and Lunch. we had good chat and some soothing kayaking and swimming in the Bay and, of course, tasty potluck luncheon on Lynn's patio and sparkling bay lagoon. Thanks Lynn and Lucinda!



August 13: Pilgrim Park annual picnic. Thanks to Margie and the Pilgrim Park Board for this delightful gathering with our "neighbors."

August 14: Pillow Sunday . Thanks to all who brought pillows and to our Board of Missions for coordination and deliveries.

August 28th: We celebrated New Member Sunday.

The Rev. Barbara Peronteau and Rev. Kristi Denham joined the membership of The First Congregational Church of San Rafael. We welcome them as "members" as we have already embraced them as "family."

Coming In September

Bible Study will continue: Bible Study on Prophet Amos will continue, led by Pr. Barbara on Thursdays at 7pm on Zoom. We will study the historical context and also how Amos' message continues to be current in the context of continuing injustice.

September 11

10 AM Service - Welcome Back Sunday Worship and welcome to members, friends and neighbors. Please bring a friend! All are welcome here!

2 PM Service of Installation for Pastor Barbara is at 2 pm, with a reception to follow. Come Celebrate and Bring your friends. Pr. Barbara will be formally installed as Pastor of FCC by the Golden Gate UCC Conference leadership. Please join us in this special ceremony and celebration. (UCC Conference Event guidelines include masking and vaccination).

In October....Save the date!

October 2 A Service of Gratitude for the Life of Dorothy Trotter.

During our regular 10 AM service, our church family will celebrate the life of Dorothy who had one of the longest membership in our community, was always actively engaged and shared her caring for the church family in so many ways. We invite you to come and share how she touched you.



**Sunday, October 16
10 AM**

**Bring your pet, on a
leash, in a cage, or
bring a picture**

Everyone is welcome!

**First Congregational Church of
San Rafael
8 North San Pedro Road**

October 16 10AM Worship in the Courtyard (outside):

A Celebration of the Feast of St Francis; A Blessing of the Animals
Bring your canine, feline, avian or other animal family members to worship and celebrate in the courtyard. If they prefer, a photo of a current or past animal kin can also be blessed in proxy and in memory. Music, stories and blessings will abound as we express our gratitude for "All Creatures Great and Small".

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Worship

Gerry Grosz and Pr. Barbara have been trying out some ways to add more meaningful music during worship. Gerry has created a musical response for the Congregation as an “assurance of grace;” has been leading us in the learning and singing of it during each service.



Gerry has accompanied different groupings of choir members who have shared their vocal gifts with us during worship. Thank you to Lucinda, Lise, Judy, and Louis. Thank you to the choir members ALL as it has been a joy to have your voices raised in our midst once again.

Communion

Gluten-free option of rice crackers is being offered in addition to bread for communion. For those setting up The Communion Table for Communion, instructions and supplies can be found in the cabinet in Pastor Barbara’s office. If you have questions, you can ask Jackie or Cathi.

For those decorating our Communion Table on other Sundays, Altar cloths can be found hanging in the Community Room closet next to the choir robes and the cross and candlestick on Pastor Barbara’s bookshelf.

Community Refreshment time Thank you to those who have volunteered for refreshment set up! Thank you Caran for the new coffee maker. We still need volunteers to sign up for refreshments. The set-up coffee cart and extra cookies are available in the Seedling Room (aka “nursery”) so volunteers only need to set up the coffee maker (with the coffee and cream in the fridge) and help with clean up.

Next Board of Ministry Team Meeting Sept 6th at Noon on Zoom.

For reflection

Faith

by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

And when there is fear, then let us be flowers
unashamed of our blooming,
and let us be rivers undammed.
And when there is loss,
then let us be leaves that surrender to death
and give even more in life.
And when there is ache,
let’s unfold like dawn in layers
and layers of ripening pink,
let’s be bells that ring only love.
And when there is sorrow,
let us be dark wings that gather the light,
and let us be the light.

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 — TJ Dempsey
- 25 — Caryl Hodges

MORE PICTURES FROM LYNN'S PARTY



TIE DEADLINE for OCTOBER 2022 Issue - Mon., SEPT. 26

The deadline for articles and news for the October 2022 issue of The TIE is Monday, September 26th. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, the 26th.



CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Barbara Peronteau — *Pastor*

Tues., Wed., Thurs., 10 AM - 2 PM

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

Cell Phone: 510-646-2372

Email: barbareau433@yahoo.com

Amy Powers — *Office Manager*

Monday 11 AM- 2 PM
















Thursday 10 AM - 2 PM

You can contact Amy by phone or email any time.

Office Phone: 415-479-2747

Email: office@fccsanrafael.org

FCC Calendar SEPTEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM	29 (Empty)	30 (Empty)	31 (Empty)	September 1 7 am - 8 am  BOOK STUDY - AMOS	2 (Empty)	3 (Empty)
4  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM	5 Labor Day	6 12 pm  Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM	7 (Empty)	8 7 am - 8 am  BOOK STUDY - AMOS	9 (Empty)	10 (Empty)
11 GrandParents' Day Patriot Day  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM	12 (Empty)	13 (Empty)	14 (Empty)	15 7 am - 8 am  BOOK STUDY - AMOS	16 (Empty)	17 (Empty)
18  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM 2 pm  PASTOR BARBARA'S INSTALLATION	19 (Empty)	20 7 pm - 8 pm  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	21 (Empty)	22 7 am - 8 am  BOOK STUDY - AMOS	23 (Empty)	24 (Empty)
25  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on Zoom at 10 AM	26 5 pm  TIE Deadline for OCTOBER 2022 Issue	27 (Empty)	28 5 pm - 6 pm  Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	29 7 am - 8 am  BOOK STUDY - AMOS	30 (Empty)	1 (Empty)

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.