

The TIE

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR... REV. BARBARA PERONTEAU



As October winds down and November approaches it feels like we turn a corner in many ways. The days are shorter, and after we turn our clocks back, the night descends upon us sooner than we would like.

Astrologically speaking, November 1 is what astronomers call a “cross-quarter” day this is when we are half-way between the Autumnal Equinox and the Winter Solstice. On “cross-quarter” days humans throughout the ages have typically celebrated something. In February we disturb the sleep of a poor little groundhog who was hibernating very nicely, thank you very much, just to tell us what we already know, Spring is still six weeks away. (If you live in Punxsutawney, it’s a big deal. Here, not so much.)

In May we celebrate the warming of the earth and the approaching summer bringing all its earthly fer-

tilities as we dance around the May Pole. While there are no major Holidays on August 1 or 2 for Christians, July 29-30 is the Celebration of the Islamic New Year, while our Wiccan and Pagan friends celebrate Lughnasadh, the Celtic celebration of the beginning of the Harvest.

For us Christians, November brings All Saints Day, aka All Souls Day, aka Día de los Muertos. It’s the day we remember and honor those who have died within the past year and who have entered the Church Triumphant. During the Middle Ages on the night before All Saints Day, All Hallows Eve, (we now know as Halloween) the people would dress up as ghosts and goblins to scare all the goblins and evil spirits out of the trees and fields and wherever they lived so that on November 1 the day, the town, and the church would be cleansed, and holy. Indeed, All Saints Day is a holy and sacred day.

Then, on November 13 we are back to Pentecost. Jesus has made it to Jerusalem and is teaching about the destruction of the Temple by the Romans which happened 35-40 years after the death of Jesus and is 20-year-old history by the time Luke gets around to writing about it. Luke is connecting the destruction of the Temple to the Crucifixion of Christ to the suffering of his people at the hands of an oppressive government.

November 20th brings a mish-mash of Celebrations and Remembrances all in one day; Thanksgiving, Reign of Christ, and the Transgender Day of Remembrance. I will have separate articles about each one those.



(continued on the next page)

The last Sunday of November, the 27th, brings a whole new liturgical season, and a brand-new New Year. While the Muslims celebrate their new year at the end of July, and the Jewish new year, Rosh Hoshana, was September 25-27, as Christians we have our own new year. We call it Advent and it begins the Sunday after we celebrate Christ as the Ruler of the World, after we have given thanks to God, and remembered those who have been murdered simply because of who they are. Advent begins a whole new year, a new beginning, as we watch for, and how, Christ enters our lives and the world around us.



May you experience that which is holy every day.

Your servant in Christ, *Pr. Barbara K. Peronteau*



SPIFF UP THE CHURCH DAY: SAT. NOV. 19

Come join the cheerful cleaners, grateful gardeners, and robust repairers on Saturday, Nov. 19, 10 AM -12 noon, as we get the church sparkling for Advent. Bring your favorite cleaning supplies and that old can-do attitude.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

In addition to taking care of the normal business of the church, the Church Council has been meeting recently to discuss who we are, what we have to offer, and what's next—with a focus of reaching out to the community. Just as an example, we are looking at having monthly jazz church services, leading to concerts and events, opportunities for providing connecting and healing in our community.



As a part of looking at who we are, over the next three weeks we will be inviting members and friends to each tell us “10 things I love about First Congregational Church of San Rafael.” We will invite people at the church service let us know one or two things that they love about the church, and we will have paper in the community room for each person to write out the “10 things I love about the church.” Reminding ourselves of the 10 things we love about First Congregational Church of San Rafael will help us share with others who we are as a church. It will let us place a value on this during the upcoming stewardship campaign.

Louis Frost, Moderator

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



October 30 - November 5

Lynn Grant

November 20 - 26

Lorene Jackson

November 6 - 12

Catherine and Audrey Hills,
Josie

November 27 - December 3

Ann Jolly

November 13 - 19

Caryl Hodges

THANKSGIVING by Barbara K. Peronteau

Heading southeast out of Richmond, Virginia, is Route 5 as it winds its way along the James River past Jamestown toward Williamsburg. Parts of this road, also known as the John Tyler Memorial Highway, are very lovely in an antebellum sort of way. Wedged between Route 5 and the James River are several plantations that, in their heyday, were working places where crops and animals were grown, commerce was done up and down the James River, and where lavish parties were thrown, and where the politics of the day were concocted. Being working plantations, back in the day, meant they also owned and traded human beings.



Several of these plantations still exist as tourist destinations. Along with the Shirley and the Westover Plantations, is the Berkeley Plantation. The Berkeley Plantation is owned and operated by the family who now lives there. In my humble opinion, the Berkeley Plantation should be a National Shrine.

On December 4, 1619, The Good Ship Margaret landed on the unceded and now occupied lands of the Powhatan Tribes at what would be called Berkeley. On that day, as legend has it, the people held the “First Thanksgiving” two years before the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

In 1691 the Harrison family purchased the estate and built the Georgian style mansion that still stands on the property. The Berkeley plantation is where one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, Benjamin Harrison V; the ninth President, William Henry Harrison; and his grandson Benjamin Harrison, the 23rd president were born. (William Henry would die of pneumonia soon after taking office brought on after giving a lengthy inaugural speech in the cold Washington DC rain.)

Berkeley Plantation is also the birthplace of “Taps.” During the Civil War, in July of 1862, General George McClellan and his Union troops occupied the plantation on the north bank of the James River. The bugler, O.W. Norton, was creating a tune to honor the dead. During the



dark of the evening, Norton would play his now famous Taps. But here’s where it gets interesting. The unknown bugler for the Confederate Army, encamped on the south bank of the James River, played note for note, the tune Norton was playing, thus creating the haunting rendition we have now. Another bit of music that makes me cry.

As time went on though, Thanksgiving was never enshrined as law or custom, and went out of fashion. Thomas Jefferson refused to create a national holiday based on giving thanks, out of his conviction about the separation of church and state. Still, amid a war to secure the freedom of millions of people and to secure the Union, three months after George G. Meade’s victory at Gettysburg and 10 months after the Emancipation Proclamation, Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the fourth Thursday of November to be a National Holiday of Thanksgiving. The war would rage on for another 18 months. Nothing was guaranteed. The Union was still in jeopardy and slavery might still be the “peculiar institution” and cultural sin of the south.

And so, on the fourth Thursday of November, we give thanks. Life doesn’t need to be perfect or happy to give thanks. Maybe when things are the bleakest, that’s when God invites us into that space of gratitude. What might you be thankful for this year?





Come and Worship with us!

***We will be worshipping at 10 AM inside the sanctuary.
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.

November 6

All Saints Day

Haggai 1:15b - 2:9

or

Job 19:23-27a

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5,13-17

and Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21; Psalm 28

and Psalm 17:1-9

and Luke 20:27-38

November 13

Isaiah 65:17-25

or

Malachi 4:1-2a

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

and Isaiah 12

and Psalm 98

and Luke 21:5-19

November 20

Reign of Christ Sunday, Thanksgiving Sunday, Transgender Day of Remembrance

Jeremiah 23:1-6

or

Colossians 1:11-20

and Luke 1:68-79 or Psalm 46

and Luke 23:33-43

November 27

World AIDS Sunday

Isaiah 2:1-5

or

Romans 13:11-14

First Sunday of Advent

and Psalm 122

and Matthew 24:36-44

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 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

SUNDAY WORSHIP IS NOW LIVE ON YOU TUBE

We broadcast live Sunday mornings on YouTube. Our channel address is:

- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbqIXLjsBEmjdGuoOKnOykA>
- Then click on videos->live
- Subscribe and each week you will get a direct link.

We will also post a direct link each week in the What's Happening? email.

The whole service unedited will be available for a few days; then an edited version to include just the sermon will be posted.

If you are having trouble getting connected, email Knopf.david@gmail.com

MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS -- VIA ZOOM

Nov. 1: The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday**, November 1, at 12 noon.

Nov 3: Final video study on **Thursday**, Nov. 3, at 7 PM.

Nov. 15: The Board of Trustees meeting will be on **Tuesday**, Nov. 17, at 7 PM.

Nov. 16: The Church Council meeting will be **Wednesday**, Nov. 16, at 7 PM.





BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING - THANK YOU!



Your generous donations during the offering Sunday October 2, 2022 resulted in \$860.00! Thank you all. Once again First Congregational Church of San Rafael proves we are small but mighty!!

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

ORDERING BEAUTIFUL, SUSTAINABLE 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.

REMEMBER THE MARIN FOOD BANK



Please help us stock the pantry at the Marin Food Bank. October starts the season of giving, so please continue to bring in non-perishable food items - peanut butter, canned goods, rice, cereal, canned meat. Please deposit them in our Food Bank barrel.

We intend to make another delivery to our local food bank for neighbors in Marin who continue to struggle with food insecurity. Thank you for your generous support!

BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

Worship

In October

October 2 Celebration of the Life of Dorothy Trotter

A heartwarming time of sharing stories of Dorothy, singing and reading some of her favorite hymns and scriptures. Pastor Barbara preached on “Free to Grieve” and lead us in Communion on “World Communion Sunday”, when we feel especially connected to our



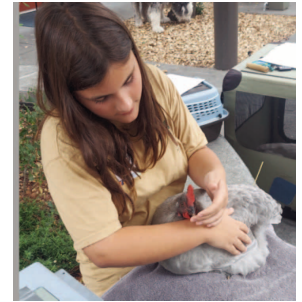
family of faith around the world as well as those who have passed on. As Jackie reflected, it was especially meaningful to remember Dorothy on World Communion Sunday as she had cherished her role for many decades of preparing communion and gracing the communion table with beauty and liturgically significant symbols and color to enhance our worship time together.



October 16 Blessing of Animals

We had a wonderful celebration of our animal kin in our courtyard (complete with busy squirrels gathering acorns from the oak and the calls of circling hawks).

We enjoyed seeing some familiar folk who have been unable to attend indoors as well as some neighbors visiting with their animal family members for a blessing (and plenty of treats). There were plenty of us two legged folk, a dozen or so dogs, a rabbit, a chicken, a turtle and photos of cats and other critters unable to attend. Special thank you to Caryl, Gerry and Pastor Barbara for planning a joyous service and to Caryl for the altar décor, the “I have been Blessed 2022” pet tags and for providing treats for all.



October 23 Rev. Kristi Denham returned to lead us in worship while Pr. Barbara was away. She preached on how turns the world upside down with his unconditional love and calls us to do “just for today” what we can do to humbly share God’s Grace in small ways while living fully in God’s Love for each of us.

Saturday, October 29 “The Thinning of the Veil” Prayer Retreat

At this time of year, Celtic Christian tradition of All Souls’ Day, a season when “only the thinnest of veils separate the living from the dead,” it is a time of intentional remembering of those we love and have love us in a way that they continue to be present in our lives. *When the veil that separates heaven and earth is lifted and one glimpses the glory of God.* If the kingdom of God is within us, this may just be where Heaven meets earth.

We had a wonderful heart warming retreat in the garden on a perfect Fall afternoon. We shared a delicious brunch, some fall crafting, informal visiting followed by a sharing time of experiences of “thin places” in our lives when, or of, ordinary “saints” who showed us extraordinary glimpses

of God's glorious love. We had a time of breathing, reflective poetry, and silent meditation followed by a time to offer prayers of concern or gratitude for loved ones. Together we imagined them encircled by Love and Light. We responded to each name or concern with words from the Celtic "Encircling Prayer:" "Circle of Love, Encompass _____. We had a special blessing for two special women, each at a time of huge transition. Pr. Barbara led us in Communion as our closing "thin place."



(From "Nativity Note" regarding All Saint's Day, "...This way of remembering is called "Anamnesis," as we remember Jesus in the Eucharist. We remember in such a way with our hearts that we know Jesus is present....So it is...the way of remembering that is Love. Love that crosses all boundaries, and over which all obstacles are overcome!")

October 30 10 Things We Like About Our Church Part of process leading up to Stewardship Sunday. Reformation Sunday: special hymns around this theme.

Coming in November:

Nov. 13 Stewardship Sunday

Nov 20 Reign of Christ/ Thanksgiving/ Trans Day of Remembrance

Nov. 27 First Sunday of Advent. We will discuss Advent in our next meeting

Nurture and Outreach

Nov. 3, Join for the final Thursday evening discussion of white privilege issues stimulated by the 5 week "Convergence" video series.

Next Board of Ministry Team Meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 1 at noon, on Zoom.

Reflection

The Lesson of Falling Leaves - Lucille Clifton

the leaves believe
such letting go is love
such love is faith
such faith is grace
such grace is God
I agree with the leaves



BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Top 10 Reasons to pledge this November

10. So "Let there be light" is more than a Biblical injunction.
9. So we will have trees around the church.
8. So we don't have long pledge breaks like NPR trying to make you feel guilty for listening.
7. So we have toilet paper, bulletins, coffee cups, and the acorns cleared off the patio. Squirrels can't do it all!
6. So we as a community can express our support for important programs serving the homeless, immigrants, and marginalized groups.
5. For Pastor Barbara's warm and enthusiastic affirmation of God's love.
4. So we have soulful and thoughtful worship.
3. For fresh and inspiring music, and all that jazz.
2. So we can unleash the creative powers of Gerry, Pastor Barbara, and the whole congregation in new projects.
1. So God's love can work through us.



Keeping up with the conifers....and others

We love our trees. But several are getting old and stressed by the drought. We consult regularly with Arborist Adam Clarke of Bartlett Tree Experts. This year he has recommended bark beetle preventive treatment, a soil treatment program, and root rot treatment, as well as pruning of the stone pine and oak tree which overhang the Montessori Preschool. Add these expenses to your list of reasons to pledge your support for FCC!

SPIFF-up-the-church Day: Saturday, Nov. 19

Come join the cheerful cleaners, grateful gardeners, and robust repairers on Saturday, Nov. 19. 10-12 AM as we get the church sparkling for Advent. Bring your favorite cleaning supplies and that old can-do attitude.

Coming Soon

You can do more to make church happen in even more satisfying ways!
With that Social Security increase you can bump up your pledge a bit this year!
You will find ways to specify these. Keep alert!

Next Trustees meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 15, 7 PM

REMEMBERING BARBARA MILLER

Barbara Jones Miller, 92, died peacefully at her Marinwood home of 57 years on October 2, 2022. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Alan Miller, her five children Jane (Morris), Heidi, Wendy (Mark), Michael (Karen), Andy (Farah), grandchildren Todd, Kristen, Aaron, and Roan, great grandchild, Trent, and generations of loving family. She is also survived by her sister Janet Colvin and sister-in-law Anita Jones. Sister-in law Mary Lou Hartley, brother-in law Len Colvin and brother William Jones predeceased her.



Barbara was born in Duluth MN where she attended Congdon Park Elementary, East Junior High, and Central High School. She also attended the University of Minnesota, where she majored in Art and was active in theater, dance, and art clubs. She met her husband Alan in 1950 at a campus dance. They were married on Sept 1, 1951 and celebrated 71 years together in 2022.

In the early 50's Barbara and seven childhood girlfriends began a "Round Robin" letter which continued for over 60 years. Each young woman wrote a letter, attached photos, postcards and placed them in a large manila envelope and mailed to the next recipient. A true life-long social network.

After Alan's ordination as a Presbyterian minister, Barbara and Alan moved around the country, living in Chicago, Donnelson IL, Manistique MI, New Orleans, and Denton, TX before settling in San Rafael in 1965.

From her earliest days, Barbara was a talented artist and ceramicist. Her ceramic flowers fill the yard and serve as a constant reminder of her exceptional talent! She was an active member of the First Congregational Church of San Rafael for over 55 years, where she served as their first female moderator, and was instrumental in forming the nonprofit, Every Dollar Feeds Kids, improving the lives of impoverished kids in Mexico.

Barbara lived a rich and full life, filled with family, art, music, travel, love of nature, and care for the people of the world. Anyone who visits the Miller home will see hundreds of photographs of family, friends, places, and the love of life that Barbara created for her family.

Our family is so very appreciative of our loving home care team led by Kellie Walker, hospice team, neighbors, family, and friends that allowed mom to remain home, surrounded by family, neighbors, open space and wildlife during her illness. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

Remembrances in Barbara's honor can be sent to:
Every Dollar Feeds Kids, Inc. c/o First Congregational Church of San Rafael, 8 North San Pedro Road, San Rafael, CA 94903

ADVENT by Rev. Barbara K. Peronteau

The Season of Advent is nigh upon us. Advent is the beginning of the Christian New Year, and it begins on Sunday, November 27. I would like to come right out and say with accurate precision exactly what the Season of Advent is all about, but I find the purpose and meaning of Advent to be confusing and elusive. Just exactly what is Advent anyway?

When I look-up Advent in my *Westminster Dictionary of Worship*, the first thing I'm told is the word 'Advent' is derived from the Latin word meaning 'coming' or 'arrival.' Those two words mean two different things. (Kind of like the Hawaiian word 'aloha.') I imagine you might get a text from your friends who are still in Portland, but they are 'coming.' They're on their way. O goody! The next text you get is that your friends have already 'arrived' and are standing on your front porch waiting for you to open the door. Already? While a word can certainly have two opposite and contradictory meanings (i.e., cleave) I still wonder about the meaning of Advent.

The season of Advent was developed, I would think organically, in the region of Gaul sometime in the sixth century (500s). As the season evolved it became a six-week penitential season mirroring the penitential season of Lent, so much so, it was difficult to tell the difference between Advent and Lent. Most of us are of the age we remember the liturgical color of both seasons being purple. As time went on some regions of Christianity reduced the Season of Advent to five weeks, and then eventually down to the four weeks we are all familiar with. Although, I am aware of one Lutheran Church in Berkeley that as returned to the six-week cycle of Advent.

Still, the question remains, what is Advent? In addition to 'coming' and 'arrival' I understand the word 'advent' to mean 'waiting,' 'expecting,' 'awake,' and 'watching.' Waiting, expecting, and watching for what? For whom?

It's difficult for me to think of Advent for the time in which Jesus will return. I wonder if that's just bad theology. When I think about a 'second coming' of Christ I wonder what was wrong with the first time Jesus was here. Has the universal human sinfulness completely distorted and obscured the life, words, death, and resurrection of Jesus so much we can't even see or hear Jesus anymore? On the way into the church, on the morning which I write this, I was listening to a conversation on KQED about the insidiousness nature of antisemitism. When I listen to conversations like this, words like racism, misogyny, homophobia, and xenophobia are also added to the mix. My stomach turns into knots.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s there was a liturgical renewal that most mainline churches joined into the conversation. One of the issues was, how can we separate the meaning of Advent from Lent? Why do we have two penitential seasons? The wisdom that came out of these talks was that while both Advent and Lent are both preparatory seasons, Lent is about looking inward, and Advent looks outward and forward with Hope being its overarching theme. The liturgical color of Advent was changed from purple to blue to designate the theme of hope and distinguish Advent from Lent.

And so, while we wait and watch and expect, in a time such as this, we join with God and Jesus in this hopeful season of Advent as we contemplate our desire for Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Advent is a time we passively wait, and purposely strike the match, for the Light that is Jesus Christ blazing throughout the darkness of time and space throughout all the world and into every longing heart.





GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR'S FAITH:

“Ask Me Anything!”

Come join the The Marin Interfaith Council to get to know your neighbors and hear about their different faith traditions.

Every Third Wednesday of the month at 6pm, we will be hosting an hour-long event where you can join, either in person or online, to learn about a different faith tradition from a practitioner of that faith, and ask any questions you may have. Our guest each month will share a little about their faith, then take questions.

Upcoming Speakers:

October 19, 2022 at 6pm - **Baha'i** - Ms. Sherna Deamer

November 16, 2022 at 6pm - **Roman Catholic** - Monsignor Harry Schlitt

December 21, 2022 at 6pm - **Wiccan** - M. Macha NightMare, Witch at Large



Ms. Sherna Deamer
Member of the San Rafael Baha'i's



Monsignor Harry Schlitt
God Squad Priest, TV Mass



M. Macha NightMare
Witch at Large

In Person: First Presbyterian Church San Rafael, 1510 Fifth Ave. San Rafael
in Canoles Hall (entrance on Mission Ave.)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86322721681?pwd=cGxlNWlVtTlZNdHNPS1lEb3dyMW5PZz09>

Meeting ID: 863 2272 1681

Passcode: 602664

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

by Rev. Barabara Peronteau

Rita Hester, African-American and a trans woman, was walking home to her apartment in the Boston suburb of Allston, Massachusetts on the evening of November 28, 1998. Beyond the fact she was murdered in her apartment, the details get fuzzy. Was it a “romantic” encounter that went bad? Was it someone she knew? Was it a stalker who had it out for her? To this day the case remains cold and unsolved.



After a year of being unsolved by the Alston and Boston Police, there was an outpouring of grief and outrage. Rita’s friend Gwendolyn Ann Smith organized a nation-wide event, called Remembering Our Dead, to memorialize Rita’s death.

At some point the event was renamed to Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR). This is when the transgender community and allies gather to remember transgender people who have been brutally murdered for only the singular reason, than they are transgender. Most of those who are murdered are trans women of color.

On any given year Brazil leads the world in trans murders, followed by Mexico, and the United States. Last year, 2021, there were 57 trans people murdered in the united States. That is double since I have been organizing Transgender Day of Remembrances in 2014. As of now, according to the Human Rights Campaign there have been 32 trans murders. The number remains inconclusive. We are still a month away. There is information still coming in. One year for one site I sent the information about a trans murder in Philadelphia that wasn’t on the list. The list won’t be complete until November 20. Watch this space.

Another reason the information is not complete is because many trans folk are deadnamed, misgendered, or their death is simply not reported.

Last year I spoke at a TDoR event in Pittsburg. I am scheduled to speak again somewhere in Contra Costa County on November 20. I’ll keep you informed.

Earlier in the spring I was asked to give a devotion for a nation-wide panel discussion, of which I was a participant, on how to minister to transgender people. The poem I wrote for the devotion doesn’t rhyme, it doesn’t follow any poetic rules, except that it came from my heart. Watch the spacing. That’s what makes it unique. I share it with you now.



“IMAGINE, IF YOU WILL”

by Rev. Barabara Peronteau

Imagine, if you will
You are 5 years old

It's a dark and stormy night

It's your Kindergarten Holiday Party

You're wearing stiff shoes that do not bend at the toes.

Stiff Corduroys that do not bend at the knees

A stiff white shirt that doesn't bend at the elbows.

You find the cookies and the punch bowl with Ginger Ale and Red Hawaiian Punch
with a cookie the shape of a Christmas tree in one hand,
and a cup of punch in the other

The door opens

Outside, the leaves are blowing and dancing all over the place

The rain is coming down sideways

The door closes

There stands She in front of her mother

Wearing a chalky blue coat with dark blue faux fur around
the hem,

the sleeves,

the hood

Her mother pulls the hood off

Bends down

unbuttons the coat and slides it off.

She is wearing white patten leather shoes with ruffled anklet socks

Her dress is white chiffon embellished with eyelets

Her hair is the color of gossamer wings

And her eyes the color of a clear blue summer day.

Imagine, if you will, that in that very moment you knew.

You knew you were wearing the wrong clothes

You knew you wanted hair like Hers

And a dress like Hers

You wanted to be Her

Only to be you

Imagine, if you will, what would happen if you told anyone.

Imagine the beatings.

Imagine the belt.

Imagine the anger

Imagine the shame.

Nothing ever will.

Imagine what every dream and every fantasy was like before you went to bed.
For the first 10 years after the Lord's Prayer and all your God Blesses
Before you closed your eyes you prayed
God when I wake up
Please, please, let me wake up as a girl.
Say the word
Send your minions of angels
Blink
Whatever it is that you do to be God – do that

Then, one day, you realize that prayer doesn't work that way
But still, every night
The dreams
The fantasies
The hopes
The prayers anyway

Imagine that for the next 40 years
In the back of your mind
Sometimes in the front of your mind
There was always
Someday

Imagine, if you will, going clothes shopping for school.
Mom takes you over to the boy's department
As you stare wistfully
hopefully
at the girl's department

Imagine, if you will,
A tennis bracelet
Dangly earrings
A turquoise sweater dress.
Imagine.

Imagine being told the deepest part of your identity is wrong
Because your inner identity doesn't match one of your body parts.
And so, you live your life in a way that would make everyone else happy,
Everyone but you.

Imagine living your life like it's a double exposure
Nothing lines up.
Nothing ever will.
Imagine.

Imagine that day
When you can no longer put one foot in front of the other.
Something's got to give.

Imagine entering the kitchen one morning
For Coffee.
All you want is coffee

The presence of God fills the room
God asks
A simple question
Who do think you're fooling?
I know exactly who are.
Says God
I made you
I have loved you since your Baptism.
And I will never ever let you go.
Go. Be you.
I knit you together in your mother's womb.
You are awesomely made.
You have Grace.
You are loved.
Go, be you.
Imagine the excitement,
the courage
the freedom,
the sheer Joy!
Imagine after 50 years of hiding, pretending,
Imagining,
Praying
You are free to be you
That childhood prayer came true.
Someday finally arrived.
Imagine, if you will, in the dark halls of men's minds there is a plot to erase you.
To block you from your very being.
Imagine the ignorance
Intentional
Hatred.
You are illegal, they say.
Your parents are abusers, they say.
You are illegal
Your parents are criminals
And so is the medical establishment.
For we know better
And, no, you can't use the bathroom.
Imagine you know who you are.
Imagine your dreams
Imagine your hopes
Imagine being erased by the very institutions
you expect would be there to encourage and protect you.
Imagine, if you will, no more.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



2 — Barbara Peronteau
16 — Eckhard Mahl

TIE DEADLINE for DECEMBER 2022 Issue - Mon., NOV. 28

The deadline for articles and news for the December 2022 issue of The TIE is Monday, November 28th. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, the 28th.



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













Wednesday and 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 NOVEMBER 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	31 Halloween	November 1  12 pm Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM	2	3  7 am - 8 am FILM STUDY	4	5
6 Daylight Saving (End)  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	7	8	9	10	11 Veterans Day	12
13  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	14	15  7 pm - 8 pm BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	16  7 pm - 8 pm Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	17	18	19  10 am - 12 pm SCUFF UP THE CHURCH DAY
20  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	21	22	23	24  Thanksgiving Day	25	26
27  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	28  5 pm TIE Deadline for DECEMBER 2022 issue	29	30	1	2	3

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.