

## THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR... REV. BARBARA PERONTEAU



### 130 years!

You might already know the first part of this essay. For my first class at Pacific School of Religion, I needed to turn in a bibliography, a table of contents which would serve as an outline of my doctoral project, and something about the context of where I am doing ministry.

Part of the ministry context required I share the history of First Congregational Church. I was already familiar with the broad-brush strokes of FCC's history and how our beginning was formed by a group of people heavily involved with the Temperance Movement in the late 1800s. I needed some details about the dates, so I went to the website.

The first thing I noticed was the date FCC first met for worship was March 5, 1893, exactly 130 years ago to the day! It was in

March, 1894 that FCC was fully incorporated under California state law.

My immediate takeaways were that we need to begin our celebration now. Indeed, your Celebration Committee is Val Sherer, Julie Dowling, Denise Walker, and me. I also noticed we have a full year to celebrate, and, thirdly, the dates of 1893 and 2023 coincide exactly. March 5 in 1893 is the same day and date as March 5 in 2023. This adds a whole other layer of cosmic excitement.

As I tend to do, I began to wonder how it is that a congregation born out of the Temperance Movement transformed into a progressive, Open and Affirming Congregation, involved in immigration justice? My thoughts immediately went to our Congregational faith ancestors, the Pilgrims and present-day Provincetown, Massachusetts.

The Pilgrims, who were not referred to as Pilgrims until 1820, thought of themselves as Puritans. They wanted to purify the excesses of the Church of England. When they found that purifying the Church would be impossible, the Puritans became known as Separatists. They found safe haven in Leiden, Holland. The parents, however, noticed that their children were becoming assimilated into the Dutch culture. They were afraid they were losing their English identity. Eventually, on September 16, 1620, the Mayflower set sail from Plymouth, England, for the New World. They were headed for what we now know as New York. A series

of storms blew the Mayflower off course. On November 9, 1620, sixty-six days after leaving England, they made landfall in a protected cove where the "fist" curls under the arm of Cape Cod.



Today, the town of Provincetown, Massachusetts, serves as a magnet to history buffs and whale watchers, and also as a safe haven for the LGBTQ+ population. I wondered what the connection is. Then it dawned on me. Provincetown, then as now, has always been about seeking freedom, a new start, and the opportunity to be and express our authentic selves.

So, back to present day FCC and the connection to the temperance movement of 1893. Until the prohibition of alcohol became the obsessive target, it was never about the alcohol. It was always about family, our marriages, and relationships. It was about personal responsibility, and our emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual health. It was about the safe and secure structure of a loving caring family, community, and culture. And like the progressive, loving, caring, and inclusive nature of First Congregational Church now, and as it was then, FCC is, and always has been, about justice and the safe and secure structure of family, community, culture, and faith.

For 130 years First Congregational Church has proclaimed the love of Jesus Christ for all people. It's just who we are. Let the celebrations begin!

Peace and Shalom, *Pastor Barbara*



## **DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 12**

Don't forget to change your clocks (set them ahead one hour) on Saturday night, March 11!

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

### **SPIFF UP THE CHURCH DAY APRIL FIRST**

No foolin'! Our next Spiff-Up-the-Church Day will be Saturday, April 1, 10-12. Help make the church shine for Easter!



## **PRAYER PARTNERS**

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



**February 26 - March 4**  
Val and Ralph Sherer

**March 5 - 11**  
Cyndi Siroky

**March 12 - 18**  
Debra Smith

**March 19 - 25**  
Annie Song-Hill

**March 26 - April 1**  
Bob and Sue Spofford

# 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.

### March 5

Genesis 12:1-4a

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

### Second Sunday in Lent

and Psalm 121

or

and Matthew 5:13-20

or John 3:1-17

### March 12

Exodus 17:1-7

Romans 5:1-11

### Third Sunday in Lent

and Psalm 95

or

and John 4:5-42

### March 19

#### One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

1 Samuel 5:1-13

Ephesians 5:8-14

### Fourth Sunday in Lent

and Psalm 23

or

and John 9:1-41

### March 26

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Romans 8:6-11

### Fifth Sunday in Lent

and Psalm 130

or

and John 11:1-45



## 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/UCbqlXLjsBEmjdGuoOKnOykA>
- 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](mailto:Knopf.david@gmail.com)

## MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS -- VIA ZOOM

**Mar. 1:** The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday**, March 1, at 1:00 PM

**Mar. 8:** The Church Council meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8 at 5 PM

**Mar. 9:** The Board of Trustees meeting will be on **Thursday**, March. 9, at 7 PM

**Mar. 8 and 15, 23, and 30:** Lenten Study of Wendell Berry Poetry will be on **Wednesdays**, March 8 and 15, and **Thursdays**, March 23 and 30, at 7 PM. See page 9 for more details.

**Mar. 15:** The Board of Ministry will meet on **Monday**, March 15, at noon.



**Please join us for a potluck  
after church on March 26, 2023.  
Bring a favorite dish to share.**

**More details on page 6.**



## BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S REPORT

### OFFICE CHANGES

Amy Powell, our Office Manager, has had elective surgery and is expected to be back in April. In the meantime, Vanessa Reid has agreed to substitute. Vanessa has previously worked at Redwood Presbyterian Church in Larkspur. She will be in the office Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

### SPIFF UP THE CHURCH DAY APRIL FIRST

No foolin'! Our next Spiff-Up-the-Church Day will be Saturday, April 1, 10-12. Help make the church shine for Easter!

### TAX HELP ON TUESDAYS

AARP is again providing tax filing assistance for free on Tuesdays, 10-2, in the Community Room.

### CATCH US LIVE, OR STREAM WHENEVER

Can't make it to church? Don't miss out. Our services are now live on *YouTube* on Sundays at 10 AM. You can see the entire service for a few days. After that, we continue to make sermons available. We also hope to make available soon special choir anthems. Here is the address:

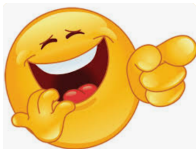
<https://youtube.com/@firstcongregationalo5835>

We now have most sermons on our website ([www.fccsanrafael.org](http://www.fccsanrafael.org)). We also have on the site the lovely choir piece from February 19 (church life>music at FCCSR).

There will be no streaming March 26...unless somebody else volunteers to learn the set-up. It's easier than it looks.

**NEXT Trustees meeting will be THURSDAY. March 9, 7:00 PM**

## LENTEN LAUGHS



Lent is the best time of the year to run a marathon....Because that's when you fast.

I was going to give up lunch meat for Lent...But I just couldn't quit cold turkey.

I'm giving up negativity for Lent. We'll see how long that lasts.

During Lent, a devout parishioner wanders through heavy rain through hamburger huts and steak places into Mount Angel's monastery and asks for shelter. He arrived just in time for dinner and received the finest fish and chips he's ever tasted. He walks into the kitchen after supper to thank the chefs. "Hi, my name is Brother Michael, and this is Brother Francis," he is greeted by two brothers.

"I'm delighted to meet you. I just wanted to say thank you for a delicious dinner. I had the finest fish and chips I'd ever had. Who cooked what, just out of curiosity?"

Brother Michael replies, "Well, I'm the fish friar."

The man turns to the other brother and says, "Then you must be . . ."

"Yes, I'm afraid I'm the chip monk."



## A YEAR OF CELEBRATIONS

### First Congregational Church of San Rafael is 130 years old!

In 1993, we celebrated our Centennial. Now, 30 years later, we again celebrate our past, present, and future. Pastor Barbara brought this to our attention in January when she did some research into the church as part of her initial assignments in her Doctorate program at Pacific School of Religion. A small committee has begun plans for a year-long celebration of our church, beginning with the first Communion service on March 5, 1893, and leading to our incorporation on March 12, 1894. We were delighted to learn that the 1893 calendar is identical to the 2023 calendar.

Watch for surprises, including a possible “FCC family” reunion of in the Fall.

**Please join us for a potluck after church on  
March 26, 2023. Bring a favorite dish to share.**



### San Rafael Welcomes a New Church

Dateline March 5, 1893



The first Communion service at the new First Congregational Church of San Rafael will be held at 10 am, March 5, 1893.

The First Congregational Church of San Rafael grew out of a Bible Class formed by Mrs. Emmaline A. Haskell in November, 1892. This Bible Class of six to ten members met at the Boarding-house home of Mrs. M. McDonald on the corner of B and Second Streets.

On Sunday, December 25, 1892, the members of the Bible Class met for the first time in the “Y’s” hall, on the corner of Third and B Streets. This hall, over W. N. Anderson’s store, was rented by the Young People’s Branch of the Women’s Christian Temperance Union, from whom the class obtained the use of it.

On January 11, 1893, a notice was published in the Marin Journal that Congregational services would be held in the “Y’s” hall on January 15. The Rev. William P. Hardy, the first Pastor, conducted the first regular service of the Church. Eighteen people were present.

The Manual of the First Congregational Church, containing the statement of Doctrine, Confession of Faith, Covenant, and Constitution, was adopted on Sunday, February 12, 1893. On February 19, 1893, 13 people became Charter Members.



## BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



### ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING MARCH 19

**One Great Hour of Sharing** is the refugee, relief and development special mission offering of the UCC. OGHS 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 is set for March 19, 2023. Our theme for 2023 is *It's Time to Share*.



Your gifts help organizations confront food insecurity and hunger. OGHS partners with others to provide immediate aid to those affected by disasters, poverty, or fleeing conflict—providing food, water, shelter, and companionship during times of distress. Your dollars support soup kitchens and food pantries. OGHS shows up when people are in crisis.

In addition, your financial gifts enable the building (and rebuilding) of structures and processes that make a difference for the future, providing education and helping hands for long-term improvements. OGHS is YOUR reach into the world, working in partnership with people we will never meet to transform lives for generations to come.

We hope you will consider making this special offering during the month of March, by including a check made payable to FCC San Rafael, with OGHS 2023 on the memo line.

### REMEMBER THE MARIN FOOD BANK



Please keep helping us stock the pantry at the Marin Food Bank. 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. Remember that people need food all year round!

Thank you for your generous support!

## BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

**The Board of Ministry Team's key role** in the church is to coordinate with the Pastor and Music Director in providing meaningful worship services throughout the liturgical year. We address the spiritual life of the church through the following areas: welcome and outreach, worship and prayer, fellowship, and education.



**Our Members:** Louis Frost, Chair, Pastor Barbara Peronteau, Gerry Grosz, Director of Music, Jackie Dema, Cathi Fuller, Cyndi Siroky.

The new leadership team was commissioned during worship in February to serve on our Boards and on the Church Council. We welcome Louis Frost back to the Board of Ministry as our Chairperson.

### Worship during Lent

On February 22nd, Ash Wednesday, we received the Imposition of ashes following a prayerful service. Pastor Barbara offered the Imposition of Ashes following a prayerful service. We ritualized “Letting Go” or “Giving up” of something that holds us back by tossing a glass stone, representing our prayer, thought, behavior and placing into the baptismal font in an act toward being restored by God’s Living Water into wholeness. This ritual will be continued throughout Lenten Sunday worship in MARCH.

### Coming in April

#### Holy Week

**April 2 - 10 AM Palm Sunday:** we will celebrate with palms and hymns of “Hosannas!”.

**April 6 - 6 PM Maundy Thursday:** A potluck soup supper will be followed a service of Communion at 7pm.

**April 7 - 12-3 PM Good Friday:** A self-led meditation walk will be provided in The Courtyard. The Sanctuary will be open for individual prayer as well for those who prefer to sit and enjoy the meditative music.

**April 9 - 10 AM Easter Sunday:** An Easter Service of celebration of Christ’s resurrection will be held in the sanctuary and recorded for Youtube. We will continue our tradition of filling the sanctuary with memorial lilies and flowering bulbs. We will fill the cross with flowers from our spring gardens.

**At 8:30-9 AM:** Come early if you want to share flowers from your garden and help with placing them in the cross. Plan to join for a Community Time of fellowship following joyful worship. Please let Cathi know if you plan to come early with flowers.

### Community

**11 AM Saturday, April 15th** Memorial Celebration of Life for Analise “Lise” Adams. We are so grateful to her for sharing the gift of her beautiful voice with us in choir, supporting us from the pews, and lifting us up with special music solos. Her warmth, generous heart and contagious laugh are deeply missed by our church family. We send prayers and condolences to family and friends.

**Next Board of Ministry meeting: Wednesday, March 15, at noon on Zoom**



## LENT STUDY GROUP IN MARCH

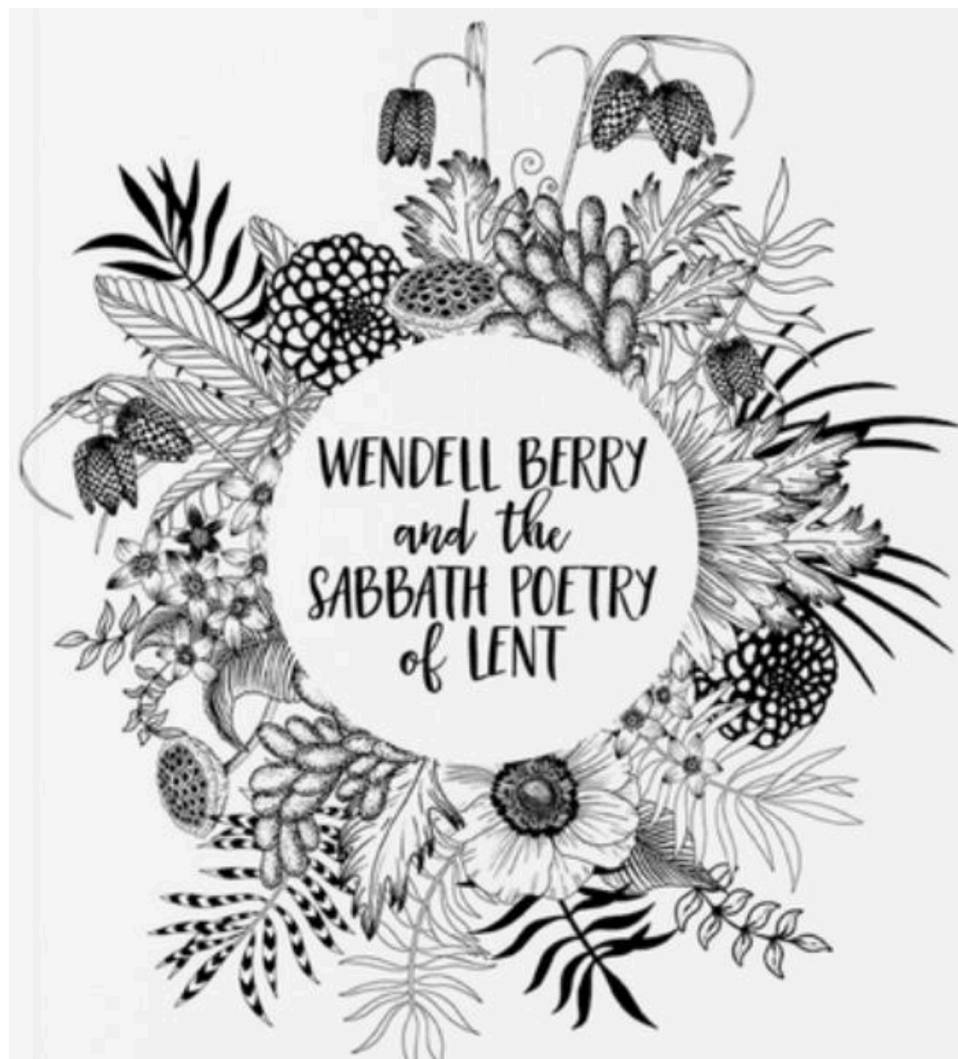
The Board of Ministry is sponsoring a study group during Lent. Join us on Zoom for discussion of Wendell Berry Sabbath Poetry of Lent.



We will meet at 7 PM on Wednesdays, March 8 and 15, and on Thursdays, March 23 and 30.

Booklets of meditations and poems are available in the church office or can be emailed to you on request (contact Cathi for a copy).

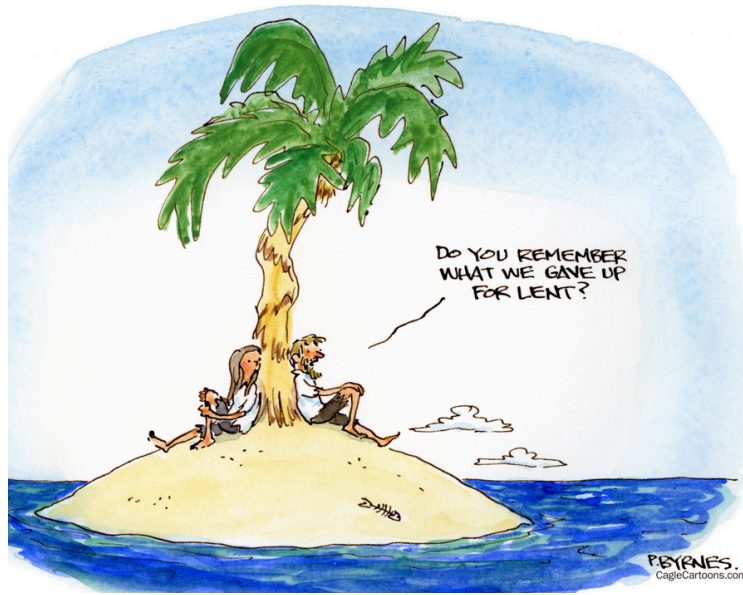
*The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing. + Isaiah 14:7*



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

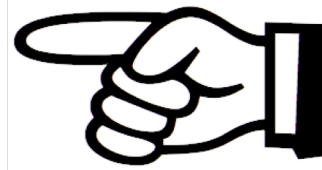


- 8 — Sue Spofford
- 10 — Colleen Trudeau
- 11 — Jackie Dema
- 19 — Charles Little
- 24 — Blair Ripley
- 25 — Milagro Ramirez



## TIE DEADLINE for APRIL 2023 issue - Mon., March. 27

The deadline for articles and news for the April 2023 issue of The TIE is Monday, March 27. Please email your articles to [lucindaray@aol.com](mailto:lucindaray@aol.com) by Monday, March 27.



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

# FCC Calendar MARCH 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>26</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	<b>27</b> 10 am AARP Tax help in the Community Room	<b>28</b> 10 am - 2:30 pm AARP Tax help in the Community Room	<b>March 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10 am - 2:30 pm AARP Tax help in the Community Room	<b>8</b> 5 pm - 6 pm Church Council Meeting via ZOOM 7 pm - 8 pm  LENTEN STUDY	<b>9</b> 7 pm - 8 pm  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Daylight Saving (Start) 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10 am - 2:30 pm AARP Tax help in the Community Room	<b>15</b> 12 pm  Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM 7 pm - 8 pm  LENTEN STUDY	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 10 am - 11 am ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10 am - 2:30 pm AARP Tax help in the Community Room	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7 pm - 8 pm  LENTEN STUDY	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 11 am - 12 pm  CHURCH POTLUCK	<b>27</b> 5 pm  TIE Deadline for APRIL 2023 issue	<b>28</b> 10 am - 2:30 pm AARP Tax help in the Community Room	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7 pm - 8 pm  LENTEN STUDY	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> April Fool's Day 10 am - 12 pm  SPIFF UP THE CHURCH DAY

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).