

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



I was not in the pulpit on Sunday, April 30th, because I have off the fifth Sunday of the month. The next one is in July. On April 30,, The Rev. William “Bill” Pifer-Foote supplied for me. The Conference has a list of people who are willing to do “pulpit supply.” On that list is Bill and his wife, Christine. Like Susan and I, along with others I know, they are a “clergy couple.”

Bill is the “Bridge” pastor at First Congregational Church in Stockton. Bill is available because he also has the last Sunday of the month off. God smiles upon us. Christine is the “Bridge” pastor at Sycamore UCC in El Cerrito. It’s an hour and half drive! Before they moved to the Sacramento area, Bill and Christine were members at Calvary UCC in Reading, Pennsylvania, the same church I attended. We even know some of the same people. Here’s the odd thing about that. Because Bill

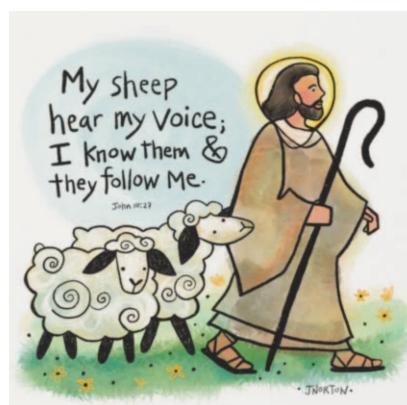
and Christine were doing ministry in other churches, we never met until we moved out here to California. I find that fascinatingly odd.

Sunday, April 30th, my day off, was the Fourth Sunday of Easter and also Good Shepherd Sunday. I’m not sure what Bill planned to preach about, other than his texts are Psalm 23 (you know that one) and John 10:1-10 when Jesus says he is the Good Shepherd. The other text assigned for the day is Acts 2:42-47.

One of the emails I get is called “Sunday’s Coming.” It’s from *The Christian Century*. This week the Rev. Jenna Smith shares her thoughts. The texts give us three different images of shepherding from three different perspectives. In one text we get the image of one being shepherded, from John we have the image of the One who is the Good Shepherd, and then Acts shows us the community that shepherds as well.

The image from Psalm 23 is about our God who brings us through “the shadow of the valley of death.” For sure it is appropriate to think this refers to death. However, I think the words “valley of the shadow” invite us

into a larger space inclusive of despair, depression, fear, anxiety, stress, and confusion. That emotional weight that makes it hard to breathe. The Psalm reminds us, as Craig Barnes says, that not everything is okay, but in the midst of not being okay, is a God who leads



us through it. We are reminded that God meets us even when, especially when, life seems overwhelming, chaotic, and heavy.

Jenna Smith reminds us that the blessed community, the church, shepherds as well. Through studying the scriptures, being together, sharing, breaking bread and sharing the cup with glad and generous hearts, and praying together, the believing community brings us through our “valley of death” moments.

This image of a shepherding community opens up new possibilities and new spiritual gifts through our gathering, ministries, culture, practices, and environment. In the dynamics of our very fabric of who we are, we are, along with Jesus, a shepherd. May 15th marks a year that I have been with you. We are shepherds together.

Enjoy my day off. I’ll see you on the flip side.

Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!

~ Pastor Barbara

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

During worship on Sunday, April 16, visiting speaker Jacqui Salyer discussed an opportunity for us to participate in helping make minor repairs to homes for seniors. The event takes place in Rohnert Park on Friday and Saturday, June 9 and 10.



**1st Annual**  
**ROCK THE BLOCK**



**CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS**  
**707.291.3891**

**SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES**  
**707.806.8484**

**Email: [RocktheBlock23@habitatso.co.org](mailto:RocktheBlock23@habitatso.co.org)**

**WHEN:** Friday, June 9 and Saturday, June 10  
**TIME:** 9am-3pm  
**PLACE:** Rohnert Park, location disclosed at sign-up  
**WHAT:** Minor repairs for 14 homes, replace 4 fences

\*Event approved by City of Rohnert Park



## PRAYER PARTNERS

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



**April 30 - May 6**  
Denise Walker

**May 7 - 13**  
Bruce Weir

**May 14 - 20**  
Barbara Alexander

**May 21 - 27**  
Gail Allegetti

**May 28 - June 3**  
Kelly Anderson



# *Come* *Worship* **w i t h u s !**

***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 May. 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.

## **May 7 Holy Communion**

Acts 7:55-60

1 Peter 2:2-10

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

and Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

or

and John 14:1-14

## **May 14**

Acts 17:22-31

1 Peter 3:13-22

## **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

and Psalm 66:8-20

or

and John 14:15-21

## **May 21**

Acts 1:6-14

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

## **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

and Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35

or

and John 17:1-11

## **May 28**

Acts 2:1-21

1 Corinthians 12:3b-13

## **Pentecost Sunday**

and Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

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

**May 3:** The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday**, May 3, at 1:00 PM.

**May 9:** The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday**, May 9, at noon.

**May 18:** The Board of Trustees meeting will be on **Thursday**, May 18, at 7 PM.

**June 7:** The Church Council meeting will be on Wednesday, Jun 7 at 5 PM.



## CHURCH COUNCIL REMOVES THE MASK MANDATE



At their April meeting, the Church Council of the First Congregational Church of San Rafael discussed eliminating the mask mandate.

Going forward, masks are recommended but optional at this time. Please continue to be respectful of others.



## BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S REPORT

### Roof Repaired

You may have noticed last month several buckets with a bit of water in them in the Community Room under the street side flat roof. We have had a slow leak after the first big storm the last couple of years. Surprisingly, the leak hasn't persisted very much in later storms. Luckily, Avril Roofing, for a reasonable price, was able to seal several spots they felt were the probable cause, so we don't

expect to have problems next year.

### No You-Tube May 28

Our You Tube organizer will be out of town May 23, so there will be no live service or recorded video sermon.

Previous sermons are available at <https://youtube.com/@firstcongregationalchurch05836> and on the church website: [www.fccsanrafael.org](http://www.fccsanrafael.org)

### Acqua Montessori Adds Toddler Program

Our lower level tenant, Acqua Montessori, is adding an infant/toddler program at Pilgrim Park Apartments. They have renovated the building previously used by the Head Start Infant Program. Nico Mendoza, the Director, says they will make available some spaces for Pilgrim Park kids and will offer some discounts to Pilgrim Park families.

### Thank you to the Trustees:

To the Board of Trustees, First Congregational Church:

I am writing to thank you for your support of our tax-aide program during the 2023 tax season. We greatly appreciate your willingness to help and your flexibility in providing us a workspace. We were especially grateful this year to be able to use the Sanctuary for our waiting taxpayers as we had so many very cold and stormy days.

Our volunteers at the Church prepared 162 tax returns this year for local residents and, although this is fewer than we prepared last year at this site, we were open only day per week. For that one day, we prepared over twice as many returns as last year. This site provides an easily-accessible location for the many residents for the Terra Linda/Northgate area and provides an additional site preparing returns.

I especially want to thank David Knopf for his graciousness and willingness to help. He dropped in several times to make sure that we didn't have any problems and to be sure that everything was working.

While I hope that we are able to return to a more "normal" setup next year and provide more days for our taxpayers, I am very happy with what we were able to accomplish this tax season. We truly could not have done this without your support.

With sincere gratitude,

Linda Bell  
Northgate Shift Coordinator  
Marin AARP TaxAide





## OFFERING OF LETTERS SAMPLE

[Date]

Rep. \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Sen. \_\_\_\_\_

U.S. Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_, / Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_,

The farm bill is our nation's most important national food system legislation. It is critical to the work of ending hunger at home and abroad. Indeed, the farm bill impacts each one of us.

As Congress works to renew our food and farm programs through the farm bill, I urge you to support legislation that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

Specifically, I ask you to:

- Increase access to fresh fruits and vegetables by increasing support for produce-specific Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program (GusNIP). This provides resources on top of monthly SNAP benefits for the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables, primarily at farmers' markets, for a limited number of households.
- Eliminate barriers to SNAP for marginalized populations, including ending the ban on former drug offenders, eliminating work requirements for college students, and permitting indigenous communities to administer SNAP and other federal nutrition programs on reservations.
- Keep food out of landfills by increasing support for post-harvest food recovery efforts and addressing the threat to food security posed by extreme weather.
- Support funding for international food aid programs such as Food for Peace.

As a person of faith, I am moved to help and advocate for people experiencing hunger and poverty – no matter where they live. This is why I urge you to support a farm bill that builds healthy, equitable, and sustainable food systems.

Sincerely,

[Your name] [Your address]

Senator Alex Padilla  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Diane Feinstein  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Jared Huffman  
House Office Building  
Washington, DC. 20515

## 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.



### Updates from the Board of Ministry

#### Holy Week

In April we celebrated Holy Week. We sang Hosanna hymns and filled the sanctuary with palms on Palm Sunday, shared a simple soup supper followed by hand-washing and Communion during contemplative worship on Maundy Thursday and participated in a walking meditation through scriptural stations for Good Friday. For Easter worship we were greeted by a sanctuary filled with colorful memorial and celebratory flowering plants and the tradition of the cross full of fresh cut flowers symbolizing Resurrection. The service was full of messages of joy in scripture, sermon, Alleluia hymns and the choir anthem. We had a feast of appetizers and treats following worship.



Thank you to all who ordered flowers, filled the cross, prepared communion, made soup, brought cheese and bread, provided delicious Easter eats, Easter eggs and beverages, who planned services, who participated in spiffing up the church before Holy Week, who practiced, sang anthems, played hymns, recorded and managed our sound systems, thank you for contributions toward memorial and celebratory flowering plants and flowers from your gardens for the cross and all who participated in the Holy Week worship and community gatherings.

### A Memorial Celebration of the Life of Analisa Adams



On Saturday afternoon April 19, The Life of Analisa "Lise" Adams was celebrated by family, friends, church family and her Marin Oratorio colleagues. There were plenty of moving and inspiring moments during the service; when the Oratorio sang Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus," when the FCC choir sang "On Eagles Wings," listening to recordings of Lise singing "Ave Maria"

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and “O Rest in the Lord,” messages of God’s love and the sharing of memories by family and friends. The worship was followed by a lovely reception provided by Lise’s family - cheeses, sweets and the sharing in wine from Lise’s wine collection as well as photos and memorabilia shared. The family shared the flowers for worship the following day.



### **Earth Day Celebration**

“Brother Sun...Sister Moon...”

Sunday, April 23rd we celebrated the Creation in the outside Courtyard surrounded by birdsong, spring flowers, blue sky and trees.

**Guest Preacher** The Rev. William Pifer-Foote led worship on April 30th.

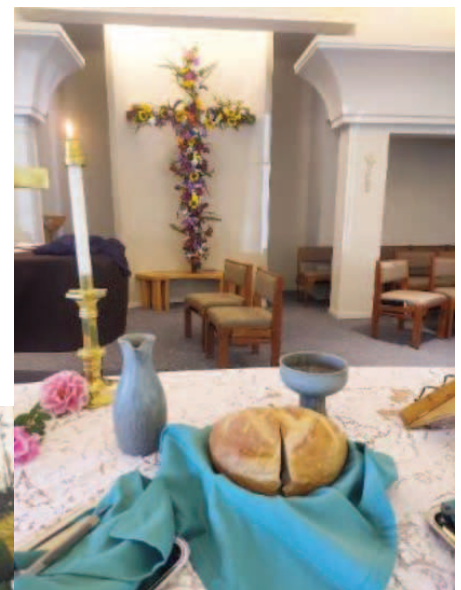
### **Coming in May**

May 14: Mother’s Day

May 28: Pentecost Sunday: celebrate the birth of The Church as told in Acts. Wear white or red.

**Next Board of Ministry Meeting: Tuesday, May 9, at noon, on Zoom.**

## **MORE PICTURES OF HOLY WEEK AND EASTER**



## 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

## CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER !

Lynn Grant has finally gotten an iPhone! She can even send and receive texts now.

Her cell phone number is: 415 367-5298  
She also still uses her landline phone: 415 883-1865

Her email is only trackergrant@gmail.com  
(The old email no longer reaches her.)

She says: "Thanks for being patient while I came into the current century!"



## TIE DEADLINE for JUNE 2023 issue - Mon., May 29

The deadline for articles and news for the June 2023 issue of The TIE is Monday, May 29. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, May 29.



### 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 MAY 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>30</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	<b>May 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  1 pm - 2 pm BOARD of MISSION Meeting on ZOOM	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  12 pm Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Mother's Day 10 am  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 7 pm - 8 pm  BOARD of TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Armed Forces Day
<b>21</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 11 am BREAD FOR THE WORLD OFFERING OF LETTERS	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	<b>29</b>  Memorial Day 5 pm  TIE Deadline for MAY 2023 issue	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</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).