

The TIE

THOUGHTS FROM THE PASTOR... REV. BARBARA PERONTEAU



Thoughts on Being Unique

If you are, or have ever been a teacher, or have ever been a student for that matter, perhaps you've noticed that each class has a different personality. The current class is peculiar in ways the previous class or the next class coming up is not. Each class has its own *je ne sais quoi* that makes it different from any other.

People are like that too. A study of the Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory or the Enneagram shows that each and every person has their own unique personality. Or simply go to Union Square, or your favorite grocery store and watch the people. Back in the day we used to do this at the mall. A day with extended family will give you the same information – each and every one of us is different. Each and every one of us is genuinely and authentically unique.

In Chinese philosophy there is the notion of *qi* (pronounced, chee). The idea of *qi* is that each of us has our own life force. Our own unique energy. Indeed, everything has its own life force. The black walnut tree behind me, the flies buzzing nearby, the crows, the seagulls, the redwoods, the hills, and the ocean itself has its own life force giving each thing its own unique and authentic identity.

For example, imagine Albert Einstein being anything other than a brilliant scientist and mathematician. Imagine William Shakespeare being anything other than an inspired writer about the human experience. There are some, like Hedy Lamar, who had more than one life force. More than one light to follow. She was beautiful, a talented actor, and an inventor of improvements for the stop light, Fizzies, and the rudimentary beginnings of our modern day GPS and Wi-Fi. Could any of these people be and do anything other than who they were? It's who they were that lead them to do what they did. Each and every one of us is born with a light of our own. If we're lucky (privileged?) each of us gets to follow our own star and become who we were born to be.

As this is true for people, high school classes, trees, birds, and oceans, it is also true for corporations and organizations. Churches are no different. In "John's Apocalypse," also known as "Revelation", John writes to seven churches in what we now know as Turkey. Soon after the introduction, John refers to seven

stars and seven angels and seven lampstands. The stars are the angels. The angels are that direct conduit of life-giving light and wisdom steaming from God. The



lampstands are the seven churches. I imagine the lampstands as menorahs representing the time in Jewish history when the lights stayed lit for eight days.

Each church has its own shining light that never goes out. Each church has its own qi, its own je ne sais quoi, its own internal life energy that makes it who is. First Congregational is no different.

~ Pastor Barbara

DECK PARTY SEPTEMBER 3, 1 PM, AT LYNN GRANT'S

Celebrate the end of summer and relax on the deck. Swim or kayak! Bring food to share for lunch. Most of all, just come and have fun.



WELCOME BACK SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 17

It's approaching that time when we put up all the play toys for summer, and welcome back all our members. This is a time when the choir comes back together after and enlightened and inspires us with its beautiful music, and Sunday school starts again. At this point, we start looking forward to the fall and all the colorful times that brings us.

The normal date for Welcome Back Sunday is the Sunday after Labor Day. However, we have a number of people who will still be enjoying the sunshiny weather, including choir members critical for welcoming us back. Therefore, we are moving the welcome back Sunday to September 17. We look forward to seeing everybody's bright and shiny (and perhaps a little tanned) faces.

Look forward to seeing you.
Your Board of Ministry

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



August 27 - September 2
Anice Flesh

September 3 - 9
Louis and Khamla Frost,
Melanie Sakskul

September 10 - 16
Megan Fuller, Elizabeth and William

September 17 - 23
Judy Girard

September 24 - 30
Lynn Grant



***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.

Sept. 3 14th Sunday after Pentecost Holy Communion

Spirit Led Welcome

Exodus 3:1-15	and	Psalm 105:1-6, 23
	or	
Jeremiah 15:15-21	and	Psalm 26:1-8
Romans 12:9-21		Matthew 16:21-28

Sept. 10 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Remember, Restore, Renew

Exodus 12:1-14	and	Psalm 149
	or	
Ezekiel 33:7-11	and	Psalm 119:33-40
Romans 13:8-14		Matthew 18:15-20

Sept. 17 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Road to Freedom

Exodus 14:19-31	and	Psalm 103:1-13
	or	
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11	and	John 17:1-11
Romans 14:1-12		Matthew 18:21-23

Sept. 24 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Tension in the Wilderness

Exodus 16:2-14	and	Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45
	or	
Jonah 3:10-4:11	and	Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30		Matthew 20:1-16



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

MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS -- VIA ZOOM

Sept. 5: The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday**, September 5, at 11:45.

Sept. 6: The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday**, Sept. 6, at 1:30 PM.

Sept. 21: The Board of Trustees meeting will be on **Thurs.**, Sept. 21, at 7 PM.

Sept. 27: The Church Council meeting will be on **Wednesday**, Sept. 27, 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.

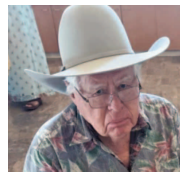
Going forward, masks are recommended but optional at this time. Please continue to be respectful of others.

BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

Community Events in July

Sunday July 16th Nonagenarian Celebration

We celebrated our 90 year old members and those who turned 90 this summer. Pr. Barbara honored them during the service and we followed with a “high tea” birthday party and hat contest. There were the range of vintage classy hats, Texas cowboy hats, birthday crowns and whimsical paper ones that appeared like an illustration for the Mad Hatter’s tea party. We are so grateful for our wonderful Nonagenarians who have gifted our church with years of service, talents, fellowship and love to our FCC Family. Happy Birthday and wishes for many blessings to Bob De Haan and Nancy Sangster-De Haan, Lynn Grant, Helen MacLam, Clara Miller, Denise Walker and Ekhard Mahl!



Sunday July 23, a few days before FCC Members attended the Giants vs. As Game, Pastor Barbara led worship themed around “Take me out to the Ballgame,” managing sermon imagery that fit right in and had the congregation singing a rousing “Take me out to the ballgame...” at one point.



July 30th We celebrated Backpack Sunday (filling the front of the church with backpacks and school supplies for Ritter Center children) and worship lead by guest pastor, Rev. Rita Ramos. Rev. Rhina Ramos is an ordained United Church of Christ minister leading Ministerio Latino, a Spanish speaking open and affirming congregation for LGBTQI Latinx immigrants.



August 6 Rev. Julianne Stokstad returned as a guest pastor to lead worship.

August 14 Rev Barry Cammer led us in worship as a guest pastor and in an introductory and engaging discussion on participation and commitment involved in the Black Wealth Builders project. Rev. Barry Cammer has been an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ since 1987. He served as a parish pastor for 8 years before choosing affordable housing as his designated ministry for almost 30 years. He is also a trained pastoral counselor. Barry considers himself in post-retirement in which one of his major endeavors is the Black Wealth Builders project.



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August 12 Millers' Celebration of Life - We shared a service full of meaningful remembrance, joy and love celebrating their contributions to compassion and justice in our world, to thoughtful, artistic and intelligent engagement in our community and all the love, laughter, kindness, creativity, moral and ethical discourse and generosity they offered to their family, their friends and all whom they encountered.



The service was followed by Jazz music by Gerry's jazz trio and a delicious luncheon on the patio. Our sympathy and gratitude goes out to the Miller family: Michael, Heidi, Wendy, Andy, and Jane, and their families.



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Coming in September:

Sept 3rd Our (almost) Annual Summer Potluck Picnic and Kayaking at Lynn's on the Lagoon, All are invited! Call the office or Lynn if you need directions.

Next Board of Ministry meeting: Tuesday, Sept 5th at 11:45 on Zoom



BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Landscape Pipe Cracks

In August the supply pipe for the drip system in the courtyard "ameba" planter developed a crack. Until Audel and Francesco of Pilgrim Park and David could fix it, several thousand gallons of water escaped. Our water bill is already too high! The leak was noticed a couple of days before it was repaired, but the shut-off valve could not be located. The shut off for the entire courtyard

area was found outside and behind the Sanctuary restroom. The Council has decided to have a "Safari" after church on Sunday, September 3rd, to get educated about the various emergency shut offs. Anyone can join the hunt!

Limited Mobility Reserved Parking

In July we put up an "A-Frame" sign reserving the front row of parking for those with limited mobility. It seems to be working, but what do you think? Trustees would like to hear how it is working for others. If you have observations, share them with a Trustee (Louis Frost, David Knopf, Bob Spofford, Caryl Hodges, or Val Sherer).

Free Acoustic Tiles

Know a musician, sound engineer, or person wanting to deaden sound somewhere (besides in the political world)? We have several acoustic tiles left over from our Community Room sound improvement project. They are taking up storage and we would love to let somebody take them and put them to use. Contact David for more information.



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS OF BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES

WOW! On July 30, we collected 34 backpacks for Ritter Center to provide to local students who need them And that's not all!



Lunch Bags:	5	Pencils:	4 pkgs
Calculators:	1	Pens:	4 pkgs
Math sets:	2	Highlighters:	3 pkgs
Binders:	12	Glue Sticks:	3 pkgs
Binder Paper:	6	Markers:	5 sets
Notebooks:	8	Crayons:	10 boxes
Subject Dividers:	3		

And...checks totalling \$135

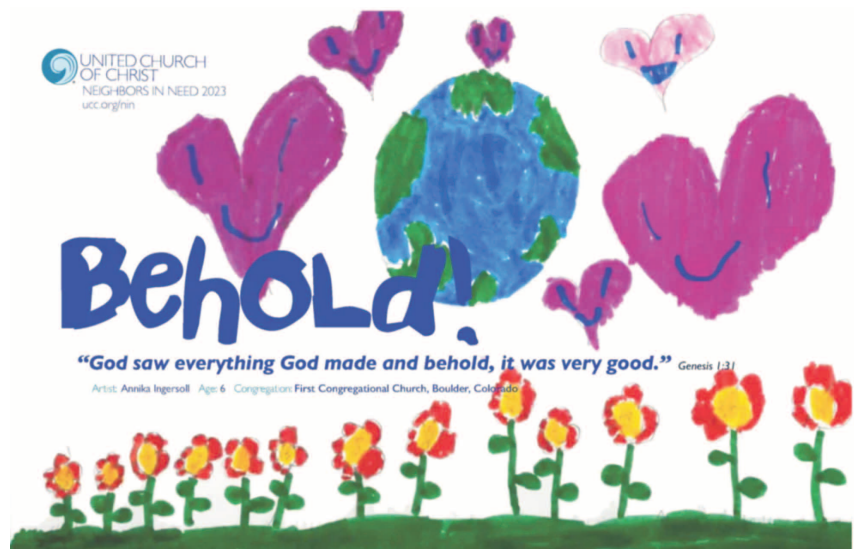
Many thanks to all of you who donated, and to Megan Fuller for tabulating all our donations and delivering them

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING OCTOBER 1

We will be holding the Neighbors in Need Offering on Sunday, October 1. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

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 support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice.



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
- 25 — TJ Dempsey
- 25 — Caryl Hodges

MAHALO!

Cathi Fuller sends a big “mahalo!” to filling a table with enthusiastic FCC support and “aloha” for the Goldenaires’ fundraiser luncheon where her hula halau “Ka Lehua ‘O Nalani” performed on August 18th.



TIE DEADLINE for OCTOBER 2023 issue - Mon., Sept. 25

The deadline for articles and news for the October 2023 issue of The TIE is Monday, September 25. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, September 25.



Rev. Barbara Peronteau – Pastor

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

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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 SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	28  5 am TIE Deadline for SEPTEMBER 2023 Issue	29	30	31	September 1	2
3  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 1 am PICNIC PARTY AT WINI GRANTS 1PM	4 Labor Day	5	6  12:00 pm - 2:30 pm BOARD of MISSION Meeting on ZOOM!	7	8	9
10 GrandParents' Day  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	11 Patriot Day	12	13	14	15	16
17  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 10 am WELCOME BACK SUNDAY 10 AM	18	19	20	21  7 am - 8 am BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM!	22	23
24  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	25  5 am TIE Deadline for SEPTEMBER 2023 Issue	26	27  5 am - 6 am Church Council Meeting via ZOOM!	28	29	30

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.