

REV. BARBARA PERONTEAU



Sunday November 12: Pastor Davina Jones will lead us in a Release of Service for Pastor Barbara, with a reception of gratitude for Pastor Barbara's ministry among us following the service.



REMEMBERING THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

On October 8th, under the oak trees, with hawk calls and busy squirrels gathering acorns, our Courtyard was filled with dogs and their people on a beautiful sunny autumn day of worship and the Blessing of the Animals.

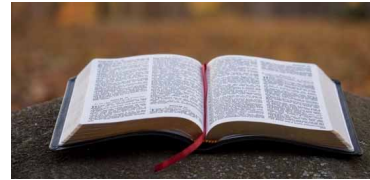
Caryl Hodges led us in readings, Gerry Grosz framed the service with "Animal Crackers" and "It's a Wonderful World" and the choir sang a beautiful hymn "We celebrate the Web of Life," while the congregation joined in for familiar hymns celebrating creation.

Pastor Barbara preached a lovely sermon on "Fences," led a prayer of confession of our role in any harm to our fellow creatures. She expressed gratitude for all our beloved animal family members present and a time to name those who have already "crossed the rainbow bridge." Cio assisted Pastor Barbara with the bestowing of blessings on the animals present live, or in photos, carrying the basket of blessing tags that picture St. Francis and state "I have been blessed."

We are grateful to all who went the extra mile for the special celebration: David for the sound system, Caryl helping with planning, liturgy, pet and people treats (animal crackers and circus animal cookies). Thanks to Clara for the beautiful flowers and all who helped with setting up and taking down chairs. And of course Pastor Barbara, Gerry and the choir members who create the structure and meaning for our worship. Special gratitude for our animal kin who bring so much love and joy into our lives.

BIBLE STUDY ON TUESDAY NOV. 7

We are studying the Gospel of Matthew.
We meet on Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 7:00 PM. Please join us
on Zoom



SPIFF UP THE CHURCH DAY

NOVEMBER 4

Come Saturday, November 4, for your next chance to join in making our church sparkle for Advent and Christmas. We clean, polish, garden, and fix from 12-2 PM. Come for an hour, come for the whole time!

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS!

**SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK
ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY
NIGHT, NOV. 4**



PRAYER PARTNERS

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



October 29 - November 4
Amy Kaufman, Sean and
Cio (Allison)

November 5 - 11
David Knopf and Cathi
Fuller

November 12 - 18
Jill Krippendorf

November 19 - 25
Charles Little and Lucinda Ray

November 26 - December 2
Helen MacLam



Come and 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.

Nov. 5 23rd Sunday after Pentecost Theme: All Saints Sunday

Revelation 7:9-17 and Psalm 34:1-10, 22
or
1 John 3:1-3 and Matthew 5:1-12

**Nov. 12 24th Sunday after Pentecost Theme: Tending God's Light
Stewardship Sunday**

Joshua 24:1-3A, 14-25 and Psalm 78:1-7
or
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and Matthew 25:1-13

Nov. 19 Guest Minister: Rev. Rhia Ramos

Rev. Ramos is a former labor lawyer in New York and co-founded the first Spanish- Speaking UCC church for LGBTQI+, which meet Friday evenings in the East Bay.

**Nov. 26 First Sunday in Advent
Guest Minister: Rev. Julianne Stokstad**

At the this one year anniversary, a time for sharing our gratitude for Hilary Spaulding will be offered as a special part of our FCC Family. The altar will be bedecked with candles and altar cloth from among the many beautiful gifts Hilary donated for use in worship. Some of her favorite scripture, readings and hymns will be included.



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

Nov. 7: The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday**, Nov. 7, at 11:45 AM.

Nov. 15: The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday**, Nov. 15, at 1:00 PM.

Nov. 16: The Board of Trustees meeting will be on **Thursday**, Nov. 16, at 7 PM.

Nov. 29: The Church Council meeting will be on **Wednesday**, Nov. 29, at 5 PM.



DON'T MISS IT: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11

**OUR CHURCH WILL BE HOSTING THIS MEETING IN
OUR SANCTUARY,
WITH LUNCH IN OUR COMMUNITY ROOM**

Please come and represent our church!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE
*ANNUAL FALL
GATHERING*
OF THE
GOLDEN GATE ASSOCIATION

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2023
9:00 AM TO 1:00 PM**

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SAN RAFAEL
8 N SAN PEDRO RD
SAN RAFAEL, CA 94903**

Our theme this year will focus on

**CHURCH
GROWTH**

For more information call
510-414-8250


<http://www.ggancnc.org>



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING UPDATE

Your generous donations during the offering Sunday October 1, 2023, resulted in \$675.00! Thank you all. Once again First Congregational Church of San Rafael proves we are small but mighty!!

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!



RITTER CENTER FAMILY HOLIDAY GIFT CARD COLLECTION - SUNDAY, DEC. 3



The Ritter Center's Family to Family Holiday Gift Card Program provides gift cards to Ritter Center registered families and individuals so they can fulfill their kids' holiday wishes and buy what they need this winter.

We recommend gift cards to Target and Safeway, in amounts of either \$25 or \$50.

We will be collecting the gift cards on Sunday, December 3.

BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

Community and Spiritual Nurture

Don't miss the last Bible Study on Matthew on Tuesday, November 7, at 7 PM!



Worship In October:

October 8: Blessing of the Animals

See page one of this newsletter: our Courtyard was filled with dogs and their people on a beautiful sunny autumn day of worship and the Blessing of the Animals.

October 15: Rev. Blythe Osner led worship while Pr. Barbara was in Pennsylvania for a class reunion. The Rev. Blythe Osner served as pastor of United Church of Christ in Petaluma for 12 years before following her passion for education and social justice into the classroom where she currently teaches middle school at a Waldorf in Petaluma.

October 22: Rev. Dr. Davena Jones, our NCNC Conference Minister, led us in worship and reflected on the challenging scripture "Render unto Caesar, What is Caesar's and to God, what is God's." She led us in discussion following worship to share about Pastor Barbara's time with us coming to a close and to discuss the next steps for our community in this time of transition. We were left with the immediate challenge to prayerfully consider if we might feel called to participate in the search for an interim pastor.

October 29th: Reformation Sunday. The Rev. Bill Eichhorn is a recently retired UCC pastor, previously at Mill Valley and most recently with his wife, Ann, at Tiburon UCC. He preached on the theme of hope in desperate times. He closed with "A Blessing" (following) that resonated with us when we are all reeling from mass shooting in Maine, war in Ukraine, massacres in Israel and Gaza and following so soon on devastating natural disasters and fires around the world.

Coming in November:

November 5: All Soul's Day Sunday: We will be remembering those who have passed from FCC family in 2023 as well as those who are dear to us personally (Hilary Spalding, Nov 2022; Lise Adams, Jan 2023; Alan Miller, April; Colleen Trudeau, July; and Mary Dowling, Oct. 6, 2023).

Saturday, November 11: 9 AM - 1 PM: FCC of San Rafael has the privilege of hosting the Annual Fall Golden Gate Association Gathering. Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette (author of *A Real Good Church*) will be speaking on revitalizing the church in this time of declining attendance and aging church communities. Pr. Barbara will be offering a welcoming address. **Your attendance is welcome and important** to offering a radical welcome as the hosting community. Lucinda is arranging lunch.

Sunday November 12: Pastor Davina Jones will lead us in a Release of Service for Pr. Barbara with a reception of gratitude for Pastor Barbara's ministry among us. Please sign up after worship or email Cathi if you wish to volunteer to bring an appetizer or dessert item.

continued on the next page

Sunday, November 26: Rev. Julianne Stokstad will lead worship. At the this one year anniversary, a time for sharing our gratitude for Hilary Spaulding will be offered as a special part of our FCC Family. The altar will be bedecked with candles and altar cloth from among the many beautiful gifts Hilary donated for use in worship. Some of her favorite scripture, readings and hymns will be included.



Next Board of Ministry meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 7, at 11:45 AM, on Zoom

A Blessing (from A Black Rock Prayer Book)

The world now is too dangerous
And too beautiful for anything but love.
May your eyes be so blessed they see God in everyone.
Your ears so they hear the cry of the poor.
May your hands be so blessed
That everything you touch is sacrament.
Your lips, so they speak nothing but the truth with love.
May your feet be so blessed you run
To those who need you.
And may your heart be so opened,
So, set on fire, that you love,
Your love, changes everything.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Renter Changes

The Church of God (7th Day), our Saturday afternoon renter for several years, has folded. The church has had difficulties the last couple of years, particularly because their pastor had a serious neck injury and several operations.

The Real Life Church has increased their hours to include Saturday morning in the Courtyard and Community Room for a barbecue

and food pick up. They have also added Saturday mid-afternoon in the Oak Room for a group meeting. To make room for our special events, they have agreed to suspend activities when we request use of the facility. Their lease for two years was renewed and signed.

Vision, Calling, and Pledging

November is the time we begin to think about the new year and beyond as we pledge and develop the budget. As you consider your pledge, we'd also like you to think bigger. Not bigger in money. but bigger in imagining a future.

What are 10 visions for the future of FCCSR? What is God calling us to become? We ask everyone to dig deeper and come up with several visions in addition having more members. What would the church be doing? The answers will form the starting point for future discussions as we create our profile which we use to find a settled pastor.

Members and friends should be receiving the pledge and vision letter in mail the first week of November. These can be mailed to the church or placed in the offering plate on Sundays in November.

Next Trustees Meeting - Thursday, November 16, 7 P.M., on Zoom.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

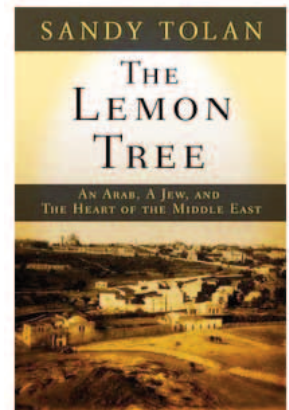


2 — Barbara Peronteau
16 — Eckhard Mahl

BOOK CLUB DECEMBER 7

The next book club meeting will be on Thursday, December 7, at 7:30 PM, on Zoom.

We will be reading *The Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East*, by Sandy Tolan. Tolan's book is a tale of friendship between two people, one Israeli and one Palestinian, that symbolizes the hope for peace in the Middle East. The story focuses on the homes and histories of the two families at its center through the present day. Their stories form a personal microcosm of the last 70 years of Israeli-Palestinian history. "Makes an incredibly complicated topic comprehensible."



TIE DEADLINE for DECEMBER 2023 issue - Mon., Nov. 27

The deadline for articles and news for the December 2023 issue of The TIE is Monday, November 27. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, November 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

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 2023

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|----------------------|--|--|--|----------------------|--|
| 29  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM | 30 (Empty) | 31 Halloween 7 am - 8 am  BIBLE STUDY | November 1 (Empty) | 2 7:30 am - 8:30 am  BOOK CLUB reading FOSTER by Clare Keegan | 3 (Empty) | 4 10 am - 12 pm  SQUEE UP THE CHURCH |
| 5 Daylight Saving (End) 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM | 6 (Empty) | 7 11:45 am  Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM 7 pm - 8 pm  BIBLE STUDY | 8 (Empty) | 9 (Empty) | 10 (Empty) | 11 Veterans Day 9 am - 1 pm  GOLDEN GATE ASSOCIATION MEETING |
| 12 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 11 am Reception for Pastor Barbara following Worship | 13 (Empty) | 14 (Empty) | 15 1 pm - 2 pm  BOARD of MISSION Meeting on ZOOM | 16 7 am - 8 am  BOARD of TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM | 17 (Empty) | 18 (Empty) |
| 19 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM | 20 (Empty) | 21 (Empty) | 22 (Empty) | 23  Thanksgiving Day | 24 (Empty) | 25 (Empty) |
| 26 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM | 27 (Empty) | 28 (Empty) | 29 4 pm - 6 pm  Church Council Meeting via ZOOM | 30 (Empty) | 1 (Empty) | 2 (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.