



THE INTERIM PROCESS -- HERE ARE THE NEXT STEPS:

- ☒ We appoint an Interim Search Committee to locate and recommend an interim pastor
The Interim Search Committee is Louis Frost, Megan Fuller, and David Santschi.
- ☐ We hire an Interim Pastor
- ☐ We appoint a Search Committee
- ☐ We create our Church Profile, a description of our church to be read by potential pastors
- ☐ The Search Committee will consider all potential candidates
- ☐ The Search Committee will select possible candidates
- ☐ The Search Committee will interview these candidates
- ☐ One candidate will be recommended to the congregation
- ☐ The congregation will have an opportunity to meet the candidate
- ☐ We will vote on the recommended candidate
- ☐ We will join in worship to install our new pastor



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR INTERIM SEARCH COMMITTEE

Advent is a season of preparation and anticipation for the coming of the Christ child. For our church community, this Advent time is also one of planning, preparation, and the start of our search for an interim pastor. Your Interim Selection Committee includes Louis Frost, David Santschi, and myself (Megan Fuller), and we wanted to share with you a little about the process ahead:

In the UCC, interim ministry is provided to a church during a pastoral vacancy. Certain norms are consistent among all UCC Conferences:

- * the expectation that the interim position will be time-limited;
- * the expectation that the interim position period will offer the congregation an opportunity to assess its history, mission, and unique ministries;
- * the expectation is that the interim minister and congregation will work together to address issues impacting the next settled pastor.

Continued on the next page

It is understood that the interim will not be a candidate for the settled pastor and that all pastoral/professional relationships with the interim minister will terminate when the settled ministry begins.

An Interim Minister provides for the ongoing worship of the congregation, offers basic pastoral care and administrative leadership, and helps guide the church through the challenges and opportunities inherent to the "in-between" time.

The selection process involves reading the UCC materials on interim ministry, reviewing candidate profiles, checking references, arranging interviews and selecting a candidate, making a decision to offer a covenant/contract to the chosen candidate, recommending the candidate to our church governing board for their approval, and then sharing the news with the congregation. After reviewing all materials, we have begun meeting and reviewing profiles. While we have made a covenant to confidentiality, we will keep you updated on the status of the interim selection process. We appreciate your prayers as we undertake our roles on the committee and move forward with finding the right pastor to serve and guide our church during the interim period.

With warm regards,
Megan Fuller, Interim Search Committee

FILL THE CHURCH WITH POINSETTIAS



Memorial Poinsettias

Fill the sanctuary during Christmas with color in honor, in memory, or in celebration of a loved one(s). You may purchase a poinsettia by filling out the order form and including a check for \$10.00 (made out to FCCSR). Order forms will be available in the December Sunday bulletins. Remember to write "for poinsettia" in the memo area of your check.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



November 26 - December 2
Helen MacLam

December 3 - 9
Ekhard Mahl

December 10 - 16
Ray and Jean O'Leary

December 17 - 23
Milagro Ramirez

December 24 - 30
Greg and Sher Ripley

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).**

Dec. 3 First Sunday in Advent Theme: Hope

Guest Minister: Rev. Jorge Bautista

Rev. Bautista has 15 years experience doing prison ministry with California Youth Outreach out of San Jose. For the 10 years he was full time pastor at Congregational Church of San Mateo.

Dec. 10 Second Sunday in Advent Theme: Peace

Guest Minister: Rev. Bill Eichhorn

Rev. Eichhorn was a long time pastor at Mill Valley CC, and bridge pastor with his wife at Tiburon CC.

Dec. 17 Third Sunday in Advent Theme: Joy

Guest Minister: Rev. Evelyn Vigil

Rev. Vigil has been a prison chaplain in Santa Clara County.

Dec. 24 Fourth Sunday in Advent Theme: Love

Guest Minister: Rev. Barry Cammer

Rev. 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.



Dec. 24



Christmas
Eve
Service

7 PM Christmas Eve

A service of Carols and Scripture. The Coming of the Christ!

11 PM Christmas Eve

A service by "firelight" with congregants reading the "Christmas Story"

Dec. 31 New Year's Meditation and Taize Service



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

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

Dec. 13: The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday**, Dec. 13, at 1:00 PM.



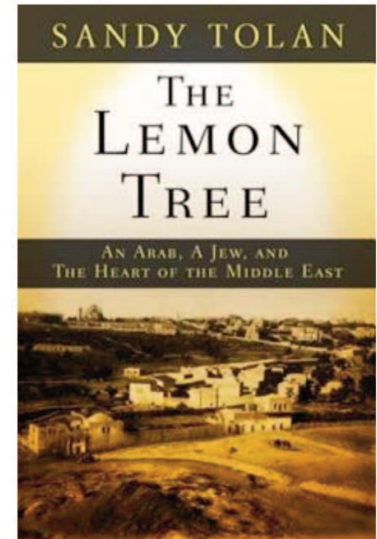
Our church's Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2024, after worship. Please plan to be there!

BOOK CLUB DECEMBER 21

The next book club meeting will be on Thursday, December 21, at 7:30 PM, on Zoom. Copies of the book are available for you to borrow on at worship on Sundays.

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."

"Makes an incredibly complicated topic comprehensible."



BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S REPORT



Sprucing up the Conifers, and More!

The Trustees have approved another round of significant tree treatments and pruning in a continuing effort to care for our little "urban forest."

We will have removed the volunteer eucalyptus by the parking lot and outside the end of the preschool playground. The oaks, spruce, and pines overhanging the downstairs playground will be cut back

and the cork oak trees around the

Courtyard and over the Oak Room will be pruned for greater health and safety. We also have the Cork Trees and the Monterey pines treated twice yearly to prevent disease and infestations.

Be the Church

Part of being involved with a church is contributing time, talent, and this year, vision. Now is the time to bring your blue "Be the Church" and the golden financial pledge forms. This year we are also asked for 10 visions of the church you hope we become in the future. Having these will help the Trustees prepare the budget and help the Council create the programs we want and envision.

Members of Boards--Get any financial requests you want for 2024 to Caryl Hodges ASAP. She is in the final stages of finalizing the proposed budget.

Extra Gratefulness

We are extra grateful for the Real Life Church's super cleanup day making the church sparkle for Golden Gate Association Annual Gathering 11/11. They asked for a list of tasks, and went far beyond the list with extra cleaning and pruning of several bushes.



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



ITTER CENTER FAMILY HOLIDAY COLLECTION GIFT CARDS AND WARM COATS AND SWEATERS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 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 also be collecting warm coats and sweaters, so please check your closets for those you can donate

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

Please give generously!

THANKS FOR REMEMBERING THE MARIN FOOD

We recently delivered 95 pounds of food to the Marin Food Bank! Thank you so much for your generosity.

And please help us continue to stock the pantry at the Marin Food Bank for neighbors in Marin who continue to struggle with food insecurity. Bring in non-perishable food items - peanut butter, canned goods, rice, cereal, canned meat. Please deposit them in our Food Bank barrel.

Thank you for your generous support!



BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

Worship

Memorable Events in November:

November 11 Annual Fall Golden Gate Association gathered at our home church FCC of San Rafael from 9AM to 1PM. Pastors and congregants from home and as far away as Eureka were welcomed to a time of worship by Rev. Barbara Peronteau. We were led through presentations themed on building and renewal for a “Real Good Church” by Reverend Molly Baskette, followed by sharing and discussions. A delicious luncheon was shared by all following, thanks to Lucinda who coordinated, collected the luncheon and decorated the Community Room. Thanks to all who attended.



November 12 Pastor Barbara’s Last Sunday with us

Worship included the Release of Service for Pastor Barbara with a reception following.

Thank you to all who were generous toward Pastor Barbara’s gifts and flowers and to all who contributed food and helped with set up and clean up for a lovely luncheon to honor Pastor Barbara and her ministry among us. Thank you Louis for stepping in as Vice-moderators to represent the church both as liturgist and during the Service of Release and sharing of our Thank You gifts.

November 19 Rev. Reyna Ramos preached on “The Multiplicity of God” and sang hymns of Thanksgiving.

November 26 Rev. Julianne Stokstad led worship and a Celebration of the Life of Hilary Spaulding within the service and on the one year Anniversary of her passing. Annie, Cathi, Megan, and Julie shared memories and thanksgivings about Hilary. Hilary’s words of reflection on John 4 were shared, the Prayer of St. Francis was read as a responsive reading, and some of her favorite Taize music and hymns were sung. Guest pianist was Sarah Gettys. The service was followed by a Soup luncheon in Hilary’s memory.

Hilary Spaulding was a vibrant member of FCCSR and active member of the Marin Community. She is remembered by many for her hospitality often in the form of “soup suppers,” many meaningful theological, spiritual and artistic contributions to studies and retreats, and one occasion including drumming lessons. She shared generously with the church, and the Communion Table was “dressed” in candles and drapings that she gifted to us as well as some of her art work.

Upcoming ADVENT Worship services in December

Guest Preachers:

Dec 3: Rev. Jorge Bautista, First Sunday of Advent — the theme of Hope

Dec.10: Rev. Bill Eichhorn, Second Sunday of Advent — the theme of Peace

Dec.17: Rev. Evelyn Vigil, Third Sunday of Advent — the Theme of Joy

Dec.24: Rev. Barry Cammer, Fourth Sunday of Advent — the Theme of Love

7 PM Sunday, Dec. 24th Christmas Eve: A service of Carols and Scripture. The Coming of the Christ!

11 PM Dec. 24th Christmas Eve: A service by “firelight” with congregants reading the “Christmas Story” and with recorded music.

Volunteers!

If you would like to participate in an Advent service by lighting the candles of the Advent wreath during an Advent Sunday worship or on Christmas Eve, please inform Amy Powers in the Office or tell Cathi Fuller or Jackie Dema as soon as possible.



Would you like to participate in an FCC Advent Posada Tradition?



Mary, Joseph and Joshua (the donkey) will need homes, “a room in the inn,” through the Advent season. They don’t take up much room and are very quiet guests. The family reminds us of the journey of HOPE celebrated in the Advent season. They come with a journal from previous hosts and would like you to add your meditations or a brief description of their visit to the book. Please let Cathi know if you want to schedule a visit to your home.

The paper mache sculptured family and their handwoven and sewn clothing were created by Millie Bransford and Rev. Julianne Stokstad, having visited in FCC homes for two decades.

The Board of Ministry Team members want to acknowledge that this holiday season, when the darkening days, challenging world news, recent personal losses, health difficulties, and being alone can be especially painful, sad and lonely; we may be especially needful of Light in the Darkness. We will welcome Advent together, the coming of the Christ.

Next Board of Ministry meeting is Tuesday, Dec., 5 at 11:45 AM on Zoom.

Echoes of Advent

by Andy Wade

Almost unnoticed
A glow in the distance
Beckoning hope
Compels me forward
Comfort the people
My heart whimpers
Only half believing
This light will matter
Mary's song fills the air
Relief for the orphan
Release for the captive
Jubilee
A baby cries out
Welcomed by outcasts
Visited by foreigners
Threatened by empire
Down to Egypt
And back again
A familiar journey
For slave and trader
Rejected
Mocked
Tortured
Buried
Flickering for a moment
Then bursting back to life
Advent echoes
Throughout history



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 — Mim Faraci
3 — Denise Walker
3 — Jon Girard
30 — Sam Faraci
30 — Ben Faraci
30 — Elizabeth Godbey

HOLIDAY CONCERTS

This advent season is filled with musical opportunities that include several of our church family as performers. And in addition, the music itself is excellent!

Candlelight Choral Concert

Marin Symphony Chamber Chorus

Saturday Dec. 2 at 7:30 PM

Sunday Dec. 2 at 4 PM

Mission San Rafael

\$37

Concert includes Lucinda Ray, Charles Little, Jim Turner, and Christina Schiffner



College of Marin College Chorus and Chamber Singers

Tuesday, December 5 at 7:30 PM

James Dunn Theatre: College of Marin

Kentfield Campus

Donation

concert includes:

Jeff Paul, Lucinda Ray, Charles Little, and Jim Turner



TIE DEADLINE for JANUARY 2024 issue - Mon., Dec. 25

The deadline for articles and news for the January 2024 issue of The TIE is Monday, December 25. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, December 25.



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 **DECEMBER** 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26  10 am - 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	27	28	29 5 am - 6 am  Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	30	December 1	2
3  10 am - 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	4	5 10:45 am  Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8	9
10  10 am - 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	11	12	13 1 am - 2 am  BOARD of MISSION Meeting on ZOOM	14	15	16
17  10 am - 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	18	19	20	21 7:30 am - 8:30 am  BOOK CLUB reading THE LEMON TREE	22	23
24  10 am - 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 7 pm  CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 7 PM AND 11 PM	25  Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30
31  10 am - 11 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6

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.