

The TIE

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



Our congregation's **annual meeting** will be the LAST Sunday of January, the 28th. The meeting will be immediately after worship.

Don't miss this important meeting. It is the time when we briefly reflect on the past year, vote on the 2024 church budget, elect officers and members of boards and committees, and plan for the upcoming year.

Our meeting will be followed by a terrific potluck luncheon. Don't miss it!.



REMEMBERING MARY DOWLING SATURDAY, JANUARY 13, 2 PM

A Memorial Service for Mary Dowling will be held on January 13, at 2 PM.

All are invited. Here is a link to her obituary:

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/marinij/name/mary-dowling-obituary?id=53346928>



REMEMBERING DAVID HILL SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, AT 1:30 PM

A Memorial Service for David Hill will be held on January 20, at 1:30 PM.

Dear Church Family,

There will be a memorial service for Dave, Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 1:30 PM at the First Congregational Church of San Rafael.

There will be time to gather in the community room afterwards.

It will be live streamed on YouTube courtesy of David Knopf.

Love,
Annie



ANNUAL REPORTS NEEDED on FRIDAY JANUARY 19

Please get your annual report to Amy in the church office NO LATER than Jan. 19.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



December 31 - January 6

Val and Ralph Sherer

January 7 - 13

Cecil Sherrod

January 14 - 20

Cyndi Siroky

January 21 - 27

Debra Smith

January 28 - February 3

Annie Song-Hill

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).**

- Jan. 7 First Sunday after Epiphany**
Guest Minister: Rev. Anne Steinberg Behrman
Rev. Behrman is the former pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church in San Francisco.
- Jan. 14 Second Sunday after Epiphany**
Guest Minister: Rev. Julianne Stokstad
Rev. Stokstad was our pastor from 2004-2008.
- Jan. 21 Third Sunday after Epiphany**
Guest Minister: Rev Charlotte Cramer
Rev. Cramer is a Street Chaplain in San Rafael.
- Jan. 28 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**
Annual Meeting follows worship (See page 1)
Guest Minister: Rev. Jorge Baustista
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.





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

Jan. 9: The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday**, Jan. 9, at 11:45 AM.

Jan. 10: The Board of Trustees will meet on **Wednesday**, Jan. 10, at 7 PM



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



BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S REPORT

We are going to Soar in 24...

...when you help us **Be the Church** by offering to do some of the small things that make our church welcoming and meaningful. Sign up for this on the "Being the Church" blue sheet;

...when you share your resources by giving the Office, Val, or the Offering plate your gold pledge form;

...when you dream a bit and brainstorm 10 "Visions" of what you want FCCSR to become (more than just bigger);

...when you attend the **Annual Meeting** after church on January 28;

...when you join one of the **upcoming zoom events**: book discussions, prayer retreats, service projects, and, of course, worship;

...when you hug your neighbor, pray for the suffering, share your 'God sightings';

...when you do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly.

Next Trustees Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, January 10, at 7:00PM



LOCAL THEATER EVENT IN MARCH

The Ross Valley Players are presenting a musical about Sarah Bernhardt in March. Val Sherer and Cathi Fuller met the author recently in the JCC pool!

Val attended a preview and heard an overture-style preview of the music. It's lively and lovely. The setting is 19th century Paris. The two women wrote the play several decades ago and decided to proceed with it during the 2020 shutdown. June, the author, tells me they have selected a wonderful cast.

We would like to attend a Sunday matinee, either March 17, 24, or 31. If you're interested in joining, email Val, valpub@yahoo.com, or talk to her after church. Tickets are \$30, but may be less if we have a group.



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

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 also collected warm coats, hats, and sweaters:

Gift cards (8)	\$225
Coats (11)	330
Sweaters (4)	100
Hats (11)	110
Scarves (2)	20
Socks (3)	15

TOTAL VALUE \$800



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN FEBRUARY



In February, on either Tuesday, Feb. 6 or Tuesday, Feb. 13, a group of us will be volunteering at the Street Chaplaincy dinner at the First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael, for people who are homeless or in need. We will be shopping for groceries, helping Chef Michael and his staff prepare the meal, helping to serve it, and sitting and eating with those who come. You would need to be available between 3:30 and 7 PM. If you are interested and able to help, please let Lucinda Ray know. Look for more information in What's Happening.

REMEMBER THE MARIN FOOD BANK

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 in December:

Dec. 3 - First Sunday of Advent: HOPE Rev. Jorge Bautista preached. He was raised in San Jose, Ca after his mother migrated who migrated from Michoacán, Mexico to Stockton (where she worked in the asparagus fields). He spent most of his youth in San Jose, CA. He has been in ministry since 1998. The first fifteen years of ministry was focused on prison ministry with California Youth Outreach in San Jose, and Youth For Christ in Chicago. The last ten years he was as a full time pastor at the Congregational Church of San Mateo UCC.



Dec. 10 - Second Sunday of Advent: PEACE. Rev. Bill Eichhorn preached on “That Awful and Wonderful Yes.” The Rev. Bill Eichhorn was a long time pastor at Mill Valley Community Church and bridge pastor with his wife at Tiburon Community Church.

Dec. 17 - Third Sunday of Advent: JOY. Rev. Nick Morris sermon told stories of recognizing the gifts of joy and gratitude when welcoming in “The Stranger.” Nick Morris is Executive Director at The Street Chaplaincy. The Street Chaplaincy’s primary mission is to bring compassionate spiritual care to unsheltered persons living in Marin County and to build community between homeless persons and non-homeless faith communities and other organizations. Nick has a B.A. from Duke University and a Master of Divinity (MDiv) from San Francisco Theological Seminary. He is the former Multi-Cultural Minister at Good News Presbyterian Church, a Korean American congregation based in San Francisco. His mission work includes church planting and the creation of Project Shelter, an ongoing effort to help the poor in Tijuana, Mexico.

Dec. 24 - Fourth Sunday of Advent: LOVE. Rev. Barry Cammer preached on “Love, Too Much and Not Enough.” The sanctuary was filled with poinsettias to honor of loved ones, and the cross once again was bedecked. 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. 24th - 7 pm Christmas Eve. We had a family service telling the Christmas Story through Scripture, hymns and the placing of the holy family and the angels and shepherds in the crèche as the story progresses. We ended with lighting one another’s candles as we processed to the Courtyard singing Silent Light ending under the star lite sky and luminaria lit courtyard. It was a joy to see church family who came from a distance.

Dec. 24th - 11 pm Christmas Eve. “It came upon a Midnight Clear,” the faithful FCC family members who participate around the “fireside” (an electric heater that looks like a coal fire) enjoy reading the Christmas Story through the scriptures and recorded music (“guest appearances” by YoYo Ma, Mahalia Jackson, Chris Botti and more!). We bring in Christmas Day by sharing hot cider and Gingerbread cookies. Thank you David for bringing these master musical performance to FCC.

Dec. 31 - First Sunday after Christmas: Board of Ministry planned a Taize* style service. Special thanks to Louis and Gerry for picking the hymns and the special music “A Soalin,” solo by Louis, backed up by the choir members. The church family were asked to light a candle of Hope for the New Year as they entered the candlelit Sanctuary where we participated in singing Taize hymns, meditated on scripture (“Lectio Divina” practice) and reflected on a Rumi and an

Amanda Gorman poem. Participants expressed delight that we were able to have a meaningful service moving into the New Year, even without a sermon!

Taizé is a simple, meditative form of worship using repetitious songs, prayerful silence, and short readings to guide the focus in a prayerful, candle-lit environment. Taizé Prayer is named for the ecumenical Christian community formed in Taizé, France during World War II.



Lectio Divina (Divine Reading) is a traditional monastic practice since the 6th Century, a practice of scriptural reading with meditation and prayer to promote communion with God while increasing knowledge of the Scripture.

GRATITUDE

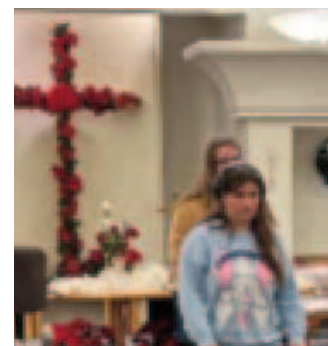
Thank you to Julie and Oak Dowling, David and Christina Schiffner-Santschi, Caran Cuneo and Jackie Dema, Judy and Lynn Grant, Liz, Megan, and Cathi for the reading and the lighting of our Advent wreath throughout Advent.



Thank you to all who help “Deck the Halls with boughs” in the Sanctuary, prepare the altar, brought flowers for the altar, put out Red Hymnals, passed out Christmas Eve candles, served as greeters, coffee making and delicious refreshments (Jackie more than once!), to liturgists and readers especially those who filled in at the last minute due to folk being ill. Thank you to our tech team (David Knopf and Bob Spofford) and our Ministry Team (Louis Frost, Cathi Fuller, Jackie Dema, and Tessa Templeman), the Choir members and Gerry Grosz for all the extra time and thoughtful preparation to make our Advent and New Year services very special.

We, recall with gratitude, the gift of creation of our churches wooden cross and metal inserts designed and built by Bob De Haan along with his gift of the velvet poinsettias that grace it each Christmas since the time of the church remodel!

Thank you to Sean and Cio Hoffman for visually “telling the Christmas story” by filling our Crèche as we sang the story with a corresponding hymn. Will Godby, David Schiffner-Santschi and Lucinda thanks for sharing your dramatic talents when reading poems during worship. What a gift it was to have Christina Schiffner-Santschi sing the solo “O Holy Night!” on Christmas Eve! Truly a holy inspiring experience.



continued on the next page

Thank you to all who bought poinsettias in honor/memory of loved ones:

- Caryl Hodges: In honor of Amy, Justin, Sean & Cio Kaufman. In memory of David Hodges, L.J. & Sue Cox, Edward, Miriam & Ned Hodges, Gail Kaufman
- Christina Schiffner-Santschi & David Santschi: In honor of Janet Schiffner, Jim & Jan Santschi, In memory of Heinz Schiffner
- Annie Song-Hill: In memory of David Hill
- Lynn Grant: In memory of Charlie Grant
- Caran Cuneo: In honor of the Church family, In memory of victims of war
- David Knopf, Cathi and Megan Fuller: In memory of Glenn and Kay Fuller, In memory of Mac, Dorothy, Art and Bob Knopf
- Louis Frost: In memory of his brother Charles, In memory of mother Lucille
- FCC Board of Ministry: In memory of our family members who passed away in 2023 - Lise Adams, Colleen Trudeau, Barb and Alan Miller, Mary Dowling.



For Urgent Pastoral Care: The Reverends Ann and Bill Eichhorn (most recently they served as bridge pastors at Tiburon Community Church) have agreed to serve as our Emergency “Chaplains” during our interim period. Should you need a visit or call, please contact them at: revbilleichhorn@gmail.com or 415.383-6590.

Prayer Chain

E-mail either Julie Dowling isabella1472@comcast.net or Annie Song-Hill asonghill@gmail.com if you have a prayer request you would like included in the prayer chain.

Next Board of Ministry meeting: Tuesday, Jan 9 at 11:45 AM on Zoom.

From “New Day’s Lyric” by Amanda Gorman

“...This hope is our door, our portal.
Even if we never get back to normal,
Someday we can venture beyond it,
To leave the known and take the first steps.
So let us not return to what was normal,
But reach toward what is next. ...”



BEQUEST IN MEMORY OF LISE ADAMS

Lise Adams, who died last spring, left a bequest to the church. It has been used to support her interest in vocal music. Part was given to the Music Department at the College of Marin, where Lise sang with their Oratorio group. It will be used for individual vocal lessons for a student in the Music Department. Another part was given to the Novato School of the Arts Vocal Music Program.



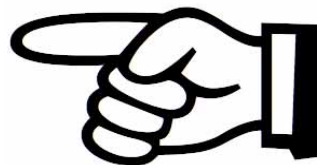
JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

6 — Oak Dowling
20 — Doug Shannon
20 — James True



TIE DEADLINE for FEBRUARY 2024 issue - Mon., Jan. 29

The deadline for articles and news for the February 2024 issue of The TIE is Monday, January 29. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, January 29.



Emergency Pastoral Support

Rev. Bill Eichhorn

Rev. Ann Eichhorn

Phone: 415-383-6590

Email: revbilleichhorn@gmail.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 **JANUARY** 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	January 1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	8	9 11:45 am  Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM	10 7 am - 8 am  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	11	12	13 2 pm  MARY DOWLING MEMORIAL SERVICE
14 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	15 Martin Luther King Day	16	17	18	19 9 am  ANNUAL REPORTS DUE	20 1:30 pm  DAVID HILL MEMORIAL
21 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 11 am - 12 noon  ANNUAL MEETING	29	30	31	1	2 Grounding Day	3

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.