

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



INTERIM SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Louis Frost, David Santschi, and Megan Fuller met on Wednesday, January 24, to discuss possible candidates and to refine the interview question list in preparation for upcoming interviews.

There are presently few available interim candidates. One of the candidates has been contacted, and the committee plans to schedule a meeting with them. The team is also looking at models that may best meet our interim needs as we search for a settled pastor.





ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The congregation met in the sanctuary following worship on Sunday, January 28, 2024, for our Annual Meeting.

Reports were presented by Moderator Caran Cuneo, Ministry Board Chair Louis Frost, Mission Board Chair Lucinda Ray, Trustees Board Chair David Knopf, and Treasurer Caryl Hodges. Louis Frost also reported on the successful year for Every Dollar Feeds Kids.

After a review of the proposed church budget for 2023, the upcoming year, the congregation voted unanimously to accept the budget as presented.

A new slate of officers was also elected unanimously.

2024 Church Council

Moderator: Caran Cuneo

Vice Moderator: Louis Frost

Treasurer: Caryl Hodges

Financial/Pledge Secretary: Val Sherer

Clerk/Recorder: vacant

Council-at-Large: Lynn Grant

Board of Ministry: Louis Frost

Board of Mission: Lucinda Ray

Board of Trustees: David Knopf

Golden Gate Association Representative: Kristi Denham

2024 Boards

Board of Ministry: Louis Frost, chair. Cathi Fuller, Charles Little, Tessa Templeman, Jackie Dema, Gerry Grosz

Board of Mission: Lucinda Ray, chair. Cathi Fuller, Megan Fuller, Lynn Grant, Annie Song-Hill, Caran Cuneo, Judy Girard

Board of Trustees: David Knopf, chair. Caryl Hodges, Bob Spofford, Val Sherer, Louis Frost

The meeting was followed by a delicious pot luck lunch!



PRAYER PARTNERS

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



January 28 - February 3

Annie Song-Hill

February 4 - 10

Bob and Sue Spofford

February 11 - 17

Tessa and Colin Templeman

February 18 - 24

Patty Trosclair

February 25 - March 2

James "Trip" True



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).***

Feb. 4 Communion Sunday

Guest Minister: Rev. Jane Spahr

Rev. Spahr is a dynamic speaker and leader. She was the first Presbyterian pastor to come out, which caused an uproar. San Rafael's HIV resource center is named after her.

Feb. 11 Guest Minister: Rev. Blythe Osner

Rev. Osner was a previous pastor at the UCC church in Sebastopol. She spoke with us last year.

Feb. 18 First Sunday in Lent

Guest Minister: Rev. Bill Eichhorn

The Eichhorns were pastors for many years at the Community Church of Mill Valley and recently bridge pastors at the Tiburon church.



Feb. 25 Second Sunday in Lent

Guest Minister: To be announced.



Please Note: The Memorial for David Hill has been postponed until summer.



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

Feb. 6: The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday**, Feb. 6, at 11:45 AM.

Feb. 14: The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday**, Feb. 14, at 1 PM.

Feb. 15: The Board of Trustees will meet on **Thursday**, Feb. 15, at 7 PM.

Feb. 28: The Church Council will meet on **Wednesday**, Feb. 28, at 5 PM.

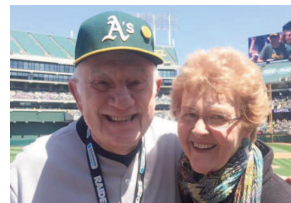


SATURDAY, JAN. 13 - MARY DOWLING'S MEMORIAL

We celebrated the Life of Mary Dowling, a long-time, very active member of the FCC family, already greatly missed. Mary was described by many as a warm, vibrant, intelligent, fun, authentic woman, who loved people, her career as a physical therapist, her husband, children and grandchildren and her many friends. The sanctuary was filled with love and joy, bedecked with bright flowers, overflowing with friends and family. The Rev. Janie Spahr led an inspiring service that included favorite poems and music. Many family members and friends shared thoughts, memories and humorous moments.

Her service can be viewed on the church Youtube site at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0STqkuEzi0>



CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT by Caran Cuneo, Moderator



The year of 2023 was another year of transition and change for our Congregation. Pastor Barbara Peronteau was hired in mid-May 2022. Originally the search was to find an interim Pastor. However, after some discussion with the Trustees, Pastor Barbara suggested she be called for a Designated Term.

In August 2023 as the end date of the term was approaching in November, your Council engaged all active members of First Congregational Church of San Rafael in one-on-one, confidential interviews. The interviews gathered feedback about several parts of the pastor's job description. These included preaching, organizing worship, providing pastoral care, collaborating with staff and church committees and guiding in a leadership role to move the church forward in the context of what is suitable for our congregation.

The results of the interviews were analyzed at length by your Council. It was decided to discuss the results with Pastor and offer her an Interim position, which was the original intention back in the Spring of 2022. Unfortunately, Pastor Barbara chose to resign.

Since mid-November, our Board of Ministry and David Knopf have worked diligently to supply a variety of inspiring and diverse worship services and visiting clergy. Special thanks to their ongoing dedication to provide our church family with worship services that uplift and enlighten us.

Deep appreciation as well to our talented and creative music director, Gerry Grosz for the beautiful preludes, hymn selections, and choral direction with our church choir.

This has been an active year for First Congregational Church of San Rafael. The Trustees continue to keep our facility in shape and watch over our finances, personnel, and contract services. Our Board of Ministry continues to deliver relevant and touching worship services. Our Board of Mission has reached out in new and expanded ways giving both locally and globally to those in need.

It's been my privilege to serve this past year as your Moderator. Special thanks to Louis Frost for his support and guidance and leadership this past year.

I look forward in the coming months to our interview process and selection of an Interim Pastor. As we review our Church profile, I welcome all your suggestions on how we can continue to Be The Church and carve out a vision that calls us and others to service.



Thanks to Benoit Paquette
REALLY ADAM ... A VALENTINE'S DAY
FRUIT BASKET ... IN THE GARDEN OF
EDEN?!!?

02-14-2002



BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Budget Brief

Our Treasurer reported in the annual meeting that we ended the year with about a \$10,000 surplus, but the budget for 2024 lists a \$22,000 deficit. It assumes we will be paying a pastor at the conference rate for the entire year. We have somewhat less specifically pledged this year, but Financial Officer Val Sherer notes we have

several members who regularly donate but don't pledge. We anticipate increase in utilities and possibly pastor expenses, depending mostly on health insurance needs.

Building Brief

Overflowing toilets caused preschool to close for one day until Roto-Roter could come to clean out the drain. The internal mechanism for one of the toilets downstairs also had to be replaced. The locks to the two upstairs restrooms didn't work well. The locksmith had to replace the lever and bolt lock for the Plum Room restroom, but the Office restroom locks seemed to be working well, unless the door is pushed on strongly from the inside.

Again this year we have had a slight leak from the flat roof part of the Community Room. The roofers have tried to fix it now twice, so we hope the problem is resolved.

AARP Tax Assistance will start in February on Tuesdays. We also make the sanctuary available for people waiting...or who need to pray for their taxes.....or pray for the country!

The Rev Bill and Rev. Ann Eichhorn continue to offer pastor support to members, and took communion this month to two members who are unable to attend church. You can reach them at: email--revbilleichhorn@gmail.com phone-- 415 383-6590

THERE'S A NEW LINE ON THE CHURCH SIGN CAN YOU SPOT IT?





BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



FEBRUARY 6 - STREET CHAPLAINCY DINNER



On Tuesday, February 6 a group from our congregation 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.

If all goes well, we plan to do this several more times this year, so if you missed an opportunity to help this month, you will have another chance!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING COMING UP IN MARCH

The One Great Hour of Sharing, which will be received in March, supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic disaster response.

Your gifts help organizations confront food insecurity and hunger. OGHS partners with others to provide immediate aid to those affected by disasters, poverty, or fleeing conflict—providing food, water, shelter, and companionship during times of distress. Your dollars support soup kitchens and food pantries. OGHS shows up when people are in crisis.

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 meeting: Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 1 PM on Zoom

BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

Worship in January We had the joy of hosting Guest Pastors all month (Thank you David for scheduling and with Gerry and Amy for coordinating with the planning of the service).



Jan. 7 Rev. Annie Steinberg Behrman

Annie was born in Los Angeles and lived there until 1989. Annie and her family moved to San Anselmo so Annie could attend San Francisco Theological Seminary. Annie was ordained in 1993 and has served in a variety of churches in California and Oregon. Her most recent church was MCC San Francisco where Annie served as Senior Pastor. Annie loves her animal companions-two dogs and three cats. She lives in Berkeley with her wife Victoria. Annie loves to cook, garden, and has been learning to play the Concertina and Ukulele.

Jan. 14 Rev. Julianne Stokstad

We welcomed back Rev. Julianne Stokstad who was our pastor from 2004 through 2008. Among the careers she has had before and after since serving as our pastor: she was a biology teacher, she served in prison ministries, and served as a spiritual counselor and retreat leader. She has travelled extensively and, with her husband, Bob, is currently a devoted grandparent.

Jan. 21 Rev. Charlotte Cramer

Rev. Cramer shared stories of her ministry with folk who are unhoused reminding us that even a smile can be a sharing of a God moment. Rev. Charlotte is an ordained Interfaith Minister with a Master of Divinity and Certificate in Chaplaincy. She spends most of her time as a multi-religious spiritual care provider for people experiencing homelessness and incarceration in Marin County with The Street Chaplaincy, an interfaith organization. She has been studying mystical experience, non-ordinary states of consciousness and the art of listening for over 5 years.

Jan. 28 Rev. Jorge Bautista

Rev. Bautista challenged us to remember Jesus healing the sick on the Sabbath, “breaking boundaries” while bringing hope. The service was followed by the FCC Annual Meeting and our, as always, abundant, potluck. Jorge’s mother migrated to Stockton, CA, from Michoacan, Mexico where she worked in the asparagus fields. Jorge was raised in San Jose, CA. where he was 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 year he served as a full time pastor at the Congregational Church of San Mateo UCC, until March 2023.

We will welcome more guest preachers for Worship in February

Sunday, Feb. 4 Rev Janie Spahr, Communion Sunday

Jane “Janie” Adams Spahr (1942-) is a Presbyterian minister who has fought for justice for the LGBTQ community. She suffered several rebukes from the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for being an open lesbian minister and for officiating same sex marriages. She served as a country-wide evangelist for the rights of oppressed people and helped found the organization That All May Freely Serve.

continued on the next page

Sunday, Feb. 11 Rev. Blythe Osner

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. She currently teaches middle school at a Waldorf inspired charter school in Petaluma. She feels privileged to accompany young people in their transition into adolescence as they claim their individual identities and develop a world view. As a history and literature teacher, she is able to continue her work of connecting story to meaning in a secular setting. She is also a proud mother to two teenage children.

**Wed., February 14 Ash Wednesday begins the Season of Lent****Sunday, Feb. 18 The Rev. Bill Eichhorn First Sunday of Lent**

The Rev. Bill Eichhorn was a long time pastor at Mill Valley Community Church and bridge pastor with his wife at Tiburon Community Church.

Sunday, Feb 25 --To be announced

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.

Board of Ministry meeting: Tuesday, Feb 6, at 11:45 AM on Zoom**How to Listen** by James Crew

Listening is a form of worship,
but you don't have to kneel
on the floor with folded hands
or mouth the perfect prayer.
Just open the door of yourself
to another, become the space
they step through to show you
who they are. This is holiness:
two people seated together
on the pew of a park bench,
or the altar of a kitchen table.
Even if no one says a word
for a while, receive the silence
until it's like a new language
only the two of you can speak.





FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

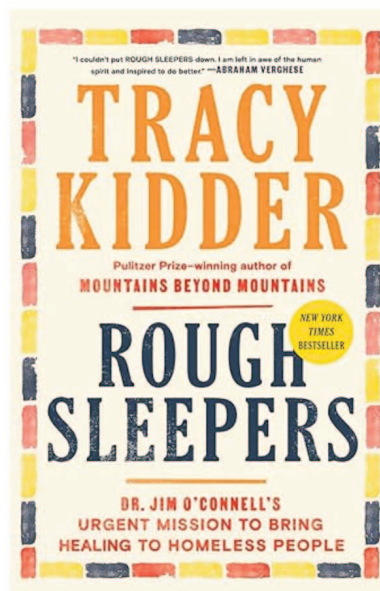
6 — Ralph Sherer
11 — Samuel Dempsey
25 — Rachael Knopf

BOOK CLUB - FEB. 29, 7:30 PM ON ZOOM

The next book for our Book Club is *Rough Sleepers*, by Tracy Kidder.

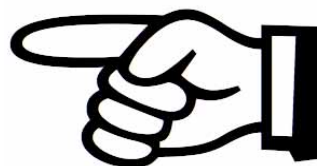
Tracy Kidder has been described by The Baltimore Sun as “a master of the nonfiction narrative.” In *Rough Sleepers*, Kidder tells the story of Dr. Jim O’Connell, a gifted man who invented a community of care for a city’s unhoused population, including those who sleep on the streets—the “rough sleepers.” After Jim O’Connell graduated from Harvard Medical School and was nearing the end of his residency at Massachusetts General, the hospital’s chief of medicine made a proposal: Would he defer a prestigious fellowship and spend a year helping to create an organization to bring health care to homeless citizens? That year turned into O’Connell’s life’s calling.

The book is available from both the Marin County Library and the Sonoma County Library. Lucinda will make at least 5 copies for people to borrow from the Sonoma County Library, and they will be available on Sundays before or after worship.



TIE DEADLINE for MARCH 2024 issue - Mon., Feb. 26

The deadline for articles and news for the March 2024 issue of The TIE is Monday, February 26. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, February 26.



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 FEBRUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	29	30	31	February 1	2 Grounding Day	3
4  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	5	6 10 am - 2 pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE 11:45 am  Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM 4 pm - 7 pm  STREET CHAPLAINCY DINNER	7	8	9	10
11  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	12  Lincoln's Birthday	13 10 am - 2 pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE	14 Valentine's Day 1 pm - 2 pm  BOARD of MISSION Meeting on ZOOM	15 7 am - 8 am  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	16	17
18  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	19  Presidents' Day	20 10 am - 2 pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE	21	22	23	24
25  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	26	27 10 am - 2 pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE	28 5 pm - 6 pm  Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	29 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm  BOOK CLUB reading ROUGH SLEEPERS	1	2

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.