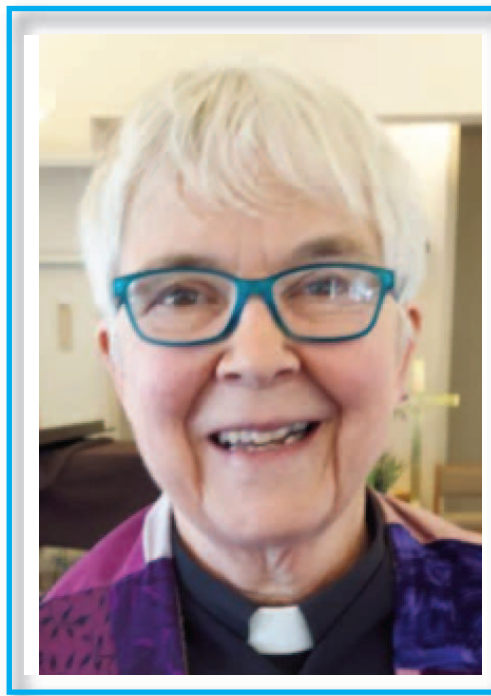


The TIE



From our pastor,
Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg

Greetings,

I just returned from a two-week family visit in the Netherlands, and I want to thank all who assisted with the services during my absence. I heard you had a wonderful time with Rev. Anne Jefferson and Rev. Janie Spahr.

I enjoyed spending time with family and friends and... is good to be back!

Isaiah 6:

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, sitting on the throne, high and exalted, and God's robe filled the whole Temple. ²Flaming creatures were standing around the throne, each of which had six wings. Each creature covered its face with two wings, and its body with two, and

used the other two for flying. ³They were calling out to each other:

"Holy, holy, holy!

The LORD Almighty is holy!

God's glory fills the world."

⁴The sound of their voices made the foundation of the Temple shake, and the Temple itself became filled with smoke.

⁸ Then I heard the Lord say, "Whom shall I send? Who will be our messenger?"

I answered, "I will go! Send me!"

We will look at this passage of Isaiah this coming Sunday. It is interesting to note that so many people in the Bible know themselves to be called, without knowing exactly what they are called to. Isaiah too, seems to be startled, unsure about what is next and yet, he knows that his experience of the presence of God, brings him to that place of saying: "Here I am."

He responds with a willingness to step forward, to show up, to surrender. Would it not be an amazing experience, to be startled by



the presence of God?

I think that as a church we follow right in the footsteps of those who were called in the Bible. We experience the presence of the Holy One in us and among us, but then we feel sometimes at a loss not knowing exactly where that leads us.

Maybe we are invited though, to stay a while, to let this relationship with the Divine surprise us, maybe even startle us.

Continued on the next page.

Continued from page one.

The Celtic spiritual teacher John Philip Newell says that the wisdom of God is deep within us, the creativity of God, something of the creativity that's part of the forever unfolding and expanding universe, is deep within us." Our awareness of that may lead us to echo Isaiah's response: "Here we are God," willing to do our part in taking care of the people and the world around us.



We wish all those who are on vacation safe travel mercies. We look forward to your return. If you are in the area, please come and join us for our Sunday services though. It will be good to be in worship together.

Kindly,

Pastor Elisabeth

BACK, BY POPULAR DEMAND! OLD FOLKS III



Wednesday, June 19, at 6:30 PM the 3rd monthly discussion on Aging will continue. Thank you to Charles for coordination and Joan Roane for providing inspiration and guiding the discussions. Once again Joan Roane will be leading us over Zoom (link forthcoming). We'll start at 6:30 and end at 7:30.

Conversations begin to deepen at each meeting as we get to know each other better. Please join us on June 19 at 6:30 PM even if you missed the previous meetings. All Are Welcome!

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



June 2 - 8
Oak Dowling

June 9 - 15
Anice Flesh

June 16 - 22
Louis and Khamla Frost

June 23 - 29
Cathi Fuller and David Knopf.
Rachel and Rebecca

June 30 - July 6
Megan Fuller, Elizabeth and William

Come and Worship



**We will be worshipping at 10 AM.
The service will also be available streaming on YouTube (see next page).**

June 2 10 AM Worship Communion Sunday
Guest preacher Rev. Janie Spahr



**June 9 10 AM Worship Here We Are
Pillow Sunday**



June 16 10 AM Worship Fathers Day



June 23 10 AM Worship Juneteenth



June 30 10 AM Worship Pride Sunday



COME JOIN THE CHOIR!

Make a joyful noise! Sing with a great group of people! We rehearse from 9:30-9:50 on Sunday before worship and from 11:15-12:00 or 12:15 after worship.

- Singing makes you feel better.
- Singing enhances lung function.
- Singing helps you beat stress and relax.
- Singing helps improve memory.
- Singing builds a sense of community.
- Singing lets you express yourself.

And it's FREE!





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=c2V0RXEvdW9F4STNNSTlxbWFFTENuZz09>

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

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

June 19: The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday**, June 19, at 1 PM.

June 20: The Board of Trustees will meet on **Thursday**, June 20, at 7 PM.

June 26: The Church Council will meet on **Wednesday**, June 26, at 5 PM.



LUNCH TOGETHER JUNE 16 AT LA HACIENDA RESTAURANT

Let's meet again for an informal lunch on the patio of La Hacienda Restaurant, 3815 Redwood Hwy, San Rafael.

Join us on Sunday, June 16, at 11:45 AM, following worship. All are welcome!



BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S REPORT

Landscape Improvements Happening

4H has planted a variety of pollinator-attracting plants in the Ameba planter in the courtyard in May. The drip system is currently not working, but we found a way to use the drip system valve box to attach and hide a small hose.

Pilgrim Park, Inc., has agreed to hire their landscaper, Audel Barajas, to do landscape maintenance on the entrance and street side of the church every two weeks. Right away he found that rats had eaten the drip system by our sign, so nothing was getting watered. The church will still be responsible for the Courtyard landscape maintenance.

Plans to landscape the North San Pedro side of the church grounds are moving along. A group headed by Bob De Haan met May 29 with architect Barbara Brown to review the surveyor's maps and consider how to create an attractive, water wise, and low maintenance landscape visible to the public, using recycled water. Barbara Brown is well known to us for attractive design through her work on the church remodel as well as the De Haan Center at Pilgrim Park. Her team will include a landscape architect as well.

Next Trustees meeting Thursday, June 20, at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

To the Board of Trustees, First Congregational Church:

I am writing to thank you for your support of our tax-aide program during the 2024 tax season. We greatly appreciate your willingness to help and your flexibility in providing us a workspace. We were especially grateful again this year to be able to use the Sanctuary for our waiting taxpayers as we have had so many very cold days and some very elderly taxpayers.

Our volunteers at the Church prepared 186 tax returns this year for local residents while open only day per week. This site provides an easily-accessible location for the many residents for the Terra Linda/Northgate area and provides an additional site in Marin County preparing returns.

I especially want to thank David Knopf for his graciousness and willingness to help. He dropped in several times to make sure that we didn't have any problems and to be sure that everything was working.

I am very happy with what we were able to accomplish this tax season. We truly could not have done this without your support.

With sincere gratitude,

Linda Bell
Northgate Shift Coordinator
Marin AARP TaxAide

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 **Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg began on March 17, 2024.**
- 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

SPRING PRAYER RETREAT - SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 10 AM - 1 PM

Spring Prayer Retreat in the Knopf's garden: You are Welcome!
323 N. San Pedro Rd, San Rafael

Theme: "Come and Pray in Us Holy Spirit"

There will be:

- Contemplative prayer time: poetry/ scripture for reflection, breathing practice and meditation
- Intercessory prayer time: share your "joys and concerns"
- Praise/ gratitude time: expressed in song and possible art or movement
- Informal "breaking bread together": brunch of pastries, fruit, quiche, and tea/coffee
- Please RSVP to fuller.cathi@gmail.com





BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



PILLOW SUNDAY - JUNE 9



Time to go shopping for pillows!

This year Homeward Bound is in need of new, clean, comfy pillows. The Board of Mission will have the collection on Sunday, June 9th. You may want to do your shopping soon due to vacation plans, family visits, etc. This is something that has been so much a part of our congregation's commitment to outreach for many years. It brings joy, both to the givers and to receivers.

If shopping for pillows presents a hardship, please let a Mission Board member know. Thank you for your continued commitment to Homeward Bound's mission. Let's see how many pillows we can provide for beds and for weary heads to rest!

THE STREET CHAPLAINCY DINNER INFORMATION AND UPDATE



Anice Flesh, Charles Little, David Knopf, & Chef

The Board of Mission has committed to helping prepare and serve dinner for those in need four times this year. On Tuesday, May 21, a group of us volunteered for the second time at the Street Chaplaincy dinner at the First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael: Chicken in barbecue sauce, mac and cheese, cornbread, green salad, fruit, and brownies. We will also be volunteering for dinners on Tuesday, September 3, and Tuesday, December 3.

It costs about \$250 dollars to purchase the groceries for each meal, at which we feed about 80 people. So where does the money come from?

The Board of Mission is using money from The Pilgrim Hill Fund, which was created two decades ago by our church as a special fund for mission outreach in our community. In the past, money from this fund as been used for books for needy college students and to help with a computer center at Pilgrim Park.

BOARD OF MINISTRY REPORT

The Board of Ministry Team's key role in the church is to coordinate with the Pastor and Music Director in providing meaningful worship services throughout the liturgical year. We address the spiritual life of the church through the following areas: welcome and outreach, worship and prayer, fellowship, and education.



Pastoral Care/ Agape/ Prayer Chain

The Agape Team provides “compassionate connection to our church community through words of encouragement, cards, phone calls, home visits, and other support as needed. The Agape team will have cards to be signed by church family members on the name tag table in the narthex, so be sure to look for them and sign them before or after worship on Sundays.

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.

Community/ Fellowship Time and Spiritual Life

On Sunday, May 19, Lynn Grant's Celebration of Life was attended by numerous folk: family, friends, community and church family. Many had travelled from distant states including our beloved Russ and Joan Roane and Patty Trosclair. Pastor Elisabeth led us in worship, singing many of Lynn's favorite hymns, special music led by Gerry Grosz with many choir members participating, and lovely memories were shared by family and friends. We are grateful to Rev. Middelberg, Gerry Grosz, the choir, Lynn's family and especially her daughters Judy, Leslie and son, Ted, for creating such a beautiful time of worship and sharing tasty refreshments and loving and humorous memories and photos as we celebrated Lynn's life and our love for her and how very much we will miss her vibrant presence. See the pictures on the next page.

On May 21, some of the Ministry Team members among other church members participated in meal preparations, serving and eating together at the Interfaith Chaplaincy dinner. Thank you to the Board of Mission and especially to Lucinda for coordinating our participation and doing the shopping. We all enjoyed the event and plan to continue when help is needed. The gathering circle and the table conversations were particularly meaningful.

On Sunday, May 26, Rev. Kristi Denham celebrated her 75th Birthday. Many FCC and San Mateo church family members enjoyed joining Kristi's family and friends for a warm celebration of Kristi. We are grateful to her son Gabe and daughter in law who hosted a wonderful party along with her son Jesse and family from New York.

Worship in May

May 12 Mother's Day cries for peace were read (from a mother in Ukraine, in Gaza and Jerusalem) and were connected to the history of “Women Waging Peace;” folk who envisioned and work for peace since WW1. Exquisite Bobby McFerrin composition of the 23rd Psalm was sung by choir and led us in a rousing sending song, “Song for Equal Suffrage.”

May 19 Pentecost Sunday. Pr. Elisabeth preached on “The Power of God's Breath” and reflected on the Pentecost story in Acts. Perhaps the gift of the Holy Spirit is that it helps us to be silent and listen and understand one another in whatever “tongues” or “languages” others are speaking in the midst of chaos and “noise.”

May 26 Rev. Ann Jefferson, guest pastor, inspired with her sermon “Here I Am-Born Again-Send Me!” and leading us in an enthusiastic singing of the spiritual “I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me.” Rev. Jefferson is currently Director of Community Life and Spiritual Care at Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley, CA, where she serves as one of the Campus Pastors and also as coordinator of PSR's weekly Community Chapel. continued on the next page

Coming in June

Saturday, June 8, 10 AM - Noon

Spring Prayer Retreat in the Knopf's garden: You are Welcome!

Theme: "Come and Pray in Us Holy Spirit"

There will be:

- Contemplative prayer time: poetry/ scripture for reflection, breathing practice and meditation
- Intercessory prayer time: share your "joys and concerns"
- Praise/ gratitude time: expressed in song and possible art or movement
- Informal "breaking bread together": brunch of pastries, fruit, quiche, and tea/coffee
- Please RSVP to fuller.cathi@gmail.com

June 16 at 11:45 AM Meet for informal lunch on the patio of La Hacienda Restaurant (3815 Redwood Hwy, San Rafael) following Sunday worship and community time. All are welcome!

June 19 at 6:30 PM The 3rd monthly discussion on Aging will continue. Thank you to Charles for coordination and Joan Roane for providing inspiration & guiding the discussions.

Next Board of Ministry meeting All are Welcome! Tuesday, June 11, at 11:45 on

PICTURES FROM LYNN GRANT'S CELEBRATION OF LIFE



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

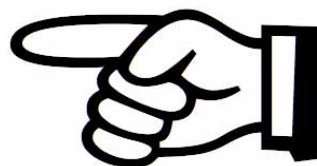


- 4 — Nancy Sangster De Haan
- 7 — Sean Kaufman
- 20 — Christina Santschi
- 27 — Amy Hodges Kaufman
- 28 — Randall MacKenzie
- 30 — Bob De Haan
- 30 — Christine Bandettini



TIE DEADLINE for JULY-AUGUST 2024 issue - Mon., JUNE 24

The deadline for articles and news for the combined July/August 2024 issue of The TIE is Monday, June 24. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, June 24.



Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg

Thursday mornings
or by appointment

Phone: 707 280-0382

Email: Elismid@yahoo.com

Amy Powers – Office Manager

Tuesday 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 **JUNE** 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30	31	June 1
2 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	3	4	5	6	7	8 10 am-11 am SPRING PRAYER RETREAT, CATHI FULLES, ORLANDO
9 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	10	11 11:45 am Board of Ministry Meeting 12 noon via ZOOM	12	13	14 Big Day	15
16 Father's Day 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	17	18	19 Immaculate 1 am-2 am BOARD of MISSION Meeting on ZOOM 6:30 am - 7:30 am CHILDSERS MEETING ON ZOOM	20 7 am - 8 am BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	21	22
23 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	24 LUNCH AT LA HACIENDA	25	26 5 am-6 am Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	27	28	29
30 10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	1	2	3	4 Independence Day	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.