

The TIE



From our pastor,

Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg

“Our sacred story begins with God creating out of emptiness. At the end of each day God was pleased with what had been created. (Genesis 1) With this in mind, lift up to God anything on the local, regional, or national level that feels devoid of the Holy One’s creative power. As you do, ask God to plant deep within you the certainty that even now, amidst hard headlines and frightening realities, God’s creativity is at work. Let the Peace of God fill you.” (Rev. Karen Winkel)

As we are approaching election day, it is heartwarming to hear how several members of our congregation have stepped up and are engaging on a national level with the work of voter’s registration or are encouraging people in a variety of ways to vote. A 21st century democracy that represents our growing, diverse nation is imperative. A democ-

racy that welcomes every person’s voice and participation, no matter who they are, that is our vision. This is what we work for. This is what we pray for. You will find in this newsletter a list of prayers for every day leading up to the election. I invite you to pray them. You can of course, add your own prayers. In the end, no matter what happens, God’s creativity and God’s Spirit will continue to be at work in each and every one of us, so let the Peace of God fill you, as Rev. Karen Winkel encourages us.

Our work to find a settled pastor and the liturgical calendar will most likely intensify in the months ahead. We can see it coming; All Saints Day, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving, World AIDS Day, Advent, Christmas, and Kwanzaa. In the midst of these observances, we hope to complete our Congregational Assessment Surveys and follow those up with some congregational discussions. This will assist us to put together our church’s profile. With a more accurate profile, we will increase the possibility of finding the best match possible in a new settled pastor.

Given all that is going on, I am just so grateful for our meditation time on Tuesdays (5:00PM in the sanctuary). In setting aside times to be quiet, to pray with and for each other, we are reminded to seek God’s presence and guidance among us at every bend in the road.

Our upcoming Stewardship Drive will be of great importance in our pastor search, as we are looking at the possibility of hiring a $\frac{3}{4}$ time pastor. With a pastor at 60% (currently), we can maintain but to sustain and expand some of the growth we have experienced lately, we will do well to grow the pastor’s position. The Board of Trustees is exploring what that looks like in terms of money and

Continued on the next page.

Continued from page one.

numbers. It will be of tremendous help if you can let us know, especially this year, what you are able to pledge, so the board can make an informed and responsible decision of where to go next.

I want to thank Lucinda for putting “the Tie” together as so much of the information about the life of the church, the special Sundays, outreach, and meetings can be found here. We will observe our “All Saints Day” this coming Sunday, November 3. We hope you will bring pictures of your Saints for the altar. Time will be created to light a candle for them as well. In thinking about our Saints and honoring them, I pray that their presence and spirit will strengthen and guide us in the days to come.

There will be a meditation/prayer time in the sanctuary on Tuesday November 5. If you are looking for a place to be with other people or to be in a place of quiet and prayer on election day, come and join us at 5:00PM.

Pastor Elisabeth

Prayers as Our Nation Prepares to Go to the Polls (Adapted Prayers written by Rev. Karen Winkel and Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth, for the UCC Potomac Association)

Friday, Nov 1

Comforting Spirit, remind us that through all the ages you are God. Today, tomorrow, and the day after the election. Wrap us in the protection of your love as we press forward into tomorrow. Amen.

Saturday, Nov 2

Teaching God, as we look back on our days of prayer, teach us to continue our prayers. An affirmation, a gratitude, a cry for help. Teach our hearts to turn to you every day. Amen.

Sunday, Nov 3

“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other,” Mother Teresa observed. Pray for those whose values and visions differ from yours. Ask that God might heal our divisions and enable us to see one another as kin.

Monday November 4

“Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.” (Proverbs 1:20). Holy God, give us ears to hear the cries of your wisdom from the squares. Amen.

Tuesday, November 5

As the election is here, we pray not only for safety, we pray for the transformation of what “safety” means to us. May all be protected in the preparation and carrying out of this election. Amen.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



October 27 - November 2

Cyndi Siroky

November 3 - 9

Debra Smith

November 10 - 16

Annie Song-Hill

November 17 - 23

Bob and Sue Spofford

November 24 - 30

Tessa and Colin Templeman

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).**

November 3	10 AM	Worship All Saints Day
November 10	10 AM	Worship Veterans Day
November 17	10 AM	Worship Stewardship Sunday
November 24	10 AM	Worship Thanksgiving Sunday
December 1	10 AM	Worship First Sunday in Advent World AIDS Day

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
ENDS!**

**SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK
ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY
NIGHT, NOV. 2**



Daylight Saving Time Ends
Set your clocks back one hour



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

Nov. 7: The Board of Trustees will meet on **Thursday**, Nov. 7, at 6:30 PM.

Nov. 12: The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday**, Nov. 12, at 11:45 AM.

Nov. 14: The Search Committee will meet on **Thursday**, Nov. 14 at 5 PM..

Nov. 20: The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday**, Nov. 20, at 1 PM.

Nov. 20: The Church Council will meet on **Wednesday**, Nov. 20, at 6 PM.



CANDY-MAKING PARTY - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1



Before the pandemic, we had an annual candy-making party on the Sunday after Thanksgiving at the home of Lucinda Ray. She is reviving that tradition this year.

It will be held on Sunday, December 1, at about 12:30. We will start with a simple soup lunch. People bring ingredients and help make the delicious toffee, or watch and offer advice.

If you would like to come, she will have a sign-up list in worship where you can indicate what you can bring (butter, sugar, chocolate chips, pecans, cookie sheets, etc. Men and women are equally welcome!

BOARD OF TRUSTEE'S REPORT



This month we ask you to review and make your pledge to support FCCSR in 2025.

One of the main tasks for the church in 2025 will be to find a settled pastor to lead us. Can we

afford enough time to help us grow? And offer enough time to attract strong candidates? In the past we have offered a position for 60% time, basically 3 days week. But that isn't really enough considering preaching, pastoral care, meetings, outreach...

In the next few weeks you should receive a letter asking for a commitment. November 17th will be Pledge Sunday. That will be a great time to put your pledge in the offering plate. Pledging helps us make more realistic budgets. And healthy pledging makes us more attractive to potential candidates.

Have you gotten COLA cost of living adjustments in your social security, pension or paycheck in the past few years?

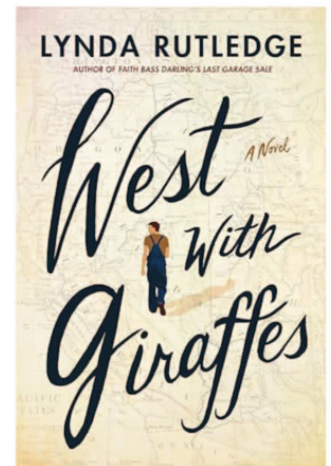
Have your investments done well? How about giving the church a COLA? (Continue Our Loving Action).

BOOK CLUB RESUMES

After taking the summer off, the Book Club will resume. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, November 7, at 7:30 on Zoom. We will be reading *West with Giraffes*, by Lynda Rutledge.

It's 1938. The Great Depression lingers. Hitler is threatening Europe, and world-weary Americans long for wonder. They find it in two giraffes who miraculously survive a hurricane while crossing the Atlantic. What follows is a twelve-day road trip in a custom truck to deliver Southern California's first giraffes to the San Diego Zoo. Inspired by true events, the tale weaves real-life figures with fictional ones, including the world's first female zoo director, a crusty old man with a past, a young female photographer with a secret, and assorted reprobates as spotty as the giraffes.

You can get copies at the Marin County and Sonoma County libraries., including audiobook versions and large print versions.



Spreading Kindness and Love!!!

Dear Pastor Elisabeth and FCCSR Members & Friends,
I am forever grateful for your prayers, kindnesses and friendship following my recent surgery.

I couldn't have done it without your support.

THANK YOU!!!

Your kindness meant everything to me!

Love & Peace,
Cathy Krise

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 **The Search Committee is Caran Cuneo, David Santschi, Annie Song-Hill, Lucinda Ray, and Cathi Fuller.**
- We update our church's website and engage the congregation through surveys to better represent who we are.
- 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

ELDERS MEET ON THURSDAY NOVEMBER 21

At the November "Elders" (ne. Oldsters) meeting, we will talk about holidays. Christmas brings out many feelings in everyone, and perhaps more so for elders who are adapting to changes in their lives. Of course we'd all like the feelings to be happy, but that is not always the case. In our meeting in November we'll talk about what holidays are like for us older people:



- What have they been like in the past, and how can we make them more fulfilling for ourselves?
- What's the point of Christmas for each of us?
- Are there traditions you remember, and traditions you'd like to bring back?
- Are there traditions you'd like to get rid of?

Our November's Elders' meeting will be on THURSDAY (changed from Wednesday!), November 21, 6:30-7:30. Use the Church's Zoom link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2011092691?pwd=c2V0RXEwWjF4STNNSTlxbWFFTENu>

Meeting ID: ID: 201 109 2691

Password: FCCSR!

Call in number 1-669-900-6833

In October we had a provocative conversation about what we'd like to be doing in the final years of our lives, what we are actually doing, and how we could change. Many of us thought about our current lives in the context of what we'd do if this were our last year on earth. Some went away with plans to change priorities. Perhaps some new priorities will emerge for us this Christmas season.



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING - OCTOBER 6

Thank you for your generosity! Our Neighbors in Need offering last month was \$675.

STREET CHAPLAINCY DINNER - DECEMBER 3



The Board of Mission has committed to helping prepare and serve dinner for those in need four times this year. On Tuesday, December 3, a group of us will volunteer at the Street Chaplaincy dinner at the First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael. We need to be there from 4 - 7 PM.

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 in our community. Please contact Lucinda Ray if you can help. lucindaray@aol.com

RITTER CENTER FAMILY HOLIDAY GIFT CARD COLLECTION - SUNDAY, DEC. 8

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 8.



CHILDRENS' GIFT WRAPPING PARTY - DECEMBER 14



We will be reviving a former project, where we provide small gifts for children to select to give their parents or grandparents and help them wrap them. Look for more details in the December TIE.

REMEMBER THE 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.



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.



Agape Team

The Agape Team provides "compassionate connection to our church community through words of encouragement, cards, phone calls, home visits, and other support as needed. Leave a message in the church office or contact Jackie Dema or Cathi Fuller if you have a request.

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.

In October

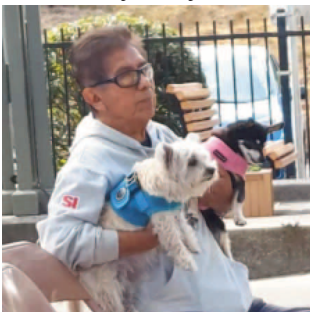
October 6 World Communion Sunday

What an awesome World Communion Day! It opened with a very welcoming Greeter. The altar, representing the event, was set up to perfection. Then the Sunday ritual began ... lovely melodic piano music and a beautiful service and sermon to follow. The Communion was surprising and poignant, where we were asked to partake in the ceremony in three different languages! So moving and unusual. After the service in the Community Room we were welcomed to a "World Communion" table which was spread with bread and cheese from various parts of the world, like challah, sour dough, pumpernickel, and Cheddar, Edam, Gouda, served with fruit and cookies. The table was decorated with ornaments and souvenirs from various parts of the world, like England, Puerto Rico, Italy, France, India, Ireland—a joyful sight to behold. We also had a special offering for Neighbors in Need, a fitting way of connecting with our Christian family. So many to be thanked for a marvelous day: David Knopf, Bob Spofford, Gerry Grosz, Cathi Fuller, Denise Walker, David Santschi, Megan Fuller, Jackie Dema and Caran Cuneo. And we certainly must not forget our own Pastor Elizabeth.



October 13 Blessing of the Animals

"Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God. Every creature is the word of God. If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—even a caterpillar—I would never have to prepare a sermon, so full of God is every creature" Meister Eckhart (1260-1329)



continued on the next

Sunday Oct 20: Following worship with a sermon from our guest pastor, Rev. Mary Ellyn Bahler we created our sandwich of choice from a range of fixings, enjoyed some fruit and treats and one another's company in the sunny courtyard. Thank you to all who made this happen and all those who helped clean up and put away. It was a perfect way to celebrate our courtyard as cooler weather moves us indoors. We are grateful to those members of our church family who were part of planning our lovely, embracing courtyard in past years, to those who keep it looking lovely at present, and for thoughtful additions in recent years such as the Walkers' maple tree, the 4-H native plantings in the "amoeba," decorative fencing to protect our rock garden, and trustees' safety signs.



Coming in November

Due to "popular demand," Meditation in the Sanctuary will continue on Tuesdays from 5-6pm in the Sanctuary. All are welcome!

Sunday, November 3: All Saints Day (and remember to turn your clocks back an hour for Daylight Saving)

All Saints' Day is a day of remembrance and thanksgiving. It is a day to remember those who have gone before us and honor the memory of those lost in the past year. We will have a table next to the Communion Table for honoring our "Saints." Bring a photo or memorabilia for your beloved family member, friend, mentor or hero who have passed on. You will also be invited to light a candle on the Communion Table to symbolize the light they have brought into your life and our world.

Tuesday, November 5: Election Day Thank you for being a Voter!

Sunday, November 10 Veterans' Day We will honor our Veteran loved ones. There will be a table next to the Communion Table to honor Veterans. You are encouraged to bring photos, medals or other signs of service to share with your church family.

Saturday, November 16 At 1:30pm, there will be a **Memorial Service for David Hill**.

Advent begins Sunday December 1st.

Next Board of Ministry meeting: 11:45am on Zoom, Tuesday, November 12th

For Those Who Walked With Us by Jan L Richardson

For those who walked with us, this is a prayer.

For those who have gone ahead, this is a blessing.

For those who touched and tended us, who lingered with us while they lived, this is a thanksgiving.

For those who journey still with us in the shadows of awareness, in the crevices of memory, in the landscape of our dreams, this is a benediction.



Remember to fill out our Church Assessment Tool (CAT)!

What is the CAT?

The CAT is a Church Assessment Tool consisting of 90+-question online (or paper) assessment of a congregation that is completed by members of a church. We affectionately call it a CAT-SCAN. It generates a report called Vital Signs.

The Purpose of the CAT

Using the Congregation Assessment Tool is like taking our church to a doctor, a travel agent, and a tailor. It gives all of us a read-out on the health of the church, a sense of where members think the church should head in the future, and a description of the church as a unique body of people.

The CAT is a benchmark tool of 90+questions that helps determine our congregation's current vitality, the priorities of where our congregation wants to head, the areas that need immediate attention, and our congregation's culture.

Who should fill this survey out?

We hope that everybody connected to the church would be willing to fill out the survey. The more people fill out the survey, the better we understand some of the vital aspects of our community. This understanding will help us in many ways. We will be able to look at ways that we can serve the community and its ministries better, and it will help us in our search process for a settled pastor. The clearer we are describing who we are, what is important in the life of the church, the higher the chance that we will attract a pastor who is a good match for the church.

What is the next step?

If you have provided us with a current email address, within the next week, you will receive a unique web link to complete the assessment online. If you would prefer to take the assessment using a paper copy, please let us know, and we will provide one for you along with a self-addressed stamped envelope. We will also make time and laptops available in the next couple of weeks after church, to assist people in filling out the form.

Please contact Pastor Elisabeth if you need help! Elismid@yahoo.com



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

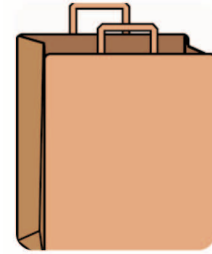
16 — Eckhard Mahl

RITTER CENTER'S "HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS"

This is an opportunity for holiday giving for families in need. Ritter Center can use our help in providing some Thanksgiving meals (toward the 200 bags they hope to collect and distribute). Each bag will contain the essentials for a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Would you be willing to help by donating items for the 4-5 bags we wish to provide from FCCSR?

Each bag would ideally contain:

- A box of stuffing mix
- A can of cranberry sauce
- Canned vegetables (green beans, corn, etc.)
- Gravy mix or canned gravy
- A box of cornbread or dinner roll mix
- A dessert item (such as cake or pie mix)
- A gift card to a local grocery store for the purchase of a turkey or main entrée



Ritter Center says “Your generous support would go a long way in ensuring that everyone in our community can enjoy a warm and fulfilling Thanksgiving meal. We would be deeply grateful for your consideration of this request.”

Please speak to a member of the Board of Mission if you would like to help contribute to this project (Cathi Fuller, Caran Cuneo, Megan Fuller, Lucinda Ray).

TIE DEADLINE for DECEMBER 2024 issue - Mon., NOV 25

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



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 **NOVEMBER** 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM!	28	29 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	30	31 Halloween	November 1	2
3 Daylight Saving (End) 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM!	4	5 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	6	7 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm  BOOK CLUB reading WEST WITH GIRAFFES	8	9
10 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM!	11 Veterans Day	12 11:45 am  Board of Ministry Meeting 11:45 via ZOOM 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	13	14 5 pm - 6 pm  SEARCH COMMITTEE	15	16
17 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM!	18	19 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	20 1 pm - 2 pm  BOARD of MISSION Meeting on ZOOM 5 pm - 7 pm  Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	21 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  ELDERS MEETING ON ZOOM!	22	23
24 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM!	25	26 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	27	28  Thanksgiving Day	29	30

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.