

The TIE



From our pastor,
Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg

Listen

A voice said, “This is my Son, my Chosen;
listen to him!”

—Luke 9.35

On the first Sunday of March, the lectionary gives us the story of the “Transfiguration.” There is such beauty in this story and so many ways in which it prepares us for our time of Lent, which is just around the corner. I encourage you to read the full story in Luke 9:28-36. Steve Garnaas Holmes shares his reflection on these words “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!”

“The command is not to believe,
or even to remember,
but to listen.

“In stillness,
apart from the screaming news,
listen.

“Let your fears and opinions
sit quietly in the corner
and talk amongst themselves;
let them go; ignore them.

“In silence, listen
even if only to the sound
of your own breathing, listen
for the silence
that is God,
the cloud
that is unknowing,
the presence
you can trust without feeling.

“And if nothing comes to you,
keep the silence.
Honor the cloud.
Keep listening.

It will be our focus for Lent, to listen, to regroup spiritually, emotionally, and mentally so that we are not swept away by the barrage of information in the world. The chaos that is ensuing and the disruption to people’s lives are intentionally created, to spread fear and to immobilize people. Ours the task then to create an even larger space for God’s Spirit to keep taking hold of us, in our physical beings, our hearts, our minds and in our day to day lives. Ours the task to listen to a voice greater. Ours the task to care for what is within our reach. It is how we reconstitute our world.

The quieter you become,
the more you are able to hear.
Rumi



Continued on the next page.

I recently came across the writings of Diana Butler Bass, author and preacher who lists her “10 W’s” as a map to cultivate resilience. I am including them here, but also encourage you to create your own list of practices you have already in place or want to try out, to create a larger space in you for God’s spirit to dwell, to withstand the storm.

Here is Diana’s list:

1. **Wake Up:** Don’t stay under the cover
2. **Welcome the Day:** Say “thank you” first thing when you wake.
3. **Walk:** Get fresh air and exercise. Move, be attentive to your world, you can pray or meditate as you go.
4. (Be) **with Others:** Don’t isolate yourself.
5. **Work:** Keep doing your work. Do what you love. Focus on your own gifts and calling.
6. **Write:** Have a creative way to work through your fears, losses, or doubts.
7. **Watch the News (as able):** Use the mute button on your remote. Be cautious with sources. You don’t need to know everything but being aware of at least some things is important.
8. **Wide Sight:** (a practice to develop) Don’t get fixated on the direct threats. Instead, remind yourself to look toward the edges of your field of vision. What’s there? What’s not immediately obvious? Is there something on the periphery that is helpful, healing, or hopeful?
9. **Weep:** Embrace whatever emotions come up (laugh as well).
10. **Wonder:** (as much as possible) Embrace mystery.

Grateful to be on the journey together. In Love,

Pastor Elisabeth

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Don’t forget to change your clocks,
Set them ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 8!



PRAYER PARTNERS

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



March 2 - 8

Jackie Dema

March 9 - 15

Julie Dowling

March 16 - 22

Oak Dowling

March 23 - 29

Anice Flesh

March 30 - April 5

Louis and Khamla Frost

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).***

**March 2 10 AM Transfiguration Sunday
Luke 9:28-36**

**March 5 5 PM Meditation
6 PM Distribution of Ashes (no service)**

**March 9 10 AM First Sunday in Lent
Luke 10:25-37
Parable of the Good Samaritan**



**March 16 10 AM Second Sunday in Lent
Luke 10:38-42
Mary and Marth host Jesus**



**March 23 10 AM Third Sunday in Lent
Luke 13:6-9
Parable of the Fig Tree**



**March 30 10 AM Fourth Sunday in Lent
Luke 15:1-7
Parable of the Lost Sheep**





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=c2V0RXEwWjF4STNNSTlxbWFFTENuZz09>

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

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

March 7 : The Search Committee will meet on **Friday**, March 7 at 5 PM.

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

March 19: The Church Council will meet on **Wednesday**, March 19 at 6 PM.

March 21: The Search Committee will meet on **Friday**, March 21 at 6 PM.

March 26: The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday**, March 26 at 1 PM.



SUNDAY, MARCH 23 - LUNCH TOGETHER

We will have lunch together after worship on Sunday, March 23. The location will be announced later, but please save the date!

KINDNESS — PASS IT ON!

Be Tolerant

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



Building problems and Solutions

The Community Room still had a roof leak after the roofing company said they fixed it on Dec 31. They came again last week and tried again. We await the next rain to see how they did.

The preschool experienced water seeping through the walls into the children's bathroom, which is under the choir area in the sanctuary. We have repaired the downspout, cleared again the roof drains, and now are engaging landscaper Audel Barajas to install a French Drain to direct the ground water away the wall in heavy storms.

Near the pedestrian gate to Pilgrim Park, the oak tree roots have caused the sidewalk section to rise. Audel will be renting a concrete grinder to make the sidewalk safer.

AARP Tax Assistance is available on Tuesdays in March and April in the Community Room. We also make the sanctuary available for people waiting...or who need to pray for their taxes.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

These meeting notes were submitted by Caran Cuneo, Moderator. The Annual Meeting was held on February 23, 2025, and began with an opening prayer by Pastor Elisabeth Middelberg. The complete report is available at the church and was distributed to the 23 voting members present.



Reports were highlighted by the Moderator and Pastor. All chairs of our standing committees emphasized their accomplishments during 2024. Following the reports from the Board of Ministry, Board of Trustees, and Board of Mission, the congregation also heard from Every Dollar Feeds Kids.

As part of the Board of Mission's report, a motion was made by Lucinda Ray and seconded by David Knopf to approve First Congregation Church of San Rafael joining our Marin faith communities (within the Marin Interfaith Council) to become a Immigrant Accompaniment Congregation. The motion pass unanimously.

Our Pledge Secretary, Val Sherer, presented the written report that totaled \$95,860 in 2025 pledges. Thank you all for your generous financial support.

Our Treasurer, Caryl Hodges then reviewed our 2025 projected annual budget and balance sheet. After a motion made by Louis Frost and seconded by Caran Cuneo to approve the 2025 budget as presented, the motion passed.

Our Moderator thanked the members who have graciously volunteered to serve in 2025 including the Church Council officers (listed below) and members of our Boards and standing committees. All nominations were approved by a vote of the congregation. The meeting was followed by a delicious pot luck lunch.

2025 Church Council

Moderator: Caran Cuneo
Vice Moderator: Oak Dowling
Treasurer: Caryl Hodges
Pledge Secretary: Val Sherer
Clerk/Member at Large: Jackie Dema and Lorene Jackson
Board of Ministry: Louis Frost
Board of Mission: Lucinda Ray
Board of Trustees: David Knopf



2025 Boards

Board of Ministry: Cathi Fuller, Charles Little, Louis Frost, Jackie Dema, Gerry Grosz Tessa Templeman
Board of Mission: Lucinda Ray, Cathi Fuller, Megan Fuller, Caran Cuneo, Annie Song-Hill, Cathy Krise
Board of Trustees: David Knopf, Caryl Hodges, Bob Spofford, Val Sherer, Louis Frost

2025 Committees

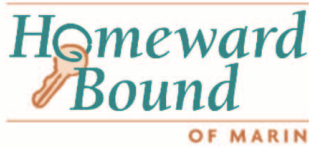
Pastor Search Committee: David Santschi, Cathi Fuller, Annie Song Hill, Caran Cuneo, Lucinda Ray
Prayer Chain Committee: Julie Dowling, Annie Song Hill
TIE: Lucinda Ray, Editor



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



MISSION MOMENT - MARCH 9



On Sunday, March 9, Corry Kanzenberg, the Development Director from Homeward Bound, will share the work that her organization is doing in Marin County. Each year we collect pillows for Homeward Bound. This Mission Moment will be a chance to better understand the service that this organization provides in our area.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING - MARCH 30

One Great Hour of Sharing is the refugee, relief and development special mission offering of the UCC. OGHS is at work all around the year, all around the world—sharing resources and changing lives. The UCC works with domestic and international partners, to provide support to health, education, refugee, agricultural, and emergency relief initiatives. This year's special offering for OGHS is set for March 30, 2025.

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.

In addition, your financial gifts enable the building (and rebuilding) of structures and processes that make a difference for the future, providing education and helping hands for long-term improvements. OGHS is YOUR reach into the world, working in partnership with people we will never meet to transform lives for generations to come.

We hope you will consider making this special offering on March 30, by including a check made payable to FCC San Rafael, with OGHS 2025 on the memo line.

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 - coffee, tea bags, cooking oil, boxed milk, peanut butter, canned goods, rice, cereal, canned meat are especially welcome. Sugar and flour are also needed. Please deposit them in our Food Bank barrel in the Narthex.



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. If you need a visit or other support, please leave a message in the office, or let Pastor Elisabeth know for more urgent matters.

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.

Coming In March

Tuesdays at 5 PM Meditation continues every Tuesdays at 5 PM. Tell Elisabeth if you wish to join by Zoom or need a ride if you cannot attend in person.

Sunday, March 23 Sunday meal together. Location to be announced.

Thursday, March 27 The Elders group will meet to talk about our good times and memories in their lives.

Flowers for Easter

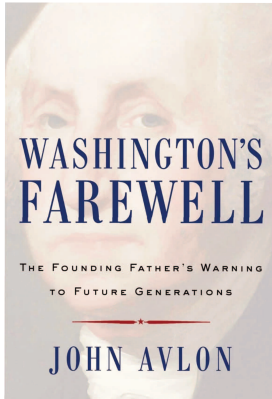
If you wish to purchase an Easter lily or spring bulb in memory or celebration of a loved one for the sanctuary, look for and fill out the order form that will be available later in March. Lilies are \$10 and flowering plants are \$5.



If you have ideas or interest in being a part of the Ministry Team for 2025 please let Louis Frost know. Anyone is free to attend meetings whether a Board member or not.

Next meeting of the Board of Ministry: Tuesday, March 11 at 11:45 AM on Zoom.

MARCH BOOK CLUB - THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 7:30 PM



The book we have chosen for our next Book Club meeting is *Washington's Farewell*, by John Avlon. In *Washington's Farewell*, John Avlon offers a stunning portrait of our first president and his battle to save America from self-destruction. Avlon, editor in chief of *The Daily Beast* and author of *Independent Nation*, brings to light Washington's goodbye by elucidating what it meant not only during the early days of the republic, but its lasting effect through the centuries.

Washington's Farewell Address was a prophetic letter he wrote to his fellow citizens and signed from a "parting friend," addressing the forces he feared could destroy our democracy: hyper-partisanship, excessive debt, and foreign wars. In it, Washington called for unity among "citizens by birth or choice," advocated moderation, defended religious pluralism, proposed a foreign policy of independence (not isolation), and proposed that education is essential to democracy. He established the precedent for the peaceful transfer of power. ‘

Avlon's thesis is that there is much to gain from reexamining this 6,000-word adieu. Within this final address, which was never actually spoken but printed in a national newspaper, Washington implores posterity to value moderation, fiscal discipline, and private virtue. Avlon expertly explores the document by examining Washington's shortcomings; he accrued debt in his youth, was not as educated as his contemporaries, and owned slaves. In time, Washington overcame such flaws, some might argue too late. The full text of the speech can be found in the appendix along with further reading.

The book is available at the Marin and Sonoma County libraries.

ELDERS TO SHARE THE GOOD TIMES IN MARCH, THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 6:30 PM

During our February meeting, FCCSR Elders spoke about our parents. Many of us felt we were blessed to have such fine progenitors and some had to overcome difficult situations. But either way, we once again felt privileged to learn more about our fellow congregants. We became closer to each other in the process and got glimpses into the forces that made our friends who they are today.

In our March meeting we will reminisce about the good times. We will share our favorite memories from over the years. Moments, or even a decade, when we were especially happy. What made those memories so special? How did they come about, through effort or chance?

On March 27, from 6:30 to 7:30 we'll be on the Church's Zoom account learning more about each other.





MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 8 — Sue Spofford
- 11 — Jackie Dema
- 19 — Charles Little
- 24 — Blair Ripley
- 25 — Milagro Ramirez

MARINSYMPHONY24|25

THE GENIUS OF MOZART!

MARIN SYMPHONY CHORUS CONCERTS

MARIN SYMPHONY CHORUS CONCERTS: THE GENIUS OF MOZART!

SATURDAY:
MARCH 15, 2025
 7:30 PM
 MARIN SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, NOVATO

SUNDAY:
MARCH 16, 2025
 3:00 PM
 MARIN SCHOOL OF THE ARTS, NOVATO

KEVIN FOX, CONDUCTOR
MARIN SYMPHONY CHORUS
NIKKI EINFELD, SOPRANO
GABRIELA ESTEPHANE
SOLIS, ALTO
CHAD SOMERS, TENOR
ANDREW PARDINI, BASS

MOZART: INTER NATOS MULIERUM
MOZART: EXSULTATE, JUBILATE
MOZART: REQUIEM IN D MINOR

EXPERIENCE THE GENIUS OF MOZART WITH THE MARIN SYMPHONY CHORUS AND MARIN SYMPHONY PLAYERS, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF KEVIN FOX

THRILLING PERFORMANCES WITH THE MARIN SYMPHONY CHORUS AND MARIN SYMPHONY PLAYERS, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF KEVIN FOX

GENERAL ADMISSION TICKETS: \$33 + \$3 FEE

MARINSYMPHONY.ORG
 415.479.8100

MOZART REQUIEM MARCH 15 and 16

Wow! Christina Santschi is the poster girl for the Marin Symphony concert on Saturday March 15 at 7:30 PM and Sunday, March 16, at 3 PM. The concerts will be at the Marin School for the Arts.

Four members of our congregation will be singing in this wonderful concert: Christina, along with Charles Little, Lucinda Ray, and Jim Turner.

You can get 30% off for tickets to this concert. Coupon Code for 30% off is MARCH MOZART. Enter the code in Cart after you select Get Tickets.

<https://marinsymphony.org/tickets-events/2024-25-season/chorus-2025/>

TIE DEADLINE for APRIL 2025 issue - MON., MARCH 24

The deadline for articles and news for the April 2025 issue of The TIE is Monday, March 24. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, March 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 MARCH 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
23	24	25	26	27	28	March 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	10 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	10 am - 2 pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	10 am - 2 pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	7:30 am - 8:30 am  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	5 am - 6 pm  SEARCH COMMITTEE	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Daylight Saving (Start) 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	St. Patrick's Day 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	10 am - 2 pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE 11:45 am  Board of Ministry Meeting 11:45 via ZOOM 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	10 am - 2 pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	7:30 am - 8:30 am  BOOK CLUB reading JACQUELINE IN PARIS	5 am - 6 pm  SEARCH COMMITTEE	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	5 pm  THE DECALOGUE 5 PM	10 am - 2 pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	10 am - 2 pm  Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	7:30 am - 8:30 am  BOOK CLUB reading JACQUELINE IN PARIS	5 am - 6 pm  SEARCH COMMITTEE	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 11:30 am SUNDAY MEAL & ETHER WORSHIP	5 pm  THE DECALOGUE 5 PM	10 am - 2 pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	10 am - 2 pm  BOARD OF MISSION Meeting on ZOOM	6:30 am - 7:30 am  ELDER'S MEETING ON ZOOM		
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING	St. Patrick's Day 10 am - 2 pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	April Fool's Day 10 am - 2 pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary				

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.