

## The TIE



### From our pastor,

Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg

### Moving through Lent, guided by the Parables

‘Words have power. They shape how we see the world, how we see each other, and how we see ourselves. And when certain voices are silenced—whether by policy, by rhetoric or by fear—it’s up to the rest of us to ensure they are heard.’

These words were part of the newsletter which the Marin County Free Library (MVFL) sent out in honor of Women’s history month. The author stated that there is power in stories to connect, to educate, and to create understanding. MCFL is committed, he says, to make space for the voices of all people, including the voices of women, transgender, and non-binary people. Our

communities are shaped by all of our voices. Our communities are not whole when voices and people are diminished or erased.

Jesus knew the power of stories well. He often gave the people a story, a parable, to answer their questions and to get his point across. It seems to have been his main teaching tool.

The word parable, carries with it the idea of “placing alongside.” *Our lives are placed alongside the story, and the point of the story is meant to stir something deep within our spirits, which causes us to align (or re-align) our lives with the point or moral of the story.* (Biblical hermeneutics, June 2020)

Parables are not static; they are a living breathing force. For sure, the original listeners would have heard many different nuances, which we in our time no longer hear. The parables never gave the people a clear answer to the questions they posed. My guess is that people wanted a straightforward answer, wanted to know who or what was right or wrong, wanted to hold on to clear definitions. Instead, Jesus gave them parables, stories which inherently held nuance, complexity, and multiple layers of meaning—just like our lives do. I think we are invited, like the generations before us, to place our lives alongside the stories, which Jesus told, to let them stir within our spirits as we are seeking to align ourselves with the teachings of Jesus.



Continued on the next page.

On our journey, through Lent and into Easter, we are letting ourselves be guided by the gospel of Luke. We have looked at several of the parables seeking to find direction and inspiration for how to respond as a people of faith, to these complex, polarizing and often frightening times we are living in. I especially like the three parables in Luke 15, the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the prodigal son. Each of the story ends with a communal celebration. Jesus tells the stories of restored community. "Come rejoice with me", He says. Our communities only become whole when we search for what is being lost, or when we commit to protect and restore what and who is under a threat to be erased.

- The history of the communities of people of color
- The voices of the people in our trans communities
- Lost protections of the earth
- Lost care for the immigrants among us
- People who have gone missing.
- The stories and experiences of the people honored in the Smithsonian Museum

The searching for and restoration of what is lost is sacred and holy work. It is also slow work. No quick fixes here. It is inspiring to see how other people and organizations are also participating in this work, sometimes leading the way, like the MVFL, speaking their commitment to make space for the voices of all people.



During this time of Lent and Easter we are invited to draw close to God's Spirit, A Spirit of Restoration, which is always working to bring healing and wholeness to all the earth.

May we be ambassadors of that Spirit, participating in creating wholeness in a fragmented world.

Please join us for Holy Week and a grand celebration of Easter.

Grateful to be on the journey together.

In Love, *Pastor Elisabeth*

## PRAYER PARTNERS

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



**March 30 - April 5**

Louis and Khamla Frost

**April 20 - 26**

Judy Girard

**April 6 - 12**

Cathi Fuller and David Knopf

**April 27 - May 3**

Caryl Hodges

**April 13 - 19**

Megan Fuller





## 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](mailto:Knopf.david@gmail.com)

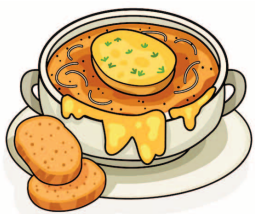
## MEETINGS, MEETINGS, MEETINGS -- VIA ZOOM

**April 3:** The Board of Trustees will meet on **Thursday**, April 3 at 7:00 PM.

**April 8:** The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday**, April 8 at 11:45 AM.

**April 16:** The Church Council will meet on **Wednesday**, April 16 at 6 PM.

**April 30:** The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday**, April 30 at 1 PM.



## THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 5:30 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY SOUP SUPPER

We will enjoy a simple soup supper together on Maundy Thursday, April 17, at 5:30 PM, followed by handwashing and a Taize service of song and prayer.

**KINDNESS — PASS IT ON!**

*Call a lonely person*

## THE INTERIM PROCESS -- HERE ARE THE NEXT STEPS:


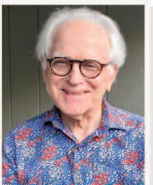

- We appoint an Interim Search Committee to locate and recommend an interim pastor  
**The Interim Search Committee is Louis Frost, Megan Fuller, and David Santschi.**
- We hire an Interim Pastor **Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg began on March 17, 2024.**
- We appoint a Search Committee **The Search Committee 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

MIC Interfaith 2025

### 26th Annual Prayer Breakfast

*A Benefit for the Marin Interfaith Council*

Wednesday, May 7th, 8-10am  
Congregation Kol Shofar  
215 Blackfield Drive, Tiburon




Join us for an interfaith celebration of the  
National Day of Prayer

**Speakers:**

- **Sherna Deamer** – *Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of San Rafael*
- **Bob Rees** – *Church of the Latter Day Saints*
- **Rev. Floyd Thompkins** – *St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church*

Individual Reservations: \$60-\$40 Sliding Scale  
Table of 8: \$400

Reserve: [www.marinifc.org](http://www.marinifc.org)  
e-mail: [office@marinifc.org](mailto:office@marinifc.org)





## BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



### Repairs, Repair, Repairs.

Audel Barajas completed three projects for the church.

1. He installed a French Drain to divert the ground water that had been seeping into the preschool downstairs.
2. He ground down the concrete sidewalk edges that had been rising, mostly due to tree roots.
3. The dilapidated bench near the sidewalk entrance to Pilgrim Park has been removed.

The Trustees decided to have locks installed on the "library" cabinets in the community room and the sound system cabinet. Keys will be available in the office.

Also, the Marin Municipal Water District is requiring the church to install a back flow preventer on our water system to make sure we do not contaminate the MMWD's system. This work will involve shutting down our water for at least a day, so it will be done during the preschool's spring break in April.

### Speaking of Repairs...

While our Music Director Gerry Grosz is recovering from his upcoming heart repair surgery, we expect him to exhaust his sick leave. The Trustees have authorized continuing his average monthly pay for the 3 months rehabilitation time expected.

### Going Beyond Repair

Previously, the Trustees believed the fence for the preschool just needed an extensive repair of replacing posts. The Board of Directors of Pilgrim Park agreed with the architect that a redesigned new fence would add to the attractiveness of the landscape, as well as to the attractiveness of the church and preschool. It is hoped that this work can be done during the preschool's June summer break.

The landscape project has received most of the needed permits, but a few remain due to unexpected requirements of MMWD.

### Tax help on Tuesdays

AARP is again providing tax filing assistance for free on Tuesdays, 10-2, in the Community Room.

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 3, 7:00 PM on Zoom.





## 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](mailto:isabella1472@comcast.net) or Annie Song-Hill [asonghill@gmail.com](mailto:asonghill@gmail.com) if you have a prayer request you would like included in the prayer chain.



A warm welcome to new board of Ministry member: Cecil Sherrod.

**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

### Flowers for Easter

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



### Holy Week Activities

Sunday, **April 13**, 10 AM Palm Sunday

Thursday, **April 17**, 5:30 PM Maundy Thursday

Soup supper, followed by handwashing and a Taize Service in the sanctuary.

Friday, April, **April 18**, 12 - 3 PM

Meditation in the sanctuary, and Stations of the Cross

Sunday, **April 20, EASTER!**

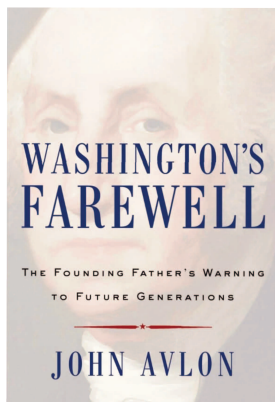
8:30-9:00 AM - Bring flowers to decorate the cross.

10 AM - Worship - Come and celebrate together!





## MARCH BOOK CLUB - THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 6 PM - NEW TIME



The **NEW** time for our book club meeting this month has been changed to 6 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.

## ELDERS MEET ON MAY DAY, THURSDAY, MAY 1, 6 - 7 PM

After our wildly successful March meeting where nine of us shared stories of happy days and times, The Elders will next meet on May 1st, from 6:00 p.m. till 7:00, via Zoom. This time we'll be sharing memories of hard times in our lives.

Group members are unified in their enthusiasm for the sessions. As one gushed at the end of our last meeting, "I am so happy to be learning about the folks I sit in church with, or have coffee with, but really don't know all that well. In our meetings we spend the time to really learn about each other. It's so good to know people better, and have them learn about me."



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- 3 — Bob Spofford
- 9 — Bob Bandettini
- 10 — Scott Faraci
- 11 — Jill Krippendorf
- 23 — Ed Briggs
- 24 — Lucinda Ray

### Easter Jokes



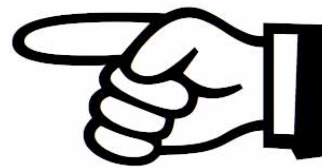
1. How does Easter end? - with the letter r!
2. How does the Easter bunny travel? - by hare plane!
3. What kind of books do bunnies like? - ones with hoppy endings!
4. Knock, knock! - who's there? - Ann. - Ann who? - An Easter bunny!
5. What happened to the egg after it was told a funny joke? - it cracked up!
6. What type of jokes do eggs tell? - egg yolks!
7. What do you call a sleeping egg? - eggzosted!
8. What do you call an egg from outer space? - an eggstraterrestrial!
9. Why did the Easter bunny have to fire the duck? - because he kept quacking all the eggs!
10. What do you call a rabbit who tells jokes? - a funny bunny!

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## TIE DEADLINE for MAY 2025 issue - MON., APRIL 28

The deadline for articles and news for the May 2025 issue of The TIE is Monday, April 28. Please email your articles to [lucindaray@aol.com](mailto:lucindaray@aol.com) by Monday, April 28.



### Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg

Thursday mornings  
or by appointment

Phone: 707 280-0382

Email: [Elismid@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@fccsanrafael.org)

# FCC Calendar APRIL 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>30 10am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p> <p>10am-11am Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM</p> <p>11am ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING OFFERING</p>	31	<p>April 1 April Fool's Day</p> <p>10am-2pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE</p> <p>5pm-6pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary</p>	2	<p>3 6am-7am  BOOK CLUB reading WASHINGTON'S FABRICELL</p> <p>7am-8am  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM</p>	4	5
<p>6 10am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p> <p>11am-11am Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM</p>	7	<p>8 10am-2pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE</p> <p>5pm-6pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary</p>	9	10	11	12
<p>13 10am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p> <p>11am-11am Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM</p>	14	<p>15 10am-2pm AARP TAX ASSISTANCE</p> <p>5pm-6pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary</p>	16	<p>17 6am-7am  Church Council Meeting via ZOOM</p>	<p>18 12pm-3pm  MEDITATION AND STATIONS OF THE CROSS</p>	19
<p>20 Easter</p> <p>10am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p> <p>10am-11am Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM</p> <p>11am EASTER SUNDAY</p>	21	<p>22 Earth Day</p> <p>5pm-6pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary</p>	23	24	25	26
<p>27 10am  Worship, Church School &amp; Child Care</p> <p>10am-11am Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM</p>	28	<p>29 5pm  THE DEADLINE - 5PM</p>	30	<p>1 6:30am-7:30am  ELDERS MEETING ON ZOOM</p>	2	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](http://www.FccSanRafael.org).