

The TIE



From our pastor,
Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg

“Go Tell”

The angel said: “Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee.’”

Matthew 28:7

We had some beautiful Easter Services. Walking by some little pots with freesias every day is a sweet reminder to look for new life as part of an Easter practice. We have now entered Eastertide - a period of 50 days in which we celebrate the resurrection and follow closely the journey of the disciples as they encountered the risen Christ

In each of the gospels, we find in

these post resurrection stories the instructions: “Go tell the others.” They are spoken first to Mary Magdalene and to some of the other women. The words may sound somewhat surprising. The community surrounding Jesus had gone through so much turmoil and grief. One would think that in realizing that Jesus had risen, they would want to tell the whole world. But maybe they were still startled and were experiencing quite a bit of fear. Speaking out amidst the political and social tensions was probably not without risk. And what was it exactly that Jesus wanted them to tell others about?

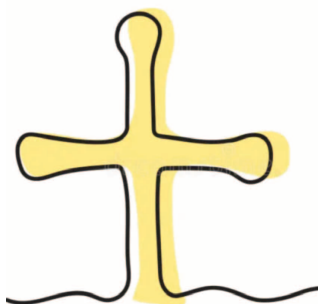
We have raised that same question a couple of times these last couple of weeks: What is Easter about for you this year? Were Good Friday and Easter just Sundays which showed up as part of our liturgical year, or was there something in our being together, in the reflections, in the way you yourself entered the story, that strengthened you, that brought you hope, or made you experience greater resilience? What was Easter about?

As we listen in the weeks to come to the words “Go tell,” what is it that we are urged to tell others? What is it that the resurrection is calling us to, to speak about, through words, through actions, through our prayers?

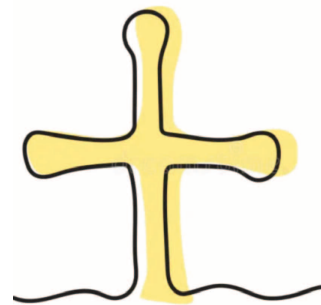
Maybe Jesus appeared to the disciples to strengthen his presence within them, to give them courage to speak up about God’s realm, in the face of oppression.

Just this week, Senator Booker spoke up. He held a 12 hour-sit-in demonstration in the Capitol Rotunda and started this sit-in with a prayer. He was joined by several clergy leaders,

Continued on the next page.



among them Rev. William Barber, who is well known for decades of activism, just like Senator Booker. The police ended up removing everyone, including Rev. Barber and arrested the Reverend. He was later released. People are praying and speaking up against the devastating forces of the empire, not without risk - not without risk then and not without risk now.



So, what did we gather up from Easter that strengthens us, that allows us to stay close to God's presence, allow us to heed the call to make God's kin-dom visible?

Like most of you, I get shaken up from time to time by what is going on in the world, by watching how people's rights and lives are being trampled upon. I find strength in communities, like FCC San Rafael, and the sangha's of which I am a part. We take refuge in community (a phrase borrowed from Buddhism). This does not mean that we hide out there, but that we seek out other people who are also trying to find a whole-some response to what is going on, in line with our faith and our values. These are communities in which we get to learn how to be a people of God, and like the disciples, learn how to tell our stories, our truth.

We have entered Easter tide.... The story is far from over. We will continue to celebrate the resurrection and allow ourselves, sometimes amid being shaken up, to be touched by God's grace, by God's presence among us.

Grateful to be on the journey together.

In Love, *Pastor Elisabeth*



SAVE THE DATE STREET CHAPLAINCY DINNER MAY 6

Our next Street Chaplaincy dinner will be on Tuesday, May 6. We need a team of about 7 volunteers from 4 to 7 PM to help prepare and serve the meal, at the First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael.

It's also a time to bring clothing and other supplies to donate to those who come for the meal. Everyone who does it finds it a very worthwhile experience. Speak to a member of the Board of Mission if you can help.

PRAYER PARTNERS

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



April 27 - May 3
Caryl Hodges

May 4 - 10
Lorene Jackson

May 11 - 17
Amy Kaufman, Sean and Cio

May 18 - 24
Cathy Krise

May 25 - 31
Jill Krippendorf

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).***

**May 4 10 AM On the Road to Emmaus
Luke 24: 13-15**

**May 11 10 AM Mothers Day
John 20:11-18
Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus**


**May 18 10 AM Jesus Appears to the Disciples
John 20:19-33**

**May 25 10 AM Jesus Appears to Thomas
John 20:24-29**

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
e-mail: office@marinifc.org





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

May 3: The Board of Trustees will meet on **Thursday**, May 1 at 7:00 PM.

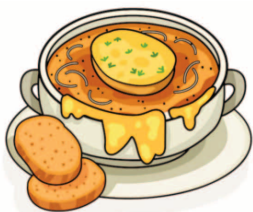
May 8: The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday**, May 6th at 11:45 AM.

May 21: The Church Council will meet on **Wednesday**, May 21 at 6 PM.

May 28: The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday**, May 28 at 1 PM.



JOIN US FOR LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP MAY 25



We will have a community lunch after worship on May 25. Details about menu will be decided soon. Please plan to join with us!

KINDNESS — PASS IT ON!

Offer a ride

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

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



AARP concluded their annual tax help April 15, with FCC offering the space, This year Jackie offered special hospitality to the tax preparers and filers by making coffee. Thanks Jackie, for making the process more welcoming!

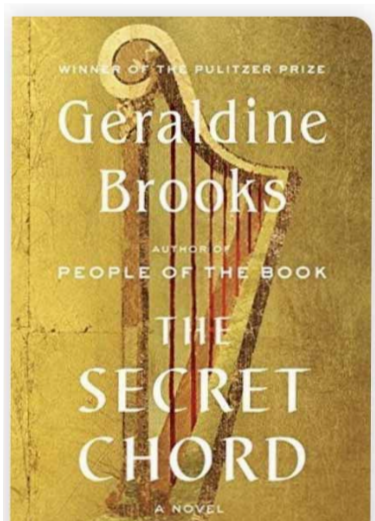
The relandscaping process continues to move along. During the week of June 23 the pre-school below the church will get a new, artfully designed fence which will make the preschool, our church, and Pilgrim Park more attractive.

MMWD has added some complications to the permit process for adding recycled water, which Les Santos of Pilgrim Park is trying to resolve.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: PILGRIM Park will be resealing the driveway and parking spaces along Pilgrim Way, June 25 and 26th.

Next Meeting: Thursday. May 1, 7:00 PM on Zoom.

MAY BOOK CLUB - THURSDAY, MAY 15, 7:30 PM



We will be reading *The Secret Chord*. It is available from both the Sonoma County and Marin County libraries. It is a rich and utterly absorbing novel about the life of King David, from the Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Geraldine Brooks. Brooks takes on one of literature's richest and most enigmatic figures: a man who shimmers between history and legend. Peeling away the myth to bring David to life in the Second Iron Age Israel, Brooks traces the arc of his journey from obscurity to fame, from shepherd to soldier, from hero to traitor, from beloved king to murderous despot and into his remorseful and diminished dotage.

The Secret Chord provides new context for some of the best-known episodes of David's life while also focusing on others, even more remarkable and emotionally intense, that have been neglected. We see David through the eyes of those who love him or fear him—from the prophet Natan, voice of his conscience, to his wives Mikhal, Avigail, and Batsheva, and finally to Solomon, the late-born son who redeems his Lear-like old age. Brooks has an uncanny ability to hear and transform characters from history, and this beautifully written, unvarnished saga of faith, desire, family, ambition, betrayal, and power will enthrall her many fans.



BREAD
FOR THE WORLD

The impact of government funding is significant. It not only affects the agriculture and food sectors - it can play a huge role in ending food insecurity and hunger in the U.S. and save the lives of millions abroad.

4. To send a personalized email go to: <https://www.bread.org/offering-letters/>
You can learn more about Bread for the World and the Offering of Letters at:
<https://www.bread.org/offering-letters/>

OFFERING OF LETTERS SAMPLE

Rep. _____
US house of Representatives, Washington DC 20515

Sen. _____
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator _____, or Dear Representative _____,

I urge you to protect and strengthen nutrition programs that help children reach their full potential.

Specifically, I ask you to:

- Protect, restore, and secure robust funding for global nutrition programs, so that we can reach millions of children with lifesaving assistance.
- Fully fund and strengthen the domestic Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) so that more eligible families in the U.S. are able to enroll and stay enrolled.

For just a small percentage of the federal budget (well under 1 percent), lifesaving aid has an outsized global impact. These strategic investments not only save and improve the lives of tens of millions of children every year, they secure America's standing as a global leader and trusted partner, open new markets to American goods, and reduce national security threats like terrorism and infectious disease.

In 2023 in the U.S. (the last year for which there is data), the WIC program served nearly seven million participants per month. Participation in WIC is associated with reduced risk of premature birth, low birthweight, and infant mortality.

Genesis 1:27 reminds us that every person is created in God's image, and we honor God when we love our neighbors, especially the most vulnerable among us. In the Gospels, Jesus opens his arms and welcomes children, saying "the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14).

Again, I urge you to protect, restore, and secure robust funding for global child nutrition programs and to fully fund and strengthen WIC in the U.S.

Whether from a fiscal, moral, or faith-based standpoint, the investment in children is more than worth it.

Sincerely,

Your name and your address

Senator Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Adam Schiff
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Jared Huffman
House Office Building
Washington, DC. 20515

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.

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.

In April we were inspired by Palm Sunday and Easter services, the Maundy Thursday Taize service and handwashing, and a Good Friday meditation. We broke bread together twice, at a sandwich lunch and a soup supper.

Thank you to all who made our Holy Week so meaningful! Pastor Elisabeth for meaningful worship and communion, for you who ordered flowers, filled the cross, prepared communion, made soup, brought cheese and bread, served as handwasher, and dishwashers, provided delicious Easter eats, Easter eggs, and prepared coffee, who planned services, who spiffed up the garden, who practiced, sang anthems, played hymns, recorded and managed our sound systems. Thank you for contributions toward memorial and celebratory flowering plants, for offering flowers from your gardens for the cross and for all who participated in the Holy Week worship and community gatherings.

Special thanks to Bob De Haan who created and built our beautiful Cross, designed so we could fill it with flowers each Easter.



In May we look forward to continuing the Easter message through our Sunday services.

The Elders will meet on the May 1, at 6 PM, to share some of the hard times in our lives. On **May 11th** we will remember and celebrate ours—and all—mothers.

We will continue the tradition of lunch together after church on **Sunday, May 25th**. Also on the 25th we will honor those from the U.S. and elsewhere who died in wars.

Starting in May we will be missing the musical leadership of our Music Director, Gerry Gross, who will be having surgery in early June, following a time of rest and preparation in May. Taking his place will be accompanist Jason Meyers. Gerry will be rejoining us in late summer or early fall, depending on how his recuperation proceeds.

MAY BIRTHDAYS



2 — Joshua Siroky
2 — Cecil Sherrod
10 — Val Sherer
10 — Brandon Siroky
23 — Cathi Fuller
23 — Cathy Krise
23 — Loreen Jackson
25 — Colin Templeman

ELDERS MEET ON THURSDAY, May 29, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

Now that we are old and wise, we Elders share Lessons We Have Learned. This will be at our May 29 meeting at 6:30 PM. This follows our April meeting where we talked about difficult times in our lives; we spoke of scary times with our children in the past as well as difficulties we are experiencing today. It was a very powerful meeting, where once again we gained new insights into the lives of our church friends.



Again, the May Elders' meeting will be on May 29th from 6:30 to 7:30 PM via the church's Zoom link.

TIE DEADLINE for JUNE 2025 issue - MON., MAY 25

The deadline for articles and news for the June 2025 issue of The TIE is Monday, May 25. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, May 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 MAY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27  Visiting Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	28  THE DEADLINE 1 PM	29  5 am - 6 am Meditation in the Sanctuary	30  1:30 pm - 2:30 pm BOARD of MISSION Meeting on ZOOM	May 1  6:30 am - 7:30 am ELDERS MEETING ON ZOOM  7 am - 8 am BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	2	3
4  Visiting Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	5	6  9 am - 10 am Street Chalkboard Dinner 11:45 am  Board of Ministry Meeting 11:45 via ZOOM 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	7  8 am - 10 am BREAKFAST - TIBERON	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day 10 am  Visiting Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	12	13  5 pm - 6 pm Meditation in the Sanctuary	14	15  7:30 am - 8:30 am BOOK CLUB reading THE SECRET CHORD	16	17 Armed Forces Day
18  Visiting Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 11 am - 11:30 am BREAD FOR THE WORLD LETTERS	19	20  5 pm - 6 pm Meditation in the Sanctuary	21  6 am - 7 am Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	22	23	24
25  Visiting Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our service is on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 11:15 am - 12:15 pm LUNCH TOGETHER AFTER WORSHIP	26  Memorial Day 5 pm  THE DEADLINE 1 PM	27  5 pm - 6 pm Meditation in the Sanctuary	28  1:30 pm - 2:30 pm BOARD of MISSION Meeting on ZOOM	29  6:30 am - 7:30 am ELDERS MEETING ON ZOOM	30	31

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.