

The TIE



From our pastor,

Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg

We had a wonderful church retreat (now a couple of weeks ago) in Cathi and David's garden. The theme was "Rekindling our Light." Surrounded by the beauty of the garden, feeling the breeze of the wind, sitting in silence, and then listening to the prayers we each carried within us, reminded me of some of Albert Schweitzer's words: "At times it is hard to let our own light burn brightly, but we find that it can be rekindled by a spark from another person or other people. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us." Certainly, our being together felt like a rekindling of what was important to each of us.

We had written the prayers we spoke on colored ribbons, which we then attached

to a line in between two trees, so that they started to move in the wind. If you were in church the last Sundays in June, you would have seen them in the sanctuary. They now hang in my office. They remind me, of course, of the prayers we lifted up, but they also function as a visual symbol of resistance.



These days we can find ourselves overwhelmed by the magnitude of things that need to be resisted, and even wonder what good one person or a small group of people can make. In this world in which so many people seem to be under siege, are getting hurt by oppressive systems, we actually need every act—and every small act of resistance we can muster up. And every person can do something. Holding on to our faith, caring for each other, finding time to be quiet together, our prayers, our songs—are all acts of resistance.

My partner almost every day wears a t-shirt or a sweatshirt with words of resistance. One shirt says: "People who love people, are my kind of people." Another one: "We can stop saying Black Lives Matter when people start acting like it." Or this one: "Vote as if your skin is not white, your spouse is an immigrant, your sister is a victim of gun violence... because privilege has no place in an election, but empathy does." She frequently gets stopped because people want to know what is written on her shirt

Continued on the next page.

I was thinking about what is happening in Gaza, and I realized that when food is used as a weapon of war, feeding people who are hungry in our own county is also an act of resistance. The late Rep. John Lewis said that he told the story of the civil rights movement over and over again to students, to little children and adults who came into his office or when he was out on the road speaking. He said: "It affects me—and sometimes it brings me to tears. But I think it's important to tell it." Maybe it will help educate or inspire other people so they too can do something, they too can make a contribution.



Through simple acts of resistance, through our stories, our prayers, through the way we care for one another and attend to one another, we too, are able to strengthen and inspire each other.

Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer says in one of her poems:

Please,
 If you are one who has practice
 meeting the pain of the world,
 we need you. Right now, we need you
 to teach us it is possible to swallow
 what is weighty and still be able to rise
 We need you to remind us we can
 be furious and scared and near feral
 over injustice and still thrill at the taste
 of a strawberry, ripe and sweet,
 can still meet a stranger and shake
 their hand, believing in their humanness.

We need you; we need each other. Please join us this summer for our services, or for one of our ministries, as we seek to be guided and sustained together by God's love.

Amen. *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.



June 29 - July 5

Jean and Ray O'Leary

July 6 - 12

Lucinda Ray

July 13 - 19

David Santschi and Christina Schiffner Santschi

July 20 - 26

Val Sherer

July 27 - August 2

Cecil Sherrod

August 3 - 9

Debra Smith

August 10 - 16

Annie Song-Hill

August 17 - 25

Bob and Sue Spofford

August 26 - 30

Tessa and Colin Templeman

August 31 - September 6

James "Trip" True

Come and Worship

with us!

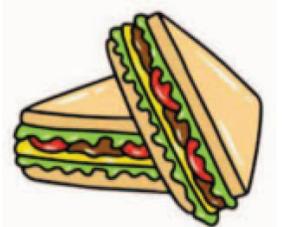
We will be worshipping at 10 AM.

The service will also be available streaming on YouTube (see next page).

July 6	10 AM	Compassion and Solidarity as Resistance
July 13	10 AM	Music as Resistance Rev. Ann Jefferson
July 20	10 AM	Healing as Resistance
July 27	10 AM	Joy as Resistance Backpack Sunday
August 5	10 AM	Worship
August 10	10 AM	Worship
August 17	10 AM	Worship
August 24	10 AM	Worship
August 31	10 AM	Worship

JOIN US AS WE GO OUT FOR LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP - July 20 and August 17

We will go out for lunch to a local restaurant after worship on July 20 and August 17. Please join us!





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

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

July 16: The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday**, July 16 at 1 PM.

August 5: The Board of Ministry will meet on **Tuesday**, August 5 at 11:45 AM.

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



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



Landscaping Project Proceeds

Marin Municipal Water District has finally issued the permits to proceed with the landscaping along North San Pedro Road. One of the requirements to use recycled water is that all of our landscape watering has to be connected to the recycled water system, even the courtyard water. That makes the project a bit more complicated.

As part of the project, the fence around the preschool is being replaced in early July. It will include some very attractive panels, which will be installed later this summer.

Repairs, Repairs, Repairs...

Special thanks to Jim Turner for fixing the electrical outlets at the counter in the Community Room, so we can plug in the coffee pot!

Audel restored the courtyard landscape drip system by fixing leaks and recycling a control panel from Val.

Francisco of Pilgrim Park and David Knopf dealt with a mysterious sink overflow, which appeared to resolve it, but left a mess.

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 7, 7:00 PM on Zoom.



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



WOW!! 55 PILLOWS

On June 22, we collected 55 new pillows for Homeward Bound! That's an amazing number. What a generous congregation.

Thanks so much to everyone who contributed.

BACKPACK SUNDAY - JULY 27

This is our annual gathering of school supplies for the Ritter Center kids. Please bring your donations to church on July 27; they will be distributed to the kids at Ritter Center in early August, because the school start dates are early. Here's what is needed:

- New backpacks (boys and girls, high need for elementary school)
 - Binders (small/large) and binder paper
 - Tabbed dividers and zip pouches
 - Pencils (#2/colored), pens, and erasers
 - Glue sticks and index cards
 - Rulers, staplers, and small scissors
 - Markers, crayons, and highlighters
 - Pocket folders and spiral one-subject notebooks
 - Calculators (especially graphing calculators such as TI-83)
 - Geometry drafting sets



There is always a GREAT NEED for department store gift cards and cash donations

→TIP: You may want to print this list for your purse or pocket.

RIGHT OF RETURN PILGRIMAGE WALK - JUNE 8

Our Board of Mission sponsored the interfaith Right of Return Pilgrimage on June 8 in the East Bay. Eight of us (Pastor Elisabeth, Caran Cuneo, Megan Fuller, Julie Dowling, Charles Little, Lucinda Ray, Louis Frost, and David Knopf) walked the 6th leg of the pilgrimage (about 2.9 miles). Over 1,000 people participated in this inspiring and peaceful event.



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.

Community Fellowship and Spiritual Life In June

- There was an inspiring retreat on **Saturday, June 21st** in the Knopf-Fuller garden.
- We held an AIDS remembrance on Pride Sunday, June 29. Julie Dowling spoke and Pastor Elisabeth displayed an AIDS' quilt.



In July and August

- In July, Pastor Elisabeth will be preaching a series of sermons on the theme of maintaining hope, energy and inspiration for the work as disciples of compassionate justice in harsh times.
- **Elders** will meet on Thursday, July 24, 6:30-7:30. See page 9 for details.
- **Book Club** will meet on Thursday, July 10th at 7:30. See page 9 for details.
- **Lunch at a local restaurant** after worship on July 20 and August 17.
- On Sunday mornings during worship, we have been encouraging folks to move forward so that the church doesn't look empty for those viewing online. It is working!



ELDERS MEET ON THURSDAY, JULY 24, 6:30 - 7:30 PM

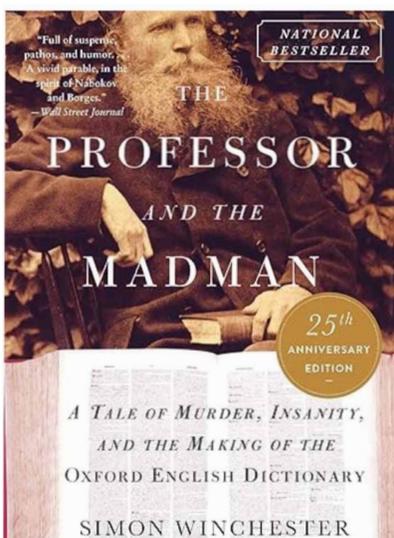
July Elders to Share Childhood Memories Thursday, July 24, from 6:30 - 7:30.

In our June meeting, the FCCSR Elders spoke together about how we are each coping with the difficulties and challenges of aging. Are we frustrated and unhappy or are we learning to live gracefully with the losses? Are we learning to let go of our judgements and the need to know and explain things, can we learn to love our weakened body? We acknowledged our good and bad days as we navigate this time in our lives, and found comfort is sharing with our FCCSR friends.



That June discussion was heavy, so for July, we'll tackle a lighter topic: "The Good Old Days!" What are some of your cherished memories from childhood? We'll reminisce about favorite activities or events, special moments with family or friends, a good pal, teacher or mentor. Those Happy Days will be our topic.

JULY BOOK CLUB - THURSDAY, JULY 10, 7:30 PM



We will be reading *The Professor and the Madman*, by Simon Winchester. It is available from both the Sonoma County and Marin County libraries.

If you imagine reading about the writing of a dictionary would be tedious, think again!

This unusual and exciting account centers on two men involved in the creation of the Oxford English Dictionary—Professor James Murray, its editor, and Dr. William Chester Minor, a true Connecticut Yankee who was one of the resource's most prolific contributors. The most surprising aspect of this long and productive partnership was that Dr. Minor, probably a schizophrenic, was incarcerated in England's most notorious insane asylum during the whole of their working relationship.

He was a scholar and medical doctor whose fragile mental condition was probably exacerbated by duty as a surgeon during the American Civil War. His imprisonment was not harsh, and his devotion to the cause of the dictionary and his precise and prolific contributions probably helped him hold on to some sense of reality. Winchester's descriptions of Civil War battlefields and the search for definitions of words such as aardvark or elephant are intriguing and compelling. This is a fine tale for both word lovers and history buffs. The momentum of the beginning scenes of warfare and murder are followed, not disappointingly, by descriptions of the trials and tribulations of dictionary crafting. Readers will meet some extraordinary men and an unusual woman, and find themselves well and truly ensconced in the late 19th century.

JULY BIRTHDAYS



3 — Jack Intrater
5 — Saba Dempsey
6 — Cyndi Siroky
26 — Tristan Cline-Meehan
Michael Cline-Meehan
Jacob Cline-Meehan
Taylor Cline-Meehan
27 — Louis Frost
29 — Catherine Hills

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 — Caran Cuneo
6 — Jamie Cline
6 — Audrey Hills
12 — Rebecca Knopf
13 — Cio Kaufman
17 — Helen MacLam
19 — Emma Intrater
19 — Melanie Sakskul
22 — Amy Smith
24 — Jacob Dempsey
27 — David Knopf
28 — Judy Girard

CHORAL CONCERT, SUNDAY, AUGUST 17, 4 PM



Consort Chorale's 30th Annual Summer Concert

Sunday, August 17, 2025, at 4:00 pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church 240 Tiburon Blvd, Belvedere Tiburon, CA 94920

The Consort Chorale includes Jim Turner, Charles Little, and Lucinda Ray.

TIE DEADLINE for the SEPTEMBER 2025 - MON., AUG. 25

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



Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg

Thursday mornings
or by appointment

Phone: 707 280-0382

Email: Elismid@yahoo.com

Amy Powers – Office Manager

Monday and Thursday 10:30 AM - 2 PM

You can contact Amy by phone
or email any time.

Office Phone : 415 479-2747

Email: office@fccsanrafael.org

FCC Calendar JULY 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM		July 1 5 am - 6 am  Meditation in the Sanctuary	2 	3 	4  Independence Day	5
6  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM		8 5 am - 6 am  Meditation in the Sanctuary	9 7:30 am - 8:30 am BOOK CLUB reading THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN	10 	11 	12
13  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM		15 5 am - 6 am  Meditation in the Sanctuary	16 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm  Board of Mission Meeting on ZOOM 6 pm - 7 am  Church Council Meeting via ZOOM	17 	18 	19
20  10 am Worship, Church School & Child Care Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 10:5 am - 12:05 pm  GO OUT TO LUNCH AFTER CHURCH		22 5 am - 6 am  Meditation in the Sanctuary	23 	24 6:30 am - 7:30 am  ELDER'S MEETING ON ZOOM	25 	26
27 Prems' Day 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM 10 am BACKPACK SUNDAY		29 5 am - 6 am  Meditation in the Sanctuary	30 	31 	1 	2

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.

FCC Calendar **AUGUST** 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 Parents' Day 10am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10am-11am Our service is on YouTube at 10 AM 10am Back-to-school night		29 5am-6am  Meditation in the Sanctuary	30	31	August 1	
3 10am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10am-11am Our service is on YouTube at 10 AM	4	5 11am  Board of Ministry Meeting 11am on ZOOM 5am-6am  Meditation in the Sanctuary	6	7 7am-8am  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM	8	9
10 10am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10am-11am Our service is on YouTube at 10 AM	11	12 5am-6am  Meditation in the Sanctuary	13	14	15	16
17 10am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10am-11am Our service is on YouTube at 10 AM 11am-12:30pm  GO OUT TO LUNCH AFTER OURS	18	19 5am-6am  Meditation in the Sanctuary	20	21	22	23
24 10am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10am-11am Our service is on YouTube at 10 AM	25 5am  THE CALENDAR IS FIN!	26 5am-6am  Meditation in the Sanctuary	27	28	29	30
31 10am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10am-11am Our service is on YouTube at 10 AM	1 Labor Day	2 5am-6am  Meditation in the Sanctuary	3	4	5	6

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