

The TIE



From our pastor,
Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg

“Where do we go from here: Chaos or Community”?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote the first draft of his final book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community?* in January and February of 1967. He took a break from the demands of the civil rights movement, rented a house in Jamaica with no telephone, and labored over this final manuscript. The book was published in June of 1967. Dr. King was assassinated not even a year later. In this book Dr. King envisioned a global community where all people are interconnected. He explicitly condemned the Vietnam War and called for an end to militarism, racism, and extreme materialism globally.

The question “Where do we go from here?” was addressed by Pastor Tony Lowden, who had been invited to speak just a few weeks ago for the Barbara Lee Lecture Series. Pastor Lowden was President Jimmy Carter’s Pastor.

He told the story of how President Jimmy Carter, at age 95 and after working for decades with Habitat for Humanity, had a severe fall. He was scheduled to work at a site in Nashville at the time and was advised by the people around him to stay home. But President Carter refused to let the injury stop his commitment and showed up to serve the community. The president and his wife have left a legacy of over three decades of community volunteering. President Carter expressed his vision underlying his commitment in these words: *“Each of us must rededicate ourselves to serving the common good. We are a community. Our individual Fates are linked; our futures intertwined...”*

It is interesting to note that Dr King describes the opposite of chaos as community, it is not order or structure. Racism and oppression are often highly structured, but it is an order based on dominance. Poverty is often structured, and the result of how economic, political, and social institutions organize the concentration of wealth for some and limit opportunities for others.



When we forget to serve the common good, forget that our futures are linked, a society fragments. When people only look out for themselves, it erodes trust in relationships, it increases competition and

Continued on the next page.

and polarization.

Building community is foundational for the work that we do in our church. For President Carter it meant using a hammer and nails to literally help build houses, build communities. For us, it looks like this: we bring food, watch out for each other, bring pillows, serve the children. It does not need a wordy strategic plan. It needs a willingness to care, to love, to see one another and what is needed right here in our neighborhood.



There is a very telling rabbinic story:

A student once asked his Rabbi, “How do we know when night has ended, and day has begun?”

One student answered, “When you can look into the distance and tell the difference between a sheep and a dog.”

Another answered, “When you can distinguish a fig tree from an olive tree.”

The Rabbi shook his head.

“No,” he said. “Day begins when you can look into the face of another human being and recognize your sister or your brother. Until then, it is still night.”

Most of us believe we know what darkness means. We often see it as ignorance, danger, or simply the lack of light. But the rabbi teaches that darkness or chaos starts when we can no longer see ourselves in each other.

May we take the time to truly see one another, and may our practice of collective care, reflecting God’s grace and care for us, act as a restorative presence in a struggling world.

I am grateful to be on the journey together.

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.



May 31 - June 6

Denise Walker

June 7 - 13

Christine and Bob Bandettini

June 14 - 20

Edward Briggs

June 21 - 27

Eric and Cara Caindec

June 28 - July 5

Caran Cuneo



Come and Worship with us!



***We will be worshipping at 10 AM in the sanctuary.
The service will also be available streaming on YouTube (see next page).***

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| June 7 | 10 AM | “Prayer and Beads” Part 2 |
| June 14 | 10 AM | Juneteenth |
| June 21 | 10 AM | Father's Day - Excerpts from Psalm 139
Rev. Kevin Omi, guest preacher |

Rev. Kevin Omi offers spiritual direction to individuals and leads contemplative groups in the Christian and Buddhist traditions. He serves as Convenor of the Pacific Center for Spiritual Formation. He is on staff with the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation. Rev. Omi is skilled in guiding individuals and institutions through discernment and transformation. He has served as an interim minister at Grace North Church (Berkeley) and Skyland Community Church (Santa Cruz Mountains) and was a settled pastor for several years at Sycamore Congregational Church (El Cerrito). He is delighted to lead us in worship once again.

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| June 28 | 10 AM | Pride Sunday
AIDS Quilt Display |
|----------------|--------------|--|

MEDITATIVE GARDEN RETREAT - SATURDAY, JUNE 27

Cathi Fuller and David Knopf will be hosting a half-day retreat in their garden on June 27, from 10 AM until 1 PM. It will be a time to integrate the practices of prayer that will be introduced by Pastor Elisabeth in her sermon series in May and June.

All are welcome and encouraged to spend this quiet time together in the Knopf-Fuller's garden and to enjoy a brunch meal together at the close.





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

June 4: The Board of Trustees will meet on **Thursday, June 4**, at 7:00 PM.

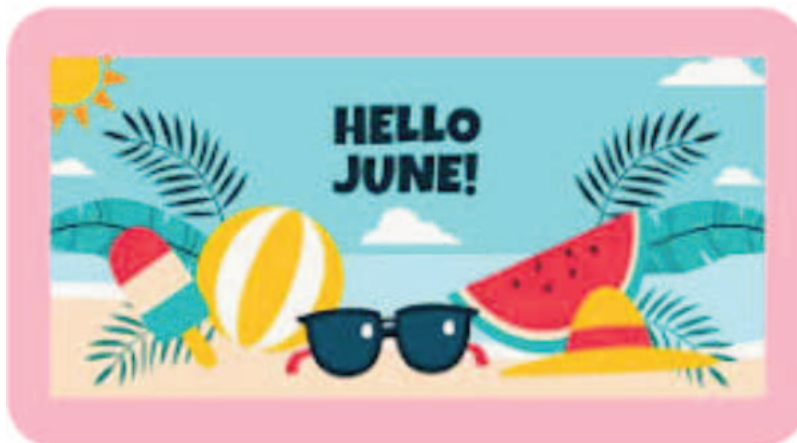
June 17: The Board of Mission will meet on **Wednesday, June 24**, at 1:15 PM

June 24: The Board of Ministry will meet on **Wednesday, June 24**, at 11:45 AM.



KINDNESS — PASS IT ON!

Help Carry a Load



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT



Landscape Project - Job Finished

The front street-side landscaping job is officially done. Now we just have to wait for the plants to grow. We planted California native plants, which should do well in our wet/dry climate. Since we have installed a recycled water drip watering system, we will be paying for irrigation at about one half the rate of regular water.

Sewer Problems

During the regular sewer maintenance, a hole was discovered in the sewer pipe near the clean-out behind the offices. The sewer is still working, but it needs to be dug out and the hole repaired. We are in the process of getting three bids from recommended plumbers and expect the work to cost several thousand dollars.

No Streaming of our Worship service on June 14

Our video streaming master, Will Godbey, and his backup will both be in Portland for a graduation. If you can't make it to church, check out a previous sermon. We have archives back several years on our church website, www.fccsanrafael.org and on You-Tube.

Next Trustees Meeting will be Thursday, June 4, at 7:00 PM on Zoom.

PICTURES FROM MOTHER'S DAY



PASTORAL SUPPORT COMMITTEE - WHAT IS IT?

from your Moderator, Caran Cuneo

Some of us remember a committee called Pastoral Relations and some of us served that ministry. I recently attended a workshop describing the new structure of Pastoral Support committees recommended for UCC churches nationally.

Why change the name and structure? In the past, there was confusion about the purpose of the committee. We are looking to form a Pastoral Support Committee (standing committee) with the following purposes:

- ❖ Advisory group to the **Pastor**
- ❖ **Support** for the Pastor's leadership
- ❖ Promote effective **communication** between pastor and congregation
- ❖ **Enhance the effectiveness** of the church's ministry and witness
- ❖ **Encourage regular assessment** of ministry of both pastor and congregation
- ❖ To be **present in conflict** in such a way that it is productive, not divisive

The committee will ideally be three members with a term length of two years. The committee will be expected to meet at least quarterly. Interested in serving?

Please email Caran Cuneo (cwcuneo@comcast.net) or Pastor Elisabeth (elismid@yahoo.com) with any questions and/or suggested members for this committee. To be eligible, you need to be an active member of our church community who regularly attends services.

Thank you for considering this important role in the life of our church.



BOARD OF MISSION MISSION MATTERS



WOW! 138 POUNDS OF FOOD DELIVERED TO THE FOOD BANK

Thanks so much for your generosity!!

Please continue to bring in non-perishable food items. Coffee, tea bags, cooking oil, boxed milk, peanut butter, canned goods, rice, cereal, and canned meat are especially welcome. Sugar and flour are also needed.



PILLOW SUNDAY, JUNE 28

Time to go shopping for pillows! And pillow cases!

This year Homeward Bound is in need of new, clean, comfy pillows and new pillow cases. The Board of Mission will have the collection on Sunday, June 28. You may want to do your shopping soon due to vacation plans, family visits, etc. This is something that has been

so much a part of our congregation's commitment to outreach for many years. It brings joy, both to the givers and to receivers.

If shopping for pillows and pillow cases presents a hardship, please let a Mission Board member know, and one of our board members will shop for you! Thank you for your continued commitment to Homeward Bound's mission. Let's see how many pillows and cases we can provide for beds and for weary heads to rest!

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR THE STREET CHAPLAINCY DINNER



A special thanks to the members of the congregation volunteered on May 5 to prepare, serve, sort clothing, and eat with those who came to the Street Chaplaincy dinner. Our next Street Chaplaincy dinner is on Tuesday, September 8.

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. Our members are Louis Frost, Chair; Rev. Elisabeth Middelberg, Pastor; Gerry Grosz, Director of Music; Jackie Dema, Cathi Fuller, Cathy Krise, Charles Little, Cecil Sherrod, and Tessa Templeman..



Agape Team

The Agape Team provides “compassionate connection to our church community through words of encouragement, cards, phone calls, home visits, and other support. Thanks to Helen MacLam, Jackie Dema, and Cathi Krise who write cards for birthdays and for love. And the Agape Team and the pastor for their continued home and hospital visits and rides to appointments and church. If you have or are aware of someone in need of prayer, transportation, pastoral visits or nourishment. reach out to the prayer chain, Pastor Elisabeth, or the church office.

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.

Community/ Fellowship Time and Spiritual Life

- **Meditation 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.
- **Garden Retreat on June 27, from 10 AM to 1 PM.** Cathi Fuller and David Knopf will host the retreat in their garden. With inspiration and direction from Pastor Elizabeth we will make prayer beads. All are welcome We encourage everyone to spend this quiet time together and enjoy a brunch meal at the close of the retreat.

June brings celebrations and special services

- June 7: Pastor Elisabeth will finish her series on prayer.
- June 14: Juneteenth will be observed. It is also Flag Day.
- June 21: Father's Day
- June 28: Pride Sunday

June meetings

- **Elders** Next meeting is Wednesday **June 24** A Proud Moment (See page 9)
- **Book club** Next meeting is Thursday **June 18** at 7:30 on Zoom. The book is *One Day, Everyone Will Always Have Been Against This*. (See page 9)

Looking Ahead

- **The next meeting of the Board of Ministry** will be **Wednesday, June 24**, 11:45-12-45 via Zoom.
- In late August or early September, Gerry Grosz and friends will be performing a jazz concert at the church, followed by an ice cream social.
- Volunteers needed: Please consider volunteering as a liturgist, greeter, or communion server!

**JUNE ELDERS REMEMBER A PROUD MOMENT! (And perhaps one we'd rather forget)
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24 6:30 - 7:30 PM**

Looking back, what have you done in your life that, thinking back on it, makes you feel really good about yourself? And, after we've enjoyed that time, and the things around it, if we like, a time we remember and cringe.



On Wednesday evening, June 24, 6:30 over Zoom, we will share an event or time in our lives that we are especially proud of, and if we want, something we're less happy that we did or participated in. Join us to learn more about your fellow congregants and become closer. Wednesday evening the 24th at 6:30 over Zoom

Link to join all church Zoom meetings

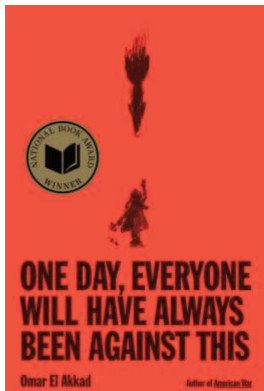
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2011092691?pwd=c2V0RXEvWXF4STNNSTlxbWFFTENuZz09>

Meeting ID: ID: 201 109 2691

Password: FCCSR!

Call in number 1-669-900-6833

BOOK CLUB - THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 7:30 PM



The next meeting of the Book Club will be on Thursday, June 18, from 7:30 to 8:30 on Zoom. We will be reading *One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This*, by Omar El Akkad. This short book (187 pages) is available from both the Marin and Sonoma County libraries.

On October 25, 2023, after just three weeks of the bombardment of Gaza, Omar El Akkad put out a tweet: “One day, when it’s safe, when there’s no personal downside to calling a thing what it is, when it’s too late to hold anyone accountable, everyone will have always been against this.” This tweet has been viewed more than 10 million times.

As an immigrant who came to the West, El Akkad believed that it promised freedom. A place of justice for all. But in the past twenty years, reporting on the War on Terror, Ferguson, climate change, Black Lives Matter protests, and more, and watching the unmitigated slaughter in Gaza, El Akkad has come to the conclusion that much of what the West promises is a lie. That there will always be entire groups of human beings it has never intended to treat as fully human—not just Arabs or Muslims or immigrants, but whoever falls outside the boundaries of privilege. *One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This* is a chronicle of that painful realization, a moral grappling with what it means, as a citizen of the U.S., as a father, to carve out some sense of possibility in a time of carnage.

This is El Akkad’s nonfiction debut, his most raw and vulnerable work to date, a heartsick breakup letter with the West. It is a brilliant articulation of the same breakup we are watching all over the United States, in family rooms, on college campuses, on city streets; the consequences of this rupture are just beginning. This book is for all the people who want something better than what the West has served up. This is the book for our time.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS



- 6 — Sean Kaufman
- 20 — Christina Schiffner Santschi
- 25 — Richard (Dick) Hasting
- 27 — Amy Hodges Kaufman
- 28 — Randall MacKenzie
- 30 — Bob De Haan
- 30 — Christine Bandettini

JUNE WALK with REVERENCE

Sponsored by
Marin Interfaith Council and Project Adapt

Place: **Roy's Redwoods Open Space Preserve**
Two Hundred Ninety-three forested acres overlooking San Geronimo Valley



Nicasio Valley Road
San Geronimo, CA 94963
0.5 mi north of intersection
with Sir Francisco Drake Boulevard.
Date: Friday, June 19, 2026
Time: 10am - noon

Hosted by **Pat Carlone**



Description:
Walk with Reverence is for people of all ages and abilities. Whether moving at a moderate pace, a mindful stroll or a reflective sit, this gathering takes place monthly at different locations that celebrate the landscapes and waterscapes of Marin. The 2-hour format includes solo time, as well as gentle group facilitation, that supports finding harmony and kinship with the natural world. Each walk follows a similar format and will be hosted by members of the Marin Interfaith Council and/or the Marin Project Adapt Circle.

For this Walk we will gather at the entrance to the Preserve and move to a meeting spot just inside the entrance for a brief overview of the trails in the Preserve and how we can spend our morning there. Then we will venture out on our silent walks for an agreed upon period of time, returning to this or some other meeting spot for conversation and sharing of our experience.

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Register for the Walk: Send an email with contact info to Pat Carlone at pCarlone@hotmail.com
By registering you are sharing your contact information to receive any day-of updates, such as weather conditions, that would necessitate a cancellation.

Parking:
Street parking only at the Preserve on both sides of Nicasio Valley Blvd. Please be respectful of local residents.

Do not block streets, gates, or driveways. There is one handicap parking spot at the entrance.

Questions or Concerns: Contact **Pat** at pCarlone@hotmail.com

TIE DEADLINE for JULY - AUGUST 2026 TIE JUNE 22



The deadline for articles and news for the combined July-August 2026 issue of The TIE is Monday, June 22. Please email your articles to lucindaray@aol.com by Monday, June 22.

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 **JUNE** 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	June 1 5 pm  THE DEADLINE: 5 PM	2 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	3	4 7 am - 8 am  BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING via ZOOM!	5	6
7 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	8	9 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	15	16 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	17	18	19	20
21 Father's Day 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	22 5 pm  THE DEADLINE: 5 PM	23 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	24 11:30 am  Board of Ministry Meeting 11:30 via ZOOM 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm  BOARD of MISSION Meeting on ZOOM! 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm  ELDERS MEETING ON ZOOM!	25	26	27 10 am - 1 pm  GARDEN RETREAT
28 10 am  Worship, Church School & Child Care 10 am - 11 am Our services on YOUTUBE at 10 AM	29	30 5 pm - 6 pm  Meditation in the Sanctuary	1	2	3	4  Independence Day

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.