



First Congregational Church of San Jose • UCC
 In partnership with **United Disciples Fellowship**

The Spire • May - 2016



In-Gathering Sunday

May 1, 2016



****Marks the official conclusion of our Annual Stewardship Pledge Drive****

The Stewardship Committee will host a Sandwich Potluck in Fellowship Hall following worship on May 1. Drinks and desert will be provided. We will celebrate, with gratitude, the Stewardship Pledges received.

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall following the Sunday worship services in April and plan to bring a tray of sandwiches (cut in halves or quarters). Let us know what type of sandwiches you plan to bring. (i.e. meat, vegetarian, gluten-free) Sandwich trays can be stored in the refrigerator during worship.

Please contact us at Stewardship@firstccsj.org with any questions, or speak to us after church.
 The Stewardship Committee: Lorraine Casto, Liz Carey, Lori Tricco, Solange Brill, Jennifer Busam



The Chancel Choir of FCCSJ is proud to present

Voices of Hope and Light

Our Eleventh Annual Concert

Saturday, May 14th at 3:00 p.m.

One of the best-attended events for our Church is the annual Choir Concert, held in Fellowship Hall each spring when we fill the Hall to capacity. The Chancel Choir will perform favorites from the past year of music making, including a movement of Gjelo's beautiful *Sunrise Mass*, Dolly Parton's *Clear Blue Morning*, the Women's Choir singing *Juntos* by Jim Papoulis, a few decidedly non-religious pieces, and much more. We will be joined by guest accompanist Barbara Sunseri for this delightful program, very appropriate as an afternoon of entertainment to introduce neighbors and co-workers to our church or for you to enjoy some of our favorite anthems from the last year.

We hope you will make plans to attend this always popular event! Tickets are not required. A free-will offering will be taken and there will be a reception afterwards.



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Church Office: (408) 377-7121 www.firstccsj.org

In the Meantime. . . .

My first article for the October 2014 *Spire* ended with "In anticipation." I anticipated a fruitful sojourn with you. I anticipated that we would get to know each other better; that we would grow together; that we would laugh and cry together. But I didn't anticipate how much I would become attached to this wonderful community!



Since we always knew my time among you would be relatively brief, I didn't expect that you would take me so warmly into your hearts or that you would find a place so deep in mine. I didn't know that our time of parting would be so bitter-sweet . . . sad that our time together is over and yet celebrating all that it has been.

At the beginning of my stay, we covenanted that I would be here for 1-1½ years. I'm staying about two months past that expectation. Now that it's time for me to say my final good-byes, it is important to remember that I'll really be gone. In other words, I won't have contact with you until the new Associate gets well established in your midst. This is our ethical obligation as UCC clergy. When we leave a congregation, we are to stay away so that new relationships can be formed with the next minister without any interference or divided loyalties.

It will be a little difficult to find me, even if you wanted to! I'll be staying with my sister in Oregon for much of the summer. I am traveling to Russia in September for a river cruise from St. Petersburg to Moscow. In October, I plan to go to a swing state to volunteer on the election. Then I'll be home for the holidays. I hope to find another interim position outside of the Bay Area that begins early 2017. So, I am returning to my vagabond mode.

Words are inadequate to express my gratitude to you for your generosity of heart and spirit. This is a remarkable community of faith and the new Associate Minister will be blessed to be in your midst, just as I have been. Thank you for all you have done to enrich my life. Thank you especially to Rev. Tom and the rest of the staff who are tremendously collegial and never made me feel that I was simply a "short-timer."

I leave you with a blessing by Jan Richardson, the writer whose poems we used as our Calls to Worship in Lent.

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As Rev. Lois Mueller draws to a close her ministry in our midst, I just want to take this opportunity to both offer a very deeply felt expression of gratitude, and acknowledge just how much I am going to miss her grace, her wisdom, her thoughtful heart, her intelligence, and her incredible pastoral spirit. It has been an enormous pleasure and privilege to work beside you over these last 18 months, and I will be forever grateful for everything you have brought to us, and to my own ministry in particular. You are going to be inexpressibly missed.

Rev. Tom

United Disciples Fellowship

Saturday, May 7, 2016 – 9:30am

"Individual Spirituality"

Our Spring Retreat will focus on our individual thoughts on spirituality, and will be led by Jeanne Farrington, Shelley Wessels and Alan Cole. All are welcome to join us for this day of thoughtful reflection. If you are not a member of UDF and would like to come, please let Debbie Grijalva know.

Lunch will be served.

When:

Saturday, May 7, 2016 – 9:30am

Where:

Home of Jim & Debbie Grijalva
2071 Bello, San Jose
(408.448.6454)



Calling All Graduates

Baccalaureate Sunday is June 5, 2016. Please share with us the name of your graduate (Senior High and above), name of the school, and what his or her future plans are! Deadline for information to the church office is May 31st. During worship on June 5th, the Special Gifts & Endowment Committee will be announcing the Robert W. Porter Scholarship recipients. These scholarships are awarded to all graduating seniors who are committed to a future vocation in helping others. Cindy Eckhardt officemanager@firstccsj.org

Rev. Tom's Message

Dear Friends,

After a great deal of consideration, we have begun to move forward with some ideas in the arena of mission and outreach. Our Open Table vision is beginning to coalesce around just a few possibilities that will soon be put to our Church Council to consider. On the heels of our Council retreat, where we examined our governance structure and brainstormed about what we wanted to accomplish, we called together a small task team to help Council define some areas of potential direction. Recently this task force has suggested three related areas for our congregational work.

In our immediate future is a partnership that we are developing with both the Elmwood Correctional facility in Milpitas, and the Valley Verde organization. Such a partnership will provide, at a minimum, the opportunity for inmates to learn more about the organic gardening of vegetables and herbs. In conversation with staff at the correctional facility, we are developing plans for the initial projects, and we seem to have a good deal of enthusiastic support from them. We will want to begin with a smaller, more manageable project that will be of benefit to inmates, and perhaps their families, but there is much potential to develop and participate in much larger projects as well. They

The initial conversation has generated a lot of potential directions and ideas

already have a well-developed sustainability program on the facility grounds, and what we offer will help deepen and grow that program as well. This should be a very satisfying long-term partnership for our church family.

The Task team is also excited about the possibilities for organizing a major Sustainability Fair here on our church campus. The aim is to begin now in preparation for a sizeable event one year from now. The initial conversation has generated a lot of potential directions and ideas, not all of which will ultimately find themselves included in the program, but broadly drawn, the outline might include lectures, demonstrations, vendors, hands-on learning opportunities, topical discussions, and spiritual engagements, all around issues related to sustainability, climate change, and food security; everything from how to build an efficient compost pile to gray water development. More than anything else this will take a lot of design and management to pull off, but we are really excited about what such an event can do through us and for us, as well as for the community around us.

Worth noting, on Sunday June 5 we are planning to kick off the planning for this event by using the Adult Forum time to do some brainstorming about what we

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Message from the Treasurer

Budget planning for our coming church year is well underway. However, a big part of the planning revolves around our expected income. Without the final pledge estimates, we cannot plan an accurate budget. Ideally the Trustees would like to present accurate numbers in the May Budget Forum but to do this, we need everyone to turn in their pledge forms by In-Gathering Sunday, May 1.

Did you know that using your envelope number on all pledges and donations makes it easier for the financial team to process your donation? Not only does it significantly reduce the amount of work to process your donation, but it insures better accuracy. If you donate regularly to the church, even if you do not pledge, you have an envelope number which is actually your ID number in the church financial system. Listing this number on your checks or providing it along with your cash donations allows your donation to be entered with just a few simple "clicks" vs. having to search by name which requires several more steps and time. Even if you donate by e-check or bill pay service, you can list the envelope number in the check comments fields. If you do not know your envelope number, email Jan at financialsecretary@firstccsj.org and she will be happy to provide it.

ONGOING WEEKLY EVENTS.

Sun.	10:00 am	FCC Worship	Sanctuary
	11:00 am	FCC Fellowship	Fellowship Hall
	11:30 am	Adult Forum	Friendship Room
	2:00 pm	Bible 101	Friendship Room
	6:30 p.m.	Faith Group	Friendship Room
Mon.	12:15 pm	Dream Group	Friendship Room
	7:30 pm	Bell Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Tues.	3:30 pm	Wake Up & Knit	Friendship Room
Wed.	10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Rv. Tom's Office
	12:30 pm	Spiritual Practice	Rv. Tom's Office
Thur.	1:00 p.m.	Bereavement Group	Friendship Room
	7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Sat.	10:00 am	Organ Practice	Sanctuary

BOARD/COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Church Council	1st Tues.	7:30 pm	Friendship Room
Children's Ministries	1st Sun.	11:30 am	Youth Center
Youth Ministries	2nd Sun.	11:30 am	Youth Center
Common Ground	3rd Tues.	6:30 pm	Friendship Room
Diaconate	3rd Tues.	7:30 pm	Rev. Tom's. Office
Outreach	3rd Tues.	7:30 pm	Office Mtg. Room
Trustees	3rd Tues.	7:30 pm	Friendship Room
Fellowship	3rd Tues.	7:30 pm	Room 14
Stewardship	As Needed		
Adult Learning	As Needed		
Special Gifts	As Needed		
Pastoral Relations	As Needed		
Personnel Policies	As Needed		

} See Events Calendar for dates and time.

Deborah Circle Meeting

Deborah Circle will meet on *Wednesday, May 4 at 10:00am in the Friendship Room.*

Rev. Tom will present a program on "Celtic Influences on Christianity". As always, all are welcome to attend.

Hostesses are: Lynn Haydis, Nancy Kell, and Barbara Kilburn.



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might want to consider and include at such an event. So, if you think this might be something you are interested in, come to the forum and help us imagine the possibilities.

Finally, on a much longer term basis, the task team began to imagine the sorts of partnerships we might be able to develop with our surrounding community. How could we use our campus, and other resources, to meet needs and develop community in our own neighborhood? Can we, as an example, bring our neighbors together around a cooperative garden space? Provide fresh fruits and vegetables for school-aged kids in our area? Bring people together around the table, both in literal and figurative ways? This will take a good deal more exploration and thought, but it does present some excellent possibilities.

We hope that our Church Council will want to engage in some version of these ideas; we hope that you will want to participate in bringing these ideas to well-crafted fruition. It is the kind of work that models God's love and makes the faith in our hearts visible for the world to see.

Looking forward,
Tom



A Note about Bill Ferguson's Departure

Before worship on April 10th, our beloved organist, Bill Ferguson, informed me that he had determined it was time to retire as our organist. I encouraged him to remain with us, at least until the end of the season, so that we could properly honor his many years of service. Despite repeated urgings by me and Rev. Tom, Bill insisted that he wanted to leave immediately for personal reasons. He asked that we wait until he left the campus to inform anyone and we honored his request.

While his departure is sudden and unplanned for, it takes nothing away from the wonderful service he has given for the past 15 years with our church, or the 65 years he has served throughout the country. I know you join me in wishing him peace and happiness on his journey. There will be a table set up in Fellowship Hall after worship through May 1st where you can sign cards or write a note to Bill expressing your thanks for his service and wishing him well.

Replacing Bill will be a challenge. We will first find temporary substitutes who can support our immediate needs. Once we have located them, we will turn our attention to a search for a qualified organist/pianist who can move forward with us, continuing our tradition of strong hymn singing, excellent choral programs, and truly spiritual musical support throughout our worship service. We are seeking congregational input through the "**Music Preference Survey**" (the Pink sheet attached). Please fill these out and get them back to us no later than May 15th if you want to have input in this process.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me, Kristin Link, music@firstccsj.org or Rev. Tom.

Blessing the Distance

It is a mystery to me how as the distance between us grows, the larger this blessing becomes,

as if the shape of it depends on absence, as if it finds its form not by what it can cling to but by the space that arcs between us.

As this blessing makes its way, first it will cease to measure itself by time.

Then it will release how attached it has become to this place where we have lived, where we have learned to know one another in proximity and presence.

Next this blessing will abandon the patterns in which it moved, the habits that helped it recognize itself, the familiar pathways it traced.

Finally this blessing will touch its fingers to your brow, your eyes, your mouth; it will hold your beloved face in both its hands,

and then it will let you go; it will loose you into your life; it will leave each hindering thing until all that breathes between us is blessing and all that beats between us is grace.

Blessings & love,
Rev. Lois

Music Preference Survey - Responses requested by May 15, 2016

As you know, it is time to seek a new Church Organist/Pianist. Part of the process is to solicit information from the people who are currently attending Sunday morning services to find out what you find most fulfilling.

Please recognize that as we go through this process, we are being guided by some constraints and some strengths:

- A. We have a long tradition of an exceptional music program, including a terrific organ, a strong choral program, and a lot of hymn singing. We do not intend to lose that.
- B. There is a nation-wide shortage of good organists. One report said that the average age of a church organist is now 75! And we are already aware of 4 local protestant churches who are currently seeking a new organist/pianist. So we will be in competition for a scarce resource.
- C. What about Praise Band? It costs more to hire 3-4 musicians (drums, bass, guitar and keyboard) than it does to hire 1, so our budget would be impacted. In addition most Praise music is not a good fit for our church in terms of its theology or depth. However, this doesn't mean that we will automatically rule out a keyboardist who is able to play more contemporary music or jazz, to provide us with more options in our services.

Please think of the music that has had the most significant effect upon you in worship as you answer the following questions.

1. The music that I most look forward to every Sunday is (pick no more than 2):
 - The Choirs Quiet background music
 - The hymns Organ preludes and postludes
 - Taize-style songs (quiet, repeated words and music preparing for prayer)

1. My favorite hymns are (list up to 4 from either hymnal)

3. When the choir sings, the style of music that speaks to my spirit the most is (pick 2):

- traditional music with organ newer music with piano
- Older Gospel & Spirituals up-tempo, Celebration music with drums, bass
- the "Big" pieces with orchestra the quiet pieces with meaningful words

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___ other (describe) _____

4. Please rate the following statements

1 – strongly agree 2 – agree 3 – neither agree nor disagree 4 – disagree
5 – strongly disagree NA – no opinion

I think of music at our church as:

A central part of my worship experience	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Something that makes the service more fulfilling	1	2	3	4	5	NA
A distraction from the worship service	1	2	3	4	5	NA
A tradition that should be maintained	1	2	3	4	5	NA
A tradition that needs serious updating	1	2	3	4	5	NA
A nice background to my thoughts and prayers	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Something others really like but I don't need	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Something that feeds my spirit	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Something that makes me feel like I'm part of the community	1	2	3	4	5	NA
Something I need to participate in to feel like I've really been at church	1	2	3	4	5	NA

5. Please tell us a little about yourself by marking below:

Age: ___ Under 40 ___ 40-65 ___ Over 65

___ Past choir/bell member ___ Current choir/bell member
___ I sing the hymns ___ I prefer to listen but not participate

Additional Comments:

Thank you. This will help us make decisions through the next steps in the process.

Children's

"Children are to be respected and I respect them deeply. They've taught me an awful lot."
- Fred Rogers

I often hear people say that respect must be earned, but I'm not sure that I agree. Rather, I wonder if respect should be assumed until proven otherwise. In St. Peter's first epistle, he writes that we should "show proper respect to everyone." The word we translate to "respect" is *timēsate*, a Greek word meaning "honor" or "value."

Mr. Rogers is perhaps the greatest example that I know of how to model the kind of respect the Bible encourages us to give. He modeled a respect – particularly to children – that not only showed people that they were valued by him, but reminded them of their value to themselves.

May we treat one another with that kind of respect each and every day.

Marlie Heberling,
Interim Director of Children's Ministry

CHILDRENS' MINISTRIES OFFERED PROGRAMS

NURSERY (Age 2 and under) Sunday, 10:00 - 11:15 AM

Childcare is provided for all kids under 2 years old. Kids may be dropped off before worship or after the Children's Moment.

ROOM 6 (Ages 3-6) Sunday, 10:00 - 11:15 AM

After the Children's Moment, kids age 3-6 join a storyteller and door greeter for our Godly Play curriculum, which includes a story, discussion, individual activity time, and a snack. All children must be picked up by a guardian at 11:15.

ROOM 14 (Grades 1-5) Sunday, 10:00 - 11:15 AM

After the Children's Moment, kids in grades 1-5 join a storyteller and door greeter for our Godly Play curriculum, which includes a story, discussion, individual activity time, and a snack. All children in grade 3 and under must be picked up by a guardian at 11:15. Older children will be released to the Fellowship Hall.

Heart 2 Heart

Our monthly event for children in 5th grade and below.

The evening includes: games, a craft project, dinner, and more. H2H is a great chance for the children in our congregation to get to know each other better, bring their friends, and have blast doing it. Adult leaders include: Marlie Heberling, Teri Heberling, John Heberling, Katie Kraft, Tara Neis, and Kadie Eckhardt.

Heart 2 Heart is the second Friday of the month 6:30-9 PM (September through May), .
Kindergarten — 5th grade: \$10
Preschool or younger: \$5

May 13: Hearts on Fire

Contact: Marlie Heberling,
youthdirector@firstccsj.org
408.250.9937 (Call or Text)

WORSHIP & FAMILY PICNIC JUNE 12TH, 10:30 AM

Edenvale Park

200 Edenvale Ave, San Jose

The Children's Ministry Board would like to invite you to a special worship service and picnic in the park.

We will meet at 10:30 am for a brief worship service and then will enjoy fellowship and lunch together. Everyone is invited to any or all, regardless of whether or not you have kids. We hope to have a wonderful intergenerational event!

Please bring your own picnic lunch and, if you can, a dessert to share. We will try to get picnic tables saved, but feel free to bring a lawn/beach chair.

Edenvale offers playgrounds for kids ages 2-12, as well as a sand volleyball court, tennis courts, and a basketball court. There are also lots of grassy area for various games, sports, and miscellaneous shenanigans.

To RSVP and get a reminder, please visit:
fccfamilyworship.eventbrite.com

YOUTH MINIS-

"I believe that appreciation is a holy thing, that when we look for what's best in the person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does; so in appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something truly sacred.

- Fred Rogers

People are the worst. I know that sounds like a very harsh statement, but I stand by it. People are petty and rude and selfish. Then again, people are kind and loving and brave. People lie and cheat and steal. And people create and heal and serve. The truth is that people are messy. We're full of contradictions, incredibly complex, and, so it feels, impossible to love.

And yet, we are told of a God that not only loves us deeply and unconditionally, but who constantly teaches us to do the same for one another. It is that love – the love that God feels for creation, the love that Jesus lived out in his life, the love that sets our souls on fire – that combats our tendencies toward being less than God created us to be. And, as Mr. Rogers reminds us, it is in living out that love that we are "participating in something truly sacred."

Marlie Heberling,
Director of Youth Ministry

YOUTH MINISTRIES OFFERED PROGRAMS

AXIS (Grades 6-12)

Sunday, 10:00 - 11:15 AM

Youth leave after the sermon time. (No AXIS on the first Sunday of the month)

VORTEX (Grades 6-8)

Sunday, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

Youth meet in the Youth Center. Dinner is included.

FLUX (Grades 9-12)

Sunday, 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Youth meet in the Youth Center. Dinner is included.

OUTDOOR MINISTRY EVENTS

Youth meet in the Youth Center. Dinner is included.



May 2016 Happenings

Sunday	5/1	10:00 am	Worship — In Gathering Sunday	Sanctuary
	5/1	11:00 am	In Gathering Sandwich Potluck	Fellowship Hall
	5/1	11:30 am	Adult Forum — Climate Change	Friendship Room
	5/1	6:30 pm	Faith Group	Friendship Room
Monday	5/2	12:15 pm	Dreamer's Choice Lunch	Friendship Room
Tuesday	5/3	7:30 pm	Church Council	Friendship Room
Wednesday	5/4	10:00 am	Women's Fellowship Circle Meeting	Friendship Room
Thursday	5/5	1:00 pm	Bereavement Support Group	Friendship Room
Saturday	5/7	9:00 am	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	5/7	9:00 am	UDF Retreat	Off Site
Sunday	5/8		Happy Mothers Day	
Monday	5/9	7:00 pm	SIMT Meeting	Rev. Tom's Office
Wednesday	5/11	11:30 am	Women's Fellowship Luncheon	Fellowship Hall
Thursday	5/5	1:00 pm	Bereavement Support Group	Friendship Room
Friday	5/13	6:30 pm	Heart 2 Heart	Fellowship Hall
Saturday	5/14	3:00 pm	11th Annual Choir Concert	Fellowship Hall
Sunday	5/15		Pentecost	
	5/15	11:00 am	Pentecost Chilli	Fellowship Hall
	5/15	11:30 am	Adult Forum — "Beyond Belief"	Friendship room
	5/15	6:30 pm	Faith Group	Friendship Room
Monday	5/16		Spire Articles Due	Church Office
Tuesday	5/17	6:30 pm	Common Ground	Friendship Room
Wednesday	5/18	7:00 pm	Evening Women of Faith	Off Site
Thursday	5/5	1:00 pm	Bereavement Support Group	Friendship Room
Friday	5/20	7:00 pm	Confirmation Class Ceremony	Off Site
Saturday	5/21	8:00 am	Church Work Day	Courtyard
	5/21	12:00 pm	CareGivers Support Group	Friendship Room
Sunday	5/22	11:30 pm	Budget Form	Friendship Room
Monday	5/23	10:00 am	Morning Women of Faith	Friendship Room
Tuesday	5/24	9:00 am	Spire Folders	Church Office
Wednesday	5/25	9:30 am	Women's Fellowship Cabinet Mtg	Friendship Room
	5/25	7:00 pm	Sacred Spaces Meeting	Sanctuary
Thursday	5/26	1:00 pm	Bereavement Support Group	Friendship Room
Saturday	5/28	4:00 pm	Labyrinth Walk	Labyrinth
Sunday	5/29	11:30 am	Adult Forum — "Beyond Belief"	Friendship room
Monday	5/30		Memorial Day	Church Office Closed

Adult Forums

- **May 15th** – Budget Forum
- **May 22nd** – Ted Sielaff Lecture, Part I: Elaine Pagels, "Beyond Belief" (Shelley Wessels)
- **May 29nd** – Ted Sielaff Lecture, Part II: Elaine Pagels, "Beyond Belief" (Shelley Wessels)
- **June 5th** – Kick off the planning for Sustainability Fair 2017 by using the Adult Forum time to do some brainstorming about what we might want to consider and include at such an event. So, if you think this might be something you are interested in, come to the forum and help us imagine the possibilities.



Our wonderful volunteers for Rebuilding Together.

Photo by Karen Armor.

The Gazebo

The gazebo has lived it's life at First Congregational Church of San Jose. Does anyone in the congregation want it. You need to email Sue Clayholt by the May 21 Church Work Day or the workers will take care of it then. It would need to be moved by the taker. Sue's email: Sueclayholt@aol.com

AN EVENING OF MUSIC AND STORY

WITH

BOBBY JO VALENTINE

FRIDAY, JUNE 10TH, 7:30 PM

First Congregational Church of San Jose

"Somewhere deep in the heart of everything lies a melody. It speaks to our truest selves, binds us together with the ones we love, and brings out the best part of who we are. Bobby Jo Valentine is a singer/songwriter who chases after this particular kind of music. He writes songs that travel light, but that 'grow deeper and deeper with each further listen.'"

"Born into a Baptist church of strict lines and sharp edges, and coming out of that culture to discover who he really is, Bobby is now a believer of a different sort: a believer in the wild, strange, beautiful nature of the world. Faith has come to mean something much deeper, wider, and less cut-and-dried than when he started. Now, Bobby finds that he often has more to learn from the people who don't believe as he does than from those who do. Along with theatres, house concerts, and many other venues, churches around the nation frequently invite Bobby to offer his stories and songs, challenging us to question why we believe what we do and, most importantly, how that helps us be better humans in the world around us."

– from bobbyjovalentine.com

First Congregational Church of San Jose is pleased to host Bobby Jo Valentine for an evening of his "hope-soul" music. Bobby has performed at numerous UCC churches and conference gatherings, the 2016 Emerge conference, the Wild Goose Festival and more. We look forward to this special evening of music and story.

Admission to the concert is free, but a free-will offering will be taken to benefit the Youth Scholarship Fund and the youth attending National Youth Event this summer.

All the Way Home

Do you have a room, apartment, or house for rent? Please consider renting it to a homeless veteran. There are 703 homeless veterans in Santa Clara County, which is nearly 10 percent of the homeless population and among the highest number of unsheltered veterans in the U.S. Join our **All the Way Home Campaign** launched by the City of San Jose and the County, which is offering incentives to landlords who house veterans. Please contact my office at 408-299-5030 for more information.

Thank you for all your help and support.

The-Vu Nguyen
Policy Aide To

Dave Cortese
President, Board of Supervisors



Our next meeting is *May 21, 2016 noon - 2:00 p.m.* in the Friendship Room. If you are in the position of being a caregiver or support person (long distance, or nearby), and would like to connect with others experiencing the same kind of challenges, this is the group for you. Whether you are caring for a parent or a spouse, sibling or neighbor, you are welcome to join us. We meet on the third Saturday of each month. Each meeting we have a time of check in, and then explore a topic related to caregiving. Bring a dish to share for our monthly potluck.



All women are invited to attend our Women of Faith Groups. We meet monthly for discussion of a theme and loving support for one another. You are welcome to join either or both groups.

Morning Women of Faith
Meets the *4th Monday at 10:00 am* each month. Our next meeting is *May 23, 2016*. All women are welcome to this time of mutual support and caring conversation. Please join us!

Evening Women of Faith: will meet on *Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at 7pm*. For more information about joining this group contact Rev Lois or Ellen Cook.

Council Meeting Highlights

Acknowledgments & Celebrations:

- ♥ To Brian Link for helping in the garden
- ♥ To Katie Brown's Cub Scouts for helping Marlie Heberling clean out closets
- ♥ To Dave Elliott for arranging for R. E. Friedman to speak on Sunday
- ♥ To all who worked on the Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday tableaux
- ♥ To Fellowship for hosting the Easter brunch
- ♥ To all who lead the Easter season worship
- ♥ To Charles Weidmann, Liz Carrey, and Children's Ministries for coordinating the Easter egg hunt

Highlights:

- ◆ **Carden School** will soon widen the sidewalk on the Leigh side of our parking lot. Landscaping will be removed, but the parking lot will not be impacted.
- ◆ **MOTION:** That we display both an American flag and a World flag in the Narthex, except for special events. Motion carried
- ◆ **MOTION:** That Cindy Eckhardt, Mary Rothgeb, Marlie Heberling, Patty Ebner, and 1 youth to be named will be our delegates to the NCNCUCC Annual Gathering. **SECOND:** Mark Domnauer. Motion carries
- ◆ **MOTION:** That First Congregational Church establish a new partnership with Elmwood Correctional Facility to create a vegetable garden with and for the inmates. Motion carried

If you would like a full copy of the Church Council Minutes please email: office@firstccsj.org or call the office: 408-377-7121.



In Our Thoughts and Prayers

- ✝ Emily Mossman
- ✝ Sue Fettchenhauer recovering from hand surgery.
- ✝ Billie Cole grieving for her husband Hal.
- ✝ Dianne Noren recovering from knee surgery.
- ✝ Linda Lester grieving for her father LeLand Lester
- ✝ Peggy Hylbert recovering from knee surgery.
- ✝ Irma Eichhorn recovering from an auto accident.
- ✝ All those who are recipients of hospice care.
- ✝ The women at Elmwood Jail.
- ✝ All Military active duty and all Veterans; May we be a welcoming congregation for all those who have served (and their families) in the Armed Forces

Associate Minister Search Team Report

The Search team continues its work identifying and screening potential candidates for the Minister for Congregational Life position. We have had several applicants whose qualifications excite us and we continue to receive Profiles from others. Our process is to have conversations with those top candidates' references prior to an initial telephone interview. The references we've communicated with thus far have been very positive, and we hope to begin scheduling initial interviews in the very near future.



Picture by Jeanne Farrington



May Birthdays

Audrey Campbell-Eby	5/1
Armando Ayala	5/2
Bob Meyer	5/2
Ashley Rarick	5/2
Jeff Charlesworth	5/5
Rusty Davis-Clem	5/5
Marty Wohlwend	5/5
Alan Woodward	5/6
Eric Walsh	5/8
Becky Lake	5/9
Sui Sheung Lew	5/10
Eli Stachnick	5/13
Fletcher Stachnick	5/13
Katie Brown	5/14
Scott Johnson	5/15
Helen Hansen	5/16
B.J. Fulton	5/18
Kelley Baker	5/19
Mayetta Behringer	5/20
Diane Noren	5/20
Erv Fettchenhauer	5/21
Bryan Grady	5/21
Ted Key	5/24
Angel Ruiz	5/26
Randy Rupp	5/26
Judy Demers	5/28
Jan Heymann	5/29
Michael Nemcik	5/29
Debbie Earl	5/31



May Anniversaries

Dan & Julie Scheve	5/7
Scott & Emily Ware	5/7
Justin Warner &	
Karyn Cilker	5/20
Terry & Gwen Duffy	5/26
Stan & Bonnie Hunt	5/28
Jeff & Terry Hickey	5/29
Gordon &	
Kathy Sheridan	5/30

2016 SPIRE DATES

<u>Month</u>	<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Mailing</u>
January	Mon. Dec. 14	Dec. 30
February	Mon. Jan. 19	Jan. 28
March	Mon. Feb. 16	Feb. 25
April	Mon. Mar. 16	Mar. 25
May	Mon. Apr. 20	Apr. 29
June	Mon. May 18	May 27
July	Mon. June 15	June 24
August	Mon. July 20	July 29
September	Mon. Aug. 17	Aug. 26
October	Mon. Sept. 21	Sept. 30
November	Mon. Oct. 19	Oct. 28
December	Mon. Nov. 16	Nov. 25
January 2017	Mon. Dec. 19	Dec. 28



Picture by
Jeanne
Farrington

Staff Office Hours

Rev. Tom is in the office Saturday — Wednesday & takes Thursday & Friday off.

Rev. Lois is available in her office Sunday, Tuesday — Thursday & takes, Friday & Monday off.

Kristin's hours are Monday, Wednesday, & Thursday 9:00 a.m.-noon.

Marlie's hours are Sunday, Tuesday — Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m

Cindy's - Office manager is in the office Monday — Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.



Remembering Our Military

Please send updates when possible.

Army

Greg Smith,

Prayers requested by Katie Brown

Carl Blöm,

Prayers requested by Billie and Hal Cole

Rob Flournoy, David Christopher and Luke Groening,

Prayers requested by Jacqui Reed

Nicole Brookwell,

Prayers requested by Donald and Eugenia Allen-Egbert

Isaac Swiftbird,

Prayers requested by Lorraine Casto

Marines

Uriel Huizache,

Prayer request by Susan Price-Jang

Brad Flournoy,

Prayers requested by Jacqui Reed

Navy

Travis Hamilton

Prayers requested by Patrick Campbell and Laurel Eby

All Military active duty and all Veterans:

May we be a welcoming congregation for all those who have served (and their families) in the Armed Forces

Prayers requested by Rev. Penny Phillips



1980 Hamilton Avenue
San Jose • CA • 95125-5638

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Monday - Thursday)

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. (Friday)

WORSHIP TIME - SUNDAY AT 10:00 A.M.

Children's Church School and
Nursery Care are available

Mission Statement: *To understand and live out Jesus' vision for a just and loving world.*

We are an Open and Affirming Congregation!

Women's Fellowship Luncheon
Honoring Our Past Presidents

Wednesday, May 11, 2016
11:30 a.m.

Program: The Sizzling Seniors Dance Troupe -
"We demonstrate how to lead an active life - by
meeting new people and sending new messages to
the brain, all within the spirituality and beauty of
music."

Tickets: \$ 5.00

Tickets will be available after church on *May 1st*
and *May 8th* and at Circle on *Wednesday, May 4th.*

Voluntary food donation: dried or canned beans
or rice

All Are Welcome!



Mark Your Calendar! The Spring
All-Church Work Day

Work Day is scheduled for **Saturday, May 21,**
from 8am to noon.

We will have many different opportunities to partici-
pate, including gardening, carpentry, electrical, paint-
ing, and general cleaning. And if there is a task that
you want to do, and you don't see it on our list, you
can add it. We will have lots of coffee and juice and
donuts, and even some healthy snacks, to keep you
well-fueled. So join us for fun, fellowship, and service,
as we continue to take care of this beautiful campus
which has been gifted to us. Sign up in Fellowship
Hall after worship service, or contact Charles
Weidmann at

cpwe@ix.netcom.com or
408.893.9902.

