



Tributaries

First, a word about the new title for this page: "Tributaries." Early in my ministerial career I came up with that name in place of what is usually entitled the "The Pastor's Pen," or "From the Pastor's Study." Those titles all seemed old and stodgy to me; so 19th Century! I came up with the name "Tributaries" because I love rivers. I love how little streams become big rivers that carve and nurture valleys. I love how individual voices become a choir, individual lives become beloved communities, and communities can become a social movement to heal the planet.

The way in which tributaries become rivers is a fitting metaphor for my thoughts about the Camino de Sonoma retreat that took place on August 22, as well as my sermon series for the month of August on Parker J. Palmer's "Five Habits of the Heart."

The facilitation skills of Rev. Carol Barriger, and the worship services that she led at the beginning and end of the day, helped to create safe and sacred boundaries for the 46 people who showed up for this retreat. Everyone was given the opportunity to share from their heart, without fear of interruption or argument, their responses to the questions, "What do love about this church?" "What are you looking for in a new minister?" "What do you want to experience in our sanctuary?" "What do we need to attend to during this interim time?"

Each voice was a tributary that joined with other voices to become rivers. The river is wide and deep when all five habits of the heart are practiced.

What was shared during this retreat will help inform that Pastoral Search Committee, the Sanctuary Renovation Committee, the Church Council and Committees and staff, as we walk this pilgrimage together. The sacred conversation that took place on August 22nd is only one of many that will take place during this interim time.

As we move through this process may we remember that we are all in this together, speak up for ourselves as we listen to one another, hold tension creatively so that a new vision might arise as we receive the gift of being in a beloved community. May we trust and support those who have accepted the responsibility of leadership with our prayers and with our ongoing participation.

I love the Scripture passage that Rev. Carol gave us for the day from Mark 10:32, ("They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed..."). If we trust ourselves, one another, and the One who is walking ahead of us we need not be afraid. We can be amazed!

New Members Class: If you are interested in learning more about this congregation, the United Church of Christ, and considering becoming a member of this church please let me know. I want to offer a class sometime in the next two months.

Calling all Acoustic Musicians: We are blessed with a lot of musicians in this church who play guitar, mandolin, harmonica, flute, ukulele, and who knows what else. I think it would be fun to get together once a month and sing songs just for the fun of it. Let me know if you are interested.

Committee News

Church Council

Highlights from the August Church Council board meeting:

- ✓ We have two pianos. The smaller one in Burlingame Hall is a better piano and will be placed on the ground floor of the Sanctuary. The choir will be back in the chancel area in the Fall.
- ✓ This year is the 20th anniversary of Shir Shalom!
- ✓ Rev. Alan Claassen will be on vacation September 7 - 14.
- ✓ Terry Jensen will design a Taize service for September 13.

-- Lori Hutchinson

Outreach

The Outreach Committee wishes to thank everyone who contributed to the Seeds of Learning call for help for the solar roof project on La Laguna learning Center in Nicaragua. We exceeded our \$1000 goal!

Our Moment of Mission in September will focus on Nuestra Voz, whose mission is to develop leadership among the Latino community of Sonoma Valley. Nuestra Voz focuses on health and wellness through fitness and sports; mental health, literacy, radio and graphic media, gardening and healthy cooking classes, cultural and artistic traditions, classes and events, and voter registration and civic engagement.

-- Janice Mattison

Treasurer Report

Through the end of July the church's income is under budget and expenses are also under budget.

Income budgeted	\$138,902
Income received	\$136,502
Expenses budgeted	\$135,958
Expenses actual	\$131,340

Financial statements are on file in the church office for your inspection. Electronic versions are available on request, let Candi Horton know if you would like to receive these via email.

-- Candi Horton

Women's Fellowship

Tuesday, September 8, 11:30 am, Community Room
Join us as we enjoy our bag lunches and "catching up" conversations until noon when our business meeting begins. We will vote in new officers and discuss our plans for the rest of the year. All women in our congregation are encouraged to join us, the more the merrier.

-- Judy Weiner

Worship Committee

The next Communion service is set for September 6, the same Sunday that the choir returns from their summer break. On September 13 our quarterly Taize service is scheduled.

Nancy showed photos of two possible and simple handrails for the chancel steps. She will discuss the options with George Weiner, who hopefully can build a replica of one or the other.

Rev. Alan will research with Rev. Matt Pearson, the pastor of Sonoma United Methodist Church, some possible dates to show a film on the life of Hildegard of Bingen as a shared event for both congregations.

--Tim Boeve

Youth Committee

Sunday school teacher, Emily Webber, is back and ready to teach children ages 5 to 12. Child care is also available for babies and preschoolers.

Fall Family Game Night!

Saturday, September 19, 5:00 - 8:00 pm

Dinner is provided.

Come join the fun,
indoors and out,
and bring your friends
and family!



- Dotty Abbott

This Month

ALAN CLAASSEN ON VACATION

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Alan and Betsy will be enjoying some time in Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Looking Ahead

CARING FRIENDS

Beginning in October Caring Friends is going to begin studying the UCC Resource titled Called to Care that provides excellent guidance and resources for what we do. This is a good opportunity for anyone who would like to become of a part of this ministry to members of our church who are homebound, in the hospital, or in need of a friend. Please let Alan or anyone on Caring Friends know of your interest. Next meeting is Wednesday, October 7, 12:30-2 pm.

ALAN CLAASSEN'S NEW WORK SCHEDULE

Beginning in September Alan will be taking Monday as his day off. He will be in the office Tuesday through Friday.

Let the Bells Ring!

Our handbell choir is getting ready to ring for the fall and we still have a few openings if you would like to try it out. We will hold an Introduction to Handbells workshop on Thursday, September 3, at 4:30 pm in the Community Room. This is a perfect time to just come and see what it's like to hold and ring these beautiful instruments.

Contact Susan Kelchner at (925) 890-4345 to sign up.



PASTORAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Always seeking authenticity, the Pastoral Search Committee (PSC) is thoughtfully constructing our church's Local Church Profile (LCP), which is the church's "resume." With input from you, our constituents, this is the document we publish for potential candidates who wish to become our next permanent pastor. Unlike a product on Ebay, the LCP reaches deep into the life of the church exposing our strengths and shortcomings. It will contain a complete description of who we are, from our ages and backgrounds to our challenges, individually and collectively. It will authentically define what we want to accomplish in the next five years and how we expect the person we are seeking to help us reach these goals.

We are studying the responses from the inquiry groups led by Alan. We listened, took notes and participated with you at the Camino de Sonoma. We heard you speak your deepest desires at the Retreat led by Rev. Carol Barriger and Rev. Alan. We will continue to listen as you respond to individual surveys which will be mailed soon. As members of committees and organizations you will have opportunities to add additional perspectives.

Better than any spoken or written words, we now have the gift of Veda and Ellen's schematic, an artistic and imaginative view of the Camino de Sonoma. You can follow our journey on this chart which is on the wall in the Community Room. Like you, we each have a personal stake in the selection of our next pastor and in how we move forward. We on the PSC esteem our commitment to each of you. We carry you with us on the Camino. We value your prayers of support. And we promise you our thoughtful, authentic selves as we travel the Camino de Sonoma together.

Your Pastoral Search Committee is:
Susan Kelchner, Ellen LaBruce, Elizabeth Griego, Emily Webber, Tim Boeve, Veda Lewis, Ray Snipes, Nancy Denkin and Jan Edwards.

-- Jan Edwards

CAMP CAZ ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

OCTOBER 2-4, 2015

DON'T MISS ALL THE FUN!!!



Arts 'n Crafts
Hikes - Walks - More Hikes
Wild Basketball/Touch Football Games
Bad Hair Day - Secret Buddy - Turtle Bread
Naps in the Afternoon (or whenever you want!)
Saturday Night Campfire • Talent/No Talent Night
Vesper Point Sunday Morning Service under the trees
Sharing meals with friends

If you would like to use the swimming pool on Saturday please let Kathy Aanestad know so she can reserve it.

Camp Caz, a wonderful Fall get-away retreat, is for everyone – families, singles, couples, young and not-so-young!

..... (cut here)

REGISTRATION FORM

Camp Caz Fall Retreat • October 2 - 4, 2015

Name(s): _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Number people in each age category:

- () Adults and children ages 12 and over.....\$110 each
- () Children 6 through 11.....\$70 each
- () Children 5 and under.....\$FREE
- () Maximum for a family (*defined as parent(s) and children under 12*).....\$245

- Payment due no later than Friday, September 4.
- **Make check payable to UCC CAMP**
- Mail check to FCC Sonoma, Attn: Kathy Aanestad, 252 W. Spain St., Sonoma, CA 95476
- Directions and cabin assignments sent after reservation and payment received.
- Please note any dietary restrictions, or other important information below:

Questions? Please contact Kathy Aanestad at 935-6690

Greetings from Nancy Taylor

Dear Beloved FCC Members and Friends,

Grace and peace to you from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts!

Chey and I send our love and greetings. We traveled from Sonoma to western Massachusetts at the end of May and have been in Northampton since June 2. On August 31, I'll begin working as a Kitchen Work Team Leader at Gould Farm, located just outside Monterey, MA.

I discovered Gould Farm through the UCC Volunteer Ministries and the description I read of the farm matched the vision I had been having. Gould Farm is a working farm that produces much of its own food. It is an intentional community that serves as a therapeutic community for people with mental illness; bringing together sustainable agriculture, working with animals, construction, or other kinds of physical work. I am amazed and truly joyous that I will soon be moving to the farm and joining the community.

You remain very much in my heart and prayers. I trust that the Spirit has already taken you to new and deeper places of healing and loving service this year and that you will continue to be a church where the power and beauty of God's love are tangible.

With love and blessings always,
Rev. Nancy

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE?

You'll be able to...

- see what's going on at FCC,
- read the latest Grapevine,
- check out the Calendar events,
- see what Earth Care and other committees are doing

“Bookmark” or create a “Favorites” for sonomaucc.org page and check out your new website! Everything you ever wanted to know but were afraid to ask is there: photos, text, videos, stories, etc.

Questions or comments? Please address them to [Kathy Aanestad](mailto:Kathy.Aanestad@sonomaucc.org), FCC webmaster.

-- Kathy Aanestad

Contact Us | Map & Directions | Staff | Prayer Request | Calendar | Photo Gallery | Thank You | Faculty Roster

First Congregational Church of Sonoma

United Church of Christ
an inclusive community of faith seeking peace and justice for all

SPIRITUAL GROWTH | WAYS TO SERVE | WAYS TO CONNECT | THIS WEEK | ABOUT US

Our Theology...
Love, Peace, and Justice

SPIRITUALITY FOR TODAY'S WORLD

Progressive Christianity is a new spirituality for the twenty first century.

It is characterized by acceptance and love for all human beings, a strong emphasis on social justice and peace, care of the poor and marginalized, respect for the wisdom and practices of other traditions, and an active relationship with the earth.

OPEN & AFFIRMING

We welcome people of every age, economic status, ethnicity, gender, mental and physical ability, nationality, race, religious background and sexual orientation.

[Learn More](#)

EARTH CARE

We believe that the Earth and all its life forms are part of the sacred Web of Life.

[Learn More](#)

EVENTS

- Sunday Worship**
August 16, 2015
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
- Property and Finance 10am CR**
August 17, 2015
10:00 AM - 12:00 AM
- Poetry Group**
August 17, 2015
04:30 PM - 05:00 PM
- Seekers 7pm CR**
August 18, 2015
07:30 PM - 09:00 PM

WAYS TO CONNECT | THIS WEEK | ABOUT US

252 West Spain Street, Sonoma, CA 95476 | Tel: 707-896-1328 | Contact Us

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Get us off campus
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Worship in September

September 6: Service of Holy Communion

September 13: Taize Service

September 20: International Day of Peace Sunday

September 27: American Indian Ministry Sunday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:00 pm CR Earth Care 7:00 pm S Choir	2 12:30 pm CR Caring Friends 7:30 pm CR Pastoral Search Committee	3 4:00 pm S Sanctuary Renovation Comm. 4:15 pm CR Bells 7:00 pm CR Church Council	4 8:00 am CR Meditation	5
6 F.I.S.H. Sunday 10:30 am Worship and Communion Body Prayer after worship	7 4:00 pm CR Poetry Group	8 11:30 am CR Women's Fellowship 7:00 pm S Choir	9	10 4:15 pm CR Bells 7:00 pm CR Worship Committee	11 8:00 am CR Meditation	12 9:00 am CR + S Congregation Shir Shalom Service
13 9:00 am CR Spiritual Inquiry 10:30 am Worship Rosh Hashanah begins at sundown	14 4:00 pm CR Poetry Group	15 7:00 pm S Choir	16 3:00 pm CR Outreach 7:30 pm CR Pastoral Search Committee	17 4:15 pm CR Bells	18 8:00 am CR Meditation	19 5:00 - 8:00 pm BH Family Game Night!
20 10:30 am Worship Body Prayer after worship	21 4:00 pm CR Poetry Group	22 Yom Kippur begins at sundown 7:00 pm S Choir	23	24 4:15 pm CR Bells	25 8:00 am CR Meditation 5:00 pm CR + S Congregation Shir Shalom Service	26 10:00 am CR Congregation Shir Shalom Torah Study
27 9:00 am CR Spiritual Inquiry 10:30 am Worship Shir Shalom builds their Sukkah	28 10:00 am CR Property and Finance 4:00 pm CR Poetry Group	29 7:00 pm S Choir	30 7:30 pm CR Pastoral Search Committee	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p>S = Sanctuary CR = Community Room BH = Burlingame Hall</p> </div>		29

Date	Deacon	Liturgist	Flowers	Ushers	Coffee Hour
Sept. 6	Nancy Denkin	Bev Pearson	Dotty Abbott	The Love Family	Lori Hutchinson
Sept. 13	Eugene Campagna	Tim Boeve	Judy Weiner	Mary Beth Halsey and Kathleen Gray	Janice Mattison and friends
Sept. 20	Eugene Campagna	Brian Smucker	The States family	Randy and Linda States	Nancy Ladd and Margie Mitchell
Sept. 27	Eugene Campagna	Nancy Denkin	Patricia Henley	Patricia Henley and Dotty Abbott	Kathleen Gray



**Happy
Birthday**

5 - Lory Campagna
15 - Logan Baumgarten
17 - Susan Kelchner
18 - Deidre Baumgarten
21 - Katie Hutchinson
21 - Dick Ridenour
21 - Winston Vaughan
25 - Terry Jensen
25 - Patricia Noel

If you know of a birthday that isn't listed, please let the office know!

First Congregational Church of Sonoma
252 West Spain St., Sonoma, CA 95476

www.sonomaucc.org

(707) 996-1328

contact@sonomaucc.org

Worship Service and Sunday School:

10:30 am Sunday

Office Hours: Wednesday - Friday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Interim Minister: Alan Claassen, alan@sonomaucc.org

Music Director: Terry Lezama-Jensen, thj828@sbcglobal.net

Pianist: Sondra Cooper, sonn@vom.com

Sunday School Teacher: Emily Webber

Childcare Providers: Anna DeSmet & Natalie Baker

Office & Event Manager: Angela Ljung

Facilities Manager: Steve Cook

Pastor Emeritus: David McCracken

**We are an Open and Affirming
Earth Care Church**

Leadership Directory

Moderator,

Margie Mitchell, 996-3865, 337-9423,
mmitchell73@sonic.net

Vice Moderator

Ray Snipes, 999-1492, raysnipes@yahoo.com

Secretary

Lori Hutchinson, 935-7654, lori@hutchinsonconsulting.com

Treasurer

Candi Horton, 939-1687, csmucker@vom.com

Property & Finance

Bill Hutchinson, 935-7654, bill@hutchinsonconsulting.com

Worship

Nancy Denkin, 938-0673, ndenkin@vom.com

Brian Smucker, 939-1687, smucker@vom.com

Youth

Dotty Abbott, 996-5026, dotabbott@comcast.net

Outreach

Janice Mattison, 996-5124, janicemattison@gmail.com

Earth Care

John Donnelly, 933-8128, donnelyj63@gmail.com

Hospitality

Karen Boon, 815-7970, karenmarieboon@hotmail.com

Nancy Ladd, (415)608-7843, laddnancy@gmail.com

Caring Friends

Alan Claaasen, 996-1328

Nominating

Patricia Serota, 815-2759, patriciads@comcast.net

Stewardship

Patricia Henley, 938-5226, Bill Hutchinson, 935-7654,

Keith Ridenhour, 939-6949

Women's Fellowship

Judy Weiner, 938-1318, judyweiner@comcast.net

Historian

Patricia Serota, 815-2759, patriciads@comcast.net

Endowment Committee

Mary Evelyn Arnold, 938-1578, mearnold@vom.com