

FCCSR • NEWS

A temporary communication tool for the COVID 19 era/ethos/period/heartbeat moment

“Pray Their Names” installation came like a breath of hope.

It was a labor of love that brought us together for two mornings in the worst heat of this summer. Debra Kelly’s son Ben and his friend Mazi were the heroes of the install, digging by hand the post holes we needed to plant 30 hearts on the church property. “Dave,” a man from the neighborhood also helped Riadh get some of the hearts in the ground.



The art installation called “Pray Their Names” graced the church property for two weeks. The whole project has 160 hearts each bearing a name of a black person killed at the hands of the police. From Santa Rosa the hearts will travel around the Bay Area, going next to Niles Community UCC church in Fremont.



The message and visual beauty of the project has been welcomed by the community. People walking their dogs and riding by often stopped in to look at the hearts and read the sign. It was truly a way to make love visible.



WE REMEMBERED THE BOMBING OF HIROSHIMA

75 YEARS

It was 4:15 PM August 5 , 1945, California time and 8:15 AM August 6 1945 Hiroshima time that the Enola Gay dropped its atomic payload on that awakening city. About twenty of us gathered at 4:15 August 5, 2020 to remember. We read the opening paragraphs of John Hersey’s book, HIROSHIMA and rang bells 75 times to remember each year that has passed. We prayed for peace, as we wore masks and stood at arms length.

We gathered around our Peace Pole, one of thousands of such poles planted around the world.



**Our building may be closed
but our church is open !**

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

AUGUST - MAY

All meetings on Zoom

August

- The Humboldt Community Preschool** has returned, serving 12 children.
- The Sanctuary Remodel** continued with window shades and a film applied to the windows, to enhance appearance and improve insulation.
- The **Stewardship theme** was chosen: The Stewardship theme this year will be based on the materials from the UCC materials and our own Mission Statement to “Make Love Visible. The theme will be introduced on Sunday, October 25. **Volunteers are needed** to speak at a service or write for a Mail Chimp on “How the church is helping me make God’s love visible.”
- Search Committee** Co-Chairs, **Marcia Brumbaugh and Evelyn Smith** met with Council Members at a Special Meeting on August 12 to take another look the salary being offered to a settled pastor. The currently approved amounts did not meet Conference Guidelines. We approved an increase, for a total of \$84,000 for salary, housing and benefits, for a three-quarter time pastor.

July

- The **Personnel Committee** recommended a boost of \$416 per month in the Pastor’s salary, in addition to one Sunday off per month. (The amount was already budgeted for this fiscal year.)

Council Highlights Continued:

- **Outreach Team** added a new member, **Mary Pack**.
- **Jan and Paul Chaffee** were appointed to work with **Ruth Tucker Bogart** and **John Derby** on the Endowment Committee
- The Council continues to **search for a Vice Moderator and a Stewardship Chairperson**.
- **The Safe Re-gathering Committee, Judy Adams, Mark Brumbaugh, Marcia Murray, Hannah Wallstrum**, reported on the conditions that would need to be met in order for us to return to in-person worship. The Council agreed that we cannot be ready yet. The Committee will meet monthly to reassess.

June

- **Our Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)** loan of approximately \$22,000, was in our account at Exchange Bank. This allows us to continue paying staff for eight weeks. The loan can be forgiven if the guidelines are followed. (And we expect to qualify for forgiveness!)

May

- **Riadh Said**, Chair of F&M, stated that he, **Mark Brumbaugh**, and **Jeff Wilson** have been working around the grounds. Pastor Anne, Francine Goodson, and Kathy Johnson have been working on the Bermuda grass.

(The **Outreach Team** has been sending a separate newsletter letting the congregation know of its activities.)

We worship together every Sunday on Zoom. The services are at 10 and 11:30. It is a way for us to be in touch, to feel like a church, to share communion and prayer, sing and hear the Gospel. If you would like to join us, email Reverend Hoffmann revannelouise@gmail.com.



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SO MANY WAYS TO BE GENEROUS • SO MANY WAYS TO LOVE

- **REDWOOD EMPIRE FOOD BANK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!**
Sign up at their website
- <https://refb.volunteerhub.com/?format=List&filter=118833>
- **GET OUT THE VOTE** • register with Conference for church wide letter writing • At Home
- <https://ncnc.dreamhosters.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Big-Send-Invite.pdf>

To all those who have kept up with their pledges and continue to support this congregation –

THANK YOU !



From Pastor Anne

There I am, masked like a bandit and growing out my hair. I have to say that I am ready for this to be over. Yet I don't know what "over" means. Truly we are not going back.

During the week of my 70th birthday the world changed. We are like Bilbo Baggins riding on a pony to some adventure and we forgot our pocket handkerchiefs. We haven't even had time to realize how unprepared we are. We're like the Israelites after the escape into the Wilderness. So what if they were the slaves of the Egyptians, it was home. Even if it was a world of extreme inequality, and precarious healthcare and a deeply ingrained racism that has surprised our white privilege, it was what we had become comfortable with.

Now we are in the wilderness where food is hard to come by and water is scarce, and the nights are cold in the desert. But thru this we must pass if we are to get to some new place. Not like the old but someplace where we can start over with our upgraded sense of resilience and awareness. May we turn the corner and discover our true selves, more clever and compassionate than we ever realized. My hope is that God knows something about us we don't yet know.

WATCH THIS SPACE

CHURCH WEBSITE

Thanks to the grand efforts of Judy Adams we are redesigning our website. Unveiling sometime in Sept.

GIVING ONLINE.

You can now download the APP *Givelify* on your smart phone and sign up with your credit card info and give to this congregation whenever you feel like it. **MORE ABOUT THIS IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER**

WHITE SUPREMACY

AND ME - groups to start after Labor Day. Look for an email September 7.



FREE EXERCISE CLASS ON ZOOM THRU THE JUNIOR COLLEGE CLASSES FOR OLDER ADULTS

Julie Chasen (who, when our building is open, teaches the Thursday exercise class) is offering a free online class. These are fun classes designed to help adults of all levels of fitness. Exercises can be performed seated or standing.

MONDAYS @ 3 PM and THURSDAYS AT @ 2 PM
Register ONLINE at <https://older-adults.santarosa.edu/>

CHECK OUT OTHER CLASSES FOR OLDER ADULTS TOO!

