

THE SEER



JANUARY 2021

*First*  
*Congregational*  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

### Notes From The Pastor

Hello First Congregational United Church of Christ Santa Rosa! It is such a pleasure for me to be among you as your settled minister. This last month has been a blur of activity as I try to get up to speed and lead through the Advent and Christmas season. I so enjoyed being with you on Sundays, Wednesdays and our two special services: Blue Christmas and Christmas Eve. Thank you to everyone who participated in worship. Your presence (even when your video is off) is not only noticed, but also greatly appreciated. Thank you to the team who brought us the drive-by welcome and to everyone who came through. It was a thrill to spend a little time with each of you. I truly look forward to the day when we can sit down next to one another in person and I have no doubt that day will come. Until then, know that I am working my way through the directory and hope to make contact with everyone soon! My contact details are below – please do not hesitate to reach out.

Yours in Christ,

Diana

*(continued on next page)*

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Council Highlights
- Safe Regathering Report
- Star Words 2021
- January Birthdays!

*(continued "Notes From The Pastor")*

Email: [pastordianabk@gmail.com](mailto:pastordianabk@gmail.com)

Phone: Church (707) 546-0998 (office/church main line with voicemail)

Cell (415) 300-7177

"Office Hours" – As you might imagine, I am working from home right now. I am  $\frac{3}{4}$  time which translates roughly to 4 days/week. My days on are Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Mondays, Fridays and some Saturdays are days off/ Sabbath. I try very hard not to check emails or answer the phone when I am off. \*If you have a pastoral emergency, I hope you will call or text me.\* If you have a concern that is not time sensitive, please email and I'll return it as soon as I'm able.

---

---

### Safe Regathering December 2020 Report

As the Safe Regathering Committee continues to follow the local COVID situation, it remains apparent that the church's regathering status is much the same. Our county remains in the purple tier which indicates the virus is widespread here.

We are all looking forward to the vaccine on the horizon.

Stay well,

Judy Adams, Mark Brumbaugh, Marcia Murray and Hannah Wallstrum

## Council Highlights

Note: Meetings take place via Zoom

### November

- **PPRC for new Pastor Diana Bell-Kerr:** Moderator Virginia Greenwald named members of the Pastor/Parish Relations Committee (PPRC) for our new minister, Rev. Diana Bell-Kerr. They are Marcia Brumbaugh, Church Cadman, Alicia Said, Kathy Johnson, and Drew Fagent.
- **Baptism:** Interim Pastor Anne Hoffmann, planned to baptize **Debra Kelly**, aka Kelly Kelly, on Nov. 24, outside the church. People were encouraged to drive by and wave.
- **Pastor Anne**, attending her final Council meeting, recognized the work of two “unsung heroes,” **Francine Goodson and Kathy Beltz**. Both have provided significant support to the pastor and parish during this COVID time.
- **The Outreach Team** is continuing the usual Yuletide projects such as Secret Santa and Alternative Christmas (Heifer International). Virtual links will be sent out in the weekly newsletter.

### December

- **The Council welcomed the Rev. Diana Bell-Kerr** to her first Council meeting. She led a discussion on Dreams and Visions for the Church, using the image of planting things that will last far beyond our time. What is the big piece to invest our life in? What is God calling us to do?
- **Rev. Paul Chaffee** was appointed as the Chair of the Stewardship Team.
- **Treasurer Mark Adams** reported feeling optimistic about the pledges received so far. He and others are calling folks who have not yet submitted a pledge.
- **Kathy Johnson** was appointed as the Assistant Financial Secretary.
- **Church Life Chair, Linda Duckett**, stated that her Team is working to maintain contact with people who are not on Zoom access.
- **Worship Chair, Evelyn Smith**, has been working with Pastor Diana, who selected the *Those Who Dream Litany* for the Christmas season.
- **Office upgrade:** A sorely-needed new computer has been purchased for the church office. It’s being set up and will be installed soon. New phone equipment will also be purchased.
- Next **Council meeting** is Thursday, January 21, at 3:30, via Zoom. If you would like to attend, you can request the Zoom link from Moderator Virginia Greenwald at [dvgreenw@comcast.net](mailto:dvgreenw@comcast.net)

## Star Words 2021

As part of our Epiphany celebration, we blessed and then mailed (week of Jan 3<sup>rd</sup>) an Epiphany “star word” to you via the mail with an explanatory letter. We hope you will ponder and pray with your word over the coming year. Each star word is unique! You are invited to pray with your star word, wrestle with the meaning(s) and definition(s) and application(s) it might have for you this year.

If you did not receive a star word through the mail, but would like to join in this practice, please let the office or Diana know and she will prayerfully draw one on your behalf and send it to you. As the Spirit opens you to deeper meaning, we hope you will share what you are experiencing.

---

---

### January Birthdays

1/16 Francine Goodson

1/26 Sarah Fagent

1/17 Hannah Wallstrum

1/29 Virginia Greenwald

1/24 Jan MacDonald



**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**2000 Humboldt St., Santa Rosa, CA 95404 • 707-546-0998**  
**email: [secty@sonic.net](mailto:secty@sonic.net)**