First Congregational UCC Santa Rosa

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## Welcome to our new Office Administrator! Alondra Mendoza

What a treat to welcome Alondra to our office! Alondra has an impressive set of office skills and brings years of administrative experience. She has many gifts and skills and we will invite her to introduce herself once she's in place. Alondra will be in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I hope you will join me in welcoming her to our church community.

-Pastor Diana

# Our Church Changes Lives by Hannah Wallstrum

In response to the question, "When have you experienced love within this congregation in life-changing ways? Hannah responded with this story of honesty, depression, empathy and compassion. Please **click here** to read Hannah's story.

#### Youth and Families Gathering

Sunday, Nov 12 5pm @ Robinson/Petersen home

RSVP to Judy Adams so pizza can be ordered. Bring your joy and parental units for an evening of games and connecting. All youth and their families welcome.

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The last few months the Isaiah Project team did 30 interviews with members of our church community. So many of us are craving deep connection and fun with each other that we have begun to name this as a need for relational ministry. It's a human need and a religious need. We have also been retelling the stories of Jesus and we realized that Jesus also wants to know people deeply. He sits down with everyone, insiders, outsiders, poor people, rich people. He does a lot of eating and he brings people into community with each other.

Our first of hopefully many experiments is centered in God's dream of undoing our aloneness and in our deep values of safety, radical welcome, and hospitality. On group of people who we feel called to get to know better is the trans community in Sonoma County. We already have many deep connections to this community, through church members, our families and friends, as well as through organizations like North Bay Organizing Project and TransLife.

We will be getting together in small groups to bake cookies and put together flower arrangements for the Trans Day of Remembrance happening on 11/20. Keep an eye out for sign up sheets. We need bakers but also people who love to sit in someone else's kitchen and drink tea and chat. Additionally, we'll be setting up a schedule for the church kitchen for folks who want to bake but don't want to do it at their houses. Our goal is not to bake alone! Stay tuned, because we'll also be taking a field trip over to the Unitarian Universalist congregation in downtown Santa Rosa for the actual event on the 20th. We're excited to dovetail this important mission focus with building Jesus-style deep relationships with each other.



New UCC General Minister and CEO by Winnie Hogoboom

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Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson. Rev. Dr. Thompson brings a fresh take on a variety of topics critical to our faith and denomination. Click here to learn more.

### Bath Towels Needed

#### **Outreach Team**

Your Outreach Team has agreed to partner with Sebastopol Community Church UCC as they put together 168 Christmas bags this year for the clients at Sam Jones Hall, a shelter in Santa Rosa. They have been doing this ministry for many years and are looking for some help from us. Will you to buy a bath towels to put in these bags? Let's see how many towels we can donate. Please bring them in on any of the Sundays during November. Your gifts will be much appreciated! Thank you.







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First Congregational United Church of Christ 2000 Humboldt Street Santa Rosa, CA 95404 707-546-0998 firstucc.admin@sonic.net FCCSR.org

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