

June 9 & 16, 2019 • Vol. 73 • No. 12

**JUNE 9, 2019
PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Acts 2:1-21

10:00

Worship, Rev. Rhina Ramos, guest preacher; Amar Khalsa, musician; Derek Tam, music director, *Sanctuary*

Musical Highlights, Songs of the Soul; "Send Down the Fire" by Marty Haugen, Sanctuary Choir; "My Life is in Your Hands" by Kirk Franklin, Gospel Choir

11:15

After Party, *Terrace*

11:15

Second Sunday Sandwiches, *Cloister*

11:45

Learning Hour, Visioning Samoan Circle, *Loper Chapel*

**JUNE 16, 2019
JOINING SUNDAY**

10:00

Worship, Molly Baskette, preaching; Elizabeth Forsyth, organ; Derek Tam, music director, *Sanctuary*

11:15

After Party, *Terrace*

11:45

Learning Hour, A Migrant's Story: LGBTQ Caravans, led by Charlotte, an LGBTQ activist and asylum seeker, *Loper Chapel*

New Church Name Tags!

We are finalizing a new design for our First Church permanent name tags, which will include everyone's **preferred personal pronouns along with their name**. Look for the volunteers circulating during the After Party with clipboards in hand to confirm the correct spelling of your name and to learn your preferred pronouns. We hope to have these new name tags ready (you choose the style: clip on, pin on or lanyard) this fall!

Feast of Pentecost Worship with Rev. Rhina Ramos

Pentecost Sunday is upon us! Wear **RED** to church, bring **RED** foods to share on the coffee hour table, and get ready to hear a joyful, spirited sermon from guest preacher **Rev. Rhina Ramos**. Molly first met Rhina more than



20 years ago in Boston at a community organizing 10-day training. Rhina was then working as a civil rights attorney and had not heard of the UCC. Imagine Molly's surprise bumping into her two decades later, on a different coast — and finding Rhina an ordained UCC minister! Rhina is a person of great joy, infectious laughter, and deep spirit. Don't miss this balm-for-the-soul Sunday.

Rev. Ramos is an ordained UCC minister leading an open and affirming Spanish speaking congregation in Oakland since 2011. Rhina was born in El Salvador and grew up during the civil war.

New Members Class

Please join us for our next **New Members Class** this **Sun., Jun. 9** after worship in **Durant House**. The class will be led by **Revs. Molly & Kit**. Lunch will be provided and childcare is available. On **Sat., Jun. 15**, there will be a crepe dinner for those joining at **Kathy Helliesen's** home. Joining takes place **Sun., June 16**, during worship. Please contact one of the ministers (510/848-3696) or **Kathy** (for more information and to RSVP).

Visioning Process — Samoan Circle this Sunday

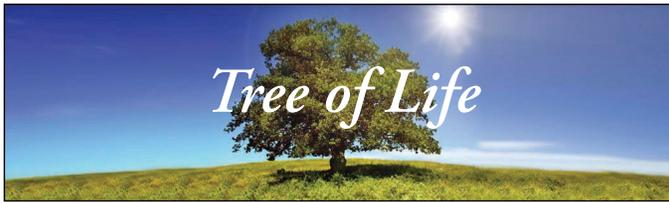
For the next step in the Visioning Process, we will gather in a **Samoan Circle** (<http://bit.ly/2HwLKvS>) this **Sun., Jun. 9** at **11:45 am** to have more intentional compassionate conversation about unresolved feelings and diverging opinions regarding the direction and content of the **Vision Statement**. The **Long Range Planning Committee** hopes to hear from as many people as possible, including new members, youth, and young adults who often miss Learning Hour discussions.

Learning Hour about LGBTQ Caravans

The **Learning Hour** on **Sun., Jun. 16** will feature **Charlotte**, an LGBTQ activist and asylum seeker. Charlotte is a trans woman who left Honduras to escape persecution for her gender expression. She arrived in the US in 2018 in an LGBTQ Caravan. Charlotte has been an outspoken advocate at rallies and presentations about ICE's mistreatment in detention centers. Come hear Charlotte's story — particularly timely as we live more deeply into our identity as a Sanctuary Church, getting ready to sponsor a trans asylum seeker out of detention later this summer!

Preaching Schedule

- Sun., June 23**, Christina Hutchins
- Sun., June 30**, Kit Novotny
- Sun., July 7**, Kit Novotny
- Sun., July 14**, Molly Baskette



Congratulations to **Roger Vega**, who will be attending the Naval Academy beginning in June. This has been a lifelong dream of Roger's and his family (**Lisa, Joe, and Joey**) is celebrating this opportunity for him.

Prayers for **Bob Huston** who had a mild heart attack and is recovering from pneumonia. Cards can be sent to him at his home.

Sign up to bring a meal to **Michelle Sepe** and family after the birth of baby **Sal** at Meal Train.

Continued prayers of healing for **Jane Arc, Mya Byrne, Joy Davis, Rich Morrish, Craig Pratt, and Marylou Solovay**.

Summer Small Groups Sign Ups Begin!

Once again, First Church Berkeley is offering **summer small groups**: an exciting opportunity to learn, explore, and play together! Six groups are listed so far, with a few more still forming, covering a wide range of interests and providing opportunities to deepen our connections with God and with each other. Find out more about these groups at <http://bit.ly/2WIB1Xt>, and keep checking this link for updates. It is important that each participant attend all (or most) of the sessions. To sign up for a group, contact the group leader directly via the email listed in the description. **Sign up now through Mon., Jun. 17** to save your spot! For questions, contact **Louise Halsey** (lhalsey@fccb.org).

Ministers' Summer Schedule

Rev. Molly will be away **Jun. 20–Jul. 13** at UCC General Synod, serving as Chaplain at UCC summer camp in Connecticut, and spending time with family. **Rev. Kit** will also travel to General Synod from **Jun. 20–26**. For pastoral concerns during that time, speak to the remaining members of the Pastoral Care team, **Louise Halsey** and **Robin Kempster**, or call the pastoral emergency line (510/859-8876), for which **Rev. Judy Huston** is on call.

THE CARILLON

Margaret Copeland, Editor
Ben McKnight, Communications Specialist
Deadline: Three weeks before event
Email submissions to: mcopeland@fccb.org

All submissions are subject to editing.

First Congregational Church of Berkeley
United Church of Christ
2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704
510/848-3696

The View from Here

Kit Novotny
Young Adult Minister



Left Foot, Right Foot

My daughter Zoe took her first steps today! For weeks now she's been *almost* ready, cruising around, hands gliding from couch to bookshelf, barely holding on. I've been catching her standing on her own for a minute or so, unassisted, while deep in thought or play. As long as she's absorbed in some external focus, her balance is strong and steady... but as soon as she catches my eye, or notices what's happening, I see her get cautious, stuck in her head, the little gears turning, and the overthinking causes her to lose her cool and sink down to the ground, *plop!*

But today, Zoe stepped toward me — left foot, right foot, left foot — wobbly but absolutely determined and beaming with joy! A wide-eyed smile spread across her face in half pride, half disbelief: *I don't know what I'm doing but I'm doing it anyway!* It struck me that this is exactly the quality of shaky, trusting courage required of all our first steps toward any new life or goal, all creative endeavors, all growth that moves us forward in our lives. As Anne Lamott's friend Father Tom likes to say: "Left foot, right foot, left foot, breathe." It's easy to psych ourselves out before we've even begun, question our ability to stay balanced and so end up static or stuck, or just not quite moving with the full grace of our fledgling, God-given potential. But we can choose to breathe and take just the next right step and see where it takes us.

Albert Einstein once compared life to riding a bicycle: "To keep your balance, you must keep moving." This is too true of our own lives and our collective lives. It was true in the fiery, polyglot Pentecost story (Acts 2, which we'll tell again this Sunday, June 9!), when the earliest Christians felt the Holy Spirit move among and through them and draw them deeper into their unfolding story to live and share the good news... a story we're still living out as the Church today.

As we continue to clarify and claim our own church Visioning Process this Sunday and this summer, I wonder what steps we'll take together? Sometimes our Congregational, covenantal way of moving through discernment and decision-making processes together can feel a bit ponderous or precarious, like so many baby steps... gathering and wondering and consolidating and drafting and tweaking and reaching for some kind of consensus. It's slow and steady work (and play!), but hey, all good God-guided growth takes time and patience, and a million little shifts until suddenly... here we go, we're on the move! Look ma, no hands!

Kit

First Church at SF Pride 2019!

San Francisco Pride is coming up! Our historic Queer-affirming high holiday! We have two opportunities to show up and show ourselves as an LGBT-embracing community.



To honor our 24 years of being an Open and Affirming church, and to make sure East Bay neighbors looking for a church like ours know who and where we are, we will participate fully in San Francisco Pride celebration.

On **Fri., Jun. 28** for **Trans March**, we hope to show up in full force so folks know of our awesome trans-affirming faith community in the East Bay (last year we were the only church to march)! Meet at **5:30 pm** in **Dolores Park** at **Dolores & 18th**, directly across from **Dolores Park Cafe** (details and contact to be confirmed soon!).

And on **Sun., Jun. 24**, **Pride Co-Captains Trust Hilton** and **Bree Elle Gardner** will gather and guide a celebratory, invitational presence at **SF Pride** — details and meeting place coming soon! The March begins at **10:30 am** on **Market Street**, from **Beale to 8th**. This year, we hope to offer a healing ministry of “Free Parent and Grandparent Hugs” to LGBTQ folks who may not have had the full inclusion of their family of origins. Details are in the works!

We will also celebrate Pride at church that Sunday morning as well. Let **Rev. Kit** know if you can help decorate early before church.

Rebuilding Together Rescheduled

We are rescheduling the date for this year's **Rebuilding Together**. It will *not* be Sat., Jun. 8. We will let you know the date as soon as it's been decided. **First Mate** for the **one-day Paintapalooza** is **Carolyn Cox**. Let **Carolyn** know if you are interested in participating.

The E-Team! Strikes Again

— By *Kate Lucchese, E-Team! Convener*

After the success of our **Holy Week Jesus Christ Superstar Flash Mob** at the downtown Berkeley BART station, the E-Team! was back last Sun., Jun. 2, sharing with local folks the good news of FCCB's radical welcome.

Great vibes abounded as more than 20 First Church folks took part in **Sunday Streets Berkeley** on Telegraph



Avenue! We offered blessings in many forms to passersby: music both sung and instrumental, bubbles of all sizes,



candy by the handful, reusable tote bags, therapy dog snuggles, chalk art, delicious communion bread, and on-the-spot blessings from Molly and her helpers. Lots of families, young adults, and fellow street folk now know more about First Church Berkeley!

Watch for how *you* can join in the upcoming **Fri., Jun. 28 Trans March** (you might get to wear a coveted Spire Hat!), join our **Hug-Mobile** (a jazzed-up black Mini-Cooper convertible, thank you Margaret K-L) as it cruises SF in the **Pride March** on **Sun., Jun. 30**, and more!

Invitation to Mediation

Having recently completed mediation training, First Church member **Margie Allen** is offering six, four-hour sessions to FCCB members at no charge, to get some practice. If you are interested in learning more about this offer, come to the **Learning Hour** on **Sun., Jun. 30, 11:45 am** in **Loper Chapel**, when Margie will talk more about the mediation process.

Did You Know...?

...that we are a stop on the new **Telegraph Historical Walking Tour app** because of our involvement supporting Japanese Americans sent to camps during WWII? You can **download the app** at www.telegraphtour.com. The church will even be getting a historical pole marker!

...that at our joint **Good Friday** service, we collected a total of \$1,202 for **The Innocence Project**, an organization working to exonerate the innocent through DNA testing?

First Church Ambassadors

As one of the Evangelism team's (E-Team!) new outreach strategies, First Church is including a rider in its rental contracts for outside groups stating that the church reserves the right to offer a one-minute inclusive welcome at the start of their event. **Rev. Kit** and deacon **Alan Miller** have both done this recently, at a sellout **Ani diFranco** event and an **East Bay Gay Men's Chorus** concert, to applause.

Would you like to serve as a **First Church Ambassador** in this way, especially at an event/concert you are attending at church anyway? We can give you some basic boilerplate points for the welcome, and connect you to the event coordinator. This is an easy, effective way to introduce hundreds, even thousands, of neighbors to the First Church community! If you want to be an Ambassador, email **Molly** (reverendmolly@gmail.com) or **Kit Dunbar** (kdunbar@fccb.org).

Coming Up!

Learning Hour: Spiritual Gift of Anxiety, Pt. 2

Sun., Jun. 23, 11:45 am, Loper Chapel

SF Pride Parade

Sun., Jun. 24, 10:30 am, Market St., SF

Trans March

Fri., Jun. 28, 5:30 pm, Dolores Park, SF

THE CARILLON

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Bits and Pieces

June Parent Circle

FamChY welcomes First Church member **Patti Contaxis**, licensed marriage & family therapist, to host this month's **Parent Circle** this **Sun., Jun. 9** at **11:45 am** in **Room 5, EBSB**. Patty will address ways to discuss sexuality with our children and youth. Childcare will be provided in the **EBSB Play Yard**.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday June 9

COMPANIONSHIP TEAM
8:30 am, Room 5, EBSB

LONG RANGE PLANNING
8:45 am, Room 7, EBSB

WORSHIP
10 am, Sanctuary

AFTER PARTY
11:15 am, Terrace

NEW MEMBERS CLASS
11:15 am, Durant House

LEARNING HOUR: VISIONING SAMOAN CIRCLE
11:45 am, Loper Chapel

FAMCHY PARENT CIRCLE
11:45 am, Room 5, EBSB

GOSPEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
11:45 am, Chancel

SONGS OF THE SOUL REHEARSAL
11:45 am, Room 4, EBSB

Tuesday 11

REV. MOLLY'S OFFICE HOURS
5:30-7 pm, Jupiter
2181 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley

ETEAM! MEETING
6 pm, Durant House

Wednesday 12

BIBLE STUDY
7 pm, Durant House

Sunday June 16

WORSHIP
10 am, Sanctuary

AFTER PARTY
11:15 am, Terrace

LEARNING HOUR: LGBTQ CARAVANS
11:45 am, Loper Chapel

MENTAL HEALTH SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP
11:45 am, Bride's Room

SONGS OF THE SOUL REHEARSAL
11:45 am, Room 4, EBSB

Monday 17

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION
6 pm, Loper Chapel

Tuesday 18

REV. MOLLY'S OFFICE HOURS
9:15-10:30 am, 1951 Coffee Company
2410 Channing Way, Berkeley

SMALL GROUP: EXPLORING COMPASSIONATE COMMUNICATION
6:45 pm, Durant House

Wednesday 19

BIBLE STUDY
7 pm, Durant House

YES & Winthrop News

thilton@fccb.org

YES & Winthrop

- **Sat., Jul. 21, Pool Party, Rafe**
Baskette's house

YES

- **Sun.-Sat, Jul. 7-13, Jr. High Camp, Camp Cazadero**
- **Sun.-Sat, Jul. 21-27, Jr. High Camp, Camp Tamarack**

Winthrop

- **Sun.-Sat, Jul. 7-13, Sr. High Camp, Camp Cazadero**
- **Sun.-Sat, Jul. 28-Aug. 3, Sr. High Camp, Camp Tamarack**
- **Sun., Aug. 4-10, Work Camp, offsite**

Baby Shower!

You are all invited to **Emma S's (twin!) Baby Shower of Awesome** on **Sat., Jun. 15**. It is an RSVP-only event. Kids are welcome. If you'd like to come, contact **Shay** for the details and the invitation.

Summer Solstice Service

Come to a **Summer Solstice Service** on **Fri., Jun. 21** at 7 pm in the **Sanctuary**. The summer solstice is a celebration of the light, of awakening and ascension, of remembering and honoring the divine light within ourselves, and of recognizing our deep and sacred connection to the sun and the earth. The service will include music, prayer, poetry, guided meditation, and ritual. For more information, contact **Vickie Crebbin**.



(left) Graduates being blessed in worship on Sun., May 26; (right) Looking at different options for Pilgrim Hall redesign at most recent Blue Fire meeting (pictured: members of Blue Fire team and architects from Siegel & Strain).

Young Adult News

knovotny@fccb.org

- **Mon., Jun. 10, 9:30-11 am, Rev. Kit's Office Hours, Peet's Coffee, 2124 Vine St., Berkeley**