



April 2025

CONNECTION

FPC

FIRST KIDS



Life can be complicated. In fact, Jesus told His disciples that we would have trouble in this world. Despite the things that go wrong or the things we don't understand, we can have hope that God knows what's best and is working for our good.



Eggstraordinary Race April 20, 11:30 AM

Kids of ALL AGES are invited to join us on the lawn for the 5th Annual Eggstraordinary Race. Play games, collect eggs, enjoy cookies, lemonade and the celebration of Easter!



EPIC (4th-6th Grade) April 25, 6-8:00 PM

Come join us for fun, food, and conversations about faith.

- April 6:** How to Be a Doer of the Word; Matt. 7:24-27, Dan Price
- April 13:** Palm Sunday; Matthew 26:57-58, 69-75; Dan Price
- April 17:** Maundy Thursday, 7 PM; John 13:31-35; Dan Price
- April 18:** Good Friday, Noon; Stations of the Cross
- April 20:** Easter Sunday; Matthew 27:55-28:10, Dan Price
- April 27:** Paul's Prayer of Thanks for the Thessalonians; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Kent Webber



Congregational Meeting April 6, 10 AM

This meeting has been called to amend the church bylaws regarding the number of elders and deacons.



Dan's Farewell Sunday, April 13, After both services

Show Dan your appreciation for his 16 months of preaching at FPC with a card or note.

Order an Easter Lily



Lilies serve a dual purpose at Easter — they decorate our sanctuary and they provide an opportunity for us to commemorate the memory of a loved one or to honor someone. A list will be distributed on Easter, April 20.

Those who order an Easter Lily may choose to take it home after worship or have it delivered to persons of our church family who are unable to attend worship. Place your order at the Connect Center on March 30 or April 6 or 13. The cost is \$20. If you have any questions, please contact Colleen Soldate at (707) 328-5465 or Colleen@fpcsantarosa.org.



Gallery at First Greater >Than

Artists: Mandy Bankson and Anne Baumgartner

Exhibition: March 30 - July 28

Artist Reception, April 6, 11:30 AM

Mandy Bankson and Anne Baumgartner are friends and abstract artists, each working experimentally with a variety of processes including painting, drawing and collage.



Prayer Walking — Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross are a powerful way to enter more deeply into the events of Holy Week. They are currently installed outside of the front doors of the building in the cloister area to the right.



CONNECTING THROUGH NATURE



Bartholomew Park Hike, Sonoma

1695 Castle Road,
Sonoma, CA 95476
Saturday, April 26

Transportation

Carpool from church: 9:30 AM (by reservation only plus \$5 gas donation)
Meet at the site: 10:30 AM

The Grape Stomp and You-Walk Miwok Loop is a 2.3-mile loop trail. Generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 1 h 10 min to complete.

For more information, contact Allie Shoulders, allie@fpcsantarosa.org, (707) 890-8010.

Save-the-Date Redwood Gospel Mission Workday

Saturday, May 10,
9:30 AM-12:30 PM

Get an introduction to the many volunteer opportunities at RGM while participating in service projects, including helping prepare their new facility on Summerfield and Hoen. It will be a fun day and a great way to meet the staff of this amazing organization and see where God may be calling you to serve in our community.



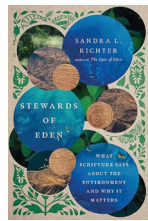
Movie Night:
Conclave (PG)
Friday, April 11
6:15 PM, Room 113

This dynamic and well-acted film takes us inside an ancient, mysterious process of selecting a new Pope.

Please enter through the outside doors on the McDonald Avenue side.

Stewards of Eden

Sundays, 10:30 AM, Rm. 113
No class Easter Sunday



We will discuss the biblical mandate about humanity's responsibility to care for the land, domestic and wild creatures, and people on the margins.

From the Pastor's Desk



Today, sharp differences of opinion on many issues have surfaced with increasing frequency and intensity—both in our nation and church.

Most recently the issue of immigration has boiled to the surface. Passions run high on both sides of the aisle, as thousands, perhaps millions, stand under threat of deportation. The past week we have discussed at staff meetings and session that it is possible we have persons connected to our church who may be deported. We are debating what to do if ICE comes to the church or intrudes at worship. But let me put aside the political debate for now and ask, what does the Bible say about migrants or aliens?

In Genesis 23:4 Abraham begged the Hittites for a place to bury Sarah, saying, "I am an alien and a stranger among you. Sell me some property for a burial site so

that I can bury my dead." The Hittites kindly complied.

Both in Deuteronomy and Leviticus, the Lord admonishes his people to be kind to the "alien" among them "for you were aliens in the land of Egypt" (Dt.10:19; 27:19; Lev. 19:34).

There are many other such verses on extending kindness to "aliens," but most poignant is Matthew 25:31-46. In this passage, kindness rendered to the hungry, thirsty and "stranger" is considered to be kindness to Christ himself. Sheep show compassion to the "least of these," and goats not. In the final judgment where God separates the sheep from the goats, Matthew is clearly urging us to act compassionately—lest we end up with the goats.

Warmly in Christ, Pastor Dan Price



April 10, 6:00 PM via Zoom

Caregivers exchange practical information, talk through their challenges, and learn ways to cope.

Info: contact Colleen Soldate at (707) 328-5465 or Colleen@fpcsantarosa.org



Decade Mexico Mission Trip Report Sunday, April 6, 6 PM

Hear highlights of the trip. Our team was successful at completing a staircase, building

new supports for a second story room and painting the dormitory at Sergio Gomez's mission bunkhouse.

A Place to BELONG, BELIEVE
LOVE like Jesus

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