

FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH
RAMONA, CA

FCC HERALD

SEPTEMBER 2017

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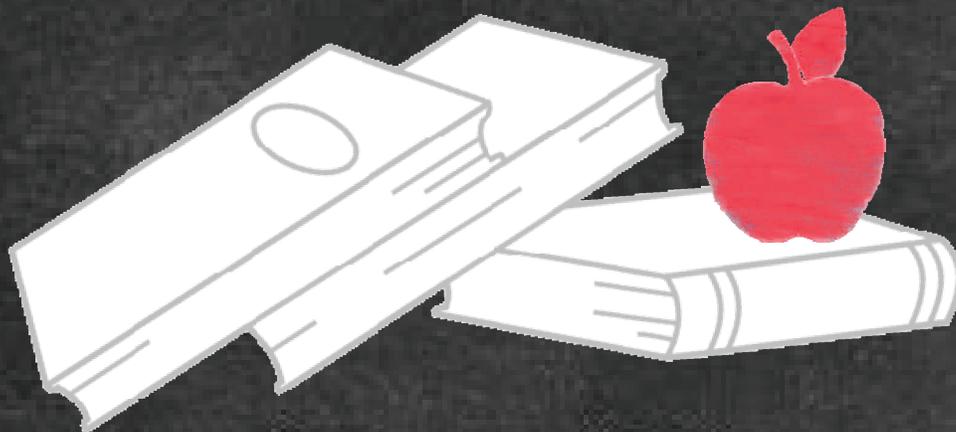
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Stories from our friends and members about how God's loving through this church is

Making a Difference

Hi, my name is Jeff Montgomery. My first visit to First Congregational Church of Ramona was last December. The woman I have been dating, her name is Caryn, invited me to join her. Caryn has been coming to FCC the last four years with the women from In His Steps Christian Recovery Home. I really enjoyed my first visit and have been coming to the alternative service at 4:30 every chance I get. It has given Caryn and me the opportunity to worship together at a convenient time and in a relaxed comfortable atmosphere. We always leave with something that brings us closer to the Lord, whether it be a scripture verse, a story, or just a thought.

The worship at the alternative service is always great. Caryn and I always love to hear and sing with the different worship leaders that come and lead us in worship.

My eight year old daughter Lily has been to the kid's ministry several times and always feels welcome and she always enjoys the other kids and teachers. She also enjoys the fun activities they do.

I love the church motto, LIVE A LIFE OF LOVE. It is making a difference in my life. Whenever I find myself struggling, whether it be a situation or a thought, I say to myself, just Live a Life of Love. I then ask myself "how can I best be a reflection of Jesus with the situation at hand?"

Recently my 25 year old son Tyler has come back into my life. As GOD is restoring our relationship I have been praying and asking GOD to prepare my heart and to accept my son with open arms and to just love him.

We serve a mighty GOD and I know he answers prayers. As he is transforming our lives we are learning to Live a Life of Love.

Caryn is now my fiancé and we are getting married next month by Pastor David at FCC.

Thank you Jesus ...

Sincerely,

Jeff Montgomery

Children's Ministry



Beginning this fall, our Sunday school classes will begin a yearlong journey through the Bible. Join us each week as we learn about God's Word through the people he treasured. Both of our classes



will have the same Bible story using age appropriate activities to reinforce each story. **Our memory verse for this month is, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."**

Sunday School Teachers Needed: Do you desire to learn more about the Bible? To help children see the Bible in a new light? To see children, learn the context & application of biblical text and then apply it to their everyday lives? Do you want to make a difference in a child's faith life? If so, Sunday School is for you! Our Sunday School is looking for storytellers and anyone who has gifts to share with our youngest members and visitors.

Qualifications - A sincere desire to impact the lives of children and to share God's word! You need not be a biblical expert to volunteer! Our curriculum makes teaching easy and fun and Rebecca & Robin are available to help you to be ready. Please let us know if you are interested in serving in this wonderful ministry.

Special Sunday School Announcement: We will now be offering children's Sunday School at the **9am service**. Children ages Kindergarten through 6th Grade are welcome to attend where they will learn the same lessons as offered at the 10:30 and 4:30 services.

Free Child ID Program On September 10th, we will be offering a Free Child ID Program in Pilgrim Hall from 11:30am-1:00pm. Nobody ever wants to imagine the devastation of having a child go missing. Unfortunately, thousands go missing in this country each year. If something was to happen, having all the pertinent information right where you need it, will go far in helping authorities to locate your child. Please bring your children by to prepare the ID cards at no charge.

September 3 - In just six days, God made everything in the world. He made a perfect place to live, and then he made his most special creation—humans. God made us in his image to rule his creation. God created us for a reason. After he made everything, God rested.

September 10 - Adam and Eve are in the Garden of Eden. There's one tree they aren't allowed to eat from. But a serpent tempts Eve to eat fruit from that tree. Eve and Adam both chose to disobey God. Then they're kicked out of the garden. God lets us choose between good and evil.

September 17 - God is sad the world is full of evil. So, he decides to flood it and start over again. He chooses Noah to build an ark and save his family, plus animals and birds. After a long time on the ark, Noah and his family step into a fresh start in the world. God **gives us do-overs**.

September 24 - Abram is an old man with no children. But God makes an amazing promise: to give him more descendants than there are stars in the sky. Wow! Abram believed God, and God kept his promise. God keeps his promises to us, too.

Youth Ministry

Happy September!

Our FCC Youth ministry is a place for our youth from grades 6 thru 12 to come together and learn about how God is an important part of their life. All incoming 6th graders are allowed to start attending Youth group activities. Please make sure you have a current 2017-2018 Out of Town permission slip and Photo Release filled out to participate in our events.

Have you Liked the FCC Youth Facebook Page yet? I constantly will post updates on time-changes and last minute events on the FCC Youth Facebook Page. Search for FCC Ramona Youth Ministry the next time you login to Facebook.

New School Year, New Time! Just a reminder, we moved the Youth Group time earlier. We will be starting our Youth Group at 4:00PM and will be going until 6:00PM.

If you have any questions, please email Brittany at ymdirector@fccramona.org



September 3rd

No Youth Group, Enjoy the Labor Day Weekend!

September 10th - Rally Day! 11:30-12:30

YOUTH! Come find Brittany during Rally day to get your name entered in a drawing for a Starbucks gift card! This is also a great opportunity to turn in your 2017-2018 Out Of Town Permission Slips and Photo Release forms.

September 10th 4:00-6:00

We will meet at the Youth Building for an evening of fellowship, games, and a devotional.

September 17th 4:00-6:00

We will meet at the Youth Building for an evening of fellowship, games, and a devotional.

September 24th 4:00-6:00

We will meet at the Youth Building for an evening of fellowship, games, and a devotional.

Sacred Arts

Listen to the Laity -Jose S. Jacinto, Jr., Ph.D,

Make a Joyful Noise Creation began with music. God said so Himself to Job: "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth?. To what were its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone, When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy ?" Job 32:4-7.

"Making a joyful noise unto the Lord" seems to pervade the Scriptures. The Book of Psalms is the hymnbook of the Jewish people. And music in worship continues to this day in Jewish congregations, usually led by a Cantor.

The New Testament records many episode involving hymn singing: here are a few of them: Jesus and his disciples sang a hymn at the close of the Communion Supper which he had instituted on the night he was betrayed. "And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives." (Mark 14:26) Paul and Silas, imprisoned in Ephesus, at midnight began "praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them." (Acts 16:25). Paul, writing to the Ephesians (5:19),"Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.." Any sound we make in praise to the Lord cannot be noise, and even when others think it is, is still "Joyful in God's ear." Let it be so for us at First Congregational at Ramona !...

Missions

Interfaith Food Collection

Food distribution programs provide for the basic needs of many individuals and families throughout the year, ranging from the homeless to individuals and families that are facing financial struggles. The Food and Clothes Closet is a humanitarian organization that provides emergency food, clothing, and other resources to aid individuals and low-income families in Ramona, Santa Ysabel, Julian, Ranchita, Borrego Springs, Warner Springs, and outlying rural areas. Their emergency food program relies on non-perishable food donations from individuals, such as yourself, to keep their pantry stocked so individual needs may be provided for as they arise. The summer months are times when the pantry stocks are low and have the need for replenishing. In an interfaith effort, Ramona Churches are working together to hold a series of food drives to collect the necessary non-perishable foods to replenish their pantry. In the month of September, First Congregational Church will be providing reusable interfaith shopping bags to individuals who wish to help. The bags can be taken home, or given to family, friends, and neighbors, and in return, non-perishable food items can be returned to First Congregational Church. The bags are yours to keep as continuing reminder of your Christ-like love that has been extended to your neighbors in need.

News & Upcoming Events

RALLY DAY: We hope you've had an enjoyable summer! Be sure to mark your calendar for "Rally Day!" **Sunday, September 10th**. Worship is at 9:00am, 10:30am and 4:30pm and following both the morning services and evening worship service we will have coffee and hors d'oeuvres in Pilgrim Hall for everyone to enjoy. Also in Pilgrim Hall we will have tables setup with representatives from all our key FCC ministries. If you want to learn more about joining a Small Group, getting involved in Missions, Sacred Arts, joining Stephen Ministry or other activities, this is the perfect opportunity. Feel free to invite a friend. We look forward to seeing you soon!

ASSOCIATE PASTOR SEARCH The Associate Pastor search team has met twice and developed a plan of action for moving forward with our search. The team will touch base with the Trustees to validate the range of compensation for advertising purposes and to establish the budget for projected costs of the search. Once completed we will proceed immediately with advertisement for the position through the U.C.C. network and more broadly through Church Staffing.com. We expect to be receiving applications and applicant profiles by early August. We ask that it would be the continuous prayer of the Congregation that we come upon and hire the perfect candidate for our church.

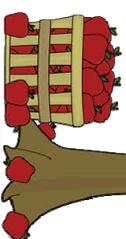
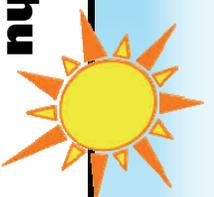
MUSIC MINISTRY TRANSITION Due to a family emergency Chris Bingham needed to resign his position as Music Director at FCC effective immediately. We are very sad to see Chris go and ask that you please keep him in your prayers. Chris and his family have moved back to Oregon to be with family during this difficult time. Our Music Committee has been in prayer and hard at work on a plan to move us forward. We are pleased to announce that Ratko Filipovich has been hired to serve as our Interim Music Director and is happy to be with us. Ratko brings with him over forty years of experience in music. He is a skilled pianist who also enjoys playing the guitar, trumpet, clarinet, saxophone, and ukulele. Ratko is presently the Music Director at the Escondido Christian School where he has been teaching music since 2004. Ratko will be leading all of our adult choirs, including the bell choir, alongside Cassi Nelson who will lead our children and youth choir.

STEPHEN MINISTRY Stephen Ministry would like to offer to any of the small groups interested, a lesson on reflective listening and being an assertive Christian. In my opinion, it is the two most important skills I have learned through the Stephen Ministry program that have most positively affected my life. If your small group is interested we can join your small group for one of your regularly scheduled meetings, and hopefully you will leave feeling like you've learned something that you can apply to your life, and that you know more about Stephen Ministry as a whole. I would love to hear from you, please e-mail me at EmilyWhigham@gmail.com so we get something scheduled soon. Thank you.

SENIOR SINGLES' LUNCH BUNCH The "Bunch's" next meeting is at Amarient on Tuesday September 5th at 11:30 a.m. Please contact Ina Lowe at 760-789-4798 before noon on Monday so that she can have an accurate count for the reservation.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP will next meet at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 16th. Come and join us for breakfast, fellowship & a short devotional. We will return to Pilgrim Hall in September. Please contact Hal Mortier (789-1835) with questions

September 2017



Fr

Sat

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr	Sat
3 10:30a.m. Scholarship Meeting 4:00p.m. Youth Group	4 CCC & Church Office Closed 7:00p.m. BSA Troop 130	5 11:30a.m. Lunch Bunch @ Amariant	6	7	8	9
10 RALLY DAY	11 7:00p.m. BSA Troop 130	12	13	14	15	16 8:00a.m. Men's Breakfast
17 11:30a.m. CE Board Meeting 4:00p.m. Youth Group	18 7:00p.m. Trustees Meeting 7:00p.m. BSA Troop 130	19 7:00p.m. Mission Board Meeting	20	21	22 1:30p.m.-3:00p.m. Food Distribution	23
24 4:00p.m. Youth Group	25 7:00p.m. BSA Troop 130	26	27	28	29	30



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Feel free to invite a friend.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sunday Worship

Sunday worship is one of the most important things you will ever do for yourself or your family. Worship changes us. It helps us to grow by opening us to the life-changing reality of God. Join us to be encouraged, to be refreshed, and to get excited about the good things God has in store for you!

9:00 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Worship & Sunday School

Our 9:00am and 10:30am services are an inviting traditional worship experience featuring choirs, hymns, beautiful organ music, and a positive message from God's Word.

4:30p.m. Alternative Worship & Sunday School

Our 4:30pm service is an alternative worship experience—informal and featuring acoustic guitar music, candle lighting, prayer, meditation, and the same positive message as our morning services.

Our Mission

Our mission and passion here at the First Congregational Church is to help people grow in living a life of love (Eph. 5:2). Love is what Jesus called the greatest commandment. Nothing trumps it. Nothing is more important than learning to love God and to love the people God has placed in our lives. You're invited to discover a place to belong here at FCC where you can be embraced for who you are and where you can make a loving difference.