

SFC COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

September 13, 2020

FIRE RELIEF

As you know, our state and local area is being challenged with multiple wildfires.

Are you wondering how you can help? Here are ways you can get help or offer it to those in need during this time:

1. Let us know if you have needs as a result of the fires by sending an email to care@saratogafederated.org or filling out the [Care Request form](#) or call the Care Team at (408) 867-1000 ext. 239.
2. Donate gift cards from Target, Costco or other similar stores. Suggested amount is in increments of \$50. Please drop off your gift cards to the Care Team office on Saratoga Avenue next to the old post office building.
3. Donate to our [Disaster Relief Fund](#). These funds, along with gift cards, will be provided to relief organizations on the ground in the impacted areas.
4. You may drop off specific items requested by evacuees at Prince of Peace Church, 12770 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga, CA 95070. Please fill out the donation request form and bring only requested items. Collection hours are Monday through Thursday 2:00 to 6:00 pm and Saturday 8:00 to 10:00 am. They welcome those who wish to volunteer and help with receiving and moving goods. More information is available on the Prince of Peace [Fire Response webpage](#).
5. Look on our website for updates in the future with information on long term needs for those impacted by the fires and suggestions for how you can help once it becomes clear what is needed.

Saratoga Federated Church has a long history of providing support to the community, especially in times like this. We thank you in advance for your help.

JOY RIDE LIVE: A CELEBRATION OF JOY

SEPTEMBER 13 - SOLD OUT

As a reminder to those who are already signed up, we hope you will join us this Sunday, September 13, at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm for an in-person gathering on the courtyard as we laugh, play, learn and make a joyful noise. Our worship might look and sound different, but we are confident it will encourage you and glorify God's name. Part of the fun will be the creative modifications we make to ensure we follow safety guidelines. Pre-registration, masks and physical distancing are required.

RAISING PEACEMAKERS - SEPTEMBER 17

Raising Peacemakers continues on Thursdays at 7:30 pm via Zoom. These workshops are conversations about Jesus, Race and Parenting for those who are actively parenting, grandparents and those investing in the lives of children and teens.

These virtual workshops will give parents and other caring adults, the skills they need to examine how their own bias affects their parenting and ways to raise their children to be peacemakers preparing them for our multiethnic world. Jesus tells us to love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Let's learn how to bridge divides and become peacemakers.

Workshops meet Thursday nights from 7:30 to 9:00 pm via Zoom. Attend the sessions pertinent to your context. [Register on our website](#). For more information, contact Sally Bryant at sally.bryant@gmail.com.

- September 17 - Raising Peacemakers Birth through Preschool
- September 24 - Raising Peacemakers Elementary School
- October 1 - Raising Peacemakers Middle and High School

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP - SEPTEMBER 15

Women's Fellowship Circles begin again on Tuesday, September 15. This year's theme is "Finding Delight in the Lord." This special study, written by Becky Clewett, will encourage women to find delight in the Lord by focusing on Him rather than on the events around us. For more information or to join a Circle, please contact Joan Leonard at joanleonard22@gmail.com or (408) 741-0213.

ALPHA - SEPTEMBER 16

Do you know someone who is wondering if God exists, or why bad things happen to good people? If so, perhaps they would be interested in Alpha. Alpha is a 10-session interactive series designed for those who are questioning faith and the existence of God, or those who are new to Christianity. It's a low pressure, judgement-free environment where you can freely and openly discuss your questions and/or doubts. The first session will be held Wednesday, September 16. It is a no-obligation "Intro Night" where you can see what Alpha is all about before officially signing up. It's a great night to invite any friends you think may be interested in Alpha! Email Sally Bryant at sally.bryant@gmail.com for more information or to sign up.

CARE MINISTRY: ZOOM CONNECTION - SEPT 17

Join Steph Giamanco, Care Associate for Flock 1 (ages 18-39), in a Zoom Connection on Thursday, September 17, from 5:30 to 6:30 pm. The focus will be "Home-school moms weigh in to help moms with remote learning." We will discuss questions like: How do you balance your day? How do you establish expectations? What are some fun things to do while learning remotely?

Sign up here: <https://www.saratogafederated.org/zoom-connection.html>, or contact Stephanie Giamanco at stephanie.giamanco@saratogafederated.org. See you on Zoom!

Coming September 30 and October 15: Zoom Connections focused on journaling.

INSPIRIT HEALING ROOM - SEPTEMBER 20

On Sunday, September 20, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, the InSpirit Healing Rooms will be open via email. Jesus brings us healing and hope in all situations! Let us know how you would like God to heal you or a loved one at our confidential email inspirtorayer@yahoo.com. A team of two will pray for you and then email you words of encouragement and scripture verses that God puts on our hearts for you or your loved one. You can also request live prayer by Zoom.

SERVE SUNDAY – WEEK OF OCTOBER 17-25

With the ongoing shelter-in-place order, we are organizing our Serve Sunday over a long week again. In an effort to allow plenty of safe social distancing, we are planning a whole series of projects that you can do as an individual, couple or family. Our main project window spans one whole week and both weekends beginning Saturday, October 17 through Sunday, October 25, with some projects earlier. We have a variety of projects, many of which you can do at home. While some projects are still being developed as this newsletter goes to press, we will be holding a food drive, clearing bushes at Payne Elementary School, cooking meals at home, hosting a Red Cross blood drive and much more. We are especially excited to be partnering with Westgate Church and their Beautiful Day service projects. Our two Payne Elementary School teams will be filled with people from SFC, Westgate and possibly other churches as well. Sign up now for those two special projects running half-day shifts on Saturday and Sunday, October 17 and 18. Check our sign up sheet for all the available options [HERE](#).

COLLEGE & 20S MINISTRY

Join us on Monday evenings at 6:30 on Zoom for virtual Bible study. Saratoga Federated's college ministry exists for 18-24 year olds to find and explore what it looks like to follow Jesus in a loving community. We would love to have you join us. Please contact Claire Iguchi at claire.iguchi@gmail.com for more information.

ADULT MINISTRY - LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Jesus tells us the second greatest commandment, after loving God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, is to love our neighbor as ourselves. As a church, we are committed to Life in God, Life with Others and Life for Others. It is timely for us to ask: how can we love our neighbor when we don't know our neighbor, or understand our neighbor's reality, especially when our neighbor is different than we are? How do we love our neighbor across racial divisions?

We are committed to helping us understand our neighbor so we can better love our neighbor. Here's how you can get involved:

- Join the monthly book club discussion. For more information, contact Barb Clark at barbjclark77@gmail.com
- Attend the Raising Peacemakers workshops September 17 through October 1
- Read one of the books or listen to a podcast listed on our website. Each of these resources [listed on our website](#) is now based on the recommendations of theologians and pastors of color.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Please join us every Sunday morning at 10:30 for our Zoom mini Sunday school. At-home Sunday school lessons are also available via email links. Please contact Savoy Stevens at savoy@saratogafederated.org if you need links for any of our Sunday resources.

Stay connected through our SFC Kids Clubhouse Instagram. Please follow us at [sfc_kidsmin](#) so we can share ideas, encouragement and keep up with each other. These posts are meant to show to your kids, too. Look out for special messages from their Sunday school teachers!

Go to the [Children's Ministry tab](#) on the SFC website for other links to our Facebook page and prayer request page.

COVID-19 (CORONA VIRUS) UPDATE

SFC will continue to hold a single Sunday worship service online during the current shelter-in-place order. While the county has authorized some religious gatherings, their primary requirements are still such that trying to hold an on-campus service would not be practical for our congregation.

Meanwhile, our church is alive and well! Check out the creative ways that ministry is continuing to happen through a variety of virtual applications.

[Visit our website](#) for information on how to stay connected. In fact, there's even a tech support team to help those of you who might need assistance in figuring out how to do that!

One worship service is available to view on our website each Sunday morning by 9:30 am.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Students must be registered in our program to receive links to Zoom meetings. Please [REGISTER HERE](#).

Youth Worship Gatherings

Middle School – Sunday at 9:30 am on Zoom

High School – Sunday at 11:00 am on Zoom

Current Series: *Stretch*. In this four week series, we'll discover four ways we can stretch our faith from Paul, the author of the book of Romans and a man whose life was completely transformed by Jesus.

We can stretch our faith:

- By making a commitment
- By starting something new
- By letting something go
- Even when we feel like we've failed

Sunday Evening Fireside Programs

Middle School – Sunday, September 20

6:00 to 7:00 pm on campus

Beginning Sunday, September 20, we will be offering Middle School students the opportunity for an in-person night of games and Bible study. We will examine God's two universal laws—loving God and loving others—and how to apply them at the same time. Please review our safety policy when registering for this event. You may sign up for multiple dates at one time. Space is limited. [REGISTER HERE](#).

High School – Sunday, September 20

7:30 to 8:45 pm on campus

We will resume the Fireside program for High School students on Sunday, September 20. Please join us for an in-person night of games and Bible study. We will examine God's two universal laws—loving God and loving others—and how to apply them at the same time. Please review our safety policy when registering for this event. You may sign up for multiple dates at one time. Space is limited. [REGISTER HERE](#).

Mid-Week Bible Programs

Middle School Hangout (Games and Bible Lesson)

Wednesday at 7:00 pm on Zoom

High School Bible Study

Wednesday at 7:00 pm on Zoom

This week we start a brief two-lesson series on Jesus' last days. In this study, we're looking at the major events of Jesus' last days here on earth. In Mark 11:1-11, students will see how Jesus models for us a love that is so deep we cannot fathom its depth.

Parent Guides for all of our lessons are available on our website at sfcyouth.info/parents. For questions about the program, contact Matt Hall at matt.hall@saratogafederated.org.

VIRUS CRISIS CARE TEAMS

Tech Support: If you would like technical assistance to view the online church service, call the church at (408) 867-1000 ext 265. Leave a detailed message with your name and phone number. A volunteer should respond to you within a day.

Grocery/Pharmacy Assistance: If you would like assistance with getting groceries, call the church office at (408) 867-1000 ext. 266. Leave a detailed message, including your name and phone number. Robyn Swan or a volunteer should respond to you within one weekday.

LIFE GROUPS

If you are looking for a new study, check out RightNow Media, the Netflix for Christian studies. Here are a few suggestions:

This Is the Day: A Study with Tim Tebow. Sometimes life feels rigid—as if nothing could ever really change. Maybe we're afraid of taking a step of faith, or maybe we're too injured from the past to move forward. No matter where you find yourself, you can make the most of today. Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow shares stories from his life to illustrate what it means to seize each day for God's glory and challenges us to step out in courage.

Race and the Gospel with Bryan Loritts and Matt Chandler. Using Ephesians 2:11-16, pastors Bryan Loritts and Matt Chandler look at an issue that has plagued American churches since the conception of America itself—racism. The doubt and frustration surrounding current conversations about race and ethnicity provoke questions like, "Why do we keep bringing racism up?" and "Isn't there just one race—the human race?" Today many Christians can no longer ignore racial tensions or use simplistic responses to deflect from the complexity of our country's racial problem. As those who follow Jesus, Christians have the unique opportunity to enter into—rather than shy away from—conversations about race and reconciliation in light of the hope of the gospel. Through teaching and honest dialogues, Bryan and Matt will unpack the hard truths about America's racial past and suggest a pathway forward of healing, justice and hope for multiethnic harmony in the church.

The Experimental Men's Group (EMG) meets the first Monday of the month and is intended for men 70+. SFC and non-SFC men are warmly invited to join the group and make new friends. The EMG is intended to be more a community group than a church group for the 70+ category of men out there. Email Tom Priest at tomp@caps4ups.com for the Zoom link.

FOR YOUR AWARENESS, PRAYER OR ATTENTION

BEREAVEMENTS

We celebrate the life of **Sheila Heid** who died on August 28.

Jeff & Julie Heid (son & daughter-in-law)

Susan & Mike Walsh (daughter & son-in-law)

Mark & Leah Walsh (grandson & spouse)

William Heid, Jeffrey Heid, Carrie Walsh (grandchildren)

Kirsti & Doug Wagner (granddaughter & spouse)

We celebrate the life of **Hank Miller** who died on August 28.

Michael & Veronica Miller (son & daughter-in-law)

Michele & Stanley Woods (daughter & son-in-law)

Emily, Ian & Olivia Miller and Shannon Wieser (grandchildren)

DO YOU NEED PRAYER

Our Care Ministry is confidential. The person being prayed for must give permission before their name and need is shared with others. Please include your name, the name of the person needing prayer and indicate their permission to distribute the request to the prayer team. Send your prayer requests to care@saratogafederated.org or submit through the online [web form](#).

NOT SURE HOW TO GIVE?

Are you wondering how to continue giving your tithes or offerings during the time when we are not meeting on campus? There are several ways.

- 1) You can mail in your gifts to the church office:
Saratoga Federated Church, 20390 Park Place, Saratoga, CA 95070 Attn: Finance
- 2) You can give securely starting on our website: www.saratogafederated.org/give.html.
This will then take you to a secure website for Pushpay, our online giving processor.
 - a. Please note that you can give via your bank account or via credit card.
 - b. You can set up automated recurring giving on any schedule that works for you.
- 3) Any of the giving actions you can do from our website can also be done from your smartphone.
You would begin by texting: saratogafc to the number 77977 (message and data rates may apply).

General Fund Financial Update July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

General Fund Donations:	Actual	Budget	Over/(Behind)
Fiscal Year to Date: 9/6	\$428,052	\$435,339	\$(7,287)
Last Week's Giving:	\$31,107	\$43,533	\$(12,426)

SERMON PODCASTS & VIDEOS are available at www.saratogafederated.org.

SARATOGA FEDERATED CHURCH

20390 Park Place • Saratoga, CA 95070 • (408) 867-1000

www.saratogafederated.org



To Give
