

SFC COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

September 27, 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. 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.

MELINDA CHASE RETIREMENT

Melinda Chase has announced her plan to retire, effective Wednesday, September 30. Melinda has served SFC in various capacities in her long tenure on staff, most recently managing the church calendar, facility use requests, oversight of the church kitchen and leading the wedding hostess team. Her sweet spirit and complete trust in God's plan is evident in her letter, as it has been in her life and devotion to our church. We will be honoring Melinda in this Sunday's online service.

On a practical note, future inquiries that would have normally been addressed to Melinda regarding calendar, facilities, weddings, kitchen, etc., should go to Jerry Bruce in this interim. Call (408) 867-100, ext. 249 or email jerry@saratogafederated.org.

CARE MINISTRY: ZOOM CONNECTION - SEPTEMBER 30 & OCTOBER 15

Join Peggy Beck and Laurel Smith for one or both upcoming Zoom Connections focused on journaling. Laurel will provide guidance on how we can benefit from journaling by connecting more deeply to our Creator and our inner selves.

Wednesday, September 30 at 3:00 pm: Journaling Basics: Just Another Chore or a Blessing?

Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 pm: Journaling: Processing the Positive and Negative Impacts of the Pandemic.

[Sign up on our website](#) or email Peggy at peggy.beck@saratogafederated.org. See you on Zoom!

RAISING PEACEMAKERS - OCTOBER 1

Raising Peacemakers concludes on Thursday, October 1 at 7:30 pm via Zoom. These workshops have been 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. This final session focuses on middle and high school age. [Register on our website](#). For more information, contact Sally Bryant at sally.bryant@gmail.com.

JOY RIDE LIVE: A CELEBRATION OF JOY OCTOBER 11 - ANOTHER NEW DATE!

Once again we needed to postpone our Joy Ride Live event. It is now scheduled for Sunday, October 11 at 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm. This will be an in-person gathering on the courtyard to laugh, play, learn and make a joyful noise together. 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. Space is limited. [Sign-up online](#).

SERVE SUNDAY – WEEK OF OCTOBER 17-25

Check our signup sheet for all the available options [HERE](#). 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.

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.

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 24 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.

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.

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.

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

Sunday Evening Fireside Programs

Middle School – Sunday from 6:00 to 7:00 pm on campus - [REGISTER HERE](#)

High School – Sunday from 7:30 to 8:45 pm on campus - [REGISTER HERE](#)

Please review our safety policy when registering for these events. You may sign up for multiple dates at one time. Space is limited.

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

Parent Guides for all of our lessons are available on our website at sfcyouth.info/parents. For more information about the program, please visit our [website](#). You may contact Tracy Fell with questions about the program at tracy@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 **Mary Ellen Benson** who died July 22.

Judy & Mark Seidel (daughter & son-in-law)

Cindy & Jeff Brown (daughter & son-in-law)

Steve & Jean Benson (son & daughter-in-law)

Jim & Marianne Benson (son & daughter-in-law)

Nine grandchildren and one great-grandson

We celebrate the life of **Jane Gilbaugh Miller** who died September 3.

Doris Gilbaugh (mother)

We celebrate the life of **Tina Pearson** who died September 10.

Skip Pearson (son)

Nancy Pearson & George Sikich (daughter & son-in-law)

Pam Pearson (daughter)

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: 9/20	\$486,658	\$522,407	\$(35,749)
Last Week's Giving:	\$23,098	\$43,534	\$(20,436)

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

SARATOGA FEDERATED CHURCH

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www.saratogafederated.org



To Give
