

## Meet Pastor Rosalind Zaccardi

I am honored to be welcomed into your fellowship to walk with you through your season of transition.

I was asked to write an introduction, “Who am I” and it makes me think of “Les Misérables,” my all-time favorite musicals ... more a musical worship experience. In it, the main character, convicted criminal Jean Valjean, sings his question, “Who Am I?” He asks if he is defined by the theft of bread that landed him prison? Is he the ex-convict who made good as a town leader? Will he rise to the challenge to expose his shadowy-past by rescuing a man with impossible strength gained only in prison?

In some ways, I see myself in Valjean: a convicted sinner rescued by a Savior to serve for God’s glory.

In a nutshell: I was born into a Navy family. My father was a Naval Aviator with a second career as a leadership consultant. My mother was an elected official on the local School and Community College Boards. They are each the most humble power-players I have yet met.

I (mostly) grew up in Coronado where I met my husband in a Bible study after finishing a B.A. in English Literature at UC Irvine. Gary and I married when, as he likes to say, he was a “handsome young Naval Officer” (which was true). We went to Princeton Theological Seminary in the mid-1980’s and were both ordained to serve churches in the San Francisco bay area. Our sons Andrew and Benjamin were born there. Gary rejoined the military as an Air Force Chaplain and we spent the next ~26 years traipsing the world, including duty stations all around the US and in Italy, England, Germany, and Okinawa, Japan. During those years I served in churches (one was an Interim position), para-church organizations, chapel communities, pulpit supply, retreat leadership, leading Bible studies, offering spiritual care, and writing a theological novel called *Sealed and Delivered*. Chaplain, Colonel Gary Ziccardi retired from active duty two years ago and we relocated to Coronado, close to my mother. I am the last of the four siblings to return to San Diego. (Reunion!)

Gary is now serving as the Interim Pastor at Faith Presbyterian Church in

College Park. Andrew, a Captain in the Army, is deployed to South Sudan for a year. And Ben, an entrepreneur in the videography business, makes camera magic in Atlanta, GA.

I come into your midst with a passion for Christ and a desire to disciple and grow with others seeking to live into God's grace. It might be said of me that I'm a thinker who values action, a creative problem solver, a collaborator, and I love to laugh. I believe that the church is more than a collection of people who come for Sunday worship and periodic socials. We are a community of followers gathered in the grace of Christ working out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil 2:12).

So, who am I? It's a fair question, but I look forward to discovering who you are. One thing I know, we can all relate to Jean Valjean's prison identity "two-four-six-oh-one," but like him, there's more: we're all redeemed children of God. I come to you with "all humility and gentleness" seeking with patience, to bear with "one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Eph 4:2) as you worship, give thanks, pray, discern, and discover what God has for you in your next chapter 135 years into the life of First Presbyterian Church, El Cajon.

Faithfully yours in Christ,  
Pastor Rosalind