FIRST UNITED
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Established 1886

Keeping in Touch

April 23, 2017

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there.—Clarence W. Hall

Pastor's Message

Pastor Susan Strouse

During the Easter season, the second reading each week will be from *The Gospel of Mary.* If, as is thought, the original text was written in the first half of the second century, it would place it within the earliest strata of Christian writings, roughly contemporaneous with The Gospel of John. It first came to light in 1896, when it was discovered by a German collector in an antiquities market in Cairo. But due to a series of lengthy publication delays the first German scholarly edition did not appear until 1955. It would be twenty years longer before an English version appeared and still another twenty years before popular editions became available.

What is the significance of this manuscript? Here is a portion of an article from Parabola magazine: "The Gospel of Mary Magdalene" by Cynthia Bourgeault

It is amazing that something so tiny could pack such a punch. The Gospel of Mary Magdalene is tantalizingly brief – and frustratingly, two major sections are missing, reducing the original seventeen manuscript pages by more than half. Yet what remains is more than enough to radically overturn our traditional assumptions about the origins of Christianity. In four tightly written dialogues the gospel delivers powerful new revelations on the nature of Jesus' teachings, the qualifications for apostleship, Mary Magdalene's clear preeminence among the disciples, and the processes already at work in the early church that would eventually lead to her marginalization. Since it also contains a unique glimpse into the actual metaphysics on which Jesus based his teachings, this is a foundational text not only for devotees of Mary Magdalene but for all students of sacred wisdom.

You can read the entire article at **https://parabola.org/2015/01/29/the-gospel-of-mary-magdalene/**

You can find the complete text of the gospel at
http://www.maryofmagdala.com/GMary_Text/gmary_text.html

Easter Blessings,
Pastor Susan

First United is a "Reconciling in Christ" (RIC) congregation that has declared that all persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities are equally welcome to join fully in the worship and life of this Christ–centered community.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
April 23, 2017

Thou who art the soul and heart of life, save us from fear -
the fear of days and nights yet to be, the fear of the known and the unknown,
the fear that builds high walls around our spirits and our lives,
the fear that closes in and envelops us,
the fear that nibbles at the edges of every satisfaction.
Free us from fear of failure and success, of shame and pain,
of death and fear of life as well.
Open our eyes that we may see thy glory in humbleness and simplicity,
commonness strewn generously across our path all our days.
May we recognize thee riding upon a simple beast of burden,
down the crooked streets of Jerusalem.
May we not require the palms of victory and praise,
the accolades and shouts of the multitude
to see thy glory in gentleness, patience, loving kindness
and, yes, pain and sometimes death.
Thy way of peace—of faith, hope, and love—
still is our path, our joy, our way. Amen.

David A Johnson http://www.uua.org/worship/words/meditation/palm-sunday-prayer

✠ Our prayers for our world:
- for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, that his heart would be opened to the suffering of his people, that he would turn to peaceful means of governance
- for higher wisdom to prevail in our own government's decision to go more deeply into war
- for the *Union of Concerned Scientist, Greenpeace, 350.org, the Sierra Club*, and all climate activists, for the healing of our planet

✠ Our prayers for our nation:
- for courage and stamina for all activists working to save our democracy
- for all elected leaders, that they will govern in the best interests of all people, especially the most vulnerable
- for our continuing demand for truth-telling in the investigation into Russia's role in the presidential election

✠ Our prayers for our communities:
- for our continuing welcome and commitment to ALL of our neighbors
- for all victims of sexual assault, for increased education and awareness during this Sexual Assault Awareness Month
- for the *SF Night Ministry, Welcome, the Friendship Banquet, Episcopal Community Services, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service,* and *Lutheran Social Services*

✠ Our prayers for our congregation and beyond:
- for healing: Nicole Bohn, Diane Flynn, Steve Johnson
- for Jarie Bolander, and family and friends of Jane Yin Bolander, who died April 3
- for residents of assisted living and nursing care facilities: Roger Creet, Charles McBrian, Marilyn Pearson
- for our college students, Gabe Connor and Stephanie Barrow

ϕ *If you would like to add someone or something to the prayer list, please contact Orion or Pastor Susan.* ϕ

Willkommen, Bienvenue, Welcome . . .

Well, then, let's do it!
Pastor Susan is on vacation this week, so this Sunday, April 23, there will be 2 clergy leaders for our worship.
(Correction: one is clergy and one is clergy *in utero*.)

Our own **former Teaching Parish Student Kate Drefke** will officiate and will preach the sermon.
Soon Kate will be departing for a year-long internship in Alaska. She'll work as a volunteer oil-driller for Exxon in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
(I'm not certain that is correct—you might to check with Kate to clarify . . .)

Christopher Halverson will consecrate and preside over the Eucharist. Chris is a long-time friend of Kate and is Pastor of St. Stephen Lutheran Church in South Plainfield, New Jersey. Here's more from the St. Stephen website:

Chris is graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. He served Tabernacle in West Philadelphia as a Field Education student and St. John's in North West Baltimore as Vicar.

He has a previous master's degree from the University of Cambridge (St. Edmund's College) as well as a BA from the University of Oregon.

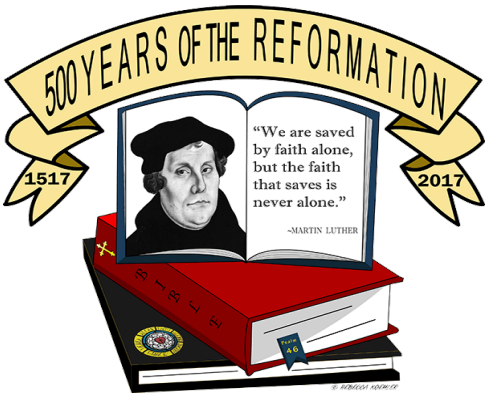
He was born in Fargo, ND and raised in Cheyenne, WY.

Project FaST (Facing Stigma Together)

There are nearly 500,000 same-sex couples in the US. If you are one of them, you still face legal and social challenges to your relationship.

Researchers at the University of Utah want to hear about you and your partner's experiences with discrimination and how they affect you're your relationship and your health. Eligible couples will be compensated $80 for a single online study session. This study has been approved by the Institutional Review Board of the University of Utah.

Contact
Email: Nicholas.perry@psych.utah.edu
Website:www.psych.utah.edu/research/projectfast/



Apr. 27
Milan Cecchini

Apr. 28
Markus Mueller
Rodney Thomas

May 2
Valerie Carlson

May 18
Anna Bonaro

On the Schedule

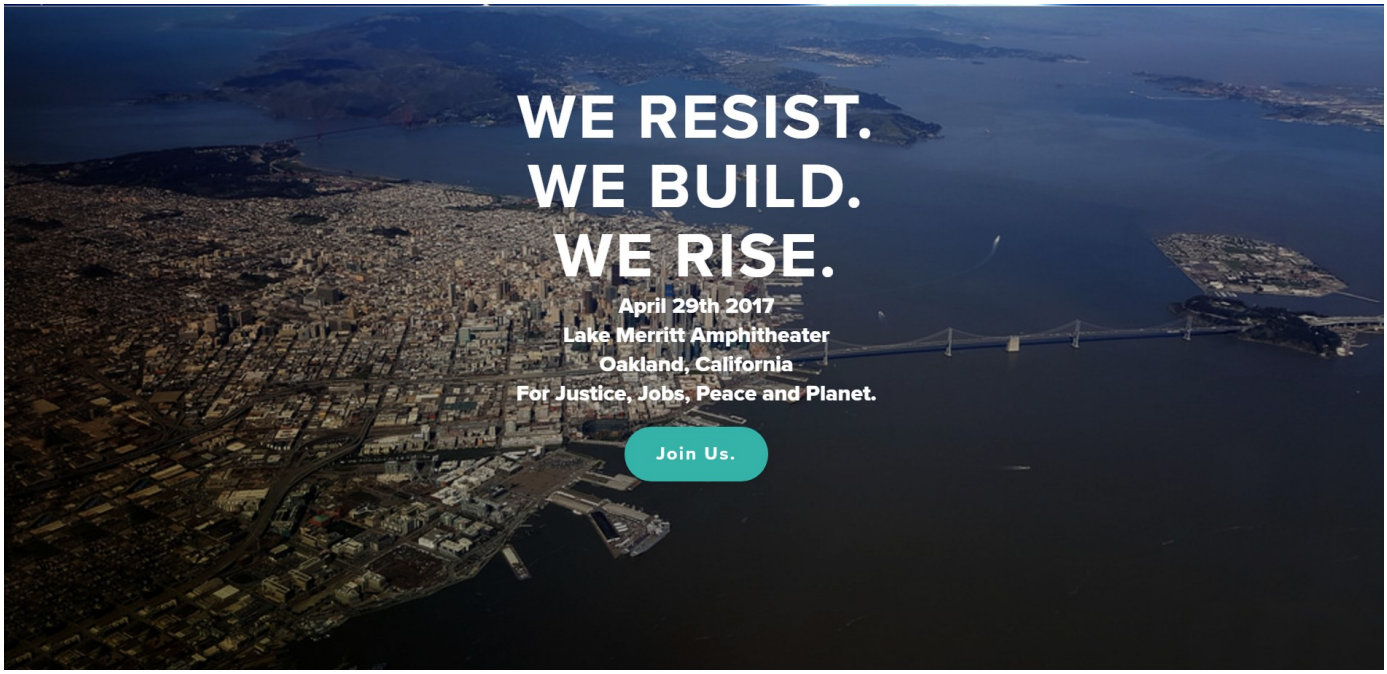
Sunday, April 23
Refreshments: Pam Hargraves

Sunday, April 30
Refreshments: Anders & Michelle

Sunday, May 7
Special event—PLTS Chapel

Sunday, May 14
Refreshments:: Barrows

Sunday, May 21
Refreshments: Terri Bogaards



WHY WE'RE GATHERING

On the 100th Day of the Trump Administration, we will meet at Lake Merritt in Oakland, California to show the world and our leaders that we will resist attacks on our people, our communities and our planet.

We invite you to join the Peoples Climate Movement Bay Area on Saturday, April 29th as we fight to:

- Advance solutions to the climate crisis [that are] rooted in racial, social and economic justice and committed to protecting front-line communities and workers.
- Protect our right to clean air, water, land, healthy communities and a world at peace.
- Immediately stop attacks on immigrants, communities of color, indigenous and tribal people and lands and workers.
- Ensure public funds and investments create good paying jobs that provide a family-sustaining wage and benefits and preserve workers' rights, including the right to unionize.
- Fund investments in our communities, people and environment to transition to a new clean and renewable energy economy that works for all.
- Protect our basic rights to a free press, protest and free speech.

Join us on April 29th as we come together fight for our families, our communities and our planet.

R.S.V.P. to join here.

Easter belongs to everyone, Christian or non-Christian, who identifies with the spirit within.—Philip Arnold

SCRIPTURAL REASONING

Interfaith Book Discussion
May 3 @ 7:00 pm Free event
Presidio Chapel, 130 Fisher Loop, Presidio, San Francisco

Scriptural Reasoning: Reflecting Together on Sacred Texts
Interfaith Discussion Group at Presidio Chapel is an interfaith dialogue group open to followers of any faith and religion. The main goal of the group is to deepen relationship among the members and increase respect for others, thereby increasing appreciation of religious and humanitarian values. The group meets once a month to discuss sections from preselected book in the form of table discussions.

Scriptural Reasoning: Reflecting Together on Sacred Texts: The University of Cambridge offers this tool for interfaith dialogue whereby people of different faiths come together to read and reflect on their scriptures. Unlike some forms of interfaith engagement, it is not about seeking agreement but rather exploring the texts and their possible interpretations across faith boundaries, and learning to 'disagree better'. The result is often a deeper understanding of others' and one's own scriptures, as well as the development of strong bonds across faith communities. SR is now practiced globally, including in places affected by religion-related tensions and conflict.

ICP Executive Director to step down. Linda Crawford, who has served ICP in several capacities and most recently as Executive Director, has announced her intention to step down in June. Linda began ten years ago leading the Capital Campaign for the Chapel rehabilitation project. She was named Managing Director by the Board in February of 2012 and Executive Director in 2015. Linda says, "After 10 years at the Interfaith Center and with much soul-searching, I have decided that the time has come to move on to the next chapter in my life*. It was a very difficult decision to make; I've loved what I've been doing. Finally, I listened to that "still small voice". (1 Kings 19:12, Hebrew Bible)"

***unassisted** living

San Francisco Interfaith Council

Celebrating our diverse faiths & spiritual traditions
Bringing people together to build understanding
Serving our community

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2017 Walk & Bike to Worship

Congregation Leaders: Imagine a day or week where alternate forms of transportation like biking and walking are used to attend worship services instead of driving. Curious? Consider joining the 4th Annual **"SF Walk and Bike to Worship"** week this May 27 through June 4. Do you have someone in your congregation who would like to organize and lead? Forward this e-mail and have them visit Walk & Bike to Worship to spread the news. Our goal is 30+ congregations this year. Will your congregation be one? We hope you'll join us!

For more information, visit http://www.sfbike.org/event/worship2017/

MULTIFAITH RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL OBSERVANCES 2017

APRIL 2017

1 Lazarus Saturday - **Orthodox Christian**
2 Palm Sunday - **Orthodox Christian**
5 Rama Navami ** - **Hindu**
9 Palm Sunday- **Christian**
10 Mahavir Jayanti ** - **Jain**
11 Lord's Evening Meal - **Jehovah's Witness Christian**
Hanuman Jayanti - **Hindu**
Theravadin New Year ** - **Buddhist**
Pesach (Passover) * - **Jewish**
13 Maundy Thursday - **Christian**
14 Holy Friday - **Orthodox Christian**
Baisakhi (Vaisakhi) - **Sikh**
Good Friday - **Christian**
16 Easter - **Christian**
Pascha (Easter) - **Orthodox Christian**
21 First Day of Ridvan * - **Baha'i**
23 St. George's Day - **Christian**
Yom HaShoah * - **Jewish**
24 Lailat al Miraj * - **Islam**
29 Ninth Day of Ridvan * - **Baha'i**
30 St. James the Great Day - **Orthodox Christian**

For Interfaith News Roundup, the Religious Calendar, and much more, go to
http://theinterfaithobserver.org

THE BACK PAGES . . .

Coming Events (this week and beyond):

Season of Easter

SUNDAY, APRIL 23, 5:00 PM
2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER
PRESIDING & PREACHING: SEMINARIAN KATE DREFKE
EUCHARIST: PASTOR CHRISTOPHER HALVERSON OF ST. STEPHEN
at St. Cyprian's

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 8:00-9:30 PM
IMPROV NIGHT
at St. Cyprian's downstairs

SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 5:00 PM
3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER
at St. Cyprian's downstairs

MONDAY, MAY 1, 7:30 PM
LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING
Conference call

SUNDAY, MAY 7
SPECIAL EVENTS—MEETING, DINNER, AND WORSHIP IN BERKELEY
at Chapel of the Cross, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

FOR FULL DETAILS
on all events, go to www.fulc.com, & click on Calendar

Sunday Worship
5:00 p.m. at
St. Cyprian's Episcopal Church
2097 Turk Street @ Lyon

Church Offices at
2097 Turk Street @ Lyon

Mailing Address:
1388 Haight St., #180
San Francisco, CA 94117
Phone: (415) 359-1025

For information visit our website:
www.fulc.com
email: info@fulc.com

Pastor Susan Strouse
email: PastorSusan@fulc.com

Anders Peterson,
Mission Developer
anders@middlecircle.org

Orion Pitts
Music Director &
Office Administator
orion@fulc.com

NOTE:

Deadline for submission of all information or items in *Keeping in Touch* is **Wednesday at 12 noon** of the week of publication. Items submitted after this time

Assistance Policy

First United's policy is to help people by finding services when possible, and will provide gift cards for specific financial needs. All requests for help must go to Pastor Susan. Please do not ask members for money,