



Established 1886

Keeping in Touch

December 10, 2017

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace.
—Edward Hays (*A Pilgrim's Almanac*)



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Susan Strouse

ADVENT 2: THE CANDLE OF PEACE

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. - John 14: 27



For this Sunday's service, Orion asked me to include a reading that has been meaningful to me over the years. I immediately thought of this paragraph from Frederick Buechner's book *Now and Then: A Memoir of Vocation*. Buechner was a favorite author in my early days of ministry. While I might not be as enamored of his theology (or exclusive language) at this point in my life, I will always admire his vulnerability, insight, and wisdom in sharing his own story of faith and doubt. My story resonates with his.

There is no event so commonplace but that God is present within it, always hiddenly, always leaving you room to recognize him or not recognize him, but all the more fascinatingly because of that, all the more compellingly and hauntingly... if I were called upon to state in a few words the essence of everything I was trying to say both as a novelist and as a preacher, it would be something like this: Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace.

Advent 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
December 10, 2017



*Holy One, Essence of True Kindness,
awaken my inner eye to notice how you reveal yourself through thoughtful,
loving gestures, to see where and how your kindness is expressed in myself and others.
Let me not miss these simple and all too often quickly-shelved revelations.
Each day of this Advent season awaken and guide me to your presence through words of
care and compassion, messages of hope, easy smiles, opened doors,
forgiving hearts and other sources of human kindness.
Let me see each gesture as an affirmation of how you dwell among us. - Joyce Rupp*

* Our prayers for our world:

- for creative imagination in our nation's relationship with North Korea
- for wisdom and prudence to prevail in our decisions about Israel/Palestine
- for the safety and well-being of all refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers
- for recognition of the human rights of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar

* Our prayers for our nation:

- for an end to the culture that enables and ignores sexual harassment and assault
- for all victims of sexual harassment and assault and for courage to tell their stories
- for the continuing recovery of Puerto Rico post-Hurricane Maria
- for the on-going work of Robert Mueller and the Special Council Investigation team and the House Intelligence Committee

* Our prayers for our congregation and beyond:

- for Pastor Susan, as she embarks on a new journey
- for our members living in assisted living or health care facilities: Roger Creet, Charles McBrian, Marilyn Pearson
- for the leadership and staff of First United
- for Pr. Anders and for the work of Middle Circle
- for an Advent season filled with hope, joy, awe, and wonder

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

Welcome, Emily!

Today we receive into membership Emily Czarnik-Neimeyer. You may recognize Emily, since she has been a part of the Turk & Lyon community and Middle Circle for several years. Below is a brief bio by way of introduction.



I am a first-year M.Div. student at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) in Berkeley and have been living in the Bay Area for 7.5 years. Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) brought me to San Francisco from Wisconsin in 2010; I was born, raised, and got my B.A. in Wisconsin.

Prior to my time at PLTS, I worked in University Ministry and got an M.A. in Higher Education and Student Affairs at the University of San Francisco (USF). My work in University Ministry primarily consisted of leading retreats, and I also led community engagement and global immersion programs. My six years at USF were incredibly formative and enriching, and it was during these years that I got involved in First United and Middle Circle.

I am passionate about and experienced in the areas of higher education and student affairs, community outreach and engagement, Critical Race Theory, retreat and workshop creation and facilitation, ELCA Lutheran and Jesuit Catholic theologies and pastoral care, and gender and sexuality-based programming and spirituality. In addition to my love for engaging in these areas, I love to do Yoga, watch movies, talk over meals with family and friends, babysit, speak German, and travel.

Sanctuary continues . . .

Below is information from the For-Site Foundation, the organization that sponsored the Sanctuary exhibit we visited recently



Space is still available for our first [Sanctuary Salon](#) on December 14. The salon-style evening will feature poetry by Rachelle Escamilla, Persis Karim, and Jessica Mejia; music by Hossein Massoudi and Hafez Modirzadeh; and excerpts from *The Pleasant Pain* choreographed by Aislin Hoss and featuring Basma Edrees, Asaf Ophir, and Adrienne Swan. Student tickets are \$15 and general admission is \$25. [Reserve your spot today.](#)

FOR-SITE is continuing to add *Sanctuary* events to our calendar -- be sure to check our [website](#) as well as [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#) to stay up to date!

FOR-SITE Foundation
[2 Marina Blvd. Building C](#)
[San Francisco, CA 94123](#)

Email: info@for-site.org
Phone: [415.362.9330](tel:415.362.9330)



*Image by Jennifer Mantle * 2017*

*Please join the Eben-Ezer Lutheran herchurch community
in celebration of
Rev. Stacy Boorn, MDiv
30 years in ministry!
Worship with us at 10:30
And / Or
Enjoy a beautiful
Luncheon*

*§
Star-Studded Program!
Sunday, December 17, 2017
Noon – 3:00 p.m.
678 Portola Drive
San Francisco, CA 94127*

Leading Up to Winding Down



It's "The Season". Here's what's on your First United calendar in the months ahead:

Dec. 10—Worship at St. Cyprian's and Service of Thanksgiving for the ministry of Pastor Susan Strouse 5:00 pm

Dec. 13—Reflecting Together on Sacred Texts, 7:00 pm at St. Cyprian's

Dec. 17—Plain ol' church, 5:00 pm at St. Cyprian's

Dec. 24—Christmas Eve, 7:00 pm at the Alliston Johnson home

Questions about any of these? Go to www.fulc.com and click on Calendar.



December 10
Helen Schuett

December 13
Michelle Clark Peterson

December 16
John Patrick Williams

December 18
Ched Hinger

December 19
Daniel Eickmann



ON THE SCHEDULE REFRESHMENTS



Worship

Next up:
December 17
at St. Cyprian's

Peace among religions is a precondition for world peace. But religions, as religions, can never be at peace with each other. To enable religions to be instruments for peace we need to enable, first, religious communities to progress from religion to spirituality. For the world order to be one of peace and justice, for the global village to be a theater of right livelihood, it is imperative that a new and proactive spiritual vision commensurate to the challenges of the emerging world order be enunciated without delay. We all have a role to play in achieving this goal. -- Swami Agnivesh

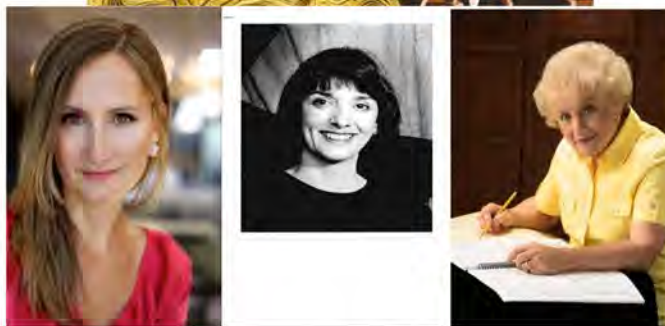


Interfaith Center at the Presidio

Unleashing the Power of Interreligious Cooperation

—Celebrate with Music—

Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa



Aeshah & Kokomon Clotey, djembe, song, story telling

Linda Baird, operatic soprano

Josephine Gandolfi, concert pianist

Deon Nielsen Price, composer/pianist

Cantor Brian Reich, songs with guitar

~ Sunday, December 17, 2017, 4:00 PM ~

Presidio Chapel

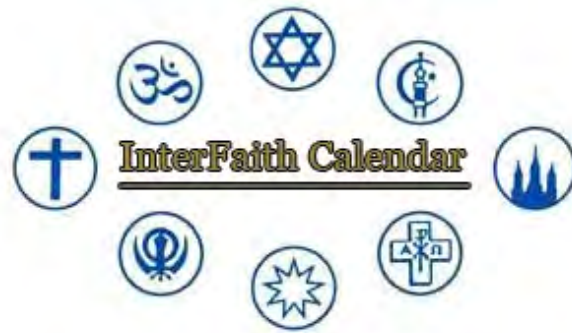
130 Fisher Loop, San Francisco, CA 94129 **FREE admission Ample parking**

ICP 3rd Sunday Concerts: January - Chamber Music, February - African-American Composers, March - Women Composers

P.O. Box 29055 • San Francisco, CA 94129 • 415-561-3930 (office)

415-515-5681 (cell) • www.interfaith-presidio.org

Email: mary@interfaith-presidio.org



MULTIFAITH RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL OBSERVANCES 2017

DECEMBER 2017

- | | |
|-------|---|
| 1 | Mawlid an Nabi * - Islam |
| 3-24 | Advent – Christian |
| 6 | Saint Nicholas Day - Christian |
| 8 | Bodhi Day (Rohatsu) ** - Buddhist |
| | Immaculate Conception of Mary - Catholic Christian |
| 12 | Feast day - Our Lady of Guadalupe - Catholic Christian |
| 13-20 | Hanukkah * - Jewish |
| 16-25 | Posadas Navidenas - Hispanic Christian |
| 21 | Solstice |
| | Yule – Christian |
| | Yule * - Wicca/Pagan northern hemisphere |
| | Litha * - Wicca/Pagan southern hemisphere |
| 24 | Christmas Eve – Christian |
| 25 | Christmas * - Christian |
| | Feast of the Nativity ** - Orthodox Christian |
| 26 | Zarathosht Diso (Death of Prophet Zarathushtra) ** - Zoroastrian |
| | St Stephen's Day - Christian |
| 28 | Holy Innocents – Christian |
| 31 | Watch Night – Christian |
| | Holy Family - Catholic Christian |

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



San Francisco Interfaith Council

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

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P.O. Box 29055 • San Francisco, CA 94129 • 415.474.1321
www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org

Interfaith Winter Shelter Season 2017-2018!



Greetings! Would your congregation/organization like to cook and serve a meal at the Interfaith Winter Shelter for the 2017-2018 season. The Shelter will be open from Sunday, November 19, 2017 through Wednesday, February 28, 2018.

PLEASE NOTE: This invitation is for congregation/organization host sponsors only and not for individual volunteers. Those signing up are committing their congregation/organization to cook and serve a meal on the date(s) they have requested.

The dates for the host site congregations are below:

Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017 - Friday, Dec. 8, 2017
St. Boniface Catholic Church (133 Golden Gate Ave.)

Saturday, Dec. 9, 2017 - Friday, Dec. 15, 2017
St. Mark's Lutheran Church (1031 Franklin at O'Farrell)

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017 - Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018
St. Mary's Cathedral (1111 Gough Street)

Sunday, Jan. 14, 2018 - Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018
St. Mark's Lutheran Church (1031 Franklin at O'Farrell)

Sunday, Feb. 4, 2018 - Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018
First Unitarian Universalist Society (1187 Franklin Street)

You may select your date(s) by visiting:

[Interfaith Winter Shelter Sign-Up](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Cynthia Zamboukos at [415-474-1321](tel:415-474-1321) or email cynthiaz@sfinterfaithcouncil.org

Thank you!



Coming Events (this week and beyond):



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 5:00 PM

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ORDER FOR RECEPTION OF A NEW MEMBER

ORDER FOR THANKSGIVING FOR THE MINISTRY OF PASTOR SUSAN STROUSE

DINNER RECEPTION IN RECOGNITION AND HONOR OF PASTOR SUSAN STROUSE'S MINISTRY IN THE WIDER COMMUNITY

St. Cyprian's Episcopal church, 2097 Turk Street

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 7:00 PM

REFLECTING ON SACRED TEXTS—
INTERFAITH DISCUSSION SERIES

St. Cyprian's

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16, 10:30 AM

FULC MUSICIANS REHEARSAL

Chez Orion

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 5:00 PM

WORSHIP—3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

St. Cyprian's

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 7:00 PM

CAROLS, LESSONS, AND COOKIES

At the Alliston Johnson residence

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 Administrator

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,