



Established 1886

Keeping in Touch

December 3, 2017

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*Maps are a distraction. Surrender—your heart has eyes to guide you into the dark wilderness where light awaits..—Rev. Charles Gibbs
(Light Reading: Poems from a Pilgrim Journey)*



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Susan Strouse

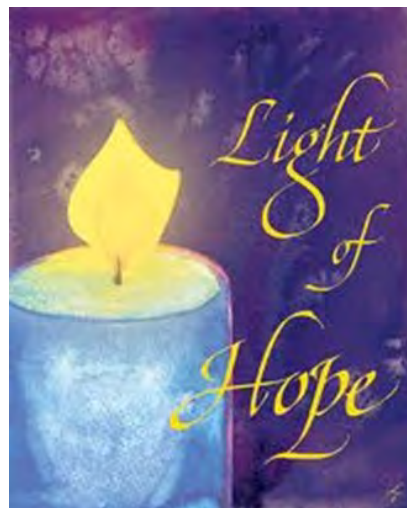
ADVENT begins—the season of waiting and expectation. Some are focused in this season on the Second Coming (see this week's gospel reading: Mark 13:24-37). Others await the celebration of the First Coming, the birth of Jesus.

But, Sister Joyce Rupp reminds us that the advent (coming) is within us:

*Provider of Joy, Source of Delight, Awakener of Gladness,
a song of jubilant tidings like that of the Bethlehem angels
awaits coming to birth within the marrow of my soul.
Sadly, this joy often lies hidden in the bad news of the day.
This Advent I will allow your transparent joy to fill my voice,
to let it course through the hurry and scurry of my activities.
I will remember the immense joy associated with your birth
and the profound, enduring teachings you gave to our world:
love is stronger than death; kindness can overcome divisiveness;
divine grace will always be more powerful than harbored hate.
I pray with confidence that you will birth your joy within me.*

May your Advent be filled with the awe and joy of such sublime possibility.

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 3, 2017



* Our prayers for our world:

- for creative imagination in our nation's relationship with North Korea
- for the 3000 migrants who have died crossing the Mediterranean this year
- for the safety and well-being of all refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers
- for an end to the ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims from 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 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

Leading Up to Winding Down



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

Dec. 3—House Church, 10:00 am, home of the Barrows

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



Humbly
welcome
the word
that has
been
planted
in you.

ON THE SCHEDULE REFRESHMENTS



Fellowship
After
Worship

Next up:
December 17
at St. Cyprian's

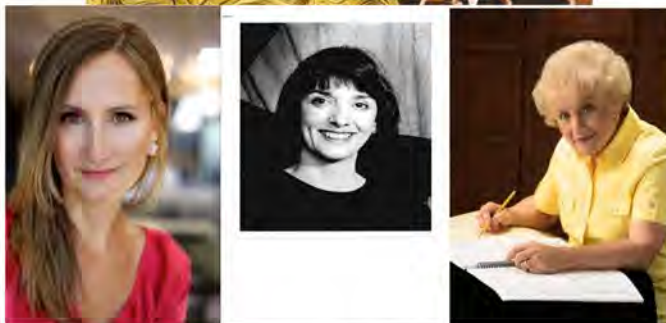
Religion is a candle inside a multicolored lantern. Everyone looks through a particular color, but the candle is always there.—Mohammed Naguib



Interfaith Center at the Presidio

Unleashing the Power of Interreligious Cooperation

—Celebrate with Music—
Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa



Aeshah & Kokomon Clottey, 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!

MEDITATION PAGE



Coming Events (this week and beyond):



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 10:00 AM

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT HOUSE
CHURCH

Home of the Barrows—760 Crespi Drive,
Pacifica

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7:30-9:00 PM

MIDDLE CIRCLE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL
TRANSFORMATION NIGHT

Home of Anders & Michelle Peterson, 80 41st
St., Oakland, CA

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 5:00 PM

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
ORDER FOR RECEPTION OF A NEW MEM-
BER

ORDER FOR THANKSGIVING FOR THE MIN-
ISTRY 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

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,