



FIRST UNITED  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Established 1886

# Keeping in Touch

November 15, 2015

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*We need to haunt the house of history and listen anew to the ancestors' wisdom.*  
—Maya Angelou



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*Pastor Susan Strouse*

This week, we remember Hannah as one of our ancestors. In the *Song of Hannah* (I Samuel 2:1-10), she sings praise to God for answering her prayers for a child, the prophet Samuel. Regarded in the Jewish tradition as the prime model of how to pray, the *Song of Hannah* is always read on the first day of Rosh Hashanah. It has features in common with the *Magnificat*, and many scholars believe that Luke used the *Song of Hannah* for the basis of the song that Mary sang after the announcement of her child. While both Hannah and Mary are traditionally viewed as "handmaids" of God who bore sons through divine intervention, they can also be seen as prophets in their own right. Both sing of the power of God to bring about the reversal of the poor and the powerful. In a few short weeks, we will sing Mary's *Magnificat*. May we also remember Hannah, her ancestor –and ours.

Blessings,  
*Pastor Susan*

This Week on PrS: Proud Member of the Religious Left  
*Lighting Up Diwali, Advent and Hanukkah*  
<https://progressivechurch.wordpress.com/>

## SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE

As in past years, we observe a Season of Remembrance through the month of November until Advent begins on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Each week, you are invited to light a candle in thankful memory of someone who has died. You are invited also to bring a picture or memento of a loved one to place on the altar.

## Reminder:

The next meeting of the East Bay Salon will be Thursday, Nov. 19 at 7:00 pm.  
Location: Cafe Underwood at 308 41st Street, Oakland  
Current topic: What are the political implications of being a follower of Jesus?  
For complete information, talk to 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*

## *November 15, 2015*



*God our rock, you hear the cries of your people  
and answer the prayers of the faithful.  
Grant us the boldness of Hannah that we may persist in prayer;  
confident in your steadfast love. Amen.*

- ✘ Our prayers for our world:
  - › for our companion synods: the *Lutheran Church in Rwanda*, the *Lutheran Church in El Salvador* and *Taiwan Lutheran Church*
  - › for the *UN Climate Change Conference* beginning November 30 in Paris
  - › for our compassionate response to the needs of refugees
  - › for *Sahar Speaks*, training Afghan women as journalists to tell stories about their country and their lives.
  
- ✘ Our prayers for our communities:
  - › for the SF Bay eco-system, threatened because of drought and water diversion
  - › for crabbers and all affected by the delay or cancellation of the Dungeness crab season because of a deadly natural toxin
  - › for the *Winterfaith Shelter*, *Project Homeless Connect*, *Welcome*, *SF Night Ministry* and *Lutheran Social Services*
  - › for our preparedness to help those affected by the coming El Nino storms
  
- ✘ Our prayers for our congregation and beyond:
  - › for thanksgiving for all our ancestors
  - › for those grieving recent losses: Steve Johnson, Diane Flynn
  - › for those in assisted living or nursing care facilities: Roger Creet, Charles McBrian, Marilyn Pearson
  - › for continued development of relationships between *First United* and *Middle Circle*

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

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE  
IN CELEBRATION OF  
THE LIFE OF MARGIE JANG



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015, 1:00 PM  
AT  
ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

A SERVICE OF  
FIRST UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH  
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

---

MEMORIALS MAY BE MADE TO:

Rocket Dog Rescue ://[www.rocketdogrescue.org/donate/](http://www.rocketdogrescue.org/donate/)  
First United Lutheran Church [Donate](#)  
(designate "In Memory of Margie Jang")

# Saturday Afternoon Drive Photos

Below are some photos from our Saturday Afternoon Drive to Treasure Island.  
What a wonderful morning.



## OUR COMMUNITY

### BOARD GAME DAY

Brought to You By  
7Gens & Social Good Circles

Sunday, November 22, 2015  
10:00am 11:30am  
Vintage Golden Gate  
1601 19th Avenue



Spend the morning developing intergenerational relationships while playing board/card games with residents of Vintage Golden Gate assisted living community.



Journeying Toward Christmas:  
a family gathering of food, story,  
and song

When: Sunday December 20 from 4:00 - 6:00 PM

Where: Downstairs at Turk & Lyon

What to Bring: Nothing (all will be provided)

Come, celebrate the Advent-Christmas story in a relaxed, family-style setting

Join in singing Advent and Christmas carols

Break bread around the table with old friends and new. Experience Holy Communion in the midst of our meal.

Explore what this ancient archetypal story has to say to us today. Register:

<http://www.middlecircle.org/calendar/2015/12/20/exploring-the-christmas-story>



### RWANDA UPDATE

Innocent Rugaragu, S.J., colleague of Pastor John Rutsindintwarane from the Lutheran Church in Rwanda, will be our guest speaker on Sunday, December 13.

Born in Tanzania of Rwandan parents and raised as a refugee who returned to Rwanda after the genocide, Fr. Rugaragu devotes his life and work to peace and reconciliation. He is a Ph.D. candidate at the School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University. His studies focus on genocide prevention, and peace and reconciliation leadership.

Fr. Rugaragu returns often to Rwanda where he serves as a community organizer with PICO Rwanda.



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Oct. 31, 2017, will mark the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther posting his 95 Theses on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany – an act that sparked the Lutheran Reformation. A little more than a year before the anniversary, on **Aug. 10-13, 2016**, we will be hosting the **Grace Gathering** in conjunction with the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans. Please **save these dates** now and **make plans to attend** the [Grace Gathering](#).

This special event will give Grace Gathering attendees and Churchwide Assembly voting members an opportunity to come together in kicking off the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary! There will be fruitful workshops and keynotes to inspire planning for local observances, time to worship and participate in experiential learning activities, as well as opportunities to gather with voting members of the ELCA throughout the Churchwide Assembly.

I also invite and encourage you to become involved even now in the ELCA's observance of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation by visiting and bookmarking [ELCA500.org](#), a growing hub of resources, events and news surrounding preparation for the observance. You also can follow current developments on Facebook at [ELCA Reformation 500](#).

Please look for more information on the **Grace Gathering** in the coming months! Early bird registration will open on **Oct. 31, 2015**. I look forward to seeing you in New Orleans in August 2016!

Grace and peace to you,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

*There simply is no better way to learn:*

- *what today's Lutherans are all about,*
- *what social, political, spiritual, and environmental issues command their attention and dialogue*
- *what is happening in the Lutheran community nationally and throughout the world*
- *insight into a wide range of relevant topics addressed in thoughtful, excellent articles by top journalists in religion and spirituality*

***The Lutheran** has never shied away from confronting controversy nor challenging topics—hence, when First United and St. Francis Lutheran issued calls to Jeff, Phyllis, and Ruth, **The Lutheran** thoroughly and objectively reported the news, without resorting to editorial commentary on either side of the conflict.*

***The Lutheran** is truly an excellent publication, and I highly recommend subscribing no matter what your affiliation or relationship is to the ELCA. And I can speak with some authority on this—I have been a life-long subscriber to the publication, even BEFORE I exited my mother's womb. My parents had subscribed for years and continued throughout my childhood. And I continue to do so.—Orion*



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Sept. 29, 2015

Dear Pastor Peterson,

Relationships are vital to the health of your congregation and the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). *The Lutheran* magazine's charge is to establish a connection with members of congregations to help them grow in faith and assist them in the mission and efforts of their congregation and the larger church.

*The Lutheran* is where members find news and views on faith, Scripture, mission, advocacy and more impacting daily life. The magazine is a resource for education, outreach and evangelism while providing a forum for discussion on issues of the day.

Members of subscribing congregations know this. Their subscriptions to *The Lutheran* keep them informed of news, events and issues impacting Lutherans locally, nationally and globally. Through their subscriptions they also have access online to more than 9,000 archived articles and 400 study guides, making subscription renewals a solid investment of congregational resources.

Non-subscribing congregations can learn about how affordable subscription plans to *The Lutheran* can be—as low as \$8.95 for 12 issues a year. For more information about subscriptions, call 800-328-4648 or email [subscriptions@augsbuorg.org](mailto:subscriptions@augsbuorg.org).

You have the influence to increase your congregation members' knowledge of the many ministries your ELCA congregation, synod and churchwide office support. With a subscription to *The Lutheran*, we can work together and walk alongside each other as we do God's work with our hands.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Lehmann  
Editor, *The Lutheran*  
Director, Publications  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



*To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source, a tree without root.*  
– Chinese proverb

Re: Sunday's gospel from Mark 13:1-8

Long after apocalyptic writing had settled into a domesticated role within Christian theology, the association of Jesus with the prophecies of the end time can be seen even in the Muslim tradition:

The disciples said, "Christ of God, look at the house of God—how beautiful it is!" He replied, "Amen, Amen, Truly I say to you, God will not leave one stone of this mosque upon another but will destroy it utterly because of the sins of its people. God does nothing with gold, silver, or these stones. More dear to God than all these are the pure in heart. Through them, God builds up the earth, or else destroys it if these hearts are other than pure.

(Tarif Khalidi, *The Muslim Jesus. Sayings and Stories in Islamic Literature*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001)

### ***From the San Francisco Interfaith Council:***

*World AIDS Day Interfaith Service - "New Light, New Life"*

Sunday, November 29, 2015, 6:00 pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street. Free event.

All are welcome! Bring a friend! For additional information please visit:

[www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/world-aids-day-interfaith-service](http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/world-aids-day-interfaith-service).

### *Interfaith Memorial for Our Homeless Dead*

Monday, December 21, 2015, 5:30 pm

City Hall Steps, Polk Street Side, San Francisco. Free event.

All are welcome! Bring a friend! Bring a candle! For additional information please visit: [www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/interfaith-memorial-our-homeless-dead](http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/interfaith-memorial-our-homeless-dead).

### ***11TH ANNUAL INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE***

WHEN: Thursday, November 26, 2015, 10:00 - 11:00 am Free event

WHERE: The Baha'i Community of San Francisco, 170 Valencia Street

All are welcome! Bring a friend! Website for Baha'i Community: <https://www.sfbahai.org/> For additional info please visit:

[www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/11th-annual-interfaith-thanksgiving-day-service](http://www.sfinterfaithcouncil.org/11th-annual-interfaith-thanksgiving-day-service).

2015  
**PARLIAMENT**  
OF THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS  
SALT LAKE • OCT 15-19

were over 1,800 presenters offering workshops, ritual practices, music and dance and more. And there were conversations, connections, compassionate conspiracies, and collaborations in every corner.

Nearly 10,000 people gathered from around the world in Salt Lake City for five days of amazing encounters, deepening relationships, and calls to action on the environment, women's rights, income inequality--- and a free lunch, offered each day by the Sikhs. There

The Interfaith Center at the Presidio was proud to exhibit the McDonald Windows, the collection of artwork created from the shattered fragments of stained glass windows gathered from the ruins of European places of worship by Chaplain Frederick McDonald after World War II (<http://atelierleroux.com/rememberedlight/pieces.html>). The windows were exhibited in a central location, and hundreds of people found time to walk through and ponder, sometimes even to weep. Some of the comments written in the exhibit journal:

Thank you, thank you.

Emotions well up within me as I enter this exhibit.

I feel inwardly shattered by every lovingly-gathered piece of broken glass.

The tragedy of what this represents is heartbreaking.

This was the most moving time for me in the whole Parliament so far.

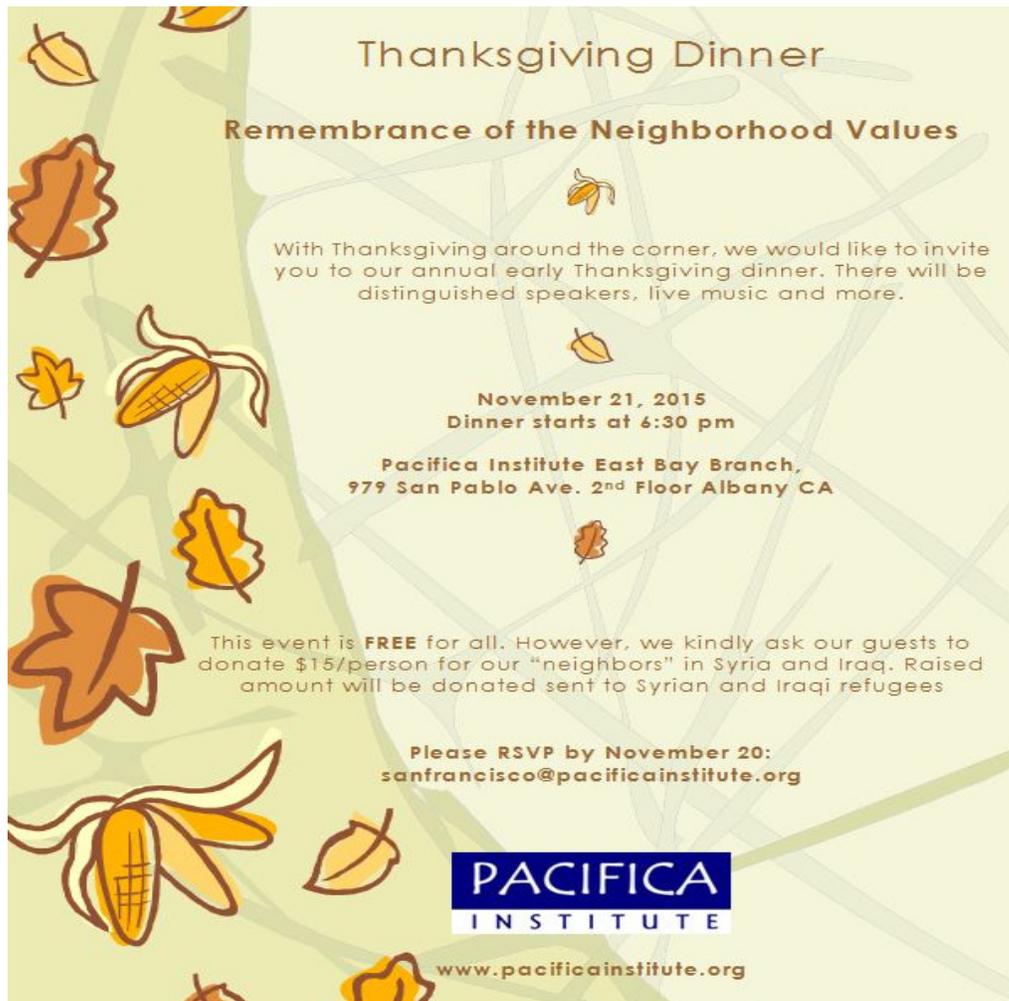
Beauty out of the broken, shattered remnants - thank you.

After Katrina, a glass artist asked for fragments - there were none. We searched around the empty windows, the beach. We were there responding to Mississippi (from Indiana). All I could find to bring to her were the glass circles out of micro-waves found on the beach.



The last piece in the exhibit (at left) contains shards from St. Andrew in Biarritz, France. The piece is made in such a way that one is asked to write the name(s) of someone who is lost on a slip of paper and drop it into the artwork itself. Over 450 names were written, including Anne Frank, All the Unnamed, and Robin Williams. We've posted some photos of the McDonald Windows display and some other sights on our blog at <http://interfaithpresidio.ipage.com/blog/2015/11/photos-from-the-parliament/>. You'll find some other reports there, as well.

More than 100 sessions from the Parliament, including the plenary sessions with speakers like Karen Armstrong, Jane Goodall, Tariq Ramadan, Jim Wallis, are now available on the Parliament website (<http://www.parliamentofreligions.org>). They're well worth a look as we remember what we have learned and what we still must do together.



## MULTIFAITH RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL OBSERVANCES 2015

### NOVEMBER

- 9-13 Deepavali \*\* - Hindu
- 11 Diwali (Deepavali) \*\* - Hindu - Jain - Sikh
- 12 Birth of Baha'u'llah - Baha'i (begins sundown on 11)
- New Year \*\* Jain
- 15 Nativity Fast begins through 12/24 - Orthodox Christian
- 22 Christ the Anointed - Christian
- 24 Guru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom - Sikh
- 25 Guru Nanak Dev Sahib birthday - Sikh
- 26 Thanksgiving- Interfaith USA
- Day of the Covenant - Baha'i
- 28 Ascension of Abdu'l-Baha - Baha'i (begins sundown on 26)
- 29 Advent begins - Christian
- 30 Saint Andrew's Day - Christian

[Interreligious Calendar events are taken from the [Multifaith Action Society](#) Multifath Calendar 2011 and other sources. See also the Online [Interfaith Calendar](#) and the [BBC Interfaith Calendar](#)] **NOTE:** Jewish Holidays begin at sundown the day before. Buddhist holidays are observed on many different days, according to local tradition.



# San Francisco Interfaith Council

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

MICHAEL G. PAPPAS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • MGPAPPAS@SFINTERFAITHCOUNCIL.ORG  
P.O. BOX 29055 • SAN FRANCISCO CA 94129 • 415.474.1321  
WWW.SFINTERFAITHCOUNCIL.ORG

Prayer Breakfast Co-Chairs  
Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto and Kaushik Roy

Invite you to the San Francisco Interfaith Council's  
18th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

## "Faith and Sanctuary: There Are No Strangers"

We will honor congregations who pioneered San Francisco's  
Sanctuary Movement 30 years ago, recognize those who  
continue the tradition, and highlight young people for whom  
the City's commitment has provided hope and safety.

**Tuesday, November 24, 2015**  
7:00 am - 9:00 am

**Hotel Kabuki**  
1625 Post Street (at Laguna)  
San Francisco

**Table Sponsor:** \$750 for 10 tickets  
**Sustaining Sponsor:** \$350 for 4 tickets  
**Individual Tickets:** \$50 per person

**To purchase sponsorships or  
individual tickets, please visit:**  
[SF Prayer Breakfast](#)

**PLEASE BRING:** Non-perishable food items to fill the SF Food Bank barrels

**PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION/PARKING:** Muni bus lines 2, 3, and 38. There is metered street parking adjacent to the event until 9:00 am. Enforcement of metered parking starts promptly at 9:00 am. There is also parking available in Japantown garages at reasonable rates. We encourage you to park in these garages. Please see link for details: [Japantown Parking Garages](#)

For additional information please contact Cynthia Zamboukos at  
[415-474-1321](tel:415-474-1321) or [cynthiaz@sfinterfaithcouncil.org](mailto:cynthiaz@sfinterfaithcouncil.org)

# Readings for November 15, 2015

FIRST READING—1 SAMUEL 1: 1–2; 10-11; 20; 2:1–10

*Apart from providing a suitably auspicious birth narrative for Samuel, the tale also serves to introduce the Song of Hannah, which may have been the model for Luke when he composed the Magnificat, or Song of Mary (Luke 1:46-55). These songs both express an eschatological perspective, although it is most likely that neither is explicitly "apocalyptic" in tone. Still, they affirm a vision of hope and the expectation that God would act to bring justice to the people.*

*It is written . . .*

There was a man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, named Elkanah ben-Jeroham ben-Elihu ben-Tohu, an Ephraimite. Elkanah had two wives, one named Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. Hannah, deeply distressed, wept greatly, vowing, "YHWH Omnipotent, look with pity on your handmaid. Don't forsake me. Remember me. If you will give me a son, I will dedicate him to you. For all the days of his life, he will neither drink wine nor liquor, and no razor will ever touch its head."

Before the year was out, Hannah had conceived and given birth to a son. She named him Samuel, explaining, "I asked God for him."

Then Hannah prayed:

My heart delights in YHWH,  
to YHWH I lift my horn high.

I gloat over my foes,  
I rejoice in your deliverance!  
There is no one holier than you.  
No one is holier than YHWH;  
there is no Rock like YHWH.

All bragging must cease.  
Boastful arrogance must come to an end.  
For YHWH is all-knowing,  
and weighs all mortal deeds.

The bows of warriors are broken,  
while those who stumble gain renewed strength.  
Those who had their fill now sell themselves for crusts of bread,

while those who were hungry are sated.  
Childless women bear seven children  
while mothers of many are forsaken.

It is YHWH who deals out both life and death;  
it is YHWH who casts down to Sheol,  
and raises up again.  
It is YHWH who makes both the poor and the wealthy.  
It is YHWH who both humbles and exalts.  
YHWH lifts the weak from the refuse dump  
and raises the poor from the cesspool,

# Readings for November 15, 2015

to place them among the mighty  
and promotes them to seats of honor.

The foundations of the earth belong to YHWH  
and YHWH sets the world upon them.  
YHWH lights the ways of the just  
and delivers the evildoer to darkness.  
It is not by strength that the just prevail:  
It is YHWH who shatters foes.  
The most high thunders against them in the skies;  
YHWH judges the ends of the earth.  
Now YHWH will endow the ruler with strength  
and exalt the head of the anointed one.”

## SECOND READING—A READING FROM CARL JUNG

*Psychologist Carl Jung wrote extensively about the collective unconscious which is this vast pool of ancestral memory within each of us, a kind of deposit of ancestral experience. He believed it comprises the psychic life of our ancestors right back to the earliest beginnings; nothing is lost; all of the stories, struggles, and wisdom are available to us. Each of us is an unconscious carrier of this ancestral experience and part of our journey is to bring this to consciousness in our lives.*

*Jung wrote:*

I became aware of the fateful links between me and my ancestors. I feel very strongly that I am under the influence of things or questions which were left incomplete or unanswered by my parents and grandparents and more distant ancestors. It often seems as if there were an impersonal karma within a family, which is passed on from parents to children. It has always seemed to me that I had to answer questions which fate had posed to my forefathers, and which had not yet been answered, or as if I had to complete, or perhaps continue, things which previous ages had left unfinished.

## GOSPEL—MARK 13:1-8

*It is written . . .*

As Jesus was leaving the Temple, one of the disciples commented in passing, “Look, Teacher! What huge stones these are! What wonderful buildings!” Jesus replied, “See these great buildings? Not a single stone will be left on another. Everything will be torn down.”

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives facing the Temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will all this happen? What will be the sign that all this is about to take place?”

Jesus began by saying, “Be on your guard that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name saying, ‘I am the One,’ and they will deceive many. When you hear of wars and rumors of war, do not be alarmed. Things like this must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation and empire against empire; there will be earthquakes throughout the world and famines—yet this is only the beginning of the labor pains.



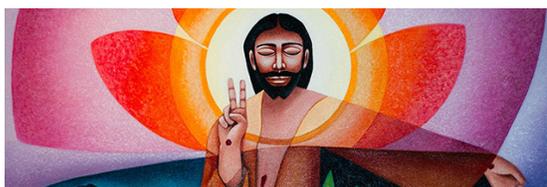
## Coming Events (this week and beyond):

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

7:00 PM: EAST BAY SALON  
Cafe Underwood at 308 41st Street, Oakland

### SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21

1:00 PM: MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR MARGIE JANG  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell St., San Francisco



### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22

5:00 PM: WORSHIP—FEAST OF CHRIST ANOINTED  
St. Cyprian's



### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26 THANKSGIVING

**FOR FULL DETAILS**  
on all First United events, go to [www.fulc.com](http://www.fulc.com), & click on  
<http://fulc.com/check-us-out/calendar/>

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

Church Office 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](http://www.fulc.com)  
email: [info@fulc.com](mailto:info@fulc.com)

Pastor Susan Strouse  
email: [PastorSusan@fulc.com](mailto:PastorSusan@fulc.com)

Anders Peterson,  
Mission Developer  
[anders@middlecircle.org](mailto:anders@middlecircle.org)

Kate Drefke,  
Teaching Parish Ministry

Orion Pitts  
Music Director & Office Administrator  
[orion@fulc.com](mailto:orion@fulc.com)

2013-2014 Council:  
Tamara Alliston [President@fulc.com](mailto:President@fulc.com)  
Kirk Pessner [Treas@fulc.com](mailto:Treas@fulc.com)  
Debbie Barrow

Youth representatives:  
Elizabeth Christie Sophia McDonald



Nov. 22:  
Richard Fisk

Nov. 25:  
Deborah Hagemann

Nov. 26:  
Elizabeth Christie

Nov. 30:  
Amanda Nelson

Dec. 2:  
Marci Rohrer

## ON THE SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15**  
Refreshments: TBA

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22**  
Refreshments: Anders & Michelle

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29**  
Refreshments: Orion

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6**  
House church and Evening Prayer—no refreshments

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8**  
Refreshments: Terri & Elizabeth

### 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,