FIRST UNITED
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Established 1886

Keeping in Touch

November 20, 2016

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in; that's how the light gets in.
—Leonard Cohen

Pastor's Message

Pastor Susan Strouse

This Sunday is traditionally known as Christ the King Sunday, but here at First United it is called the Feast of Christ Anointed (if you're curious about the reasons behind this, you can read my blog post entitled "Morphing Christ the King" at

https://wordpress.com/post/progressivechurch.wordpress.com/1286).

I'm not in favor of doing away with the day, as many progressive churches do, because it gives me great joy (especially now) to know that there is a power in the universe stronger than any human powers and principalities. Personally, I like the language of the Cosmic Christ, so much more meaningful to me than 'king." It's also the final Sunday in our Season of Remembrance; this week we widen the circle to include the world, including all those who are oppressed. Several groups we can include in our remembrance are highlighted below. We will light candles for Aleppo, for the Transgender Day of Remembrance, and for the Standing Rock Sioux tribe. Who will you remember this Sunday as we bring our memories and prayers to the Divine Milieu of the Cosmic Christ?

Love,

Pastor Susan

This Week on *PrS: Proud Member of the Religious Left*
"Feeding My Activist Soul"
https://progressivechurch.wordpress.com/

This Week on *The INTRAfaith Conversation*
"Why Not An Interfaith Advent?"
http://intrafaithconversation.com

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 20, 2016

Powerful God,
when we are at our most vulnerable help us rest our hope in you.
Remind us that strength may be used for hurting or for love,
and that when you are the source of our strength no hurtful power can overcome it.
Make us more loving, more kind; but never let us stop striving
for the establishment of liberation and justice in your righteous reign. Amen

✠ Our prayers for our world:
- for people everywhere working to end harassment, violence, and discrimination because of race, ethnicity, sexual preference, or gender
- for the future implementation of the *Paris Climate Agreement*
- for the work of *Faithful America, Sojourners*, and others organizing resistance movements
- for steadfastness in resistance to the *Dakota Access Pipeline* and to a reversal of the rejection of the *Keystone XL Pipeline*

✠ Our prayers for our communities:
- for all working on issues of economic justice and affordable housing in our communities
- for those living on the streets and for all who provide services to them, including the *SF Night Ministry, Welcome,* the *Friendship Banquet,* and *Lutheran Social Services*
- for safety and non-violence in political protests and civil disobedience
- for those organizing and/or planning to attend the *Million Woman March* in Washington DC on January 21

✠ Our prayers for our congregation and beyond:
- for those grieving recent losses: Steve Johnson, Diane Flynn
- for those in assisted living or nursing care facilities: Roger Creet, Charles McBrian
- for healing: Marilyn Pearson, Nicole Bohn, John Patrick Williams, Jane Bolander, Stefani Schatz
- for our college students, Gabe Connor and Stephanie Barrow
- for Pastor Anders Peterson and the *Middle Circle* community

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

We have a job to do, and it will continue for a very long time, because

Silence=death

For many, the initial shock and dismay following the November 8 election has given way to the recognition that a new reality has set in upon our nation, and beyond its borders as well. And we know that it will be a very long and relentless process to insure that justice is served. We must be alert and stand up to every moment when false barriers are put in place by those who do not recognize that all persons, creatures, and the earth itself are united in one great creation, by some called God, or the cosmos, or any of many other names. There are no "others".

There have already been discussions—both informal and directed—among members of the First United and Middle Circle communities, and these will and must continue. And plans of action must be put in place, and voices need to be heard. In last Sunday's sermon and in her blog, Pastor Susan addressed issues related to "how do we respond to this situation?" and "what should we do?", and "what can we do?"

Express yourself! Say what's on your mind and what's bothering you as it relates to this new regime of power that is in all ways self-serving rather than serving all people, all creatures, and the universe itself as one family.

First United's **Stephanie Barrow**, a student at Cal State Pomona, did exactly what she needed to do—she spoke out!—by way of a letter to her First United family, expressing her thoughts and feelings following the events of November 8. With her permission, her letter is reprinted here and on the following pages.

Dear First United,

There are so many thoughts and feelings that I have following this election.

Watching the coverage of the election and slowly watching the states place their votes with Trump will be a moment that I'll never forget. Everyone was so confident that Clinton would win. How could we be so wrong with our predictions?

This election was shocking. It proved that white supremacy is alive today. In California, we get stuck in a bubble. We forget that most of the country does not think as we do. This election was an important eye-opener for us, and hopefully we can gain something from it.

As we were gathered around watching the election, something stuck out for me. One of my friends, who does identify as a conservative Republican, was becoming increasingly anxious during the coverage. This is a man who refused to vote for either candidate, because he could not vote for someone that he did not believe in. As we were watching the election though, he was becoming more and more distraught. This was because he realized, for the first time, how much he really did not want Trump to win. Here he was, rooting for a woman that he hated, because the other candidate's win was too unbearable to believe in. I realized something in this moment. When did I start thinking of the world as Democrats vs. Republicans? This is the hate that Trump has been preaching; the us vs. them ideology. He played off the fears of the country. And now I am afraid of what the future might hold for those that are deemed as "different." I realized that in the coming years, it will be important for us to work together to create a safe America, where everyone feels welcome.

Following this election, it has become obvious that not everyone is welcome in America. As a women, I have seen the impact that this election has had on the gender that I identify with. The other day, a girl in my class said that she did not vote for Hillary because a woman could not be president. A girl in California who is pursuing her higher education degree believes this. It is also important to note that this was during a Women Writer's course.

Also, when Hillary gave her concession speech she said, "To the little girls out there, never doubt that you are valuable, and powerful, and deserve every opportunity to pursue and achieve your own dreams". How often do you see a white man coming out and telling white boys that they can be anything they want to be? You don't. Because white boys already know this. Girls still have to be reminded that they can do whatever they want, because they do not know that. Apparently, women can do anything they want, as long as it does not interfere with the patriarchy.

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Currently, most people in America are fearful for the next few years. My campus has created safe places where students can come and talk about their feelings concerning the election. Growing up in a white middle-class family has made these conversations challenging for me. Sitting in a class where my peers express their concerns for their illegal immigrant families has opened my eyes. I personally do not have to deal with those same fears. Even Latinos, Muslims, Asians, etc. that are American citizens, are still having to face persecution:

1. *I pray for the group of boys that took off a girl's hijab at Plano East Senior High.*
2. *I pray for the students in DeWitt, Michigan that formed a physical wall around the school blocking Latino students from entering.*
3. *I pray for street vendor that yelled, "hey guys, at least it will be legal to grab p****" and high-fived a group of men on the street who were laughing.*
4. *I pray for the Muslim family that woke up to a sign outside their house that said, "you can leave now." This was in the Bay Area.*
5. *I pray for all the instances that have gone undocumented, and for all the people that are now fearful for their safety.*

I feel a disconnect with what is going on in America. As a white heterosexual Christian, I do not have to worry about these same oppressions. However, that doesn't mean that I shouldn't be a part of it. I want to be actively engaged in the current conversations. I believe in civil disobedience. I believe in the ability to express our First Amendment right by peaceful protests.

We, as Americans, have been complacent for too long. The current generation never lived through the Civil Rights Movement, the AIDS epidemic, the Vietnam protests, women's suffrage, etc. It is time that we struggle and fight for something that we believe in.

To those that believe that Trump will be unable to create his laws or build a wall, look at the incidents that I have written above. There is already a wall in America. It is important for us to ban together and tear down this wall.

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It is fine to mourn. I have been in mourning and using this time to sort through and understand my feelings. Writing this letter became a great way for me to purge/be mindful of my own feelings. However, we cannot become complacent to what is going on in the world. Finish mourning, and use that drive to fuel your hopes and desires for America.

To the young people, get off social media. What laws have ever actually been passed because of it? Nothing. Laws are changed by going to court, protesting, and writing to our elected officials. Not by stating an opinion online to your friends, most of whom have the same opinion as you anyway. We need to change the mind of others, and that is done through education. My hope is that I can go out and enact change, hopefully with you by my side.

I do feel like the government failed me. However, I am a Political Science Major for a reason. I have faith in America and in a government that wants to help its people. And I want to be a part of that.

My hope is that the president-elect, and those coming into power, will not use hate to create new laws. I hope that the country will stay open-minded and that we will help Trump be successful in his presidency. If something happens that we do not agree with, it is our duty as citizens to stand up and enact change.

Although this feels like 10 steps in the wrong direction, hopefully we can use this to take 30 steps forward.

Thank you,
Stephanie Barrow

What could be more Christ-like than to take a stand for justice and equality?

After all, Jesus' final act was to quietly and without resistance refuse to acknowledge the power of Roman authorities. So they killed him, and he knew they'd kill him.
SO THAT SAYS TO ME THAT HE TOOK THIS JUSTICE AND EQUALITY THING PRETTY SERIOUSLY!

Many of you may be aware that there is an event taking shape—a very big event—in January. It's the **MILLION WOMEN'S MARCH in Washington, D. C. on January 21**, the day after the presidential inauguration. It is a response to a presidential candidate's debasing and despicable remarks about women and minorities—remarks he has made repeatedly and regularly throughout the years of his public life.
Personally, I hope this event grows to be so big, so significant, and so overwhelming that it will be the most momentous event to occur in the lives of all people living today. And all persons who support this movement, which embraces not only women, but minorities and any disenfranchised people, ethnicities, or faith traditions, are encouraged to participate.
Some members of the First United Community already have purchased flight reservations to go. If you have questions or want to discuss the possibility of going, speak to Tamara Alliston.

Here's an article that appeared in the Washington Post last week about the event:

https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/local/wp/2016/11/14/womens-march-on-washington-planning-for-big-crowds-on-inauguration-weekend/

And here's a link to the event's Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/events/246291945788338/

Save the date!

Advent Vespers Service to Welcome
The Church of St, John Coltrane

Bishop Marc Andrus, presiding
Wednesday, December 7 at 7:00 pm
First United will also offer a welcoming prayer

Theme for the evening is the Peaceable Kingdom of Isaiah Chapter 11, attainable by

- doing justice (Psalm 118:1-2,19-29),
- living the power of God's love (1 Corinthians 13:1-13), and
- offering hospitality to the outcast (Luke 19:1-10).

A pot-luck reception will follow the service. Contributions are welcome.

'Tis The Season

So what follows is a preview of the events that are happening in our community in the coming months. Mark your calendar and plan to be there!

Sunday, November 27: First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 4: Second Sunday of Advent—
Special event: Presidio Art Exhibit exploring the human cost of National Security. Followed by worship in the Presidio Chapel

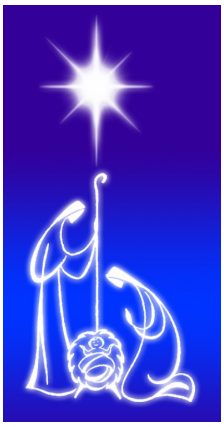
Sunday, December 11: Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve House Church

Sunday, December 25: No service

Sunday, January 1: New Years Day; 5:00 pm service of Contemplation and Reflection



Got plans for Thanksgiving?

You don't?

Well now you do: with a cheerful gathering of people, dinner, a warm and inviting home, and one crazy dog who loves attention.

It's *Friendsgiving* at the home of Anders, Michelle, and Rumi Peterson:

TIME
- You are welcome to **arrive at 3 PM** to complete any preparations to your potluck contribution.
- We will have the football game on for the sports fans and will plan to **eat around 4 PM**
- Folks are welome to stay after dinner to play games

Michelle & Anders will prepare the fowl: Turkey and Ducks (Canvassback, Mallard, and more)!

WHAT TO BRING

1. A side dish and/or drinks to share. We'll need to cover all the bases, so please sign-up on this spreadsheet and tell us what you're bringing.

2. Snail mail addresses of those you appreciate: We'll have a Post-Your-Gratitude station where you can select a postcard, write a short note to someone you appreciate and put a stamp on it.

3. Board games! Bring a classic game or your new fav–we'll keep the gaming going until late into the night.

RSVP Here: http://www.evite.com/event/017DG7JGNH7TFEBFIEPGVHGJ4B75Z4/rsvp

RSVP above by the evening of Sunday, November 20th, so we have an idea of how many people to prepare for.

Know any friends that may be looking for a place to go for turkey day? *Please invite them to the evite. All are welcome.*

Can't wait to celebrate with you!
Anders & Michelle

A Light for Aleppo, A Light for All

Offering a light in the darkness, to show those who face daily conflict and starvation that the world is spreading out beacons of vigilance and hope

At 5pm on Sunday November 20, as dark nights begin to draw in, communities will gather along the Firth of Forth in Scotland and in other sites around the world (including San Francisco) to light lights of hope for those besieged in Aleppo. Join in wherever you are, or light candles in your own homes.

People living in warzones around the world have less and less food to live on each day, fewer and fewer medical supplies to respond to the constant arms attacks, and aid cannot easily get through. We want them to know that wherever they are they not forgotten, and the world is watching. When we are helpless to do much, we can answer the darkness by sending messages of light around the world.

The beacons can be as simple as lighting a candle in a window, though we are also hoping for a number of community gatherings and the lighting of fires with churches and faith communities being integral to this vision. We hope this initiative will help the movement for peace in Aleppo and let the people, aid workers, charities, and victims of war know that they are not forgotten. We have already heard from people in parts of the UK and in other countries who intend to join in. In this way, a path of light might well reach from here to Aleppo, or at least to Syrian borders, and spread hope, and may even help save lives. http://www.alightforaleppo.org/

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of those whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. It was started by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence that year and began an important memorial that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance. Additionally, during the week of November 14-20, individuals and organizations around the country participate in Transgender Awareness Week to help raise the visibility of transgender and gender non-conforming people and address the issues these communities face.

FIRST UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH

MIDDLE CIRCLE

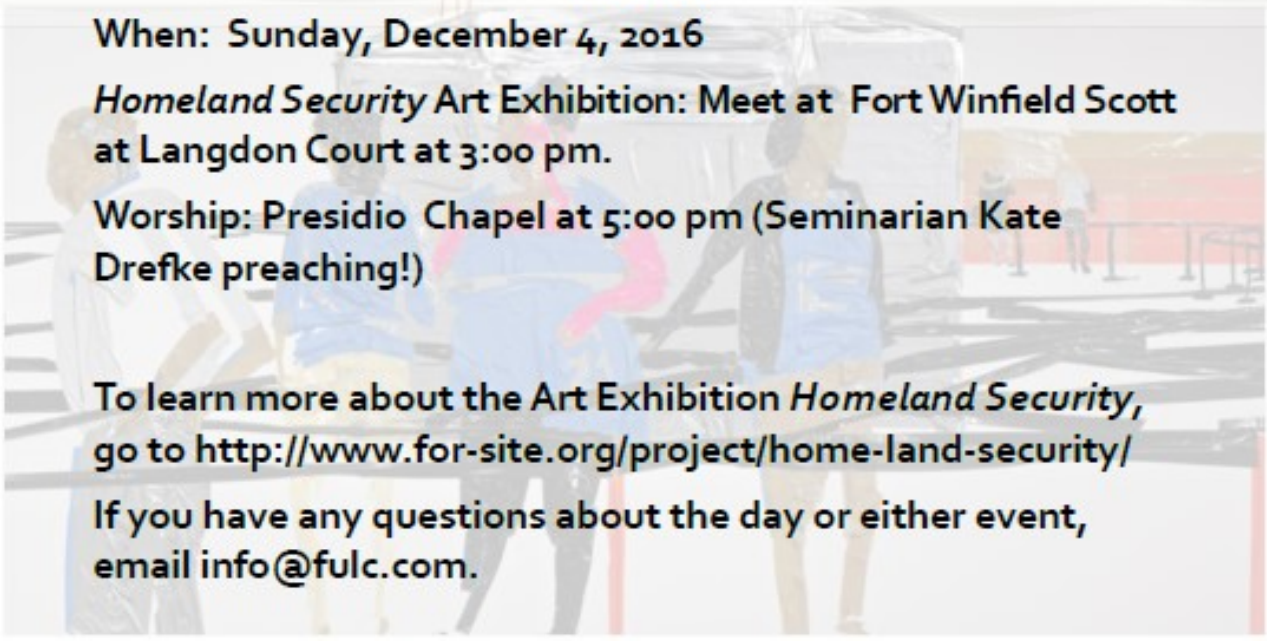
A First United/Middle Circle Special Event At The Presidio

We'll be doing things a bit differently on

Sunday, December 4:

- There will NOT be house church that morning.
- First United's 5:00 pm service will be in the Presidio Chapel.
- Preceding that, the community is gathering at 3:00 pm to explore the *Homeland Security* art installation, which is spread among several structures in the Presidio. (A number of people in our community have seen it, and they found it so significant and powerful that they're coming to see it again!)

Details:



When: Sunday, December 4, 2016

***Homeland Security* Art Exhibition: Meet at Fort Winfield Scott at Langdon Court at 3:00 pm.**

Worship: Presidio Chapel at 5:00 pm (Seminarian Kate Drefke preaching!)

To learn more about the Art Exhibition *Homeland Security*, go to http://www.for-site.org/project/home-land-security/

If you have any questions about the day or either event, email info@fulc.com.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

ELCA presiding bishop issues statement on Standing Rock

When we come together for worship, we often begin with confession and forgiveness using these words: "We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves." Lutherans acknowledge that this is a broken world and, as part of it, even our best wisdom and efforts fall short. Very often we face issues of extraordinary complexity in which all sides make reasoned arguments for their reality. The current situation at Standing Rock in North Dakota is just such a case.

The route of the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) runs through contested land, which the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe sees as their homeland and sacred places, including burial grounds. Proponents of the DAPL sees it as a combination of public and private property. The pipeline will run under Lake Oahe, the primary water source for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. What we see is the tension between two peoples trying to share one land. We can also see the tension between our dependence on fossil fuels and the commitment this church has made to care for creation.

This past August, the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed a resolution repudiating the doctrine of discovery. In it we pledged "to practice accompaniment with Native peoples." The doctrine declared that indigenous land was "unoccupied" as long as Christians were not present. Land deemed "unoccupied" was, therefore, "discovered," as if it had been previously unknown to humankind. This doctrine was used as justification for European monarchies, and later the U.S. government, to take land from Native people. Many of us in this church who are immigrants have benefited from the injustices done to the original inhabitants of this land where we now live and worship. Our church also includes American Indian and Alaskan Native people, who have been on the receiving end of the injustices done. When we repudiated the doctrine of discovery, we Lutherans pledged to do better together in the future than we have in the past.

Acknowledging the complexity of this issue and the limitations sin places on human decisions, I believe that we are called as a church to support the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe: to stand with the Tribe as they seek justice, to encourage our congregations to pray for them and to offer material support, and to examine the racism inherent in our system that contributes to the current crisis. As promised in our resolution repudiating the doctrine of discovery, we will listen to tribal leaders and respect their wisdom.

We will lend our presence when invited, our advocacy when requested, the resources of our people when asked, and our prayers, friendship and repentance at all times.

Your sister in Christ,

Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Lutheran Social Services of Northern California

Our vision is to end homelessness for good. Our work renews hope for formerly homeless youth, families and seniors, and former foster youth. We are guided by a commitment to justice, human rights, and caring compassion to those who are often overlooked or judged by others. Our work is founded in faith and open to all.

LSS helps those in need find and maintain housing and stabilize their lives. Having a home gives a foundation that allows them to seek a better life by finding and keeping work, attending school, and stabilizing family relationships. For more than 3500 people every day, LSS creates a path to self-sufficiency and sustainability through supportive housing services.

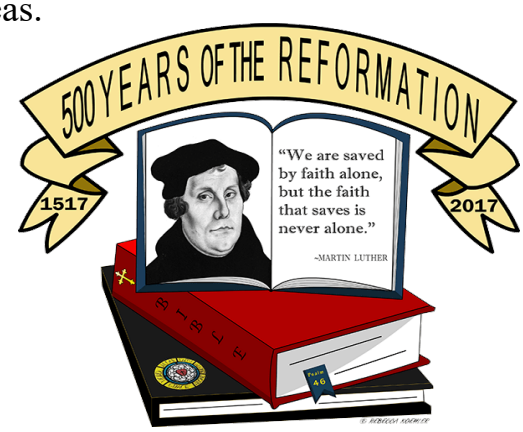
Many people want to help end homelessness, but don't know how. Are you looking for a way that you, or your congregation can get involved? Here are five easy ways you can help LSS end homelessness for good:

Create Welcome Baskets for formerly homeless youth and adults: Our formerly homeless clients come to us without any possessions. They need support meeting their basic daily needs when they move into their new home. Welcome baskets contain items that many of us take for granted - soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, towels and face clothes, laundry detergent, and more.

Provide a small gift to youth or families for the Holidays: Each year LSS also hosts a Holiday Gift Drive so that our children and families have presents under the Christmas tree. Ask us for our wish list! Individuals or congregations can support children, foster youth and families in having a happy, joyful holiday season.

Donate to our Sock and Underwear Drive: Every winter during the rainy season, LSS hosts a sock and underwear drive for the homeless. We accept new socks and underwear for men and women in all sizes.

Join a Thrivent Action Team: Thrivent provides resources to help you plan the event and a community impact card with $250 of seed money. If you're a Thrivent Financial member, you can lead a Thrivent Action Team to bring people together for a one-time project that supports LSS. You can create a welcome basket, host an ice cream social or BBQ after service on a Sunday, and many other ideas.



The **Western States Youth Gathering**

takes place at Cal Lutheran June 28-July 2, 2017. This event features mass gatherings with great speakers and musicians; learning and small group experiences; creative worship; immersion in Los Angeles and the beach! The planning team gathered on campus in September to make arrangements for this fabulous event. Several of your youth workers are helping plan this event, we are grateful for the sharing of their gifts! Postcards have been sent to ELCA Regions 1-4.

www.WSYG.com

Nov. 22
Richard Fisk

Nov. 25
Deborah Hagemann

Nov. 26
Elizabeth Christie

Nov. 30
Amanda Nelson

Dec. 2
Marci Rohrer

Dec. 7
Kevin Taylor

On the Schedule

Sunday, November 20
Refreshments: Terri Bogaards

Sunday, November 27
Refreshments: Anders & Michelle

Sunday, December 4
Special Event—Presidio

Sunday, December 11
Refreshments: Dana & Sophia

Sunday, December 18
Refreshments: Jacob & Tamara

Sunday, December 25
No worship service

2016

When you lose, don't lose the lesson - the Dalai Lama

12th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Day Service

Thursday, November 24, 2016
10:00 am – 11:00 am

San Francisco Swedenborgian Church
2107 Lyon Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
http://www.sfswedenborgian.org/

Sponsored by
The San Francisco
Interfaith Council

The Parliament of the World's Religions Celebrates Entry Into Force of the Paris Climate Agreement

Today, November 4, 2016, the world celebrates the "entry into force" of the historic Paris Climate agreement reached by 196 parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) last December in Paris at the COP21 conference. On behalf of the tens of thousands of participants in the Parliament of the World's Religions committed to climate action around the globe, we express our gratitude to all who have participated in achieving this critically important step and pledge ourselves to the important work yet to come.

We begin by offering our special appreciation for the prophetic contributions of iconic religious leaders such as His Holiness Pope Francis, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople, His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and numerous leaders from Indigenous Nations.

We express our appreciation also to millions of faithful members of the world's spiritual traditions who have worked to make this possible. Through diligent work and interfaith cooperation across the globe, these contributors now represent a strong and growing faith-centered contingent of the environmental movement. This has been an important development in moving so many of the world's nations to this point of consensus and beyond.

The Paris Climate Agreement is a crucial first step in addressing the challenge of human-created climate change. We pledge to work with all other persons of faith and conscience in this ongoing march toward a healed and healing world.

What Comes Now:
More than 10,000 people from 75 nations and hundreds of unique spiritual expressions gathered at the most recent convening of the Parliament of the World's Religions in Salt Lake City, Utah in October 2015. There, thousands of individuals and organizations representing spiritual, civic, policy-oriented, academic and justice interests affirmed the Parliament's declaration *Embracing Our Common Future: An Interfaith Call to Action on Climate Change*.
We agreed that our responsibilities include making intentional personal and organizational choices and supporting climate justice actions at every level of decision making.

The celebration of the Paris Climate Agreement coincides with the public launch of the Parliament Task Force on Climate Change that is developing a vigorous agenda

leading to the next global convening of the Parliament of the World's Religions. The task force will provide strategic guidance to our actions as a movement to support the implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement and the commitment to policies that address measures not yet endorsed in these international accords. It will also seek to enhance cooperation with a widening slate of faith-based organizations.

The challenges before us are still immense and demand that while taking individual responsibility, we must work together.
We envision a future of spiritual, cultural and scientific partnerships that will allow us to reach new victories in pursuit of the world we want, as articulated in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Early Thanksgiving Dinner - Pray for Peace and Human Dignity
Pacifica Institute East Bay Branch
November 19th, 7:00 pm
With Thanksgiving around the corner, we would like to invite you to our annual Early Thanksgiving Dinner. This year's theme is "Pray for Peace and Human Dignity". There will be distinguished speakers (including Pr. Susan) and we will be praying for a common cause. RSVP at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/early-thanksgiving-dinner-pray-for-peace-and-human-dignity-tickets-29036615298.

THE SPIRITUAL EDGE
The Spiritual Edge is a project at Radio KALW in San Francisco, reporting on the dynamic, growing edges of religion, faith and spirituality in the Bay Area. Recent stories have concerned the translation of the Jewish mystical text the *Zohar*, and pastor and social justice advocate Rev. Mike McBride of Oakland. You can find a link to the show at kalw.org, , or subscribe to their newsletter at http://kalw.us8.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=22758207bb8039924f6a88f0e&id=13ec0c3a34.

8 Principles of Interfaith Relations from President Obama

By the Rev. Dr. Shanta D. Premawardhana

"Some say the President should not be a theologian-in-chief. But sometimes he is. In these two speeches (2/3/16 at the Islamic Society of Baltimore and 2/ 4/16, at the National Prayer Breakfast), he has articulated eight principles of his public theology of interfaith relations. I think they are highly instructive for our educational purposes." Read the full article at https://parliamentofreligions.org/articles/8-principles-interfaith-relations-president-obama

URI STANDS WITH STANDING ROCK

On October 1, 2016, URI Global Trustees and Elders **Audri Scott Williams** and **Phil Lane Jr.** presented a declaration to the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. It said in part, "The United Religions Initiative will pray and stand beside Standing Rock as long as it takes for all Members of our Human Family to fully understand that your struggle is not only for the way of life of the Great Sioux Nation, but for the health, safety and well-being of all current and future generations of the Human Family and Life everywhere on Mother Earth!" Read the full statement at http://www.uri.org/the_latest/2016/10/uri_stands_with_standing_rock

MULTIFAITH RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL OBSERVANCES 2016

InterFaith Calendar

NOVEMBER

1 All Saints Day - **Christian**
Samhain - Beltane * **Wicca/Pagan** Northern and southern hemispheres
Birth of the Bab - **Bahi**
2 All Souls Day - **Catholic Christian**
Birth of Baha'u'llah * - **Baha'i**
14 Birthday of Guru Nanak Dev Sahib - **Sikh**
15 Nativity Fast begins - ends Dec. 24 - **Orthodox Christian**
20 Christ the King - **Christian**
24 Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahdur - **Sikh**
Thanksgiving - **Interfaith USA**
25 Day of the Covenant * - **Baha'i**
27 Advent begins through Dec. 24 - **Christian**
Christ the King **- Christian**
Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Baha * - **Baha'i**
30 St. Andrew's Day - **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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WWW.SFINTERFAITHCOUNCIL.ORG

SAVE THE DATE!

Join the San Francisco Interfaith Council at the
19th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

"The Soul of the City: Faith and Social Justice in San Francisco"

Honoring

Kat Taylor and Tom Steyer

for their faith-based leadership in social justice

and

San Francisco Congregations

for their tireless efforts in realizing a more just society

Tuesday, November 22, 2016
7:00 am - 9:00 am

Hotel Kabuki
1625 Post Street (at Laguna)
San Francisco

For additional information please contact Cynthia Zamboukos at:
415-474-1321 or cynthiaz@sfinterfaithcouncil.org

**** Tickets will be available for purchase online soon! ****

Readings for Sunday, November 20, 2016

Jeremiah 23:1-6
In every age political and religious leaders have often created difficulties for those for whom they had responsibility. This text makes abundantly clear that ancient Israel was no exception. It is likely that these oracles were pronounced against the advisers of King Zedekiah of Judah (597-586 BCE). Placed on the throne as a vassal of the Babylonians, he was the last of the Davidic dynasty to reign. His rebellion against his overlords brought about the invasion of the kingdom, the siege and destruction of Jerusalem and its temple, and the exile of the king and the nation's leading citizens to Babylon.

It is written . . .

"Woe to the shepherds who are destroying and scattering the sheep in my pasture!" declares YHWH. "Thus says YHWH, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who are tending my people: You have scattered my flock and driven them away, and you have not attended to them. Behold, I am about to attend to you for the evil of your deeds, declares YHWH. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the countries where I have dispersed them, and will bring them back to their own pasture, and they will be fruitful and multiply. I will also raise up shepherds who will look after them and pasture them. They will no longer be afraid or terrified nor will any by missing, declares YHWH.

> Behold, the days are coming, declares YHWH,
> when I will raise up for the house of David
> a righteous branch,
> who will reign as a true ruler and act wisely,
> and do what is just and right in the land.
> In those days, Judah will be saved,
> and Israel will dwell securely.
> This is the Name on which they will call:
> 'YHWH, Our Justice.'"

Second Reading ***from*** **America, America by Saadi Youssef (translated from the Arabic by Khaled Mattawa)**

We are not hostages, America
and your soldiers are not God's soldiers…
We are the poor ones, ours is the earth of the drowned gods,
the gods of bulls
the gods of fires
the gods of sorrows that intertwine clay and blood in a song…
We are the poor, ours is the god of the poor
who emerges out of farmers' ribs
hungry
and bright,
and raises heads up high…

America, we are the dead.
Let your soldiers come.
Whoever kills a man, let him resurrect him.
We are the drowned ones, dear lady.
We are the drowned.
Let the water come.

Luke 1:68-79

Known to Christian tradition as The Benedictus, this psalm may well have had Jewish origins long before the birth of Jesus. It is composed of a series of familiar Old Testament phrases taken chiefly from the Psalms. It became an early Christian hymn and was incorporated into Luke's Gospel as part of the poetic narrative of the Messiah's birth.
Zechariah's words portray a similar theme as Jeremiah's. The Savior to come will guide us in the ways of peace. The new order will be characterized by grace, healing, and mercy.

It is written . . .

"Blessed are you, the Most High God of Israel-
for you have visited and redeemed your people.
You have raised up a mighty savior for us
of the house of David,
as you promised through the mouths of your holy ones,
the prophets of ancient times:
salvation from our enemies
and from the hands of all our foes.
You have shown mercy to our ancestors
by remembering the holy Covenant
you made with them,
the oath you swore to Sarah and Abraham,
granting that we,
delivered from the hands of our enemies,
might serve you without fear,
in holiness and justice,
in your presence all our days.
And you, my child, will be called
the prophet of the Most High,
for you'll go before our God
to prepare the way for the Promised One,
giving the people the knowledge of salvation
through forgiveness of their sins.
Such is the tender mercy of our God,
who from on high
will bring the Rising Sun to visit us,
to give light to those who live
in darkness and the shadow of death
and to guide our feet
into the way of peace."

THE BACK PAGES . . .

Coming Events (this week and beyond):

NOVEMBER: *SEASON OF REMEMBRANCE*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 5:00 PM
FEAST OF CHRIST ANOINTED
at St. Cyprian's

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 7:00-9:00 AM
SF INTERFAITH COUNCIL'S ANNUAL THANKSGIVING BREAKFAST
at Hotel Kabuki

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24
THANKSGIVING DAY
3:30 PM-10:30 PM
FRIENDSGIVING GATHERING
at the home of Anders & Michelle Peterson, 80 41st St., Oakland
FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION GO HERE:
http://www.middlecircle.org/calendar/2016/10/27/middle-circle-friendsgiving

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 5:00 PM
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
at 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

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Orion Pitts
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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,