3RD SUNDAY IN LENT/COMMUNION SUNDAY/ALL-AGES SERVICE
9:00
Lent Explorations, Taizé, led by Derek Tam, Room #7, EBSB
10:00
Worship, Molly Baskette, preaching; Amar Khalsa & Elizabeth Forsyth, musicians; Derek Tam, Music Director, Sanctuary
Musical Highlights, “Perfect Praise,” by Walt Whitman, First Church Gospel Choir
11:15
After Party, Courtyard
11:45
Learning Hour, On Climate Change w/ Green Ministry Team, Loper Chapel

Fill Out the Affordable Housing Survey!

After having discussed the possibility of an affordable housing project on the church property for a number of months, the Blue Sky Team, with the support of church leadership, has created a survey to “take the temperature” of the congregation’s desire to continue this conversation.

A document recapping the affordable housing conversation is available at https://goo.gl/tW9FVu or in the Hall of Entrance on Sundays. The committee recommends reviewing that information before doing the survey. The survey is online https://goo.gl/YeZ4nt; a paper version will be available in the Hall of Entrance after church this Sun., March 4. The online survey will close on Tues., Mar. 6.

This survey is non-binding and is not an official vote of the congregation. Anyone currently involved in the congregational life of First Church (church attendance and/or financial support) may take part in the survey, whether or not you have officially joined the church.

The Church Council will be charged with considering the results of the survey and discerning the next steps. In order to track who is responding and check for technical errors, you will be asked to put your name on the survey. The connection between names and responses will be closely and confidentially held. Clerk Janet MacDonald will have primary responsibility for tabulating results.

Climate Change Learning Hour this Sunday

This Sun., Mar. 4, the Green Ministry Team will lead a discussion on the crisis in climate change, led by Rev. Bob Russell, a widely respected leader in the field of theological and scientific discussion, Sunday School teacher and writer Barbara Grady and environmental advocate and youth leader Emma Fujii. The panel will address climate change as a moral and spiritual issue, federal and state responses to the challenge and practical steps that can be taken in rebuilding Pilgrim Hall. This reflects the Church Council’s endorsement of the Paris Pledge to reduce carbon pollution worldwide and the Green Team’s vision of First Church in faith-based community leadership.

Christian Wiman to Speak

Poet, Essayist and Yale Divinity School Professor Christian Wiman will be featured at an event called “The Art of Faith, the Faith of Art” on Fri., Mar. 9 at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary, co-sponsored by All Souls Episcopal Parish. He will speak and then engage in conversation with poet Marvin K. White, our Public Theologian in Residence. Get your ticket ($5–$20) at https://goo.gl/9uXG4d.

A conversation with Wiman and poet Nate Klug (Kit Novotny’s husband) will be held at All Souls Parish (2220 Cedar Street, Berkeley) on Sat., Mar. 10 at 10:30 am. Suggested donation is $5 and tickets are available at the door.
“What is that?” he asked, putting down his skateboard and pointing to the small bowl of black liquid I held in my palm.

“It’s ashes,” I said. “Do you know about Ash Wednesday? For Christians, it’s the day we remember that our bodies come from the earth and will return to the earth when we die.”

He looked at me blankly.

I tried again, smiling, “We put ashes on our foreheads to remember that our flesh is beautiful and precious to God. And our lives are a gift from God. The ash reminds us our bodies don’t last forever and so we try to live each day to its fullest.”

“Oh.” He smiled and continued to stand there.

“Would you like some?” I asked, trying to keep the surprise out of my voice.

“Sure!” he said, closing his eyes and taking an eager step towards me. I dipped my thumb in the grainy liquid, pushed his hair away, made the sign of the cross on his forehead and said the ancient blessing, “Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.”

“Thanks!” he said, running off to join the rest of his class from East Bay School for the Boys who happened to be on our lawn at the exact time I was offering Ashes to Go to passersby on the sidewalk in front of our sanctuary. A few minutes later he was back with a friend. “Can J. have ashes, too? I told him what it was.”

“Sure,” I said, repeating the ritual.

A little while later another boy approached and asked shyly yet earnestly, “Can my scooter get ashes?”

I shook my head. “No. Ashes are for living things.” Seeing his disappointment, I said, “But I could bless your scooter.” He smiled widely and nodded, telling me his name and moving his scooter towards me.

“God, bless this scooter,” I prayed. “May it bring T. safely and joyfully to where he needs to go today. Amen.”

Soon there was a line of boys, some wanting ashes, others wanting me to bless their scooter, skateboard, even their necklace. It reminded me of summers growing up in Eastern Washington when the temperature would reach 100 and someone would turn on the hose and all us kids came running to get soaked.

May each of us have the grace of those boys to ask freely, joyfully and without shame for what we all need: to be blessed, to be seen, to be named, to be soaked in the truth of how beloved we are by God. And may we each have the privilege of offering this blessing to others in return.
Learn about the Sanctuary Ministry Team

All are invited to learn about the work of the Sanctuary Ministry Team, which will meet Sun., Mar. 18 in Loper Chapel at 11:45 am. Victoria Purcell-Gates will share a video on the work of Las Patronas, who have gained international acclaim for their work providing food and water to riders of the infamous La Bestia, the ‘death train’ ridden by immigrants from Central America as they pass through Mexico.

The Nueva Esperanza Preschool Team will also make a presentation about how they are working with young Ma’am children from Guatemala to prepare them for success in US schools. The preschool, located at a church in the Fruitvale, is entering its third year of operation. The First Church 2018 volunteers include Victoria Purcell-Gates, Director, Carolyn Cox, Ken Iha, Jonell Lucas and Kathryn Parmeter.

We will also hear from the new Accompaniment Team (Rev. Molly, Carolyn Ash, Stan Boghosian, Andrea Trexler, Becky Smith and Tanya Lawrence) as they describe their work with a family from Central America.

Come help us focus on new ways to support our work with immigrants and refugees in the Bay Area.

Assembling Hygiene Kits

A few years ago, our church assembled and donated over 100 hygiene kits to Church World Service (CWS) to go to Syrian refugees living in terrible circumstances in refugee camps in Lebanon and Turkey. The refugee situation has not improved; in fact, it is now more dire than ever.

On Sun., Mar. 18 after worship, FamChY invites church families and others to help assemble hygiene kits to donate to CWS, by bringing an item from the CWS list below each Sunday. We are aiming to make 50 kits (items in zip lock 1-gallon bags).

Two steel tubs will be in the Hall of Entrance starting this Sun., Mar. 4 for your donations.

Needed for each kit (new, not used):
- Washcloth
- Hand towel between 15”x28” and 16”x32” size — no fingertip towels, dish towels, bath towels or microfiber
- Wide-tooth comb
- Bath-size bar of soap, in wrapper, not lose
- Toothbrush in the package, not loose — no toothpaste, please
- 10 standard-size band aids
- (We have enough nail clippers)
- We also need several large cardboard boxes for mailing the kits to CWS. Thank you!

Operation Love Notes

Come help send Love Notes on Sun., Mar. 11 to people in our congregation who need to hear from us. Weather permitting, Love Notes will take place in the Courtyard after worship.

Save the Date!

The Lent Retreat will take place on Sat., Mar. 24, 9:30 am–3 pm, Hall of Entrance/Sanctuary. Becky Wright and Revs. Rachel and Molly will lead. More details will follow!

Did You Know…?

…that we offer after care every Sunday for children of all ages until 1 pm so parents can enjoy church-sponsored post-worship activities?

…that our own Kit Novotny and Nicole Naffaa are members of The Berkeley Players improv group and will be performing Sat., Mar. 3 at 7:30 pm at 2016 7th St., Berkeley (enter through the fancy metal gate)? It’s free!

Mental Health Promotion Seminar — “Emotional Literacy”

The song asks, “What’s love got to do with it?” How appropriate that we are talking about emotions during this Lent season with our theme of Lovers & Fools. On Sun., Mar. 11, First Church member Kerrie Hein will present the third of a series of six monthly sessions on Mental Health Promotion. The title is Emotional Literacy and will take place 11:45 am–1 pm in Loper Chapel.

Kerrie will share information about what we need to know about emotions, what emotions have to do with mental health and how emotions are addressed in psychotherapy. It’s never too late to learn about emotions!

Coming Up!

Poet Christian Wiman to Speak
Fri., Mar. 9, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

Resonance: “Peter & the Wolf”
Sat., Mar. 17, 10:30/11:30 am & 12:30 pm, Sanctuary

Winthrop Work Camp Fundraiser: Goods & Services Auction
Sun., Mar. 25, after worship
**Deckers Go to Improv**

The Deckers will attend a performance of *The Berkeley Players* (Kit Novotny and Nicole Naffaa are members of the improv group) on **Sat., Mar. 3 at 7:30 pm**. Dinner at **6 pm** at Tacubaya (Fourth Street, Berkeley). For more information, contact Bob & Kathy Helliesen.

**Winthrop Goods & Services Auction**

Winthrop (senior high youth group) is organizing a **Goods & Services Auction** on **Sun., Mar. 25** to raise money for their **summer Work Camp** and are inviting the whole church to join in the fun — they need your gifts and services! Do you have talents for baking, knitting or building? Spare tickets to a sporting event or concert, or a vacation home? Those gifts may be able to empower our youth to build at the **Stockton Shelter for the Homeless** this summer! If you are able to offer a service or goods, let Trust Hilton know at thilton@fccb.org. Make sure to join in the excitement on Sun., Mar. 25 after worship, too! Word has it, one of our ministers may auction off the chance to choose a sermon topic!

**Bits and Pieces**

**Family Communication Workshops**

The FamChY Ministry Team is excited to announce a three-part series on **Compassionate Communication for Families** for parents, grandparents, aunts/uncles and other caring adults. Childcare is available.

The 90-minute workshops will be presented by Corrie Ordway, an early childhood educator who has been working with children and families for more than 15 years. Corrie is trained in NVC/Compassionate Communication and uses it daily with her young child and in co-parenting.

Each workshop will focus on a particular age range. Workshops will be held **Sundays in the Pillar Room from 11:45 am—1:15 pm**.

- **Mar. 11: Parenting Elementary School Age Children** (grades K–5)
- **May 20: Parenting Children from Preverbal Stages through Preschool** (ages 0–4)
- **Jun. 10: Parenting Tweens and Teens** (ages 11–14/15 years)

**FCCB Book Group**

Fri., Mar. 9 — **Empire of the Summer Moon** by S.C. Gwynne at the home of Jonell Lucas. Becky Smith leads.

**Weekly Calendar**

**Sunday March 4**

- **SONGS OF THE SOUL REHEARSAL** 9 am, Room #4, EBSB
- **LENT EXPLORATIONS** 9 am, Room #7, EBSB
- **WORSHIP** 10 am, Sanctuary
- **AFTER PARTY** 11:15 am, Courtyard
- **LEARNING HOUR — CLIMATE CHANGE** 11:45 am, Loper Chapel
- **FAMCHY MEETING** 11:45 am, Durant House Main
- **YES YOUTH GROUP** 11:45 am, Tower Room
- **YOUNG ADULT LENT BOOK GROUP** 2 pm, Tower Room
- **WINTHROP YOUTH GROUP** 4 pm, Tower Room

**Monday 5**

- **MINDFULNESS MEDITATION** 6 pm, Loper Chapel
- **BEPRIENDERS MEETING** 6:45 pm, Durant House Main

**Tuesday 6**

- **REV. MOLLY’S OFFICE HOURS** 5:30–7 pm, Durant House Main
- **STAFF MEETING** 1 pm, Durant House Main
- **WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL LIFE** 7 pm, Durant House Main

**Wednesday 7**

- **OPEN CHAPEL** 7 pm, Loper Chapel
- **BIBLE STUDY** 7 pm, Durant House Main

**Thursday 8**

- **ADULT EDUCATION** 6 pm, Adult Education
- **BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL** 7 pm, Pillar Room
- **SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL** 7 pm, Sanctuary

**Friday 9**

- **“THE ART OF FAITH, THE FAITH OF ART” WITH CHRISTIAN WIMAN** 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

**Saturday 10**

- **MINDFUL SELF-COMPASSION TRAINING** 9 am, Loper Chapel

**Winthrop & YES News**

thilton@fccb.org

- **YES** Sun., Mar. 4, 11:45 am, OWL, Tower Room
- **Winthrop** Sun., Mar. 4, 4 pm, Confirmation Class, Tower Room
- **YES & Winthrop** Sun., Mar. 11, 4 pm, Pi Night (bring a pie to celebrate pi day (Mar. 14 or 3.14)) with YES, Tower Room

**Young Adult News**

knovotny@fccb.org

- **Lent Theological Book Group** Sun., Mar. 4, 2–3:30 pm & Wed., Mar. 14, 7–8:30 pm, Tower Room
- **Rev. Kit’s Office Hours, Mon., Mar. 5, 12–1:30 pm, Cafe Leila, 1724 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley
- **Life Paths Potluck, Sun., Mar. 11, 12–1:30 pm, Durant House**