

First Congregational Church of Berkeley • United Church of Christ • Berkeley, California

October 28, 2018 • Vol. 72 • No. 38

FOURTH STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

Mark 10:46-52

8:30

Affordable Housing Group Meeting,
Room #7, EBSB

10:00

Worship, Kit Novotny, preaching; Amar Khalsa, musician; Elizabeth Forsyth, organist; Derek Tam, music director, Sanctuary

Musical Highlights, Bach Flute Sonata; Amar Khalsa, flute; Derek Tam, piano

11:15

After Party, Terrace

11:45

Learning Hour, Factory Farming, led by Amy Halpern-Laff, director of the Factory Farming Awareness Coalition, Loper Chapel

11:45

New Member Class, Durant House

3:30

Day of the Dead Celebration, Loper Chapel

Day of the Dead Celebration

This **Sun., Oct. 28**, you're invited to First Church's annual **Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Celebration**, from **3:30–5:30 pm** in **Loper Chapel**.



It's one of the most popular and memorable annual First Church family activities! Enjoy making crafts, treats, an altar to memorialize loved ones who have passed, music, sharing/remembering and prayer. Bring friends!

Learning Hour this Sunday on Factory Farming

This **Sun., Oct. 28** at **11:45 am** in **Loper Chapel**, hear **Amy Halpern-Laff**, director of the **Factory Farming Awareness Coalition**, who will talk about the devastating effects of industrial farms — the source of 99% of animal-based foods — on climate change and environmental degradation, worker exploitation, global hunger and cruelty to animals. She'll discuss the emergence and rapid growth of industrial agriculture and how we — as people of faith, activists and consumers — can mobilize effectively against the agriculture-industrial complex.



New Member Class

Please join us for our next **New Member Class** this **Sun., Oct. 28** after the **10 am worship service** in **Durant House**. **Revs. Molly** and **Kit** will lead the class. Lunch will be provided and childcare is available if you let us know in advance. There is no obligation to join if you attend the class.

On **Sat., Nov. 3**, there will be a dinner for those joining at **Kathy Helliesen's** home. Joining takes place **Sun., Nov. 4** during the 10 am worship service. Please contact one of the ministers (510/848-3696) or **Kathy** for more information and to let us know you are coming. We would love to have you join us!

Affordable Housing Meeting Update

— *Laura Leaverton*

The **Affordable Housing Aficionados** group has begun meeting monthly. We plan to form a Ministry Team and all are welcome to join.

Our next meeting will be this **Sun., Oct., 28** at **8:30 am, Room 7, EBSB**. **Amy Hiestand** will give an overview of affordable housing projects (Affordable Housing 101). We will follow up on advocacy and action ideas from our last meeting.

There are three main components of content and discussion at our monthly meetings: Education, Advocacy and Action. Our goals are to educate ourselves and the church community about the housing crisis and ways to help, to be advocates for housing justice and to mobilize actions that help individuals facing housing struggles. We are brainstorming ideas for action and will invite everyone's participation over the coming months.

Feel free to join the "**Affordable Housing Aficionados**" group in **Realm** and you can receive notifications about meetings, events and activity of the group.

Sunday Video

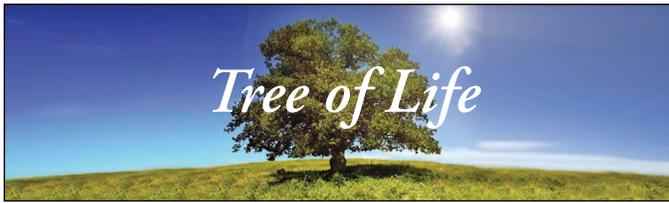
You can view the video from the **Sun., Oct. 21**, 10 am service [here](#).

Preaching Schedule

Sun., Nov. 4, Molly Baskette

Sun., Nov. 11, Rachel Bauman

Sun., Nov. 18, Phil Porter



Prayers for the family of **Dick Erickson**, who died peacefully on Mon., Oct. 15. His memorial service will be on **Sun., Dec 9**, at **2 pm** at Cal Alumni House (1 Alumni House, Berkeley).

Continued prayers for **Soyinka Rahim** as she recovers from a bike accident and a more recent fall.

New Timeline for Insurance Settlement

Several months ago, it became clear that First Church and our insurers were at an impasse in settling the church's claim for losses from the fire of September 30, 2016; we were unable to agree on the amount due the church for repairing damage to Pilgrim Hall and the Sanctuary. So, on July 18, we called for an independent "appraisal panel" to determine the value of the loss. Under the terms of our policy, the decision of the appraisal panel is binding.

The appraisal panel comprises three members: the church and the insurers each appoint one member, and these two appointees choose the third member, known as the "umpire." We named our appointee on July 18; a month later the insurers appointed their panelist. However, the two panel members have not yet selected the umpire. The process has been delayed by vacation and travel schedules and other logistical complications. We expect the umpire to be named in the next week. Then the panel will hold a hearing on our claim and issue its decision, most likely in November or December.



Our newest member (Rev. Kit's daughter) being presented to the congregation after her baptism last Sunday.

THE CARILLON

Margaret Copeland, Editor
Phil Porter, Minister of Art & Communication
Weekly deadline: 9 am Friday
Email submissions to: mcopeland@fccb.org

All submissions are subject to editing.

First Congregational Church of Berkeley
United Church of Christ
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510/848-3696

The View from Here

Molly Baskette
Senior Minister



Church, I was blessed to be a guest preacher/workshop leader recently at First Congregational Church in Long Beach, CA. It was delightful to be with their firecracker pastor Rev. Elena Larssen, who will preach for us in March, and to meet her spirited, kind and passionate people, who reminded me so much of you! I left them with some new ideas, and collected a few of my own. Swapping pulpits from time to time is a great way of cross-pollinating to keep our fields fruitful.

I was there to launch their annual stewardship campaign (oh, sure, make the guest preacher talk about money), but, to my delight, was upstaged by one of the octogenarian patriarchs of the church, Jerry, who gave the stewardship testimony in Dr. Seuss verse. It twins us so well, I cede the rest of my column to his words:

Horton Hears a Voice

Horton sat in his hot tub and thought a sad thought
I'm not happy he said, where's the peace I have sought
I make lots of money at a job I enjoy
but this voice I keep hearing does more than annoy

the thought it came like a wisp on the wind
now I know it comes from within
the first time I heard it, it was ever so small
it's a wonder I could hear it at all
now it is much louder and causes me strife
by asking what it is I have done with my life

I heard a voice cry Horton! calling for justice and peace
may all hatred end and all warfare cease

I heard a voice cry Horton! saying to your neighbor be true
to care for your neighbor is to care for you too

I heard a voice cry Horton! speaking plain truth
we must nurture all children and nurture all youth

I heard a voice saying on equality insist
backsliding on progress we all must resist

I heard a voice telling me I can be more
than the money machine I've been before

the voice shook Horton and shook him down deep
I know what to do to make my life more complete
I'll join a group doing good and there do my part
I'll give of my time, money and heart
the voice said that which you are seeking
can be found at a church where God is still speaking

Horton's welcome at First Church was like coming home
he found a new path, he felt never alone

the church welcomed misfits, welcomed the least
all come to the table, all join in the feast
you're welcome if gay, welcome if straight

welcome whatever you can put in the plate
welcome on wheels, welcome with squeals
welcome whatever gender you feel
welcome in families, single or pairs
they welcome the round ones
and welcome the squares

there are boards, programs, projects by the score
the church must need 1000 members or more
the music is great and productions so glamorous
Horton met gays and straights and at least 2 polyamorous

the sermons present new ways of seeing
and if you have enough courage, new ways of being

one Sunday when Horton was just standing there
he was cornered by an unlikely pair
I'm Stew, this is Finn and we've come for your dough
we have debts to pay so don't move too slow
financially this church is way out on a ledge
so quite humbly we ask for your pledge

great! said Horton, I've been wanting to pay
how do I pledge? show me the way
well,

you can pledge by card alone
you can pledge over the phone
you can pledge thru apps fantastic
we take cash or checks or plastic

I'll try them all and see
which one works the best for me
so Horton sat down and pledged all he could
and the voice said good boy, you've done what you should

now your pledge may not match Horton's this fall
but a pledge is a pledge no matter how small

moral:
if you don't want to hear voices
make a big pledge thru one of your choices

Blessings,



Did You Know...?

...that **Jeff Becker's** fundraising concert "The Journey So Far" raised over \$2,500 for the **East Bay Sanctuary Covenant** and the family concerts for **Resonance**, and that about 100 people were in attendance? Thank you, Jeff, and the crew for your efforts!

... that this is the fourth anniversary of First Church having received donations of cereal and peanut butter each week for the **Berkeley Food Pantry** (since October 2014)? During that time, sustained giving has resulted in 3,431 boxes of breakfast cereal, 2,611 jars of peanut butter and 727 other food items to share with the needy and grateful families of Berkeley and Albany who visit the Pantry. Thanks to all who keep on giving!



Church Bylaws Revisions

Rod MacKenzie and **Janet McDonald** are working to revise the church bylaws to try to make them consistent with current practice, to facilitate church leadership development and to simplify them. If you have any suggestions, please let them know. The congregation will need to vote to approve any changes, and detailed information will be provided before such a vote is taken. In the meantime, if you would like to read them, the current bylaws are on the church website at <http://bit.ly/2AoqG6U>.

Resonance: Ars Minerva Performs "Ifigenia in Aulide"

Resonance @ First Church presents *Ifigenia in Aulide* on **Fri., Nov. 9 at 8 pm** in the **Sanctuary**. Savor the modern world premiere production of Giovanni Porta's 1738 opera, as recreated by **Ars**



Minerva, one of the Bay Area's most exciting opera companies. Along with a cast of superb singers, a full period orchestra will be led by conductor **Derek Tam**.

Composed in 1738, *Ifigenia in Aulide* retells (with a twist) the tale of Iphigenia, sacrificed to the gods by Agamemnon,

her father, so that his ships can sail to Troy.

This is the fourth modern world premiere by Ars Minerva, founded in 2013 by mezzo-soprano Céline Ricci. The critically acclaimed opera company specializes in resurrecting operas of the Italian Baroque and presenting them in arresting productions.

The concert is presented by First Church's **Resonance**. For more information and to buy tickets, go [here](#).



Coming Up!

Resonance Concert:
Ars Minerva

Fri., Nov. 9, 8 pm, Sanctuary

Learning Hour: Becoming a WISE Congregation

Sun., Nov. 11, 11:45 am, Loper Chapel

THE CARILLON

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Bits and Pieces

Deckers Events

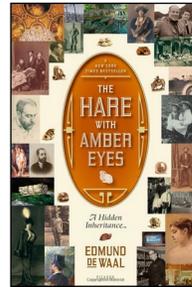
- **Sun., Nov. 18** Chora Nova performs *The Messiah*, at 4 pm in the Sanctuary. Potluck dinner at **Joe and Ann Jensen's** afterwards
- **Sat., Dec. 15** Annual Christmas party at **Bob and Kathy Helliesen's**
- **Fri., Jan. 4, 12 pm** Oakland Museum, **Charles and Ray Eames** exhibit

More details will be forthcoming as we get closer to the events. The **Deckers** is a fellowship group of folks mainly in their 60s-70s. All are welcome!

FCCB Book Group

The **FCCB Book Group** is meeting on the following **Fridays** at **10 am**. All are welcome, even if you haven't read the book!

- **Nov. 16.** *The Hare with the Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal. Meeting place TBD.
- **Dec. 14.** *The Ghost Writer* by Phillip Roth. Meeting place TBD.



For more information, contact **Katie Brookes**.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday October 28

AFFORDABLE HOUSING AFFICIANADOS MEETING
8:30 am, Room 7, EBSB

MENTAL HEALTH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING
8:45 am, Room 5, EBSB

WORSHIP
10 am, Sanctuary

AFTER PARTY
11:15 am, Terrace

LEARNING HOUR: FACTORY FARMING
11:45 am, Loper Chapel

NEW MEMBER CLASS
11:45 am, Durant House

GOSPEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
11:45 am, Sanctuary

DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATION
3:30 pm, Loper Chapel

Tuesday 30

REV. MOLLY'S OFFICE HOURS
9-10:30 am, 1951 Coffee Company
2410 Channing Way, Berkeley

Wednesday 31

BIBLE STUDY
7 pm, Durant House

Thursday November 1

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
7 pm, Pillar Room

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL
7 pm, Loper Chapel

Friday 2

YES LOCK-IN
6 pm, Loper/Pillar/Tower Rooms
WINTHROP FRIDAY NIGHT HANGOUT
6:30 pm, Offsite

Saturday 3

NEW MEMBERS DINNER
5:30 pm, Offsite

Birthday Potluck at Coffee Hour

Everyone is invited to bring food to share during coffee hour once or twice during your birthday month or any Sunday you have extra to share! Bring bread, fruit, cheese, hard-boiled eggs, homemade treats or anything at all! Please put your offering on the table before church prepped and ready to serve. Include an ingredient list for homemade items, if you can. **October folks, you still have a chance; November folks — get ready!**

In Bible Class, kids learn the names of the four sections of the Hebrew Bible (Pentateuch, Historical Books, Writings and Prophets) and three sections of the New Testament (Gospels, Letters of Paul, and General Letters) and when they were written.

YES & Winthrop News

thilton@fccb.org

YES

- **Sun., Oct. 28, 3:30 pm**, Day of the Dead Celebration
- **Fri., Nov. 2-3**, YES Lock-in
- **Sun., Nov. 4, 10 am**; All Ages **Worship**; youth are invited to be a leader in the worship service

Winthrop

- **Fri., Oct. 26-27**, Winthrop Lock-in
- **Sun., Oct. 28, 3:30 pm**, Day of the Dead Celebration
- **Fri., Nov. 2, 6:30 pm**, Friday Night Hangout, Dakota's House

Young Adult News

knovotny@fccb.org

- **Volunteer at Berkeley Food Pantry, Sat., Oct. 27, 9:30 am-12 pm, 1600 Sacramento St., Berkeley**



During after care, one of our Sunday School kids wins Uno — 4 out of 5 games — on her 3-and-a-half birthday!

