



Dec. 16, 2018 • Vol. 72 • No. 45

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT/ADVENT MUSIC SUNDAY

Luke 1:5-38

9:45 & 11:15

Winthrop Wreath Sale, Hall of Entrance

10:00

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

Musical Highlights, Introit: "Jesu, Bambino," Steve Spielman, trumpet solo; "Hills and Valleys" by Tauren Wells, Constance Dixon Sorogane, soloist; Derek Tam, piano; "Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day" by John Gardner, sung by the Sanctuary Choir; Elizabeth Forsyth, organ

11:15

Congregational Meeting, Sanctuary

11:15

After Party, Terrace

11:45/1:45

Caroling, Loper Chapel/Downtown Berkeley

Advent Music Sunday and Caroling

Advent Music Sunday is this **Sun., Dec. 16**. The service will be full of the music of the season directed by



Derek Tam, including performances by: the **Sanctuary Choir**, **First Church Bell Choir**, the **Gospel Choir**, and Organist **Elizabeth Forsyth**, as well as

hymns and carols for all to sing.

In addition, if you want to sing more of your favorite **Advent and Christmas carols**, there are two opportunities for caroling that day! Come to **Loper Chapel at 11:45 am** for caroling led by **Derek Tam**. Then, weather permitting, a caroling contingent will head over to **Center and Shattuck** (the little square near Downtown Berkeley BART) around **1:30 pm** from church, or meet there at **1:45 pm** for more caroling.

Congregational Meeting this Sun., Dec. 16

The **Church Council** has called an official congregational meeting for this **Sun., Dec. 16**, immediately following worship to vote on calling **Phil Porter** to his current position as Minister of Art & Communication as an ordained minister (pending approval by the Bay Association). This is a step on his path toward ordination and the Council unanimously recommends approval of this call.

Celebrating Rachel

We prepare to celebrate **Rachel Bauman** as she leaves First Church to be the senior minister of **St. John's United Church of Christ** on Madeline Island in Wisconsin. Her last Sunday in worship will be **Dec. 30** and a **special After Party** will be held after worship.



When a minister leaves our congregation, it is customary to invite members of the community to provide monetary recognition, called a "purse," to express their gratitude. For this gift from the parishioners to be non-taxable for Rachel, **Nick and Annis Kukuluan** have agreed to receive all contributions. (Your gift will not qualify as a charitable contribution.) To contribute, send a check payable to **Nick or Annis Kukuluan**.

Also, **Carolyn Ash** is creating a photo book to give to Rachel on her last Sunday. She invites you to send her photos of Rachel with captions by this **Sun., Dec. 16** at clash@fccb.org. Captions can describe the photo, list the people in it, or be a sentence of thanks, a prayer, or a poem.

Christmas Eve Stockings for the Unhoused

A sign-up list has been created online so that you can indicate what you would like to bring (**by Sun., Dec. 23**) for the **Christmas stockings** we will be giving to the unhoused at the **Christmas Eve in the Cloister** service. Go to <http://bit.ly/2QsICqI> to sign up.



Winthrop Wreath Sale

This **Sun., Dec. 16** is the final day the Winthrop youth will be selling wreaths to support their annual summer **Work Camp**. A 10" wreath (with artificial holly berries) is \$25, a 22" wreath is \$35. Wreaths will be sold before and after the worship service in the **Hall of Entrance**. Payments can be made with cash or through onrealm.org.

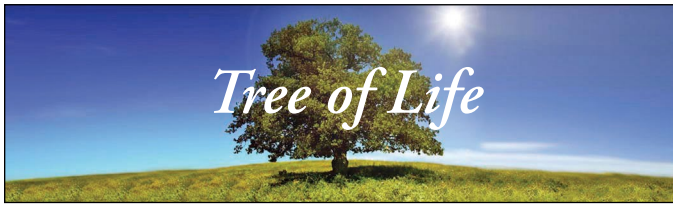


Advent Events

For a complete listing of **Advent events at First Church**, go [here](#).

Preaching Schedule

Sun., Dec. 23, Rachel Bauman
Sun., Dec. 30, Lupita Muñiz



Christian Stuetz's memorial service will take place **Fri., Dec. 21 at 3 pm** in the **Sanctuary**. Reception to follow in **Loper Chapel**.

Continued healing prayers for **Soyinka Rahim**.

Congregational Care at First Church

We all have times when we need support — someone to listen, be present and accompany us through crisis or transition. At First Church we are blessed with a large and caring community. During this time of staff transitions, we want to ensure that everyone knows how we organize ourselves to meet each other's emotional and spiritual needs. We have a variety of ministries, forming a strong web of congregational care. If you are in need of care, are interested in helping with any of these ministries, or would just like more information, please contact **Louise Halsey**, our **Congregational Care Coordinator** (lhalsey@fccb.org). Read the full document "Congregational Care at First Church Berkeley UCC" at <http://bit.ly/2UF53Yr>.

Sunday Video

You can view the video from the **Sun., Dec. 9**, 10 am service [here](#).

Save the Date

Women's Retreat. Fri.-Sat, Feb. 8-9, 2019

Save the Date

New Member Class. Sun., Feb. 10, 2019.
Dinner on Sat., Feb. 23. Joining on Sun., Feb. 24.
More information to follow.

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.

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The View from Here

Rachel Bauman/Molly Baskette
 Minister of Community Life/
 Senior Minister



Dear Ones, as we continue to sink into our Advent theme of "Arrival," we are aware that Rachel's departure from us is rapidly approaching. We wanted to write this joint "View from Here" to help answer questions and provide some clarity about this transition and what is next.

From Rachel:

When pastors in the UCC move on, we are called to separate in a healthy way so that both pastors and the congregation can move on emotionally and spiritually. On our last Sunday together, we will make promises similar (but opposite) to the ones we made when I arrived to serve you. You will promise to release me from the roles and duties of pastoring you, specifically, offering counsel and prayers, support in times of need, or celebration in times of joy. In turn, I will promise to release you from turning to me and depending on me in order to satisfy my own emotional or ego needs. These promises help free us all to be ready for what God has in store next.

This release is made simpler by the fact that I am moving to an island 2,200 miles away, and many of you have asked what, exactly, this means given the reality of social media and whether or not I will be keeping you all updated on island life. As far as updates, the simple answer is no. I know myself. And I know that if I have any excuse to turn my attention to you all (who I already love and feel loved by), I will not do the uncomfortable yet necessary work of separating cleanly so that I can be fully present to my new call. For those of you who are my Facebook or Instagram friends, I will put you into a separate filter for a year or more, which means I will not see your posts in my feed. I encourage you to do the same (or even "unfriend" me). Please know that this boundary is not a rejection — it is a sign of my deep respect for the pastoral relationship that we have had that is now ending. I will, of course, continue to love you, always. As we heard from our elders just a few weeks ago, those we love never really leave us. They become a part of who we are and we carry them with us in our hearts.

In the meantime, we still have a few weeks left to be together, laugh, and to say what needs to be said. I am packing in as many coffee/teas/walks around the neighborhood as I can and I will be hanging out at **1951 Coffee Shop** from **4:30-5:45 pm** on **Thurs., Dec. 20** for those of you who want to linger in community.

From Molly:

In addition to all the feelings that come with saying goodbye, many of you have asked "what happens now" for us at First Church after Rachel (and, soon, Phil) leave. Of course many of you are no stranger to staff transitions — this is the name of the game in a church like ours (urban, medium-to-large). From these transitions, the wisdom is embedded within you that you are the church. Rather than picturing a congregation as a wheel, with the pastors at the hub, a congregation is more like a web: an organic,

strong yet flexible network of powerful connections and adjacencies with God both centered and spread throughout. A wheel can't grow, because it's rigid and fixed. But a web can.

The departure of Rachel and Phil also allows us to pass a balanced budget and give us some runway to grow. We hope to simplify some systems and communications channels, with some staff taking on new opportunities and letting go of tasks that we no longer need to do. We have a robust plan in place for Congregational Care (see more [here](#)) and we are thrilled that Kit Dunbar has accepted the position of Business Manager.


After Phil's departure this spring, we will create a new, very part-time position for web communications and social media. Family, children and youth ministries will continue to be ably led, as they have been over the past several years, by Carolyn Ash, Trust Hilton and the FamChY ministry team. Regarding longer-term vision, plans are already in place from the Long Range Planning team to hold visioning small groups during Lent to dream together with God about who First Church is

called to be and what type of pastoral/ministerial staffing will help support that vision, and how you — the members and friends of this church — can find your best joy and purpose in fulfilling that vision as well.

From Rachel and Molly:

For some of us, the grief we feel at endings and transitions brings anxiety, for others a sense of excitement about "what's next," and for some (we put ourselves in this group) we are a little bit of each! Wherever we are on the emotional landscape, these next few months of (continuing!) transition are a tender and exciting time. Lean into it! Continue to do what you have always done: love God, love each other, love the world. Show up for each other and for what is happening within our community. Share your gifts of compassion and creativity. Continue to be the good news of God's redeeming love for the world.

With love and deep gratitude for each of you and with Advent anticipation for what is to come,



2019 Operating Budget and REALM Updates

On Sun., Dec. 2, **Stewardship, Finance, and Administration (SF&A)** approved forwarding the 2019 operating budget to **Church Council** for consideration at its **Tues., Dec. 18** meeting. The proposed budget incorporates recommendations from the work of the **SiN (Spirit in Numbers) Committee**, including not using insurance proceeds to balance the budget, freezing program budgets to 2018 levels, accepting personnel reductions, and modifying the payment to Berkeley Pilgrimage Foundation for three years.

The proposed operating budget successfully reduces expenses such that the current \$25K projected deficit is within the normal levels that can be covered through the church's operating cash. The proposed budget estimates a 2% increase in pledges from the 2018

budget of \$772K to \$787K for 2019. The total giving amount depends on each member thoughtfully considering sustaining donations to the church.

Throughout December, SF&A and staff will reach out to church members who haven't yet signed up on First Church's new database, **REALM**, so that pledge amounts can be entered in the system. While we encourage you to set up recurring giving through REALM, you may also give your pledge through other means (checks sent by mail or in the offering plate). If you need help setting up your REALM account, contact **Kit Dunbar** (kdunbar@fccb.org).

Also, please **send in any outstanding amounts due on your 2018 pledge commitment by year's end**, so that we can successfully close our books in January.

Did You Know...?

...that if you picked up a laundry basket to fill with household items for those just entering permanent, supportive housing after living in a shelter or on the street, you can bring it this **Sun., Dec. 16**, when the baskets will be blessed and brought to the **Berkeley Food & Housing Project?**

"Longest Night" Healing Service

First Church offers a **Longest Night Service** on **Thurs., Dec. 20**, at **6 pm** on the **Chancel** in the **Sanctuary**.

This service on the Winter Solstice gives us room to acknowledge grief, overwhelm, loneliness, and other feelings that don't ordinarily fit into the season of cheer. Come and pray, rage against the dying of the light, sing, and have a catharsis in community, while welcoming in the turn of the year as our part of the Earth begins to tilt sunward once more.



Coming Up!

Kids' Night In (*note new date*)
Sat., Dec. 15, 4:30 pm, Durant House

Wreath Sale
Sun., Dec. 16, before and after worship, Cloister

Congregational Meeting
Sun., Dec. 16, 11:15 am, Sanctuary

Longest Night Healing Service
Thurs., Dec. 20, 6 pm, Sanctuary

Christmas Eve Services
Mon., Dec. 24, 4 pm/6 pm/10 pm,
Sanctuary/Cloister/Sanctuary

Celebrating Rachel Bauman
Sun., Dec. 30, 11:45 am, Hall of
Entrance

THE CARILLON

(USPS 354-370)
Established 1947

Published weekly except between Christmas and New Year's and biweekly in July and August by First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704-2201. Telephone 510/848-3696. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **The Carillon**, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704-2201.

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Bits and Pieces

Deckers' Christmas Party

Join us for the **Deckers' annual Christmas Party** on **Sat., Dec. 15 at 6:30 pm** at the home of **Bob & Kathy Helliessen**. RSVP to let **Kathy & Bob** know what you would like to bring to the potluck.

We will once again be gifting the **YEAH** participants movie tickets. Please give your

contributions to **Annis Kukulan**, at church or by mail.



(top & middle) Lots of fun and creativity at the Advent Crafts Workshop; (right) Second Sunday crew packing yummy lunches including a holiday card for those in need.



Young Adult News

knovotny@fccb.org

- **Community Yoga, Thurs., Dec. 20, 5:30 pm, Loper Chapel**

FCCB Book Group

The **FCCB Book Group** meets **Fri., Dec. 14** to discuss *The Ghost Writer* by Philip Roth at **Mary-Ellis Adams'** home. They will meet **Fri., Jan. 11** to read **Dylan Thomas'** "Under Milkwood" aloud. Parts will be provided for all.

Contact **Katie Brookes** for more information.

Mindful Self-Compassion

Starting Jan. 19, 2019, Mindful Self-Compassion (MSC) training will be guided by MSC trained teachers, First Church's **Rev. Nancy DeNero** and retired psychologist **David Fredrickson**, over **nine consecutive Saturdays, 9 am to noon** in **Loper Chapel**.

MSC is empirically tested, providing **emotional strength and resilience in difficult times**. And it is easier than you think. Join us for meditations, short talks, experiential exercises, and group discussions. Experience in mindfulness or meditation is *not* required.

The price for the series is **\$300**. Your **additional donations** provide **partial scholarships** to those with limited means.

Register (**by Mon., Jan. 7**) by emailing **Nancy**, with name, email, phone number, and times when you're available for a call. Payment is due after we talk. Our limit is 35 participants, from First Church and the Berkeley community. **Register early**, to assure yourself a spot.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday December 16

AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP

8:30 am, Room 7, EBSB

WINTHROP WREATH SALE

9:45 am & 11:45 am, Hall of Entrance

WORSHIP

10 am, Sanctuary

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

11:15 am, Sanctuary

AFTER PARTY

11:15 am, Terrace

CAROLING (TWO EVENTS)

11:45 am/1:45 pm, Loper Chapel/Offsite

MENTAL HEALTH SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP

11:45 am, Durant House

SONGS OF THE SOUL REHEARSAL

11:45 am, Room 4, EBSB

Monday 17

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

6 pm, Loper Chapel

Tuesday 18

REV. MOLLY'S OFFICE HOURS

9-10:30 am, 1951 Coffee Company
2410 Channing Way, Berkeley

CHURCH COUNCIL

7:15 pm, Durant House

Wednesday 19

BIBLE STUDY

7 pm, Durant House

Thursday 20

REV. RACHEL'S SPECIAL OFFICE HOURS
4:30-5:45 pm, 1951 Coffee Company
2410 Channing Way, Berkeley

COMMUNITY YOGA

5:30 pm, Loper Chapel

LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

6 pm, Sanctuary

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

7 pm, Pillar Room

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

7 pm, Loper Chapel

Friday 21

MEMORIAL SERVICE: CHRISTIAN STUETZ
3 pm, Sanctuary

YES & Winthrop News

thilton@fccb.org

YES & Winthrop

- **Sun., Dec. 16, 11:30 am, Caroling & Cookie Shine, Offsite!**
Durant House

Winthrop

- **Sun., Dec. 16, Wreath Fund-raiser**, Before and after worship,
Hall of Entrance

Children & Youth News

Sat., Dec. 15 (note new date!)

is **Kids' Night In (4:30-8 pm)** in the **Play Yard** and **Durant House!**

Register (required) at <http://bit.ly/2OEPiMB>.