

Nov. 10 & 17, 2019 • Vol. 73 • No. 22

**NOVEMBER 10, 2019
NEIGHBORS IN NEED SUNDAY**

Luke 20:27-38

10:00

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

Musical Highlights, “All the Ends of the Earth,” performed by First Church Uke-atastrophe; Kate Lucchese, director; Kara Korbel-Chinula, drums; “My Lord, What a Morning,” traditional spiritual, performed by Sanctuary Choir

11:15

After Party, *Terrace*

11:15

Second Sunday Sandwiches, *Cloister*

11:45

Learning Hour “The Resurrected Mind” read-aloud series of sermons on mental health, *Loper Chapel*

**NOVEMBER 17, 2019
ART MEETS LIFE SUNDAY**

10:00

Worship, Molly Baskette & guest Elbe Spurling, in conversation; Amar Khalsa, musician; Elizabeth Forsyth, organist; Derek Tam, director of music, *Sanctuary*
Musical Highlights, “No One Is Alone,” from *Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim, arr. Mark Brymer, performed by Sanctuary Choir; Elizabeth Forsyth, piano

11:15

After Party, *Terrace*

11:15

Operation Love Notes, *Hall of Entrance*

11:45

Learning Hour Moms Demand Action, *Loper Chapel*

Preaching Schedule

Sun., Nov. 24, Kit Novotny

Art Meets Life Sundays!

Beginning **Sun., Nov. 17** we will experiment with a new form of worship — Art Meets Life Sundays! Each quarter we will invite a luminary in the field of art, music, poetry, journalism, or another discipline to contribute to our Sunday morning worship. Rev. Molly or Rev. Kit will interview them on the chancel during the sermon slot on a range of topics related to spirituality and culture, with an eye to feeding our souls.

Our first guest will be **Elbe Spurling**, the creator of the *Brick Bible* (<http://thebrickbible.com>), the world’s largest,



most comprehensive illustrated Bible, a labor of love born of spiritual questioning and theological challenge over many years. Elbe describes herself as “a blue-haired non-religious transgender lesbian artist and author.” Her art has been featured in publications including *Time*, *People*, *Rolling Stone*, and *Entertainment Weekly*. Copies of *The Brick Bible* and *The Brick Bible for Kids* (rated G, unlike the actual Bible) will be available for sale during the **After Party**.

If you have someone you think would be a good fit for a future Art Meets Life Sunday, please let **Rev. Kit** and **Rev. Molly** know. Good candidates will be outstanding creatives in their discipline who are accomplished enough that they might be a draw for folks who don’t yet go to our church, but have enough of a connection to Berkeley or our community that they will say yes to an invitation from us.

Nov. 10 Learning Hour: “The Resurrected Mind”

This **Sun., Nov. 10** at **11:45 am** in **Loper Chapel**, join the **Mental Health Ministry** as we read aloud the sermon by **Rev. Timothy Ahrens** titled “**The Resurrected Mind**.” This is part of a series of sermons on mental illness. Our discussion of the sermon will continue the path of living into our covenant as a **Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged (WISE) Congregation for Mental Health**.

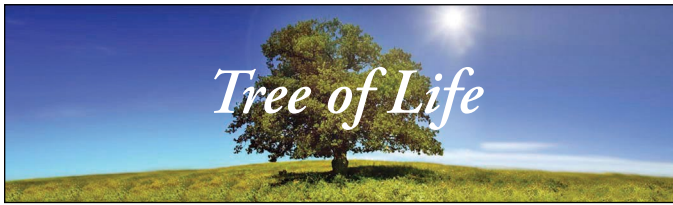
Neighbors in Need Sunday

This **Sun., Nov. 10** is **Neighbors in Need (NIN) Sunday**. The special offering collected will contribute to the UCC’s ministries of justice and compassion throughout the US. Two-thirds of the offering will be used to fund a wide array of **local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects**. The remaining third of the offering supports the **Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM)**, which provides Christian ministry and witness to American Indians and to the wider church.

Please give generously to this special offering using the **NIN envelope** included in the order of worship. Checks can be made out to “FCCB” with “Neighbors in Need” in the memo line. You may also donate through **Realm** or **Paypal** at www.firstchurchberkeley.org/give/.

Berkeley Half Marathon on Sun., Nov. 17

The **Berkeley Half Marathon** is **Sun., Nov. 17** starting at **8 am**. This may affect your route to church. To see a **route map**, go to <http://bit.ly/34xZjn9>.



Prayers of blessing for **Paul & Helen Chapman** on the birth of their new grandson, **Arjun Elliott Chapman**, on Oct. 19, to son **Will** and his wife **Natasha Raja**.



Congratulations to **Kelly Colwell** on her upcoming **Ecclesiastical Council**. All are invited to attend on **Sat. Nov. 9, 9–11 am** in **Loper Chapel**. Kelly will present briefly on her ordination paper and then those attending will be invited to ask her questions. A light continental breakfast will be served. To view Kelly's ordination paper, go to <http://bit.ly/2OxjxJg>.

Sign up to hold babies **Sasha** and **Maia** and help **Emma S** and **Shay**: <https://my.lotsahelpinghands.com/account/login>.

Continued prayers for **Margie Coates**.

Nov. 17 Learning Hour — Moms Demand Action

Adult Education is pleased to sponsor **Moms Demand Action** at the **Learning Hour** on **Sun., Nov. 17, 11:45 am**, in **Loper Chapel**.

Moms Demand Action is the largest grassroots **gun safety advocacy organization** in the country, with currently more supporters than the National Rifle Association. While they support the second amendment, they believe there is much more that can be done to keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous people and create a culture of responsible gun ownership.

Local Moms Demand Action volunteers — **Anna Mahony**, **Anna Santos**, and **Laurie Leiber** — will give an overview of the organization and an update on legislative priorities and actions. There will be time for questions about Moms Demand Action's work and how church members might be involved. For more information, contact **Linda Elsdon**.

THE CARILLON

Margaret Copeland, Editor
Ben McKnight, Communications Specialist
Deadline: Three weeks before event
Email submissions to: mcopeland@fccb.org

All submissions are subject to editing.

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The View from Here

Jeanne Strauss
FamChY Chair



The Best of Intentions

Last Saturday, we held an engaging event organized by our Family, Children, and Youth (FamChY) Ministry: celebrating el Dia de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead. People of all ages gathered to enjoy Mexican crafts, pan de muertos (a sweet Mexican bread), Mexican hot chocolate, and other snacks, and to participate in a ceremony honoring loved ones who have died. We read aloud passages that illuminated the history of this holiday and the meanings of various symbols, and people shared heartfelt reflections about their departed friends and family members. A beautiful altar was adorned with Mexican fabrics and folk art, marigolds, and photos of loved ones. What a wonderful way to honor this Mexican tradition!

Or was it?

Over the past several years, like many progressive individuals, I've become more attuned to instances of cultural appropriation. Until recently, I had understood this concept in a more limited sense — as portrayals of other cultures in ways that disrespect or ridicule them, like dressing up as a particular ethnicity for Halloween. Surely our spirit-filled, thoughtfully and lovingly prepared Dia de los Muertos celebration wasn't like that! After all, the church member who initiated the event years ago, Becky Wright, spends lots of time in Mexico, and she brings the motivation and materials for the event from a place of deep love and respect for Mexican culture and traditions.

However, Becky and the other FamChY members leading the event are not of Mexican heritage. By definition, cultural appropriation occurs when members of one culture adopt something from another culture, and it is particularly problematic when the traditions of a disadvantaged minority are presented by members of the dominant culture. Becky and I have taken time this past month to talk with people and read about cultural appropriation in its many forms, and we were saddened to realize that our beloved church event can be construed in this category.

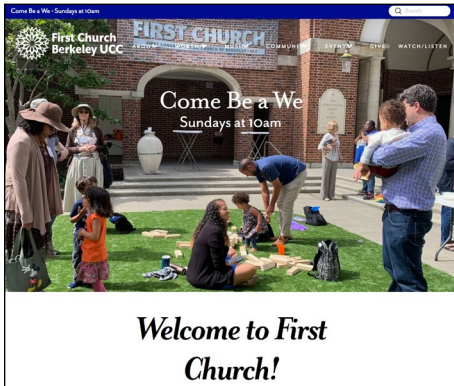
We addressed the matter at our FamChY meeting on Sunday, and we decided to stop holding the Dia de los Muertos event at our church, perhaps encouraging people to attend local events led by Mexican Americans instead. We deeply regret any offense we may have caused to people of Mexican heritage in having held this event over the past few years. Recognizing the comfort that many of us have taken from honoring our loved ones with our church family, we're looking toward other ways of doing that in the future — examples abound in our own Christian tradition!

God loves us even in our imperfections and mistakes, and helps us to grow in understanding and inclusiveness. May we continue to be enlightened throughout our lives.

Jeanne

New First Church Website Is Live!

Go to www.firstchurchberkeley.org to see **First Church's brand new website!** It's a lively, friendly, and informative website that will appeal to everyone: newcomers and old-timers, alike. As we apply finishing touches, please share any feedback or content updates with **Ben** at communications@fccb.org. Stay tuned for several other communications updates coming in early 2020!



Stewardship Update

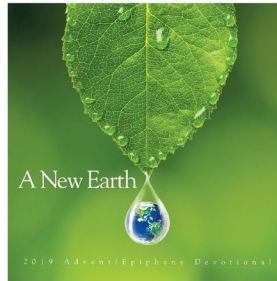
Many thanks to all who have already committed to be sustaining givers to First Church and help our church continue to thrive as a faith community and place of transformation. As of Oct., 29, the church has received **121 commitments** totaling **\$582,355** for 2020. We are on our way to having the level of sustaining giving that will allow First Church's ministries and programs to continue into an exciting future, **but we are not there yet.**

If you haven't made your sustaining giving commitment, we hope you'll prayerfully consider making an ongoing financial contribution to First Church. Please submit your commitment card no later than **Sun., Nov. 24** so SF&A can accurately plan for the future. **Commitment cards** are available in the **Hall of Entrance**, or you can print one out at <http://bit.ly/2NiX1Tk>. Please put your card in the offering plate, hand it to one of the ministers or **Kit Dunbar**, or email it to **Kit** at kdunbar@fccb.org. For detailed information on the **"Come Be a We" Stewardship Program**, and to access the 2020 Giving Documents, visit the church website at www.firstchurchberkeley.org/give.

With gratitude, Stewardship Team

Advent/Epiphany Devotional

Pick up a copy of this year's **Advent/Epiphany Devotional**, created by the UCC's **StillSpeaking Writers Group** of which our own **Rev. Molly** is a part, in the **church office** now or at the **Welcome Table** on Sundays **beginning Sun., Dec. 1**, the First Sunday of Advent!



NCNC Helping Hands Concerts to Benefit Fire Victims

NCNC's **Roy Mosley** and **Dick Hom** are producing three concerts **to benefit our neighbors to the north who have suffered in the recent fires.** They also held concerts for us after our devastating fire, which raised \$13,000!

One of the concerts will be at First Church in the **Sanctuary** on **Sat., Nov. 30**. The other two concerts will be in **San Francisco** on **Sat., Dec. 21** (St. John's UCC, 501 Laguna Honda Blvd.) and in **Sacramento** on **Sat., Dec. 28** (Pioneer Congregational Church, 2700 "L" St.). All concerts will be from **6–8 pm**.

If you are interested in performing in any of the concerts, email ncnc.helpinghands@gmail.com by **Nov. 24**.

Save the Date for the Advent Retreat

Sat., Dec. 7, 9:30 am–3:30 pm
First Church

The theme will be "What Are You Waiting For?"

Save the Date for the Advent Craft Workshop

Sun., Dec. 10, 11:45 am,
Pillar Room

Bring your friends & relatives!

Did You Know...?

...that if you have a **November birthday**, you are heartily invited to bring food to share during this month's **After Party**, such as bread, fruit, cheese, hard-boiled eggs, or homemade treats? Please put your offering on the table before church, prepped and ready to serve, and include an ingredient list for homemade items, if you can. Thanks!

Phishing Scam!

Be on the lookout for emails from **Molly** or **Kit** using odd language to ask for favors, like buying gift cards for cancer patients. This is a phishing scam from a fake email address intended to look legitimate. If you think you have gotten such an email, forward it to Molly. Your pastors will never ask you for money or gifts in this way.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Join us in observing the **Transgender Day of Remembrance** on **Wed., Nov. 20** at **6 pm**, with a vigil and reading of the names of our transgender siblings who have been killed in the past year. This is a service for people of all genders and identities. There will be candles, singing, prayer, communion, poetry, and silence. The event will take place in the **Sanctuary**.



Coming Up!

Taizé Service

Wed., Nov. 13, 7 pm, Loper Chapel

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Wed., Nov. 20, 6 pm, Sanctuary

Advent Retreat

Sat., Dec. 7, 9:30 am, First Church

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FCCB Book Group

The next FCCB Book Group meetings will be **Fri., Nov. 15**, at **Helen Wadman's house**: *Valley of the Moon* by Jack London. Contact the host with any questions.

Parent Circle this Sunday

The monthly **Parent Circle** meets this **Sun., Nov. 10** at **11:45 am** in the **Pillar Room**, for an informal time of sharing and caring for each other in the parenting journey. All are welcome! We're

taking a break in December and will resume meeting on the **second Sunday of each month** in January.



Racists Anonymous at First Church

Does talking about racism make you feel uncomfortable? Join us and challenge our perceptions of racism at **Racists Anonymous (RA)**, **Thursdays, 6:15–7:15 pm, Durant House**.



Clockwise from above: Day of the Dead celebration, Children leading the Gloria last Sunday, "Come Be a We" Fair

Young Adult News

knovotny@fccb.org

- **Thurs., Nov. 14, 10–11 am, Rev. Kit's Office Hours, 1951 Coffee Company, 2410 Channing Way, Berkeley**
- **Fri., Nov. 15, 6 pm, Will & Advanced Directive Planning, Durant House**
- **Thurs., Nov. 21, 10–11:30 am, Rev. Kit's Office Hours, Highwire Coffee, 2049 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley**
- **Thurs., Nov. 21, 6–7:30 pm, Racists Anonymous, Durant House**
- **Sat., Nov. 23, 2:30–4 pm, Young Adult Book Group, Tower Room**

YES & Winthrop News

sfread@fccb.org

YES & Winthrop

- **Sun., Nov. 10, 11:45 am, Rev. Molly will give a lesson on serving communion, Tower Room**

Weekly Calendar

Sunday November 10

COMPANIONSHIP TEAM
8:30 am, Room 5, EBSB
AFFORDABLE HOUSING GROUP
9 am, Room 7, EBSB

WORSHIP

10 am, Sanctuary

AFTER PARTY

11:15 am, Terrace

SECOND SUNDAY SANDWICHES

11:15 am, Cloister

COMMITTEE OF INVOLVEMENT MEETING

11:45 am, Room 5, EBSB

LEARNING HOUR: SERMON SERIES ON MENTAL HEALTH "THE RESURRECTED MIND"

11:45 am, Loper Chapel

GOSPEL CHOIR REHEARSAL

11:45 am, Sanctuary

PARENT CIRCLE

11:45 am, Pillar Room

YES & WINTHROP YOUTH GROUPS

11:45 am, Tower Room

Wednesday 13

TAIZÉ SERVICE

7 pm, Loper Chapel

BIBLE STUDY

7 pm, Durant House

Thursday 14

CO-WORKING COMMUNITY

1 pm, Tower Room

RACISTS ANONYMOUS

6:15 pm, Durant House

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

7 pm, Pillar Room

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

7 pm, Sanctuary

Friday 15

YOUNG ADULTS WILL & ADVANCE DIRECTIVE PLANNING

6 pm, Durant House

Saturday 16

MINDFUL SELF-COMPASSION SESSION

9 am, Durant House

Sunday 17

WORSHIP

10 am, Sanctuary

AFTER PARTY

11:15 am, Terrace

LEARNING HOUR: MOMS DEMAND ACTION

11:45 am, Loper Chapel

MENTAL HEALTH SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP

11:45 am–1 pm, Bride's Room

YES & WINTHROP YOUTH GROUPS

11:45 am, Tower Room

Monday 18

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION

6 pm, Loper Chapel

Tuesday 19

CHURCH COUNCIL

7:15 pm, Durant House

Wednesday 20

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

6 pm, Sanctuary

BIBLE STUDY

7 pm, Durant House

Thursday 21

CO-WORKING COMMUNITY

1 pm, Tower Room

RACISTS ANONYMOUS

6:15 pm, Durant House

BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

7 pm, Pillar Room

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

7 pm, Sanctuary

Saturday 23

BIRTHING A MAMA SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP

1 pm, Loper Chapel