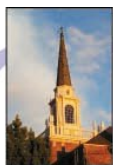


FCCB THE CARILLON



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

Dec. 8 & 15, 2019 • Vol. 73 • No. 24

DECEMBER 8, 2019

CONTEMPLATIVE TAIZÉ WORSHIP/ SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT (FAITH)

Before & after worship

Winthrop Wreath Sale, *Hall of Entrance*

10:00

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

Musical Highlights, Various pieces by Ancora, Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir; Robert Geary, director

11:15

After Party & Advent Craft Workshop, *Pillar Room*

11:15

Second Sunday Sandwiches, *Hall of Entrance*

11:45

Mental Health Forum Series, Exploring NVC, led by Jim Coates and Louise Halsey, *Loper Chapel*

DECEMBER 15, 2019

MUSIC SUNDAY/THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT (JOY)

Before & after worship

Winthrop Wreath Sale, *Hall of Entrance*

10:00

Worship, Molly Baskette, meditation, Amar Khalsa, musician; Elizabeth Forsyth, organist; Derek Tam, director of music, *Sanctuary*

Musical Highlights, "Carol of the Bells" by Mykola Leontovych; First Church Bell Choir; Jim Coates, director

11:15

After Party & Ministries Mini-Fair, *Terrace*

Advent Craft Workshop

Add some sparkle to your Christmas season at the **Advent Craft Workshop!** Come to the **Pillar Room** after worship on **Sun., Dec. 8** to create ornaments and decorations, and to enjoy fellowship with each other.



Advent is known as the waiting season, the time of magical, breath-holding anticipation for what might yet unfold, a new world appearing before our eyes. Whatever your spirit is longing for this year, we hope you'll find yourself among us at First Church. What are you waiting for?

Sat., Dec. 7, Advent Retreat (9:30 am–3:30 pm, *Pillar Room*)

Sun., Dec. 8, Taizé Contemplative Service (10 am, *Sanctuary*) & **Advent Craft Workshop** (11:15 am, *Pillar Room*)

Sun., Dec. 15, Special Music Sunday (10 am, *Sanctuary*)

Wed., Dec. 18, Winter Solstice Service (7 pm, *Sanctuary*)

Thurs., Dec. 19, Blue Christmas (6 pm, *Sanctuary*)

Tues., Dec. 24: Join us for our three **Christmas Eve Services:**

- 4 pm, **All Ages Family Service**
- 6 pm, **Outdoor Christmas in the Cloister Service**
- 10 pm, **Candlelight Service**

...plus a fun **All-Ages Epiphany Pageant** on **Sun., Jan. 5** during worship!

Exploring Nonviolent Communication Sun., Dec. 8

As part of our Mental Health Ministry Forum series, join **Jim Coates & Louise Halsey** this **Sun., Dec. 8** at **11:45 am** in **Loper Chapel** for a brief exploration of the teachings of Dr. Marshall B. Rosenberg, PhD, author of "Nonviolent Communication: a Language of Life."

Advent Retreat

Come to the **Advent Retreat** on **Sat., Dec. 7, 9:30 am–3:30 pm, Pillar Room**. The theme is "**What Are You Waiting For?**" and will include poetry, journaling, and one another with **Molly Baskette** and **Becky Wright** leading. **Sign up online** (www.firstchurchberkeley.org/advent-retreat) or in the **Hall of Entrance** after worship. Cost is \$25 and includes lunch and materials; scholarships available.

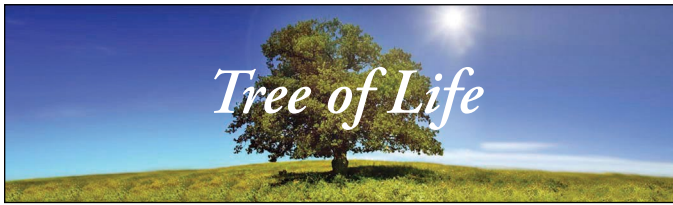
Greeters & Ushers Needed

The **Care, Fellowship & Invitation Ministry** is looking for **greeters** for the three **Christmas Eve** services: **4 pm Family Service**, **6 pm Service in the Cloister** & **10 pm Candlelight Service**. You can sign up for more than one! For more info, contact **Diana Graham**.

We also need **ushers** for the **4 pm & 10 pm Christmas Eve** services! Contact **Louise Halsey** (lhalsey@fccb.org).

Winter Solstice Service

All are invited to a contemplative, **Winter Solstice** service on **Wed., Dec. 18, 7 pm** in the **Sanctuary**. Led by members of the congregation, it will include music, rituals, meditation, and readings.



Congratulations to **Bob Stumpf** on the birth of grandson **Bennett Van Hoff** born on Wed., Nov. 27 to parents **Alison & Peter Van Hoff**.



Healing prayers for **Alexandra Ellman** who is in treatment for cancer.

Prayers for **Holly Coates-Bash** as she prepares for surgery Mon., Dec. 9.

Prayers for **Imogene Crebbin** as she is hospitalized recovering from RSV.

Continued prayers for **Margie Coates**.

Stewardship Year-End Update!

As of Dec. 1, the church has received **142 sustaining giving commitments totaling \$624,000 for 2020**. We encourage everyone who is able to participate financially at any level in sustaining our church into the future and have some new giving opportunities! One of our newer members wants to **encourage new sustaining givers for 2020** and has generously offered \$50 for each of five new sustaining commitments received between now and Thurs., Dec. 12, up to \$250 total. Please complete a **2020 Commitment Card** and email it to **Kit Dunbar (kdunbar@fccb.org)** or update your **Realm account** online.

As the end of this year approaches, we also want to encourage you to fulfill your 2019 sustained giving and, if you are able, consider making a **year-end extra gift** to First Church which will help enormously in closing out the small deficit that we anticipate. Three church members have put up \$2,500 to match additional gifts for 2019. Contact **Kit Dunbar** to participate in this match or if you would like to add an additional matching challenge. Matches must be completed by Fri., Dec. 20. To learn more about giving to First Church, go to www.firstchurchberkeley.org/give/.

— *With gratitude, Amy Hiestand and Nick Kukulan, SF&A Co-Chairs*

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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United Church of Christ
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The View from Here

Derek Tam
Music Director

Wait Actively

“I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”

— Psalm 27:13-14, NRSV; (Taizé chant partially based on this Scripture: <https://youtu.be/s7GexIvX8HU>)

We live in an impatient age. The conveniences afforded to us by technology—whether it be on-demand home deliveries or hailing a ride with a few taps on our smartphones—seemingly threaten to atrophy our ability to wait.

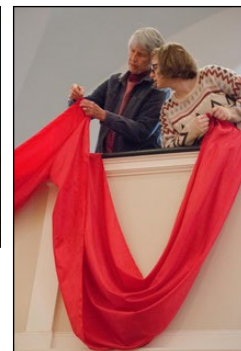
I suspect, however, that we have been as impatient as we have always been. We are no better and no worse at managing the uncertainty of waiting. Rather, it is the posture of our waiting that we must change: we must learn to wait actively, not passively.

When we wait passively, we not only expect instant gratification, but also 100% satisfaction. It is true that technology has made that possible in so many areas of our lives. But it has warped our expectations in so many other ways. Technology by itself cannot create the lives we believe we deserve. It will not mend the relationships we want to heal. We will ultimately be disappointed if we expect to wait passively and expect miracles to come to us.

Waiting actively is infinitely harder. It demands that we “be strong, and let [our] heart[s] take courage.” It requires daily cultivation of healthy habits. What we desire may not even turn out to be the result that happens, no matter how much effort and time we invest. But when the Lord comes, so to speak, a posture of active waiting will allow us to respond appropriately.

When I reread the Psalm quoted above, I was struck as never before by the psalmist’s conviction that the goodness of God is already with us, even when we may not see it yet. Even if we cannot know what is to come, our waiting will not preclude the kin-dom of God being formed here on Earth.

All we must do is to take courage and be strong.



Thank you to everyone who decked our Hall of Entrance & Sanctuary with holiday cheer last Saturday!

Blue Christmas Service

First Church offers a **Blue Christmas Service** on **Thurs., Dec. 19, at 6 pm** on the **Chancel** in the **Sanctuary**.



This service gives us room to acknowledge grief, overwhelm, loneliness, and other feelings that don't ordinarily fit into the season of cheer. It will include

prayers (silent, written, spoken), Scripture, music, and healing rituals.

Christmas Cookie Events!

Care, Fellowship & Invitation Ministry invites you to share your holiday hospitality at the following two fun holiday events:

The Great Christmas Cookie Bake Off, Sat., Dec. 21, 1–4 pm, Durant House. We will provide ingredients for a basic sugar cookie recipe

and you are invited to mix, bake, and decorate Christmas cookies to be shared with



our church family and guests at the **Christmas**

Eve Service After Party. You are also invited to bring recipes and additional ingredients for your own favorite holiday cookie or treat to make. All ages and baking abilities are welcome! Feel free to come and go as needed. It is a great way to share our delicious hospitality with others during this special time. Contact **Sara Woods** with any questions.

Christmas Eve Cookie Fest After Party, after the **Candlelight Christmas Eve service (10 pm, Dec. 24).** Look for inserts in the Order of Worship at regular Sunday worship services in December to sign up with your contribution of cookies and/or help. The Christmas season is a wonderful time to share your gifts with family, friends, neighbors, and guests. Help us make our final Christmas Eve service merry and bright with your gifts of confection. Contact **Pat Pratt** with any questions.

Associate Minister Rev. Kit to Take Sabbatical in 2020

— *Rev. Kit Novotny*

Early next year, I'll be celebrating five years as one of your ministers here at First Church, which is both hard to believe, and yet, we have shared so much life together! My role has shifted considerably since I joined the staff in 2015, and this fall we officially updated my job title to more accurately reflect this evolution, from Young Adult Minister to the more expansive Associate Minister (although young adult ministry is still one of my primary arenas).

I am grateful to be eligible for my first ever sabbatical, which I plan to take in two parts, in hopes that my time away would be easier on the congregation and staff, and allow me to be present for Lent and Holy Week. Part one is coming right up in January and February (Jan. 2–Mar. 2, 2020). Then, I will likely take part two in June and July (both parts will include some study leave/vacation as well).

I'm excited about the creative space and spiritual rejuvenation this time will allow. While our church doesn't require a dedicated project or proposal from pastors on sabbatical, my goals include rest and replenishment, spiritual discipline, artistic expression, time to dedicate to relationships, and travel (Arizona, So. Cal, Hawaii, and Austin in Feb; summer travel TBD).

My roles and responsibilities here at First Church will be covered collaboratively by other staff and congregation members, guest preachers, and some intentional sabbatical coverage by church members and UCC ministers Rev. Sheryl Johnson and Member-in-Discernment the-almost-Rev. Kelly Colwell. Sheryl will expand her role of Open Chapel Coordinator to include Young Adult Ministry duties in my absence, and both Sheryl and Kelly will offer additional pastoral care support and occasional office hours.

My hope is that I'll return after each leg of this sabbatical with fresh energy, ideas, and eyes, ready to continue to bring my whole self to our shared ministry from a deep and sustainable wellspring. Thank you for offering this meaningful gift to your pastoral staff.

Did You Know...?

...that we're still looking for a few **folks in Berkeley** to host a **Caroling Mob** (potluck, with optional tree-trimming, and caroling in the neighborhood), to share some much-needed joy with our Berkeley neighbors? If interested, contact **Kate Lucchese** *very soon*.

Committee of Involvement Nominations

The **Committee of Involvement** is requesting nominations for church leadership positions for the six ministries: **Adult Education; Care, Fellowship & Invitation; Children, Families & Youth; Justice & Service; Stewardship, Finance & Administration; and Worship & Spiritual Life (Deacons).** (*See complete description of ministries on pg. 5.*)

Members will be elected at the annual meeting in February. Other positions to be elected include: moderator-elect, at-large church council, delegates, and Long Range Planning members.

Meet with ministry members at the **ministry "mini-fair"** during the After Party on **Sun., Dec. 15.**

If you would like to nominate yourself (or someone else), see one of the ministers or one of the following members of the Committee of Involvement: **Mary Fujii, Kara Korbel-Chinula, Janet McDonald, Emma S., Linda Sawyer.**

Coming Up!

Music Sunday

Sun., Dec. 15, 10 am, Sanctuary

Winter Solstice Service

Wed., Dec. 18, 7 pm, Sanctuary

Blue Christmas Service

Thurs., Dec. 19, 6 pm, Sanctuary

Great Christmas Cookie Bake Off

Sat., Dec. 21, 1–4 pm, Durant House

Epiphany Pageant

Sun., Jan. 5, 10 am, Sanctuary

Women's Retreat

Fri.-Sat., Mar. 13-14, 2020, Ralston White Retreat Center, Mill Valley, CA

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PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT BERKELEY, CA

FCCB Book Group

The next FCCB Book Group meeting will be **Fri., Dec. 13** at **Mary-Ellis Adams'** house. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Thurston. Contact the host with any questions.

City of Refuge UCC Holiday Art Bazaar

City of Refuge UCC (8400 Enterprise Way Oakland) is having a **Holiday Art Bazaar** complete with unique gift items, handmade crafts, homemade

goodies, and so much more on **Sat., Dec. 7, 11 am–7 pm**.

Deckers Christmas Party

All are welcome to the **Deckers Christmas Party** on **Sat., Dec. 14 at 6 pm** at the **Helliesen's house**. RSVP what you'll be bringing for the potluck to **Kathy** or **Bob**. Once again they are gifting the YEAH kids movie tickets. Bring or send cash or checks to **Annis Kukulian**.



The Deckers recently went to the Oakland Museum of California to visit the Burning Man exhibit.



Jim Alnas-Benson and First Church children having fun outside together during After Care.

Young Adult News

knovotny@fccb.org

- **Tues., Dec. 31, 8 pm–12 am, Young Adults New Year's Eve Party, Loper Chapel & Pillar Room**

YES & Winthrop News

sfread@fccb.org

YES & Winthrop

- **Sun., Dec. 8, 11:45 am, Holiday Sock Exchange**, Please bring a wrapped pair of holiday-themed socks (no more than \$5), *Tower Room*
- **Sun., Dec. 15, 11:45 am, Lunch** (at church), *Caroling & Cookie Shine, Piedmont Gardens & Tower Room*



Special thanks to the youth who helped put together hygiene kits for our unhoused neighbors! They will distribute them at the Here-There encampment when they visit to carol in a few weeks.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday December 8

SONGS OF THE SOUL REHEARSAL
8 am, Room 4, EBSB
COMPANIONSHIP TEAM
8:30 am, Room 5, EBSB
WINTHROP WREATH SALE
Before and after worship, Hall of Entrance
WORSHIP
10 am, Sanctuary
AFTER PARTY & ADVENT CRAFT WORKSHOP
11:15 am, Pillar Room
SECOND SUNDAY SANDWICHES
11:15 am, Hall of Entrance
MENTAL HEALTH FORUM SERIES: NVC
11:45 am, Loper Chapel
SF&A MEETING
11:45 am, Room 5, EBSB
GOSPEL CHOIR REHEARSAL
11:45 am, Sanctuary
YES & WINTHROP YOUTH GROUPS
11:45 am, Tower Room

Tuesday 10

EMPATHY TRAINING
6:30 pm, Durant House

Wednesday 11

TAIZÉ SERVICE
7 pm, Loper Chapel
BIBLE STUDY
7 pm, Durant House

Thursday 12

CO-WORKING COMMUNITY
1 pm, Tower Room
RACISTS ANONYMOUS
6:15 pm, Durant Room
BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
7 pm, Pillar Room
SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL
7 pm, Sanctuary

Sunday 15

SONGS OF THE SOUL REHEARSAL
8 am, Room 4, EBSB
WINTHROP WREATH SALE
Before and after worship, Hall of Entrance
WORSHIP — MUSIC SUNDAY
10 am, Sanctuary
AFTER PARTY & MINISTRY MINI-FAIR
11:15 am, Terrace
MENTAL HEALTH SPIRITUAL SUPPORT GROUP
11:45 am–1 pm, Bride's Room
YES & WINTHROP CAROLING & COOKIE SHINE
11:45 am, Offsite & Tower Room

Monday 16

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION
6 pm, Loper Chapel

Tuesday 17

EMPATHY TRAINING
6:30 pm, Loper Chapel
CHURCH COUNCIL
7:15 pm, Durant House

Wednesday 18

WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE
7 pm, Sanctuary
BIBLE STUDY
7 pm, Durant Room

Thursday 19

CO-WORKING COMMUNITY
1 pm, Tower Room
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
6 pm, Sanctuary
RACISTS ANONYMOUS
6:15 pm, Durant Room
BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
7 pm, Pillar Room
SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL
7 pm, Sanctuary

Saturday 21

GREAT CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKE OFF
1 pm, Durant House

Want to Join a First Church Ministry?

The **Committee of Involvement** is considering members for various church leadership positions. Every member is welcome to let the committee know of their interest in any position, in particular, interest in serving on any of our **six core ministries**; terms are typically two years.

All ministries usually meet after church on the first Sunday of the month (in December SF& A will be meeting on December 8). **Visit a ministry meeting** to see what might be a good fit for you. **Free childcare is provided.**



Learn More – Ministry “Mini-Fair” – Dec. 15, during the After Party!
Visit with members of each ministry to find out what they do.

More about the Ministries...

Adult Education - is responsible for providing ongoing education for adults that reflects congregational needs and interests in understanding Christ’s teachings and applying them to all aspects of life: family and personal relationships, physical and mental health, spiritual growth, and social justice.

Care, Fellowship & Invitation (CF&I) - promotes fellowship and hospitality to the church family. CF&I strives to provide the means by which all may be drawn to experience and understand God’s love through fellowship and an extended hand.

Families, Children & Youth (FamChY) - is devoted to nurturing and supporting the faith formation of children, youth and the adults who love them as they embark on a spiritual journey over a lifetime. Inclusivity, spiritual activism/social justice, support for parents and other caregivers as they guide their children's wellbeing and development, engaging children and youth in inspired worship, and providing opportunities for intergenerational connection all are core aspects of FamChY's work.

Justice & Service - promotes and is responsible for activities, projects, and education related to homeland and world ministries, local outreach, Christian social issues, and ecumenical organizations.

Stewardship, Finance & Administration (SF&A) - promotes the responsible stewardship of the church’s physical plant, property, and finances in support of the church and its missions. It also has responsibility for emergency planning and preparedness. The Treasurer and Business Manager are standing members.

Worship & Spiritual Life (Deacons) - assists in developing and maintaining the Church’s openness to God’s spirit by planning and directing the formal and informal worship life of the Congregation, to include Church services and the sacraments. The Ministry shall also be responsible for the operation, appointments, and use of the sanctuary and chapel, spiritual well-being of the membership, assisting the Ministers in the spiritual care of the Congregation, and supporting those preparing for the ministry.

Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting February 2, 2020.

Among other positions elected by the congregation are Moderator-Elect, Council At-Large, Long Range Planning, Delegates, Committee of Involvement.

Interested? Please reach out to **Rev. Molly** or **Rev. Kit** or one of the following members of the Committee of Involvement: **Mary Fujii, Kara Korbelt-Chinula, Janet McDonald, Emma S., Linda Sawyer.**