



Advent

# Keeping in Touch

We are a creative Christian community,  
Caring for one another  
inviting others to experience the power of God's love,  
that God might use us to transform ourselves, our community,  
the Church and the world.

**first united**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Established 1886  
December 9, 2011

[www.fulc.com](http://www.fulc.com)

## QUOTATION OF THE WEEK

*This is the heart of Advent's invitation to me: to remember in these growing nights that the holy is continuously being born in places I can't see, including my own heart. We are called to cultivate night vision.*

—Christine Valters Paintner



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*Pastor Susan Strouse*

The first candle we lit on the Advent wreath was the candle of Hope. Where have you seen glimmers of hope with your night vision? The second was the candle of Peace. This one might be even more difficult to find in our war-weary world. Have you seen any shimmers of peace with your Advent eyes?

This week, we will light the candle of Joy. As much as this season is about being merry, real joy may be hard to come by for many people. But as Advent conspirators, we know there is a deeper joy to be found, even amidst the very real challenges of our lives. How will your night vision allow you to see past the surface merriment into the depths of bliss? Blessings on your continuing Advent journey,

*Pastor Susan*

See page 3 →

This Week on PS (Pastor Susan's Blog)—  
*Between Bah Humbug and a Holly Jolly Christmas*  
<https://progressivechurch.wordpress.com>

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

The Church Council met on Tuesday evening, December 6, at the medical office of Jacob Johnson.

- ✓ Constitution: Pat Cash, secretary of the Sierra Pacific Synod, joined us to discuss our proposed document. It will be posted on our website and sent to the synod for approval. If accepted, it would not go into effect until after congregational discussion and vote to approve.
- ✓ Campus Outreach: a service project at the Free Farm is being planned for February 12. Casey and Amanda will work on developing contacts at local universities. Phil Siegel will work with us on PR.
- ✓ Sign: we have a design; Pr. Susan will contact First UU about installation possibilities.
- ✓ New worship set-up procedures were discussed. Council reps are taking responsibility for now, but will also teach others what to do.
- ✓ Stewardship: Sunday's Discovery Group will kick off a renewed commitment to stewardship awareness.



*First United is a "Reconciling in Christ" (RIC) congregation that has declared that all persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities are equally welcome to join fully in the worship and life of this Christ-centered community.*

**First United Lutheran Church is committed to accessibility to the extent that it is within our control.  
Please let us know if we can be of assistance in accommodating your accessibility needs.**

## *Prayers for the Third Sunday of Advent*

*Merciful God of peace,  
your word, spoken by the prophets,  
restores your people's life and hope.  
Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace,  
that we may hold fast to your great goodness  
and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world. Amen*

<http://www.ucc.org/feed-your-spirit/weekly-seeds/>



- ✦ for the Peace of God to be made manifest in our world:
  - ☞ for the work of the United Nations, especially for the success of the Millennium Development Goals to:
    - eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
    - achieve universal primary education
    - promote gender equality and empower women
    - reduce child mortality rates
    - improve maternal health
    - combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
    - ensure environmental sustainability
    - develop a global partnership for development
  
- ✦ for the Wisdom of Christ to be made manifest in our communities:
  - ☞ for the Winter Shelter and all shelters, and for the people who come for food and a safe place to sleep
  - ☞ for those who are homeless, especially families with children
  - ☞ for Project Homeless Connect's "Hoodies for the Homeless" project
  - ☞ for the work of SAGE (Standing Against Global Exploitation) in their anti-trafficking efforts in SF
  - ☞ for *Welcome, SF Night Ministry, Welcome, Lutheran Social Services*
  
- ✦ for the Power of the Spirit to be made manifest in our congregation and beyond:
  - ☞ for Roger Creet and Alan Pearson
  - ☞ for Barbara Vignola, Daryl Hackbart, Bishop Mark Holmerud and all in need of healing
  - ☞ for all the leaders of our congregation, especially members of the church council
  - ☞ for an Advent season of centeredness and holy reflection

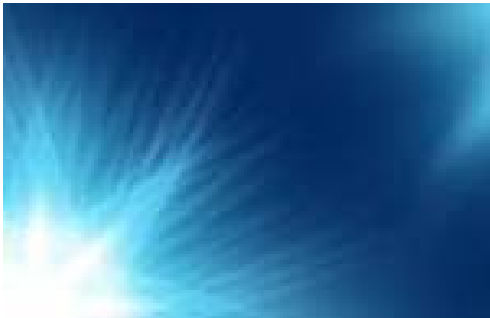
🕯 *If you would like to add someone or something to the prayer list, please contact Orion or Pastor Susan.* 🕯

### **PRAYERS IN ACTION**

We are collecting cards, notes, pictures, etc. for our homebound members. There will be an envelope for each at every service. You can put your items into the envelopes, which will be sent or delivered at the end of each month. This is an ongoing project of love and support for those who are unable to physically be part of our community, but are members of it nevertheless.

## *Between Bah Humbug & A Holly Jolly Christmas*

Posted by: **smstrouse** | December 8, 2011



I used to hate Christmas. I know; how can I be a pastor and hate one of the THE biggest days of the Christian year? But I did. The Christmas story was one of the major things that just rubbed me the wrong way as I was beginning to confront traditional beliefs about Jesus. Reading the Bible literally was not making sense. And even though my seminary education had enlightened me on the subject of the virgin birth and other translation issues, I still took issue with what I thought of as a fabrication. I knew that for most of the people in my congregation at the time, the story was 'true,' and I felt like a hypocrite standing up front reading it to them.

Thank God for scholars like John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg (*The First Christmas*) who made it feel OK to talk about biblical stories as myth – which doesn't make them untrue, just not literal, which they were never meant to be anyway. I discovered that there are many people in the pews who are relieved to hear that they don't have to 'believe six impossible things before breakfast' every time they enter the church. I know I am.

I don't think I'll ever be the 'holly, jolly Christmas' kind of person. But I'm not a Grinch anymore either. In discovering the message of the embodiment of the Divine in a human being just like me, I can appreciate my own humanity and my own connection to the Divine. In taking away the necessity of believing in a full-up inn and a stable, I can see the connection of God with the poor, the homeless, the immigrant. In the story of the coming of the magi, I can feel the wonder of a mystical star and an interfaith encounter.

Wow, I love Christmas! The real Christmas. I know I've said in earlier posts that I'd like to give Christmas over to the retailers and let us have Advent and Epiphany. But I guess I'm not so ready yet to give up. And I believe that there are many people out there who need to know that they don't have to buy into the Wal-Mart version, nor do they have to think they're supposed to suddenly be filled with Christmas cheer. Too many people suffer through the holidays because of what they don't have or don't feel. Or they identify with the Grinch.

All I can say is, "I've been there." There are too many versions of the 'true meaning of Christmas' that just don't cut it for me anymore. I'm so glad that I'm in a church that has a progressive outlook on this stuff. So I'm ignoring the ads, I'm doing a wonderful on-line Advent retreat, and I'm anticipating a fabulous Christmas Eve service. And to top it all off, this year, in new appreciation of the Christmas story, I bought a Nativity set. Joy to the World!!!

SUNDAY AFTERNOON FELLOWSHIP (SAF)  
& VERNON BUSH  
PRESENT...

## SING-A-LONG CIRCLE SINGING!



Lead by Musical Director and Teacher  
**VERNON BUSH**

*Come bring in the holidays  
with a very unique community holiday singing experience!*

**ALL LEVELS WELCOME**

*Just a desire to sing is all that is required!*

**@ ODC DANCE COMMONS**

**351 SHOTWELL (BTW 17TH & 18TH STS.) SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011 - 6:30-8:30 PM**

**THIS IS A FREE EVENT**

## This Sunday's Readings—Third Sunday of Advent

### Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

*God's justice was a constant theme of the great prophets of Israel. In these lines of poetry from the unknown prophet of Israel's exile in Babylon, this theme applied to the promised return of the exiles to their homeland about 539 BC. Not only would the ruined cities of Judea be rebuilt, but the ancient covenant between Israel and God would be renewed. The end result would be a whole new quality of life for God's people. More than six centuries later, Jesus adopted the first verse of this passage as the basic theme for his ministry.*

*It is written . . .*

The spirit of God is upon me,  
because YHWH has anointed me:  
God has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the broken-hearted,  
to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;  
to proclaim the year of favor from YHWH,  
and the day of God's vindication;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion —  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of tears,  
the mantle of praise instead of despair.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
planted by YHWH to display God's glory.  
They will restore the ancient ruins,  
and rebuild sites long devastated;  
they will repair the ruined cities,  
neglected for many generations.

For I, YHWH, love justice,  
I hate robbery and sin;  
So I will faithfully compensate you,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with you.  
Your descendants will be renowned among the nations,  
and your offspring among the people;  
all who see you will acknowledge  
that you are a people blessed by YHWH.

I will greatly rejoice in YHWH,  
who is the joy of my soul!  
My God has clothed me with a robe of deliverance,  
and wrapped me in a mantle of justice,  
the way a bridegroom puts on a turban,  
and a bride bedecks herself with jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden brings its seeds to blossom,  
so YHWH makes justice sprout,  
and praise spring up before all nations.

## **This Sunday's Readings—Third Sunday of Advent, continued**

### **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*These words connect communal and personal transformation with spiritual practices. "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances....do not quench the Spirit...listen to the prophets...but ask questions and be discerning...seek good and not evil." We are to act as citizens of God's realm even before our world has been transformed. We are to be harbingers of spiritual transformation. An eschatological ethic, living moment by moment with hope of God's coming realm, joins the journey inward and the journey outward. Our contemplations lead to actions, and our actions enable us to see the world through Christ's eyes.*

*It is written . . .*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not stifle the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything and accept only what is good. Avoid any semblance of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect in holiness. May you be preserved whole and complete—spirit and soul and body—irreproachable at the coming of our Savior Jesus Christ. The One who calls us is trustworthy: God will do this.

### **John 1:6-8, 19-28**

*John's Gospel contains no story about the birth of Jesus. The introductory paragraphs set that event in a cosmic context using metaphors such as life, light, glory and truth to describe God's full revelation in Jesus, the Word made flesh. Then the focus shifts to John the Baptist's ministry to prepare the way for Jesus, the Light of the world. John distinguished himself from Jesus as the one who is only a witness to the light. He thus set the stage for Jesus' appearance by reiterating this distinction when challenged by the religious leaders of Israel.*

*It is written . . .*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony all might believe. He himself was not the Light; but he came to testify about the Light – the true Light that illumines all humankind.

Now the Temple authorities sent emissaries from Jerusalem - priests and Levites - to talk to John.

"Who are you?" they asked.

This is John's testimony: he didn't refuse to answer, but freely admitted, "I am not the Messiah."

"Who are you then?" they asked. "Elijah?"

"No, I am not," he answered.

"Are you the Prophet?"

"No," he replied.

Finally they said to him, "Who are you? Give us an answer to take back to those who sent us. What do you say for yourself?"

John said, "I am," as Isaiah prophesied, "the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of our God!'"

The emissaries were members of the Pharisee sect. They questioned him further: "If you are not the Messiah or Elijah or the Prophet, then why are you baptizing people?"

John said, "I baptize with water because among you stands one whom you do not recognize—the One who is to come after me—the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy even to untie."

This took place in Bethany, across the Jordan River, where John was baptizing.



# All Religions Believe In Justice

Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice of San Francisco



## An Interfaith Celebration of Light

Union Square (Powell and Geary)

Monday, December 19, 2011

5:00 - 6:00pm

Come and be a beacon of hope!

In the midst of crises, chaos, and despair, people of faith seek to bring a message of hope during these dark times. Many religious traditions are in this season of light: candles being lit, and prayers offered for peace and healing in our world. One thing that darkness shall never overcome is light - even a single flame pierces through the void.

We invite you to join us in celebrating hope and light, and being present with those in our communities who weep in darkness. On December 19th, we will light torches and candles, read from our sacred writings, hear from an Occupy SF leader, and listen to stories of workers and their struggles for dignity, respect, and voice on the job.

There will be an opportunity for us to put our faith in action. We will have a brief candlelight procession from Union Square to the Grand Hyatt to deliver a message of support for workers who have been struggling for a fair contract for the past 2 years.

Let us shine the light of hope, and kindle the fire of justice for our community. Please invite your congregation and friends. We request clergy to come in religious garb/vestments as allowed by your tradition.

Come and celebrate with us!

# A CALL TO SHALOM

## CLUE-SF Statement on Current Economic Justice Struggles (Adopted by the SF Interfaith Allies of Occupy)

[Please click here to join Bay Area religious leaders who have signed on](#)

"No justice! No peace!" "No justice! No peace!" We have heard the cry at countless demonstrations. It is a plea not for the mere absence of violence, the silent, complacent peace of the graveyard. It is, rather, a call to the peace of Shalom that rests on justice and that encompasses a shared sense of well-being in the community.

For too long now that sense of justice and shared well-being has eluded us. We have experienced forty years of endless war - overlapping, futile, and, for the most part, unworthy wars...wars that have left us mired in Afghanistan and facing perceived enemies on every continent. We are suffering the consequence of decades of rampant greed and reckless risk-taking that have produced a Great Recession in an America we hardly recognize any more.

And the powers-that-be of this world stand athwart the need for change - banks that gambled with our savings and took our homes, corporations that export our jobs, politicians that spout slogans and fiddle while a nation burns, a corporate media that would distract us from the fire with daily offerings of circus-like distraction. The results are an income inequality not seen since 1928, in which 40 percent of the nation's wealth is held by one percent of our people; real unemployment near 16 percent; an increasingly less progressive tax system unworthy of a civilized society; rampant cuts in programs for the suffering among us; a people on its knees.

No wonder, at this moment of crisis, that the national mood is one of fear, the worst fear being that we might not be up to the task - an "uneasy feeling," a "sinking feeling," as Bob Herbert put it, "that important opportunities are slipping from the nation's grasp." We are, he said, "squandering a golden opportunity to build a better society," adding, "If America can't change, then the current state of decline is bound to continue."

Indeed it will...if we don't change. But we have had our cold shower. Our eyes are wide open. We are poised to act. Our hour has come. We dare not squander this opportunity to build a better society. As people of faith and as Americans, we are a people of hope. We must give voice to our longings and aspirations. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said about a war, "A time comes when silence is betrayal." That time has come again in America. We are at another moment when silence is betrayal. Our old ways of doing things no longer work. We must find new ways...new ways that reflect our faith in God and our concern for one another.

As people of faith we must now speak truth to power - in Wall Street and Washington - and stand in solidarity with those in the Occupy movement who seek a more equitable society. We are mindful that we are called, in the words of Micah "to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God" and strengthened in the struggle by the promise of Jesus that "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."

Mindful, as Walter Rauschenbusch said, that such righteousness is "not a matter of getting of getting individuals to heaven, but of transforming life on earth into the harmony of heaven," we must insist that "the highest type of goodness is that which puts freely at the service of the community all that man is and can be" and that conversely, "the highest type of badness is that which uses up the wealth and happiness and virtue of the community to please self."

As spiritual leaders, we must seek a seat at the table and help shape solutions consistent with our values of justice, equality, charity, and solidarity with our fellow human beings. We must not shy from the political fray, for both politics and religion concern themselves with social relationships, how we relate to one another, how we will shape our societies. And good politics, like good religion, seeks to shape a just society.

Finally, we must be diligent in the effort and impatient with those who would temporize. In the words of Dr. King, "Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation. We must use time creatively, in the knowledge that the time is always ripe to do right. Now is the time to make real the promise of democracy."

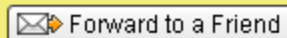
Only when we redeem that promise will we enjoy the true peace of Shalom.

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*This statement was written by the Rev. Deacon Vicki Gray of the Episcopal Diocese of California (church noted for identification purposes only) and adopted by the Steering Committee of CLUE-SF (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice).*

*We are sharing this with you, praying that you would also add your name to this statement. **Please click here to sign online.** This statement will be presented to the elected officials of Bay Area counties, cities, and municipalities. It will also be submitted as an Op-Ed piece in media outlets including religious press.*

Thank you!

 Forward to a Friend

For more information, please contact Rev. Israel Alvaran at [415-863-1142](tel:415-863-1142) or by email at [ialvaran@clueca.org](mailto:ialvaran@clueca.org)

“GOD” Loves **EVERYBODY**,



Whether YOU Like it or Not!

...or Believe in their Version of it all...



When it comes Down to it, We are **All Children** of the **Same Universe**.

♥ ...And No Matter How you want to say it, It is Time to

♥ **LOVE ONE ANOTHER.** ♥

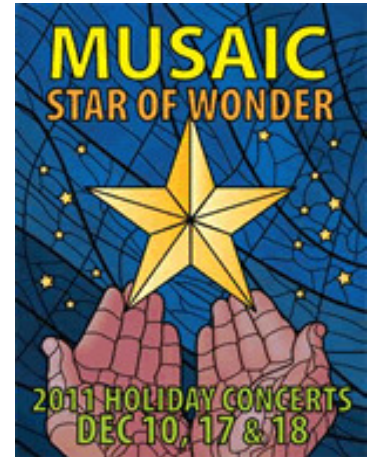


*Just as despair can come to one another only from other human beings, hope, too, can be given to one only by other human beings.—Elie Wiesel*

## **HOLIDAY CONCERT AT THE PRESIDIO CHAPEL**

Join *Musaic* on Saturday, December 17th at 8:00 pm as we discover the wonder of the season, enlightened through melodies and harmonies from around the world. From reverent classical anthems to joyful jazz carols, let our spirited men's voices lift you into Christmas. \$15 general admission. Students with ID free.

Musaic's mission is to share beautiful men's a cappella singing with our Bay Area community. Our music is rooted in classical choral traditions, through a repertoire that includes a variety of genres and languages. The members of Musaic are passionate about men's ensemble singing, and enjoy the artistic balance and musical fellowship it brings to our lives. For more info and to order tickets, visit [www.musaicsf.org](http://www.musaicsf.org).



Presidio Interfaith Chapel, 130 Fisher Loop, Presidio, San Francisco

## **MULTIFAITH RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL OBSERVANCES**

### **December**

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 12    | Feast day - Our Lady of Guadalupe - <b>Catholic Christian</b>           |
| 16    | Posadas Navidenas through Dec. 25 - <b>Christian</b>                    |
| 21-28 | Hanukkah * - <b>Jewish</b>  |
| 22    | solstice  |
|       | Yule - <b>Christian</b>   |
|       | Yule * - <b>Wicca/Pagan</b> northern hemisphere                         |
|       | Litha * - <b>Wicca/Pagan</b> southern hemisphere                        |
| 24    | Christmas Eve - <b>Christian</b>  |
| 25    | <b>Christmas</b> * - <b>Christian</b>                                   |
|       | Feast of the Nativity - <b>Orthodox Christian</b>                       |
| 26    | Zarathosht Diso (Death of Prophet Zarathushtra) ** - <b>Zoroastrian</b> |
|       | Saint Stephen, Deacon and Martyr - <b>Christian</b>                     |
| 28    | Holy Innocents - <b>Christian</b>                                       |
| 30    | Feast of the Holy Family - <b>Catholic Christian</b>                    |
| 31    | Watch Night - <b>Christian</b>  |

Note: 1. \* Holy days usually begin at sundown the day before this date.  
2. \*\* Local or regional customs may use a variation of this date.  
**Bold** titles are primary holy days of a tradition.



*Hello everyone!*

*We have so enjoyed our work here at the San Francisco Interfaith Council so far. We have been working full-time with high schools, college students, and young adults to spread the message that religion can be a force for good in the world, and demonstrate just how much interfaith cooperation is needed on social justice issues facing our local and global communities today.*

*As part of our year-long initiative and fundraiser for malaria prevention efforts, the two of us have partnered with the Thanksgiving Coffee Company to sell coffee from their Mirembe Kawomera cooperative - an interfaith, fair trade cooperative with a beautiful story. All profits go directly to the Faiths Act in Sierra Leone program, to help prevent deaths by malaria through education and community involvement.*

*You can read about the fair trade Mirembe Kawomera Cooperative and the Faiths Act in Sierra Leone program below, to know exactly what amazing work the donation from the coffee supports!*

*We just wanted to make everyone aware of this fundraiser as the coffee makes for a great Holiday gift (works as a stocking stuffer too!). It is delicious; it's all we drink in the office now!*

*We have available dark roast, light roast, and decaf- all three have drip grind and whole bean options. Each 1lb. bag is being sold for \$13. We have a small number in the office ready immediately, and we can also take orders to get to you in the next couple weeks.*

*Thank you so much!*

*Nina Pine and Rachel Finn*

*Faiths Act Fellows*

[npine.sfic@gmail.com](mailto:npine.sfic@gmail.com)

[rfinn.sfic@gmail.com](mailto:rfinn.sfic@gmail.com)

## **About Mirembe Kawomera Cooperative**

In 2003, JJ Keki, a Ugandan coffee farmer, walked door to door asking his Jewish, Christian, and Muslim neighbors to put aside old differences and come together. Their community of third and fourth generation coffee farmers was struggling to make a living off the low prices offered by the local market. They formed a cooperative to build lasting prosperity in their villages and to spread a message of peace throughout the world. They named their coffee "Mirembe Kawomera," which means, "Delicious Peace" in the Luganda language. Today, the Peace Kawomera Cooperative has grown to over 1,000 members. Thanks to their collective effort, the farmers receive prices four times higher than what they were previously paid, which has enabled farmers to send their children to school, start savings accounts, and reinvest in their farms. The farmers are a model for interfaith cooperation and fair trade production.

## **About Faiths Act in Sierra Leone**

Sierra Leone has only 126 medical practitioners in a population of nearly 6 million - and thus, like many nations in Africa, the majority of health messaging comes through the church, the mosque, or other religious centers. Malaria kills 33% of children under five in Sierra Leone. This figure can be reduced by the introduction of malaria awareness and prevention methods. The Faiths Act Program is in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the Interreligious Council, and the Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone. It works by motivating religious leaders to reach out to their community to physically go from household to household educating people about malaria awareness and prevention. In many places, such as Sierra Leone, prevention is a problem of education, not just resources. We plan to reach over 100,000 homes by June 2012, which translates into thousands of lives saved from malaria through multi-faith action.



**Coming Events:**



☞ **SECOND SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
*Sunday, December 11*  
*What is Stewardship?*  
*The Gospel According to Kirk Pessner*  
*3:00 pm in the Kinkaid Room*

☞ **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*Sunday, December 11*  
*Worship at 5:00 pm in the Chapel*



☞ **SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS**  
**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
*Sunday, December 11*  
*Worship at 5:00 pm in the Chapel*

**Sunday Worship**  
 5:00 p.m. at  
 First Unitarian Universalist Chapel  
 1187 Franklin St.

**Office Hours & Mailing Address**  
 1537 Franklin St., Suite 201  
 San Francisco, CA 94109  
 M- F 7:30-11:30 a.m.  
 (415) 359-1025 (V)  
 (415) 359-1267 (F)

For information visit our website:  
[www.fulc.com](http://www.fulc.com)  
 email: [info@fulc.com](mailto:info@fulc.com)

**Pastor Susan Strouse**  
 Office Hours:  
 Tuesday & Thursday  
 (510) 528-4354(H)  
 (510) 579-7061 (C)  
 email: [PastorSusan@fulc.com](mailto:PastorSusan@fulc.com)

**Orion Pitts**  
 Music Director & Office Administrator  
[orion@fulc.com](mailto:orion@fulc.com)

2010-2011 Council:  
 Jacob Johnson      [President@fulc.com](mailto:President@fulc.com)  
 Steve Johnson      [Treasurer@fulc.com](mailto:Treasurer@fulc.com)  
 Terri Bogaards      [Secretary@fulc.com](mailto:Secretary@fulc.com)  
 Tamara Alliston      Dana McDonald  
 Pamela Hargraves

**NOTE:**

**Deadline for submission**  
 of all information or items in  
*Keeping in Touch* is

**Wednesday at 12 noon**

of the week of publication. Items sub-  
 mitted after this time may not be in-  
 cluded in that week's edition.



*For details on all First United  
 events, go to [www.fulc.com](http://www.fulc.com)  
 & click on "Calendar".*

**Policy for  
 Charitable Donations**

First United's policy is to help people  
 by finding services when possible.  
 All requests for help must go to Pas-  
 tor Susan. Please do not ask mem-  
 bers for money, rides, phone use, or  
 food—ask only Pastor Susan.



Dec. 19:  
 Daniel Eickmann

Dec. 23:  
 Heather Hargraves

Dec. 26:  
 Andreas Mueller  
 Kirk Pessner

Dec. 27:  
 Sandra Pessner

**THIS WEEK'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pr. Susan Strouse	Pr. Susan Strouse
Dana McDonald	Dana McDonald
Daniel Eickmann	Daniel Eickmann
Terri Bogaards	Terri Bogaards
Terri Bogaards	Terri Bogaards

**WORSHIP LEADERS FOR DECEMBER 18**

Pr. Susan Strouse	Pr. Susan Strouse
Tamara Alliston	Tamara Alliston
Lessons & Carols	Lessons & Carols
readers & participants	readers & participants
Margie & Steve	Margie & Steve

To sign up as a Greeter or other worship assis-  
 tant, send an email to [info@fulc.com](mailto:info@fulc.com).