



Keeping in Touch

first united
LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are a creative Christian community,
Caring for one another

Established 1886

November 4, 2011

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.

www.fulc.com



All
Saints
Sunday

This Sunday, November 6, we leave Daylight Savings Time and revert to Pacific Standard Time. So—before you go to bed on Saturday night, remember to turn your clocks *back* one hour!



QUOTATION OF THE WEEK

Saints are simply men and women who have fulfilled their natural obligation, which is to approach God.
—Evelyn Waugh



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Pastor Susan Strouse

The website for a Lutheran church in Denver proclaims on its homepage: “House for All Sinners and Saints is a group of folks figuring out how to be a liturgical, Christo-centric, social justice oriented, queer inclusive, incarnational, contemplative, irreverent, ancient-future church with a progressive but deeply rooted theological imagination.” I thought of this statement of identity in light of this Sunday’s designation as All Saints Sunday.

What would Martin Luther think of this new way of being Lutheran?! I think he’d be pleased that someone is taking seriously his assertion that we are *simul justus et peccator*—saint and sinner at the same time. He might be a little disoriented with our changing ways of talking about it. As are we sometimes. But the idea holds true: we are loved with a Divine Love in all of our human messiness—saintliness amidst sinfulness. This is why we can face the loss of the loved ones we remember on this day; we know that God has loved them and continues to love them as saints triumphant. And we who are still sinner/saint can rejoice in the divinely holistic ways of God.

Blessings on this All Saints Sunday,
Pastor Susan

PS—You are invited to bring pictures and/or mementos of loved ones who have died to be placed on the altar.

This Week on PS (Pastor Susan’s Blog)—
The 72-Day Marriage: Time to Separate Church from State?
<https://progressivechurch.wordpress.com>

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 All Saints Sunday

*Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit
may so move every human heart,
that barriers which divide us may crumble,
suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease;
that our divisions being healed,
we may live in justice and peace;
through Jesus the Christ. Amen*

Adapted from "Prayer for Social Justice," *The Book of Common Prayer*. <http://sites.hrc.org/scripture/index.asp>

- ✦ for the Peace of God to be made manifest in our world:
 - ☞ for the people of Iraq and US troops, as the war in Iraq ends
 - ☞ for our leaders, as foreign policies are established
 - ☞ for the people of the Horn of Africa, and all who suffer from lack of food, water and shelter

- ✦ for the Wisdom of Christ to be made manifest in our communities:
 - ☞ for a bountiful harvest and a thankful season of sharing
 - ☞ for SF Care, SF Night Ministry, SAGE, Welcome, and all who serve the needs of our city
 - ☞ for the voters of our communities on Election Day

- ✦ for the Power of the Spirit to be made manifest in our congregation and beyond:
 - ☞ for Roger Creet and Alan Pearson
 - ☞ for Steve Johnson, Barbara Vignola, Daryl Hackbart, Bishop Mark Holmerud and all in need of healing
 - ☞ for all the saints, who from their labors rest.

✠ *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.

Email Orion received from University Hill Congregation, Vancouver BC:

We are delighted to announce that the 2011/2012 Christian Seasons Calendar is available now at www.thechristiancalendar.com. We are very grateful for your support in previous years, and hope that you will be with us again for the coming season of Advent, which begins soon on November 27.

This unique calendar helps to inform and shape Christian identity as it turns with each new Christian Season. Beginning with Advent, the Christian Seasons Calendar moves through Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and the Season after Pentecost. The story of the Christian Year is told with the help of art from nine contemporary North American artists.



(Note from Orion—I had one of these calendars over the past year, and loved it; I've already ordered my new one! It's the only calendar I've seen that has the pages laid out in the seasons of the church year, rather than the months of our Gregorian calendar. For more information see the website, www.thechristiancalendar.com.)

OUR COMMUNITY

Updates—Life at First United and beyond.

Church Council Highlights

The Church Council met on Tuesday evening, November 1; highlights

- ☞ Website/Logo Update: New logo has been designed; website can now be redesigned.
- ☞ Causes: Terri will start a Facebook ‘Causes’ page for fundraising.
Staff Evaluations: will be conducted this fall.
- ☞ Worship Set-Up: Council reps will help and will show others how to do it.
- ☞ Campus Ministry: Outreach to 3 local campuses being planned for next year.

From *The Lutheran*, November 2011 edition:

CONGREGATIONS WITHDRAWN—

For the record: According to the ELCA Office of the Secretary, 533 churches have withdrawn from the official roster of congregations from Aug. 14, 2009, through Sept. 1, 2011. States most impacted by votes to disaffiliate are Minnesota (64 congregations), Iowa (50) and Ohio (47). Synods losing the most congregations are Southwestern Texas (19 percent) and Western Iowa and North Carolina (both 15 percent). Synods losing the fewest are Metropolitan Washington, D.C., and Slovak Zion (none), and Alaska, Arkansas-Oklahoma, Caribbean, New England and New Jersey (one each).



DEAD SEA SCROLLS ONLINE—

Five of the Dead Sea Scrolls that have been stored for decades in a climate-controlled exhibit at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem are now available in digital form. A website developed by the Israel Museum and Google allows online visitors to examine the scrolls in minute detail with the help of a magnifying feature:

<http://dss.collections.imj.org.il>

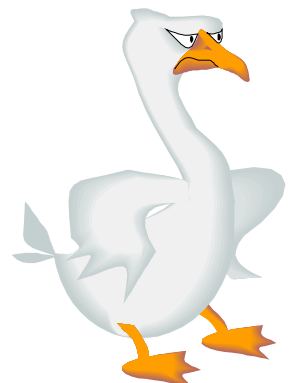
Dating from the third century B.C. to the first century A.D., the scrolls were discovered between 1947 and 1956 in 11 caves near the Dead Sea. The region's arid environment helped ensure their survival.

“THE GEESE ARE GETTING FAT . . .” (BUT THEY’RE NOT QUITE PLUMPED UP YET)

Yes—look at the calendar. Christmas is coming—and there’s no turning back. In order for you to plan ahead, the worship team announces First United’s Christmas schedule, which is especially tricky this year since Christmas Day falls on Sunday:

Saturday, December 24—Christmas Eve Worship Service, 7:00 pm at Ebenezer Lutheran/Herchurch

Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day; no First United community worship service. A family/home worship service that you may choose to observe with your family and friends will be provided online on the FULC website, www.fulc.com.



CYPRIAN'S at TURK and LYON

A New Performance Space in San Francisco

Home

Getting to Cyprians

Cyprians Headlines

Tickets

Turkish Folk Music, Sufi Mystic Stories & Images from Ancient Turkey: An Evening with Latif Bolat



Latif Bolat: One of the most well-known Turkish musicians in the U.S.

Latif Bolat mesmerizes audiences with his mastery of a vast repertoire of Turkish folk music, Sufi devotional songs, classical pieces and sacred ballads that he composed. He employs traditional instruments such as the long-necked lute, the *baglama*, and the *oud*, *bendir* and *ney flute*.

Now residing in New Mexico and Turkey, Bolat is in the midst of a world tour. He regularly performs in India, Indonesia, Bulgaria, Turkey, the Philippines, Australia, England, and all across Canada and the United States. He has appeared at Carnegie Hall, recorded four popular CDs, and composed music for the PBS Documentary: "Mohammed: Legacy of a Prophet" and George Lucas's TV series "Young Indiana Jones." He also co-authored a book with the compelling title "Quarreling with God." The Turkish Ministry of Culture has sponsored translations of his work on Sufi poetry, and the California Arts Council awarded Bolat with a grant for his contributions to the preservation of Turkish traditional music.

Bolat performs at **Cyprian's** Saturday, November 5 following a special bonus lecture and discussion on *1000 Years of Turkish Sufi Mystic Music, Poetry and Philosophy*.

Cyprian's is honored to host Latif Bolat for this exceptional evening of music, reflection and cultural awareness. His appearance is part of the **SF Live Arts** series at Cyprian's. The concert and lecture are separate events, but there is no charge for the lecture.

Lecture & Performance are at St. Cyprian's on Saturday evening, November 5.

For full details, go to:

<http://liveatcyprians.blogspot.com/2011/10/turkish-folk-music-sufi-mystic-stories.html>

This Sunday's Readings

All Saints Sunday

FIRST READING—Revelation 7:9-17

This remarkable passage has influenced Christian images of Heaven from the time it was written in the last decade of the 1st century. It presents a vision of God's eternal presence which is both profoundly Christ-centered and universal in its scope.

It is written . . .

After that, I saw before me an immense crowd without number, from every nation, tribe, people and language. They stood in front of the throne and the Lamb, dressed in long white robes and holding palm branches. And they cried out in a loud voice,
"Salvation is of our God
who sits on the throne,
and of the Lamb!"

All the angels who were encircling the throne, as well as the elders and the four living creatures, prostrated themselves before the throne. They worshiped God with these words:
"Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and strength be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders asked me, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I answered, "You are the one who knows."

Then the elder said to me, "These are the ones who survived the great ordeal; they have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white. That is why they stand before God's throne and the One they serve day and night in the Temple; the One who sits on the throne will shelter them forever. Never again will they be hungry or thirsty; the sun and its scorching heat will never beat down on them, for the Lamb who is at the center of the throne will be their shepherd and will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every last tear from their eyes."

SECOND READING—1 John 3:1-3

With a deep belief of God's ultimate purpose for the end of history, John attempts to describe just what we shall be like and how that will come about. He declares the simple faith that because God loves us and because we are the children of God, in the end we shall be like God.

It is written . . .

See what love Abba God has lavished on us,
in letting us be called God's children!
Yet that in fact is what we are.
The reason the world does not recognize us
is that it never recognized God.
Beloved,
now we are God's children,
but it has not been revealed
what we are to become in the future.
We know that when it comes to light
we will be like God
as God really is.
All who keep this hope keep themselves pure, just as Christ is pure.

This Sunday's Readings—continued

GOSPEL—Matthew 5:1-12

The Beatitudes set forth how Jesus saw those who are to inherit the reign of God's gracious, redemptive love. While this description may seem to project beyond current reality into a far distant future, it also sets forth a value system on the basis of which we can live from day to day as if that reign of God had already begun.

It is written . . .

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the mountainside, and after he sat down and the disciples had gathered around, Jesus began to teach them:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

"Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

"Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



Identity theft happens. Don't let it happen to you.



If your identity is stolen, it's more than an inconvenience. It puts your finances and credit rating at risk—and that's just the beginning.

Find out what steps you can take to help ensure your identity isn't stolen. Join us for:

Identity Theft: What you need to know

You'll learn:

- How identity theft can occur.
- Tips to help protect yourself.
- Steps you can take if identity theft does happen to you.

Sign up today!

Sign up by calling Jo Zenke at (800) 564-1293 or email jo.zenke@thrivent.com by Nov 11, 2011 and reserve your spot today or visit Thrivent.com/FindaWorkshop to register online.

A complimentary lunch and refreshments will be served following the workshop.

Identity Theft: What you need to know

Saturday, November 12, 2011
10:00 - Noon
West Portal Lutheran Church
200 Slo at Blvd
San Francisco, CA 94132

The "Identity Theft: What you need to know" workshop is intended only to educate you about financial decisions. It is broad in scope and does not consider your individual personal financial situation, which is unique. The information and advice may not be appropriate in all cases. No products will be offered for sale. For additional important disclosure information, please visit Thrivent.com/disclosures.



San Francisco Interfaith Council

P.O. BOX 29055 ■ SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129 ■ 415.425.9631



Save the Date!

Join the San Francisco Interfaith Council
at the
14th Annual Interfaith
Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

"Repairing the World: Honoring the Work
of Rita Semel"

Tuesday, November 22, 2011, 7:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Hotel Kabuki 1625 Post Street (at Laguna), San Francisco

Online Reservations: [sfinterfaithcouncil.org/
annualbreakfastregistration.html](http://sfinterfaithcouncil.org/annualbreakfastregistration.html)

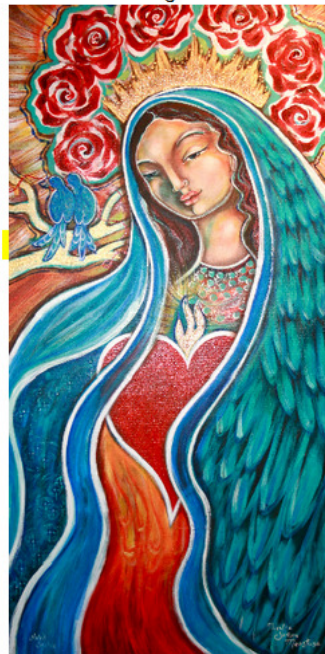
For more information:  (415) 474-1921 



2011 - 6th Annual Faith and Feminism, Womanist, Mujerista Conference

November 11 - 13, 2011

Nuestra Señora Maestosa Inspired by La Virgen de Guadalupe



© Shiloh McCloud

5th Annual Faith and Feminism – Womanist – Mujerista Conference

Sponsored by herchurch San Francisco
November 11-13, 2011

at herchurch 678 Portola Dr. San Francisco

Theme: The Feminine Face of God/dess – Paradigm for
justice and empowerment

REGISTRATION

Key Note Speakers:

Jeanette Rodriguez, Ph.D. – Institute for Theological
Studies, Seattle University

Max Dashu – Suppressed Histories Archives, Oakland, CA

Mary Streufert, Ph. D. - Lutheran Feminist Scholar, ELCA
Women and Justice, Chicago

Artists in Residence: Shiloh McCloud and Sybil
Erden

Schedule and Workshops and leaders – see below

Westar Institute—Home of the Jesus Seminar
dedicated to the advancement of religious literacy
Fall Meeting: Launching the Bible Seminar

November 17-19, 2011
Doubletree Hotel
Berkeley, CA

On this 400th anniversary of the King James Version of the Bible, Westar will return to Berkeley, California, site of the launch in 1985 of the Jesus Seminar for the launch of a new Bible Seminar.

SPEAKERS

Claudia Setzer, *Professor of Religious Studies, Manhattan College, Riverdale, New York*

“Whose Book Is It? The Bible and American Culture” will consider how the Bible was translated and disseminated and ask what role it played in America’s great social debates, over slavery, evolution, modernism, and civil rights.

Gregory C. Jenks, *Academic Dean at St Francis Theological College, Brisbane, and Adjunct Lecturer in the School of Theology, Charles Sturt University, Australia*

“The Once & Future Bible” will explore selected themes that are relevant to a critical reading of the Bible: unholy use of the Holy Bible, multiple readings of the same Scriptures, reclaiming the Bible for progressives, and more.

Robert A. Kraft *Berg Professor of Religious Studies Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania and former President of the Society of Biblical Literature*

“Generating Bible: Many Scriptures into One Canon, One Codex from Many Scrolls” will examine how the idea of a special ‘canon’ of authoritative writings developed over time in different community contexts with different concepts of what was considered ‘authoritative’ and why.

Register at <http://www.westarinstitute.org/index.html>

MULTIFAITH RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL OBSERVANCES

November

4-7	Hajj * - Islam
5	Waqf al Arafa - Hajj Day * ** - Islam
6-9	Eid al Adha * ** - Islam
10	Guru Nanak Dev Sahib birthday - Sikh
12	Birth of Baha'u'llah * - Baha'i
15	Nativity Fast begins through Dec. 24 - Orthodox Christianm
20	Christ the King - Christian
24	Thanksgiving - Interfaith
	Gkuru Tegh Bahadur Martyrdom - Sikh
26	Day of Covenant * - Baha'i
	Hijra - New Year * ** - Islam
27	First Sunday of Advent - Christian
30	Saint Andrew's Day- Christian



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.



The true saint goes in and out amongst the people and eats and sleeps with them and buys and sells in the market and marries and takes part in social intercourse, and never forgets God for a single moments.
—Abu Sa'id (Sufi)

MEDITATION CLASS

New Item! Introduction to Mindfulness

WHEN: Tuesdays, November 2-December 6, 2011, 9:00-10:30 am

WHERE: SF Senior Center at Aquatic Park, 890 Beach, San Francisco. \$3 donation.

Five-week course taught by Gary Gach, in the tradition of Vietnamese Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh. This five-week course will introduce you to mindfulness, the energy of happiness. It's the art of returning to the present moment, through awareness of our breath. See how our heart can open up to wider horizons, for the benefit of ourselves and those around us. Week-by-week sequence runs thru Dec. 6 (with a week off during Thanksgiving). For more information, contact: jimspinelli@sfsenior.com, or 415-923-4482

FAITH AND FEMINISM CONFERENCE

New Item! The Feminine Face of God/dess—a paradigm for justice and empowerment

WHEN: Friday-Sunday, November 11-13, 2011

WHERE: herchurch 678 Portola Dr. San Francisco. \$95 per person.

Key Note Speakers: Jeanette Rodriguez, Ph.D., Institute for Theological Studies, Seattle University; Max Dashu, Suppressed Histories Archives, Oakland, CA; Mary Streufert, Ph. D.—Lutheran Feminist Scholar, ELCA Women and Justice, Chicago. Artist in Residence: Shiloh McCloud. Registration limited to 150 - so sign up ASAP. Info and Registration at <http://www.herchurch.org/id33.html>

INTERFAITH BREAKFAST

14th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast

WHEN: Tuesday, November 22, 2011, 7:00-9:00 am

WHERE: Hotel Kabuki, 1625 Post Street (at Laguna), San Francisco. \$50 per person.

Join the San Francisco Interfaith Council for Repairing the World: Honoring the Work of Rita Semel. More info: (415) 474-1921

Online Reservations: sfinterfaithcouncil.org/annualbreakfastregistration.html

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

The 7th Annual Thanksgiving Day Interfaith Service

WHEN: Thursday, November 24, 2011, 10:00-11:00 am

WHERE: The Konkko Church of San Francisco, 1909 Bush Street, San Francisco.

The San Francisco Interfaith Council invites religious leaders/people from various faith communities to join In a special service of prayer & thanksgiving. (please note: limited seating)

WORLD AIDS DAY

Interfaith World AIDS Day Service

WHEN: Wednesday, November 30, 2011, 7:00 pm

WHERE: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 1111 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco. Free event.

Save the Date and watch for details. Sponsored by: The Interfaith Center at the Presidio, The San Francisco Interfaith Council, St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Coming Events:

☞ **NOVEMBER—MONTH OF REMEMBRANCE BEGINS**
First United designates November, which begins with All Saints Day, as a “Month of Remembrance.” It’s a special time to give thanks for the saints in our lives.

☞ **ALL SAINTS SUNDAY**
 Sunday, November 6
Discussion Group—3:30 pm in the courtyard
Worship in the Chapel at 5:00 pm



☞ **HARVEST SUNDAY**
 Sunday, November 13
Second Sunday School—3:00 pm
Worship—5:00 pm



Questions/Comments About Our Worship?

Many elements go into the worship experience each week at First United to make it unique. The Worship Team would love to hear from you! Whether it’s something you really liked, or something that may have concerned or puzzled you—please contact a member of the worship team:

Pastor Susan (pastorsusan@fulc.com)
 Steve Johnson (treasurer@fulc.com)
 Orion (orion@fulc.com)

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
 email: info@fulc.com

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

Orion Pitts
 Music Director & Office Administrator
orion@fulc.com

2010-2011 Council:
 Jacob Johnson President@fulc.com
 Steve Johnson Treasurer@fulc.com
 Terri Bogaards 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 submitted after this time may not be included in that week’s edition.



For details on all First United events, go to 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 Pastor Susan. Please do not ask members for money, rides, phone use, or food—ask only Pastor Susan.



Nov. 9:
 Sophia McDonald

Nov. 12:
 Tamara Alliston

Nov. 22:
 Richard Fisk

Nov. 25:
 Deborah Hagemann

Nov. 26:
 Elizabeth Christie

THIS WEEK’S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pr. Susan Strouse	Pr. Susan Strouse
Dana McDonald	Dana McDonald
Jay Beatty	Jay Beatty
Dana & Sophia	Dana & Sophia
Dana & Sophia	Dana & Sophia

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NOVEMBER 13

Pr. Susan Strouse	Pr. Susan Strouse
Tamara Alliston	Tamara Alliston
Daniel Eickmann	Daniel Eickmann
Barrow family	Barrow family
Barrow family	Barrow family

To sign up as a Greeter or other worship assistant, send an email to info@fulc.com.