



Pastor's Message

After Easter: Time to Reconnect

Lately I have been reading about the "Work that Reconnects" (WTR) workthatreconnects.org, a body of work created by Bay Area elder, activist and scholar Joanna Macy. Drawing from deep ecology, systems theory and spiritual traditions, the Work That Reconnects seeks to build motivation, creativity, courage and solidarity for the transition to a sustainable human culture.

The goal is to overcome hopelessness and despair and to bring

people together for the sake of the Earth. At the core of the Work that Reconnects, is a Spiral that leads from 1) Gratitude, to 2) Honoring our Pain for the World, to 3) Seeing with New Eyes, and into 4) Going Forth in our work for the world.

Reconnecting is a great theme for the time after Easter: The resurrection stories tell how Jesus came again and again to the fearful disciples who were hiding behind locked doors. He encouraged them to reconnect with the world and with the ministry that he had started: healing, forgiving, and building

peace. For that work, they also needed to be connected with each other and together become the body of Christ.

We, too, have been made members of this mystical body that connects us to Christ and to believers of all times and all places. We, too, are called to the ongoing work of reconnecting with each other and with the world. And this month as we celebrate Earth Day on April 24th, we are also invited to reconnect with the Earth.

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Proclaim Gathering Welcome Center

St. Francis to serve as Welcome Center for the Proclaim Gathering.

On Sunday April 10, 2016, a number of LGBTQ pastors, students, and rostered leaders will arrive from all across the country to attend the annual Proclaim* Gathering. This year's gathering will take place at the St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista from April 10

through 13, 2016. Some participants will travel to San Juan Bautista on their own,

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Proclaim Gathering

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but many will first come to St. Francis here in San Francisco, which has been selected to serve as a meet-up place. A chartered bus will then take participants to the Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista.

It is expected that Retreat participants will arrive throughout the morning and early afternoon. Some might

want to simply have a place where they can rest up. Others might arrive early and might want to see a bit of San Francisco.

If you are interested in providing refreshments and/or orientation to our neighborhood and city your contribution will be most welcome! Please let me know!

Thank you!

Pastor Bea Chun

Earth Day Sunday



EARTH DAY

Earth Day is on Friday April 22, 2016./ There will be a special Earth Day Sunday celebration on Sunday April 24th. We give thanks for God's beautiful creation and prayerfully ask for God's guidance to find better ways to care for God's creation. Creation Care and Creation justice have become growing initiatives among Lutherans and other Christians.

You can learn more about these efforts here:

Lutherans for Restoring Creation

<http://www.lutheransrestoringcreation.org/>

Creation Justice Ministries

<http://www.creationjustice.org/>

*About Proclaim:

"Proclaim" is the name of the Professional Organization made up of Lutheran pastors and other leaders who publicly identify as LGBTQ. It is one of the many ministries of Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries – or ELM. For more about ELM read here: <http://www.elm.org>

Recognition of Ministries in the Congregation

This month:

The St. Vincent DePaul Committee

St. Francis is blessed with gifted and visionary leaders who give generously of their time and talents as they carry out various ministries in our congregation. Each month we are recognizing one of these ministries in worship.

For April we are lifting up the work of the **St. Vincent DePaul Committee.**

The St. Vincent DePaul Committee oversees and coordinates the extensive community food and social justice programs of St. Francis: the Hospitality Hour which serves 100 plus meals every Sunday morning at 7:30 am; the Church Street Food Pantry which provides

an average of 130 families in the Castro area with 3,100 pounds of grocery each week; the sorting of the food donations dropped off by the Foodrunners each Saturday morning; and the big annual Community Thanksgiving meal.

Together with Staff member Stephen Camarota and Pastor Bea Chun the SVDP committee also

oversees and coordinates large numbers of dedicated volunteers without whom these programs could not be carried out.

Members are Randy Thueme (chair), Max Kirkeberg, Carl Tebell, Eric Shifler, as well as staff member Stephen Camarota (ex-officio). Thanks be to God for these dedicated servants.

Time to Reconnect

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Ever since the Industrial Revolution, we have become increasingly estranged from the Earth, and recent technological advances have accelerated this trend.

But these same technological advances can also be a blessing. They can be new tools in our toolbox for connecting. The historical tools for connecting are prayers and liturgy; through them, we participate in

the body of Christ that consists of people of every time and every place. But with the new internet technologies we can now connect across the world in ways of which our ancestors could not even dream.

May the God who dwells among us and who calls us into community bless you with connecting and reconnecting.

Pastor Bea Chun

“Reconnecting is a great theme for the time after Easter.”



Some members and friends of St. Francis join for an Easter Brunch at the Towns End Restaurant.

Ushers Are Prepared

St. Francis is very fortunate to have ushers that perform their tasks very efficiently. **Chuck Hancock** is head usher, and works with the other ushers to staff all worship services.

The ushers also meet on a periodic basis. As the need arises, they have training on operating the elevator, and other situations that may arise. Thanks to **Marsha White** and **Sarah Wells**, who trained the ushers during a recent ushers

meeting.

St. Francis has a transport chair to assist persons up and down the elevator when larger wheelchairs do not fit.

A first aid kit has also been purchased for the sanctuary for use when the need arises.

Thank you, ushers!

CONTACT US

Pastor Bea Chun

Pastorchun@sflcsf.org

Dave Walda

Senior Parish Administrator

dave.walda@sflcsf.org

Dr. David Schofield

Music Director

david.schofield@sflcsf.org

Beverly Hines

Senior Program Director

beverly.hines@sflcsf.org

Stephen Camarota

Community Food

Programs Administrator

Stephen.camarota@sflcsf.org

152 Church Street
(at Market)

San Francisco, CA
94114-1111

Phone:

415.621.2635

E-mail

stfrancis@sflcsf.org

Website

www.sflcsf.org

God Restores My Soul – April 17, 2016 is Good Shepherd Sunday

Every year on the Fourth Sunday for Easter we hear the Story of Christ our Good Shepherd. We recite the beloved Psalm 23 with its captivating imagery of green meadows, still waters, and comfort even in time of troubles and distress.

This year you can enter even more deeply into the reassuring promises of this Psalm through a special Liturgy of Healing which will be part of the Sunday morning service on April 17. The service will include an opportunity to receive prayers for healing with laying on of hands and anointing. You may pray for yourself, for someone in need, or for the need of the world.



ST. FRANCIS LUTHERAN CHURCH
152 Church Street
San Francisco, CA 94114-1111



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.