



**drawn together**

**First Congregational Church of Fresno**  
**The Big Red Church**  
October 7, 2018  
World Communion Sunday

A warm welcome is extended to all, especially those who are worshipping at First Congregational Church of Fresno for the first time or who have returned after an absence. Your presence both enriches us and enhances this time of celebration together.  
(\*Congregation may stand | Responses: Liturgist/**Congregation/all**)

## Our Gathering

### Prelude Hymn Sing

### Welcome, Direction And Announcements

*Please sign and share the red registration pads found on the inside center aisle of each pew.*

### \* Call To Worship (in unison)

Liturgist: Hillary Ross

One: Around the world people gather to break bread and pour wine.

Many: We gather with them in heart and mind.

One: Around the world the broken body is made whole.

Many: As part of that body we join in its unity.

One: Around the world the Banquet of God is prepared for the table.

Many: We, who share in the banquet, come eagerly to be fed.

All: Let us worship together, let us share God's bounty.

### \* Hymn Of Praise

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#28, pew hymnal

## Our Shared Awareness

### \* Call to Confession

### \* Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Liturgist: Hillary Ross

Merciful Lord, you know that we are stubborn and willful. We believe that we know the right way to do everything and to heal all the troubles of the world. We wear ourselves and others down in our frantic effort to accomplish everything, only to find that we have not placed our trust in your redeeming love. Our efforts fall far short of the goal of reconciliation. Forgive us our stubbornness and arrogance. Forgive our wrongdoings, and the things we have not done. Heal our wounded souls and restore hope and

compassion to our relationships with you and with each other. Lift us up and cause us to serve you by serving others in this world. Amen.

*A moment of silence*

**\* Assurance of Pardon**

**\* The Peace**

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

**\* Gloria Patri**

Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
Amen. Amen.

**\* Hymn**

"Jesus Took the Bread"

#343, pew hymnal

## **God is Still Speaking**

**Sermon Texts:**

John 17:1-4, 20-26  
1 Cor. 11:17-26

Pg. 879 in your Pew Bible  
Pg. 933 in your Pew Bible

**Sermon**

Drawn Together

Rev. Raygan Baker

## **The Beloved Community**

### **The Sharing Of Our Prayer Requests**

#### **Sung Call To Prayer**

Lord, listen to your children praying:

Lord send your Spirit in this place.

Lord, listen to your children praying:

Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

## Prayers Of Joy And Concern

### Invitation To Offering

**Offertory** "Communion Prayer" - Monk and Nichols Chancel Choir

### \*Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host;  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### Prayer of Dedication

## Celebration of The Lord's Supper

**Communion Hymn** "I Come with Joy" #349, pew hymnal

**The Invitation and Great Thanksgiving** concluding with

### \*The Lord's Prayer *(using debts and debtors)*

### Receiving Holy Communion

#### Communion Prayer (Unison)

*Holy God, we thank you for this meal and for friends with whom to share it.*  
*May we use the nourishment we have received to be the body of Christ in the world: to bring hope to reality, justice and peace to your world. Amen.*

\***Closing Hymn** "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" #347, pew hymnal

### \*Blessing

**\* Sung Benediction**

(We turn toward the center aisle and each other as a sign of mutual blessing.)

Go now in peace, never be afraid;  
God will go with you each hour of ev'ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true;  
know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world will see  
God will be there, watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.

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It is our tradition to be seated for the Postlude.

**Postlude**

"Fuga in C" - D. Buxtehude

Scott Horton, organ

Everyone is invited to share in refreshment and conversation in Fellowship Hall following this morning's service .

**Assisting in Today's Worship**

- Ushers:**.....Larry Miller, Clifford Dodd, Hank Delcore, Joel Bright
- Liturgist:** .....Hillary Ross
- Chancel Design:** .....Jason Freeman
- Welcome Table:** .....Alan Fry and Dianne Williamson
- Hospitality:**.....Jason Freeman
- Cover Art:** .....Pedro Ribeiro Simões

# Sermon Notes

## First Congregational Church Board of Directors

**Moderator**

Scott Baucher  
sbaucher3@gmail.com

**Vice-Moderator**

Robbyn Mosley  
nyelsom@comcast.net

**Chief Financial Officer**

Lester Leas  
lesterle@yahoo.com

**Secretary**

Peter Wall  
peterwall@gmail.com

## First Congregational Church Ministry Leadership

**Christian Education**

Catherine Cooper

**Worship**

Bill May

**Church Life**

Paula Roberts

**Outreach**

Judy Oftedal

**Resources**

Jason Freeman

Attendance  
September  
Week 5

2017: 96  
2018: 98



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UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# First Congregational Church of Fresno

2131 N. Van Ness Blvd., Fresno, CA 93704 | (559) 227-8489

Office Hours: Monday – Friday  
10:00 am – 3:00 pm

## Church Staff

### **Pastor**

Rev. Raygan Baker  
rbaker@bigredchurch.org

### **Music Director/Organist**

Scott Horton  
shtulare@gmail.com

### **Director of Facilities, Technology, and Communication**

Kim Williams  
Office@bigredchurch.org

### **Caretaker**

Pat Morales  
Patmorales40@gmail.com

### **Superintendent of Facilities and Grounds**

Sarkis Kglyan

### **Accountant**

Penny Leas Peterson

## Support Staff

### **Interim Coordinator of Caring Ministries**

Gayle Thornton

### **Covenanted Minister to Hinds Hospice**

Rev. Stephanie Doss  
Grief Counselor  
sdoss@hindshospice.org

### **Coordinator of Youth & Children's Ministries**

Scott Hancock  
Scott.bigredchurch@gmail.com

### **Coordinator of Nursery**

Patsy Finster  
patsyfinster26@comcast.net

### **Nursery Personnel**

Zorayda Darce  
Chelsee Armsworthy  
Andrew Fennacy

### **Nursery Assistant**

Miranda Deis



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FRESNO  
**BIGREDCHURCH**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

# This Week at the Big Red Church

## Sunday, October 7

Communion Sunday		8:30 am
Bible Study	Fireside Room	10:00 am
Worship	Sanctuary	After service
Liturgist Meeting	Sanctuary	
Learning Circle-Bylaw Changes	Heritage Room	11:30
Ministry of Outreach	Parlor	11:45 am
Youth group	Room 6	12
Chick Flicks	Home of Rich and Marcie Hoyt	2:00 pm

## Monday, October 8

Movers and Shakers Yoga	Room 1	5:00 pm
Christmas on Van Ness Rehearsal	Chapel	6:30 pm
Kim Out of Office		

## Tuesday, October 9

Ministry of Church Life Meeting	Parlor	6:00 pm
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## Wednesday, October 10

Ooooby	Fellowship Hall	3:00-6:00 pm
Living Through Transitions	Fireside Room	4:00 pm
Movers and Shakers Yoga	Room 1	5:00 pm
Niners	Parlor	7:00 pm
Choir Practice	Sanctuary	7:00 pm

## Thursday, October 11

Ministry of Resources Meeting	Parlor	5:30 pm
Christmas on Van Ness Rehearsal	Chapel	6:00 pm

## Sunday, October 14

Bible Study	Fireside Room	8:30 am
Worship	Sanctuary	10:00 am
Ministry of Worship	Music Room	11:30 am
Pantry Meeting	Parlor	11:45 am
Congregational Meeting-Bylaws	Fellowship Hall	11:30 am
Bachtober Concert	Sanctuary	3:00 pm

## **Notice of Bylaw Changes**

A Congregational Meeting of the First Congregational Church of Fresno, United Church of Christ, will be held on **Sunday, October 14th**, at approximately 11:30 a.m., after the worship service.

During the meeting, the congregation will:

1. Receive proposed bylaw changes.
2. Be asked to approve the changes to the bylaws.

A Learning Circle to review and ask questions about the proposed bylaw changes will take place after church **TODAY** at 11:30 am in the Heritage Room. A copy of the proposed changes may be obtained in the office.

## **Neighbors in Need**

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States.

Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. This year, special consideration will be given to projects focusing on serving our immigrant neighbors and communities.

Our congregation will collect a Neighbors in Need offering this morning, please use the enclosed envelope.

## **Liturgist Meeting**

Liturgists are asked to stay in the sanctuary immediately following the worship service for a brief meeting.

**Welcome Christian Motorcyclists Association--[Romans Road Riders #280!](#)**

**We're so excited to have you join us this week!**

First Congregational Church of Fresno

presents a

# BACHTOBER CONCERT

Featuring the Organ Works of

## Johann Sebastian Bach



Sunday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m.

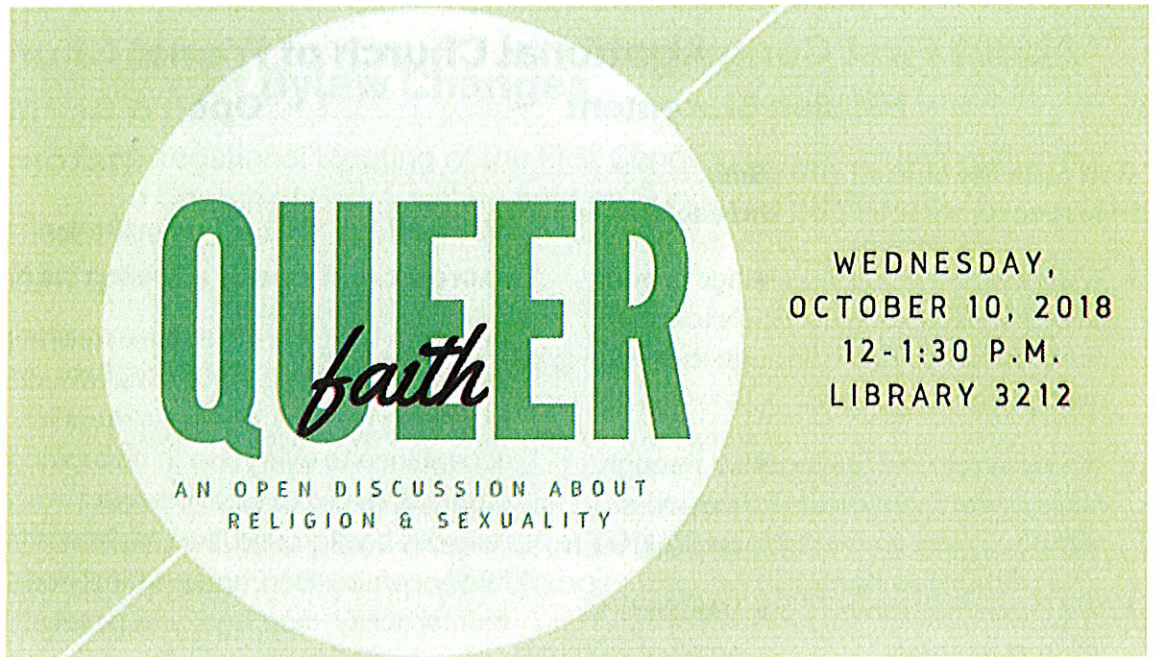
Scott Horton, organist

Admission Free - Freewill Offering to support the Casavant Pipe Organ

First Congregational Church of Fresno, U.C.C.

2131 North Van Ness Boulevard

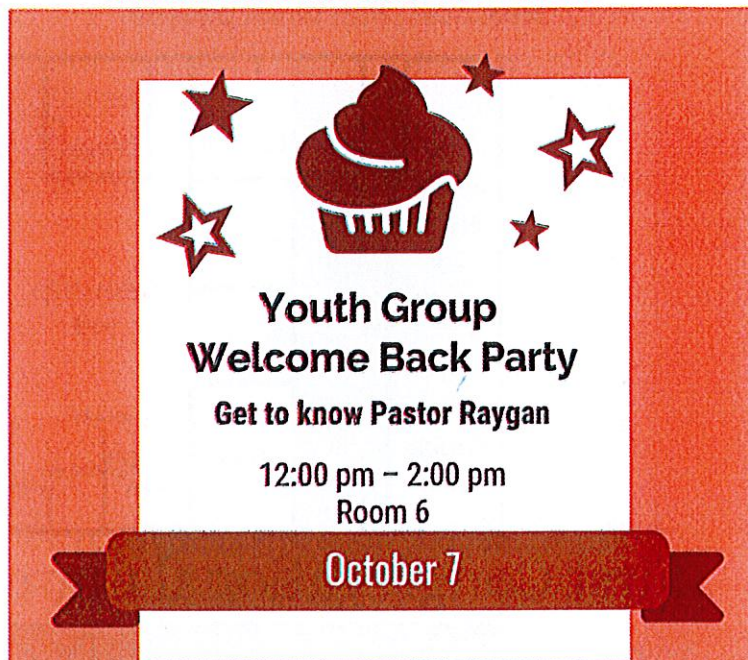
Information: 227-8489



You're invited to an open discussion about the intersection between religion and sexuality with a panel of local faith leaders. All people of different sexual and spiritual identities are welcome!

Location: Henry Madden Library, room 3212  
Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.  
Panelists include:

- DR. BERNARD SCHLAGER, [Center for LGBTQ and Gender Studies in Religion - CLGS](#)
- ELLIE DOTE, local music minister
- REV. RAYGAN BAKER, [The Big Red Church of Fresno](#)
- PASTOR BILL KNEZOVICH, [Our Saviour's Lutheran Church](#)
- JOHN PRANDINI [St. Paul Catholic Newman Center](#)



# About First Congregational Church of Fresno

## Mission Statement

## Open & Affirming Statement

**God calls the church into being.**

**In response, we love God and each other.**

- We provide a place in a changing world where the constancy of God's love and compassion is known through the example of Jesus Christ
- We celebrate our life together through ministries of prayer and worship, music and education, stewardship and outreach
- We share the stories of our faith and spiritual journeys
- We connect with the mysteries of God's grace, the miracle of restorative faith, and the power of ritual and myth
- We live with compassion for all God's creation
- We dispel isolation and alienation, witnessing to the joy of an open and affirming Christian life
- **Strengthened and transformed by our faith, we go out into the wider community offering the message of hope and reconciliation to all people.**

**We believe that all people are sacred creations of a loving God.**

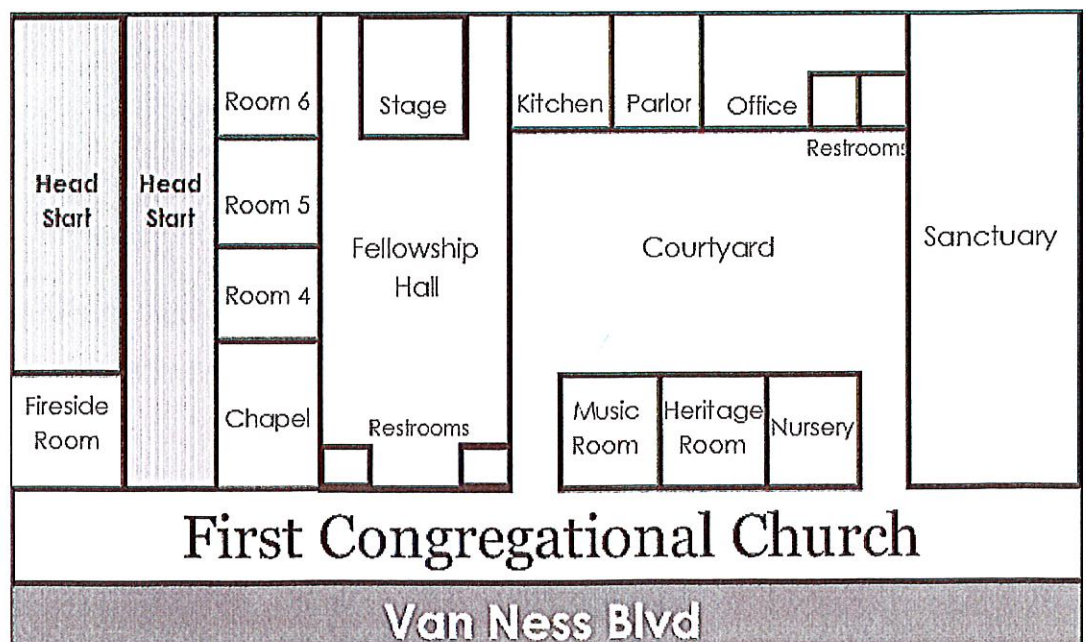
We affirm the diversity that exists among us. We strive to answer the call of Christ extending his love, compassion, and acceptance to everyone. In this spirit, we open our family of faith to people of every religious background, sexual orientation, family composition, and physical and mental ability, race, age, and gender.

As Christians, we experience God's reconciling love

In response, we stand with those who suffer discrimination, isolation, and alienation.

We welcome all people to participate fully in our church's life and ministry.

**We celebrate the variety of talents and perspectives which flow into our spiritual community, continuing to enrich us ways we could not have predicted or envisioned.**



# For the Beauty of the Earth

St. 1-3, Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.

St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,

For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,

*Refrain*

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

*Follitt S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.*

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain

Conrad Kocher, 1838

Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

# Let Heaven Your Wonders Proclaim

Ps. 89:1-2, 8-17

The Iona Community, 1991

*Refrain, in unison*

Let heav - en your won - ders pro - claim, let an - gels your faith - ful - ness praise,

# Jesus Took the Bread

Matt. 26:26-28; Luke 9:16; 22:19; 24:30

Ruth Duck, 1982

*Unison* D A F#m Bm Em7 D/A A7

1 Je - sus took the bread, dai - ly gift of God,  
 2 Je - sus blessed the bread, thanked the God of grace,  
 3 Je - sus broke the bread; then he poured the wine.  
 4 Je - sus gives the bread at our ta - ble still,

Bm Bm7 GM7 C Em7 A7

formed of wheat and sweat and toil, sun, rain, and sod.  
 thanked the One who made all worlds, all time, all space.  
 Bro - ken bod - y, life poured out, God gives as sign.  
 gives the cup to those who seek God's lov - ing will.

D A Bm Em F#m GM7 A7

In our hands we take gifts of bread and wine,  
 Bless - ing, hon - or, praise, all to God be - long.  
 Weak, a - fraid, and lost: that is when we're healed.  
 Let us go in peace; let us free - ly give,

D A F# Bm Em A7 D

gath - ered from the fields of earth, signs of love di - vine.  
 Let us lift our hearts to God in a thank - ful song.  
 In our hu - man bro - ken - ness: there God is re - vealed.  
 shar - ing love with all the world dai - ly as we live.

Ruth Duck wrote this hymn emphasizing the actions of communion—taking, blessing, breaking, and giving the bread—following a summer study of liturgy at the University of Notre Dame. It was first used at New Hope United Church of Christ in Milwaukee.

Tune: NEW HOPE 10.11.10.12.  
 Ruth Duck, 1982  
 Arr. Randall Sensmeier, 1982

# I Come with Joy

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

Unison

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will

free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
 fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that  
 stay, And go with joy to love the world and

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.  
 live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

*One of Brian Wren's most widely published texts, this hymn was originally written to "sum up a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. It tries to use simple words to suggest important theological themes."*

Tune: DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6.  
 Southern Harmony, 1835  
 Arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977

# Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Luke 10:1-9

Fred Kaan, 1975; alt.

C F G Dm G C G

1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em-ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:  
 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at his ta - ble he set the tone,  
 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear-ing fruit in a world of doubt,

C F G Dm7 C G C

bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
 teach-ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.  
 gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im-man - u - el) ev - ery-where!

Refrain (first time *p*, second time *f*)

C C7 F Dm G C F C

Je-sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a-bound!

This hymn came into being when composer Doreen Potter asked poet Fred Kaan to write a text for her adaptation of a Jamaican folk melody. It was first used at the World Council of Churches Assembly in Nairobi (1975), and in Vancouver (1983).

Tune: LINSTEAD L.M. with refrain  
 Jamaican folk song  
 Adapt. Doreen Potter, 1975