

# On a Wing and a Prayer

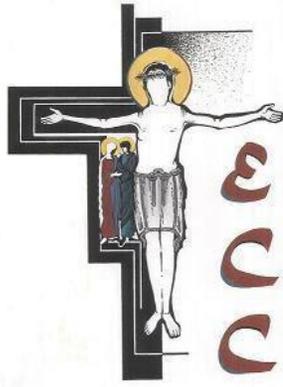
June 2018

Guardian Angels Catholic Community – Just. Faithful. Catholic.

[www.guardianangelscatholiccommunity.org](http://www.guardianangelscatholiccommunity.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/GuardianAngelsCatholicCommunity>

Join us for Mass every Sunday at 9AM and every Wednesday at 7AM



**THE ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC COMMUNION -- A Wonderful Way of Being Catholic!**

<http://www.ecumenical-catholic-communication.org/> ECC Report Spring 2018 <https://conta.cc/2JiOo6c>



# Guardian Angels Calendar June 2018



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					<b>JUNE 1</b>	<b>2</b> 
<b>3</b> <b>SABBATH SUNDAY</b> <b>MASS 9AM</b> PRESIDER/PREACHER: SUE	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> <b>MASS 7AM</b>	<b>7</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> LET'S BAG-UP FEMININE HYGIENE	<b>8</b> 	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> <b>10<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>MASS 9AM</b> PRESIDER/PREACHER: ELAINE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING AFTER MASS TODAY 2PM – 6PM HAIRCUTS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL GENDERS – FUNDRAISER FOR AZ TRANS YOUTH & PARENT ORGANIZATION	<b>11</b> TCCC BOARD MEETING 7PM in the Parlor	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>MASS 7AM</b> 	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> <b>11<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>MASS 9AM</b> PRESIDER: SUE PREACHER: JOAN 	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>MASS 7AM</b> FREE FILM @ VALLEY ART DONATIONS FOR W4W	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> <b>SOLEMNITY OF THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST</b> <b>MASS 9AM</b> PRESIDER/PREACHER: SUE 10:30AM – 12NOON SPIRITUALITY SUNDAY	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> <b>MASS 7AM</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> <b>4PM – 6PM I-HELP Meal</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>JULY 1</b> <b>13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>MASS 9AM</b> PRESIDER/PREACHER: ELAINE	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <b>MASS 7AM</b> 	<b>5</b> INVEST IN RED AND DIRTY MONEY PETITIONS DUE TODAY	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>



- 2 - Ann Connolly
- 4 - Frank McPeek
- 9 - Becky Keck
- 11 - James Crowl and Barb's sweet son Sam
- 12 - Jackie Romanish
- 14 - Peter Bennett, Robin Iverson, and Claire Violet French-Mruczek
- 16 - Shannon Dunn
- 30 - Sheila Green



- 8 - Sheila and Jeff Green (1990)
- 13 - Becky and Jeff Keck (1981)
- 23 - Sam, Barb's son received his angel wings
- 24 - Pastor Sue Ringler -Day of Ordination (2007) with Pastor Kate Lehman from St. Teresa's; (That's also 11 years that Pastor Sue has "pastored" Guardian Angels Catholic Community!)
- 27 - Barb and Doug Moen (1998)
- 28 - Pastor Delores (2003) Day of Ordination
- 29 - Carol and Peter Bennett (1985)

**Let Pastor Sue know if you'd like a directory of Fellow Angels! She can email it to you. send your birthdays/anniversaries/other remembrance days to Marie [mamare11@yahoo.com](mailto:mamare11@yahoo.com)**



**Let's bag up feminine hygiene products at church on Thursday, June 7 @ 6:30PM in the Parlor! Bring donations of pads! We are getting lots of tampons donated so we need more pads!** To keep up with W4W, check out their awesome Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/W4WTempe/>





The Little Pantry wants to thank you all for your generous donations! We need EVERYTHING, but especially brown lunch bags, fruit cups, cheese crackers, Vienna sausages, applesauce cups. We need cases of water, too. Thank you, again.



What did Guardian Angels do during the Teacher Walk-Out? From an article about our #RedforEd Day Camp. "...Tempe Community Christian Church, in partnership with the Guardian Angels Catholic Community, is offering space, food and fun to students in its community who need a place to go during the walk-out. Pastor Sue Ringler said the church has been open from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. the last few days, providing breakfast, lunch and a bagged meal to take home if needed.

"We have been serving 28 4-12 year-olds yesterday and today and we are already planning volunteers/scheduling for next Monday—Wednesday," Ringler said. "It takes a village and we are grateful members of the village." By the time we closed our Day Camp "the kids" had become "our kids." We were open from the beginning of the Walk-Out on Thursday, April 26 through Wednesday, May 2. We had about 30 kids every day. A great partnership with Community Christian Church!

[http://www.ucc.org/news\\_southwest\\_conference\\_churches\\_feed\\_children\\_welcome\\_families\\_support\\_educators\\_during\\_walkout\\_04272018](http://www.ucc.org/news_southwest_conference_churches_feed_children_welcome_families_support_educators_during_walkout_04272018)





The Desert Southwest Conference and its community partners are holding a silent march to commemorate National Gun Violence Awareness Day on **Saturday, June 2, 2018, at 8:00 AM** at the Arizona State Capitol. The silent march will display shoes collected from gun violence victims and their families to graphically demonstrate the toll that gun violence takes in our communities. Clergy from various faiths and survivors will speak and bells will be rung to commemorate those killed and wounded by gun violence. On Saturday, June 2, wear orange and remember those killed or injured by this public health problem

The DSC Gun Violence Task Force has received a stipend to help provide banners for churches who wish to hold a local silent march. For more information, please contact Billie Fidlin at [bfidlin@dscumc.org](mailto:bfidlin@dscumc.org), and don't forget to share pictures of your silent march via email or on Facebook.

This event is sponsored by:

- Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church
- Arizona Faith Network
- Arizonans for Gun Safety
- March for Our Lives
- Moms Demand Action Arizona

[http://act.everytown.org/event/wear-orange-2018/11383/signup/?source=emne\\_WearOrange&akid=&zip](http://act.everytown.org/event/wear-orange-2018/11383/signup/?source=emne_WearOrange&akid=&zip)



FREE: Join us for this free film screening, plus a post-film Q&A with Sandy Bahr, the Chapter Director for [Sierra Club - Grand Canyon \(Arizona\) Chapter](#).

**Wednesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**

Film starts at 7:00 p.m.

Harkins Valley Art Theatre, 509 S Mill Ave, Tempe

**ABOUT THE FILM:** In the American Southwest, a unique species of wolf unlike any other is making a comeback. Considered extinct nearly 40 years ago, the little known Mexican gray wolf has slowly pulled back from the very brink — against all odds. From a founding population of just seven animals, this species has slowly grown to a current wild population of approximately 100, only to face a new threat from within: its own genetics. As part of a bold recovery mission, one lone wolf is given a chance to offer new hope for the survival of her species.

In telling this story, narrated by Chris Morgan, “Gray Area” explores whether there can be a balanced and sustainable future where ranchers, conservationists, locals, and biologists alike can coexist with this apex predator.

*Although the film is free, please consider bringing donations of clothing and/or feminine hygiene products for local nonprofit [Women4Women Tempe](#).*



From Rabbi Dean Shapiro:

This morning (May 10), we five (pictured below: Rev. Jeff Procter-Murphy, Mr. Mustafa Bahar, Imam Ahmad Shqeirah, Rev. Dr. Eric Ledermann), joined Rabbi Dean Shapiro in representing **Tempe Interfaith Fellowship** in a meeting with Mr. Buchanan Davis, State Director in the Office of U.S. Senator Jeff Flake. We handed him a petition with over 500 signatures asking our senator to co-sponsor the Burma Human Rights and Freedom Act. We discussed how dire the situation is, and how urgently US action is needed. We recommended that Mr. Davis watch this week's Frontline <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/> episode on the horrific treatment of the Rohingya, and shared that we want our senator to take a leadership role.

At a minimum, we've brought this crisis back to the consciousness of our senator's staff. Thank you, **Tempe Interfaith Fellowship**, for sharing this petition with your people and for supporting this important justice work. Guardian Angels is an active member of Tempe Interfaith—thank YOU, Angels, for your signatures!





**FUNDRAISER**

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018

**2PM-6PM**

# HAIRCUTS FOR PEOPLE OF ALL GENDERS

**At Public Image**

**JOIN US FOR A**

fun filled haircutting event, and make a donation to Arizona Trans Youth and Parent Organization. No one will be turned away due to lack of funds. Appointments available for a \$20 donation.



333 E Roosevelt St #114  
Phoenix, AZ 85004  
(602)350-4718

PosterMyWall.com



[aztypo.org](http://aztypo.org)



## Links from Sam and Joan's homily on Sunday, 4/29 about the Rally to End Racism

A.C.T. to End Racism / Rally to End Racism Program:  
<http://rally2endracism.org/program/>

Ben and Jerry - speaking at the Rally to End Racism 4/4/18:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HKCI5Rw9J-4>

### THE ACTION CONTINUUM

- from the StepUp program from the University of Massachusetts:

[http://stepupprogram.org/docs/handouts/STEPUP\\_Action\\_Continuum.pdf](http://stepupprogram.org/docs/handouts/STEPUP_Action_Continuum.pdf)

Washington Post article about the Poor Peoples Campaign:

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-new-poor-peoples-campaign-wants-to-change-how-society-defines-morality/2017/12/05/d4524b68-d90d-11e7-b1a8-62589434a581\\_story.html?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.6c0ea6951553](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/a-new-poor-peoples-campaign-wants-to-change-how-society-defines-morality/2017/12/05/d4524b68-d90d-11e7-b1a8-62589434a581_story.html?noredirect=on&utm_term=.6c0ea6951553)

Remarks by Philip L. Lee President, Clear Impact, LLC  
Rockville, Maryland [www.clearimpact.com](http://www.clearimpact.com)

## Remarks for April 4<sup>th</sup> National Council of Churches ACT Now! Rally to End Racism

My name is Phil Lee and I am a business owner.

In recent years, my company's clients have been focusing more and more on racial disparities in their work to improve outcomes for children, families, and communities. And so, a little over a year ago, my company decided that we needed to better understand racial disparities.

That decision began a personal journey for me because my family has been in this country since the early 1600s. Richard Henry Lee, my great, great, great, great-grandfather, signed the Declaration of Independence.

I would like to share with you what I didn't know.

I knew that Richard Henry Lee, when he served in the Virginia legislature, spoke against the slave trade, which he called a "disgraceful traffic." I also knew that he had inherited slaves: 43 human souls.

Here's what I didn't know: That when cash was tight, Richard Henry Lee engaged in that "disgraceful traffic" — selling his slaves.

When criticized by his brother for doing so, he responded in a letter saying that, yes, he had always thought that the slave trade was a bad thing but that since it was going to be carried on anyway, he did not see, and I quote: "[H]ow I could injustice to my family refuse any advantage that might arise from the selling of them."

That was a long time ago, however, so I looked into my grandfather.

I knew that my grandfather was a progressive who, in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, modernized much of our local government in Montgomery County, Maryland; that he founded a land use planning agency that became a national model; and that he built some of the first "suburbs" to Washington, D.C.

Here's what I didn't know: my Grandfather included in every subdivision he built covenants against selling houses to blacks or Jews.

That's some family history. What about me?

Here's what I knew:

My company has a racially diverse staff and has done much good for communities of color; I attended an integrated high school and dated across the race line, and two of my four adopted children are black.

Here's what I didn't know:

That despite having advanced degrees in law and public policy and having majored in American Studies in college, I did not know my own history and the history of my country.

I did not even know that the whole concept of a "white race" did not exist before it was invented in America in the 1600s to justify slavery. It never occurred to me that it's all manmade – an ideology that has no basis in science and yet has been used to justify American genocide, apartheid, and countless other sins.

I certainly did not know that this racial ideology – this notion of white supremacy – adapts as needed with each generation to justify those who qualify as white taking the advantages that, in justice to our families, we could not refuse, always at the expense of those who do not qualify as being white.

I did not know that the reason we have done such a masterful job of not knowing our own history is because if we knew our own history then the only place whites could look to understand racial disparities is in the mirror.

And now, when I look in the mirror, what do I see?

I see the problem and I see the hope.

A colleague said to me recently, the best way for white men to perpetuate racism is to keep doing exactly what they're doing, myself included.

Reaping the benefits of an inherently racist system without doing anything to change that system is itself racist.

I have no illusions. I know that there can be no reconciliation or even an apology until we set things right.

And I certainly know that merely implementing "colorblind" policies today will not overcome the 350-year head start given to whites in all the advantages society had to offer for wealth accumulation.

But I have also realized that if this idea of a white race that is so ingrained in our hearts and minds is, in fact, manmade, then we can unmake it.

If laws and policies and narratives have been the vehicles for this profound evil – then they can also be the vehicles for reconciliation and reparations.

If whites have been the architects of structural racism, then we can be the architects of its demise.

What am I going to do?

I am going to continue learning so that I can help to change the pervasive narrative in our country that allows white men in good conscience to keep doing exactly what they're doing.

I am making available in my community and to my staff workshops that have taught me the history that I never learned in school.

And, because much of my own work concerns healthcare and biomedical research, I am joining in the movement to eliminate health disparities in my community and nationally.

Finally, I am going to encourage other white men to share their stories.

For me, it's a chance to regain some humanity, for myself and on behalf of my family.

And maybe, in time, we really can make America great!





# SPIRITUALITY SUNDAY

10:30 to Noon

Monthly Gatherings

Every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday  
Beginning June 24<sup>th</sup>

In the **CHURCH PARLOR**

**SHARE...**Spiritual Moments with one another from everyday life.

**LEARN...**The Foundations of Christian Spirituality

**EXPERIENCE...**Spiritual Perspectives from *Dorothy Day, Thomas Merton, Howard Thurman, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, MLK & Others*



**TOGETHER**

*Not as "human beings having a spiritual experience (but as) spiritual beings having a human experience."*

*-Teilhard*

*For more information & how to obtain the book See Deacon Joan*

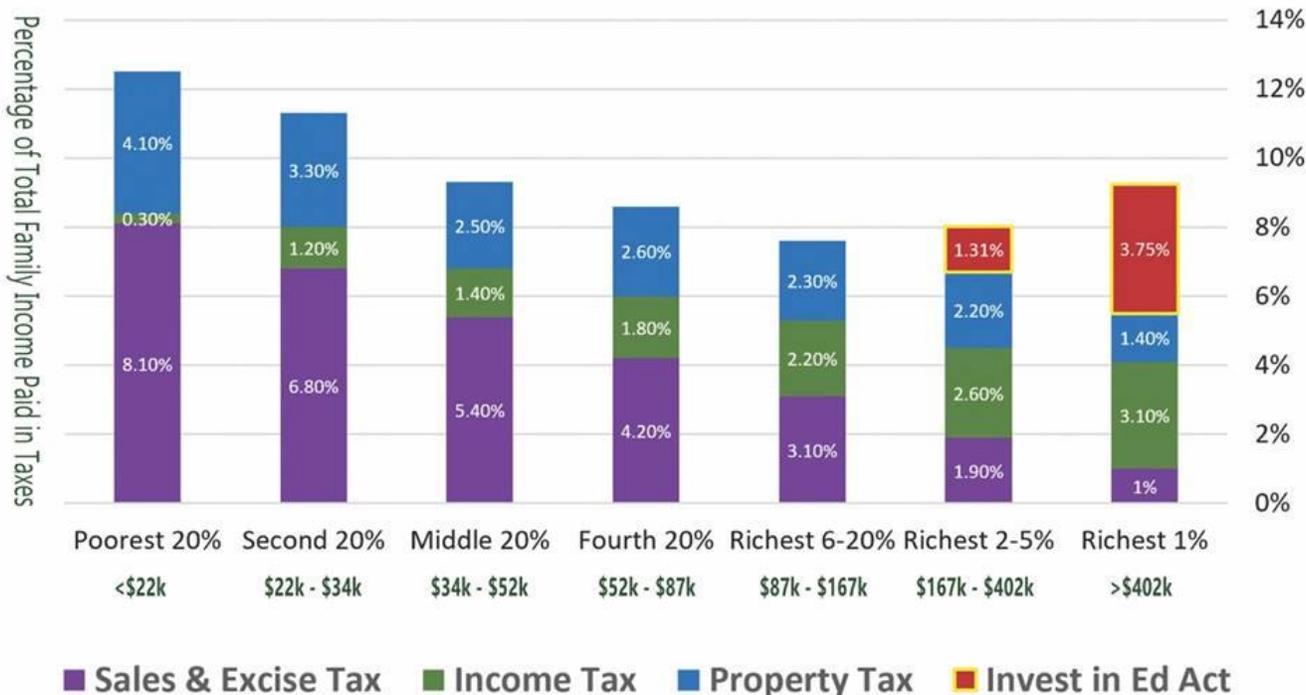
Fun at Paz de Cristo – we need **YOU** to help serve on June 17th!  
We need 12 Angels to serve at Paz on June 17 from 4PM – 6PM.  
Let Pastor Sue know **RIGHT NOW** if you can help that night!



**See! Doesn't look like fun!?!**



# Invest in Education Act: Restoring Balance in a Rigged AZ Tax System



Sources: All sales and excise tax, income tax, and property tax data are shown as percentages of non-elderly family income, and were taken directly from "Who Pays? (5th Edition) A distributional analysis of the tax systems in all 50 states," released by the Institute on Taxation & Economic Policy in January, 2015. It is the most recent data available. The data for the Invest in Education Act are rough estimates; however, they use the most conservative possible interpretation of the facts. For example, the estimated income tax increase for the "Richest 2-5%" bracket assumes that all family income over \$250k would be hit by the new higher tax bracket, although in reality only a single person or married person filing separately would see a tax increase at \$250k; married couples or single heads of household would not reach the new higher tax bracket until \$500k of annual income. For the "Richest 1%" estimated impact, some extremely conservative assumptions were used. Currently all single or family income over \$402k is taxed at a rate of 4.54%, yet the effective tax rate actually paid is only 3.1%, a ratio of only 68%. This chart instead assumes a much higher ratio of 84% on the new proposed tax brackets.



Copyright by Matt Wuerker

**Sign a petition; pass a petition; VOTE!**

# #INVESTinED

## **Invest in Education Act—an estimated \$689 million annual investment in public education**

### **Where does the funding come from?**

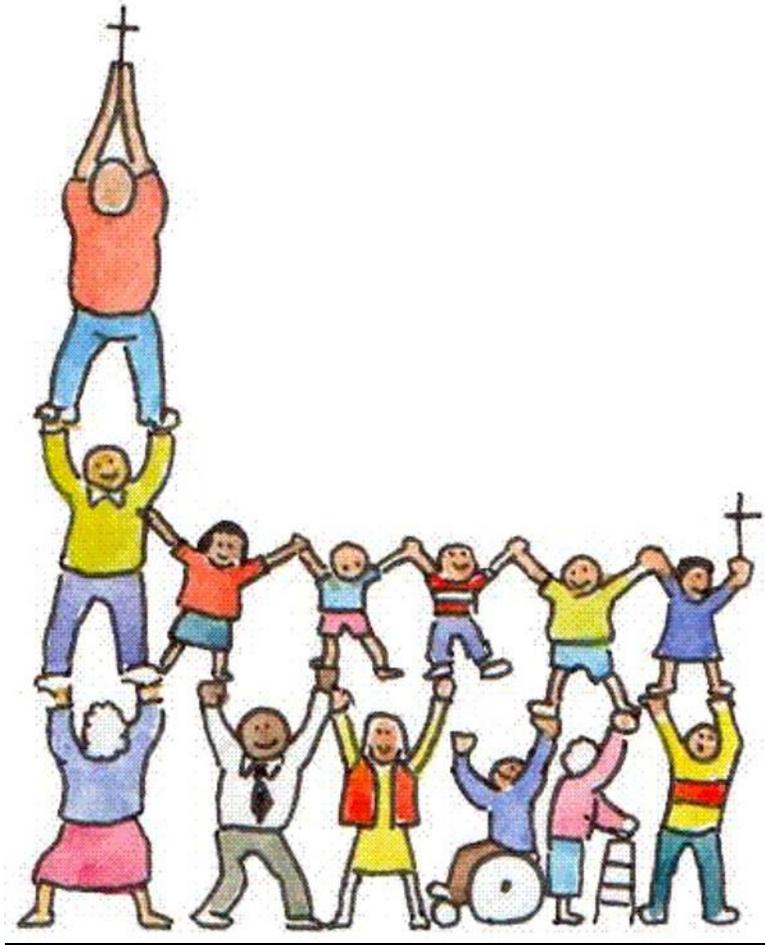
The Invest in Education Act increases monies to the Classroom Site Fund by raising the income tax rate on only the richest 1% of Arizonans as follows:

- Increases by 3.46% on individual incomes over a quarter million dollars (or household incomes over half a million dollars) .
- Increases by 4.46% on individual incomes over half a million dollars (or household incomes over \$1 million dollars).
- Will not impact anyone making less than \$250,000 annually.

### **Summary**

- This new tax revenue will be distributed to the Classroom Site Fund with 60% of the money directed to the base pay part for salaries. The definition of those eligible for these funds is broadened from just classroom teachers to also include "any non-administrative personnel who teaches students or supports student academic achievement as defined by the school district governing board including, but not limited to nurses, counselors, social workers, psychologists, speech pathologists, librarians and academic interventionists."
- 40% of the new revenue from this tax will go to the menu money part of the Classroom Site Fund, and this can be used for Education Support Professionals' salaries (our classified staff) as well as go to pay for full-day kindergarten. We define classified staff in the initiative as "student support services personnel" (which means any non-administrative school personnel who provide student support and instructional support services as defined by the school district governing board including, but not limited to student food service, student transportation, and school site plant operations).
- Requires a school district governing board to develop and adopt at a public meeting a plan for the distribution of monies received from the Classroom Site Fund annually. A school district governing board must implement a process for teachers and student support services personnel to provide input on the proposed plan prior to the adoption of the plan for the following fiscal year.
- It is estimated that this tax will bring in \$688.8 million annually (as estimated by the Arizona Department of Revenue). The tax would begin to be assessed as of January 1, 2019.

**Website: [www.investinedaz.com](http://www.investinedaz.com)**



**Our Jeff was offered a position as a Bonfils-Stanton Apprentice Artist at Central City Opera in Central City, Colorado to cover the role of Manrico in Verdi's Il Trovatore. It's an exciting offer because it's a major North American opera festival, and Jeff's first union job! And, yes, that is a BIG deal! Jeff will be gone from June 1 until August 6. We are so proud of our Jeff and so excited that he has this opportunity. He will be back with us that second weekend of August and in the meantime our Paul and Joseph have agreed to come back and cover music for us on Sunday mornings. It will be great seeing Paul and Joseph again! I told Paul that a new piano has been purchased since he was last**

**here so he is looking forward to that AND looking forward to singing with the Angels again! Paul & Joseph will join us on June 10. Welcome back thanks for filling in, Paul and Joseph! We look forward to singing with you again!**

# Are you ready for some.....SPIRITUAL DIRECTION?

## Spiritual Direction helps you to...

- ...discover or to affirm God's presence in your life.
- ...develop a closer relationship with God.
- ...discern and make difficult choices.
- ...integrate spirituality into your daily life.

## Spiritual Direction is not...

- ...pastoral counseling or therapy.
- ...religious education, catechism or Bible study.

Spiritual Direction does not tell you what to do, how to think or what to believe.

Spiritual Direction is open to all seekers whether you attend church, temple, mosque, synagogue or none of these.

## So, what happens in Spiritual Direction?

**YOU** talk and share "Your Story"

**WE** pray, wait and listen

The SPIRIT guides us.

**WE** receive Amazing Grace...sometimes in unexpected ways.

## How do you start Spiritual Direction with Joan?

-We set up a *first meeting* at your selected coffee house whereby you and I can get better acquainted. During that time we will discuss your expectations for spiritual direction and Joan's approach to spiritual direction.

-If you want to try spiritual direction with Joan, then a spiritual direction session will be scheduled to take place at her home office or at a designated church office.

-There is no charge for the *first meeting* and the initial spiritual direction session.

-Subsequent spiritual direction sessions are \$30 per session OR in place of \$30 you may bring a vegetarian meal for Joan to freeze and to enjoy later.

Email Joan at: [ecumenicalhope@gmail.com](mailto:ecumenicalhope@gmail.com)

TEXT her at: 773-680-7686



Barb's reflections on the time in California with Kevin, Nancy and Denali – they were staying at the Ronald McDonald House near Stanford – *“It is funny what a little cocoon we are here...like a college dorm community with shared spaces, mingling food smells, powerful stories of hope, setback, reset expectations. Minor victories are cause for joint celebration; disappointing news weighs heavy on collective hearts. Our world is small...the larger one spins on, blurry and shadowed in our peripheral vision. I measure hours in millimeters of collected colostrum, in single squinted dead eye antics from baby D, in steps along a well-worn path between postpartum and NICU. Good to be here in this space of time, standing still long enough to be able to rejoice in the pure gift of each smooth tiny breath. Alleluia...my homily for today! Happy Pentecosting! Let our Spirits soar!”*

**Denali Ezmae Rapkoch born May 17, 2018 at 6:42pm weighing 6lb 8oz**



5/23 – *From Nancy:* We have had more tough news about our sweet baby girl the last two days. You know when the neonatologist calls and says she is with your social worker and wants to discuss some new information that it isn't going to be a good day. Yesterday Denali's genetic test for a specific syndrome that can include her heart condition came back positive. It is called 22q.11 deletion or Digeorge syndrome. *This is what Kevin wrote to our families about it:*

Hey fam. We found out today the cause of Denali's heart condition. Genetic testing revealed that she has 22q.11 deletion, also known as DiGeorge Syndrome. The syndrome can manifest itself in hundreds of ways, so the fact that we know she has it is almost meaningless. She has the heart condition and currently some feeding difficulties...that could definitely be the extent of it. Sometimes 22q.11 kids have external physical abnormalities... Denali does not have those. Sometimes they have learning disabilities...some very minor, some more noticeable. We won't know that until she is older. But it is likely that there are people around us who have this syndrome and no one would ever know. In Denali's case, we knew to test because her heart condition is one that can be a manifestation of the syndrome. That said, overall, it changes nothing. She is the same girl she has always been to us. She is amazing, and will change the world. Normal people don't change the world... Special people do. Denali will. 😊☐❤️♥️☐

Then today we confirmed that she does have problems with her soft palate forming a good seal required for sucking, swallowing and breathing all at the same time. With her heart and lung complications, necessary early surgeries and high risk for aspiration pneumonia, the feeding team recommends that she be fed with an NG (nasogastric) tube until after her heart repair in September. She will still train taking small volumes by mouth from a bottle and do some recreational breastfeeding but 90% of her nutrition will be breast milk through her NG tube.

This all seems like so much for our little Denali. We want her to have a happy life and give her the very best. We are trying by being here at Stanford where she is getting excellent care and every specialist you can think of is on her team. We pray she continues to be a fighter and defy typical outcomes. We love our little Great One so incredibly.



Kevin, Nancy and Denali came home on Memorial Day. They are settling in at home finally. Denali and her parents will be heading back to Stanford for surgery on her lungs in July and for surgery on her heart in September.

A Go Fund Me Campaign has been launched: <https://www.gofundme.com/denali-wild-heart> - The funds given to the parents will go to off-set uncovered medical costs, cost of travel out of state, time-off, and other special needs allowing them to focus on loving this perfect little package and worrying, perhaps just a bit less, about the finances.



*All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten* by Rev. Robert Fulghum

All I really need to know about how to live and what to do and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sand pile at Sunday School. These are the things I learned:

Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life—learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap every afternoon.

When you go out in the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together.

Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the Styrofoam cup: The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we are like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the Styrofoam cup—they all die. So do we.

And then remember the Dick-and-Jane books and the first word you learned—the biggest word of all—LOOK.

Everything you need to know is there somewhere.

**...And it is still true, no matter how old you are—when you go out in the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.”**

Source: Robert Fulghum, *All I Really Need To Know I Learned in Kindergarten*, Ballantine Books.

Out of a hundred people

those who always know better

—fifty-two

doubting every step

—nearly all the rest,

glad to lend a hand

if it doesn't take too long

—as high as forty-nine,

always good

because they can't be otherwise

—four, well maybe five,

able to admire without envy

—eighteen,

living in constant fear

of someone or something

—seventy-seven,

capable of happiness

—twenty-something tops,

harmless singly,

savage in crowds

—half at least,

Cruel

when forced by

circumstances

—better not to know

even ballpark figures,

wise after the fact

—just a couple more

than wise before it,

taking only things from life

—forty

(I wish I were wrong),

hunched in pain,

no flashlight in the dark

—eighty-three

sooner or later,

worthy of compassion

—ninety-nine,

mortal

—a hundred out of a hundred.

Thus far this figure still remains unchanged.