

On a Wing and a Prayer

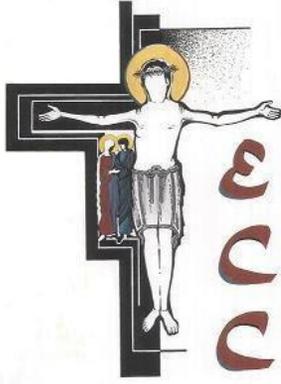
January 2017

Guardian Angels Catholic Community – Just. Faithful. Catholic.

www.guardianangelscatholiccommunity.org

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

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



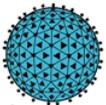
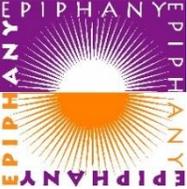
THE ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC COMMUNION -- A Wonderful Way of Being Catholic!

<http://www.ecumenical-catholic-communication.org/>



Guardian Angels Calendar January 2017

January

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		 CHRISTMAS SEASON			DECEMBER 30 I-HELP 4PM – 6PM	 <i>New Year's Eve</i>
JANUARY 1 MARY MOTHER OF GOD  Welcome 2017! Mass 9AM BAPTISM OF BELLAMY PRESIDER/PREACHER: SUE	2	3 6:45 – 8:00PM Lectio divina SANCTUARY	4 Mass 7AM	5	6	7
 MASS 9AM PRESIDER/PREACHER: ED	9  MORE INFO IN NEWSLETTER	10 6:45 – 8:00PM Lectio divina SANCTUARY	11 Mass 7AM	12	13	14 HUMANE BORDERS OUR TURN TO REFILL THE WATER STATIONS
15 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME MASS 9AM PRESIDER/PREACHER: ELAINE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEETING AFTER MASS TODAY  PAZ DE CRISTO 4P – 7P	16 UNITING FAITHS OF AMERICA MARCH 8:15 AM "UNITING FAITHS" MARCH TOGETHER AT THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WALK BEGINS AT PILGRIMS' REST 1401 E JEFFERSON ST, PHX	17 6:45 – 8:00PM Lectio divina SANCTUARY	18 Mass 7AM	19	20 BISHOP FRANCIS ARRIVES  Leadership Council 6:30 PM BISHOP MEETS WITH AZ LEADERS	21 8:30 AM MORNING PRAYER 9 AM – 2 PM RETREAT AND MEETING WITH BISHOP FRANCIS
22 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME MASS 9AM PRESIDER/PREACHER: BISHOP FRANCIS/ SUE	23 6PM:  BOWLING with the Bishop	24 6:45 – 8:00PM Lectio divina SANCTUARY	25 Mass 7AM	26	27	28
29 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME MASS 9AM PRESIDER/PREACHER: ED	30	31 6:45 – 8:00PM Lectio divina SANCTUARY	FEBRUARY 1 Mass 7AM	2	3	4
5 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME MASS 9AM PRESIDER/PREACHER: ELAINE	6	7 6:45 – 8:00PM Lectio divina SANCTUARY	8 Mass 7AM	9	10	11

January - Birthdays

1 - Loretta Kissell and Nancy Tueffel

3 - Allison Ghan

23 - Bob Longoni

24 - Our Angel, Cheryl McPeek

29 - Patrick Washburne, Marie Renner's son's Birthday (another of our Angels in Heaven)

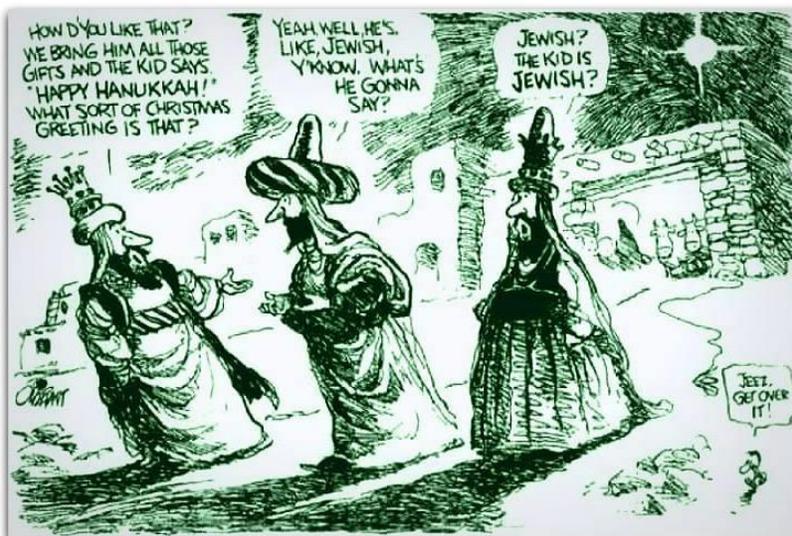
February 1 – Pastor Elaine Groppenbacher

Anniversaries

2 - Marie and George Renner 1/2/99

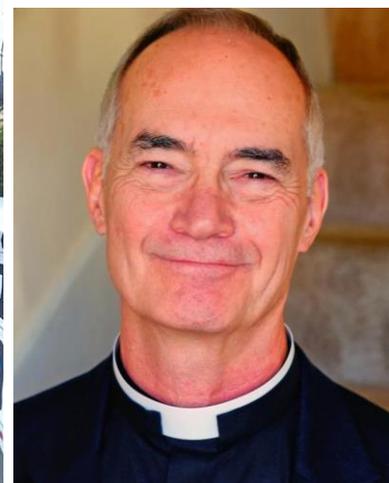
Let Pastor Sue know if you'd like a directory of Fellow Angels! She can email it to you.

send your birthdays/anniversaries/other remembrance days to Becky: rgkeck1@yahoo.com



<https://vimeo.com/196759475>

In this video message (click on the link above) Bishop Francis Krebs gives us a message of light and hope for the Christmas Season 2016. Bishop Krebs is the Presiding Bishop of the Ecumenical Catholic Communion and the pastor of Sts. Clare and Francis ECC in St. Louis, Missouri.



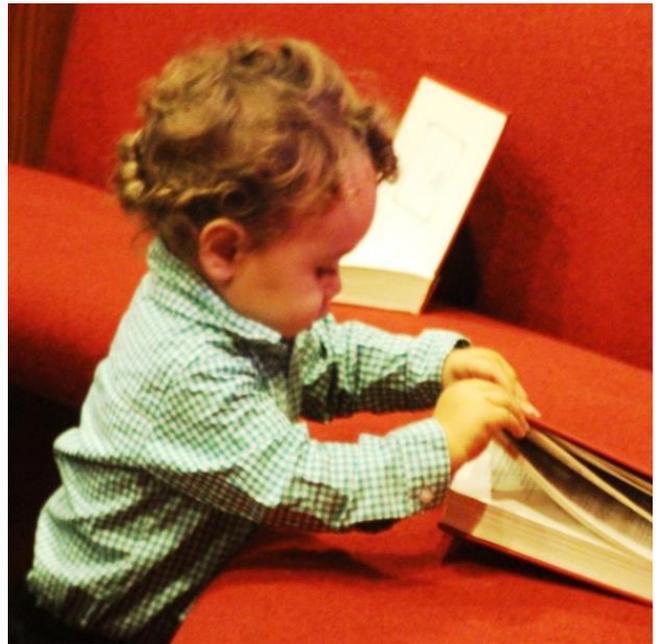
And Bishop Francis is coming to visit us for the first time EVER this month, Jan. 20 – 23 (see the calendar for the specific activities and watch for more information coming soon!!) Pastor Sue is always COOL about people missing Sundays sometimes because we gave up all that “guilt” stuff when we became “The Other Catholics.” BUT Pastor Sue is putting on a new attitude about Sunday, Jan. 22 – YOU MUST BE AT MASS THAT SUNDAY!!! And hopefully you will also want to join us for our meeting/retreat with Bishop Francis on Saturday, Jan. 21 AND Bowling with the Bishop on Monday evening, Jan. 23. But you **MUST** be at Mass on Sunday, January 22 @ 9AM (in case it's been so long that you don't remember the time ☺)

Dec. 24th Christmas Eve and Jan. 1st Mary the Mother of God Celebrations at Guardian Angels









[Guardian Angels Catholic Community Baptized and Welcomes Bellamy Grey Blasco-Perez with Godparents Arnie and Abby and his cousin looking up the next hymn in the hymnal](#)



[Dad and Mom, Tony and Iris receive a special blessing from the community.](#)

**Would Guardian Angels like to adopt the following Statement of Commitment and Action?
Read the statement from St. Mark's Cathedral in Seattle WA below and see if you think it fits for
Guardian Angels. Share with Pastor Sue your thoughts, opinions regarding this statement and
whether it or something similar to it may be what we are called to this New Year!**

...The days and weeks and years ahead will surely require much of us.

Guardian Angels Catholic Community will be here to provide sustenance for the journey, resources for learning, safe space for dialogue, and opportunities for prayerful resistance and action.

Join us as we engage this work, as community, in God's name?



A Statement of Commitment and Action Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish

December 31, 2016

RENEWING OUR COVENANT:

A Statement of Commitment and Action
Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish

Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish reaffirms its commitment to respect the dignity of every human being, strive for justice and peace among all people, and seek and serve Christ in all persons. We are concerned about the increase in statements and actions in our nation that target particular groups of people based on their skin color, their religious affiliation, their gender or orientation, their disabilities, or their country of birth. These are artificial divisions that we vehemently denounce as discriminatory and disrespectful. We believe our nation can do better, and we pledge to work toward that better vision here and now. We commit to being a network of activists, in God's name, joining others who similarly pledge to actively pursue justice. Here's how we will engage this work:

1. We will go deeper in faith.

We commit to read, study, and live the words of Jesus. The prophet Micah's words provide a mantra for us as people of faith: "do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." We must seek both courage and humility as we respond.

2. We will listen.

We will listen to those with whom we may disagree as we seek safe and sacred spaces for hearing each other's stories, pains, fears, and hopes. We will foster such dialogue so that our children might learn the meaning of the diversity and pluralism that is America's best future.

3. We will lift up truth.

We will strive to replace fear with facts when it comes to public discussions about immigrants, refugees, Muslims, racial diversity, and national security. Our times require a moral compass, and truth-telling is an important part of this.

4. We will reject White Nationalism.

We will name racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia as sins. We believe all people are made in God's image, and we affirm diversity as a gift, blessing, and opportunity for our nation.

5. We will love our neighbors by protecting them from hate speech and attacks.

We will identify, report, and confront hate speech and behavior — against all ethnic and religious groups, women, LGBTQ people, immigrants, people with disabilities, and all marginalized groups. Our church stands as a sanctuary and safe haven for people threatened by those who would attack them.

6. We will welcome the stranger, as our Scriptures instruct.

We will advocate for immigrants and their families, and we will block, interfere, and obstruct the mass deportations of immigrants who are members of our communities.

7. We will expose and oppose racial profiling in policing.

We will join with other local faith communities in monitoring the relationship of our police to our communities, calling out racial injustice when we see it.

8. We will defend religious liberty.

We embrace Muslims as fellow Americans and stand with our local mosques in congregational solidarity. We will denounce the defamation and banning of Muslims, and will seek to disrupt any attempt to require registration of Muslims.

9. We will work to end misogyny that enables sexism and a culture of sexual violence.

We will work to replace misogyny with mutual respect. We will name sexual assault for what it is—a sin and a crime. Gender fairness and equality must be fundamental principles in our workplaces, schools, and political systems.

10. We will fight for climate justice and protection of our environment.

As stewards of our land, air and water, we will stand with others in broad coalition to preserve these precious resources while working to reverse the troubling trends of human-caused climate change.

11. We will protest with our best values.

We will defend constitutional values and workplace fairness, striving to respect the dignity of every human being. Whether in our streets, with our schools or in our workplaces — we will protest with dignity, discipline, and non-violence, not with hate for hate.

12. We make these commitments to you, and with you.

The days and weeks and years ahead will surely require much of us. Saint Mark's Cathedral will be here to provide sustenance for the journey, resources for learning, safe space for dialogue, and opportunities for prayerful resistance and action. Join us as we engage this work, as community, in God's name.

Adopted unanimously by the Vestry of Saint Mark's Cathedral Parish

Seattle, Washington

December 20, 2016

It has been suggested that the entire ECC look at making a statement like this one. So we really do want your thoughts and opinions. Church is more than what we do on Sundays and I know Guardian Angels know this fact and live out this fact every day. Thank you for your commitment to being the living Body of Christ.



A BIG Thank-you to everyone who took an Angel from the Giving Tree and returned items to stock our emergency food pantry, Furnishing Hope and other outreach efforts! Bring back all Giving Tree items this Sunday. Thanks again!!



**Jeanie's Little Free Library
all lit up for the season!**

The Growing Edge...

Look well to the growing edge. All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new lives, fresh blossoms, green fruit. Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to carry on when times are out of joint and men have lost their reason, the source of confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash. The birth of the child—life's most dramatic answer to death—this is the growing edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!

—Howard Thurman

On Sunday, December 11, our Turkish friends delighted us with delicious food, Turkish Coffee, Henna Tattoos, and homemade arts and crafts. All was delicious and beautiful and we all so enjoyed being together that morning!

We were able to raise money in support of the victims who are faced with human rights violations and have lost their jobs and freedom in Turkey.-



For a cool video created by Rudy of our time with our Turkish friends click this link: <https://www.facebook.com/rudy.armijopack/videos/10205841220948845/>





This method of prayer goes back to the early monastic tradition. There were not bibles for everyone and not everyone knew how to read. So the monks gathered in chapel to hear a member of the community reading from the scripture. In this exercise they were taught and encouraged to listen with their hearts because it was the Word of God that they were hearing. We gather for Lectio Divina every Tuesday evening at 6:45PM – 8PM in the Sanctuary. Check it out sometime!



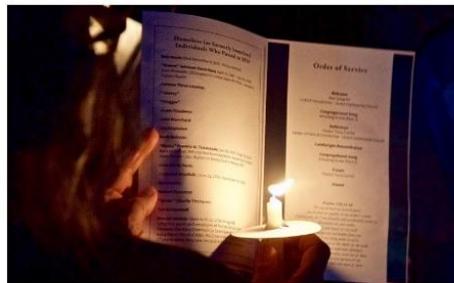
Angels in the audience at Black Nativity and below, Cynthia, Valeska and Violet at the Christmas Carol Sing-Along!



Our Partners at Dayspring United Methodist Church will be “adopting” another Refugee Family from Syria soon. We would like to continue our partnership with them. The first month of the “adoption” is when most of the help is needed. **We need a list of people who would be able to drive the family to day appointments, Monday - Friday.** When driving someone, the volunteer isn’t required to stay, but often times we don’t know how long the appointment will last (government services can be tricky) until they arrive. We can usually give an estimate, but that’s about it. We will try and give as much notice as possible also. We make sure that the family has a booster/car seat if needed and they bring it with them on every trip for the children. No special car insurance is needed. **We know not everyone will be available every day/every week but if you are available to be one of several people we can call on that would be wonderful.** AND if any of you would like to be the point person for this new Guardian Angels Outreach Ministry, let me know this too. Until that happens, contact Pastor Sue to be put on the list as a driver. Be the change... still looking for some daytime drivers...not all the time, not every day...please prayerfully consider this important New Outreach Ministry!



there is justice, restoration, forgiveness. Peacemaking doesn't mean passivity. It is the act of interrupting injustice without mirroring injustice, the act of disarming evil without destroying the evildoer, the act of finding a third way that is neither fight nor flight but the careful, arduous pursuit of reconciliation and justice. It is about a revolution of love that is big enough to set both the oppressed and the oppressors free.



We remember our homeless friends who died on the streets this past year at the Homeless Person's Memorial Service on the longest night, Dec. 21, hosted by Grace Community Church.





Pastor Doug's reflection one week after the incident that we first reported to you in an email update on Dec. 8.

Doug Bland

December 15, 2016 at 6:18am ·

It has been a week since an angry man came into our church office to spewed his homophobic rant because of the rainbow flag we have flying in our cross tower. <http://www.cbs5az.com/.../anti-lgbt-man-verbally-attacks-temp...> A reporter called to ask me what I've learned from the experience: First of all, I've learned that I'm not as loving and open as I would like to think of myself. When the incident happened, I asked people to pray for Keeley, our Administrator, who took the brunt of this man's bile. Second I asked people to pray for our congregation, that we would respond with courage and love and continue to be a safe place for LGBTQ friends and neighbors. Third, I asked people to pray for our nation that is so divided and polarized, and a democracy that is under threat.

But there were at least two that I left off the list for prayer that were major oversights, revealing my own God-awful blind spots. First, I didn't ask for prayers for this angry man filled with such poisonous hate. That can't be an easy burden for a heart to carry. I was too angry and too afraid to pray for him.

But, second, and most painfully revealing to me as a cis, heterosexual man: I didn't ask prayers for LGBTQ friends, church members and total strangers, who have put up with this kind of hatred and prejudice on a regular basis all of their lives. I hardly thought about them at all. In my mind I made this incident too much about a majority, privileged community of recovering homophobes: "Aren't we brave and loving?" All we did was hang up a rainbow flag in our cross tower and give a too-weak welcome to people who have experienced hatred, ignorance and prejudice from Christian communities for way too long. I and the other straight people in my congregation are only a secondary target that came stumbling into the crosshairs of hate and prejudice because we finally couldn't ignore Jesus' simple call to love others and welcome our neighbor. I am the "solo-pastor" of this congregation, but I'm learning how inadequate my single voice is in telling the Story of radical grace. More than a rainbow flag, we need to be a rainbow people to tell the whole Story adequately.

So far, that's my biggest and most painful learning from this experience. The reporter asked, "How do we move forward?" Carefully and with lots of prayer and self-reflection. This incident was the beginning of a major teaching moment for me and for Community Christian Church. I admit that part of the "juiciness" of this story was partisan. I am fearful about what the Trump administration will mean for immigrants, people of color, LGBTQ, women and our fragile planet home. As I've reflected more, the experience has become less partisan and more spiritual. It's been a call for repentance, self-examination and conversion for me and for my community. I can't help but believe that that deeper (and painful) process of self-reflection and conversion would be good medicine for our nation as well.

and ECC Priest, Teri Harroun wrote the poem below when she heard that Community Christian Church – our Church – was attacked in such a hateful way:

because
his excuse was because
but we
we be cause
we be the cause of inclusivity
we be the cause of generosity
we be the cause of prophecy
we be the cause of compassion
we be the cause of holiness
we be the cause of radical hospitality
we be the cause of love
because
God



Our last I-HELP Meal of 2016





Along with lots of "regular" Angels we had lots of special guests help cook and serve. Our out-of-town children and other relatives, neighbors. Not quite sure what was up with Sandy...
And Solomon was very helpful by being so cute!

2017 READING CHALLENGE

Inspire your world with 26 books //
one book every two weeks



- A book you read in school
- A book from your childhood
- A book published over 100 years ago
- A book published in the last year
- A non-fiction book
- A book written by a male author
- A book written by a female author
- A book by someone who isn't a writer
- A book that became a film
- A book published in the 20th Century
- A book set in your hometown/region
- A book with someone's name in the title
- A book with a number in the title
- A book with a character with your first name
- A book someone else recommended to you
- A book with over 500 pages
- A book you can finish in a day
- A previously banned book
- A book with a one-word title
- A book translated from another language
- A book that will improve a specific area of your life
- A memoir or journal
- A book written by someone younger than you
- A book set somewhere you'll be visiting this year
- An award-winning book
- A self-published book

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Media Corner

Happy New Year! As 2016 closes and 2017 begins, the website *Brain Pickings* offers a perspective on the New Year based on a letter John Steinbeck wrote to his friend Pascal Covici on January 1, 1941. Yes, you read right, 1941! Steinbeck captures a view that you might find of interest. Following, you'll find the link to the article as well as information about *Brain Pickings*.

Here's the link: [A New Year's Perspective: John Steinbeck on Good and Evil, the Necessary Contradictions of the Human Nature, and Our Grounds for Lucid Hope](#)

Remember ... our offering is simply that – an offering “for your consideration” only, but not necessarily an “endorsement.” Remember, please send info on any media source you'd like to share with your fellow Angels!

Peace and all good to you and yours – elaine Email: egroppenbacher@gmail.com

Text: 602-509-8412



<https://www.brainpickings.org/>

Brain Pickings is one-woman labor of love compiled by Maria Popova who describes herself as “a reader, writer, interestingness hunter-gatherer and curious mind at large.” Maria has written for Wired UK, The Atlantic, The New York Times, and Harvard's Nieman Journalism Lab and currently is an MIT Futures of Entertainment fellow. She describes *Brain Pickings* on the “About” page of the site as

— a subjective lens on what matters in the world and why. Mostly, it's a record of my own becoming as a person — intellectually, creatively, spiritually — and an inquiry into how to live and what it means to lead a good life.

Founded in 2006 as a weekly email that went out to seven friends and eventually brought online, the site was included in the Library of Congress permanent web archive in 2012.

Here's a little bit about [my seven most important learnings](#) from the journey so far.

The core ethos behind *Brain Pickings* is that creativity is a combinatorial force: it's our ability to tap into our mental pool of resources — knowledge, insight, information, inspiration, and all the fragments populating our minds — that we've accumulated over the years just by being present and alive and awake to the world, and to combine them in extraordinary new ways. In order for us to truly create and contribute to the world, we have to be able to connect countless dots, to cross-pollinate ideas from a wealth of disciplines, to combine and recombine these pieces and build new ideas.

I think of it as LEGOs — if the bricks we have are of only one shape, size, and color, we can build things, but there's a limit to how imaginative and interesting they will be. The richer and more diverse that pool of resources, that mental library of building blocks, the more visionary and compelling our combinatorial ideas can be.

Brain Pickings — which remains ad-free and [supported by readers](#) — is a cross-disciplinary LEGO treasure chest, full of pieces spanning art, science, psychology, design, philosophy, history, politics, anthropology, and more; pieces that enrich our mental pool of resources and empower combinatorial ideas that are stronger, smarter, richer, deeper and more impactful. Above all, it's about how these different disciplines illuminate one another to glean some insight, directly or indirectly, into that grand question of how to live, and how to live well.

Here's a link to another article described as “the first installment in a [multi-part series](#) covering Mead and Baldwin's historic conversation. Part 2 focuses on [identity, race, and the immigrant experience](#); part 3 on [changing one's destiny](#); part 4 on [reimagining democracy for a post-consumerist culture](#); part 5 on [religion](#).” ~ [A Rap on Race: Margaret Mead and James Baldwin's Rare Conversation on Forgiveness and the Difference Between Guilt and Responsibility](#)

Kick off the 2017 AZ State Legislative session by joining Puentes, ally organizations, and community members from across the county! Women's Rights, clergy, service organizations, immigrant rights groups, among others will rally and tell the AZ Legislature on its first day of business that WE WILL STAND UNITED AGAINST HATE and any



PEOPLE'S STATE OF THE STATE

JANUARY **9TH** ARIZONA STATE CAPITOL 1700 W Washington Phoenix, AZ 85007 TIME **9AM**

#UnitedAgainstHate #WeAreWatching

attempts by the AZ State Legislators to introduce any racist, homophobic, sexist and anti-poor legislation they might be considering this session!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/108672569632759/>

If you want to keep up with Legislative Issues both in AZ and Nationally check out this link and subscribe if you are interested. <http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2016/action-120116.pdf>

Uniting Faiths of America Campaign

<http://www.azfaithnetwork.org/uniting-faiths-of-america-campaign>

<http://www.azfaithnetwork.org/current-newsletter>



“Uniting Faiths of America”

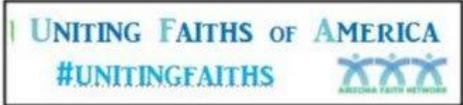


Join the Faith Community as we March Together in Interfaith Solidarity at the Martin Luther King Jr. Walk

January 16th, 2017 @8:15am

Meet us at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
1401 E Jefferson St. Phx

Look for our Banner



www.azfaithnetwork.org

No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background or his religion. People learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.

Nelson Mandela



A nativity scene without Jews, Arabs, Africans or refugees.

"Deeds of kindness are equal in weight to all the commandments."

--The Talmud

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
						1
Kindness Calendar - January 2017						Share this calendar to inspire kindness in others
"Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world." - Howard Zinn						
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Start a gratitude diary: write down 3 things every day	Give someone a long, heartfelt hug	Donate pre-loved books to charity	Celebrate 'Bird Day' by feeding the birds	Tell someone you're proud of them & why	Give a homeless person a warm scarf, gloves, socks, or blanket	Switch off your phone for the whole day
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Be generous with compliments	Play a game instead of watching TV	Pay for a stranger's coffee	Post happy photos on social media	Turn off lights when not in use	Offer to help someone who needs it	Have a long soak in the bath with candles and relaxing music
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Tell a silly joke to make someone laugh	Call a friend to ask about their day	Read a story to a loved one on 'Winnie The Pooh Day'	Say hello to someone new	Let someone in front of you in a queue	Give others your full attention	Stay in your pyjamas and read a good book
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
As it's 'Handwriting Day', write a letter to someone	Take treats into work or school	Hold the door open for someone	Tell your partner why you love them on 'Spouse's Day'	Tip your server a little extra	Pick up litter around your neighbourhood	Be gentle with yourself, you're doing the best you can
30	31	☆ Thank you for your kindness ☆ Download your free copy at www.maketodayhappy.co.uk Share your kindness stories at www.facebook.com/spreadingalittlekindness #KindnessCalendar <small>[snowflake image: clipartkid.com]</small>				
Smile at everyone you see	Tape some coins to a vending machine					

<file:///C:/Users/E6420/Downloads/Kindness-Calendar-January-2017-1.pdf>

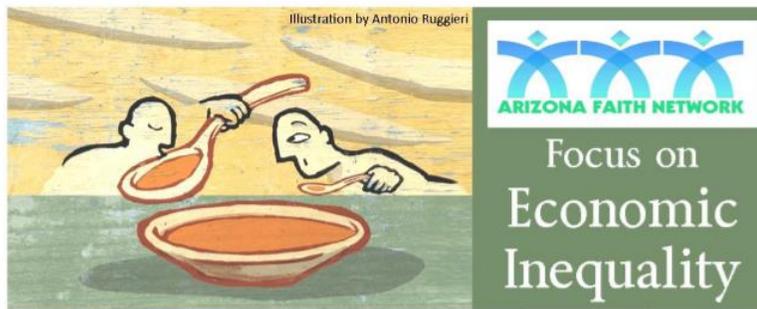


Coming in February....



World Hijab Day is Wednesday, February 1. It is an international event intended to support women who choose to wear hijab. As part of World Hijab Day, women of all faiths wear hijab for a day. You can participate. All you have to do is wear hijab on February 1, 2017.

<http://www.wednesdaywomen.us/home.html>



2016-2017 Series Event

A Community Conversation

The Living Legacy of Immigrant Worker Organizing in Arizona

Join Us for a Panel & Participant Discussion in Partnership with:



Be Inspired to Act in Support of the next Generation of Grassroots Organizers

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday
February 9, 2017
6:30-8:30 p.m.

UFCW Building
2401 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004

(Free parking at UFCW,
or Take Light Rail to
EncantoStop)

More Info: ContactUs@AZFaithNetwork.org
www.Facebook.com/ArizonaFaithNetwork