

# Sierra Christian Church

## *An Open and Affirming Congregation*

### Board Sends Recommendation to Congregation

The Sierra Christian Church congregation will be asked at the December 3rd congregational meeting to approve the board of director's recommendation that the barn be included in the sale of the church's property to Christian Church Homes for the development of affordable senior housing.

At last month's meeting, the church's board acted on a carefully crafted letter from Pastor Christine spelling out the pros and cons of either maintaining or letting go of the barn. The board unanimously agreed to let it go. It will be included in the sale to CCH, which means it will, eventually, be torn down to make room for even more housing units.

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*"As much as I love the barn, it was never about the barn," Liz Throne said, a sentiment echoed by others. "It has always been the people who drew me and kept me here."*

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As beloved as the barn is, as unique and distinctive being a church that worships in a big red barn seems to be, the board did not hesitate in naming where Sierra's intrinsic and lasting value lies.

"As much as I love the barn, it was never about the barn," Liz Throne said, a sentiment echoed by others. "It has always been the people who drew me and kept me here."

Cliff Cole added, "If the pandemic did nothing else, it showed that we are a congregation and family no matter where we are, when and how we meet. I agree with Liz. It is not the barn. It is not geography. It is something better, stronger, that holds us together."

In her letter to the Board, Pastor Christine explained that if agree to let go of the barn we would utilize the space "in a community center which is in the current building plans. We could use that space on Sunday mornings and other times for church-related events. We would be able to lease the space from CCH for \$1 a year."

She went on to say that if the church decides to hold on to the barn, Sierra Christian Church will be responsible for its ongoing maintenance, all utility costs, and insurance, which will likely increase due to the transfer of land ownership. Concurrently, the church would lose the income from the HeadStart school and Seventh Day Adventists. Those revenues would instead go to CCH.

The income derived from the sale to CCH will need to be used maintain the barn, which will need, in due time, a new roof and HVAC system.

If the decision to include the barn in the sale to CCH is made, Sierra Christian is then relieved of all financial liabilities—that is, there would be no maintenance or insurance costs, and the building and grounds position would become the responsibility of CCH—freeing up the monies received from CCH to build the church's ministry rather than maintain its barn.

While CCH is now drawing up new plans for the affordable housing project on Sierra's land, the project



## The Recent Events in the Middle East

### Wednesday, Oct. 11, 2023

### A statement from the Governing Board of ICCCC

Our hearts break with sorrow and rage as we witness the brutality of the terrorist attacks against the citizens of Israel. We offer our condolences and prayers for the family and friends of those who have lost loved ones. The idea of kidnapping children and innocent people is beyond comprehension. The threat of their execution should alarm and enrage the world.

May the violence born of hatred be defeated so we may have the opportunity to meet one another as human beings seeking justice and dignity for all.

We must do everything in our power to support governments dedicated to ensuring and honoring every person's dignity and human rights. The events unfolding in Israel and Gaza warn us to oppose extremist ideology anywhere that would compromise the rights of anyone to live in peace.

We call for an immediate cessation of violence among all parties, as we encourage the fulfillment of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, article 1, which reads:

"All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of (belonging and mutual care)."

We hope and pray the hostages will be released, families will be reunited, the wounded will be cared for, and the dead will be respectfully and lovingly honored. We call for essential services to be provided to all displaced and suffering people. We hope when this conflict resolves, the land will be restored as a land of hope and opportunity for all. May peace prevail over all the earth.

—ICCCC Governing Board

## The United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ were among 27 Christian churches and agencies to address a letter to members of Congress following Hamas' attack on Israel.

October 12th, 2023

Dear Members of Congress,

We have watched in sadness the devastating loss of life in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories over the last several days. As Church based denominations and organizations with deep ties to the Holy Land, we mourn with our Israeli and Palestinian siblings as they grieve the loss of loved ones and remain fearful of continued violence.

Our commitment remains to a future in which both Israelis and Palestinians can live in peace, with security and human rights protected for all.

We unequivocally condemn Hamas' attacks and violent treatment of civilians and call for the immediate release of all hostages in captivity. We also condemn the indiscriminate and violent Israeli response that has already claimed hundreds of civilian lives. The Israeli government's decision to shut off power, water, and fuel will have a disastrous impact on millions of civilians in Gaza, including over a million children, especially those who need immediate medical attention.

At this critical time it is incumbent upon Congress to act in ways that will help de-escalate the violence and stop further loss of life. Specifically, we call on Congress to:

1. Publicly call for ceasefire, de-escalation and restraint by all sides
2. Call on all parties to abide by the laws of war, including the Geneva conventions and customary international law
3. Prioritize steps to secure immediate release of hostages and ensure international protection for civilians

During this time of heightened tension, we implore Congress to refrain from steps that only exacerbate the violence and increase the risk of expanding war into the broader region. Any Congressional effort that is one-sided, and rushes to send new weapons to Israel, will only intensify the conflict leading to further deaths and destruction. Congress must work to prevent the spread of more violence, in-

*Please see LETTER,, page 7*



# We Are “Calmly Plotting the Resurrection”

Katherine White was the renowned fiction editor for the New Yorker Magazine for more than 30 years. She was also a passionate gardener, and though writing was arduous for her, over the span of years she wrote dozens of well-crafted essays about gardens and gardening. In the introduction to the collection of those essays, her husband, who was no slouch when it came to the written word, described her planning one more planting, undoubtedly knowing she would not live to see it. She was, E.B. White wrote, “calmly plotting the resurrection.”

*“Armed with a diagram and a clipboard, Katherine would get into a shabby old Brooks raincoat much too long for her, put on a little round wool hat, pull on a pair of overshoes, and proceed to the director’s chair—a folding canvas thing—that has been placed for her at the edge of the plot. There she would sit, hour after hour, in the wind and the weather, while Henry Allen produced dozens of brown paper packages of new bulbs and a basketful of old ones, ready for the intricate internment. As the years went by and age overtook her, there was something comical yet touching in her bedraggled appearance on this awesome occasion—the small, hunched over figure, her studied absorption in the implausible notion that there would be yet another spring, oblivious to the ending of her own days, which she knew perfectly well was near at hand, sitting here with her detailed chart under those dark skies in the dying October, calmly plotting the resurrection.”*



*Rev. Christine Pobanz-Hartmire reminds us of the beautiful truth that everyone is always welcomed at Jesus’ table.*

An absence of a sense of the sacred is the basic flaw in many of our efforts at ecologically or environmentally adjusting our human presence to the natural world. It has been said, “We will not save what we do not love.” It is also true that we will neither love nor save what we do not experience as sacred.

—Thomas Merton

White was not a particularly religious man, but his faith in, and love of, the natural world, and his determined hope in our ability to emerge from the messes we create for ourselves, is undeniable. It is everywhere in his writings, this essential simplicity that lies on the other side of complexity. He may not have been specifically referring to Jesus rising from the dead when describing his wife’s garden planning as much as he was talking about our inevitable, some might say stubborn, return from darkness and despair time and time again. Our adherence to that which gives us joy adds to the beauty of our world.

We go about living our lives, paying attention and honoring the details of our lives, and in those simple, elegant acts we are planting seeds of hope, seeds of tomorrow under dark skies of uncertainty, even impending death. We go about our living, and yes, our dying, until, no one knows how, when, or where, the tender shoots of life appear, and a small piece of creation is healed.

Jesus continues to teach us this. Who we are, the very real us, who love and forge connections in that love to

other people, who seek justice and work for righteousness, who heal and serve and laugh with others in their joys and dry the tears of the lonely and grieving—we will be preserved by God because it is the best of who we are and God will not give it up.

In living faithful to the loves and magic present in every moment in our lives, we are marching arm in arm with our fellow resurrection conspirators.





## Worshipping the Fire Within and Without... Together, As Is Best —Oct. 29, Folsom State Park, Beals Point





# Some Thoughts, Ideas, Concepts to Chew On

"For some reason, the most vocal Christians among us never mention the Beatitudes (Matthew 5). But, often with tears in their eyes, they demand that the Ten Commandments be posted in public buildings. And of course, that's Moses, not Jesus. I haven't heard one of them demand that the Sermon on the Mount, the Beatitudes, be posted anywhere. "Blessed are the merciful" in a courtroom? "Blessed are the peacemakers" in the Pentagon? Give me a break!"

~ KURT VONNEGUT

When we Christians become convinced that we are the only authority on truth, that anyone who opposes us is evil, and that things will only get better if we are in charge of all positions of power, that is when we know we are no longer worshiping God.

We are worshiping ourselves.

**THE GOAL IS NOT TO BRING PEOPLE TO CHRISTIANITY, THE GOAL IS TO BRING PEOPLE TO LOVE. IF THAT'S THROUGH CHRISTIANITY, FINE. IF IT'S ANOTHER RELIGION OR NO RELIGION AT ALL, FINE. WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS IS LOVE, NOT MORE PEOPLE PROFESSING RIGHT BELIEF.**

REV. DR. CALEB J. LINES

"We all have the same God, we just serve him differently. Rivers, lakes, ponds, streams, oceans all have different names, but they all contain water. So do religions have different names, and they all contain truth, expressed in different ways forms and times. It doesn't matter whether you're a Muslim, a Christian, or a Jew. When you believe in God, you should believe that all people are part of one family. If you love God, you can't love only some of his children"

~ MUHAMMAD ALI

The person who's in love with their vision of community will destroy community. But the person who loves the people around them will create community everywhere they go.



## Prayers & Celebrations

- ➡ Happy Birthday on November 28th to the one and only Karen Steinke!
- ➡ On November 5, it's a happy 67th birthday to John Hartmire, husband to our pastor.
- ➡ Though not twins, a no less leaping and cartwheeling shared Nov. 4 birthday dance to Norm & Iris Pobanz, parents to our pastor.
- ➡ A Nov 10 birthday greeting to Tanya Morgan! Not related to our pastor but loved nevertheless.
- ➡ Joy and unfathomable gratitude is blessedly given for the life of Jane (Pudge) Hartmire, Nov. 2, 1932 - Nov. 2, 2017. She would be turning 91!
- ➡ Love, strength and support to Suzanne Davis as she makes her way through her cancer treatment.
- ➡ Continued support is sent out in waves of love and faith to Pastor Casey Martinez-Tinnin and the Loomis Basin Congregational United Church of Christ. It continues to astonish us the price we sometimes have to pay for doing the right thing.

## Some Notes Worth Noting

1. Books that Bind meets Thursday, November 16 at 6:30 pm on Zoom. We are reading, "Moloka'i," by Alan Brennert, the story of a young girl sent to Kalaupapa, the famous leper colony.
2. The Men's Fellowship Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, November 4 at 9 am, on Zoom.
3. You are invited to join others in the first event in a series called "Eden Amplify." Amplify events are free seminars covering a broad range of ministry topics for clergy, congregation members and the general public. Eden Amplify is about empowering today for impact tomorrow! The first Zoom event, "Cultivating a Culture of Safety in a Digital World," feature presenters Beth Boyer Kollas, Risk Consultant with Praesidium, and Elizabeth Vance, Senior Loss Control Representative with Insurance Board. The event takes place online, on November 2, 2023, from 1-2 pm CT. [Click here for more information and registration.](#)
4. The 2024 Annual Gathering will take place at First Christian Church in Concord on April 19-20, 2024, and will be a joint effort from East Bay churches! Volunteers from Lafayette Christian Church. For more information, please contact Leslie Taylor at [Leslie@concordfcc.net](mailto:Leslie@concordfcc.net).
5. Deeply care about unity and diversity, please look into [New Church Ministries](#), where the call is to establish sacred spaces where everyone feels embraced and valued regardless of their background.

## PLOTTING

*(Continued from previous page)*

Because God does live in the details of our lives. There is elegance and grace in the routine. I suppose that's because among other things, there is order in the everyday, as well as hope and promise. The sun rises. Birds sing their morning song. At 6:45 every morning our dogs stare at my husband reminding him it's breakfast time, and they will do the same 11 hours later, at 5:45 in the evening, when it's time for supper. I

know there are times when he feels there is no greater thing he can do than get up and collect their bowls, fill them with food, and place them in their proper spots in the kitchen. I know the dogs believe there is no greater thing he can do, other than maybe play with them in the backyard all day long.

In those simple, life-affirming acts, God is smiling. And the resurrection continues its rise toward better days.

## BARN

*(Continued from page 1\_*

received a significant shot in the arm recently when Governor Gavin Newsom signed SB 4, the colloquially known as Yes In God's Backyard (YIGBY). The measure—now law—allows a religious institution or independent institution of higher education to build a housing development project on their property “by right.”

Essentially, the new law supersedes local zoning rules that either prohibit or discourage this type of development and would bar opponents of projects such as this from using the complicated environmental review law to slow down construction through litigation.

CCH is currently analyzing the law to determine how to best utilize it when bringing the Sierra Christian Church affordable housing project before local government agencies for approval.

Regardless, the barn is not going anywhere for three to four years, and to hear tell, neither is Sierra Christian Church.

## Sitting with a Dying Loved One is a Sacred Thing

Six years ago already, on November 2, 2017, on her 85<sup>th</sup> birthday, my mother died. It wasn't sudden—she had been dying for several months—and except for my youngest brother we were all in the room with her reading the scores of birthday cards she had received in the mail and remembering with filial humor and private gratitudes the role the card senders had in her life, and ours. At some point during the morning, her breaths shallow and infrequent, neighbors came by and serenaded her with the birthday song.

My sister, Jane was there, and our brother David and his wife, Judy. My wife, Christine, was there, as was Daven, and of course my father, who was in a state of disbelief because he had always believed he would “go first,” though now that I sit here writing about it, I think it was more hope than a staunch belief, because he knew Mom would do more than simply survive when he died, and he was not so sure about himself.

We were keeping Mom company, of course, and Dad, and each other. This was the passing of a force, not on the world stage so much, but in the universe she orbited; she was an energy that fostered love and respect, and when she died the hole she would leave in that universe would be a deep one.

My father later lamented, “The world is much more boring without her.”

Waiting for someone to die is a very odd thing. Sitting around a table playing cards seems somehow disrespectful, inattentive, and maybe even callous.

Staring at her as she passes from the only life you know to the Great Mystery we all wonder about seems a bit morbid. Talking about sports reminds you how utterly unimportant the Rams and Lakers, even the Dodgers, are when moments of true magnitude are at hand. We were, mind you, keeping vigil, even if none of us dared utter the word or embrace the idea. We are family and being with each other at these times is what families do. It is a blessing, and it is a gift. Mom would have insisted on it, and she knew we were there.

To sit with someone as they are actively dying is a remarkable gift. It is to stand witness at the door between life and death, acknowledging the imminence of death and at the same time honoring the life and soul of the loved one; in this case, Mom. It can be a time of deep spiritual meditation, silent existential musings, of reconciliation and restoration, of prayer, and in our instance, laughter and remembrance of cherished things, like love and friendship, of beautiful times and powerful women who had a lot to do with making the world a better place, especially considering that the world begins at home.

It may be the best, most sacred, and graceful thing we can do, be present and bear witness as someone we love dies. It is peaceful. It is serene. It is a holy stillness. It is the ultimate offering we can bestow on them, and by doing so, upon ourselves.

One more birthday card and fond memories of

*Please see Sitting next page*

## The Story of a Lost Doll and a Famed Author

At 40, Franz Kafka (1883-1924), who never married and had no children, was walking through a park one day in Berlin when he met a girl who was crying because she had lost her favorite doll. She and Kafka searched for the doll but could not find her. Kafka told her to meet him there the next day and they would come back to look for her.

The next day, when they had not yet found the doll, Kafka gave the girl a letter "written" by the doll saying, "Please don't cry. I took a trip to see the world. I will write to you about my adventures."

Thus began a story which continued until the end of Kafka's life.

During their meetings, Kafka read the letters of the doll carefully written with adventures and conver-

sations that the girl found irresistible.

Finally, Kafka brought back the doll (he bought one) that had returned to Berlin.

"It doesn't look like my doll at all," said the girl.

Kafka handed her another letter in which the doll wrote: "my travels have changed me."

The little girl hugged the new doll and brought the doll with her to her happy home.

A year later Kafka died.

Many years later, the now-adult girl found a letter inside the doll. In the tiny letter signed by Kafka it was written:

"Everything you love will probably be lost, but in the end, love will return in another way."

## Annual Gathering 2024 Set

Annual Gathering 2024 will take place at First Christian Church in Concord on April 19-20, 2024, and will be a joint effort from East Bay churches! Volunteers from Lafayette Christian Church, First Christian Church in Vallejo, and First Christian Church in Vacaville will work with members of FCC-Concord to make this Annual Gathering a wonderful experience for all. Any members of other East Bay churches who would like to participate in planning the Annual Gathering, please contact Leslie Taylor (Leslie@concordfcc.net). Planning Team meetings will begin in November.



Never be afraid  
to raise your voice  
for honesty  
and truth  
and compassion,  
against injustice  
and lying  
and greed.

William Faulkner,  
excerpt of speech presented  
at his daughters graduation  
(1951)

## Sitting

*(Continued from page 4)*

when the card sender was over for dinner and how we laughed at his stories. Mom's breaths were growing even more shallow. At Christine's urging, my father came over and held my mom's hand and told her it was okay. He would be okay. Her children would be okay. We would take care of each other, just as she would have demanded had she had the voice to demand it. Then, moments later, my sister looked over at Christine and said, "I think she stopped breathing."

For a second, we all did, and for another second my attention was diverted by movement I noticed out the front window of my parent's modest home. I

turned in time to see a handful of birds fly out of the Elm tree that shaded their front lawn. My youngest brother hustled over from his home 45 minutes away to say his goodbyes before Mom's body was taken away to be cremated.

Here's the thing about angels. I don't know if they actually exist, though I would like to think they do and don't see any reason why they couldn't, and if they do exist, I certainly have no idea what they look like. For all I know, they could look like small birds ascending from an Elm tree in Claremont California early in the afternoon on November 2, 2017.

--John Hartmire



## Sierra Christian Church Monthly Calendar

## November 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4 9 am Men's Fellowship Breakfast
5 10:30 am Worship	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10:30 am Worship	13	14	15 Board of Directors Meet 6:30 pm	16 6:30 pm Books That Bind	17	18
19 10:30 am Worship	20	21	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving!	24	25
26 10:30 am Worship	27	28	29	30	1	2

**LETTER***(Continued from page 2)*

cluding against Palestinian civilians in Israel and the West Bank.

Year after year, we have seen that increasing violence begets more violence. Our past responses have failed to end the bloodshed. As these horrific events unfold, we are reminded once again that only by addressing core systemic issues, including decades of institutionalized oppression and collective punishment of Palestinians through brutal military occupation and a 16-year Gaza blockade, will Israelis and Palestinians live in peace.

We are grateful for your service to this country. We pray for wisdom and discernment on your behalf in the days ahead.

Sincerely,  
United Church of Christ, Alliance of Baptists, American Baptist Churches USA, Presbyterian Church USA, American Friends Service Committee, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Churches for Middle East Peace, Church of the Brethren, Community of Christ, Church World Service, Evangelicals4Justice, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Fellowship of Reconciliation USA,,National Council of Churches,

# Some November Noteworthy Dates in History

**November 1, 1848** - The first medical school for women opened in Boston.

**November 1, 1950** - President Harry S. Truman was the target of an unsuccessful assassination attempt by two members of a Puerto Rican nationalist movement.

**November 1, 1963** - South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem and his brother Ngo Dinh Nhu were killed in a military coup.

**November 1, 1995** - The first all-race local government elections took place in South Africa, marking the end of the apartheid system.

**November 3, 1534** - King Henry VIII became Supreme Head of the Church of England following the passage of the Act of Supremacy by Parliament.

**November 3, 1948** - *Dewey Defeats Truman* banner headline appeared on the front page of the *Chicago Tribune*. Harry Truman actually defeated Republican candidate Thomas E. Dewey for the presidency.

**November 3, 1957** - Soviet Russia launched the world's first inhabited space capsule, Sputnik II, which carried a dog named Laika.

**November 3, 1983** - White South Africans voted to allow Indians and "Coloreds" (persons of mixed race) limited power in the government, but continued to exclude blacks.

**November 4, 1890** - The first electrified underground railway system was officially opened in London.

**November 4, 1979** - About 500 young Iranian militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, Iran, and took 90 hostages, including 52 Americans that they held captive for 444 days.

**November 4, 1995** - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated as he left a peace rally in Tel Aviv.

**November 5, 1733** - The first issue of the *New York Weekly Journal* was published by John Peter Zenger, a colonial American printer and journalist. A year later, he was arrested on charges of libeling the royal governor.

**November 6, 1860** - Abraham Lincoln was elected as the 16th U.S. President and the first Republican. He received 180 of 303 possible electoral votes and 40 percent of the popular vote.

**November 6, 1917** - During World War I, the Third Battle of Ypres concluded after five months as Canadian and Australian troops took Passchendaele. Their advance, measuring five miles, cost at least 240,000 soldiers.

**November 6, 1962** - The U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution condemning South Africa for its apartheid policies and recommended economic sanctions.

**November 7, 1811** - General William H. Harrison led 1,000 Americans in battle, defeating the Shawnee Indians at the Battle of Tippecanoe Creek near Lafayette, Indiana.

**November 7, 1837** - A pro-slavery mob attacked and killed American abolitionist Elijah Lovejoy at his printing works in Alton, Illinois.

**November 7, 1885** - Canada's first transcontinental railway, the Canadian Pacific, was completed in British Columbia.

No

**November 7, 1944** - President Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected to an unprecedented fourth term, defeating Thomas E. Dewey. Roosevelt died less than a year later on April 12, 1945.

**November 7, 1967** - Carl Stokes became the first African American mayor in the U.S., elected mayor of Cleveland, Ohio.

**November 7, 1989** - The East German government resigned after pro-democracy protests.

**November 7, 1989** - L. Douglas Wilder became the first African American governor in U.S. history, elected governor of Virginia.

**November 9, 1872** - The Great Boston Fire started in a dry-goods warehouse then spread rapidly in windy weather, destroying nearly 800 buildings. Damage was estimated at more than \$75 million.

**November 9-10, 1938** - Kristallnacht (the night of broken glass) occurred in Germany as Nazi mobs burned synagogues and vandalized Jewish shops and homes.

**November 9, 1965** - At 5:16 p.m., the Great Blackout of the Northeast began as a tripped circuit breaker at a

power plant on the Niagara River caused a chain reaction sending power surges knocking out interconnected power companies down the East Coast. The blackout affected over 30 million persons, one-sixth of the entire U.S. population. Electricity also failed in Ontario and Quebec.

**November 10, 1775** - The U.S. Marine Corps was established as part of the U.S. Navy. It became a separate unit on July 11, 1789.

**November 10, 1871** - Explorer Henry M. Stanley found missionary David Livingstone at Ujiji, Africa. Stanley began his search the previous March for Livingstone who had been missing for two years. Upon locating him, he simply asked, "Dr. Livingstone, I presume?"

**November 10, 1928** - Hirohito was crowned Emperor of Japan. He was Imperial Japan's Emperor during World War II. Following Japan's defeat, he was allowed to stay and remained Emperor until his death in 1989.

**November 10, 1942** - Following the British victory at El Alamein in North Africa during World War II, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill stated, "This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."

**November 11th** - Celebrated in the U.S. as Veterans Day (formerly called Armistice Day) with parades and military memorial ceremonies.

**November 11, 1973** - Egypt and Israel signed a ceasefire agreement sponsored by the U.S.

**November 11, 1987** - In Russia, Boris Yeltsin was removed as Moscow Communist Party chief for criticizing the slow pace of Soviet reform.

**November 11, 1992** - The Church of England voted to allow women to become priests.

**November 12, 1948** - Japanese General Hideki Tojo and six others were sentenced to death by an Allied war crimes tribunal.

**November 12, 1974** - The U.N. General Assembly suspended South Africa over its policy of apartheid.

**November 13, 1927** - The Holland Tunnel was opened to traffic. The tunnel runs under the Hudson River between New York City and Jersey City and was the first underwater tunnel built in the U.S. It is

comprised of two tubes, each large enough for two lanes of traffic.

**November 13, 1945** - General Charles De Gaulle was appointed president of the French provisional government.

**November 13, 1956** - The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation on public buses was unconstitutional.

**November 13, 1995** - Israel began pulling its troops out of the West Bank city of Jenin, ending 28 years of occupation.

**November 14, 1994** - The first paying passengers traveled on the new rail service through the Channel Tunnel linking England and France.

**November 15, 1777** - The Articles of Confederation were adopted by Continental Congress.

**November 15, 1864** - During the American Civil War, Union troops under General William T. Sherman burned Atlanta.

**November 15, 1943** - During the Holocaust, Heinrich Himmler ordered Gypsies and part-Gypsies to be sent to concentration camps. The number of Gypsies killed by Nazis is estimated up to 500,000.

**November 15, 1969** - The largest antiwar rally in U.S. History occurred as 250,000 persons gathered in Washington, D.C., to protest the Vietnam War.

**November 16, 1989** - South African President F.W. de Klerk announced the abandonment of the Separate Amenities Act, thus opening the country's beaches to all races.

**November 17, 1734** - *New York Weekly Journal* publisher John Peter Zenger was arrested and charged with libeling the colonial governor of New York. In his trial, held in August of 1735, truth was successfully used as a defense against libel, an important early step toward freedom of the press in America.

**November 17, 1993** - The United Nations opened its first war crimes tribunal since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials following World War II. Judges from 11 nations were sworn in to examine recent mass murders in Yugoslavia characterized as ethnic cleansing.

**November 18, 1993** - South Africa adopted a new



constitution after more than 300 years of white majority rule. The constitution provided basic civil rights to blacks and was approved by the ruling party, and members of 20 other political parties.

**November 19, 1863** - President Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address during ceremonies dedicating 17 acres of the Gettysburg Battlefield as a National Cemetery.

**November 19, 1868** - New Jersey suffragists attempted to vote in the presidential election to test the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which states, "no State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States." 172 suffragists, including four African American women, were turned away.

**November 19, 1942** - The Russian Army began a massive counter-offensive against the Germans at Stalingrad during World War II.

**November 19, 1969** - The first news reports emerged that American troops in Vietnam had massacred civilians in My Lai Village back in March of 1968.

**November 19, 1977** - Egyptian President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab leader to visit Israel.

**November 19, 1978** - The biggest mass suicide in history occurred as Reverend Jim Jones led over 900 followers to their deaths at Jonestown, Guyana. Members of his "Peoples Temple" religious cult were ordered to drink a cyanide-laced fruit drink. Those who refused were forcibly injected. Jones and his mistress killed themselves after watching his entire membership die. A few cult members escaped.

**November 20, 1789** - New Jersey became the first state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

**November 20, 1945** - The Nuremberg War Crime Trials began in which 24 former leaders of Nazi Germany were charged with conspiracy to wage wars of aggression, crimes against peace, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

**November 21, 1920** - The IRA (Irish Republican Army) shot and killed 14 British soldiers in Dublin in what became known as "Bloody Sunday."

**November 21, 1992** - The Anglican Church of Australia voted to allow women to become priests. The largest of the dioceses voted against the bill, however,

it still received the required two-thirds approval.

**November 22, 1718** - Blackbeard the pirate (Edward Teach) was killed off the coast of North Carolina after a long and prosperous career.

**November 22, 1963** - Dallas, Texas.

**November 24, 1859** - Charles Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* was first published, theorizing that all the living creatures descended from a common ancestor.

**November 24, 1969** - The U.S. Army announced that Lt. William L. Calley had been charged with premeditated murder in the massacre of civilians in the Vietnamese village of My Lai in March of 1968. Calley was court martialed, convicted, and sentenced to life in prison. His sentence was later commuted to three years of house arrest by President Richard Nixon.

**November 25, 1995** - By a margin of less than one percent, Ireland voted to legalize divorce, the closest vote in the nation's history.

**November 26, 1789** - The first American holiday occurred, proclaimed by President George Washington to be Thanksgiving Day, a day of prayer and public thanksgiving in gratitude for the successful establishment of the new American republic.

**November 26, 1940** - During the Holocaust, Nazis began walling off the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw, sealing in 400,000 inhabitants, denying them adequate food, sanitation and housing.

**November 28, 1520** - Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan passed through the strait (of Magellan) located at the southern tip of South America, thus crossing from the Atlantic Ocean into the Pacific.

**November 28, 1934** - FBI agents killed bank robber George "Baby Face" Nelson near Barrington, Illinois.

**November 29, 1864** - U.S. Army troops led by Colonel John Chivington attacked and killed at least 400 Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians at Sand Creek, Colorado after they had already surrendered.

**November 29, 1947** - Palestine was partitioned into Jewish and Arab land by the U.N. General Assembly, resulting in the establishment of the Jewish state of Israel the following year.