

RELIGION IN THE NEWS



San Francisco Mayor Edwin Lee speaks at a conference on Modern Slavery and Climate Change in the Casina Pio IV the Vatican, Wednesday. Mayors from around the world declared Tuesday that climate change is real, man-made and must be stopped as a matter of moral imperative, gathering at the Vatican to announce new measures to fight global warming and bask in Pope Francis' ecological star power.



Mary Roy, of Potosi, Mo., holds a rosary in support of a pro-life rally Tuesday outside a Planned Parenthood building in St. Louis. Anti-abortion activists on Tuesday released a second undercover video aimed at discrediting Planned Parenthood's procedures for providing fetal tissue to researchers.

World mayors at Vatican seek 'bold climate agreement'

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis has told political leaders gathered at the Vatican that they're "the conscience of humanity" on issues of climate change and human trafficking.

Dozens of mayors from around the world demanded Tuesday that their national leaders take bold steps at the Paris climate talks this year, saying it could be the last chance to keep the Earth's warming at levels safe for humanity.

California Gov. Jerry Brown, a former Jesuit seminarian, denounced what he called "troglydotes and other deniers of the obvious science."

Pope Francis told the gathering that while he has high hopes about the Paris climate negotiations, he also wants the United Nations to focus more on human trafficking, saying both are scourges that harm and exploit the world's poor.

Covert video targets Planned Parenthood

NEW YORK (AP) — Anti-abortion activists have released a second undercover video seeking to discredit Planned Parenthood's procedures for providing researchers with intact organs retrieved from abortions.

The video shows a woman identified as Dr. Mary Gatter, a Planned Parenthood medical director in California, meeting with people posing as potential buyers of fetal body parts. Much of the conversation on the video deals with how much money the buyers should pay.

Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, says the new video, and one released last week, make it

clear that "Planned Parenthood is involved in the selling of baby body parts."

Federal law prohibits the commercial sale of fetal tissue, but allows not-for-profit donation if the women who undergo abortions give their consent. Planned Parenthood contends that the payments discussed in the videos involve the legal reimbursement of costs.

Infidelity dating site suffers cyberattack

NEW YORK (AP) — The Bible warns that "your sin will find you out."

A website for married people seeking affairs says it suffered a cyberattack after hackers claimed to have stolen confidential customer information and threatened to publish it unless the company is shut down.

Ashley Madison, whose slogan is "Life is short. Have an affair," says its customers are anonymous.

But online security blog KrebsOnSecurity.com posted what appeared to be a screenshot of the site's home page on Sunday bearing a message from hackers, who said Ashley Madison lied about a service allowing members to erase their profile information. The hackers say the data don't go away.

But Ashley Madison's owners say they've taken steps to secure would-be adulterers' personal profiles.

Va. faith-based school drops same-sex ban

HARRISONBURG, Va. (AP) — Eastern Mennonite University says it will no longer discriminate against job prospects who are in same-sex marriages.

Previously, the private liberal arts university in Harrisonburg, Virginia, said that people in same-sex relationships violated the faith-based principles of the university.

The Daily News Record newspaper reports that the school announced Monday that its decision followed a "listening process" that began in the 2013-14 academic year. The process included students, faculty, staff, alumni and donors.

The new policy was approved last week by a majority vote of the university's board trustees. It states that Eastern Mennonite does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, sex, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or any legally protected status.

Board chairwoman Kay Brenneman Nussbaum said in a statement that Eastern Mennonite's education "is grounded in Mennonite/Anabaptist values, and we believe people in same-sex covenanted relationships are valued members of our learning community with equal rights to standard benefits."

Ga. church with gay pastor vandalized

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — A Georgia church with a gay pastor who plans to get married has been vandalized with spray paint.

The Augusta Chronicle reports that vandals spray painted references to Bible verses and the words "You'll Bum" on the front doors and steps of the Metropolitan Community Church of Our Redeemer, near Augusta's City Hall.

Vandals spray painted a reference to Leviticus 18:22 on the church's doors. The Bible verse says "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination."

The newspaper reports that the Rev. Rick Sosbe and his fiancée were the first gay couple in Richmond County, Georgia, to apply for a marriage license after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized gay marriage nationwide.

Weeks ago, a rainbow flag flying outside the church was also stolen.



Ashley Madison's Korean web site is shown on a computer screen in Seoul, South Korea. Avid Life Media Inc., the parent company of Ashley Madison, a matchmaking website for cheating spouses, said it was hacked and that the personal information of some of its users was posted online.

RELIGION BRIEFS

First United Methodist

The First United Methodist Church of Astoria, 1076 Franklin Ave., is holding a worship service and a Philip Yancey Video Presentation, "Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference?" at 11 a.m. Sunday. The video is part of a series, and is being led by Mary Frances Gunn. The liturgist is Ellen Charles, and the greeter is Harry Comins.

All are welcome. The church is handicapped accessible, and off-street parking is available. Children are invited to the sanctuary for crafts and treats. Coffee and refreshments will be served by hostess Sue Hicks after the service.

For information, call the church office at 503-325-5454 or go to www.unitedmethodistastoria.org

Great Vow Zen

CLATSKANIE — The Great Vow Zen Monastery, located at 79640 Quincy-Mayger Road in Clatskanie, is holding a "Chanting from the Heart — Prepare for the Chant for Peace" workshop, led by Daimei Marmaduke, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 31.

This introductory workshop is open to all skill levels, and to anyone who wants to use sound and their voice as a part of their practice. The workshop is part of a weekend of chanting practice which culminates with the 24-Hour Interfaith Chant for Peace beginning at noon Aug. 1.

Workshop guests are welcome to stay for dinner and overnight (\$10 and \$55 per person suggested donation). For details, call 503-728-0654 or email registrar@greatvow.org. RSVP for dinner and/or

an overnight stay online at <http://bit.ly/1K8LE7X>

Astoria Bahá'í

The Bahá'is of Astoria are offering a free informational meeting Saturday on the Faith. Arthur Fernandez-Scarberry of Olympia, Wash., presents "God's Classroom — Spiritual Beings Having a Material Experience," at the Jones residence, 300 W. Irving Ave. Dinner begins at 6 p.m., and the fireside presentation is at 7 p.m., followed by an opportunity to ask questions. All are welcome.

For information, call Sali Diamond at 503-325-1963 or go to www.astoriabahai.org

Peace Lutheran

Peace Lutheran Church, 565 12th St., is sponsoring a free Drop-In-Day-Camp for 3, 4 and 5-year olds in the front courtyard from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Parents are

welcome to accompany children, or leave them for a time of supervised play and crafts, while attending the Astoria Sunday Market. For information, call 503-325-3871.

Rev. Steve Domfeld of Peace Lutheran is presiding over worship with his guitar Sunday, at 2 p.m. at Clatsop Care Center, and at 3 p.m. at Clatsop Retirement Village. Holy Communion follows worship at the Retirement Village, and is offered to all worshippers. This service is provided in fellowship with the Astoria/Warrenton Ministerial Association.

Grace Episcopal

Grace Episcopal Church, 1545 Franklin Ave., welcomes the Rev. Carola von Wrangel as guest celebrant at both the 8 and 10 a.m. services Sunday. She will speak about the ministry providing

relief throughout Latin America and the Caribbean through Food for the Poor.

This fourth Sunday of the month is Hunger Awareness Sunday, and there is an ingathering for the Hunger Ministries at the church. Both monetary and non-perishable food donations are requested. Cans of vegetables and tuna are especially needed.

The monthly Community Dinner is being served in the Parish Hall at 4 p.m. Sunday, free of charge. Those willing to help should come at 3 p.m. to set up and at 5 p.m. to clean up.

For information, call the church at 503-325-4691 or visit go to www.graceastoria.org

Congregation Beit Salmon

Congregation Beit Salmon, led by Rabbi Abram

Goodstein, is holding several events in the coming week.

Saturday: At 11 a.m. there is a Shabbat walk of under two miles, starting at the Netul Trail Head off Fort Clatsop Road. On entering the parking area, turn left. Find the other Shabbat walkers at the first picnic table off the parking lot. Members should consider carpooling, and bring water and a sack lunch.

Tuesday: A Jewish 101 discussion group takes place at 3 p.m. in the Desdemona Room at the Clatsop Community College Library. The topic is: Hebrew.

Wednesday: Torah Study is at 6 p.m. at the home of Moria Golub, 1804 Jerome Ave. RSVP by calling 503-791-3173.

Thursday: Hebrew School for ages 5-10 is from 1-2:30 p.m. in Jessica West's room at Warrenton High School.

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