

The Living Word

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www.vallejochristian.org

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HELP WANTED - JON MEZZERA

The church definitely needs more volunteers to help out with the Power Point and Zoom Hub operation during our worship services. We are down to three Power Point preparers and two Zoom Hub operators. Because the Zoom Hub coordinators also do PP, it is really just three people doing these two important jobs in our worship services each week. The three of us need your help.

There are some upcoming dates where as of now, we will only have Zoom, without PP. Now, that isn't the end of the world. We can always use our hymnals (old school!), but the presentations do positively add to the ambiance and overall experience of worship. While we can do without them, it is more important that we have a Zoom Hub operator each week. As of now, we won't have one on October 12th. That means that the members of our church family who join us online each week won't be able to attend that day which is very unfortunate.

Power Point is a little harder to learn, and requires the volunteer to have their own laptop. But, the Zoom Hub is very easy to learn. It is easier now than it used to be due to some changes in the procedure for setting it up and breaking it down after worship. Carl and I would love to help you learn how to do it (and PP too, and I'm sure Beth would help with that one also). I will be at church at 10:00 am on September 7 to set up Zoom. If you are interested in learning how to do this, and want to potentially volunteer to help us out (even just being able to fill in once every 2-3 months when Carl and I are both gone like on the 12th), please come and learn how we do it. A PP training needs to be scheduled for those interested in it, so stay tuned for more information on that.

If you are interested in learning either of these positions, please talk to me, Carl or Beth. It will be greatly appreciated!

PASTOR'S PEN - Rev. Sara Steenhouse

[Jesus] said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

~Matthew 22:37-39 (NRSVUE)

In worship we have spent the last month reflecting on the spiritual wisdom of Fred Rogers in his show Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. Somehow it's been lighthearted and deeply meaningful at the same time. In his role as gentle friend and television pastor to thousands of children and their families, Mister Rogers managed to create a neighborhood that reached from coast to coast; a neighborhood where people were seen and loved and where everyone belonged.

In our own neighborhood that reaches out from the corner of Colusa and Indiana streets. We are always looking for ways to see and love and serve our own neighbors. We want to share the love of God we know in Jesus. We want people to know us as a welcoming, kind, trustworthy, and safe congregation.

This is why we host them at NA meetings and we share the produce from our garden. We offer water and food items in our pantry and we provide a space for wonder and reflection in our peace garden. So much of the ministry we offer daily is in service to our neighbors. We also work hard to organize larger events like Haircuts for the Holidays and our upcoming National Night Out. We manage to do a lot with limited resources!

Since I've been the Pastor of FCCV several people in the community have told me how valuable the church has been to them over the years. They have appreciated the space for healing in NA groups, the chance to participate in Fair Trade giving at the Global Holiday Faire, the visible support of the LGBTQ+ community. They notice that we show up and follow through and work for justice. We have a reputation! And it's one I am so proud of.

In these times our role in the neighborhood may become more and more important. I pray that we will continue to be an anchor for hope and healing among our neighbors. We can provide welcome and safety and love when people are lonely and aching for justice. Our voice and our ministry is needed now, more than ever, and I am so glad to be serving alongside all of you as we make a difference in this place.

MISSION ACTION NOTES - Suzanne Awalt

- Monthly Donation for September - NORTHBAY RAPID RESPONSE NETWORK

The **Northbay Rapid Response Network** (Serving Napa, Solano, and Sonoma Counties) is a 24/7 telephone hotline for immigrants and their families facing ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) raids and possible risk of deportation. This hotline is one of a collection of similar urgent response outlets affiliated with the California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice (CCIJ). Once contacted, the Rapid Response Network dispatches trained legal observers to the suspected raid location. Network staff provide legal defense to impacted people and their families, witness to enforcement actions, and provide services to affected Northbay residents. Additionally, the Network provides education on knowing one's rights, monitors conditions in detention facilities, and operates an Immigrant Legal Resource Center. The Rapid Response Network is a bulwark for upholding the rights of immigrants. We all need to be educated on our Constitutional Rights and the rights of our immigrant neighbors. Visit the website www.northbayop.org for more information. The 24hr hotline can be reached at (707) 800-4544.

- Please remember our Little Free Pantry. We are always in need of bottled water, protein-rich snacks and single-serve canned meats and fish, and personal hygiene products for men and women. Thank you for caring. And thanks to Helen and Dave Mezzera for stocking the pantry several times each week.

- YOUR CHANGE FOR A CHANGE OF CLOTHING

We have a small collection can for quarters at the rear of the sanctuary. FCCV partners with Vallejo Together to serve our unhoused neighbors. Volunteers with Vallejo Together and other faith communities make visits several times each week to encampments around Vallejo. In addition to carry-in meals and social and spiritual support, the volunteers will assist unhoused persons with trips to local laundromats. Quarters are provided when needed to operate the washers and dryers. Clean clothes mean dignity and physical wellness for unhoused individuals. Please donate your change for a change of clothing for someone. Quarters only, please. We will forward the coins to Vallejo Together once a month. Thank you!

- 2025 Reconciliation Offering

Your reconciliation gifts are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. We will collect this special offering on September 28 and October 5. For more information, visit reconciliationministry.org.

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

- Coffee with the Pastor

Would you like to join me for coffee and a chat? On **Thursday, September 25th from 9 to 11 am** you can find me at **The Grind Cafe in Vallejo** (402 Tuolumne St.). This is a chance to spend some informal time together catching up or discussing events of the day. Drop in for a few minutes or unwind for the whole time. No agenda, just an opportunity to connect.

We will continue to meet once a month at different times and places, so if this time doesn't work for you, let me know what does and I'll plan accordingly for the future. Share your favorite spot with me too!

- Pastor Meet-ups

I am still working to schedule individual and family meet-ups with all FCCV members and regulars. I've met with about a quarter of you all and have had the best time getting to know you better, learning more about your history with the church, and hearing about your dreams for our congregation. I am looking forward to more of these conversations!

To schedule your meet-up time, [click here](#) to fill out your preferences and pick your time-slot. I've tried to make myself available mornings, afternoons and evenings, weekdays and weekends to fit your schedule. We can meet where you choose! Thank you for joining me in this endeavor to gather voices and gain connections.

- New Email Address

I have a new work email address that I'll be using for church-related communication. I'm sure it will take me some time to transfer all of my communication to this new account, but I'm working on it! Please add pastor@vallejochristian.org to your address book and send me a note! Thanks to Jon M. for helping me set this up.

- Worship Planning Team

You're invited to help us plan our fall worship experience at FCC Vallejo. Join us from 9 to Noon on Saturday, September 6th in Fellowship Hall. Bring your ideas, creativity, and brilliance to the work of crafting the kind of worship we all desire. We will also be working to develop some updates to our weekly worship bulletin.

HYBRID WORSHIP CONTINUES

We continue to develop and improve our hybrid worship abilities. Every Sunday morning, we have some members of our worshipping community onsite in our sanctuary and some members of our worshipping community online on Zoom. We continue to work to make both formats engaging and accessible. Please share comments and suggestions that might make both formats better for everyone.

Our worship services begin at 10:30. To join us for worship on Zoom, click the link below and joining us through video. Or dial in by calling the number below according to your time zone. The instructions to connect are fairly easy, but if you need help, please reach out.

In preparation for Zoom worship, please have communion elements of some form with you so that we can all partake together. This can be bread and juice—or any other elements that evoke the Last Supper for you. You may also want to light a candle near you as we worship together.

Worship on Sundays, 10:30 a.m. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW MEETING INFO!

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83204891403?pwd=YkJBNTQwWURabEtpRFVoaDU5aU5hQT09>

Meeting ID: 832 0489 1403

Passcode: 157093

Dial by your location

- +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
- +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
- +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Mark Your Calendar

September 6 - Worship Planning Meeting, 9-12 in the Fellowship Hall.

September 7 - Elders Meeting, after Worship in the Parlor.

September 11 - Admin Council meeting, 5 pm on Zoom.

September 18 - Ministry Council meeting, 5 pm on Zoom.

September 25 - Coffee With The Pastor, 9-11 am at The Grind Cafe in Vallejo.

October 7 - National Night Out. 4:30 pm. More details to follow.

The deadline for the next Living Word is September 24
