

The Living Word

1035 Indiana St.
Vallejo CA 94590
707-643-7973



www.vallejochristian.org

www.facebook.com/fccvallejo

HEIFER UPDATE: WE DID IT! - SUZANNE AWALT

Some months ago we began depositing quarters in a plastic tube displayed at the church. The reported capacity of this tube is \$120/480 quarters.....or, enough to purchase a Heifer Project goat for a family in the developing world. So, little by little, one, two, or a handful of quarters at a time, we have filled that tube. And what is more, by sending our gift to Heifer prior to June 30, that gift has been DOUBLED!!!! Well done, First Christian!!!!

We're going to put the tube on sabbatical for a while. Look for Heifer at this year's Global Holiday Faire, the first Saturday in December, as one of the special alternative holiday gift options.

Thanks for your support of this mission project. Many small gifts have added up to something very significant for a family in need.



“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” -Romans 8:38-39

Happy Pride, Y’all! June is Pride Month in the US. It’s a time to celebrate and uplift the lives of queer people and the contributions of the LGBTQIA+ community in society. It falls in June to commemorate the Stonewall Uprising that was sparked on June 28, 1969 when police raided the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village (NYC). The six days of protests that followed highlighted the police harassment and social discrimination the community faced, particularly the Trans women of color who led the protests. This event galvanized the Gay Pride movement and 56 years later we are indebted to the brave sisters and brothers who refused to let their dignity be denied.

You have probably seen the sign at the front of the sanctuary celebrating that FCC Vallejo has been [Open & Affirming](#) for 30 years. This month on June 24th we get to celebrate our 31st anniversary of becoming O&A! If you haven’t seen that sign you’ve definitely noticed the big rainbow banners and the Progress Pride flag that flies every Sunday morning on our front porch. These are all symbols of our congregation’s commitment to including and valuing people of all gender expressions and sexual orientations in our congregation. We recognize that there is no human condition that could ever separate someone from the love of God in Jesus Christ. We strive to open our arms wide to *especially* welcome those who have faced harm and exclusion elsewhere.

[AllianceQ](#) is the Disciples of Christ organization that “educate[s] and equip[s] faith communities for understanding, affirming, and including LGBTQ+ persons, and [they] collaborate with ecumenical partners for intersectional justice work.” This is the organization that helps congregations prepare to become O&A and helps to guide people to our Disciples O&A congregations.



I encourage you to read more about their work and history on the AllianceQ website.

Cheers to this legacy of inclusion in our congregation and here’s to always growing in our understanding of how to welcome all people to Christ’s Table.

With Pride,
Pastor Sara

NOTES FROM PASTOR SARA

Coffee with the Pastor

Would you like to join me for coffee and a chat? We're trying again! We had to cancel in May, but on **June 25th from 10 to Noon** you can find me at **Moschetti Cafe at 925 Marin St. in Vallejo**. 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.

I'd like to do this 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!

Beyond Series - Sermons and Bible Study

For the six weeks following Pentecost Pastor, Sara will be leading a sermon series and Bible study called "Beyond". The theme is inspired by Ephesians 3:20-21: *"Now to the one who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to the power that is at work within us, to them be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen!"*

We will be joining with many other Disciples of Christ congregations across the US and Canada in the lead up to this summer's General Assembly in Memphis, TN. This is a way for us to explore the themes and ideas of the Assembly with other Disciples and be connected through the resources provided by our larger church. We'll get to be inspired by imagining beyond what we can see, what we can understand, into the awe and wonder of God's presence.

The Bible Study will either meet on Sundays before worship or a weeknight evening. Stay tuned for an email inviting you to share your preferences on time.

Interfaith Pride Service

A Solano County Interfaith Pride worship service will be held in Vallejo at **Community Presbyterian Church** (2800 Georgia Street) on **Sunday, June 22nd at 4 pm**. This will be a great opportunity to worship with other faith communities and celebrate the gifts of the LGBTQIA+ community. Our church is represented by Pastor Sara on the planning committee. Don't miss this chance for connection and celebration!

(continues...)

NOTES FROM PASTOR SARA - CONTINUED

Passing the Peace

Heads up! We'll be making a small change to the order of worship after Pentecost. Instead of passing the peace near the beginning of worship we will move it to just before communion.

Did you know that this practice is rooted in Biblical tradition? In particular, the apostle Paul encouraged Christians to greet each other with a 'holy kiss' representing a pure form of Christian love.

Today we invite people to share a peace symbol or the phrase "peace be with you" as we greet each other according to our comfort levels - wave, fist bump, handshake, hug - you get to choose what feels appropriate as you extend greetings to each other.

Beyond a simple greeting, passing the peace also serves as a reminder of the need for reconciliation and unity within the Christian community. It acknowledges the shared experience of being reconciled to God through Jesus Christ and the importance of recognizing the common humanity and equality of all believers.

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DECEMBER 10, 1948 - Dave Mezzera

That was the date that the Universal Document of Human Rights was signed by the newly establish United Nations to act like a global road map for freedom and equality, calling for the protection of the rights of every individual everywhere. Following the atrocities of World War II, its adoption recognized human rights to be the foundation for freedom, justice and peace, calling for individuals to be able to live their lives freely, equally and in dignity. There are listed 30 rights and freedoms that form the basis for international law, and it remains a living document. Interestingly, it has been claimed to be the most translated document in the world. We will be referring to this document during our Congregational Meeting in June. To get a head start on the document, check out the titles of the 30 individual declarations ==>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/universal-declaration-of-human-rights/>

MISSION ACTION UPDATES - Allison Mezzera

June Mission Action Donation:

People are being taken from the streets. ICE raids are now a common occurrence. We hear horror stories from red states, but it is not only happening there. It is happening right here in California too.

The California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC) works alongside policy makers, advocates, and community members to shape the policies that support immigrants and their families. “Over the past 25 years, CIPC has helped pass more than 30 pro-immigrant laws in the state, including: The Safe and Responsible Driver Act, the TRUST Act, the One California initiative, the E-Verify Bill and the Health for All Kids and Health for All 50+, among others — signature legislative accomplishments propelled by the organization’s ability to coordinate, convene and mobilize a broad and diverse array of advocates towards a common goal.”

Currently they have kicked it into high gear working to “challenge the criminalization of immigrant communities, disrupt the arrest to deportation pipeline, and end state support for ICE and detention centers.”

As followers of Jesus, we have the moral obligation to do all we can to protect immigrants in our communities. They are our neighbors, friends, families, and they are currently under fire. We must do all that we can to help.

I would encourage you to check out the work CIPC to see how else you can help.

<https://caimmigrant.org/>

LITTLE PEACE PANTRY

An Amazon wish list has been created for the Little Peace Pantry basic needs items.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3O734C3DKZ30?ref_=wl_share

Basic Needs & Food Needs

Toothpaste, floss

Deodorant

Combs/Brushes

Shaving cream & disposable razors

Hand Sanitizer

Canned chicken, tuna, soup, etc (pull tab lids only)

Juice boxes, protein shakes

Snack packs of crackers, etc.

Take home silverware sets

WHAT A MONTH! - Dave Mezzera

In addition to Pentecost on June 8th (and new member luncheon) and the Installation Service for Pastor Sara on June 14th (and reception), the month of June is filled with many special dates and remembrances:

June 1st - The first day of June this year is on a Sunday. An interesting fact is that in 2025, Sunday begins only one month out of the entire year, and that month is June. This feature occurs each and every year - of the seven days of the week, whatever day occurs on June 1st, occurs as the first day of a month only in June. That can't be said for any other month. Test it out by looking at any year's calendar (Leap Year or not)!

June 14th - (Besides being the special day for the Installation of Rev. Sara as pastor,) Flag Day in the United States is celebrated on June 14th each year. It commemorates the adoption of the United States flag by the Continental Congress on that day in 1777. People often display the flag at homes and public buildings. Other common activities include flag-raising ceremonies, patriotic parades, school events, and essay contests. While Flag Day is a national observance, it is not a federal holiday, meaning it doesn't officially close federal offices.

June 15th - Father's Day honors one's father, as well as fatherhood, stepfathers, paternal bonds, father figures and the influence of fathers in society. The holiday complements similar celebrations honoring family members, such as Mother's Day and, in some countries, Siblings Day, and Grandparents' Day. In the U.S., Father's Day is celebrated on the third Sunday of June each year. Father's Day has been sporadically celebrated since 1910, but it was not until 1972 that the day became a nationally recognized special day in the United States.

June 19th - Juneteenth is a Federal holiday, officially Juneteenth National Independence Day, celebrated on June 19th. It is a combination of the words "June" and "Nineteenth." It commemorates the end of slavery in the United States, specifically the day in 1865 when the news of the Emancipation Proclamation, which had previously been issued by President Lincoln, finally reached enslaved people in Texas, who had been unaware of the end of the Civil War and the freedom offered to them. Juneteenth is typically celebrated with family gatherings, food, music, and community events.

June 20th - Officially the first day of summer - the "summer solstice" or the longest day of the year in terms of daylight hours. While the sun always rises in the east and sets in the west, it appears higher or lower in the sky throughout the year, depending on the season. At the summer solstice, the sun reaches its highest point in the sky. Then in six months (on December 21st), the sun will reach its lowest point in the sky and that day will be the shortest day of the year in terms of daylight hours.

A REFLECTION - Glenda Goode

I read a lot. And in almost everything I choose to read, (including FB “sharings” which I read in a bunch about every 3 months) there is something that will not let me not notice and sigh and say a mental thank you. Here’s one of those moments.

In these times (and several times in previous decades) the balance between feeling anchored and feeling at a loss is, well, unbalanced. Enter “When the Moon Hits Your Eye” by John Scalzi.¹ It’s a ‘what-if-the-moon-turns-into-cheese’ (which it mysteriously does) and then erupts a huge part of itself. Trajectory? Earth. It’s unavoidable and you’ve got 2 years left before impact. Scalzi imagines (quite accurately) responses from various sectors. Here’s one of many.

Day 21 – beginning on page 243: The Meadow Hill Church. Sermon title – and content from a preacher’s resource in the book called PreachDex: “The Renewal of Faith in Challenging Times.” Sound familiar? Well, not the “canned sermon” part but the topic – just making sure you know. Rev Pastor Jimmy is confronted mid-sermon by an un-sober parishioner (Caleb) who calls the sermon “crap”. The interchange results in a beautiful from-the-heart sharing. Awesome!

But that evening at home, the other Pastor Jimmy is revealed. While what he said helped Caleb – and others – Jimmy says “It didn’t help me – giving comfort I wasn’t feeling and a faith that at this very moment I don’t know that I have... .. (Lord) just know that I also need to be steadied ..(I need) a hand at my elbow.... A sign to know my faith is not for nothing.” (pages 251-253)

The message for me, in this particular section? Doubt, hurt, anger, disbelief are all part of the picture currently - and probably longer. My hope is that we are able to recognize and accept doubt, fear, anger and disbelief as part of the picture and to be the hand at the elbow to help each and every one of us through.

God’s peace.

Glenda

¹ Scalzi, John. When The Moon Hits Your Eye) Tor Publishing Group, ©2025

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)



Did You Know that FCC Vallejo is on social media? We have both a facebook and instagram page! Please give us a follow as this helps us to be more visible online and offline. Our facebook page can be found at **First Christian Church Vallejo**. Our instagram page can be found at **firstchristianchurch.vallejo**. We



are currently running a campaign called ***We Have Your Back!*** on both platforms to let all those in our community know that FCC Vallejo will stand with all humans through the uncertainty of our times. Social Media is one small way we can get the word out about our church and attract new people. - Shannon & Allison

Mark Your Calendar

June 2 - Elders Meeting - 6:30 pm in the Parlor (dinner provided).

June 7 - Set up for Pentecost Lunch. 6:30 pm.

June 8 - Pentecost Lunch - welcoming our new members!

June 12 - Admin Council, 5 pm on Zoom.

June 14 - Installation Service for Pastor Sara. 2:00 pm with reception to follow.

June 18 - Ministry Council Meeting - 5 pm on Zoom.

June 24 - PRC Meeting, 10:30 am at church.

June 25 - Coffee With The Pastor - 10 am - noon at Moschetti's Cafe.

June 28 - Yard Sale. 9 am - 2 pm. Set up at 8.

June 29 - Congregational Meeting, after worship to elect officers for the coming year.

The deadline for the next Living Word is June 25
