

The Living Word

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www.vallejochristian.org

www.facebook.com/fccvallejo

SOME NOTES FROM PASTOR SARA

Save the Date!

The Steenhouse Family invites you to help us celebrate **Abijah's High School Graduation!** Join us at the Steenhouse home on **June 21st at 2 pm**. More information to come soon!

Mental Health Sunday - May 18th

This year our church will participate in the tradition of Mental Health Sunday on the third Sunday of May. In worship we will focus on the theme "You are Not Alone" as we lift up how to be there for each other during times of struggle. After worship we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for a follow up conversation and (bring your own) brown bag lunch. Please plan to join us for this important day of support and connection.

Coffee with the Pastor

Would you like to join me for coffee and a chat? On **May 28th 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!

Earth Month Worship in May

As I write this it is April 22nd, Earth Day. Happy Earth Day! In 2025 our Easter Sunday celebration fell on what would typically be a Sunday we celebrate creation, so our worship planning team suggested that we celebrate Earth Month instead. For the Sundays in May (except May 18th/Mental Health Sunday) our worship will focus on different areas of creation, earth stewardship and earth justice. If you have a particular topic you'd like to touch on or hear about, let me know and I'll try to work it in. Send me your thoughts.

For as the earth bursts with spring wildflowers, and as a garden cascades with blossoms, So the Lord God brings righteousness into full bloom and puts praise on display before the nations.

~Isaiah 65:11 (MSG)

Every time I spend time in my garden I feel grateful. My hands get to touch the earth, I get to be a part of new life. I take in the wonder and variety of creation. I feel like a partner in making things beautiful and creating joy. I love to see the butterflies and the hummingbirds as they pass through. Even when it's hard work, it feels good.

Unfortunately, I have not spent enough time in my garden this year. The weeds that are easy to pull up in March when the ground is wet have grown waist high in some spots. Many of the blooms are obscured behind thick green growth. I'm a bit sad that I haven't been able to get out there as much as I would have liked so far, but I know it's not the end of the world (or my garden). The work will get done or it won't and the butterflies and hummingbirds will still come. I won't have the same demands on my time forever and next year doesn't have to be the same. It will be okay.

What's cool is that the flowers are blooming, anyway. They have what they need to grow and even when I can't give them as much care as I would like, there they are. This is especially true of our artichoke bush - every year we get more and more artichokes without hardly doing a thing! Amazing. Beauty and abundance can burst through even in times when ability or effort are stretched thin. Flourishing can still take place.

Isaiah spoke of this same commitment that God made to the Israelites in captivity: Just as seeds planted in the soil inevitably grow, so too will God's promises be fulfilled, bringing joy and fulfillment to God's people. Isaiah aimed to lift the people's spirits by reminding them that God had a plan for redemption and restoration. He prophesied about the One who would come to bring good news, comfort and liberation.

In the midst of it all that challenges us - overgrown gardens, stretched budgets, broken hearts or broken promises, an uncertain future - may we remember to trust in God. The risen Christ shows us again that God's promises of new life are still at work in the world. Joy and restoration have already been planted. They will bloom and we will delight in their bounty.

Blessings in Bloom,
Pastor Sara



FIGHT HUNGER IN VALLEJO

Saturday, May 3, 2025, 10:00 am start time
Behind the Ferry Building at
Mare Island Way

Please join us for a 3K walk along the beautiful Vallejo waterfront!

Registration starts at 9:30 am. Walk starts at 10:00 am.

For more information or to make a donation,
scan the QR Code or go to

events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/vallejoca



HUNGER
is not an issue of
CHARITY.
It is an issue of
JUSTICE.



-Jacques Diouf
Former Food and Agricultural
Organization Director-General

**75% of the funds are used
globally!**

*Church World Service (CWS) sponsors
CROP Hunger Walks nationwide. For
over 50 years, they have used funds to
provide food, medical care, disaster
relief, and self-help development for
people in need around the world.*

**25% of the walk donations will
be given to local
organizations!**

*Amador Street Hope Center
Vallejo Together*

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS!

Visit these restaurants and a portion of your meal ticket will be donated.

MOD Pizza - Vallejo - April 10, All Day

Panera Bread - Vallejo - April 17, 7 am to 9 pm.

The Habit Burger Grill - Vallejo - April 22, 4 pm to 9 pm

Find flyers and info at www.facebook.com/VallejoHungerWalk

NUMBERS, NUMBERS NUMBERS - Dave Mezzera

We know that Moses spent **40** days on Mt. Sinai before receiving the Ten Commandments. We know that Noah's Ark remained at sea for **40** days. We know that Moses led the Israelites for **40** years in the wilderness. We know that Jonah warned the citizens of Nineveh of their impending destruction in **40** days. We know that Jesus fasted for **40** days in the desert. We know that Lent spans a period of **40** days. But what does the number **40** have to do with Easter and the Easter season? See the answer elsewhere in the *Living Word*.

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MISSION ACTION UPDATES - Allison Mezzera

In honor of Earth Day, the April Mission Action donation will go to Climate Justice Alliance (CJA). CJA was formed in 2013 to unite frontline communities and organizations who work for climate justice. Their mission states:



“Our translocal organizing strategy and mobilizing capacity is building a Just Transition away from extractive systems of production, consumption and political oppression, and towards resilient, regenerative and equitable economies. We believe that the process of transition must place race, gender and class at the center of the solutions equation in order to make it a truly Just Transition.”

- 1) Inspire and organize bold action by communities on the frontlines of climate change to challenge the extractive economy that is harming people and ecosystems;
- 2) Build resilient, regenerative and equitable economies rooted in place-based webs of social and ecological relationships;
- 3) Expose false promises posed as ‘solutions’ to the climate crisis, so that precious resources are not allocated to programs that exacerbate social or economic inequality or cause further ecological disruption;
- 4) Confront governments and industry to act boldly on climate change.

I would encourage you to check out the history of CJA to know who they really are and to witness all the great work they have done! <https://climatejusticealliance.org/cja-history/>

May is Mental Health Awareness month and in honor of that, our Ministry Council has decided to donate the May Mission Action donation to NAMI Solano County. The National Alliance of Mental Illness (NAMI) Solano County is a grass roots, self help, support and advocacy non-profit organization dedicated to improving and helping families and individuals affected by mental illness.

(continues...)

MISSION ACTION UPDATES CONTINUED - Allison Mezzera

Their mission encompasses:

“Education - Our education programs provide the tools, awareness and coping skills needed to overcome the challenges faced by people and families affected by mental illness.”

“Support - We offer support groups facilitated by trained family members and individuals who have firsthand experience coping with mental illness.”

“Outreach - We strive to end discrimination and stigma for all those persons affected by mental illness through broader education and collaboration with the whole community.”

“Advocacy - We advocate for the rights of those living with mental illness and their families on the local, state and national levels, striving to raise awareness of mental health issues and improve access to quality care.”



You can get more information on NAMI and mental health resources here.

<https://namisolano.org/resources/>

FYI - Emergency Services - 911, 988, & Mobile Crisis Unit

If you or someone you know is facing a mental health crisis, immediate assistance is available. **For emergency situations**, call 911 to reach local emergency services. **For specialized mental health support**, contact the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at 988, available 24/7 through call or text. **The Solano County Mobile Crisis Unit** can be reached directly at 707-806-0866 for support with mental health crises in the community 24/7.

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NUMBERS, NUMBERS, NUMBERS, ANSWER - Dave Mezzera

If you guessed that Pentecost was **40** days after Easter, you were close but not quite! Pentecost is actually **50** days after Easter, as we will see when June rolls around. So what is the significance of **40** during Eastertide? Jesus remained on the earth for **40** days following his Resurrection, appearing to the women, to disciples, and other believers. On the **40th** day after the Resurrection, Jesus took some of His disciples up to a mountain top and rose up through the clouds into the heavens, leaving the disciples behind and bewildered. There are three scriptural references of the Resurrection: Mark 16:19-20 - Luke 24:44-53 - Acts 1:1-14. Read especially the story from Acts of the Apostles before Ascension Thursday, this year on May 29th, the **40th** day of Eastertime.



Painting by Rembrandt, 1636, of the Resurrection ==>



Week of Compassion - P.O. Box 1986 - Indianapolis IN 46206

February 20, 2025

Dear Friends at First,

Thank you for being part of the mission of Week of Compassion: working with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world. Through the **Week of Compassion - Viona and Merrill Shuyler Endowment Fund**, you join us as we live into the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.

In 2024, extreme weather-related disasters and human-caused tragedies continued to consume our attention and demand our response. Alongside dedicated partners, Week of Compassion accompanies the most vulnerable people in domestic and global communities. The realities of prolonged global conflicts, global geopolitical volatility, and the combined impact of climate change and extreme poverty mean Week of Compassion's work is more important than ever.

The Christian Church Foundation is a faithful steward and partner, returning Week of Compassion Endowment income as fuel for the creative compassion of our partners both now and into the future. Alongside ecumenical partners, local congregations, and volunteer networks, Disciples through Week of Compassion are able to respond to wildfires in California and hurricanes in the Carolinas and Georgia; nurture students in Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Sierra Leone; and offer emergency care and shelter in the Middle East. Generosity of spirit and resources help make the gospel Good News real and tangible in the lives of people around the world.

As of December 31, 2024, the total market value of your endowment fund is: **\$6,027.78**. The distributions from your fund, combined with all other endowment funds that benefit Week of Compassion, returned more than **\$850,000** for ministry last year.

Events in the world can leave us feeling overwhelmed and helpless. YOUR faithfulness in establishing this Endowment fund benefitting Week of Compassion means that Disciples can – and will – continue to respond in crisis moments with steadiness, generosity, and hope. **Thank you** for being part of Week of Compassion. We are so very grateful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vy T. Nguyen".

Rev. Vy T. Nguyen
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Courtney Richards".

Rev. Courtney Richards
Communications & Development Manager

*As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),
Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world.*

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

May 3 - Vallejo Hunger Walk - 9:30 am registration at the Ferry Building.

May 4 - Elders Meeting - After Worship.

May 8 - Admin Council, 5 pm on Zoom.

May 15 - Ministry Council Meeting - 5 pm on Zoom.

May 18 - Mental Health Sunday. Bring a brown bag lunch for a post-worship discussion.

May 28 - Coffee With The Pastor - 10 am - noon at Moschetti's Cafe.

June 8 - Pentecost Luncheon - After worship. We will be welcoming our new members.

June 14 - Installation of Pastor Sara Steenhouse. 2 pm service with refreshments to follow.

The deadline for the next Living Word is May 28
