

The Living Word

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MEMBERS CLOTH - BETH GROSE

Those of you who were able to attend our annual New Members' Luncheon, this year held on Pentecost, heard the origin and travels of our Members Cloth. The photo was taken at Cane Ridge, Kentucky, the original church of our denomination, as the quilt traveled home from Vince and Carmen Mezzera's wedding. I'll be adding pieces for our four newest members this summer, in time to display our growing quilt when we celebrate our 126th birthday. If there are any members who have not yet contributed a piece of fabric to our quilt, now is the time! Please get your piece to me by mid-August; if I'm not at church you can put it in the Worship slot by the offices. If you've taken a close look at the cloth, you know it can be any form of fabric, something meaningful to you or representing you in some way. I value the trust you place in me as the caretaker of this emblem of our church, and look forward to these and many future additions.



You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God. This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

~2 Corinthians 9:11-12

Thank you, Beloveds, for your generous outpouring of love, joy, and excitement as we celebrated our installation last month. It was so beautiful! I was very humbled and moved by the presence of Spirit and so many people I dearly love. I say “our” installation because we did it together! It was the culmination of a long process that we all undertook, and a celebration of finding the right match between congregation and pastor. Congratulations, and thank you. Thanks be to God!

Now that we're ‘official’ it's time to roll up our sleeves and get to work together! Actually, I think we've been doing great work all along, but it takes on new meaning as we pass through our initial stage into what I hope is a long and lasting relationship as pastor and congregants.

To do this work well I would like to spend time with each member, family, or church ‘regular’ to deepen our connection and hear about what's important to you. I envision these meet-ups as valuable conversations that will help me serve you better and give me insight into what you love most about our church. The six interview questions that will guide our 90-minute conversations are below. I hope you'll ask me questions too!

1. What led you to First Christian Church of Vallejo?
2. What are important things that your Pastor should know about you? (Hobbies, history, career, family, etc.)
3. Do you have any current concerns? How can I best care or pray for you?
4. What do you most appreciate about FCCV?
5. What are some areas you'd like to see shift or change at FCCV?
6. If FCC could become your dream congregation, what would it look like? Who would be there? What ministries would we engage in?

I imagine it will take some time to get through the ‘roster’ but it's worth it to me to hear your wisdom and learn from your experience. I will reach out in the coming weeks with an opportunity to schedule these Pastor Meet-Ups and I hope you'll take me up on the invitation!

With Gratitude,
Pastor Sara

NOTES FROM PASTOR SARA

Coffee with the Pastor

Would you like to join me for coffee and a chat? On **Thursday, July 24th from 1-3 pm** you can find me at **Benicia Coffee Company on Columbus Parkway**. 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!

Beyond Series - Sermons and Bible Study

Our Beyond Series of preaching and Bible Study continues through July. The Bible Study is hosted on Zoom and is a 1 hour study of the passage from the previous Sunday. A link is sent out each week. Feel free to drop in for one session or join them all. (Bible Study will not meet Wednesday, July 23.) In this series we are 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 continue to be inspired by imagining beyond what we can see, what we can understand, into the awe and wonder of God's presence.

Pastor on Vacation

I will be working remotely from Washington State the week of July 7-13. This means I'll attempt my first sermon through Zoom on the 13th! The following week July 14-20 I will be on vacation. I can be reached by email and mobile phone while working remotely. Any pastoral care needs that arise during vacation time can be directed toward the elders and I will respond when I return.

Guest Preacher

On July 20th we will host guest preacher Charlotte Thompson. Charlotte is the Regional Youth Director for CCNC-N and attends First Christian Church of Selma where she works with the youth group. She has volunteered for youth events and camps for many years and is enthusiastic about visiting churches to engage people in conversation about fostering multi-generational communities. She and Carl will work together to create an "After Camp Sunday" experience in worship.

National Night Out

Come out and enjoy our National Night Out neighborhood block party on **Tuesday, August 5th from 6 to 8 pm**. We'll meet on the front lawn of FCCV for barbecue, music, and games. It's a great opportunity to meet our neighbors and strengthen community relationships. Join us!

NOTES FROM PASTOR SARA - CONTINUED

IHART Training

Friday evening, **July 25th** FCCV will host Rayvon Williamson, program director of the IHART program. The Integrated Health & Resource Team (IHART) is a mobile community resource team serving the city of Vallejo. The team provides services to those experiencing a mental and behavioral health crisis. Mr. Williamson will make a presentation about the ways IHART serves our community and answer questions about how we can best make use of the service. This event is open to the community and we hope people from other congregations and across Vallejo will join us. Save the date and stay tuned for details!

Won't You Be My Neighbor?

In August we can look forward to a joyful and tender look at the spirituality of Fred Rogers in our sermon series "Won't You Be My Neighbor?." Each week we'll use scripture and storytelling to lift up one of the many heartfelt and valuable teachings of Mr. Rogers. His warmth and wisdom are timeless and beloved by people of all ages.

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MISSION ACTION GIFT - Allison Mezzera

The July Mission Action donation will be given to The Felton Institute. If you are not familiar, they are a Bay Area organization who focus on social services, mental health care, and research.

Their mission is "Rooted in equity, Felton Institute transforms quality of life and promotes social justice to accelerate community led change", and their vision is to "Drive positive and sustainable community led change where all have equitable access to innovative, high-quality, evidence-informed services."

The Felton Institute is also running the IHART Mobile Crisis Service in Vallejo. IHART responds to and delivers effective services addressing mental health, substance abuse, and homelessness concerns within our community.

Program Components of IHART include:

- Operating a mobile community resource team available 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- Providing system navigation.
- Facilitating peer and family support groups.
- Training, informing, and assisting clients and their family members in developing the skills needed to care for and advocate effectively on behalf of those seeking services.

If you want more information on IHART or other programs The Felton Institute are implementing, visit them at <https://felton.org/>

HOW'S YOUR BIBLE KNOWLEDGE? - Dave Mezzera

No quiz this time; just some Bible facts and trivia:

† The first book ever printed on the Gutenberg "type mold" printing press was the Bible in 1454 CE. Gutenberg printed it in Latin and printed over 150 copies during the 1450s.

† The first hand-written translation of the Bible into English was by John Wycliffe in 1382.

† The Bible is still the best selling book in the world. There are Bible copies currently printed in over 750 languages (Shakespeare has been translated into 50 languages).

† The original texts of the books in the Bible were written in three languages: Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, and were written over a period of 1,500 years from around 1450 BCE (the time of Moses) to about 100 CE (following the life of Jesus).

† Psalms is the longest book in the Bible (150 Chapters).

† 2 John is the shortest book in the Bible (1 Chapter with 13 Verses).

† 3 John is close behind with 1 Chapter and 15 verses.

† The longest verse in the Bible is Esther 8:9 with 70 words.

† The shortest verse in the Bible is John 11:35 with 2 words ("Jesus wept.").

† If you want a memory device to remember how many books there are in the Old Testament, take the number of letters in OLD (3) and put that together with the number of letters in TESTAMENT (9) and you come out with the correct answer of 39!

† If you want a memory device to remember how many books are in the New Testament, take the number of letters in NEW (3) and multiply it by the number of letters in TESTAMENT (9) and you come out with the correct answer of 27!



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

July 2 - Beyond Bible Study, 7 pm on Zoom.

July 9 - Beyond Bible Study, 7 pm on Zoom.

July 10 - Admin Council, 5 pm on Zoom.

July 16 - Beyond Bible Study, 7 pm on Zoom.

July 20 - “After Camp Sunday” special worship service.

July 24 - Coffee With The Pastor, 1-3 pm at Benicia Coffee Company.

July 25 - IHART Training, 6:30 pm.

July 30 - Beyond Bible Study, 7 pm on Zoom.

August 5 - National Night Out, 6-8 pm.

The deadline for the next Living Word is July 23
