

The Living Word

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



www.vallejochristian.org

www.facebook.com/fccvallejo

“Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed!”

As I write this, we are two-thirds of the way through Lent and moving into Holy Week and Easter. We are moving from Winter to Spring and beginning to do the work needed to move from a church community with an intentional interim pastor to a church community preparing for its settled pastor. We have started the work of exploring ways to strengthen our connections up (with God), out (with others), and in (with ourselves) as the first part of our work in fulfilling the Greatest Commandment and moving into discussions about who we are, where we are heading, and how we want to get there as a church community. We are meeting Monday nights from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm for six weeks and will then culminate our transitional training with an in-person retreat at the church in late April or early May (TBD). All members and friends of our church family are welcome to join us for these discussions and help us as we chart the course for the future of FCC Vallejo.

April and May will also see us through the seasons of Easter and Pentecost and through the final stages of planning for our 125th Anniversary, which will be at the church in September, although we will have a series of events celebrating this momentous occasion! We invite all who have ever been a part of our church family to join us as we celebrate the past, present, and future of FCC Vallejo and the work we are doing in our community, our Region, and our world. We look forward to celebrating with you all throughout the year and beyond.

How can I best support you during this season? If you have pastoral care needs, please feel free to reach out to me. I am happy to pray with you or set up a time to meet with you to better understand how we can work with you so that all members of our faith community are thriving.

May the peace of Christ, which passes all understanding protect and comfort you and may God use you as salt and light to the world!

Pastor Nicki

LOOKING BACK... LIVING FORWARD - Jon Mezzera

First Christian Church, Vallejo has had its ups and downs. So far, Looking Back...Living Forward has definitely focused on the ups. For instance, we've looked at the founding of the church, moving into our first building, the history of the Global Holiday Faire, and important ecumenical efforts we've undertaken over the years. However, we can't just pretend that the history of our church is all rainbows and butterflies. There have been storms along the way.

A major storm started brewing in 1918 during the pastorate of William B. Phillips. Phillips' time as pastor started off well with him overseeing much needed improvements to the fairly new church building. However, trouble started within his first year as pastor, as his headstrong push to make changes was met with resistance from some members of the church board. There were disagreements about what to do about the shrinking attendance which started in August 1918. Phillips made attempts to load the board with members who agreed with him about the correct course of action to increase membership at that time which led to further conflict.

Things grew more heated the following summer with disagreements over the pastor's compensation. A board meeting ended abruptly when the president wasn't happy with the direction of the meeting and called it into adjournment. By the fall, there were members of the church who were pushing Phillips to resign. Unfortunately, there isn't a record of more specific problems which led to this issue. But, charges were brought up against Phillips to the State Missionary Board dealing with conduct unbecoming a minister. The church was actually split between those who supported Phillips and those who wanted him gone. Eventually, the old, anti-Phillips board was ousted in favor of a pro-Phillips one. The old board continued to meet, refusing to recognize the legal authority of the new one.

Eventually, the original board regained control and held a meeting to oust Phillips which passed unanimously (due to his supporters refusing to attend the meeting). A month later, another meeting was held in which twelve members were voted in violation of the church's bylaws and were ousted from their membership. Phillips refused to leave the church building, and his splinter group held that they were legally in charge of the church. Phillips and seven others were even arrested for trespassing. Phillips ultimately started holding services of his own in one of the social halls which was used by FCCV before the first building opened. The problems continued for several months. There is far too much to the story to include, so I encourage you to read the whole story in chapter 9 of "To Live, Strive, and Survive."

I often get discouraged at the size of our church. I was sad when Christy resigned, and I knew it would be a lot of work to get ready to find a new pastor. I get frustrated at times with certain problems that we face today. I'm guessing that most of you feel the same from time to time. But, this church has been through so much over the years. I wanted to include a story like this in this monthly article to remind us that we've been through the storm before. We got through it then, and we will get through it again. The rainbows and butterflies will be back next month!

APRIL MONTHLY MISSION - SUSTAINABLE SOLANO - Allison Mezzera

April 20th is Earth Day, and to celebrate, the Ministry Council wanted to give our April Mission Action donation to a non-profit whose focus is local and sustainable environmental action. Sustainable Solano is the perfect recipient for this donation!

Our history with Sustainable Solano began in 2019 when our church decided to renovate the Johnson Garden. We needed help. I reached out to Sustainable Solano who was helping neighborhoods in Solano County with their community gardens. With lots of conversations and planning, they decided to perform the renovations for us! A partnership that should have only lasted 1 year, has now spread out to nearly 4 years! They help us with annual planting, use our garden for demonstrations, and are there to assist and answer questions for all our church gardeners! (Special thanks to Carl Cordes, Ted & Glenda Goode, Cheryl Patterson, and others!)

FCC Vallejo has been a Green Chalice organization since 2016. What does that mean? This means we are recognized by the Disciples Home Missions as a congregation of good stewards of God's creation. Their mission "is to connect Christian faith, spiritual practice and creation consciousness in order to demonstrate the fullness of God's shalom."

Having the garden and working with Sustainable Solano is one of the big ways we demonstrate our fullness of God's shalom. If you would like to sign up for the Sustainable Solano Newsletter or to make a separate donation, go to sustainablesolano.org

.....
DO YOU HAIKU? - Suzanne Awalt

(125th Anniversary Edition)

Stepping Out

Do you walk for CROP?
Is Relay for Life your thing?
We step out as ONE.

Try your hand at Haiku. Five-seven-five syllable format.

Have some fun with it. Or send me an FCCV anniversary subject and I'll work on it.

LITTLE PEACE PANTRY - Allison Mezzera

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

Most needed items right now!

Non-perishable Food Needs

- Canned chicken, tuna, soup, etc (pull tab lids only)
- MRE's
- Juice boxes
- Bottles of water
- Snack packs of crackers, etc.
- Take home silverware sets

Basic Hygiene Needs (Travel Sizes)

- Period products & Incontinence pads
- Combs/Brushes
- Deodorant
- Shaving cream & disposable razors
- Floss
- Shampoo, Conditioner

CREATURES & CRITTERS - David Mezzera

How's your bible memory? Which of these animals is/are not mentioned in the Bible? Answer elsewhere in Living Word.

- | | | | | |
|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 1. Bee | 2. Camel | 3. Cat | 4. Chameleon | 5. Cow |
| 6. Dog | 7. Donkey | 8. Dove | 9. Gnat | 10. Goat |
| 11. Locust | 12. Mouse | 13. Quail | 14. Raven | 15. Sheep |
| 16. Snail | 17. Stork | 8. Viper | 19. Wolf | 20. Worm |

CREATURES & CRITTERS - Answers

Look 'em up to verify where they are!
[NRSV references given]

1. Bee = Judges 14:8
2. Camel = Matthew 3:4
3. Cat = Nope - only one not in there!
4. Chameleon = Leviticus 11:30
5. Cow = Isaiah 11:7
6. Dog = Revelation 22:15
7. Donkey = John 12:14
8. Dove = Genesis 8:8
9. Gnat = Matthew 23:24
10. Goat = Matthew 25:33
11. Locust = Leviticus 11:22
12. Mouse = Leviticus 11:29
13. Quail = Exodus 16:13
14. Raven = Genesis 8:7
15. Sheep = Matthew 19:24
16. Snail = Palms 58:8
17. Stork = Leviticus 11:19
18. Viper = Isaiah 30:6
19. Wolf = Matthew 7:15
20. Worm = Jonah 4:7



FIGHT HUNGER IN VALLEJO

Saturday, May 4, 2024, 10:00 am start time
Behind the Ferry Building at
Mare Island Way, in Vallejo

Please join us for a 3K scenic 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



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

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

-Jacques Diouf
 Former Food and Agricultural Organization Director-General

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS!

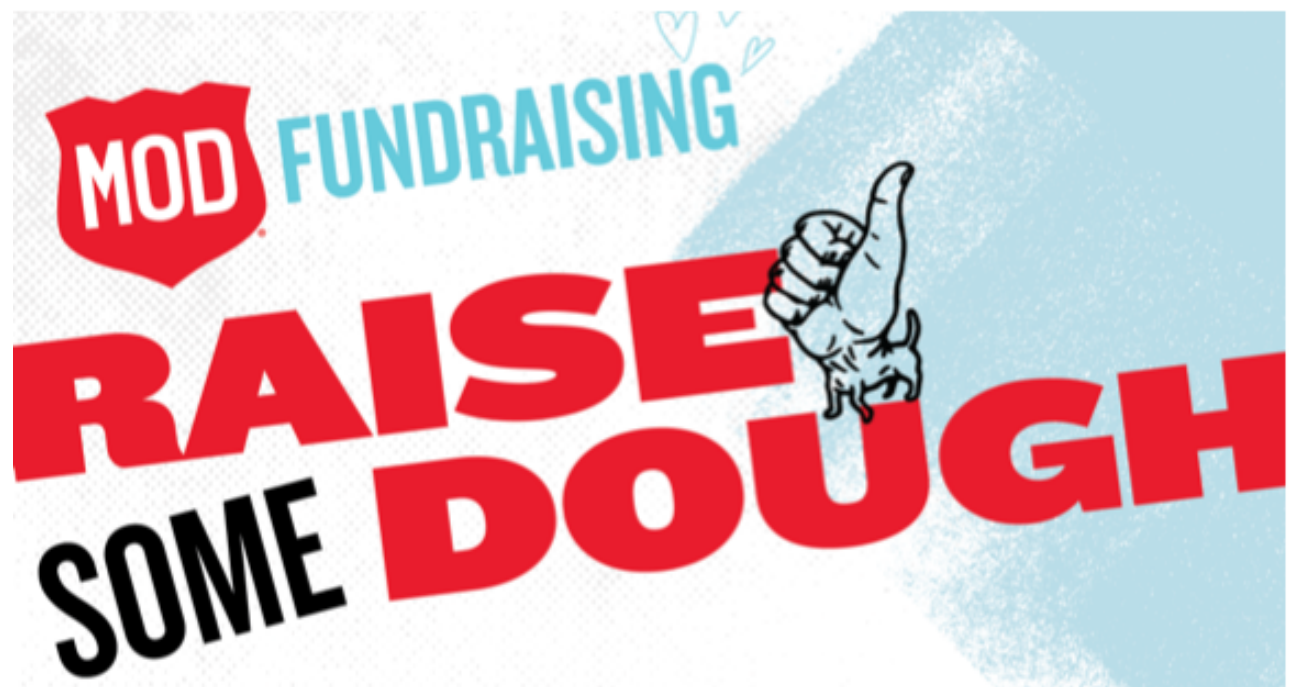
Visit these restaurants on the days noted and a portion of your meal ticket will be donated.

MOD Pizza - Vallejo - April 10, 10:30 am to 10:00 pm.

Panera Bread - Vallejo - April 16, 6 am to 9 pm.

The Habit Burger Grill - Vallejo - April 23-24, 3 pm to 8 pm

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



JOIN MOD IN SUPPORTING

ORGANIZATION NAME: HUNGER WALK OF VALLEJO

FUNDRAISER DATE: APRIL 10, 2024

Bring in this flyer, or order online through the MOD app or website using the provided coupon and MOD will donate 20% of your bill to support this great work!

ADDRESS: 163 PLAZA DR
VALLEJO, CA 94591

FUNDRAISER CODE: MODGIVES20



Offer valid only on the date(s) and at the MOD location identified on this flyer. Offer valid for dine-in, take out, or delivery when ordered through the MOD app or website only. For online or in-app orders, please use the code MODGIVES20. For delivery, customer must live within delivery boundary. Only non-profit organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in the MOD fundraising program. MOD will donate 20% of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gift cards and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer void if the flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant. For more information about fundraising, visit <https://modpizza.com/fundraisers/>

Panera
FUNDRAISING

Help support us!

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE Hunger Walk of Vallejo

**20%
OF SALES
WILL BE
DONATED**

**April 16, 2024
7:00 am to 9:00 pm PDT
169 Plaza Dr, Vallejo, CA**

Use code FUND4U at online checkout, in the Panera App, or at the kiosk in-cafe.*

Bring this flyer or show a digital copy to your cashier when ordering at the cafe or enter the promo code FUND4U at checkout on Panerabread.com or the Panera App to ensure your organization gets a portion of the proceeds.** Learn more at fundraising.panerabread.com

*Gift card and catering order placed on Panerabread.com, and delivery orders placed through third-party sites are excluded and will not count towards the event. Other restrictions apply. For complete details, visit: <http://fundraising.panerabread.com/terms-conditions/>. **Services vary by café.

©2023 Panera Bread. All Rights Reserved.



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

April 7 - 125th Anniversary Committee meeting after worship. On Zoom.

April 8, 15, 29 - Transitional Training. 6:00 pm on Zoom.

April 10 - MOD Pizza Hunger Walk Fundraiser.

April 12 - Admin Council meeting, 5:00 pm on Zoom.

April 16 - Panera Hunger Walk Fundraiser.

April 17 - Ministry Council meeting, 5:00 pm on Zoom.

April 19/20 - Annual Gathering, FCC Concord.

April 27 - In Person Transitional Training (tentative - time TBA).

May 4 - Vallejo Hunger Walk, 10 am at the Ferry Building.

The deadline for the next Living Word is April 24
