

# The Living Word

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



[www.vallejochristian.org](http://www.vallejochristian.org)  
[www.facebook.com/FCCVallejo](https://www.facebook.com/FCCVallejo)

## JUNE IS SUCH A BUSY MONTH

Well, if it's not enough that most graduations take place in June and it's very popular for weddings, just look at this list of other things to celebrate this month. I'm sure there will be something here for everyone!

### JUNE NATIONAL MONTHS:

National Give a Bunch of Balloons Month

National DJ Month

African-American Music Appreciation Month

National Zoo and Aquarium Month

LGBTQIA Pride Month

Men's Health Month

National Accordion Awareness Month

National Adopt a Cat Month (*my personal favorite*)

National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month

National Candy Month (*should vegetables and candy even be in the same month?*)

+National Camping Month

National Caribbean American Month

National Country Cooking Month

National Dairy Month

National Great Outdoors Month

National Headache and Migraine Awareness Month

National Homeownership Month

National Iced Tea Month

National Papaya Month

National Pollinators Month

National PTSD Awareness Month

National Safety Month

National Soul Food Month

Rose Month

Turkey Lovers Month



Summer's coming, pick one (or more) and celebrate!

## *Living Stones*

*Consider the liles of the field,  
the blue banks of camas opening  
into acres of sky along the road.  
Would the longing to lie down  
and be washed by that beauty  
abate if you knew their usefulness,  
how the natives ground their bulbs  
for flour, how the settlers' hogs  
uprooted them, grunting in gleeful  
oblivion as the flowers fell?  
And you—what of your rushed  
and useful life? Imagine setting it all down—  
papers, plans, appointments, everything—  
leaving only a note: "Gone  
to the fields to be lovely. Be back  
when I'm through with blooming."  
Even now, unneeded and uneaten,  
the camas lilies gaze out above the grass / from their tender blue eyes.  
Even in sleep your life will shine.  
Make no mistake. Of course / your work will always matter.  
Yet Solomon in all his glory / was not arrayed like one of these.  
—"Camas Lillies" by Lynn Ungar*



When I first read this poem by Lynn Ungar, it took my breath away. What would it truly mean to set it all down—all of it—and go to the fields to be lovely? What would it mean to believe that even while I'm sleeping, my life shines? If you are anything like me, you know the pressures of being productive, checking things off a to-do list, trying to remember and accomplish the things on your calendar. Sometimes it feels like a whirlwind, and at the end of the day, I am completely spent and exhausted even with many things unfinished. And this year of COVID lockdown has only made it harder. Where has my calling to be lovely gone? Where did I forget it along the way? Surely, there is more blooming for me to do. Surely, there is more blooming for each one of us to do. Surely, there is more blooming for us to do together as God's church. So, I pray that we—that you and I and all of us together—don't get lost in the busyness of it all. The decisions. The protocols. The procedures. The schedules. The daily operations. I pray that we become more than useful—that we become more than productive—that we become more than industrious and accomplished. The work, of course, will always matter. But so will the beauty. So will the loveliness. So will the blooming. So now, while there is still so much to do, set it down. Even for a few moments. And let yourself breathe and be lovely.

See you in (zoom) church,  
Christy

**ZOOM WORSHIP**

Even as we experiment with in-person and hybrid worship opportunities, we will continue to worship together online using Zoom. Bible Study begins at 9:30. Worship begins at 10:30. Please join us for any or all of this time together by clicking the link below and joining us through video. Or alternatively, you can 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 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.

**THE SEASON OF PENTECOST**

The liturgical season of Pentecost lasts about 6 months (from Pentecost Sunday—on May 23 this year—until the season of Advent begins—on November 28 this year). For this Pentecost season, we will spend significant time talking about the idea of Covenant—with God, in our world, in our church, and in our personal lives. Please join us for worship and conversation as we move through these next months together. It promises to be rich and meaningful.

**EASTER GIFTS KEEP ON GIVING**

Jeanne and I recently delivered our second "Easter Bags" delivery to the Sparrow Project. We dropped off a box of Colgate Travel Toothpaste (24 count), 100 washcloths, 400 Eco Travel size soap bars, and 2 Tide Pods Laundry Detergent Soap (96 count each). All were received with much thanks and appreciation. We also kept one box of toothpaste for our needs cabinet to go with the toothbrushes we have on hand. Thank you again, for supporting this important project.

And, we still have money to contribute to the homeless meals program that Amanda and Becky are planning to start at FCCV. The need is great not only in our community but everywhere. And the hope is to help whenever and however possible. Hope comes through faith, and our faith tells us that people care about others and help as they can. Thanks be to God for our faith and the hope that comes from that faith and for our prayers that sustain both.

As always,  
Helen

**GREEN CHALICE: STEWARDSHIP OF OUR RESOURCES**

Stewardship of the earth comes in many forms. There is recycling materials we use. How do we keep our water clean and the air fresh? How do we use fewer resources to heat and cool our homes? How do we best manage what God has given to us? But like so many things, it comes down to economics. A hundred years ago, John Muir led the environmental movement. In the 1970's Jerry Brown set California to lead the way for energy efficiency, and created much of the structure to reduce our per capita energy usage. We are 47<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states. But the backbone of how we got here is under threat by AB1139 *right now*. It attacks the fundamentals of how Solar Electricity (PV) is financed and ultimately who owns it. This bill attacks leasing, Net Metering and ownership of solar electric systems. Leasing allows private money to be used to install PV on low income homes, non-profits, businesses, or locations which simply don't have the resources to outright purchase a solar PV system, requiring nothing more from the property owners except the use of their roof. There is a bonus to the property owner of a discount on their utility bill.

A concise definition of Net Metering is when Solar electricity is created during the day and not used on location, that power is banked in the utility grid and used someplace else in California, with the PV producer receiving a credit (spinning the electric meter backwards). I talked to a PV installer-owner last week. He says that the changes to Net Metering (added fees and shorter contracts requiring the utility company to accept net metered electricity), would change the payback period from 6-7 years to 12-14 years. The money represented by the increased payback period would be shifted from PV producers to the Electric Utility Companies.

The third main proposal in AB1139 is converting all PV private investments on private property to public works.

Should this law pass, the Solar Electric Industry would be decimated resulting in job loss of up to 65,000 people, while the Electric Utilities would make the profits.

So, in an effort to decarbonize, save jobs, reduce our carbon footprint, please take a moment to contact your assembly person to vote NO on AB1139. For more information, please listen to the videos (links on following page).

This is part of the hard work of managing our earth. God willing: Empowering those who help, and stopping those who will diminish.

John Grose



# Save the Solar Electric Industry

Net Metering is about to be eliminated by AB1139  
Watch the Video, Call your Assemblyman



**ACTION  
ALERT**

## AB 1139 Heads to Floor Vote Take Action Today

AB 1139, the Utility Profit Grab bill to kill rooftop solar, heads to an Assembly Floor vote expected this coming Thursday. If you haven't called your local assembly member already, please do that right now. [Click here to take action.](#)

Please send this action to every colleague and client you know. We need to flood the assembly with thousands of phone calls. Phone calls work! So, [just do it now.](#) It takes all of 2-3 minutes.

[Call your Assemblymember Now... Watch the Video](#)

## Want to do more?

[Click here for a list of things you can do this week to help us fight against the utility attack on rooftop solar.](#)

Many thanks to all the businesses who participating in last week's  
No on AB 1139 rally at the State Capitol.

Our goal was to shine a bright spotlight on this bill, educate the legislature about how controversial it is, and blow the whistle on this sneaky utility profit grab. It worked. We attracted four TV cameras and made the nightly news while raising awareness inside the Capitol, still under lockdown from Covid-19.

Solar Rights Alliance and other coalition allies also rallied on the north steps of the Capitol on Wednesday with speakers from environmental justice organizations, public schools, local elected officials, and renters pointing out how bad AB 1139 will be for consumers, schools, affordable housing, and local governments. [Watch the recorded press conference here.](#)

Today, we need to build upon this momentum and fight AB 1139 in the state Assembly. [Please call your Assemblymember today!](#)

**MISSION ACTION GIFT**

Our May Mission Action Gift will be going to Week of Compassion, designated for India COVID relief. From Week of Compassion's website May 13:

“Through our partners, Week of Compassion is responding to the urgent situation in India, as well as in other parts of the world where COVID-19 rates are escalating. In many countries, new strains of the virus are causing widespread economic hardship, compounding illness and loss of life.

Joseph Sahayam, from our partner CASA in India, reflects, “It’s time to unite and focus on immediate needs. The situation in India could be a warning for the rest of the world, but also lead the way to more global solidarity.”

CURRENT SITUATION: India’s total number of COVID-19 cases had dramatically risen to over 24 million as of late April; with more than 400,000 daily cases for the past seven days, with no signs of slowing down. These have been the highest numbers of reported cases and deaths since the pandemic started, and medical experts believe that the numbers are even higher, with many cases from rural areas going unreported.”

Please consider adding your own support to the effort to fight COVID in India, donations can be made by:

- Text **WoC** to **41444**
- Online at [weekofcompassion.org](http://weekofcompassion.org)
- Mail check to:

P.O. Box 1986

Indianapolis, IN 46206

***Designate gifts for COVID-19 relief***

**DON'T FORGET:**

To help earn money for the church beyond your generous donations:

- ✓ Use [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) (instead of Google or Bing) for your internet searches.
- ✓ Start at [www.goodshop.com](http://www.goodshop.com) when shopping online.
- ✓ Sign up at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) for when you patronize local stores and restaurants.
- ✓ Take your recycling to Valcore ([www.valcorerecycling.org](http://www.valcorerecycling.org)) and ask that the money go to the church.
- ✓ Use [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). The first time you use it, you will be asked to select a charity to support. Pick our church, and don't forget to bookmark the page!

## Mark Your Calendar

Saturday, June 5	Cross Chat, 9:30 a.m. in the Peace Garden
Wednesday, June 9	Administrative Council, 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, June 13	Elders' Meeting following Worship
Wednesday, June 16	Ministry Council, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, June 27	Congregational Meeting, following worship

*When we love, we always strive to become better than we are. When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better too.*

*Paulo Coelho*