

# 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)

## *Middle Ager's Art Night*

Apparently our children's Sunday School, FLURCH (Fun Learning chURCH), is not the only group who knows how to have fun together. If you are a "Middle Ager", you may consider joining the group on their next adventure – looks like Art Night was a huge success!



## *Living Stones*

*So many thought Monet / was making it up, / imagining wildly  
 what things might be / if God held them closer.  
 But what he did / was much braver.  
 Like a human microscope / he kept looking and looking  
 as warmth left the trees / as waves remade the sea  
 as loss slowed into peace / undoing hard men.  
 He watched / strange flowers open / where only silence had been.  
 He focused so far in / that everything shimmered.  
 He proved by the strength / of his attention that  
 nothing can keep / light out.  
 It's a small leap / to say that love / works this way—  
 a light that lives in the bones, / just waiting to be seen.  
 So why not / prop your heart / out in the open  
 like the easel that it is / and dab its blood / on everything.  
 —“Stacks of Wheat” by Mark Nepo*

Too often, I think, we make the season of Lent punitive. It's as if we want to punish ourselves for being human and fallible, for making mistakes, and even for enjoying ourselves. But this is not what Lent is truly about. The purpose of Lent is to help us dig into our deepest spiritual needs—to encourage soul-searching and vision-clearing—and to expose our hearts in order to prepare our whole selves for the resurrected, ongoing presence of Christ in our lives and world.

Now, this soul-searching heart-exposure might seem like a welcome and wonderful experience for those who long to be known, but it can also feel uncomfortable, disconcerting, even painful. And yet—no matter what—no matter how open and exposed we become—and no matter how we feel about it—we are held in the Heart of God who knows every inch of the wilderness within us and without, and who never fails to offer sustenance for the paths that lie before us. Even more than Monet, who Mark Nepo talks about in his poem above, our God focuses so far in, that everything within us shimmers. And our God wants us to know and believe that, indeed, nothing can keep light out. For 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 can separate us from the love of God.

And so, for the next 40 days of Lent, I invite you to consider the light you see now—and the light you long to see. The light that lives in your bones—and the light that has the capacity to open your heart in a new way. For it is true: nothing can keep light out.

See you in church,  
Christy

**WOMEN'S SPRING RENEWAL!**

March 14, 2020 8:00 am to 4:00 pm at Woodland Christian Church

Registration is only \$25 and includes lunch!

Register Online at: [Spring Renewal 2020](#)

[Registration](#)



See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19 (NRSV)

Our theme for this year's Spring Renewal includes that same passion!

*"Affecting Change: Personally, Locally, Nationally and Globally"*



**Our keynote speaker is Rev. Sophia Jackson**, Associate Minister First Christian Church of Alameda and leader of our Women of Spirit Action (WOSA)

What does it mean to affect change amidst the injustice of our day from a biblical perspective? What are the strategies which can be deployed to address the injustice? How do we take care of ourselves as we affect change? There will be a Bible study led by LaDonna Harris

**Workshops include:****Woman to Woman Worldwide Trip to Morocco - 2019** by Anna Feliciano

This journey was about the migration of people throughout Africa trying to get to Europe via Morocco. This workshop will show the journey I took as part of this delegation through photos and word. Learn what the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, through Global Ministries, is doing to help migrants that are living in Morocco. I will recount the stories of some of the people we talked to and what my impression is.

Anna Feliciano is a member of the Geyserville Christian Church, and secretary of the Women's Ministry Council CCNC-N.

**Finding Love in Rwanda** by Renae Earl

Come take a walk with me and discover Rwanda, meet the beautiful people who showed me what love looks like for them. Mark 12:28-31 takes us through the story of "love thy neighbor", just like the people of Rwanda took me through the real life version. Let's explore how we practice "loving your neighbor" herein the USA, to how my new friends love each other in Rwanda.

**Self-Care for Women** by Dr. Katrina Marsh

Dr. Katrina is a counselor who deems herself to be a psychological generalist who comes from a Psycho/Spiritual perspective. She has over thirteen years of experience, working with a diversified client population throughout the United States. She works with individuals, couples, and families using an integrative, holistic approach.

*(cont'd)*

**Women's Voting Power** by League of Women Voters

"I believe women are a strong political force and the League has been supporting that for close to 100 years." ~Ruth Gresser, small business owner

Voting is a sacred right. For nearly 100 years, we have fought to protect the rights of eligible voters and expand access for those who've been left out of our democratic process. Our volunteers spearhead efforts to enact common-sense voting reforms and we are the first to fight back when voters' rights are threatened. We protect millions of voters every year through aggressive advocacy and education efforts and we have been at the forefront of major voting rights court cases over the last decade.

**CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY FOUNDERS DAY**

Saturday, March 14

The Office of Church Relations is very pleased to bring the Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II to teach and preach on Saturday, March 14, 2020.

Dr. Barber has been a key human rights leader in North Carolina, building a coalition protesting blatant gerrymandering and voter suppression and the state's radical cuts in funding for public schools and health care for the poor. His Moral Mondays protests have become a model for other states. He entered the national consciousness when he was scheduled to give the invocation on the last night of the Democratic National Convention in 2016 but instead gave a stirring ten minute speech that got the gathering to its feet to "revive the heart of our democracy." He is reviving Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign and is now touring the nation building coalitions of those who care about issues of poverty, health care, systemic racism, climate change, and white nationalism to come together to do critical analysis, reflection and strategizing on these vital issues. He is calling the nation to join him in a Poor People's March on Washington on June 20, 2020.



Founders Day is an annual event sponsored by the Office of Church Relations, connecting students, faculty and community members with an outstanding scholar in the area of religion and a renewal and reunion event for Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ people.

Want to know more about William Barber? Check out his website:

<https://www.breachrepairers.org/> There you can learn more about his work to revive Martin Luther King, Jr's Poor People's Campaign and create local and state networks to work on issues of injustice.

Registration closes on March 12. A full schedule and registration is found online at [www.chapman.edu/founders-day](http://www.chapman.edu/founders-day). If you cannot register online, please call the Office of Church Relations at 714-997-6760 for assistance. And we are serious—do not let the cost of registration keep you away. If you need a scholarship call or email ([churchrelations@chapman.edu](mailto:churchrelations@chapman.edu)) and ask for it.

**LENT 2020**

Our theme for Lent 2020 is Nothing can keep light out . . . “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. . . .” We will connect this theme with the stories of Nicodemus, the Woman at the Well, the Man Born Blind, Lazarus, and the events leading up to Jesus’ death and resurrection.

I hope you will make plans to join us for worship each Sunday during Lent, as well as our special Maundy Thursday Service on April 9, and our Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt on April 12.

**CHRISTY’S SABBATICAL MAY 16 – AUGUST 16**

Christy will go on sabbatical from May 16 through August 16, 2020. During that time, **Bill and Mary Jacobs** will be our Sabbatical Minister “Trail Guides.” Their schedule and details are being worked out, and the Pastoral Relations Committee will keep you apprised as these plans develop. Also, they will be with us at church on *Saturday, March 21, from 11:00-3:00, for a Worship Planning Retreat*. This will give anyone who would like to come a chance to meet them and to help structure their time with the congregation.

Christy’s last Sunday before she leaves on Sabbatical is May 10. On that Sunday, we will have a Sending-Off Ritual and Catered Lunch. Please make plans to be there! Her Sabbatical is being funded by the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program, which seeks to strengthen Christian congregations by providing opportunities for pastors to step away from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, for discovering what will make the pastor’s heart sing. This is also a time for congregations to invite and experience renewal! If you would like more information about the Lilly Renewal Grant and/or Christy’s sabbatical plans, focusing on “*Labyrinth Walking: Integrative Journeys for Renewal*,” please let Christy know.

**SEEKING HOST HOMES FOR OUR SABBATICAL MINISTERS**

The Revs. Bill and Mary Jacobs have agreed to serve as shepherds and “trail guides” for our congregation during the period of Pastor Christy’s sabbatical, May 17-Aug 16, 2020. They will need housing in the local area for some of the days and nights during this period. Currently, they have housing commitments through June 22. The Jacobs will not be in our area continuously during the period, but will need places to use as a “base” for the days when they are, and for storing personal clothing, etc. during the times they leave to visit friends or periodically return to their home in Southern California. House-sitting could be an option, if your circumstances allow for this.

I am coordinating the housing roster; please let me know if you might be able to help. Contact me for questions or to put in a “reservation” to host our noble guests.

Thank you all.

Suzanne Awalt

[abicat@vfr.net](mailto:abicat@vfr.net)

707 747-5342

**WORSHIP PLANNING RETREAT – MARCH 21 – WITH THE JACOBS**

On Saturday, March 21, from 11:00-3:00, we will have our next Worship Planning Retreat with our Sabbatical Minister “Trail Guides,” Bill and Mary Jacobs. This will be an opportunity for you to meet the Jacobs and to help envision and chart a course for our worship services during the Sabbatical time (May 16-Aug. 16). Everyone is welcome! So, bring yourselves, your ideas, a lunch, and snacks to share.

**CAMP SEASON IS RIGHT AROOUND THE CORNER!**

Camp season is just around the corner. It will be summer before you know it and again this year it would be great if we can have some kids and adults attend the Regional Summer Camp program. All camps take place at the Community of the Great Commission, (CGC as we warmly call it.) There are many ways a person can get involved. There is counseling, directing, being a camper or working at the camp, you could even work in the kitchen during the summer months. Here are the dates for this year’s festivities:

- May 8-9 CGC work days (open to all ages)
- June 4-7 Adult Camp (Dan Paul will be keynoting)
- June 20-27 Junior Camp (grades 4, 5, & 6)
- June 21-27 Chi Rho Camp (grades 7, 8, & 9)
- June 27-29 Joy Camp (our own Sara Steenhouse will be directing)
- June 27-July 4 CYF Camp (grades 10, 11 & 12)



On-line registrations will be available soon. We again will be having a Camp Sunday to help with these costs.

Please let me know if you are interested in helping raise scholarship money, become a counselor, help at workday or just plain give to the cause. As a camp veteran, I know how deeply meaningful the experience can be; so we do not want campers to miss this opportunity because of costs.

Thanks, Carl

**MISSION ACTION: WE LEND A**



Our February Outreach gift was used to supplement our individual donations to DOC’s Week of Compassion, with a specific request that our gift be used to assist in the recovery from natural disasters in Australia (fires) and Puerto Rico (earthquake).

Our March gift, as approved by Ministry Council, will be sent to Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church of Vallejo for their Emmanuel Arms Community which hosts a variety of community events throughout the year to include a weekly food program and clothing giveaway, a bi-weekly fruits and vegetables giveaway, and after-school homework help and mentoring.

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!

**SUSTAINABLE SOLANO**

This past Sunday we had two people from Sustainable Solano present some ideas in the next steps of our partnership. Some of the topics covered included: Solano Gardens project, Permaculture, urban landscaping, using our site for educational workshops, planting drought resistant trees/plants, renewal/maintenance of our existing garden, and the possibility of new landscaping in the large grass areas in front of the Fellowship Hall.

All of us in attendance are very excited about working alongside them to make this happen. So what is next?

Solano Gardens is a county funded agency that is a section of Sustainable Solano. Our partnership with them could include: more food production, using roof water & swales for irrigation, they can provide seeds, trees, plants & volunteers for installation, research, advice, and consultation. We make the design with their assistance, then they help us make it happen. And get this... It is free!! What a deal!

A collaboration contract has been drawn up and will be considered by the Admin Council. If approved, this project could begin in the design process as early as April.

Should the Admin Council approve the contract, I do think that a committee should be formed to work directly with Sustainable Solano. If you are interested in this, please let me know!

Thank you,  
Allison

**DEACON'S SCHEDULE**

March 1	*Lisa Vigil	Florence Gomez
March 8	*Amanda Trujillo	Adriana Zaragoza
March 15	*Rebecca Morris	Armoni Steenhouse
March 22	*Sara Morgado	Amanda Trujillo
March 29	*Rebecca Morris	Lisa Vigil

\*Denotes Head Deacon (set flags out in front of church & bring in after service, check collection envelopes & replenish if needed, light candles in front of church before service & extinguish after & enter attendance into log).

## Mark Your Calendar

Thursday, March 5	Common Ground - Housing & Homelessness Team in the FCCV Parlor 6:30 to 8 p.m.
Sunday, March 8	Elders' Meeting, following worship
Wednesday, March 11	Administrative Council, 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 18	Ministry Council, 5:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 21	Worship Planning Retreat, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 26	FCCV Caucus on Housing & Homelessness in the FCCV Parlor 6:30 to 8 p.m.

“Some issues are not left versus right or liberal versus conservative they are right versus wrong.

We must shock this nation with the power of love.

We must shock this nation with the power of mercy.

We must shock this nation and fight for justice for all.

We can't give up on the heart of our democracy. Not now, not ever.”

Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II