

The Living Word

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Mission Action Sunday March 3

From the book Live Just.ly:

“What is God saying to you (us), and what are you (we) going to do about it?”

On Mission Action Sunday, March 3rd, we are going to worship, pray, commune, discuss and think about this question. Starting with worship at 10:30, we have an interactive service focused on the faith and justice issues we feel most passionately about. It will be a special service, with opportunity for everyone to participate in the discussion. Following the service, we will have a potluck lunch and a Mission Action Workshop centered on developing a plan to put our passions into action! Please bring something to share for the potluck. Lizzy Gore, the new Common Ground IAF leader, will be our special guest speaker during the Workshop. We will conclude no later than 2:30. This is an important day for our church and the ways we will minister in our community. Plus, we will have great conversations and a lot of fun. My mom’s favorite verse says it all, “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” Let us together make it so.

Carl Cordes

THE SEASON OF LENT

The Christian Season of Lent begins this year on March 6, Ash Wednesday. And the Season of Lent will continue until Easter Sunday, on April 21. At our recent Worship Planning Retreat, we decided on the theme “Crisis of the Heart.” Throughout this Season, we will consider some of the things that might bring about a crisis of the heart. And we will focus our time and talents to building a compassionate and strong congregation capable of repairing the heartaches, heartbreaks, and heart troubles that we experience in and around us. I hope you will make plans to join us during this meaningful Season.



Christy

ADVENT PROMISES

During Advent, those in worship decorated our tree with gift tags containing promises – promises we made to others, promises we made to ourselves, reminders of promises God made to us. Let us continue to lift up these promises spoken from the heart:

I Promise

To continue learning about those cultures where justice has failed so as not to continue the cycle

To be an example of God’s light to others

To do my best with life, love, friends and family

To search, find, support sources of justice in our community and our nation

To be less judgmental and to work on always having kind and forgiving thoughts

Never to forget that You are always with me, my strength and wisdom and courage

To (provide) help for the homeless

To be more accepting

To stay firm in my beliefs

To forgive and move on

To take care of my body

Prayers: for help in my home, for correct decisions on retirement, for more visions of justice, peace and love

To do better



To create light, receive light, shine bright

To do more and give more

To seek truth and correctness

To be more involved

To be a faithful servant

To look for ways to work for justice

To be more understanding and tolerant

To become strong, to protect my friends so none of them will cry ever again

To pray for endurance and to be encouraging and supportive

To look for calm in the craziness

To find my calling even if it means changing

To say yes when I want to and no when I cannot

To (create) lasting relationships and follow my call – and to stay loyal to both

To be the best me I can be to my friends, family and country

To do more for our church, our community, our world and the Lord Almighty

To be grateful with forgiveness and try to forgive those who have wronged others

The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.

Living Stones

*Did you rise this morning, / broken and hung over
with weariness and pain / and rage tattered from waving too long in a brutal wind?
Get up, child. / Pull your bones upright / gather your skin and muscle into a patch of sun.
Draw breath deep into your lungs; / you will need it
for another day calls to you. / I know you ache.
I know you wish the work were done / and you
with everyone you have ever loved / were on a distant shore
safe, and unafraid. / But remember this, / tired as you are:
you are not alone.
Here / and here / and here also
there are others weeping / and rising / and gathering their courage.
You belong to them / and they to you / and together,
we will break through / and bend the arc of justice
all the way down / into our lives.*

—“Prayer for the Morning” by Audette Fulbright Fulson

I spent this morning on the picket line outside Clivie’s school in Oakland, Piedmont Avenue Elementary School. This year being his first year in school, I am getting a crash course in all things Oakland and all things public resources. In other words, I have been schooled first hand in the devastatingly political ways public resources are diverted from the greatest needs in our communities—and reserved for those who already have more than they need. This myopic and self-interested political approach to public resources has crippled the public schools in Oakland (and many other places). Teachers cannot afford to live in the areas where they teach. Public school funds are currently siphoned off to create unnecessary charter schools rather than supplying adequate counselors, nurses, and other desperately needed support staff for the schools that exist. The party line says, “There just isn’t enough money.” But the real question is “Where are we placing our treasure?” Because where our treasure is, there our heart will be also. Are we actually willing to tell the 30,000 public school children in Oakland that “You’re really not worth the investment”? And then bemoan the desperation and poverty and crime and heartache that follow? I wonder what Jesus would have to say to us about that?

So, it was my faith that took me out to that picket line today. And it will take me out there again tomorrow. And as long as it takes. And every day, I will courageously raise Audette Fulson’s “Prayer for the Morning.” Because, indeed, not one of us is alone. I belong to those teachers and those kids at Clivie’s school; and they belong to me. But not only that, my faith calls me to belong to all those in the struggle for the just distribution of resources. We are in this together. I believe that together—and only together—we can begin to bend that arc of justice all the way down into our lives.

See you in church,
Christy



MARCH SPECIAL DATES:

ANNIVERSARY:

March 3 - John and Lynn Epp

BIRTHDAYS:

March 9 - Carmen Mezzera
 March 10 - Jeannine Wong
 March 16 - David Lawson
 March 24 - Vicki Mahaffy
 March 31 - Adam Bradley

SPRING RENEWAL: FOOD AND FAITH

Calling all women! Plan to attend a one-day retreat put on jointly by the Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada Women’s Ministries Retreat and Renewal and Women of Spirit and Action teams, March 9, 2019, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. The Keynote Speaker is Rev. Tami Groves. We will be exploring the question “What are you hungry for?” Food? God? Community?

Workshops :

- Jesus Are You Hungry? Homelessness and Food Insecurity
- Food, Women and God
- On the Table
- Green Chalice & Blue Theology

\$25 registration fee includes lunch.

Register Online at:

<https://ccncn.regfox.com/20190309springrenewal>



MISSION ACTION

Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM) was January's monthly mission action recipient. CVM is a missionary sending organization founded by Leroy Dorminy in 1979 and is based in Seattle, Washington. CVM exists to share the love of Christ through veterinary medicine. It is said, "one animal can transform lives." CVM veterinarians go all over the world. Karen and Ron Stoufer were members at FCCV when they felt called to serve as missionaries and spent 12 years in Nepal. The letters we received monthly and still receive are heart warming about the people they served there and the work they continue to do to help people in need. For more information, go to <https://cvmusa.org>. Also those of us who knew the Stoufers well would be happy to tell you about them and some of the stories we remember them sharing with us.

Week of Compassion (Feb. 17-24) will receive February's \$140 outreach donation. It is the relief, refugee and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the U.S and Canada. It works through a network of church partner organizations and partnerships "that insures that our response to humanitarian needs in the world is efficient and faithful." For life changing stories, go to www.weekofcompassion.org. This year's theme is "More than we can Imagine."

Also, if you would like to see a video about the Disciples' Week of Compassion program, go to: <http://www.vallejochristian.org/videos/sharingmovie.mov>

Helen Mezzera, Mission Action Coordinator

DON'T FORGET:

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

- ✓ Use www.goodsearch.com (instead of Google or Bing) for your internet searches.
- ✓ Start at www.goodshop.com when shopping online.
- ✓ Sign up at www.escrip.com for when you patronize local stores and restaurants.
- ✓ Take your recycling to Valcore (www.valcorerecycling.org) and ask that the money go to the church.
- ✓ Use 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!

HUNGER WALK CONCERT

On Saturday, March 23rd Hunger Walk of Vallejo will present the Pickle Creek String Band, Lironna Sanchez on the piano, and much more to help three local agencies help those in need. All proceeds will go to these groups: Amador Street Hope Center, DePaul Women's Center and American Canyon Family Resource Center. Each group works with people and families in our local community. Whether it's helping with taxes or it's distributing food or it's serving a hot meal, each group is dedicated to help those who are less fortunate.

The concert will start at 7:00 with the doors opening at 6:30. Bluegrass, old time/ Appalachian, Irish/Celtic, folk and American ballads are just some of the types of music you will be hearing. Tickets are \$10.00 minimum donation for adults and for students high school and younger just \$5.00. Refreshments will be served during the concert. This will be the fifth annual concert to help us start thinking about the 12th Annual Hunger Walk of Vallejo which is on May 4th. If you need more information on the concert, please call me at 707-694-6274. If you would like to donate toward these agencies, please visit www.crophungerwalk.org/vallejo.

LIVE JUST.LY – CONTINUED

I would like to thank those of you who attended the "Live Justly" class. Good discussions were held and tough questions were asked. Needless to say, we needed more than three sessions, so I would like to include in our monthly newsletter some of the questions, quotations and other information that the book's writers included for you to consider. Please if you have a

book and are finished with it, bring it to me so that someone who couldn't attend the class, will have an opportunity to read it. If you have a need to keep your copy, that's fine.

To ponder: What justice issues are you most PASSIONATE about? If you were to create a list, what would your top three issues be? (There is no right or wrong answer!) Would you be willing to share your list with Beth so that she can print responses (without names) in the April issue of The Living Word?

Helen

DEACON'S SCHEDULE

February 23	*Glenn Stratford	Jean Miller
March 3	*Lisa Vigil	Armoni Steenhouse
March 10	*Jean Miller	Rebecca Morris
March 17	*Glenn Stratford	Paola Altamirano
March 23	*Rebecca Morris	Lisa Vigil
March 31	*Jean Miller	Mary Atchison

*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

Sunday, March 3	Mission Action Sunday, 10:30-2:30
Wednesday, March 6	Administrative Council, 5:15pm Ash Wednesday
Saturday, March 9	Women's Spring Renewal, 8am – 4pm at FCCV!
Sunday, March 10	1 st Sunday of Lent
Sunday, March 17	Elders' meeting, following worship
Wednesday, March 20	Ministry Council, 5:30pm
Saturday, March 23	CROP Concert

GREEN CHALICE



Thought for the Day from Thomas Berry

The universe is composed of subjects to be communed with, not primarily of objects to be used.