

The Living Word

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www.vallejochristian.org
www.facebook.com/FCCVallejo

Join John Pavlovitz in Vallejo!

There are only 100+/- tickets left, and the event is now being advertised to the wider community. Don't wait, get your tickets now!



Join writer, pastor, and activist John Pavlovitz for a weekend of inspiration, encouragement, and storytelling. John will share reflections from his books *A Bigger Table* and *Hope and Other Superpowers*, as well as his 23-year journey as a progressive pastor. You'll leave with a sense of hope and a renewed clarity on how to be the kind of people the world needs right now. All events will take place here at FCC Vallejo!

Speaking Event / Q&A: Friday, November 15, 2019 7pm - 9pm \$25.00 per ticket
When the World is Upside-Down (or Blessed are the Damn-Givers)

These are disorienting days. The disconnection and enmity have taken a toll on all of us; on our families, our friendships, our local communities, our faith communities. What do we do to right-side things? How can we be agents of compassion in days when cruelty seems to be trending?

Avoiding Compassion Fatigue Workshop: Saturday, November 16, 2019 10am - 1pm
\$40.00 per ticket

To be compassionate is to bleed; to feel deeply for the damage around you and to be moved to respond to it. This is a beautiful and invaluable instinct, but it is costly too. There is a toll the trauma of the world takes on us when we seek to step into that dangerous space and to work for healing and justice. In days when so much need is at our doorsteps and on our news feeds, how do we attend to it all without becoming overwhelmed and consumed by it? How can we cultivate hope when it is hard to come by?

Find out more about John Pavlovitz on his website and blog <https://johnpavlovitz.com>

Living Stones

*A man filled with the gladness of living
 Put his keys on the table, / Put flowers in a copper bowl there.
 He put his eggs and milk on the table. / He put there the light that came in through the
 window,
 Sounds of a bicycle, sound of a spinning wheel. / The softness of bread and weather he put
 there.
 On the table the man put / Things that happened in his mind.
 What he wanted to do in life, / He put that there.
 Those he loved, those he didn't love, / The man put them on the table too.
 Three times three make nine: / The man put nine on the table.
 He was next to the window next to the sky; / He reached out and placed on the table
 endlessness.
 So many days he had wanted to drink a beer! / He put on the table the pouring of that
 beer.
 He placed there his sleep and his wakefulness; / His hunger and his fullness he placed
 there.
 Now that's what I call a table!
 It didn't complain at all about the load. / It wobbled once or twice, then stood firm.
 The man kept piling things on.
 —“Table” by Edip Cansever*

As we enter into the season of fall, I invite you to bring all that you are. We human beings are complex creatures—full of longings, hopes, disappointments, shortcomings, recoveries, courage, vision, heartaches, kindnesses, and commitments. All of it is welcome—no, I would say—all of it is essential in the life of our community of faith. We need you, and we need each other!

Just as the man “filled with the gladness of living” in the poem above piles things on the Table, you are invited to do the same. Bring the common and ordinary—the stuff of your everyday life—the keys, the groceries, the flowers. But don’t stop there. Bring the extraordinary light capable of shining a way forward for you. Bring the softness of bread and weather that remind you to soften your gaze and the overly critical voice in your head. Bring your deepest desires, your hunger, and your fullness. But also make room for the lessons you need to learn. This Table reminds us that we are all human—across cultures, across differences, across geography, across time. We all have gifts, and we all have deficiencies.

So, come with all you are! The Table is set. Its capacity is endless. It may wobble a little, but it won’t complain. And it will stand firm. Accepting you. Loving you. Longing for you. You can lay your cards face up on this Table. You won’t be rejected or turned away. You are welcome here.

See you in church,
Christy

ANTI-RACISM TRAINING AT FCCV – NOVEMBER 2

On Saturday, November 2, our church will be hosting the Regional Anti-Racism Training, from 8:00-4:00. During this Anti-Racism Training, part 1b, we will review the materials from 1a including definitions of racism. We will also work to understand the powers of racism, how they show up in the church and everyday life, and how we can collude with the systems that keep these powers in place.

We will explore how racism's power has shaped us into being. Dismantling racism frees us all into being what God intends God's creation to be — free.

It is important as part of our faith journeys to become more anti-racist and pro-reconciling. All DOC clergy, lay people, and people of other denominations and faith traditions are invited and encouraged to attend. No prior training is required. Registration information can be found on the Regional website at <https://ccncn.regfox.com/20191102anti-racismtraining>. The cost is \$45 and includes a light breakfast and lunch. If you are willing to help with setting up and serving lunch, the registration fee will be waived. Let's have FCCV show up in force!

WORSHIP PLANNING RETREAT NOTES

On Saturday, September 14, we had a wonderful, enriching, and productive Worship Planning Retreat. Thank you to everyone who came and participated! We slowed down, drank tea, received animal medicine, and planned some special fall worship services and the theme for Advent!

On Sunday, October 6, we will celebrate **World Communion Sunday**. *On this Sunday, you are invited and encouraged to bring beautiful foods (breads, fruits, vegetables) that celebrate the diversity of our communities and the gifts of creation!*

On Sunday, October 13, we will honor our animal companions with an **Animal Blessing Service**. *Please send pictures of your special animals to Beth Grose for inclusion in a special PowerPoint presentation.*

On Sunday, November 4, we will celebrate **All Saints Sunday**. *On this day, you are invited to bring photos, keepsakes, mementos, and memorabilia that conjure memories of the saints in your life and/or in the life of the church.* Together, as part of worship, we will build an altar to honor all these saints.

Other special services include **Bread for the World Sunday** (October 27), **Veterans Day remembrance** (November 10), and **Thanksgiving Sunday** (November 24).

Advent begins on Sunday, December 1. Our theme for this sacred season is "**Prepare the Way. . .**" Please make plans to join us for all of the beautiful times of fellowship and worship this fall and Advent!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please remember that everyone is invited to join Sunday School/Bible Study starting at 9:30 on Sunday mornings.

Kids meet upstairs with our fabulous teacher Sara Steenhouse. They have named their Sunday School class FLURCH (Fun Learning chURCH).

Adults meet in the Parlor with our incredible Minister-In-Training Renae Earl. We always share a rich and engaging conversation, and all voices/perspectives/insights are welcome.

ATTENTION 30-ISH TO 50-ISH YEAR OLDS!

I've posed the question to most of you about having some events for those of us "Middle Agers" at church to have some fellowship time away from the Sanctuary. The results of the conversations are really great! Everyone could use a night out of fun!

I would like to invite you all to the first Middle Agers Game Night!

Date: Friday 10/25/19 6:00pm – 9-ish

Location: FCC Vallejo Fellowship Hall

What: Potluck, Games, Fun!

Bring a game to play and a dish to share. While you are at it, bring a friend too (or 2 friends or more!) Adults only, please! We will definitely plan other events that are more family friendly in the future!

Please let me know if you will be able to attend! I am looking forward to hanging with you all!

Thanks! Allison M

SABBATICAL PLANS IN PROGRESS FOR MAY 2020

The beginning stages of planning for Christy's sabbatical are underway. The Pastoral Relations Committee is starting to identify a helpful process as we move toward that time in May 2020. We hope to be able to share additional information and to seek congregational input at a special meeting following worship on Sunday, Dec. 8. In preparation for that meeting, we invite you to think about what types of *renewal* would be helpful to you personally and for the congregation as a whole. Christy's renewal program is already mapped out, but we want to give intentional planning to this time in the life of the congregation as well. ***What does renewal mean to you? What might it look like?***

And as a reminder, the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program 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.

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.

DISCIPLES MEN'S RETREAT – OCTOBER 18-19

20/20 Vision: How My Mind Has Changed...Or Not, keynote speaker Rev. Dick Hamm, former General Minister & President and author of: "2020 – A Vision For the Christian Church".

October 18-19 at First Christian Church, Sacramento. For more information see https://ccncn.org/Regional_Calendar.php?action=display&event=304.

Mission Action: We lend a

Our Mission Action “Lend a Hand” outreach gift for the month of August was sent to St. Jude’s Children Hospital in Memphis, TN, for their children’s cancer research program. We received the following thank-you letter on behalf of St. Jude’s: “We were thrilled to have your support again. We’d like to thank you for your gift of \$140 in August 2019. Your dedication to our mission is something we don’t take for granted. Let me just say — your generosity and compassion are truly inspiring and uplifting. Friends like you are like answered prayers for kids battling childhood cancer and other deadly diseases.”

Our outreach gift for the month of October will be earmarked for the DOC Reconciliation Ministry. A special offering will be taken on September 29th and October 6th for this ministry, and the amount collected will be increased by our \$140 Mission gift from the entire church. The theme for this year’s Reconciliation offering is “Embodying the Call.” The flier sent from the General Church says in part: “We are the body of Christ and all of us are members of this one body. As a church body, we have been on this journey to embrace and understand an identity as a Church that is pro-reconciling and anti-racist. We have different stories, different languages, different understandings of how and who to love. But God remains in the midst of all of us . . . Your generosity (in your Reconciliation gift) fuels our granting programs, our youth and young adult leadership development, and Regional and General Ministry outreach toward building beloved community and breaking down barriers through advocacy, intentional conversation and action.”

Our outreach gift for the month of November will be earmarked for Bread for the World, with “Hunger Sunday” celebrated on October 27th. Stay tuned for more information.

Our outreach gift for the month of December will be earmarked for an exciting local program called “Haircuts 4 the Holidays.” Keep reading for more information.

HAIRCUTS 4 THE HOLIDAYS

Hello Everyone! I am a licensed cosmetologist and want use my gift to give back to our unhoused community. I am looking to do free Haircuts 4 the Holidays in the Fellowship Hall on:

November 23rd 9 am - 1 pm

December 21st 9 am - 4 pm

In addition to haircuts, we will be offering the hospitality of a light lunch. First off I need folks who want to help me organize this project. If you know any hairdressers or barbers in Vallejo who may be willing to help cut, please give me their information. Then.... What I will need are people who can wash hair, sweep, serve lunch and set-up/break-down. We have a small budget and are looking for donations of the following:

Cups, bowls, silverware, napkins

Sandwiches, meat, cheese, lettuce, tomatoes etc.

Soups, breads etc.

Condiments

Juice, water

Please contact Renae Earl at nae2nae@att.net for further info and to sign up to help.

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!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR – GLOBAL HOLIDAY FAIRE

This year's Global Holiday Faire will be on Saturday, December 7 from 9-3. For those of you who don't know, the Faire always takes place on the first Saturday in December, which just happens to be the latest that it can possibly be this year (as opposed to last year when it was the earliest possible date on the 1st). It is important to get it on the calendar now and start to let people know about it, so that they don't do all of their Christmas shopping before the Faire. We will be raising money for 16 different non-profit organizations with many great items for sale. Last year, we raised over \$14,600! We hope to do even better this year. Next month, there will be another article with much more information about the Faire and how you can help. For now, please put it on your calendar and keep an eye out for our fliers. We will have them in church soon and will be emailing them out as well. Thanks!

BOOK STUDY

Hello ALL! I am excited to be sharing an up and coming book study starting January 2020! We will be reading and discussing the book "So you want to talk about race" by Ijeoma Oluo. My hope for our time together is that it will be conversational, inward-looking, and challenging. You don't have to bring anything to the table except your presence! You can find the book on Amazon at a pretty affordable rate. Also, the day and time is TBD based on your input. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back to gauge interest and best times for everyone! I look forward to our time together.

~Shannon

DEACON'S SCHEDULE

| | | |
|------------|------------------|------------------|
| October 6 | *Lisa Vigil | Sarah Morgado |
| October 13 | *Amanda Trujillo | Adriana Zaragoza |
| October 20 | *George Morris | Rebecca Morris |
| October 27 | *Florence Gomez | Amanda Trujillo |

*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

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|---------------------------|---|
| Tuesday, October 1 | Common Ground meeting, 6:30 in FCCV Fellowship Hall |
| Sunday, October 6 | World Communion Sunday |
| Wednesday, October 9 | Administrative Council, 5:15 p.m. |
| Sunday, October 13 | Elders' Meeting, following worship |
| Sunday, September 15 | FLURCH and Adult Bible Study begins, 9:30 before worship |
| Friday-Sunday Sept. 20-22 | CCNC-N Mission Springs Women's Retreat |
| Wednesday, October 23 | Ministry Council, 5:30 p.m. |
| Friday, October 25 | Middle Agers Fellowship Night, 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall |
| Saturday, November 2 | Anti-Racism Training at FCCV |

Joy is the settled assurance that God is in control of all the details of my life, the quiet confidence that ultimately everything is going to be all right, and the determined choice to praise God in all things.

Kay Warren