

The Living Word

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Men's (He/Him) Retreat! - Carl Cordes

A Men's (He, Him) Tri-Regional Retreat is coming via Zoom on October 30th.

If you read the regional newsletter, for the last month or so you have been hearing from some Disciples who are concerned about the disappearing male (he, him) in our gathering communities. I am no different. But instead of trying to find solutions, let me tell you my story.

I was born to loving parents who became Disciples after marriage. They were active in the church all their lives, which means I was brought along. Throughout my childhood and high school days, the First Christian Church of St. Paul was my second home. I learned about Jesus and the love of God through not only my parents, but the many people in that community. As I grew older and raised two daughters with my wife of many years, I instilled this community into them. It would be difficult for me to not have a community of followings to work with, to cry with, to pray with, to fight wrongdoings with and more.

Besides my community of faith believers and my family, I have many other outlets that showed me the reasons why I have God in my life. There are camp counselors; there are committee members; there are workdays or weekends; there are Bible studies; there are podcasts to listen to; there are books to be read....shall I go on? Each has taught me this awesome belief and they have taught me that we all need faith believers to associate with. (By the way, thank you if you are reading this...you know who you are!) What I am trying to say is, we all need an outlet to show that God is with us everyday, in every minute of the day, and it can happen within a church community, a spiritual gathering, a coffee shop, a workday, a telephone call or email. These small ways bring us together.

It is my hope that this retreat will seek out solutions to help us come back together so that we can help those in need. From Matthew 18: 19-20 (The Message version) *"When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there."*

(continued)

MEN'S RETREAT CONTINUED

My prayer today and everyday is that you will join us on October 30th from 10 to 2 as we dive into our thoughts about how we can experience community together, no matter where!

Please register today! It will be great to see you!

Tri-Regional Men's Retreat
Men in Community: A Faith Journey

Saturday October 30, 2021
10 AM - 2 PM

With all this going for us, my dear, dear friends, stand your ground.
And don't hold back. Throw yourselves into the work of the Master,
confident that nothing you do for him is a waste of time or effort.
1 Corinthians 15:58 MSG

Register Here:
<https://ccncn.org/TRMR>

Contacts:
Arne Larsen (Northern Cal-Nev) - revlarsen001@aol.com
Lorenz Dauner (Pacific Southwest) - lorenzdauner@gmail.com
Scott Siegwald (Arizona) - ssiegwald@6scompany.com

DON'T FORGET:

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

- Use www.goodsearch.com (instead of Google) for your internet searches.
- Start at www.goodshop.com or smile.amazon.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.

LIVING STONES FROM CHRISTY

*All things bright and beautiful / All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful / 'Twas God that made them all*

*Each little flower that opens / Each little bird that sings
God made their glowing colors / And made their tiny wings*

*The purple headed mountains / The rivers running by
The sunset and the morning / That brightens up the sky*

*The cold wind in the winter / The pleasant summer sun
The ripe fruits in the garden / God made them every one
—“All Things Bright and Beautiful” by Cecil Alexander*

When fall rolls around, I think of crisp apples. And just the other day, a friend of mine whose family runs an apple farm brought me some small yellow apples with bright pink flesh. They tasted simultaneously tart and sweet. Amazing! Those apples made me think of this beautiful hymn by Cecil Alexander: *“All things bright and beautiful / All creatures great and small. . . . The ripe fruits in the garden / God made them every one.”*

We are surrounded by wondrous blessings. We are surrounded by a ready harvest of joy. . . . And yet, the trauma we’ve all experienced over the past couple of years often clouds over that harvest of joy for many of us. Recently, our Northern California-Nevada Regional Minister, LaTaunya Bynum wrote, “We need to figure out what it means to be a spiritual trauma center for our communities. We need to reintroduce ourselves as a place that can tend to the wounds this pandemic opened. Each church needs to consider how it might evangelize to its neighbors (and some of its own members) almost as if launching a new church in 2021.”

So, friends, how might we tend to these wounds? How might we nourish the spiritual trauma so many people are feeling with a deep harvest of joy, mercy, grace, understanding, and belonging? The fruits are ripe. The needs are real. Are you ready to join me in this important, life-giving work?

See you in church,
Christy

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

We collect a number of special offerings throughout the year to support our wider church and its ministries. Please give generously, as you are able.

Now through Sunday, Oct. 3, we will be collecting our **Reconciliation Ministry** Offering. This offering supports the pro-reconciliation/anti-racism work of the Church.

The **Thanksgiving Offering** (*collected Nov. 14-21*) supports the 15 Disciples colleges and universities, as well as the 7 Disciples seminaries and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. Gifts from this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the Church. **See a list of the colleges, universities, seminaries, foundations and divinity houses.**

The **Christmas Offering** (*collected Dec. 12-19*) supports Disciples **regional ministries**. In 31 regions across the United States and Canada, ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship. Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of church leadership and development.

Week of Compassion leads the relief, refugee, and development work of the Church. This special offering is received on the last two Sundays of February, but they accept donations throughout the year.

The **Easter Offering** supports the General Ministries of the Church across the United States and Canada, and throughout the world. **Read more about the General Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).**

The **Pentecost Offering** supports the planning, nurturing, and sustaining of Disciples new church development. Gifts for this offering are divided equally between the region in which they're given and the **New Church Ministry**.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

A PK (Preacher's Kid) notices that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, the little girl asked him why. "Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of him during the service, "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon." "So how come he doesn't answer it?" she asked.

HYBRID WORSHIP AND FIRST SUNDAYS ON ZOOM

We have successfully begun hybrid worship. This means that on Sunday mornings, 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 life-giving. And we welcome your comments and suggestions to make both formats better for everyone.

And remember! On October 3 and continuing on the first Sundays of each month—we will host worship entirely on Zoom for everyone.

All worship services begin at 10:30. On Zoom, join us 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 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.

<https://zoom.us/j/94763862611>

Meeting ID: 947 6386 2611

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)

ADVENT BEGINS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28 - Christy Newton

Our theme for Advent this year is “*Walking the Sacred Path.*” Together, we will once again prepare the way for Christ to be born and transform our world.

Please let me know if you would like to participate in our Advent worship services.

Also, please mark your calendars now for the *Blue Christmas Service*, which will take place on the longest night of the year, Tuesday, December 21, at 6:00 p.m.

A NOTE FROM THE NATIONAL CROP HUNGER WALK - Carl Cordes

Join us for the 2021 National CROP Hunger Walk on World Food Day, October 16th and end hunger in the U.S. and around the world! Walk on your treadmill, in your neighborhood, in a park with friends – you choose the location and the experience. Walk one day - 3.7 miles (the average distance a woman walks for water) or take the Weekend Challenge and walk 11.1 miles (3.7 miles for 3 days). Every step you take, every dollar you raise makes the walk shorter for neighbors in need by providing clean water, emergency food as well as livelihoods and access to education. Sign-up and start raising funds TODAY at www.crophungerwalk.org/usa! Contact info@cwsglobal.org for more info.

If anyone would be interested in joining me on Saturday, October 16th for a walk along the waterfront, please let me know. Will start around 10:00 in back of the ferry building and walk 1, 2 or 3 miles, depending how you feel. If you can't do this, please consider a donation.

Thanks!

MISSION ACTION GIFT - Amanda Trujillo

As part of its ministry, Mission Action looks for ways to give back to our community each month. September is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, and this month we have chosen to donate to The Kyle Hyland Foundation for Teen Support in Benicia. KHF was founded in 2015. The mission of the Kyle Hyland Foundation for Teen Support is to provide charitable and educational support to teens by establishing a center where teens can be provided emotional support through mentoring, counseling music, and art. For more information, visit kylehyland.com.

You matter!





Those of us in Solano County received a request last week to write/email/text/contact our representative on the Board Of Supervisors to call for immediate action regarding the end of the moratorium for Rental Assistance happening September 30. Thank you for doing so! Here's the presentation (Cheryl, David, Maggie, Lizzy and I were there; David and Cheryl presented. (**AND** here's the result -the Good News!! *Glenda*

Presentation: I'm Cheryl Gewing of Congregation B'nai Israel in Vallejo, a Member of Common Ground. Will representatives of organizations here in support of Common Ground please stand?

In two days, California's state eviction protections expire. EVERYONE, from non-profits, to legal services, to court staff, is expecting a flood of evictions. But you already know that. And Common Ground doesn't come to you with problems. We come to you with specific solutions and proposals.

Yes-- we know-- Solano County has its own eviction moratorium. We actually spearheaded the process of creating it. Thank you for working with us on that, Supervisor Spering, and thank you all for passing it! But Legal Services tells us there are many ways people are still falling through the cracks.

We've met with the courts, and researched successful programs in Sonoma County as well as Philadelphia to create the following proposal. All of our Common Ground member organizations support it-- In Vallejo, Congregation B'Nai Israel, First Christian Church, Catholic Charities, St. Vincent's, St. Basil's, St. Catherine', Emmanuel Temple Apostolic Church, the Vallejo Education Association, IN FAIRFIELD, the Fairfield Suisun Teachers Association, Holy Spirit Parish, and countywide SEIU 1021 and Fair Housing. We also hand-delivered over 300 signature cards from residents of Fairfield and Suisun to Supervisor Spering and Mashburn's offices last month.

We're asking you to allocate emergency funding-- as soon as possible-- to increase the amount of legal support available to both tenants and landlords. We applaud the court's new program to assist tenants and landlords mediate eviction cases. But it's not a whole support system. Right now, the wait at Legal Services is more than 2 weeks for an attorney. Most tenants go to court unrepresented, and often lose cases they could win. You also need a dedicated landlord/tenant hotline.

Common Ground does not accept government money-- so this is not for us. Do you really want a patchwork solution where people are working in silos? After talking with Brian Taylor, we think the best way forward is to get LSN, County Counsel, Legal Services, Fair Housing, and us, to the table TOGETHER, all at the same time, to hash out the details of a true system of support that fits Solano so no one ends up homeless.

We are not here to complain or ask you for money. We are here to work WITH you. Consider us as a resource.

And here is the Good News!!!!!!!

At the Board of Supervisors meeting the last agenda item was a discussion of the American Rescue Plan funds (\$86,000,000) that the county has available to spend on economic and public health recovery from the pandemic. The discussion was mostly about the process. However, thanks to the input from the Housing Team and all who supported our effort with phone calls and emails, one of our goals may be funded as early as next Tuesday!

The Board directed staff to develop a proposal to use ARP funds to aid the Solano County court's self-help resources by funding two paralegals! This seems to have support from all of the supes, but we need to close the deal. (note: We're never done but together we can make things happen for everyone)

EDUCATION UPDATE - Helen Mezzera

Remember there's no ED CATION without U! Have you thought about setting aside some time in your Sunday morning to join members of the congregation in a Bible study session before worship service? You can join online - just follow the link sent by Christy every Saturday - or in person in the parlor at church. Whether you are an active participant or just listen, I think you'll find some intriguing thoughts and ideas.

For example, where may this be found in Scripture? "Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down the mountain with the two tablets of the Covenant in his hands, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God." That's right . . . taken from the second book of the Old Testament, Exodus. Each Sunday we take a scripture such as this and break it apart and look at it in depth to see what message it might teach us today. What is the significance of the Covenant between Moses and God and how do the commandments on the tablets apply to us today? How do we encounter God as Moses did on top of the mountain?

Check out the scripture choices Christy sends out each Saturday - to give you an idea of what we will be discussing the following morning - and then join us at 9:30.

Mark Your Calendar

October 3 - World Communion Sunday Zoom Worship (service only on Zoom).

October 13 - Admin Council, 5:15 pm on Zoom.

October 16 - National CROP Hunger Walk.

October 20 - Ministry Council, 5:30 pm on Zoom.

October 24 - Elders Meeting, following worship.

October 30 - Regional Men's Retreat, 10 am - 2 pm, on Zoom.

October 31 - All Hallows / All Saints Worship Service in the garden (wear a costume!)

The deadline for the next Living Word is October 27
