

# The Living Word

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## Join John Pavlovitz in Vallejo



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!

**Space is limited, get your tickets now!**

***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*

*If you could see / the journey whole / you might never / undertake it; / might never dare  
the first step / that propels you / from the place / you have known / toward the place  
you know not.*

*Call it / one of the mercies / of the road: / that we see it / only by stages  
as it opens / before us, / as it comes into / our keeping / step by / single step.*

*There is nothing / for it / but to go / and by our going / take the vows / the pilgrim takes:  
to be faithful to / the next step; / to rely on more / than the map; / to heed the signposts  
of intuition and dream; / to follow the star / that only you / will recognize;*

*to keep an open eye / for the wonders that / attend the path; / to press on / beyond  
distractions / beyond fatigue / beyond what would / tempt you / from the way.*

*There are vows / that only you / will know; / the secret promises / for your particular  
path/and the new ones / you will need to make / when the road / is revealed / by turns  
you could not / have foreseen.*

*Keep them, break them, / make them again: / each promise becomes / part of the path; /  
each choice creates / the road / that will take you/to the place / where at last / you will kneel  
to offer the gift / most needed - / the gift that only you / can give - / before turning to go /  
home by / another way.*

—“For Those Who Have Far to Travel” by Jan Richardson

I have served in ordained ministry for over 19 years, and for the past 14+ years, I have balanced a combination of pastoral ministry and seminary teaching. I am a pastor, seminary professor, licensed massage therapist, mother to a seven-year-old, partner to another ordained minister who serves a separate congregation, poet, and theological writer; and I am thoroughly committed to each of these roles. Yet, I have never had a sabbatical set aside for rest, renewal, reflection, and writing. My body is tired yet needs physical activity, and I long for concentrated time to write and refresh my imagination. As I move deeper into my career of integrating pastoral ministry and theological education, I recognize more clearly that this kind of renewal time is essential to remain focused, creative, healthy, and centered. This was the rationale I presented in April as part of our application for a Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Grant.

When I opened the envelope and saw that we had been awarded the grant, I was shocked and overwhelmed and bewildered. Was this real? I struggled to believe it. Yet earlier in that same afternoon, I had met with someone and told him to accept the kindness and gifts he had been given—even though he was struggling with self-doubt and did not believe he deserved such goodness. I assured him he did deserve such goodness. But now, it was my turn. . . .

Sometimes, we struggle to receive gifts of affirmation and love. Even when we desperately need them. And that is the challenge I am confronting right now. It is a beautiful and blessed challenge.

The theme of our Lilly proposal, “Labyrinth Walking: Integrative Journeys for Renewal,” represents my active, mindful, and intentional pursuit of professional integration and personal renewal. I hope that it will help me—and help me help others—navigate both interior and exterior challenges and to garner inner resources that will enable social action. I long for greater

integration—in myself and in our faith community—between presence and courage, head and heart, reason and faith, experience and intellect, prayer and social action. And I believe labyrinth walking can teach us ways to balance personal devotion with concern for all God’s children and God’s world. This is my hope, anyway. And I am grateful to be with you on this journey.

See you in church,  
Christy

### **What is the Lilly Grant? And why is Christy so excited?**

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.

Ministry is profoundly important, not only to the people directly served, but also to the larger community and society. The responsibilities of pastors are continual, and the pace and demands of parish life can be relentless, often leaving even the most dedicated pastors recognizing the need to replenish their own spiritual reservoirs to regain energy and strength for their ministry.

The clergy renewal program honors pastors and the congregations they serve. These grants are highly selective and extremely generous. It is an incredible honor to be selected and speaks to the incredible value placed on the work being done by the pastor and congregation. Christy will be on sabbatical for three months, from the middle of May to the middle of August 2020. Additional details will be forthcoming. In the meantime, a brief summary describing the overall character and purpose of Christy’s renewal program follows:

*Wise mentors have taught me that we are called to pray with our feet, and that is just what I plan to do. Integrating my passions for spiritual and social justice engagement, my sabbatical renewal program centers upon “Labyrinth Walking: Integrative Journeys for Renewal.” Using this ancient, experiential, and intuitive spiritual tool, I hope to renew my body and spirit, recover a more balanced approach to ministry, and reimagine fresh and relevant ways to offer healing, hospitality, and hope in a diverse urban environment.*

*The very nature of the labyrinth moves individuals in and out, simultaneously focusing us inward and outward. This movement also embodies the complementary work of spirituality and social justice. The deepest inner spiritual work draws individuals outside of themselves and deeper into the social world. And deep engagement with the social world requires sustenance that only a solid spiritual foundation can provide. They go together; they need one another. If we do not nurture justice, peace, and well-being within ourselves, there is little chance of manifesting them outside of ourselves and in the world around us. I want to explore the rich possibilities of the labyrinth as a means to sustain, heal, transform, and guide. I believe it can be a tool to offer justice and peace to a polarized and hurting world. By walking labyrinths and trails of all kinds—and by walking alone as well as with my family—I will seek the wisdom of the labyrinth, along with the balance and clarity it offers.*

## 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. The mission statement for St. Jude’s Hospital reads: “No child is denied treatment based on race, religion, or a family’s ability to pay.” (underlining mine). Danny Thomas personally began St. Jude’s Hospital in 1962 in the name of St. Jude Thaddeus, patron saint of hopeless causes, wanting the hospital to be a symbol of hope. Mainly due to St. Jude’s, the survival rate for childhood cancer has risen from 20% when the hospital began its pediatric cancer center to 80% today. Our gift was sent to help continue the work of this premier pediatric research center.

==> Our outreach gift for the month of September is being sent to the Christian Veterinary Ministry (CVM) education program. Our past FCC-V member and long-time friend Dr. Karen Stoufer, a former missionary to Nepal and current instructor for CVM, is running a “Train the Trainers” program. A dozen veterinarians, and those married to veterinarians such as an agriculturalist, a mechanic, and an educational consultant, will work with their spouses to share the love of Jesus through both long and short-term missions overseas. She writes: “Thanks to your support, we are able to share lessons that open the doors to the spread of the gospel as well as helping people to support themselves with their livestock. These trainees will be going on to share their lives and their skills with those in Haiti, Niger, India, and a number of short-term sites. It is exciting to think that because of your prayers and financial support, just this one week of training will reach Africa, Asia, and Latin America within a year!”

### 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!

### **Are You Looking for a Creative Outlet?**

If you are, we’d like to include you in our schedule of Sunday PowerPoint preparers and presenters. You can use your own laptop (PC or Mac) or the church’s laptop. We have a library of hymns and pictures for you to use, or you can use your own pictures or those you find in cyberspace. Maybe you think you’re not all that creative, that’s OK too! If you’ve been in church just a few times, you’ll have noticed that Carl, Beth and Larry each have their own style of presentation. We’d love to see your contribution to Sunday morning worship! If you are interested, please contact one of us and we’ll be happy to get you started.

**Good Things A' Comin'!****Renae Earl, FLURCH, and Adult Sunday School**

On September 8, our new *Minister-in-Training, Renae Earl*, begins her ministry with us. Renae is a Disciples seminarian, a member of Concord Christian Church (DOC), and a student at the American Baptist Seminary of the West in Berkeley. We will all undoubtedly benefit from her many gifts. Please give her a warm welcome!

On September 15, at 9:30 before worship, we will resume FLURCH (Fun Learning chURCH) for ages 4-12 in our upstairs classroom and we will resume our Adult Bible Study in the Parlor. All are welcome!

**Worship Planning Retreat – September 14**

On Saturday, September 14, from 10:00-2:00, in the Parlor, we will have our next Worship Planning Retreat. This is an opportunity for anyone to come and help envision our worship services over the next 2-3 months, including Advent. We will read scripture together and brainstorm themes, songs, poems, prayers, and ways we might structure our worship time. Everyone is welcome! So, bring yourselves, your ideas, a lunch, and snacks to share. We will share a refreshing and life-giving time together, while doing the work of the church—it is a retreat, after all! I look forward to seeing you there!

**Christy at CCNC-N Mission Springs Women's Retreat – September 20-22**

The Annual Regional Women's Retreat is coming up on September 20-22, at Mission Springs Conference Center in Scotts Valley, California. The theme this year is "Weaving One Thread at a Time," and our very own Christy Newton is one of the keynote speakers. Please make plans to attend! Registration information can be found on the Regional CCNC-N website at <https://ccncn.regfox.com/20190920fallretreat>.

**Disciples Mens 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](https://ccncn.org/Regional_Calendar.php?action=display&event=304).

**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!

### **Disciples General Assembly Resolutions**

The Disciples General Assembly took place this past July, and a number of resolutions were discussed and voted on at that event. We co-sponsored GA-1929 "AN INVITATION TO EDUCATION FOR WELCOMING AND RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF TRANSGENDER AND GENDER-DIVERSE PEOPLE," which was adopted by the General Assembly. A complete list and full text of the resolutions that were adopted can be found online at <https://ga.disciples.org/business/>.

adopted GA-1917	<a href="#"><u>CREATION OF A NEW REGION IN MONTANA AND THE NORTHWEST (CHANGE IN REGIONAL BOUNDARIES)</u></a>
adopted GA-1918	<a href="#"><u>REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE – TIME AND PLACE (2021)</u></a>
adopted GA-1919	<a href="#"><u>REPORT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE – TIME AND PLACE (2023)</u></a>
received GA-1920	<a href="#"><u>REPORT ON 2017 GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS</u></a>
received GA-1921	<a href="#"><u>REPORT FROM THE SOCIAL WITNESS TASK FORCE</u></a>
adopted GA-1922	<a href="#"><u>RESOLUTION ON FULL COMMUNION BETWEEN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA</u></a>
adopted GA-1923	<a href="#"><u>RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE FOR PREVENTION OF HARASSMENT FOR GENERAL MINISTRIES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)</u></a>
adopted GA-1924	<a href="#"><u>RESOLUTION TO CELEBRATE THE FORMATION OF NEW CONGREGATIONS AND CONTINUE THE COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO MAKE DISCIPLES</u></a>
adopted GA-1925	<a href="#"><u>ADDRESSING THE STATE OF GLOBAL FORCED MIGRATION</u></a>
adopted GA-1926	<a href="#"><u>SPIRIT OF ACTIVE LISTENING</u></a>
adopted GA-1927	<a href="#"><u>CONCERNING THE REOPENING OF THE U.S. EMBASSY IN CUBA, ENDING THE U.S. EMBARGO AGAINST THE ISLAND, AND PROMOTING A CONSTRUCTIVE RELATION BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES</u></a>
adopted GA-1928	<a href="#"><u>A CALL TO SEE AND RESPOND TO THE CRISIS OF DOMESTIC AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE</u></a>
adopted GA-1929	<a href="#"><u>AN INVITATION TO EDUCATION FOR WELCOMING AND RECEIVING THE GIFTS OF TRANSGENDER AND GENDER-DIVERSE PEOPLE</u></a>
adopted GA-1930	<a href="#"><u>ON WOMEN AND JUST PEACEMAKING</u></a>
adopted GA-1931	<a href="#"><u>REPORT OF THE GENERAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE</u></a>
adopted GA-1932	<a href="#"><u>ACKNOWLEDGING THE COVENANTAL AFFILIATION OF TOUGALOO COLLEGE AND REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO HIGHER EDUCATION</u></a>
adopted GA-1934	<a href="#"><u>DECLARING THAT IMPARTIALLY PROVIDING FOR THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF OTHERS IS A VIRTUE CONSISTENT WITH DISCIPLES TRADITION</u></a>
adopted GA-1935	<a href="#"><u>CONCERNING STEEP REDUCTIONS IN OVERALL REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT ARRIVALS TO THE UNITED STATES</u></a>

**DEACON'S SCHEDULE**

September 1	*Florence Gomez	Amanda Trujillo
September 6	*Lisa Vigil	Paola Altamirano
September 15	*Rebecca Morris	Sara Morgado
September 22	*George Morris	Adriana Zaragoza
September 29	*Amanda Trujillo	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**

Friday – Saturday, Sept. 6-7	Elders’ Retreat, Grose Tahoe Retreat
Sunday, September 8	FCCV House Meeting on the Housing Crisis in Vallejo, 9:30 in the Parlor (ALL welcome and encouraged to attend!) Renaë Earl begins as Minister-in-Training
Wednesday, September 11	Administrative Council, 5:15 p.m.
Saturday, September 14	Worship Planning Retreat, 10:00-2:00, in the Parlor CCNC-N Executive Committee Meeting at FCCV, 12-4
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, September 25	Ministry Council, 5:30 p.m.