The Living Word

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HAIRCUTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

On May 2nd, from 11 am - 3 pm, we will once again be hosting a Haircuts for the Holidays event. Because of various scheduling issues, this year's "Easter" event was not able to be held before Easter. So, Cinco de Mayo (or Dos de Mayo if you will) will be our "holiday" of celebration for this spring event.

As always, we are partnering with Lighthouse Covenant Fellowship who will be bringing their mobile shower unit. We are also again partnering with Vallejo Together who will be bringing clothes and personal care items to give away, as well as providing rides for people to and from various encampments around town. Rev. Renae Earl has coordinated with the hair dressers. Anyone can come to this free event to take a shower, get a haircut, get clothes, and eat a wonderful lunch.

The lunch is one of the ways that you can help. Allison Mezzera will be working with our Hospitality Coordinator Sandra Nemeth to come up with a menu for that day. They are looking into some type of Mexican food in honor of Cinco de Mayo. Please talk to Allison or Sandra if you would like to help with the food.

Other ways that you can help include donating items to give away (travel-sized toiletries, personal care items, sleeping bags, clothes, pull tab cans or snack bars, gift cards to local businesses such as Grocery Outlet, 7-11, or Jack in the Box). You can also volunteer. We will be setting up at 9:30 that morning. You can help serve lunch. You can assist with the outdoor resources. And help cleaning up at the end of the day would be greatly appreciated. You can also donate money to the cause, designating your donation to Winter Collection/H4H.

There are fliers in the church to distribute to anyone who might be interested. Allison also has a flier with all the ways you can help. Look for it in your email soon! We know from the past events how appreciated these efforts are from those who come. And we at FCC Vallejo appreciate all that you do to make these events so successful!

PASTOR'S PEN

But you must not forget this one thing, dear friends: A day is like a thousand years to the Lord, and a thousand years is like a day.
~2 Peter 3:8 (NLT)

Okay, it hasn't been a thousand years since I became your pastor, or even a thousand days. But we have arrived at our one year milestone! Can you believe it? Does it feel like it's been a thousand years, or just one day? What a blessing it has been to be on this journey together.
Some highlights for me have been:

- Mini-retreats with our phenomenal elders
- Our Mister Rogers worship series last summer
- Four new members joining in December
- Singing with the choir
- Growing local ecumenical partnerships
- Winning the Community Partner award at the Vallejo Together Gala
- Hearing your perspectives in the Lord's Prayer Study
- Seeing my daughter Ayla Ray take interest in serving in worship

Thank you for showing up and serving in partnership alongside me these first twelve months. I have asked many questions to 'learn the ropes' and I know there is still more to learn. But I appreciate your patience and your support and the commitment you've shown so far. There is deep wisdom among you!!

This scripture verse does also help us to keep some things in perspective; while we've accomplished a lot, there is still more to look forward to in the future. We've got time! In the coming months we will be taking a fresh look at our mission, vision and identity statements to become clear on who we are today. This will help us in developing some new ways of conducting the business and ministry of the church. We'll have a big task to imagine new systems as we work to alleviate burnout while still encouraging broad participation.

I look forward to another year of growing in gospel-love and humble service together!

God Bless You,
Pastor Sara

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

Pastor at the Pub

Thanks to everyone who came out to enjoy a late afternoon visit at the Vallejo Brewing Company with me! We pushed a couple of tables together and enjoyed each other's company. Some of us even played a little pinball. We'll be adding pub meetups to the 'Coffee with the Pastor' rotation, so look for another happy hour outing in May.

Coffee with the Pastor

On **Thursday, April 30th from 10 am to Noon** I'll be at **Quarters Coffee House** on Mare Island for Coffee with the Pastor. This is an informal meetup, with the purpose of spending time together and talking about events of the day. No need to RSVP - just show up and enjoy some downtime and maybe a treat. 1015 Walnut Ave. in Vallejo.

Bible Study

We continue to meet on the last Sunday of the month to dive into scripture together. For April we'll meet after worship from **Noon to 1:30** on **Sunday the 26th** in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a brown bag lunch and your Bible - bound or digital. We'll look at the Gospel of John and what makes it different from the other three gospels.

Good Friday Service

You are invited to attend our Good Friday service on **Friday, April 3 at 7:00 pm** in our sanctuary. In this solemn service we will follow Jesus through the last day of his life, using scripture to guide us from the Garden of Gethsemane, through his trials, to his crucifixion and then to his burial. We will reflect on his deep love for the world, his sacrifice for us, and the hope of resurrection. This is a collaborative service with our friends at Community Presbyterian Church.

APRIL EASTER CHALLENGES - David Mezzera

As you probably suspected, this month's challenge centers on Easter, which will be the first Sunday of this month:

1. According to Scripture, who arrived first on Easter Sunday at Jesus' grave?

2. On that first Easter Sunday, who asked, "Woman, why do you weep?" And the woman responded, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid Him."

3. According to Scripture, who was the first person to see Jesus after He was resurrected?

4. Which disciple went to where Jesus was buried to look for Him?

5. Where did the angel tell the women to go and see the risen Savior?

APRIL EASTER CHALLENGE - Answers

1. Mary Magdalene arrived early to the tomb on the first day of the week when it was still dark. She saw that the stone had been rolled away. [John 20:1]

2. It was two angels who were there, and they asked Mary Magdalene why she was weeping. [John 20:12-13]

3. Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus. Initially, she mistook Him for the gardener. [John 20:15-18]

4. Peter was the first disciple to the tomb. [Luke 24:12]

5. The angel told Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to go to Galilee to see Jesus. [Matthew 28:6-7]

MISSION ACTION REPORT- Suzanne Awalt, Mission Action Coordinator

Monthly Gift

The April Mission Action donation of $275 will be sent to Save the SF Bay. This is an appropriate advocacy group to support as we celebrate Earth Day (April 22) and our regular personal and corporal efforts to promote earth stewardship. From their website:

"Save The Bay is building a movement to protect and restore San Francisco Bay through policy change, hands-on restoration, and deep community connection. We advocate for decisions that prioritize the Bay and the people who live here. We restore wetlands that defend our shoreline and bring nature back to life. And we connect people with the Bay in ways that build understanding, inspire care, and move them to take action."

Learn more at www.savesfbay.org

Disciples' Easter Offering

The 2026 Easter Offering supports general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We will receive this offering on Sundays, March 29 and April 5. Your offerings are welcome any time. You may use a designated offering envelope or simply annotate a donation for "Easter Offering."

Update on Water Bottle Refill Station

Concrete work to set a platform for the water bottle refill station and Little Free Pantry will commence on April 4, weather permitting. The Little Free Pantry will be removed and temporarily stored during this construction project. The Pantry will return to operation on or about April 10. At some date to be determined, we will have a dedication of the water bottle refill station. Thanks to John Grose, Carl Cordes, and Ted Goode, our "engineering team."

Please remember the needs of the Little Free Pantry when you shop. We always need personal care products, toiletries, protein bars, canned meats, cheese and crackers, boxed juice, apple sauce, fruit packs, and other nourishing, non-perishable items.

The day is near when we will no longer need to purchase and distribute bottled water. Hooray and Happy Earth Day to all!

HYBRID WORSHIP CONTINUES

We continue to develop and improve our hybrid worship abilities. Every Sunday morning, 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 accessible. Please share comments and suggestions that might make both formats better for everyone.

Our worship services begin at 10:30. To join us for worship on Zoom, click the link below and joining us through video. Or 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. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW MEETING INFO!
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83204891403?pwd=YkJBNTQwWURabEtpRFVoaDU5aU5hQT09

Meeting ID: 884 4460 0052
Passcode: 503337
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)

Save The Date

The Christian Church of Woodland invites you to a community viewing of **1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted a Culture**

This will happen on June 13th in our sanctuary with a movie screening and a meal! More details to follow.

-Pastor Shannon

Mark Your Calendar

April 3 - Good Friday Service, 7 pm in the sanctuary.

April 4 - Set up for Easter Breakfast, 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

April 5 - Easter Breakfast, 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

April 13 - Ministry Council Meeting, 5 pm on Zoom.

April 16 - Admin Council Meeting, 5 pm on Zoom.

April 23-25 - Annual Gathering, at FCC Concord.

April 26 - Bible Study, after worship (bring a lunch).

April 30 - Coffee with the Pastor, 10-noon at Quarters Coffee House on Mare Island.

June 13 - “1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted a Culture” film at Woodland Christian Church.

The deadline for the next Living Word is April 29