

The Living Word

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www.vallejochristian.org

www.facebook.com/fccvallejo

STEWARDSHIP'S A-COMING! - HELEN & DAVID MEZZERA

"DREAMING GOD'S DREAM - No Gift Too Small, No Dream Too Big" is the theme chosen by our Denomination for this year's annual Stewardship campaign. As a church family, we are all called to faithfully steward the gifts that God has given us. Whether it's our time, talent, or finances, let us use them wisely and generously to further His Kingdom and bring glory to His name. Church Stewardship matters. It's through Stewardship that the Gospel can be spread, lives can be changed, and communities impacted for the better. Being a good steward is about sharing our time, talent, and treasure with God and others; that is to say, giving back to God with joy and love for the blessings we've received. Being a good steward means to care for creation, support the church, help those in need and use our abilities to serve others.

During October and November, we at First Christian Church, Vallejo, will be looking at a variety of Stewardship opportunities to fulfill our challenge to DREAM GOD'S DREAM. We will begin by looking at our church budget, our facilities, our programs, our involvement with the community, and what we dream for our church, our families and ourselves. In the end, working together as a church community is imperative to fulfill our dreams and the subheading that "No gift is too small" will take us to plan our budget and programs for next year.

In November, a letter will be sent to everyone to explain exactly what programs and needs are facing us next year and how we can collectively compile our gifts to help reach our dreams. In the meantime, we hope you will find our short "Stewardship Moments" during worship service in the next two months to be informative, helpful and inspiring as we are challenged to "Dream God's Dream."

PASTOR'S PEN - Rev. Sara Steenhouse

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me... Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' [Matthew 25:35-36, 40]

As October begins I am reflecting on the first six months of our ministry together at FCC Vallejo. Yes, that's right! It's been six months now since we began our ministry partnership on April 1st of this year. In that time we've done a lot!

Right at the start we got to dive into church history with an education seminar on the Reformation. We quickly arrived at Holy week and Easter as we shared a reflective Palm/Passion Sunday, a really lovely Tenebrae service and meal, and an energetic Easter Celebration. In May we CROP-walked together at the waterfront with our ministry partners from Vallejo Together. In worship we lifted up stewardship of the Earth and we held our first Mental Health Sunday with discussion over lunch. June brought a really fun Pentecost and New Member luncheon, marking the birth and growth of our church. I was also officially installed in a beautiful and inspiring worship service and we celebrated with a big party and lots of guests. We pulled off another garage sale and began 'Coffee with the Pastor' too! In July we continued the Beyond sermon series and Bible Study as we joined our larger church in studying how God can carry us beyond the limits of our imagination. Our Pastor Meet-Up interviews began, giving us all a chance to get to know each other better and share about our church experiences. Camp Sunday was a fun worship with guest preacher Charlotte Thompson and Carl leading. In August we were embraced by the loving legacy of Fred Rogers as we reflected on his spiritual wisdom in worship. We participated in the Relay for Life and our Elders shared time together in a mini-retreat. Finally, September has been full of preparation and planning. We received the community partner award at the Vallejo Together gala and began a new monthly Bible Study.

Considering all of this, I am feeling very grateful to share in the work of living the Gospel in this place with all of you. The beautiful engraved glass award we received from Vallejo Together celebrates our commitment to Matthew 25:40 - which is about serving God by serving others. We cannot do everything here in our corner of the world, but we are committed to the values of worship, welcome, service, and love and I'm proud of the ways we have found to bring our faith and values to meet the world's needs.

Thank you for these first six months together - I'm excited to discover how we grow and serve over the next six as well.


Peace,

Pastor Sara


READY FOR HALLOWEEN? - David Mezzera

We know there is actually a town named Santa Claus, Indiana (thanks George and Rebecca!), but what about Halloween-related name places as we get ready for October 31st? Which of the following sites, towns and locations are real place names and which are made up? Answers elsewhere in the *Living Word*.

[A] Frankenstein, Missouri, [B] Pumpkin Center, Indiana, [C] Tombstone, Arizona
[D] Witch Lake, Michigan, [E] Deadwood, South Dakota, [F] Spirit Lake, Iowa
[G] Ghost Lake, Alberta, [H] Bat Cave, North Carolina, [I] Skeleton Lake, British Columbia
[J] Ghoull Lake, Ontario, [K] Spook Hill, Florida, [L] Goblin Valley, Utah
[M] Scarecrow Village, Japan, [N] Cemetery Ridge, Pennsylvania
[O] Soul City, North Carolina, [P] Monster Township, The Netherlands, [Q] Dead Sea, Israel
[R] Monster Isle, Japan, [S] Devil Creek, Montana, [T] Scare Canyon, Nevada
[U] Scary Creek, West Virginia, [V] Scarecrow Island, Michigan
[W] Haunted Hill Road, Virginia, [X] Bury, Manchester, England,
[Y] Blood River, South Africa, [Z] Vampire Cove, Massachusetts



**NATIONAL
NIGHT OUT 2025**
OCTOBER 7TH, 2025
4:30PM TO DUSK



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF VALLEJO
1035 INDIANA ST.
VALLEJO, CA 94590

**FOOD, GAMES, MUSIC,
BUILD RELATIONSHIPS!**

QUESTIONS?
PLEASE CONTACT
CARL CORDES (707)694-6274 CCCRAFTING@COMCAST.NET

MISSION ACTION NOTES - Suzanne Awalt, Mission Action Coordinator

• Monthly Donation for October - Disciples Reconciliation Ministries

The monthly \$250 Mission Action donation for October will go to Disciples Reconciliation Ministries. Today, the need for authentic acts of reconciliation seems more urgent than in recent memory. Reconciliation is a daily practice. On Sundays, September 28th and October 5th, our church will receive your special offerings (which will be added to the church's donation) to 2025 Reconciliation Ministry, BEYOND: Beyond Brokenness--Building Community. In the Apostle Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians, he admonishes, "WE ARE THEREFORE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS, AS THOUGH GOD WERE MAKING HIS APPEAL THROUGH US. WE IMPORE YOU ON CHRIST'S BEHALF: BE RECONCILED TO GOD."

The Reconciliation offering is taken in solidarity with World Communion Sunday (October 5). Half of each gift remains in the region from which it is sent.

Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide education, programming, and service through grants to:

1. General Ministries working across the whole church to move beyond brokenness.
2. Congregations, camps, and conferences that receive a grant from their region that actively developing and implementing programs that dismantle racism and build beloved community.

Visit www.reconciliationministry.org for more information. You will find helpful resources and videos. Your gifts to Reconciliation may be made to FCCV and designated "Reconciliation Offering."

• Thank You

Thanks to all for sharing your "Change for a Change of Clothing" over the past several weeks. We collected \$27.50 in quarters. The coins have been delivered to Vallejo Together for supporting unsheltered persons laundry needs. This is a modest, yet very compassionate outreach ministry. Imagine the joy of clean clothing!

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READY FOR HALLOWEEN? ANSWERS - David Mezzera

As you go through the list, many of the names appear fanciful, but ALL of them are actual locations and sites . . . until you get to the very last one: No such location exists as Vampire Cove in Massachusetts or any other state. It's purely fictional. Believe it or not, all of the others are actual geographic locations!

NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

- Coffee with the Pastor

Would you like to join me for coffee and a chat? On **Monday, October 20th from 2 to 4 pm** you can find me at **Panama Bay Coffee** (289 Mare Island Way). This is a chance to spend some informal time together catching up or discussing events of the day. Drop in for a few minutes or unwind for the whole time. No agenda, just an opportunity to connect.

We will continue to meet once a month at different times and places, so if this time doesn't work for you, let me know what does and I'll plan accordingly for the future. Share your favorite spot with me too!

- New Email Address

I have been using a new email address for church-related communication. Please add pastor@vallejochristian.org to your address book and send me a note! Thanks to Jon M. for helping me set this up.

- Worship Planning Team

You're invited to help us plan our fall worship experience at FCC Vallejo. Join us from 9 to Noon on Saturday, October 18th in Fellowship Hall. Our focus will be the Season of Advent. Bring your ideas, creativity, and brilliance to the work of crafting the kind of worship we all desire.

- Bible Study

Let's spend some time together in The Word! On the last Sunday of each month we will be meeting after church for Bible Study. Bring your lunch and your Bible - or borrow one of ours. We'll meet in the Parlor after worship to dive deeper into the texts we'll be using in worship. For October we'll meet on the 26th. Stay tuned for more info!

HAIRCUTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS -THANKSGIVING - Allison Mezzera

On 11/15 from 10am to 3pm we will hold our 3rd Thanksgiving Haircuts for the Holidays! The past events have been very successful and we need your help to meet the need again this year. Below are several ways to help ahead of this event and on the day of.

Donations Requested:**Cold & Rainy Weather Items:**

- *jackets - all sizes/genders
- *hats, gloves, thick socks
- *umbrellas, rain coats, boot covers
- *thermals, long sleeve

Necessities:

- *travel-size - shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash, lotion, deodorant, hand sanitizer
- *lip balm, floss, toothpaste, toothbrush
- *combs, brushes, picks
- *belts - all sizes

Food, Other:

- *bottles of water
- *juice boxes, protein shakes, etc.
- *\$10 or \$20 gift cards - Grocery Outlet, Starbucks, fast food, 7-11 (Vallejo local)

Volunteer (contact Allison Mezzera to volunteer):

Set up @ 9:00 am (set up tables, chairs, resources)

Work with mobile shower unit

Serve lunch & Greet the people

Clean up @ 3:00 pm

Make Food (Contact Sandra Zenaida):

Ways to Give:

Check or cash sent to First Christian Church, Vallejo - or go to:

<https://vallejochristian.org/donate>

Designate "WinterCollection-H4H"

**** DO NOT SHIP OR LEAVE DONATIONS AT CHURCH****

Two drop off (or schedule a pickup) supplies/donations contact c/o Allison Mezzera in Vallejo area or Renae Earl in East Bay.

FCC VALLEJO HONORED BY VALLEJO TOGETHER - Jon Mezzera

On Friday, September 19th, our mission partner Vallejo Together held the 2nd Annual Maria Guevara Memorial Gala at the Dan Foley Community Center – a major fundraiser honoring the woman who founded the organization over ten years ago. In honor of the event and our work with Vallejo Together, FCCV's Admin Council approved the purchase of a table for six guests at the Gala which were used by Pastor Sara and members of the congregation. Vallejo Together and their volunteers work tirelessly to support people in our community who are struggling with homelessness. Their work is something that our church has supported in many ways over the years, so we were very enthused to take part in this big event.

The Gala featured great food, fellowship, music, speakers, a raffle and more! Solano County Supervisor, Cassandra James was the keynote speaker. Her message honoring Maria and the work of Vallejo Together was very moving. Poet Laureate of Vallejo, Jacalyn Eyvonne shared a poem written for the event. Two of our members brought home three of the raffle prizes! It was a very fun evening and a chance to catch up with old friends, both from Vallejo Together as well as other churches and organizations which also work in partnership with them.

Another part of the Gala was an awards ceremony honoring Vallejo Together staff and volunteers who have worked hard over the past year to carry out their mission. The members of FCCV were surprised to hear our church's name called as the recipient of The Community Partner Award! The award recognizes our commitment and embodiment of Matthew 25: 35-40. Considering the other groups at the Gala who partner with Vallejo Together in various ways such as their Interfaith Coalition, it was touching that they honored us with this award. In addition to financial contributions over the years, we have partnered with Vallejo Together on Haircuts for the Holidays (the next one will be 11/15). They have participated in our Global Holiday Faire. Recently, we have collected quarters for a program which brings people to laundromats so that everyone can have the dignity of clean clothes. We look forward to the continuation of this important mission partnership in the future.



Dear Church Family,

I want to express my deepest appreciation to everyone at FCC Vallejo for the immense support and compassion extended to our family after the loss of my father, Woody, and then only eight days later, my daughter, Amber. Although I now live out of state and haven't attended services in some time, the outpouring of kindness—from financial gifts and heartfelt sympathy cards to emails, notes, and even a thoughtful book sent by one of you—has been a great comfort in a difficult season. Many of you reached out with encouraging words, showed up for our family at services, helped with coordinating the service for Dad and all that comes with that, and lent a listening ear or a shoulder to lean on when I needed it most. I often struggle to know what to ask for or even how to put my feelings into words, which makes your support all the more meaningful. Every gesture, big or small, has reminded me of the genuine community spirit that has always made this church such a special place.

I also want to acknowledge the support so many of you offered when I was recovering from my car accident a few years ago. Although I never sent thank you notes then, the kindness and help I received truly stayed with me.

Though my relationship with the church has changed over the years, this community shaped my childhood and remains deeply woven into my family's story. I have lasting memories of attending with my grandparents, mom, and sister, and flipping through all the photos of Dad, I was reminded of just how many life moments—from my daughter's birthdays to graduation parties—were held in the church fellowship hall. My dad was a faithful man in his own way, and some of our most cherished family events took place within these walls. In times of loss, I'm reminded how meaningful ritual can be—even the familiar details that once felt routine, like setting up the fellowship hall for a gathering, have brought extra comfort, connection, and a sense of home. Thank you for enveloping our family in such warmth and care during these challenging times. Your love has truly made a difference.

With gratitude,
Mandy Hammond
(Stolling and Bradley families)

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: 832 0489 1403

Passcode: 157093

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)

Mark Your Calendar

October 7 - National Night Out. 4:30 pm.

October 9 - Admin Council meeting, 5 pm on Zoom.

October 13 - Elders Meeting, 6 pm on Zoom.

October 18 - Worship Planning Meeting, 9-12 in the Fellowship Hall.

October 20 - Coffee With The Pastor, 2-4 pm at Panama Bay Coffee in Vallejo.

October 23 - Ministry Council meeting, 5 pm on Zoom.

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

The deadline for the next Living Word is October 29
