

## A Monthly Publication

**Editors:**  
Rev. Liz Miller and  
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### Elder Schedule

10/3 - Joyce Leak  
10/10 - Art Neumarkel  
10/24 - Jim Paget  
10/31 - June Steen

### Worship Leaders

10/3- Marcie Labo  
10/10 - Nona Carter  
10/24 - June Steen  
10/31 - Joyce Leak

### Coming Events

10/19 - 8:00 AM  
Men's Breakfast  
10/27 - 12:00 PM  
Ladies Luncheon



# The Messenger

**First Christian Church—Mount Vernon  
and St. Clare Chapel**

*Welcoming, Caring, Communities of Faith*

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6 OCTOBER 2021

Jesus said to his first disciples, "**Follow me.**" He extends the same invitation to you and me today. We may think to ourselves, "I can't do that! I'm not a scholar or a preacher; I'm not even a good person." We may want to tell Jesus how imperfect we are, how unworthy. Peter was like that too. "Get away from me Lord," Peter said in Luke 5: 8, "I am just a sinful man." In truth, Christ is an enabler, he makes possible what we would otherwise consider impossible. For all his faults and weaknesses, Peter was transformed by his encounter with Christ; we will be transformed by our own encounter as well.

Christ entrusts to each one of us the work of discipleship: to extend, regardless of our own circumstances, the love of God to all; to proclaim, in our own homes and communities, the compassion, the forgiveness, the justice of the Gospel; to take on God's work of reconciliation and forgiveness among all his children. As God is present to us in the person of Jesus, we are invited to be present to one another in the love and care we share.

John Henry Jowett was a great English preacher. He loved to share a story of a young servant girl who came to join his church. He wanted to make sure that she understood that this was a serious undertaking, so he asked her what she proposed to do to live the Christian life. She replied that her work did not allow her much time off, so she would not be able to attend services regularly. Intrigued, Jowett inquired further as to how she planned to live the Christian life if she could not come to church each Sunday. "Well sir," she responded, "I always take the daily paper to bed with me at night. I look at the first page and I read the birth notices and I pray for the babies that have been born. Then I read the marriage page and I pray for the newlyweds, that their new life together may be happy and true. And then I read the obituaries and I pray that God's comfort may come to each sorrowing home."

Across our world today, there are people like that young woman making a difference by doing what they can. Extending the love of God by doing the simple everyday things that Christ has called them to do. Christ calls us in the same manner. All we must do is listen for his direction and watch for opportunities to share his love and compassion with others. We are all gifted in some way and there is no gift, no act of ministry that is too small or insignificant.

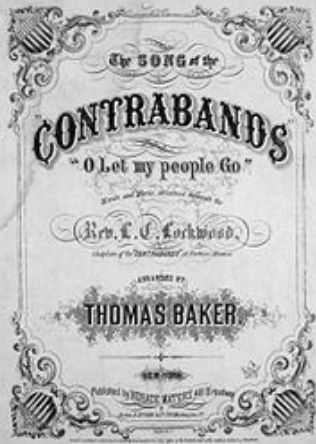
Helen Keller wrote, "I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble."

In accepting Jesus' invitation to become his followers, the first disciples left their old life of uncertainty behind to eagerly follow Jesus in a life filled with expectation. We are called in the same way. Jesus invites us to leave behind a world polarized with worry about things that really do not matter when viewed through his eternal lens. He asks us to follow him in the great and noble mission of proclaiming the Good News of his love to all who will listen. All we must do trust in him, drop our nets, and begin the journey. ... Rev. Jack

*"Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil ... No Point!"*

Church Signs USA

*“Go down, Moses, way down  
in Egypt’s land. Tell O,  
Pharaoh, to let my  
people go.”*



*“You are called!”*  
By Rev. Liz Miller as  
one of her final  
Master of Divinity  
assignments.

## Hymn Story - “Go down Moses”

The story of the song begins in the early days of the Civil War. In 1861, three slaves, Thomas Baker, James Townsend, and Sheppard Mallory, were sent to the Confederate Army to help with construction. They escaped at night and rowed across the harbor from Norfolk, Va., to Union-held Fort Monroe. They presented themselves to Union General Benjamin Butler, risking being returned to their enslavers and facing horrible punishment, as dictated by the law in effect before the war. Butler refused to return them, classifying them as “contraband of war.” Laws were soon passed prohibiting returning them to their enslavers.

The Contrabands at Fort Monroe built housing from burned ruins. Their community came to be known as Grand Contraband Camp. Defying a Virginia law against educating slaves, the African American humanitarian Mary Peake taught both adults and children to read and write. Inspired by this opportunity for freedom (albeit partial and haphazard), many escaped and made their way to Fort Monroe. By the end of the war, less than four years later, there were many Contraband camps and thousands of Contrabands.

A song that some of the Contrabands sang when they arrived at Fort Monroe was recorded and published by a chaplain, the Rev. L.C. Lockwood, as “The Song of the Contrabands: O Let My People Go.” It was the first spiritual to gain national (i.e., white) popularity.

President Lincoln visited Contraband camps frequently, and on one documented occasion, joined a prayer meeting and sang along, often overcome with emotion, to “Go Down Moses” and other songs.

African Americans have long made a religious connection between slavery in America and the Jewish Exodus story. In Arthur Waskow and Phyllis Berman’s book “Freedom Journeys: The Tale of Exodus and Wilderness across Millennia,” the African American historian Vincent Harding poignantly describes this mutual influence as Jews’ and African Americans’ “joint ownership” of the Exodus story. He writes that he is unable to approach the story without mentally hearing “Go Down Moses.”

Why me, Lord?

I am imperfect, shy and there are others more qualified than I. I am a sinner. You know me. You see within me. There are no secrets from you. Why me, Lord? My humanness wonders what you are thinking and yet...All you ask of me is my yes. In spite of seeing who I really am inside... you continue to call.

My heart says: I am unworthy, I am unworthy, I am out of my comfort zone. Like the prophets of so long ago I say I cannot. The excuses are many but in the quiet corners of my mind and my heart I hear you calling.

You are persistent. I am free to accept or reject and yet it is no longer a choice I have. The calling is so deep within me that I cannot turn away. I must walk this journey with you.

I must trust and look towards you. The Spirit will not be silenced, yet will not override my will.

You ask much, Lord. The road as a female priest will not be easy but the Spirit is moving and so I say yes, I will follow, with you at my side.

Mold me, change me, work within me. I give myself, in love to you, to serve your people, as priest. Make me worthy, O, Lord!

# God loves all creation ...



God is the source and loving sustainer of all that lives—of species endangered as well as those newly discovered and named. Called as we are to wisely care for this diverse and imperiled web of life, let us again offer ourselves as advocates, donors, and active stewards, being reverent and mindful toward all creation.

*“Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired St. Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless this pet. By the power of your love, enable it to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures! Amen.”*



## Financial Report:

Income (August):	\$2,289.85
Expenses (August):	\$3,894.14
Rental Account:	\$5,227.08 (as of August 31st)
Fidelity Balance:	\$39,675.45 (as of August 31st)
Bank Balance:	\$3,473.00 (as of August 31st)

## Native American Wisdom - *Prayer to the Four Winds.*

**"Thus says the Lord God: From the four winds come, O spirit, and breathe into these slain that they may come to life." (Ezekiel 37:9)**



Great Spirit of Light, come to me out of the East with the power of the rising sun. Let there be light in my words, let there be light on the path that I walk. Let me remember always that you give the gift of a new day. And never let me be burdened with sorrow by not starting over again.

Great Spirit of Love, come to me with the power of the North. Make me courageous when the cold wind falls upon me. Give me strength and endurance for everything that is harsh, everything that hurts, everything that makes me squint. Let me move through life ready to take what comes from the north.

Great Life-Giving Spirit, I face the West, the direction of sun-down. Let me remember every day that the moment will come when my sun goes down. Never let me forget that I must fade away into you. Give me a beautiful color, give me a great sky for setting, so that when it is my time to meet you, I can come with glory.

Great Spirit of Creation, send me the warm and soothing winds from the South. Comfort me and caress me when I am tired and cold. Unfold me like the gentle breezes that unfold the leaves on the trees. As you give to all the earth your warm, moving wind, give to me, so that I may grow close to you in warmth. We did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. - Prayer to The Four (Winds) Directions - Chief Seattle

# OCTOBER 2021 (Clergy Appreciation Month)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Zoom 10:30am	4	5	6	7	8	9 Regional Class
10 Zoom 10:30am	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Zoom 10:30am	18	19 Men's Breakfast	20	21	22	23
24 Zoom 10:30am	25	26	27 Gal's Luncheon	28	29	30
31 Zoom 10:30am						

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(See Matthew 14:14-21)

08-03-2011

I'M ON A NO-CARB, VEGETARIAN DIET

## October Birthdays

- } 10/13 - Jackie Hankins
- } 10/19 - Gracie Hankins
- } 10/21 - Susan Neumarkel
- } 10/26 - Mike Madlung
- } 10/27 - Kerri Serna
- } 10/31 - Ronnie Lidstrom

## October Anniversaries

- } 10/11 - Ryan & Justine Morgan
- } 10/26 - Dave & Terri Meekhof



## October Events

- } Congregational Meeting TBA
- } 10/9 - Regional Class
- } 10/19 - Men's Breakfast
- } 10/27 - Gal's Luncheon

**First Christian Church - Mount Vernon  
and St. Clare Chapel**

*Welcoming, Caring, Communities of Faith*

Rev. Liz Miller and Rev. Dr. Jack Miller - Pastors



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