



Ring the bells that still can ring

Forget your perfect offering

There is a crack,

A crack in everything

That's how the light gets in.

—Leonard Cohen

How the Light Gets In: Celebrating Our Resilience

LCC'S Annual Women's Retreat
Led by Rev. Kathy Cramer

Monday, October 12 to Wednesday, October 14, 2026
Villa Maria Del Mar, Santa Cruz, CA

How the Light Gets In: Celebrating Our Resilience

Lafayette Christian Church Women's Retreat

Kintsugi, which means “golden joinery,” is the ancient Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with lacquer and highlighting the cracks with gold, silver, or platinum powder. The result is a piece that is both functional and beautiful. Kintsugi also offers a powerful metaphor for how we face hardship. It reminds us that brokenness is not an ending, but a chance for renewal. Our struggles do not lessen our worth; they become part of our story, shaping us into people who are more distinctive, compassionate, and resilient.

Alongside our personal struggles, we live in a world marked by growing conflict. Meeting these challenges calls for resilience—the ability to recover and repair. We often mistake resilience for pushing through without showing weakness, but it is really about caring for ourselves, accepting our imperfections, and drawing strength from faith and one another. In that sense, we too can be both functional and beautiful. As Leonard Cohen wrote, “There is a crack, a crack in everything. That’s how the light gets in.”

At this year’s women’s retreat, we will reflect on and celebrate the invitation within brokenness—not as something to fear or hide, but as an opening to create something new and beautiful. Together, we will fill our “cracks” with the gold of poetry, rest, joy, and connection with one another and the Holy. Join us in Santa Cruz, where the ocean reminds us that ebb and flow are part of life, and where nature offers its own healing power.



Where: Villa Maria del Mar

21918 East Cliff Dr, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

When: Monday, October 12— Wednesday, October 14

Check-in is at 4:00 pm Monday. Dinner is served at 6:00 pm. Program begins at 7:00 pm

The retreat ends after 12:30 pm lunch on Wednesday.

The Villa Maria del Mar Retreat Center is on the ocean in Santa Cruz.

Check out their website: villamariadelmar.org

Great food, elevator, air conditioning, private garden,
and a meeting room with a view of the ocean (if we have 30 participants, so invite a friend).

Registration Form

Check ONE:

_____ 1- Please reserve a SINGLE room for me at the cost of \$500 for 2 nights
(includes 6 meals and program).

The price includes dinner on Monday night as well as lunch before our departure on Wednesday.

_____ 2- Please reserve a SHARED room (2 twins) for me at the cost of \$390/person.
I would like to room with _____ or you can assign me a roommate.

To hold either a single or a shared room reservation, please submit a check made out to
“Lafayette Christian Church” and with “Women’s Retreat” in the memo.

**Mail to 584 Glenside Dr, Lafayette, CA 94549,
or leave in the retreat envelope in Kelley’s staff mailbox by June 28th.**

Rooms will be assigned based on the date of your payment.

Scholarship plans available—please contact Kelley.
office@lafayettechristianchurch.org or 925-989-2598 for more information.

Contact Nancy Vasko 925-937-6262 with questions.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Emergency contact name & phone # _____

Special needs _____

Do you wish to carpool? Yes _____ No _____

Registration fee \$ _____ + Scholarship gift \$ _____ = Total enclosed \$ _____