



Reverend Dr. Zina Jacque



Reverend Jana Chwalisz



Reverend Laura Barkley

Your Voice, Your Vote

THE 19TH AMENDMENT TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION GRANTED AMERICAN WOMEN THE RIGHT TO VOTE, A RIGHT KNOWN AS WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, AND WAS RATIFIED ON AUGUST 18, 1920, ENDING ALMOST A CENTURY OF PROTEST. TO COMMEMORATE THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, WE TURNED TO THREE WOMEN PASTORS REPRESENTING THE OLDEST THREE CHURCHES IN BARRINGTON. WE ASKED THEM TO TALK ABOUT THEIR CHURCHES, THEIR PERSPECTIVE ON WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE, AND ABOUT THE USE OF VIOLENCE AS A MEANS TO AN END.

REVEREND DR. ZINA JACQUE

Community Church in Barrington (1847)

My life has been filled with blessings! Born to a Mom and Dad who could not wait to have children, raised in a community filled with Mexican Americans, Serbian Americans, Russian immigrants, Black men and women from the American South, Irish Americans, and more—I knew the best of America's great mosaic from my birth. The gifts these cultures offered me remain with me today and are resonant in my soul each time I say my name, which my Russian neighbors helped my Mother choose. Educated well, married to the man of my dreams, Mom to his two children, grandmother to three of the best humans on earth, indeed I am blessed. And, I can add to this a sense of purpose that rises out of the work God has given my hands to do.

My career spans more than four decades and includes work in higher education, mental health care,

community engagement, and the work of the church. In each of these “chapters” of my life, I have been called to serve and encourage, guide, and celebrate. But what I value most is this: each day I go to work I know the joy of being in the place I was called to be.

Community Church is the oldest church in Barrington. Founded in 1847, 18 years before the Village, we were here to welcome settlers of all kinds. In fact, though we are an American Baptist Church, from our beginning men and women of many denominations made Community Church (then the Baptist Church) home. We still love and celebrate the ecumenical reality that is Community Church, a place where all belong, and all are welcome.

American Baptists have been ordaining women since the early days of the prior century. Women have shared in leadership and in the development of some of the most prominent features of the church. I am proud to say that the fight for equity of women,

in American Baptist Churches, is not new. When women are in leadership, issues such as fair pay, the support and nurture of children, care for the environment, healthcare, and violence reduction rise to the surface and are taken seriously. The presence of both male and female voices in leadership simply makes possible a wider view of the world and deeper engagement in the concerns of the world.

One hundred years ago, thousands of women fought and suffered for my right to vote. They have given me a voice and a place in the development and structure of my nation. I am grateful to them and I want to extend their legacy by continuing to fight for rights of those who are without voice, as once women were.

In the movie, “Iron Jawed Angels,” the story of Alice Paul is told. I admire her tenacity and what she gave up fighting for women's right to vote. She put the needs of the many in front of her own, and we are the better for it.

The “Silent Sentinels” were hundreds of women who stood outside the White House, holding banners, and standing as a testimony against current United States policies, who did not resort to violence. But their silent stand caused violence to be perpetrated against them. Like the Sentinels, I do not believe violence is a first step, a second step, or even a third. But people oppressed must be allowed to peacefully protest, organized boycotts, and appeal to the legislative bodies in our nation. If these means are open to people and offer traction, violence will not be needed. This is my hope and prayer.

REVEREND JANA CHWALISZ

St. Paul United Church of Christ (1863)

I have been in professional ministry, acting in the roles of Christian Educator and Associate Pastor since 1997, and was called to transfer to the United Church of Christ in 2006, receiving my ordination as a pastor in 2009. At St. Paul, I've served as Associate Pastor and now Pastor. I received an MA in Clinical Psychology before pursuing a second master's degree in Christian Education from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. My husband, Steve, and I are the parents of two grown children, Bryce and Katherine, and grandparents to Tavion.

St. Paul UCC is a 157-year-old congregation. Chartered in 1863, St. Paul was to originally sit on the ground that is currently the St. Paul UCC Cemetery. Due to the Civil War, the congregation felt it prudent to first have the capacity to honor those who might not return home and set aside that land for the cemetery. Construction on St. Paul began on its current site and was completed in 1865.

Begun as St. Paul's Evangelical Church for the German-speaking population of Barrington Station, it finds roots in the Reformed tradition of Martin Luther and Ulrich Zwingli. In 1934, the Evangelical church in America merged with the Reformed church in America, and St. Paul was known as St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed church until 1958 when the congregation voted to become a part of the newly formed denomination, The United Church of Christ. This new denomination was created in 1957 when the Evangelical and Reformed churches merged with the Congregational Christian churches, which trace their roots to the Pilgrims who came to the New World seeking freedom from religious persecution.

The UCC is known for its expansive, inclusive welcome of all people regardless of race, creed, gender, sexuality, ability, or socio-economic status, and St. Paul proudly follows in this long tradition.

The UCC is also known for its firsts. In its combined denominational heritage, the UCC ordained the first Black Pastor in 1785, and was on the forefront of fighting for abolition. Helping the African prisoners who gained their freedom from the ship, The Amistad, they ordained the first woman pastor in 1853, the first gay pastor in 1972, and in 2005 the UCC was the first denomination in the U.S. to embrace Marriage Equality for LGBTQIA+ persons. St. Paul proudly became an Open and Affirming (ONA) Congregation within the UCC in April 2018. This underscores our commitment to full inclusivity of the LGBTQIA+ community in all St. Paul's ministries. In July 2014, after the passage of the national Marriage

Equality Act, St. Paul held the first legal, same gender wedding in Barrington.

Women at St. Paul hold, and have held, varying roles at St. Paul from Pastor to Associate Pastor to Council President to Sunday School teacher to Chairperson of different committees. Women having these positions is extremely important for their spiritual and intellectual development.

As a white woman, born in the last of the baby boom era, I have never had to worry about my privilege to vote. So, I wonder if I have ever really acknowledged the privilege I enjoy because of selfless work and sacrifice of so many women who made my privilege possible. I know there are still vestiges of the suffrage movement that are alive, including the struggle to have the Equal Rights Amendment ratified.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton is my favorite Suffragist. I admire her tenacity and understanding of how the Bible has been used for millennia as a tool of oppression against women.

I don't condone violence in any form. Yet I can understand why one might be pushed to such a breaking point having suffered oppression for a lifetime. For us to make change in our world without it, is to be willing to admit our participation in oppression, repent for it, and be willing to listen to another's story. Change will only occur when we accept that both the answers, and the problems, lie within ourselves and we become willing to accept our need to change first.

REVEREND LAURA BARKLEY

Salem United Methodist Church (1893)

I have been married to Craig for almost 21 years. We have seven children: Gracie (19), Mikayla (16), Jonah (13), Zander (9), DeWayne (6), Jaylon (4), Emmett (3). I have been serving the United Methodist Church since 2006. I became a fully ordained Elder in 2013. I have my Masters of Divinity Degree from Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary. I am a native of Rockford, Illinois, and have three siblings.

Salem UMC began in 1845 when the church was built near Deer Grove Cemetery. Before that, people met in their homes and cabins in small groups, truly Wesleyan-style. They eventually built a church in its current location in 1893. The former Evangelical Brethren Church would join with the Methodist Church in 1968 when the United Methodist Church began with their merger. The congregation has had a similar story as many churches, where they saw great numbers of people in worship as Christianity was part of the fabric of society and as that changed and decreased throughout the country, Salem also felt the

decline in membership. However, they are a vibrant congregation and excel in hospitality. Everyone who walks in the door is welcomed and engaged by the members and frequent visitors of the church. People attend because this is where they find "home" and loving community.

The role of women is important in the greater UMC, as well as Salem. There have been several women who have served as lead pastor or associate pastor at Salem. We also are dedicated to having women represented throughout our leadership on our various committees and on Sunday morning in worship. It is important that the role of women is not only valued in word, but through the example of the various parts of our church.

As a woman, I stand on the shoulders of those who have walked before me. Women who have fought for the voice of women to be heard and valued. Women's suffrage matters because the right to vote is foundational to our constitutional rights. Voting gives a person a voice in saying who should be in leadership, who is capable socially and morally just to make decisions on behalf of the people. When Jesus walked this earth, he gave a voice to the voiceless, he helped free those who were oppressed in society. As followers of Jesus, we are called to carry on in that work. I am thankful for the women (and men) who fought for the right for women to vote.

My favorite Suffragist is Anna Shaw. She was one of the first women to be ordained in the Methodist Church. She was a strong young woman. She helped care for her family as they lived through difficult circumstances. However, when it came to being pressured to support more violent suffragettes, she resigned. I admire her courage to work for the rights of women, but also her firm boundaries. I hope to have the same boldness and perseverance in my life as Anna Shaw did in hers.

Voting is one of the biggest ways we can have our voice heard without the act of violence. However, as Martin Luther King Jr. says, "a riot is the language of the unheard". While I don't condone acts of violence, I understand the rage that can happen in society when voices of those on the margins are silenced. I think voting, working diligently on policy change, and better educating people are the main ways to make change in our world without violence.

As a pastor, I feel that part of my call is to have those hard conversations about things that people who are not in the margins would not necessarily see. The teaching of history and the Bible have been filled with inaccuracies that seek to oppress women and minorities. We need to begin to listen and study history through a wider lens. 