Meet Christy Ann Clark

Rev. Christy Ann Clark is a Deacon of the California-Pacific Conference of the United Methodist Church (UMC) and Executive Director and pioneer of Strengthening the Black Village (SBV). SBV seeks to meet the needs of children, youth, and families impacted by the foster care system. SBV was born out of her vision to unite faith, government, and community leaders in a shared mission to bring spiritual, emotional, social, and physical wholeness and healing to at-risk children, youth, and families, especially Black and Brown families/villages of care.

Christy earned a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary and is working toward earning her Doctor of Ministry from Fuller. In addition, she earned double B.A. Degrees from California State University, Monterey Bay. Her undergraduate degrees are in Human Communication, & Collaborative Health, Human Services, and Public Policy.

SBV's Executive Director is certified as a Supervised Monitor and Coach with the Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and served as a monitor/coach with Crossroads UMC, supervising court-ordered visits for families seeking reunification. As a Certified Parenting Instructor, she has a passion for educating parents in raising healthy and resilient children as well as in teaching other leaders to conduct parenting training. She has served as Minister of Children, Youth, and Young Families with Saint Mark UMC (Los Angeles). Christy currently collaborates with various churches, faith-based organizations, and community partners on ministries of food justice and urban farming, economic and racial justice, and education for children/youth in peace with justice/shalom. Her previous work with the Monterey County Department of Social and Employment Services granted her valuable insight into out-of-home care from the social service providers vantage point. She has also worked in case management, grant-writing, and direct care with blind/visually impaired children and adults. Raised in South Central LA, her call and dream has always been to return and serve the youth of the inner city, which is a dream being gloriously realized.

Raised in a combination of foster homes, group homes, and kinship care settings, God helped Christy overcome traumatic beginnings, and called her to support, inspire and guide others who might otherwise not see hope and joy in their futures. Christy, a beloved, faithful, young Black woman with a visual impairment and a rough beginning in foster care, stands as a testament to God's grace, love, and power.

Christy and her husband, Marlon, have been married since 2007 and have one son, Shaun! The family adopted Tuggles, a Jack Russell Terrier mix, from the ASPCA, thereby extending their love and care for the lost and abandoned even to dogs.

To schedule an appointment, donate or find out more information about SBV, please follow this link: https://linktr.ee/sbvillage

SBV’s Slogan
Strengthening the Black Village:
“Weaving together villages of care for the nourishment of the souls, bodies, and minds of our children.”

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Vision & Mission

SBV’s vision is to build an interfaith, multicultural, and multidisciplinary team, which bridges church and world to be the hands, heart, feet, and voice of Christ in the lives of foster children, youth, and families. SBV faithfully seeks to promote healing, wholeness, and strength for Black families and extended villages of care.

Through cultivating partnerships with churches and other faith communities, the Department of Children and Family Services, juvenile probation, and other community agencies, we answer our call to provide parenting training and mentoring, especially for fathers. Together men, women, and children are stronger.

We teach the Effective Black Parenting Curriculum

- Effective Black Parenting (EBP) Course
  15 sessions; 3 times per year: (Spring, Summer, and Fall)
  8 weeks long
- Pride in blackness
- Parenting methods
- African and biblical Proverbs pyramid to success, customized to the needs of the cohort
- Class and needs of students
- Secret Facebook Alumni group for continued support from SBV, and other graduates

We also offer...

- Father support groups/mentorship
- Instructor certification for teams and individual
- Short intensive parenting workshops
- SBV’s in-person family resource center at Saint Mark is coming soon!

Our invitation to you!

- Recommend SBV to others
- Become an instructor or Father mentor
- Consider joining our Board of Directors
- Donate time, talents and treasures
- Make checks payable to: Strengthening the Black Village

SBV’s Goals

Cultivate a vibrant and culturally diverse team of leaders dedicated to SBV’s vision, mission, and values.

- Annually, SBV will conduct at least three parenting courses with class sizes of ten students per class.
- Implement a model for mentoring, educating, and nurturing fathers and father figures.
- Open our family resource center at Saint Mark and expand into at least one other congregation.
- Expand our staff and obtain at least one new instructor.

"Though one may be overpowerced, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken"

(Ecclesiastes 4:12, NIV)