

The Presbyterian Church of Novato  
710 Wilson Avenue  
P.O. Box 631  
Novato, CA 94948

Return Service Requested

# *PresPress*



May 10 – Mother's Day  
May 25 – Memorial Day



**PresPress**

**May 2020**

Presbyterian Church of Novato, 710 Wilson Ave., P.O. Box 631, Novato, CA 94948

**Adam Smith**

**“NO, THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS NOT GOD’S WILL”**

I’ve always found that one of my greatest laments in serving as pastor of a church is that worship becomes different for me. The liturgy, the inner-workings of the overall program, the fact that I am ‘in the spotlight’ all add to an experience of worship that is wrapped up in the throes of leadership that, while worshipful, is somewhat less so just by the nature of the role.

What I’ve found in the midst of our sheltering in place is that I’ve had opportunities to tune into worship with other churches online. It has been a blessing...most of the time. However, I heard a message the other day that I think warrants a response.

The gist of the worship theme was: “God created COVID-19 to bring more people to Him!”

I feel like I need to voice a deep theological response to this statement...Are you ready for it? Here it goes...

”Nope!” or perhaps, “False.”

That’s it! That’s all I got.

But isn’t God in control? Isn’t God omnipotent? Don’t all things happen for a reason?

Ahhh... perhaps you can see the theological dilemma. If God is in this kind of control then this COVID-19 pandemic must be from God or at least has been allowed to transpire by God for a divine purpose.

This kind of theology can seem like a faithful understanding of the nature of God as attested to in scripture. After all, in the First Testament, we see God flooding the world to cleanse it. We see God leading God’s people to declare ‘holy war’ on others with the instructions to kill every man, woman, and child. We see God allowing unimaginable things to happen to his servant Job. We see God bringing plagues upon Egypt. It seems like God is not beyond such devastating means to fulfill His purposes at times.

But then we have Jesus Christ, who we confess to be fully and wholly God just as He is fully and wholly human. In Christ, we begin to paint a different, expanded picture of God: a God who shows power only insofar as God gives it away. We see a God who sacrifices God's son for an undeserving humanity. We see a God who does not cause harm to people, but who bears it with those who suffer. We begin to paint the picture of a God who does not cause catastrophe so that people might come to know God, but a God who journeys with us, by our side, in the depths of hell in our lives because God loves us that much! We see a suffering servant, not a tyrannical dictator who would throw some lives away to save others. We see a shepherd going after one lost sheep at a time.

So I would have to say, 'No, God did not create COVID-19 for some divine purpose.' To make such a confession would be to say that God caused the plague, or the wildfires, or the hurricanes, or all other horrible tragedies that befall the world, or at least that God simply did not stop such things from happening. Is that the kind of God that we worship and serve; one who throws lives away to save others, who does not stop tragedies from occurring though God has the power to do so? That's not what we see in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That's not what we see in the gospels and, I'd argue, throughout Scripture.

Perhaps we need to rethink our theology of an 'all-powerful' God 'in control' of all things. It sounds comforting to think about, but problematic when it comes to what we know in the gospels and experience in life. 'God in control' does not mean that God is a puppet master pulling the strings of creation. If that were the case, then all notions of relationship and love become nothing more than choreographed, pre-programmed responses rather than true community. 'God in control' might better reflect God's ultimate plan for God's coming Kingdom and the 'age to come,' or reflect in God's power over death and promise of new life, or perhaps in God's providential care and presence in the midst of hardship and struggle.

But I digress. That topic warrants a deeper conversation for which this article does not allot space. But what we can say for sure is that even in the midst of horrible circumstances, we are assured that God does not abandon us and is with us even when it seems like walls are crumbling all around. God is working, as always, for our good, not wanting harm to come to any of God's children. God's love for us is such. And we, the body of Christ, bear the responsibility to embody that love in the world: in our caregiving, in our healing, in our prayer, in our responsibility to our neighbors.

God did not cause the COVID-19 pandemic, but you can be sure that God is at work in the midst of it, in you, in me, in the church, and in ways we cannot even fathom. God embraces the loved ones of those who have died. God weeps with them. God cries tears of joy when people recover from the virus. God dances when we find new ways to love our family and friends and to be the body of Christ. God listens when we pray and answers all prayers. Just because God did not cause this does not mean that God will not find ways to bring new life in the midst of it.

Saints of PCN, blessings to you in this time. It has been quite a wilderness journey and continues to be even as I write this article. May you be reminded of the God who sits with you during this pandemic, not idly twiddling His thumbs, but loving you wholly and fully like no one else can. Such is our Lord and Savior.

With Grace & Peace,  
Adam



## Sally Carbonaro

The week before Easter we sent an email asking families if they wanted to receive an Easter basket delivered to their door on Easter morning. We assured them of our safety precautions, gloves, masks, wipes, Ziploc bags etc. Within 24 hours we received an overwhelming response from 73 children, "YES PLEASE!!" The picture below shows 46 of the 73 baskets we delivered as well as one of the deliveries.

On Easter morning Nick and I were up bright and early delivering Easter baskets. We felt like drops of water in a parched desert. The children's faces were pressed against the front windows, some came out on the porch, they waved, bounced up and down, and we cherished the sight of them. It was hard to think of words to share; it was emotional for all of us. Many sent emails, pictures and videos after. We are all starved for attention and community.

I am so excited and energized that we at PCN have found ways to step up to the challenge of reaching out and reaching in. At a time of great uncertainty, what better example can we be than of God's people finding a way. You are all an inspiration to me! There is no place like together.

Please pray for all our children and their families as they navigate new times. Working from home (if they're lucky to be working), distance learning with their children, and managing the issues which come from months of close proximity. During this month following Holy Week, may they be reminded of the One who came for them. The One who died for them. The One who loves them.





One of the local charities we support, **Homeward Bound**, has reached out to us regarding a desperate need of food and baby care items for eight homeless Novato families they are sheltering in Novato hotels. Please consider donating local grocery store gift cards or items from the list below. You can deliver directly to Homeward Bound at 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway in Novato Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or contact Patty Reed at [pdreed@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pdreed@sbcglobal.net) or (415) 699-5246 if you would like to contribute but are unable to deliver yourself. Checks and gift cards can also be mailed to Homeward Bound of Marin, 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway, Novato, CA 94949.

- Food items (refrigerated items should be small enough to fit in a mini-fridge):

bread	sliced meats/cheese	milk
condiments	cereals	almond milk
baby carrots	baby food	canned soup
PB/jelly	chips, crackers, snacks	Cup O’Noodles
fruits/veggies	microwavable oatmeal	baby wipes
  
- **Diapers and Wipes**
  - Newborn or size 1
  - Size 4
  - Size 3 and size 6
  
- **Specialty items**
  - Enfamil Gentle Ease baby formula
  - Baby jars of food (fruit and veggies)
  - rice cereal
  - gas vouchers
  
- **Other**
  - plastic utensils
  - microwavable ows

Thank you and God bless,

Patty Reed, PCN Mission Committee



BOY SCOUTS  
OF AMERICA®

Boy Scout Troop 200, which is sponsored by PCN, donated food and gift cards for Homeward Bound. In the photos below, they visited the Homeward Bound office to deliver their contributions for families in need during the Covid-19 pandemic.



### Cub Scout Pack 186 Steps Up to the Call

Our April Mill Street dinner was cancelled by the organization due to Covid-19 safety precautions. The congregation had responded to supply food and preparation for the dinner, but Mill Street assured us they had adequate staff to prepare food for the residents. However, the Homeward Bound organization that manages Mill Street stated that they could use food donations and/or gift cards for groceries to help eight homeless families in Novato who they put up in local hotels.

Subsequently, Cub Scout Pack 186, who we sponsor, reached out to offer PCN a gift of \$1000 of Harvest Market gift certificates due to our long-standing sponsorship and support of their program. We responded to their kind offering with a recommendation to support Homeward Bound. The Cub Scout leader, Robert Atkinson Jr., personally delivered the certificates to Homeward Bound on Friday, April 3rd as a donation from Cub Scout Pack 186 and asked them to recognize PCN, Harvest Market, and the Cub Scout Pack for the distribution. Harvest Market will provide an additional discount to the families when using the certificates.

An email from Gregory Reza was sent to the entire Cub Scout pack which contained the following: "During this time it's important to practice Scout Law. Three parts of the law particularly stand out. A Scout is 'Cheerful, Brave and Clean'. It's important that everyone find ways to help the family by also



practicing the Scout Oath and 'helping other people at all times.' In honor of the scout oath, Pack 186 found a way to help our local community. In coordination with our Charter Novato Presbyterian Church, our pack purchased \$1,060 in Harvest Market gift certificates and donated them to the local Homeward Bound program. This program is the primary provider to homeless families in Marin County and they are doing amazing work during the Covid-19 crisis.

We want to thank all of you for your hard work during the annual popcorn season. It's because of the contributions of every scout and scout family in our pack that we were able to make this contribution to the most vulnerable people in our community. Each and every one of us has made a positive impact in our community and by following the principles of scouting we help make the world a better place."

As you can see from the email, the money for the donation was provided from the "annual popcorn season." This is a fundraising effort the scouts perform each year to support their group and scouting. This is just another example of how we all step up to answer the call when we are needed. Thank you, Cub Scout Pack 186.



Because the Downtown Streets Team cannot pass out food at this time, Snack Sacks are temporarily "paused." However, they are in need of hygiene kits now more than ever because the showers are still open and being used. Visit <https://gooddler.com/Wishlist/10205> for a list of needed items that you can buy from the website or purchase on your own to donate.



On Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, the PCN Men's Group successfully assembled, packed and delivered 60 Homeless Care Packs to the Downtown Streets Team. Socks, reusable water bottles, and nail clippers were just a few of the items purchased by members that made up the backpacks. Custom packs were purchased by the church and included a hope-filled scripture verse (see photo below).

Due to the shelter-in-place order, only five guys (masked, gloved and Purrelled!) executed the assembly of packs while the rest watched on via Zoom. Historically each of the guys would be given these care packages to distribute during their day-to-day travels, but with Covid-19 the thought was to have a non-profit distribute them to their population for the safety of all concerned. At a time when the need is perhaps at its highest, having these packs in the hands of those who could use them is a blessing to everyone. A special note of thanks for contributions of goods, ideas and/or well wishes to Men's Group alumni Glenn Williams, Gary Pearce and Dave Snyder.

-Phil Dougherty







Dear PCN,

Greetings to you in the name of Christ our Savior! We want to send you a quick update on our current situation. In light of the current global Coronavirus pandemic, Presbyterian World Mission requested all mission co-workers return to the U.S. We had prepared to 'shelter-in-place' in Juba but realized that with the uncertain future and border closings it might be good to return. We made quick plans and left Juba on Sunday to return to the U.S. We are self-isolating for a couple of weeks as a precaution in case we picked up anything while traveling, and then will be staying in Illinois until we can return to Juba.

It was very hard to leave! We had returned to Juba in January and were so glad to be home, then being uprooted at a time when home is a source of comfort was painful and disconcerting. On Sunday just before leaving, we read Psalm 23 in the Message version, and took comfort in the concluding verse, "I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life." Truly, our home is with God, wherever we are, and we are grateful for His promises and presence.

We join you in this strange and scary time of watching this pandemic unfold. We are doing our best to stay grounded and healthy. We have been reading Psalm 20 and 46 frequently, which has encouraged us and reminded us in Whom we trust. Psalm 20:7-8 says "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm." May our God who loves us and who sees us help us to stand firm when everything around us seems to be shaking.

Some of our colleagues in South Sudan are praying that this crisis will prompt a turning to God in the U.S. and in Europe. In South Sudan, where they do not have the benefit of good medical care and government safety net or stimulus packages, faith becomes the only rope to hold onto for many people. May this time of being stripped of our security help us cling tighter to our life in God and freedom in Christ that no sickness can take away.

Please pray for us, that we would be able to stay connected with our colleagues in South Sudan even while we are in the United States. Please pray that God protects and spares them from this disease as advanced medical care is sparse. South Sudan has closed its airports and borders completely, which now brings a new concern that there will be enough food, as much of the food is imported from Uganda or other neighboring countries.

We join you in praying for protection on those who are vulnerable and for God's peace and hope to shine through all of us. We always love to hear from you and welcome any questions or encouragement you have!

In Christ,  
Bob and Kristi Rice



Westminster Woods Update - March 31, 2020

Dear Friends of the Woods,

As I write this, most of you are sheltering in place. I am also at home working and not at the Woods. My prayers are with you and your loved ones during this challenging time in all of our lives.

As you can imagine, the Covid-19 virus has had a huge impact on Westminster Woods. Just three weeks ago, we welcomed 175 6<sup>th</sup>-grade students from Napa and San Francisco, taking advantage of the incredible outdoor-education and character-development programs that we offer to schools. That all changed on March 20<sup>th</sup>, when we had to close the camp. We had more than 2,500 more students scheduled to stay at the Woods this spring with their schools, but now those excited, eager kids will miss out on the highlight of their school year. We also had a number of churches and other guest groups that were anticipating their weekend retreats this spring, all of which have had to be cancelled or postponed.

With no schools or guest groups visiting this spring, Westminster Woods will not be receiving any income for the foreseeable future. Our staff of 45 people has had to be furloughed until we can start generating revenue. In the short term, we have reached out to the Presbyterian Synod of the Pacific about a loan, and we have also applied for a Small Business Administration non-profit loan. The plan is to use this borrowed money to rehire some of our staff and get us through the early summer, when we anticipate the revenue to start coming back in more steadily.

At this point, we are still planning on holding our annual Summer Camp, which hundreds of kids and teens anticipate every year, and we encourage parents to join the many others who have registered their campers through our website. We will make a final decision about Summer Camp during May, once we have a better understanding of how long the Covid-19 virus will be a major concern. The safety and well-being of our campers is always our first priority.

In 2021, Westminster Woods will celebrate its 75th year as a camp. Westminster Woods has provided a place to connect with God and nature for generations. It has been a place to retreat from the routine of life and experience transformation. The camp started as a place for adults, children and teenagers to grow in their faith, have an opportunity to connect with nature, make new friends, and have life-long relationships with people they meet at camp.

During our almost 75 years as a camp, we have gone through some very good times and some extremely challenging ones. When I look back historically over those 75 years, the Woods and the world have seen incredible change. Some years ago, one of the members of my church told me she had first come to Westminster Woods in 1947 as a young girl. The camp had been opened just one year earlier and there were no buildings on the property. Her church came to the Woods on a retreat and she camped with her family on the big green field in the center of camp and prepared their own meals. She would jokingly say, "Westminster Woods was such a beautiful place, until they started constructing all of those buildings." This woman is in her 90s now, and has often commented to me that she is so grateful that the Woods was such a foundational part of her life.

Realizing that she had been at the Woods from its very early years helped me to better understand the impact this camp has had on so many lives. She and a multitude of others have continued to retreat to the Woods throughout their lives. For so many of us this is our sanctuary, and every time we cross the bridge over Dutch Bill Creek we are welcomed back home.

Take care, stay healthy, and come stay with us (as soon as possible),

Chris Rhodes  
Executive Director



April 1, 2020

Dear PCN,

My wife and I were watching a movie at home the other night – made a big thing of popcorn so it would feel like we were at our favorite theater. At one point, a scene showed a couple having dinner at a very busy restaurant. Lots of well-dressed people. Lots of activity. Lots of talking. Lots of laughing. So festive. So pre-Corona virus. Seems hard to comprehend how much has changed over such a short period of time. And while it's easy to focus on how much has changed, there is great value and comfort in recognizing how much remains the same. For those of us at Gilead House, it's the appreciation we have for the enormous support we get from so many every single day:

- It's the couple that stops by Safeway and picks up loaves of bread that Safeway can't sell and brings to the house.
- It's the woman and her daughter, still home from college, who were cleaning out a closet and decided to bring over a basket of games for the kids.
- It's the ones who have sent in gift cards and donations to ensure that our families have something to eat since none of the moms are able to work and earn any money.
- It's the prayer group that remembers our moms and their kids during good times and bad.
- It's the mentors who are talking daily with the moms and providing reassurance and support at a time when they as well may need both.
- It's the volunteers calling asking how they can be of help remotely.

The strength of Gilead House is the united efforts of all. It's those who had the vision of a safe place for homeless moms and their children. It's those who got Gilead House off the ground and guided it for its first 20 years. It's those who serve now as mentors and volunteers and tutors and so much more. It's those in the future who with God's help will contribute to finding a solution to the crisis of homelessness. Said best by Robert Kennedy in 1966 during a speech at the University of South Africa:

“Each time a man stands for an ideal, or acts to improve the lots of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples to build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

And yet while we have so much to be hopeful for, we must also pause to remember those who are suffering during these times. One of those is one of our moms who learned that a close relative passed away yesterday morning from Covid-19. Since the relative didn't live in California, our mom doesn't have the ability to travel to be with and grieve with her family. As one of our mentors said after hearing the news, “There are no boundaries or fairness with Covid-19.” So unfortunately true. Our hearts are with all of those who are just trying to get by each day, hoping tomorrow will be better than today.

I know this is a unique moment. And the fact that so many of you are thinking of others and continuing to send out ripples of hope through your actions, at what is a worrying and difficult time, speaks volumes of the kindness and compassion of the Gilead House community. The generosity of spirit shown by so many during these times is the bedrock of what is good about humanity and will be what helps us all get through this current crisis together.

Thank you for your ongoing support. You've stepped up to help us in so many ways, and for that we are forever grateful. For those who are able to continue their support – we thank you! Donations of non-perishable food products, pantry staples, and gift cards are so helpful and appreciated.

God bless you and please stay safe.

Best wishes,  
Mike Smylie  
President, Board of Directors  
(415) 895-5575  
[www.gileadhouse.org](http://www.gileadhouse.org)



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🌸 **Celebrate** 🌸  
The Special  
Women In Your  
Life  
*with meaningful*  
"Gift of Love"  
Mother's Day Cards



This year, more so than perhaps any other year, shows how important it is to let those closest to us know how much we care for them. And that begins with thanking the special women in our lives for their unconditional love.

This Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10th, give a special donation in honor of the women in your life who you care most about to help a homeless mom and child in need.

In return, Gilead House will send her a beautiful card on your behalf to recognize your gift. Simply visit the Gilead House website and complete the following steps:



🌸 **ORDER AT GILEADHOUSE.ORG** 🌸

✓ Check the box "Mother's Day Tribute"

✓ Provide the honoree's name and address

Order before May 5th to ensure delivery before Mother's Day.

Questions? Call the Gilead House office at 415-895-5575

or email [carly@gileadhouse.org](mailto:carly@gileadhouse.org)



Pondering and Perspective during the Pandemic  
by Tonya Church

The email came through just after noon on March 16, 2020. Marin County was joining eight other Bay Area counties and implementing a shelter in place, starting at midnight. I was at work when I saw the news, and it was as if something in me knew exactly what to do and how to respond. I started printing all the plans that I needed to review for our medical construction projects. I wrote out my address on a piece of paper and brought it to the other side of the building; they can mail me the plans. My computer was already equipped to work remotely, as I had been traveling. The last airport I was in was LAX on March 4. I wrote an email to the directors of our unit. It went something like this. "Marin County just issued a shelter in place, starting tomorrow I am working from home." I got an answer back to this email, that if I did need to travel, it would have to be very essential. No problem.

We were in the middle of Lent. What would it really look like if I gave up my normal schedule for Lent? It was a prayer, just a week earlier that I was too afraid to pray, but desperately needed an answer to my plea "Stop the world, I want to get off." My world pivoted instantly and I turned into the flow, looking for what God was going to teach me through this. The name Abraham came to mind.

I was excited to be home. You may be thinking, I wonder if she still is excited to be home. The answer is a resounding yes. My commute went from 90 miles one way to about 9 yards in my house. I was home to cook meals, wash clothes, fold clothes, feed the dogs, take my dogs to work with me, and more. I weeded in the garden, hauled dirt with my new wheelbarrow Les helped me to assemble, planted beans, peas, tomatoes, and squash. I cooked for Les, and never worried about shopping because Les could bring home what we needed. I baked banana bread and apple pie. I assembled Easter baskets pandemic-style, adding toilet paper and Lysol wipes for the neighbors. I walked and walked and walked, logging more than 300,000 steps. I connected 8,000 puzzled pieces, drank tea before bed, basked in the quiet of the evening. I even lost weight, nearly 10 pounds. I was doing everything I had no time for before, smiling, and experiencing an overwhelming joy within my heart.

What was I missing? Nothing. Oh, I bowled in a league on Wednesday nights, bowled and cooked for our Match Club on some weekends, headed the Finance Committee meeting at church, chaired the website committee, shopped for Snack Sacks, played bingo on the weekends with my friends, and traveled for work one or two times a month. I cycled with all the items on sale, constantly stocking up (which happen to come in very handy) as we watched the store shelves get stripped of every item. I had a wave of work coming at me that looked like a tsunami, with no idea how I could do the next round of reviews with as busy as we were. And it all stopped at once.

Les and I started talking about all the things we were grateful for. He is retired with a steady income and working at Safeway. I have a really good job, with the ability to work at home. Sure, my office at home is small, and some of the plans I needed to review had to be done on the kitchen table. Our family members have been laid off, and we reached out and offered help. I was really grateful for the

leaders of our state and our department, in a way I had not been before. I saw early on what was happening. The delicate balance of everything we knew, or took comfort in, was flipped upside down.

My job in the early 90s at San Quentin was Infection Control Nurse and Public Health Nurse all in one. We traced contacts to active TB cases. I saw then how an undetected case of tuberculosis ripped through a prison and back out to the community through an inmate simply going to school. I knew Covid-19 would have a devastating effect if it ripped through our prison system. The prison system in California reported its first death today, April 20. The doors of the prisons are closed to visitors, non-essential workers, and construction workers. All elective surgeries and routine medical appointments canceled. There is a protocol for staff coming into the prisons and inmates coming back from outside hospital visits. You may think we are not doing enough, but if you look at Michigan, or even Rikers Island, there is a much different story. The Michigan Department of Corrections reported 19 deaths as of today. The wisdom of our leaders is incredible and the actions swift, but never careless.

Italy has also been on my mind. I discovered the John Hopkins Corona virus tracker just before we sheltered in place. The number of Italians who died from the disease counted to 6,077, a staggering number of people. I look at it every day now. I also subscribed to the Marin County Covid-19 tracker. This gives me the information for Marin County and California. I started logging the number every day for the county, state, New York City, Michigan and Italy. By April 2, the number of dead in Italy totaled 13,915, double from just the week before. Today the count is 24,110, double again in just three weeks. You may be uncomfortable with me telling you the numbers, but I write them down every day, and this makes me think of someone else, living in another part of the world. I think about and pray for people that I will never meet, but know their lives will be forever changed, as will ours.

The more I am home, the more contemplative moments I have. Abraham came to mind again. I wondered when I studied his story in Genesis if I ever could just drop everything and go. In this case, I dropped everything and stayed. It took 52 years of my life and well over 30 years of following Christ to display obedience without hesitation. I did not leave the house, except to walk every afternoon with Les. The first time I got in the car and went into a store was April 10, on our wedding anniversary.

I realized how badly I needed to rest, and to allow the Holy Spirit to lead me. My heart is being sifted in a way that makes me see other people, not just next door or down the street, but around the world. Les and I know we are blessed beyond measure and truly believe that God has given us what we have, not to keep it to ourselves, but to share. I am excited about how our church reaches out to the community and think our mission as a church is to reach people in any way we can, to be the hands and feet of Christ. There are lots of people hurting, hungry, or homeless. I only hope that when this shelter-in-place order lifts, I won't regret missing an opportunity to reach out to people. With the last name of Church, I feel compelled to do more. I share my perspective not because I have some formula for surviving a shelter-in-place order, but so you can see a glimmer of God's grace in my life. So I challenge you in this time to check your vision. What do you see? Do you see difficulties behind every opportunity or opportunities behind every difficulty?



Online giving is easy with Easytithe. How to get started?

Visit our website at [www.pcnovato.org](http://www.pcnovato.org). Click on DONATE. This will launch a page for the initial set-up. Choose GIVE NOW. You will enter your amount, the fund to contribute to, and comments to direct the use of your donation. You can make this a recurring donation by clicking the box. Once your information is entered and you have created an account, you won't have to re-enter your payment method each time. Also tick the box (optional) that contributes part of the processing fee to offset PCN's costs (adds 2%).

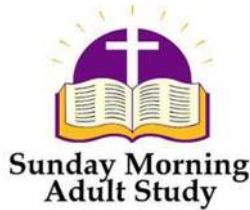
You can also text-to-give from your phone. Simply text "GIVE" to 415-599-8710. A link will be sent back for you from Easytithe to complete your donation. If you've already set up your information, this is very simple to do.

Thank you for your generous support of the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Novato.



### **ROSE GARDEN**

If you like to work outdoors, caring for roses; if you enjoy visiting with friendly church friends while working; if you take pleasure in helping to beautify our church grounds, then here is the perfect job for you! We, the Crockers, will be moving soon and the church rose garden will be needing new caretakers. If you are interested in taking on this project, please give us a call at 415-897-0586. ~Dick and Jo



The Sunday morning adult Bible study class will begin meeting via Zoom starting Sunday, May 3. The class will take place from 8 to 9 a.m. All are welcome to join! If you are interested in attending, please contact Larry Dacquisto at (415) 577-2115 or email [larrydacquisto@gmail.com](mailto:larrydacquisto@gmail.com).

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Deacons Annual Blood Drive  
Save the Date  
Sunday, June 7, 2020  
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Even in our current 'at home' time, there is always a need for blood donations.  
Please consider your donation.  
For more information contact Becky Praun/PCN Blood Drive Coordinator  
(415) 472-1733

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### **Community Outreach for PCN**

We would like your help in spreading the word about PCN's online activities during this time of sheltering in place. Please share PCN info on your social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor, etc.). Share links to the music videos, worship services, children's sermons, etc. This will help broaden our outreach. With everyone having to shelter in place, it's a good time to get the word out about our congregation and what God is up to through us!





# Session

## Session Highlights April 2020

In adherence to the Marin County Public Health order for all residents to shelter in place to reduce the spread of Corona Virus, the April 15, 2020 Session meeting was conducted via *Zoom*, a teleconferencing platform. All Elders were present.

Session approved:

From the Mission, Vision, Values Discernment Team:

Session approved the following PCN Mission Statement:

PCN shares the love of Jesus Christ, connects with our neighbors, and grows together in worship, faith and service.

Information items:

- An Elder, Deacon, staff retreat will be held via Zoom on April 26, 2020 from 1:30-3:30 pm.
- VBS will be held in June, conducted virtually.
- Rev. Greg Love's adult education class is postponed until fall.
- The youth group "Rise Against Hunger" project and summer mission trip to McClellan, TX are currently on hold.
- The lease with Good Shepherd Lutheran School is under review. A three-year lease amendment is being prepared.
- PCN is investigating requirements and associated costs with continuing to provide worship via live stream once the shelter-in-place order is lifted. Adam and Ariel thanked the congregation for their patience in transitioning to technology and welcome suggestions.
- Steve Kinney is checking on the status of the Novato 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and Buckaroo Breakfast.

Kathy Takemoto, Clerk of Session



## A MATTER OF BALANCE

MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

### Attention Matter of Balance Grads!

If you have attended the fall-prevention course at PCN in the past you may be interested in joining the group of grads that are getting together online to work out together. Monday through Friday at 11:00 a.m., a group is gathering via Zoom to do the 30 minutes of exercise together. It is a great way to stay in touch – and in shape! Email [mob.beverly@gmail.com](mailto:mob.beverly@gmail.com) to access the link.



### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Men's Bible Study continues to meet virtually Wednesday mornings at 7:30 a.m. Join us for this one-hour mid-week boost and share great fellowship with brothers. And no homework! To be added to the Zoom contact list, contact Phil Dougherty at (415) 328-6674 or email [phild@dhis.com](mailto:phild@dhis.com) for more information.



If you would like to listen to a copy of the Sunday sermon, you don't need to request a CD. They are now being posted on a podcast at <http://www.buzzsprout.com/218646>. They are usually available by the Tuesday following the service. Thank you to Jim Rolka for making these available!



Here's an important number to jot down: (415) 472-0911. This is the **non-injury** lift assist phone number from the Novato Fire Department. If you or someone you know has fallen and you can't lift him/her, the fire department will come help!

# A Quasquicentennial Celebration is Happening in 2021!

What's a quasquicentennial? It's a 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. PCN will celebrate its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021.

In preparation, please send a memory which can be included in a commemorative booklet for this special occasion. You can write about anything, but here are a few prompts:

- How you came to faith in Christ
- The first time you came to PCN
- Your favorite Sunday school, VBS, or youth group memory
- Fun fellowship activities and church friends
- Mission trips you have attended
- Children can write a poem or draw a picture
- Your wedding at PCN

Everyone is encouraged to participate to create a unique keepsake booklet. Email a Word document, or send your memory in an email to [kathy.takemoto@outlook.com](mailto:kathy.takemoto@outlook.com). Drawings/writings by children can be left in the clerk mail slot in the church office.

Patty Reed and the Program & Fellowship Committee would love to hear your ideas to celebrate this special occasion. Contact Patty at [pdreed@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pdreed@sbcglobal.net).



Drawing of the church bell by Mae Wygant done in 1976