



PResPress

December 2020

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

“Being the Church in a New Age”

DISCERNMENT TEAM BEGINS ITS WORK!

We've begun! The Discernment Team has been formed and has begun the 'balcony work' necessary to align with what God is doing at PCN.

If you remember from the pastor's newsletter article in October, Session began a process of revitalization at PCN in order to answer the pressing questions on most of our minds:

- How do we fill the empty and temporary staffing positions?
- How do we connect with the community and grow our membership?
- How are we going to be the church in the new norm and after COVID?
- How can we best utilize our resources to answer God's call for us?

Session has formed a Discernment Team made up of four elders, two deacons, and two members at large to prayerfully look at and reflect on the whole of our life and ministry as a church in conversation with our call (Mission, Vision, Values).

NEW MINISTRY MODEL AT PCN (COMING IN SPRING 2021)

This team's ultimate goal will be to discern a new ministry, leadership, and staffing structure for PCN to live into its vision. This team will fashion a ministry model that best reflects who we are and what we are called to be and do. We are uniquely PCN and our newly fashioned ministry model will reflect our uniqueness in the Body of Christ.

The new model will also align our life and ministry in a particular direction with common purpose. Instead of trying to be a little bit of everything to everybody, we will work to focus our ministry efforts around our vision. We are working to create a model that is more nimble in our decision-making, adaptable to the ever-changing world, collaborative in our leadership and ministry endeavors, and community-building.

The truth is revitalizing PCN is not something we do, but what God does. Only God can bring us to new life. What we are hoping to do in this process is to best position ourselves for God to work through us as a church.

As you can imagine, this is no small task and carries with it long-lasting implications for our church.

WHY DO WE NEED A NEW MINISTRY MODEL?

If you remember the presentation from the annual congregational meeting from this January (2020), we spent some time thinking about PCN's placement on the church life-cycle chart. We identified PCN on the right side of the bell curve, the side of decline, in the empty-nester/retirement stage of life. This stage is marked by strong institutional structures and traditions, but is missing strong,

directional, unifying vision. There is a great desire for member growth, and yet no clear path within the current framework to connect with our neighbors.

But the thing about the life cycle of a congregation is that it is not a linear path that leads to death but can be a cyclical path leading to new life. As Christ brings us to new life, so too is new life possible within a congregation. Churches can cycle around from decline to growth, but it's a transition that requires prayer, reflection, reorientation, and revitalization. (Say that 10 times!) And that is the process we have begun!

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING THIS NEW MINISTRY MODEL?

Step #1 was the adoption of our Call Statements (Mission, Vision, and Core Values).

Step #2 (Present - February 2021) is the Discernment Team's prayerful reflection with these statements and the fashioning of a new ministry model.

Step #3 (February - March 2021) is Session and congregation feedback and input into the ministry model for revision.

Step #4 (March - May 2021) is adoption of the model and its implementation.

HOW CAN I HELP OR GIVE MY INPUT?

In the end, we want our new ministry model to help us be PCN at our very best together. We want to be who we are. So here are some things you can do:

1. Pray for the Discernment Team. Pray for the work they are engaging in on our behalf. Pray that they be led by the Holy Spirit every step of the way. Pray for our congregation.
2. Offer input when the opportunities arise. There will be time when the Discernment Team is looking for your feedback and those are opportunities for us to be in conversation together.
3. Worship together. Study together. Care for one another. Continue to be the church in community. We are Christ's body together and we need each other to be the church we are called to be.

OTHER FAQs (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

WHO IS ON THE DISCERNMENT TEAM?

The members of the team include: Brad and Becky Praun, Audrey Boland, Patty Reed, Tonya Church, Diane Kaljian-Combs, David Harmon and Walt Campbell. This group represents our church well in terms of age, gender, and perspective.

WILL WE BE CONSIDERING AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR IN THIS MODEL?

The team will be looking at long-range models for staffing as a part of this process. They will look at our resources, our needs, and our vision in thinking through staffing positions.

WILL OUR WORSHIP SERVICES BE CHANGING?

While worship is an important piece of the overall ministry structure of the church and will be reflected on carefully and prayerfully, changes to worship will not be made lightly. I know there are those who are worried we might 'get rid' of one service or another, but that is simply not the case. We have a rich history of diverse worship styles which we want to hold onto.

TO WHAT DOES 'LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE' REFER?

How we utilize and position church officers and other church leaders to best live into their call within the ministry structure of the church is essentially part of the leadership structure. How we position our elders to serve on committees, our deacons to offer care, and other lay leaders to lead ministry initiatives are all part of the leadership structure of the church. We currently have committees with very few functions that need fewer leadership resources while we have other committees that need more investment.

ARE WE 'OVERHAULING' THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH?

We are taking the best of who we are and building on those things. We are bolstering the areas in which we are in need of growth. We are identifying gaps that we have in our life and ministry and looking to take advantage of opportunities. We are 'reorienting' our life and ministry around God's call for PCN as we seek to be a 'beacon of hope reviving the world through God's love.' Some things will change in the church, but what makes us PCN will remain.

IS THIS A STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS?

Yes and no. We are taking advantage of strategic planning tools, but we are leaning on God to direct and guide our discernment together.

With care,
Adam



WE'RE ALL IN IT TOGETHER

ALL DRESSED-UP MINISTRY – a thank you from San Quentin

10-21-20

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I received your letter informing me that you have provided me with clothes to help me transition from prison to freedom. Thank you very much for your card, concern and love you have shown. God willing one day I can meet all of you. Thank you all once again and may God continue to bless you.

*Sincerely,
Terry M.*

OCTOBER'S PEACEMAKING OFFERING

Many, many thanks from your mission committee for your generosity in this year's peacemaking offering. A total of \$1,970 was collected, 60% of which will go to the PC(USA) general assembly and synod, and 40% of which will go to that day's speakers, Rev. Ryan and Alethia White, living in Berlin, Germany, and serving Iranian Christian refugees.

VIRTUAL ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING

Being unable to host our traditional Alternative Christmas Faire, "*A Christmas Christ Would Recognize*," your mission committee is offering this virtual event to help five local organizations and one in Juarez, MX, that are continuing their work for Christ and community, despite these difficult times. Following are the organizations we will be supporting:

Matthew 25 Ministries and Ceres Community Program

Donations can be made through the following order form (attachment A) with checks made out to PCN (checks can be mailed to P.O. Box 631, Novato 94948 or dropped off at the church office), or made through their websites: www.matthew25ministriesinternational.com or www.ceresproject.org.

SF/Marin Food Bank Food Drive

DUE TO VOLUNTEER SHORTAGES, THERE WILL BE NO FOOD BARRELS THIS YEAR. You can still bring your unopened, unexpired donations (no glass) to Carolyn Gerrans' house, 19 Dorothy Way. She will deliver to the San Rafael warehouse. You can also fill out the order form below (attachment A) and return a check to Stephanie's mail slot in the office. Thirdly, you can donate or volunteer your time online at www.sfmfoodbank.org.

NMCS Holiday Share

Donate through the order form (attachment A) and deliver your check to Stephanie's mail slot at the church office, or donate your money and/or time through their website: www.northmarincs.org.

In place of our traditional narthex "Sharing Tree," you can also give:

Target gift cards in denominations of \$25 or \$50

Stuffed animals (new, medium 'cuddle' sized)

New toys

All items should be unwrapped and can be taken directly to NMCS at 680 Wilson Avenue (the old youth center).

Gilead House

Donations can be made via the following order form (attachment A) to Stephanie's mail slot in the church office or directly to their website: www.gileadhouse.org. Donations of diapers, Pull-ups, cleaning supplies, and sanitizers are also very much appreciated and can be taken directly to Gilead House at 1024 7th Street.

Homeward Bound provides housing, training and hope to end homelessness. For more information visit their website at www.hbofm.org. You can support Homeward Bound by ordering Halo Holiday Gifts (order early as items may not be available at a later date). To order:

1. Select items on the following order form (attachment B)
2. Email or call your order to the PCN office (415-897-6152 or pcnadmin@pcnovato.org) **BY NOON on THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10.**
3. Retrieve items from the PCN office from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, December 17; Monday, December 21; Tuesday, December 22 and Wednesday, December 23.
(If you need assistance in retrieving your items, arrangements will be made to deliver them to you.)
4. Write a check payable to PCN with a notation "Homeward Bound" and place it in Stephanie's church mailbox when you come to pick up your order.

Contact Art Plumstead, 415-279-9949 with questions/concerns.

You can also support Homeward Bound with a direct donation only or in addition to ordering items. Just fill out the order form below (attachment A) and return a check to Stephanie's mail slot in the office.

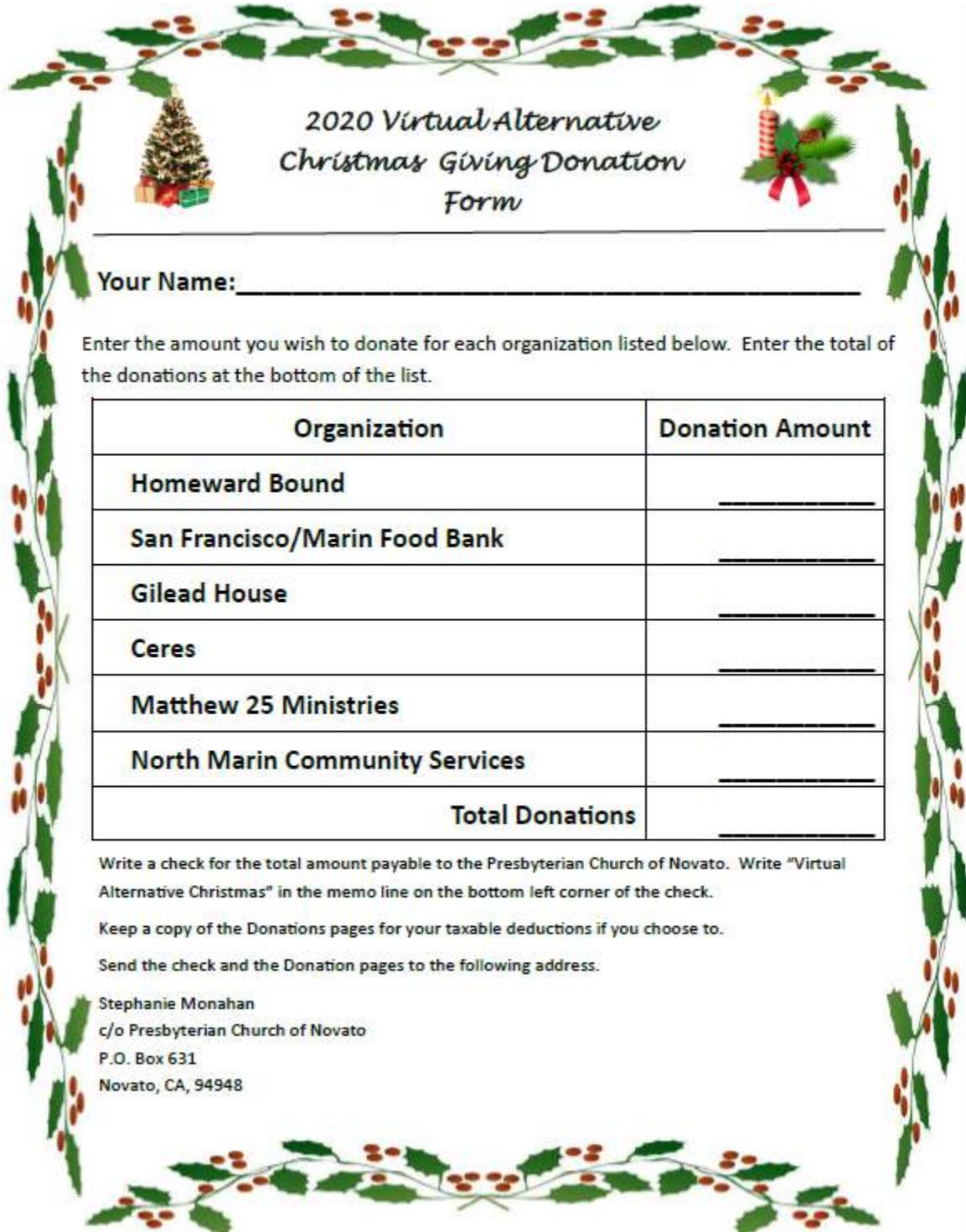
ORDER EARLY AS ITEMS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE CLOSER TO THE 10TH!

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Another opportunity for "virtual giving" this year is our Christmas Joy Offering, taking place from December 1 to 31. Christmas Joy benefits retired pastors, youth leaders, and other staff with emergency funds. It also helps fund ethnic colleges and boarding schools throughout the country (from Georgia to Alaska) all of which had been founded as Presbyterian schools. Please remember the tireless work of our PC(USA) employees and the hopes of these young leaders coming up, as we enjoy our holiday season.

*STAY SAFE AND WELL AND REMEMBER WE DON'T NEED TO HUG
TO SHOW HOW MUCH WE LOVE -
ALL WE NEED IS TO SHOW OUR THANKS!!!*

ATTACHMENT A - ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING DONATION FORM



 *2020 Virtual Alternative
Christmas Giving Donation
Form* 

Your Name: _____

Enter the amount you wish to donate for each organization listed below. Enter the total of the donations at the bottom of the list.

Organization	Donation Amount
Homeward Bound	_____
San Francisco/Marin Food Bank	_____
Gilead House	_____
Ceres	_____
Matthew 25 Ministries	_____
North Marin Community Services	_____
Total Donations	_____

Write a check for the total amount payable to the Presbyterian Church of Novato. Write "Virtual Alternative Christmas" in the memo line on the bottom left corner of the check.

Keep a copy of the Donations pages for your taxable deductions if you choose to.

Send the check and the Donation pages to the following address.

Stephanie Monahan
c/o Presbyterian Church of Novato
P.O. Box 631
Novato, CA, 94948

ATTACHMENT B - HOMEWARD BOUND ORDER FORM



2020 Halo Holiday Gifts

HANDMADE CHOCOLATE HALO TRUFFLES

BOX OF 4 / \$10

Quantity

- Box of 4 Chocolate
- Box of 4 Kona Coffee
- Box of 4 Orange
- Box of 4 Raspberry
- Box of 4 Mixed

CHOCOLATE BARK

6OZ. BAG / \$7

- Cranberry Pumpkin Seed
- Pistachio Almond
- White Chocolate Peppermint

OTHER HALO PRODUCTS

- Hot 'n' Holy Pepper Sauce 6oz. jar
- Cranberry Orange Relish - 9oz. jar
- Raspberry Jam - 9oz. jar
- Sweet Smokin' BBQ Sauce - 12oz. jar
- Oaxacan Mole Sauce - 9oz. jar
- Halo Honey from our Novato Hives - 9oz. jar

- \$7
- \$8
- \$8
- \$8
- \$10
- \$10

WAGSTER DOG TREATS

\$10/BAG
OR ALL 3 FLAVORS FOR \$25

- Apple Almond
- Banana Coconut
- Peanut Butter Molasses
- 3 pack - One bag of each flavor!

*Order early, as products are limited!

Name _____	Sub Total \$ _____
Phone _____	Donation \$ _____
Email _____	Enclosed \$ _____
CC# _____ Exp. _____ CVV _____	Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/>

All Proceeds support Homeward Bound of Marin. Find out more online at hbafm.org
1325 N. Hamilton Pkwy, Novato, CA. 94949 | 415-382-3365, ext. 214

Take a Bite Out of Homelessness!



MISSIONS MINISTRIES

Save the date for our first-ever virtual event and online auction!

Wednesday, December 9 • 7 p.m.

More details coming soon! ~

Contact Regina Rus at reginabrus@gmail.com for more information



Session Highlights October 2020

Session approved:

- Updated Personnel Policies Manual
- Job description for a temporary, Interim Technology Director at 20 hours per week and Personnel Committee to begin the search process
- Clerk of Session to send a thank you letter to Mr. Tim Smith for the videos and photographs he produced for PCN. A gift of \$250 will be sent to Mr. Smith
- Reactivating Harold “Hal” Woods, Jr. church membership

Information items:

- Required annual review of PCN’s finances was performed by Pisenti & Brinker, LLP of Santa Rosa, CA

Kathy Takemoto, Clerk of Session



*PCN DEACON SERVICE
Class of 2023*

Have you been thinking and praying about how you can serve church members and friends during this Covid19 debacle? So many are in need of a friend, outreach, caring and love. This may be the right time to step-up and commit to this wonderful, dedicated church-caring team. WE WANT YOU!

Being a Deacon is a wonderful call to service. Deacons are the “servants/caregivers” of the congregation. People have all kinds of needs – they are having or recovering from surgery, grieving, lonely, ill, need services or otherwise in a time where they welcome the ministry of care from the congregation. In a very real way, Deacons are the hands and heart of the church in our ministry of caring. Serving as a Deacon is a privilege and a blessing. It is also an opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship. As a deacon, you are given the opportunity to know other church members in a deeper way, serving alongside them and growing in your understanding of the burdens people carry and how the church can help.

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry. (The PC(USA) Book of Order)

Want to learn more about this unique calling?

Contact Deacon leaders:

- Becky Praun, Moderator, 415-827-7685, beckypraun@yahoo.com
 - Brook Stahley, Vice Moderator, 415-290-0020, brookstahley@yahoo.com
- or
- Bruce Stahley, Chair, Nominating Committee, 415-328-9278, bastahley@verizon.net



Dearest Friends,

David, Sierra, and I have found such comfort from all of you following the recent deaths of David's parents, Phil and Barbara, and his oldest sister, Sonja due to complications arising from COVID. The compassion, care, and love that continues to pour upon us has been so appreciated. Thank you for the calls and the cards. Thank you for the gifts of flowers and food. Thank you for the warm thoughts and prayers. Thank you.

In addition to scripture, I have taken great comfort in the words of Henri Nouwen, and have read and re-read his essay, *Our Greatest Gift, a Meditation on Dying and Caring* quite a few times in the last few weeks, and keep coming back to his chapter on the Grace of the Resurrection. I share these excerpts with you, because Nouwen's words are far more eloquent than mine:

“Jesus didn't rise from the dead to prove to those who had crucified him that they made a mistake or to confound his opponents. Nor did he rise to impress the rulers of his time or to force anyone to believe. Jesus' resurrection was the full affirmation of his Father's love. He showed himself only to those who knew about this love. He made himself known as the risen Lord only to a handful of his closest friends. Probably no other event in human history has had such importance while at the same time remaining so unspectacular. The world didn't notice Jesus' resurrection; only a few knew, those to whom Jesus had chosen to show himself and whom he wanted to send out to announce God's love to the world just as he had done The resurrection is the expression of God's faithfulness to Jesus and to all God's children. Through the resurrection, God has said to Jesus, 'You are indeed my beloved Son, and my love is everlasting,' and to us God has said, 'You indeed are my beloved children, and my love is everlasting.' The resurrection is God's way of revealing to us that nothing that belongs to God will ever go to waste. What belongs to God will never get lost – not even our mortal bodies. The resurrection doesn't answer any of our curious questions about life after death, such as How will it be? How will it look? But it does reveal to us that love is stronger than death. After that revelation, we must remain silent, leave the whys, wheres, hows, and whens behind, and simply trust The risen Jesus, eating and drinking with his friends, revealed God's love for us, our love for each other, and our love for those who lived before and who will after us, is not just a quickly passing experience, but an eternal reality transcending all time and space When we keep our eyes fixed on the risen Lord, we may find not only that love is stronger than death, but that our faith is stronger than our skepticism.”

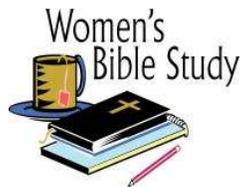
Indeed, we have experienced profound loss. But we also have experienced profound love, which bolsters and sustains us. We trust in the profound promise that in cold and in warmth, in darkness and in light, in every season and every moment of our lives that God holds us all, his beloved children, in his loving embrace and will never, ever let us go. And so, intermingled with our grief is our gratitude, for God's presence in our lives and for your tender care. And so, again, thank you.

With much love,
Ariel, David, and Sierra Mink



Sunday Morning Adult Study

The Sunday morning adult Bible study class is meeting via Zoom 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.



First and Second Samuel

Thursday morning Women's Bible Study has resumed its weekly study of 1 & 2 Samuel via Zoom from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Bible study leaders will continue to be Carol Dacquisto and Melodie Baird. To be added to our Zoom contact list, email Carol Dacquisto at dacqmom@aol.com or call her at 415-892-2070 for more information.



WOMEN'S PRAYER GROUP

Spend time praising God for His many blessings through prayer, and receive His assurance for you. Together we seek His intimate presence, led by the Holy Spirit and fed by scripture. Meetings are the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. The Zoom link is a series that runs through 2020; the same link can be accessed each month. Contact Janis West at Janisw99@gmail.com if you have questions.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81107446679?pwd=Yy9ub1pReGdMTHVhbDJpRzhHVVdHQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 0744 6679 Passcode: pcnovato



Meal Train for Marilyn Bentley

The Deacons would like to send a BIG THANK YOU to all the meal angels that have been providing Marilyn with nutritious meals. She is so very appreciative and so are WE!

Audrey Boland, Sandi Class, Carrie Ford, Patty Reed and Kristen Rush. Many, many thanks again!!

Blessings,

Becky Praun/Deacon Meal Coordinator



Save the Date: Sunday January 17, 2021, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Start your new year off right! Donating is essential to fighting COVID-19.
Donors for blood and convalescent plasma are always needed.

Because of You – Life Doesn't Stop!

Sign-ups start 1/1/2021, [Vitalant - Home](#)
or contact the church office at (415) 897-6152 for more information



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Come join us for study and fellowship. We meet every **Wednesday at 7:30 a.m.** via Zoom. We have started a new study called "Old Testament Characters." The author writes "It is my prayer that we might be better participants in the shaping of God's drama today by our careful reflection on the successes and failures of the men and women who have gone before us." All men are welcome. To be added to the Zoom contact list, contact Phil Dougherty at (415) 328-6674 or email phild@dhis.com for more information.



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!



If, during this unprecedented time, you find yourself in need of someone to talk to, the Stephen Ministers are here to listen, and all conversations are confidential. Please contact Jane Sime at (415) 497-5158 or Gail Penfield at (415) 897-7929 for more information.



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!



Job Title: Executive Director
Supervisor: Board of Directors, President
Classification: Full-time, FLSA exempt
40 hrs. a week, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
Occasional nights and weekends

Who we are looking for: Searching for a dynamic leader who can lead staff and volunteers to strengthen the organization and relationships with the community in seeking to help mothers rise out of homelessness. We are looking for a highly relational candidate who can connect with staff, volunteers, clients, industry peers, community leaders and faith-based organizations. Must be passionate about helping homeless mothers change the trajectory of their future and able to clearly articulate Gilead House's vision.

About Us: Gilead House is located in downtown Novato in beautiful Marin County just north of San Francisco. The local church community was foundational in the establishment of Gilead House 20 years ago and remains an important part of Gilead House today. We are a small to midsize organization which serves our 12 to 15 families through 100+ volunteers, Board of 8 to 15 members, primarily faith-based donor base and staff. Our approach recognizes that any program designed to assist homeless mothers in becoming self-sufficient must be at least as comprehensive as the issues that caused their homelessness in the first place. As such, our program focuses on a number of learning areas, including financial planning, substance-abuse counseling, furthering education, parenting classes, and mental-health counseling amongst a host of others. Our goal is to be the final stop on a mom's journey to self-sufficiency. In order to accomplish that goal, and to ensure that our moms are best equipped to become successful members of our community, Gilead House's 24-month program is evolving from simply providing housing and life-skills training to now include four "pillars of success": housing, community, education, and mental health.

Our mission is to inspire hope and empower homeless single moms and their children toward financial stability and independence.

Is this your passion? If so, tell us why. How would you go about inspiring our community partners to invest in our moms and children as the Executive Director of Gilead House?

Experience Required:

- 3 to 5+ years as an ED in similar size organization or Assistant ED/ Director in a larger organization
- Experience in leading teams, particularly leading a small team of staff to meet organization goals

- Work in social services area: social work, counseling, education, church or other faith-based organization
- Experience with homeless, women, children, people with trauma in their background

Education:

- Master Level or graduate degree in Education, Social Work, Non-Profit Management or Counseling or
- 7+ years of ED experience in similar organization without master level education

Rate: Salaried/ exempt, competitive salary with market, depending on experience

Benefits to include:

- Paid time off - vacation, holidays
- Paid health insurance premiums during medical leaves
- Medical insurance

To apply please send the following to gileadhousersearch@gmail.com:

- Resume
- Three letters of reference
- Answers to questions above

LAST CALL – Due Date is 1/11/2021

A Quasquicentennial Celebration is Happening in 2021!

What's a quasquicentennial? It is a 125th anniversary.
PCN will celebrate its 125th 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 and keepsake booklet. Email a Word document, or send your memory in an email to 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, pdreed@sbcglobal.net.



Drawing of the church bell by Mae Wygant done in 1976