



## **PResPRes**

**May 2021**

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

### “The Gift of Unhurried Time”

I once had a mentor share with me a tidbit of wisdom that I want to pass on to others. This advice was given from one pastor to another, but I think its relevance goes beyond pastoral ministry.

He advised me, “Adam, when you are ordained into your first call as a pastor, don’t fill up your schedule. Leave a lot of open space and open time. Busyness and productivity kill pastors.”

At the time, I had no idea what he meant. But as I jumped into ministry, it became all too clear.

I think, in a sense, we all tend to internalize this capitalistic spirit within ourselves (even pastors). This idea of busyness equaling productivity; rest being for the lazy and being a waste of time; worth being about producing and results. In fact, it can be so ingrained within us that when we finally have that time off that we need and long for, we can feel like we’re wasting time if we just sit and watch TV or take a nap. We can’t just ... be.

What I noticed is that whenever I filled up my schedule to the brim, full of productive meetings, visits, study, and writing, it also sucked me dry. My ministry got stagnant, not just for me, but for the church I served. Sure, the Session and Personnel Committee thought I was doing an amazing job, working so many hours, visiting so many people, writing well-researched sermons, living out my job description. But what they missed was how much it wore me down, zapping my energy and creativity, and turning ministry into just another job to do.

But the biggest consequence of this capitalistic spirit was that it didn’t lead to church growth and church health as one would assume (work leading to results). Instead it led to a stagnant and sterile ministry. Sure, people were happy with the way things were, with the constant visitation, with the ‘great’ sermons, but there was no room for the Holy Spirit; no room to stop, breathe, and reflect.

What was missing was ‘unhurried time;’ what might be considered wasteful time to some. Time to experiment, to reflect, to not have to run from one thing to the next. To

have adequate time to process events, reflect on them, cultivate new ideas and ministry endeavors; time to listen to the Holy Spirit.

By unhurried time, I'm not talking about Sabbath. Sabbath is the opposite of work, it's rest. I'm talking about time that's purposefully unscheduled with appointments and things to do and left open for listening; listening that might lead to actions or endeavors.

In my life as a pastor, I've found that busyness and seeing as wasteful anything that is unproductive is to the detriment of being the church. Too often, it closes out the Holy Spirit. It doesn't leave room for a relationship with God where God is in the lead but assumes that our hard work will produce God's warranted results.

It's time to rethink this capitalistic spirit that we too often internalize and to learn to value and embrace 'unhurried time.' It's not wasteful, it's faithful. It's not unproductive, it's time to listen to God and to the world around us, allowing God to take the reigns for a change.

So, dear saints, what do you think? Is this advice worth spreading? For me, it has been life-saving advice, and I hope it can be for you too.

With Care & Peace,  
Adam

# Youth

The Rise Against Hunger food-packaging event was a fun success as we packaged more than 10,000 meals. Groups were safely spaced out in Trevitt Hall and the work was done in two shifts. Thanks to everyone in the youth group and congregation who helped us bring back this tradition.



A special thanks to the middle school and high school youth groups for decorating our rock garden boulders to look like Easter eggs! They looked bright and festive.



The Youth Group would like to thank the following for providing meals for our time together on Sundays:

The Deacons  
Tonya Church  
Karen Gorin  
Pat Innes  
Bethany McMickin  
Becky Praun  
Lauren Reed

We love you and enjoy all the super meals. Thank you SO much!!!

PCN Youth Group

# MISSION

*Where your treasure is, there your heart will lie also. ~Matthew 6:21*

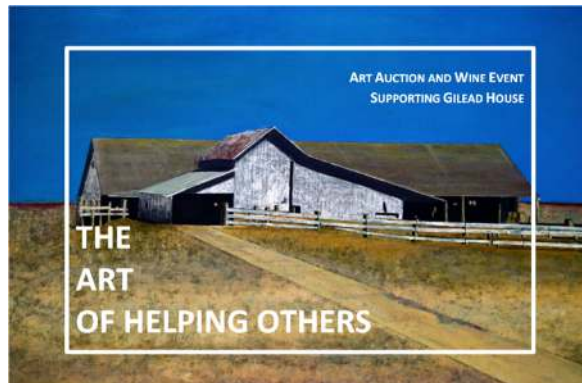
## SAVE THE DATE!

VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION  
APRIL 24, 2021 – MAY 8, 2021

AUCTION CONCLUSION AND WINE EVENT  
SATURDAY MAY 8, 2021 2:00-5:00 PM

Save the date for a Gilead House Mother's Day weekend event like no other! We hope you will join us for an exclusive art auction, featuring spectacular West Marin landscapes, followed by an afternoon of wine, food, and music, at West Wind Winery. Proceeds benefit the mom's and children of Gilead House.

Mark your calendar and stay tuned for all the details you'll need!



Volunteers are also needed on the day of this event (May 8<sup>th</sup>) to help with parking, registration, and other odds-and-ends jobs from approximately 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. All COVID protocols will be in use! Contact Carly Hoj at (415) 895-5575, x102 or email [carly@gileadhouse.org](mailto:carly@gileadhouse.org) if interested.

Pentecost Offering – May 23, 2021

PC(USA)'s Pentecost offering supports many youth-oriented programs, including 25% to Young Adult Volunteers, 25% to Ministries with Youth, and 10% educating and providing safe havens for at-risk children. The remaining 40% is held back by our congregation to go to local youth-oriented programs. **This year, that 40% will be given to North Marin Community Services, specifically for its mental health programs. Please join our 10 a.m. Zoom worship on May 23<sup>rd</sup> when NMCS executive director, Cheryl Paddack, will explain their programs and efforts to make a positive difference for thousands of our neighbors. Below is a short letter telling us what is going on in 2020/2021.**

*We're grateful for the Presbyterian Church of Novato's Leadership Circle support to NMCS. Thank you for helping us be a trusted resource for people in need. We're writing to share our most recent Impact Report, which shows a full year of tremendous work as well as powerful client stories.*

*You've helped us serve nearly 10,000 clients since March 16, 2020 with essential supports such as food distribution, emergency rent, scholarships for childcare, mental health services and more. Thank you!!*

*NMCS has been on the front lines of disaster response efforts - we're active members in Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster, Novato COVID-19 Response & Recovery Team, COVID Vaccination Community Advisory Board and County of Marin Rental Assistance Program Collaborative.*

*As a trusted partner with County of Marin, our team is currently providing clients in more vulnerable populations, including Latinx communities, with vaccination sign-up links and support.*

*We're also preparing to be a vaccination center very soon. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have about our work.*

*Lastly, we're happy to share that our team has been recognized with the following awards this year. We hope you feel proud to partner with us as we move forward in this integral work. Thank you again for your meaningful support.*

*Recent Awards:*

*2021 Look Who's Getting It Done Award, presented by District 5 Supervisor Judy Arnold*

- *2021 Jefferson Silver Award to Cheryl Paddock, CEO, presented by KPIX and Multiplying Good*
- *2021 Community Pandemic Assistance Award to Lead Food Pantry Volunteer, Cindy Stern*
- *2021 Four Star Rating (highest rating) from Charity Navigator*
- *2020 Outstanding Child Abuse Prevention Award from The Marin Child Abuse Prevention Council*
- *2020 Marin Quality Counts Consortia's Mastering High Quality Standards to Early Child Development Program*

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Center 4 Domestic Peace and your mission committee would like to thank Kai Lancaster, Carrie Ford, Becky Praun, Audrey Boland and the Gildeas and Gerrans for donating 16 bags of groceries this past month. This effort will help support women and children during stressful days of transition. Thank you all for your immediate and generous response.



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Ceres Community Project continues to offer their “Get to Know Ceres” Zoom classes. Each class is from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m., on second Tuesdays of the month. Many are free and all others are for a nominal charge. All the congregation is welcome to learn more about this incredibly powerful and creative program, which serves chronically ill people and helps train local youth to be serve those in need. Here is the link to their calendar where people can register for the information session as well as classes:

[https://ceresproject.secure.force.com//cnp\\_paas\\_evt\\_EventListingPage?elid=a2T1N000002eTe6UAE](https://ceresproject.secure.force.com//cnp_paas_evt_EventListingPage?elid=a2T1N000002eTe6UAE).





The Thursday morning women's Bible study group is faithfully continuing studies in 2 Samuel. We always hope that the ladies of the congregation will join. The class begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 11 a.m. on Zoom at this time. We have a guidebook that helps us to think about God's Word and then be able to share what we have learned with each other.

David is one of the most important figures of world history. David is remembered and recognized by people of many backgrounds more than 3,000 years after he lived. A large part of the reason for this is the remarkable account of his life and reign bound in the books of 1 and 2 Samuel. The story is captivating.

In our study we have arrived at the point where there is a vacancy in the throne room of Israel, and David had been divinely appointed to fill it. Before we begin to read the story of David's reign it is important to see that it is, in a significant sense, pivotal in the Old Testament's presentation of the "kingdom of God."

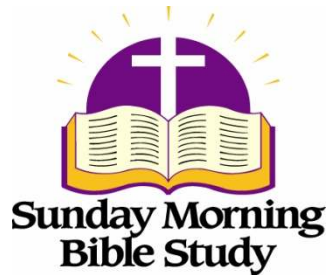
Won't you join us to experience David's reign and that God will at last rule over God's people in God's way? We expect to see the kingdom of God. Let's see how David leads the people of Israel.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87832751991?pwd=VEMvcjNaYWV5ekFXSnZQRm9mOW1hUT09> passcode pcnovato

Women's Bible Study Leaders,  
Carol Dacquisto, Melodie Baird, and Margaret Franz-Costello





On Sunday morning at 8 a.m. the adult Bible study class meets on Zoom. We send out an agenda and it will have the Zoom link on it.

We have a **lively Bible study discussion. That's what happens here.** As adults study the Bible and discuss what they found during the week in the lesson, they gain a growing understanding of how to move forward on their discipleship journey.

In the class, we read the Scripture and then focus on the passage. Easy week we're challenged to prepare for the next week's lesson. The preparation isn't long or difficult, but it does encourage participation. When adults have invested something of themselves in the lesson they get more out of it.

The biggest part of the lesson doesn't happen in class. It happens on Monday and Tuesday – and through the week – when instead of following their own desires or the crowd, they dare to say, “No, I will follow Jesus.”

In the month of May we will be concentrating on “**Courageous Prophets of Change**” using several books of the Old Testament: 1 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Jonah. These five bold prophets show that when people strayed from their covenant with God, the prophets called them back.

For more information about the Sunday adult class, contact anyone of the study leaders listed below.

**We will look forward to seeing you on Sundays – come and join us!**

Study Leaders,

Carol Dacquisto (415) 892-2070, Larry Dacquisto (415) 577-2115, Karen Rogers (415) 892-9608, and Jim Baird (415) 897-7512



The Deacons will be sponsoring another blood drive on June 6 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Go to [www.vitalant.org](http://www.vitalant.org) to register. Contact Janalee Holmes at (415) 898-8418 for more information.



**JIGSAW PUZZLE SWAP** Our next puzzle swap will be Saturday, May 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you want to drop off some puzzles, the donation box is in the office.



**LITTER BEE CLEAN-UP in Novato!** Join us for our next clean-up day on Saturday, May 1 from 9 to 10 a.m. Meet us at the PCN parking lot and wear your mask and bring gloves and tongs. Garbage bags provided.



### **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](mailto:Janisw99@gmail.com) with questions. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81107446679?pwd=Yy9ub1pReGdMTHVhbDJpRzhHVVdHQT09>  
Meeting ID: 811 0744 6679 Passcode: pcnovato



## 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](mailto: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!

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

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This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

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The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

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Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

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The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

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Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

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And this one just about sums them all up:

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday:

'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'

*Many thanks to Bruce Stahley for sharing this!*