



**PresPress**

**November 2021**

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

**“One of the Greatest Joys of My Life”**

I remember early on a Monday morning being in the sanctuary of the church I served. I was the only one at the church. There was a great storm raging outside. Thunder was shaking the walls and the stained-glass windows. Yet, as was my spiritual practice, I sat in the second-row pew, two seats over, right where Sue always sat on Sunday morning. Every Monday, I came in first thing and sat in the seat where one of my parishioners would always sit, and I prayed for them.

On this day, I remember finishing my prayer and getting up to walk over to my office but felt the need to stop. I turned and faced the stage area looking at the cross all the while listening to the storm howling and booming around me. And I did something I'd never, in my life, even thought about doing. I was compelled, pushed, led even to walk up to the front of the sanctuary before the cross and kneel down. And once down it didn't feel like enough, like I had done what I came to do. I remember laying down prostrate, nose to the floor, before Christ.

And there, I prayed – words that just poured from me, “God, I am yours. Lead me and I will follow.” I'm sure had anyone walked in at that moment I would have looked ridiculous, or perhaps they would have run up to make sure I was still breathing. But in that moment I felt a deep connection with Jesus...so deep, in fact, that I couldn't help but offer my whole self, once again, to be Christ's disciple.

Sometimes, when the congregations I serve do their annual pledge drives, I remember back to that day, when Jesus taught me that giving of myself is not a burden but is instead one of the greatest joys of my life. I don't feel compelled to give of myself anymore out of some duty or obligation, and certainly not because of catchy campaign slogans. I give of who I am, including pledging financial resources, because I want to be about what God is up to. I want to join in God's love song with the meager offerings I can give so that I can be about it...so that God can take what I have and build the kingdom of God here and now.

Yeah, I care about church initiatives, projects, experiments, and yes, vision for the future. I want my giving to be used wisely....but what I've learned over the years is that God has a way of fulfilling God's plans sometimes in spite of all we think we have figured out. My trust is in God.

This year is no different. I trust in God.

“God, I am yours. Lead me and I will follow.”

As you consider your financial pledge this year, I know there are a lot of considerations. We are coming off a terrible pandemic. Some have been without work. Others are on fixed incomes. Some are not clear on the direction the church is taking in this post-pandemic world. How will my financial contribution be used? What if I don't like all the pieces of the vision that the Session has brought forth?

These are important considerations. But I will say, too, that our pledges have more to do with God's love playing out in our lives than they do about anything else. We give because God first gave to us. We give extravagantly because the extravagant grace of Jesus Christ saved us and continues to rescue us even today.

I know without a shadow of a doubt that Christ is at work in the Presbyterian Church of Novato, leading us, guiding us, equipping us, transforming lives, meeting needs, and loving beyond measure. We will continue to seek to live into the fullness of who we are as a congregation, not change who we are.

If you're like me at the moment of writing this article, maybe you have not yet finalized your pledge for 2022. As God leads us into this next year, I encourage you to consider not only increasing your financial giving in the life and ministry of PCN, but also of your time and energy. But don't do it expecting some specified, personalized result. Instead, do it to see what God can and will do with more of you in the mix. After all, you are a vital piece of who we are as a church.

What will God do with us in 2022? Every year I embrace the new year, not with fear, but with the hope of Jesus Christ that is our guiding light.

I encourage you to join me in the profound and life-changing profession: "God, I am yours. Lead me and I will follow."

With humility and care,

Adam



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

*Below you will find evidence of the many places where your hearts, time and money are making a difference, both locally and abroad.*

## **CERES COMMUNITY PROJECT**



We look forward to helping you develop and achieve your health goals! Classes are offered on a sliding scale (pay what you can afford), starting at free. All classes start at 5:30 p.m.

[September 29 - Carbohydrates for Good Health](#)

[October 13 - Asian Mushrooms](#)

[October 20 - Proteins](#)

[October 27 - Healthy for you, healthy for the planet: Limiting food waste; maximizing flavor and nutrition](#)

[November 3 - Nourishing Holiday Treats](#)

[November 17 - Mindful Eating to Reduce Holiday Stress](#)

[December 1 - Managing Blood Sugar and Reducing Inflammation](#)

[December 13 - Sourdough Gluten-Free Breads: Fermented Ancient Grains and Seeds for Delicious Loaves](#) with special guest, Chef Lindsay Katz



## Deliver Meals

We are looking for Delivery Angels for our Novato program site. [Apply online](#) or contact Susan Parnes at [Sparnes@ceresproject.org](mailto:Sparnes@ceresproject.org) to get started or ask questions.



## GILEAD HOUSE BOCCE BALL And gratitude as well to the following donors/players:

Ellen Breazeale  
Nick & Sally Carbonaro  
Diane Kaljian-Combs  
Laurie Dougherty

Alan Dunham  
Sydney Fletcher  
Cathy Haney  
Jon Hanlein

Marion Hickman  
Jim Rolka  
Bev Winsor





PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

**PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING** Your mission committee thanks you for the \$1,000 collected as of this writing (Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>) to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. Four hundred dollars, or 40% has been given to our speaker that day, Nick Morris, executive director of The Street Chaplaincy, whose presence and thought-provoking words were of great value to us all. The Street Chaplaincy addresses the spiritual needs of Marin County's homeless population, and the theme of peacemaking in all its varied efforts was showcased: **PEACE AT ALL TIMES IN ALL WAYS.**



**GILEAD HOUSE** You're invited to our virtual social hour and harvest-themed cooking how-to with Chef Rachel with "From the Pantry" on Tuesday, November 9 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. You'll receive an ingredient box on the day of the event with everything that you need, including the wine!

We look forward to cooking together again!

Go to [www.gileadhouse.org](http://www.gileadhouse.org) and click on 'Our Events' on the home page.



Working Together to End Domestic Violence

**CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE** Thank you to EVERYONE for the generous donation of groceries for the Center for Domestic Peace in October! It means a lot to them to receive this care from us. Donations of non-perishable groceries, specifically rice, pasta, pasta sauce, cans of beans, sugar, flour, chocolate and juice are requested. C4DP serves women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. Pledged groceries (double-bagged, please, and not too heavy!) can be dropped off at the church office November 8 and 9. Thank you again!



# 2021 Alternative Christmas Faire



This year we are having both a “Virtual Alternative Christmas Faire” and an “in-person” Alternative Christmas Faire. This will allow members of the congregation to choose how they wish to participate. There are many organizations that are in need of help, and we know that the congregation has stepped up to help out for many years to support the organizations sponsored by PCN.

The Mission Committee is organizing a “Virtual Alternative Christmas Faire” event that will be presented from November 22nd through December 12th. The “in-person” event is scheduled for December 12th following the church service(s). The following organizations are included in the Alternative Christmas Faire.

**Homeward Bound** - provides housing, training and hope to end homelessness. For more information visit their website at [www.hbofm.org](http://www.hbofm.org). You can support Homeward Bound by ordering Halo Holiday Gifts.

**Alchemia** - Alchemia nurtures the creative expression of individuals with disabilities as a vehicle for personal growth and accomplishment. The vision of Alchemia is for a future in which all people with disabilities are valued and contributing members of society.

**Marin Shakespeare Company** – On stage, in schools, in prisons, and online, Marin Shakespeare Company brings people together to learn from the past and imagine the future, and spark cultural engagement, learning, and social change through the arts. Marin Shakespeare has a program that helps people previously incarcerated. In addition, they have a program that has been used for elementary children at Lynwood Elementary.

**The Street Chaplaincy** - The Street Chaplaincy visits homeless persons where they are most often found, on the streets, at the shelters, motels, encampments, hospitals, nursing facilities, and county jail. They accompany the homeless and support them by helping the unsheltered find financial assistance, housing, and medical care by connecting them with city/county programs, healthcare providers and local service organizations.

**Lynwood ‘Maker Space’** - The vision for the program is to focus on STREAM activities (Science, Technology, Relationships, Engineering, Art, and Math) that allow time and space for students to create, tinker, learn how to do something new, problem solve, and take risks. Maker Space provides a safe and supportive space that inspires children to be challenged, creative, innovative and collaborative, all skills needed for a 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

**Heifer Project** - provides a seed investment of livestock or agriculture, followed by mentorship to help project participants build a business, and ultimately to gain access to supply chains and markets.

Those who wish to participate in this giving opportunity can participate in the ‘virtual’ event using the attached donation form on the following page and/or the Homeward Bound purchasing forms shown on the pages following the donation form or attend the ‘in-person’ event on December 12<sup>th</sup> or participate in both the ‘virtual’ and ‘in-person’ event.





## 2021 Alternative Christmas Faire Donation Form



**Your Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Print this Donation Form.

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	_____
Heifer Project	_____
Marin Shakespeare Company	_____
The Street Chaplaincy	_____
Lynwood 'Makers Space'	_____
Alchemia	_____
<b>Total Donations</b>	_____

Write a check for the total amount payable to the Presbyterian Church of Novato. Write "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.

Presbyterian Church of Novato  
P.O. Box 631

# HOMeward BOUND



## 2021 Halo Holiday Gifts

### HANDMADE CHOCOLATE HALO TRUFFLES

BOX OF 4/\$10

Quantity

Box of 4 Chocolate

☐

Box of 4 Blackberry Cabernet

☐

### CHOCOLATE BARK

6OZ. BAG/\$7

Dark Chocolate with Dried Cranberry, Almond and Pumpkin

☐

### HALO PRODUCTS

\$10 EACH

Pepper Jelly - 9oz

☐

Apple Butter - 9oz

☐

Peach Butter - 9oz

☐

Garlic Dill Pickles - 16oz

☐

Bread & Butter Pickles - 16oz

☐

Raspberry Jam - 9oz

☐

Strawberry Jam - 9oz

☐

Blueberry Jam - 9oz

☐

Peach Butter - 9oz

☐

Sweet Smokin' BBQ Sauce - 12oz

☐

Oaxacan Mole Sauce - 9oz

☐

### OTHER HALO PRODUCTS

Hot 'n' Holy Pepper Sauce 5oz

\$7 ☐

Halo Honey from our Novato Hives - 9oz

\$20 ☐

### WAGSTER DOG TREATS

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

Apple & Peanut Butter

☐

Banana & Toasted Coconut

☐

Peanut Butter & Molasses

☐

3 pack - One bag of each flavor!

☐


*Take a Bite Out of Homelessness!*



# HOMeward BOUND

## HOLIDAY GIFT BOXES

### Wagster - \$50

1 Bag Each:

Apple & Peanut Butter, Banana & Toasted Coconut  
and Peanut Butter & Molasses

+ 6 Pack Custom Doggie Notecards

Quantity

☐

### Sweet Box - \$50

Featuring our Halo HomeMades products from our kitchen  
Strawberry Jam, Apple Butter, Bread & Butter Pickles  
Dark Chocolate Bark with Cranberries, Almonds  
and Pumpkin Seeds  
Chocolate Pistachio Biscotti

☐

### Savory Box - \$45

Featuring our Halo HomeMades products from our kitchen  
Pepper Jelly, Garlic Dill Pickles, BBQ Sauce  
and Artisan Cheddar Cheese-scotti

☐

### Biscotti & Cheese-scotti Tin - \$25

8 Chocolate and Pistachio Biscotti  
8 Artisan Cheese-scotti

☐

Name _____	Sub Total \$ _____
Phone _____	Donation \$ _____
Email _____	Total \$ _____

All Proceeds support Homeward Bound of Marin. Find out more online at [hbofm.org](http://hbofm.org).  
1385 N. Hamilton Pkwy. Novato, CA. 94949 | 415-382-3363, ext. 214



## Session Highlights September 2021

At the September 15, 2021, meeting, Session approved:

- Providing congregational care for Ariel Mink as she begins her studies at the Dubuque University Theological Seminary and Kathy Takemoto as her PCN liaison
- Updating and revising the *PCN Safety Policy and Procedures* handbook coordinated by the Christian Education committee.
- Hiring a temporary, part-time bookkeeper at 10-15 hours per week until a new Financial Secretary is hired. This is a contract position.
- Increasing Sydney Fletcher's hours by 10 hours each month to serve as the Stewardship Secretary and maintain the church management system.
- The Session approved via E-Vote on September 10, 2021 the solicitation of the congregation for voluntary Love Offering contributions for Stephanie Monahan for her service as PCN's financial secretary.

Kathy Takemoto, Clerk of Session



Many thanks to the volunteers for providing wonderful, healthy and creative meals to our youth this past month. Thank you to the Deacons for always providing on the third Sunday: Brook Stahley and Audrey Boland, parent Karen Gorin and grandparent Pat Innes.

We love your continued support and time to make youth group meaningful and fun!

Anyone – PCN member or youth parent – who is interested in providing a meal, PLEASE reach out to Becky Praun, Meal Coordinator at [beckypraun@yahoo.com](mailto:beckypraun@yahoo.com), or phone 415 472-1733. No experience necessary!

With grateful hearts and full tummies,

The Youth Group



### **INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER OF PCN?**

Please join Pastor Adam Smith at November's Inquirers' Class. This class offers a great opportunity to learn about the history of the Presbyterian Church and what it means to be a member. The class will be held on Sunday, November 14 and will begin after worship (around 11:15 a.m.). A light lunch will be provided. Join us and bring your questions! Please call 415-897-6152 or email [pcadmin@pcnovato.org](mailto:pcadmin@pcnovato.org) to RSVP.

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Be ready! Have you had a FREE ASSESSMENT of your house to be ready in case of a local wildfire? Click the link below to sign up. After your official home assessment, you will become eligible for matching Novato Fire Protection District grants for vegetation management, home hardening and other programs. You can make improvements to better protect your home and remove hazards that can fuel fires.

Tell your neighbors! If we all prepare, we will make our neighborhoods safer!

<https://stopwildfire.net/residential/>



Magic happens when you are given a ball of yarn and a pair of knitting needles!

Julie Lee (Shirley Evemeyer's mother) donated a STUPENDOUS STASH of yarn to the PCN Knitting Group and look what happened: lap robes, baby blankets, children's sweaters, and fun hats appeared. These items will be donated to Napa Veteran's Hospital, Marin Community Clinic, and Oakland Children's Hospital.

Our most sincere THANK YOU goes out to Julie for her generosity, her thoughtfulness, her compassion for others, and for making MAGIC happen.

In gratitude,  
PCN Knitting Group







## **WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Thursday Women's Bible Study meets via Zoom every Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. The book of the Bible that we are studying is 2 Samuel. We have completed 1 Samuel.

We have arrived at the point in our study where David is sharing with the Prophet Nathan about building a temple for God. David didn't believe the tabernacle was big enough or magnificent enough for the Lord.

The Prophet Nathan revealed to King David a word from God concerning the proposed building of a temple. You don't want to miss what God's answer was and what He gave King David instead that was eternal.

The Zoom link is below and is also posted each week in the update as well as a phone number for those who can come on board by that method.

We will be looking forward to seeing each of you and hope that you will invite a friend to join you.

Grace and Peace,  
Melodie Baird, Margaret Costello, and Carol Dacquisto

### **Women's Bible Class Link:**

The link to class will be the same every week. Carol Dacquisto is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81726330698?pwd=a1hvY1JUOFV1OFRXUitrc05FaTBZUT09>

Meeting ID: 817 2633 0698 Passcode: pcnovato



The Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study meets at the church (on-site) in November at 8:30 a.m. We will also meet via “Zoom” at 8:30 a.m. Contact Larry Dacquisto at [larrydacquisto@gmail.com](mailto:larrydacquisto@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

In November we will begin to explore John’s visions of celebration in Revelation as people from every nation praise God and all heaven rejoices, and then the unit ends with the good news in Acts that even Gentiles can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

God’s purpose for giving this message was to let the Church know what was to come in the future. John wrote it. It was his task to record what he saw, and what he saw was the Word of God and the **testimony** of Jesus Christ. The things written in this book **are** the Word of God and they come from God through his Son, Jesus.

Later in the month of November we will be in the Book of Acts as we see Peter proclaim the Gospel to the household of Cornelius, a Gentile and a Roman Centurion.

We invite each of you to come and join us either in class or on Zoom and learn what John’s vision reveals to us. We will be looking forward to seeing you.

Study Leaders,  
James Baird, Carol Dacquisto, Larry Dacquisto, and Karen Rogers

## Stay Healthy Novato

The best way to **reduce the risk** of becoming infected with a respiratory virus, whether the flu or coronavirus, is to practice good hygiene:

- **Get your COVID-19 vaccine.** More information at [getvaccinatedmarin.com](https://getvaccinatedmarin.com).
- **Wear a face covering.**
- **Wash your hands frequently** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Use an **alcohol-based hand sanitizer** when soap and water is not available.
- **Cover your cough or sneeze** with a tissue or crook of your elbow (not your hands). If you use a tissue, throw it away and wash your hands afterward.
- **Avoid touching your face.**
- **Stay home from work or school** if you have a fever or are **feeling sick**.
- **Avoid close contact** with people who are sick.
- **Clean and disinfect** frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe. **If you use wipes:** remember to either throw (or bag and throw) the used wipes into the trash and NOT into the toilet. Wipes (even if labeled "flushable") can clog your toilets, the sewer pipe (private lateral) from your house to the public street sewer, or the public street sewers, and could result in additional health and safety issues. For more information, go to [novatosan.com](https://novatosan.com)

## What the City is doing to help prevent the spread of COVID-19

- **Increasing cleaning schedule and sanitation efforts** at City facilities.
- **Promoting hand-washing and good hygiene** at City facilities, restrooms and counters.
- **Cancelling or postponing large, in-person events & meetings**, including suspending programming at the Margaret Todd Senior Center per Marin HSS recommendations. More information on City events at [novato.org/calendar](https://novato.org/calendar).
- **Coordinating outreach and information updates with Marin HSS.**
- **Developed a COVID-19 webpage** for the community with information on health resources available and City updates.
- **Participating in regular conference calls with the County and other regional response agencies** to stay up-to-date and prepared to implement strategies to protect and inform our community.
- **Sharing information with City staff on prevention strategies** that emphasize hand-washing and staying home if they aren't feeling well.

Go to <https://www.novato.org/community/coronavirus-covid-19> for more information.



PCN is a community member of the Marin County Gun Safety Collaborative. The goal of the collaborative is to provide gun safety education and information to the public.

Lori Frugoli, Marin County District Attorney, reached out to faith communities in Marin who would disseminate gun safety information. More information can be found at:

<https://www.marincounty.org/main/county-press-releases/press-releases/2021/da-gunsafety-031021>

Kathy Takemoto,  
[kathy.takemoto@outlook.com](mailto:kathy.takemoto@outlook.com) can provide additional information.



# SupperClub

FOOD & FRIENDS

This past year we had to limit our social gathering and in-person church attendance. Fortunately, we have had technology but missing were our wonderful times of eating and schmoozing! We will continue with the same groups set in 2019-20 for the remainder of the year. Come 2022 we will have sign-ups for new groups and start again. In the meantime, stay safe, stay well and enjoy your times with church friends when you can.  
~E.B. Hanlein and Janalee Holmes



## 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. Use the same Zoom link 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 "Abiding in Christ." 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!

# San Marin Music Department

PRESENTS

## MUSIC THEATRE INTERNATIONAL

# ALL TOGETHER NOW!

a global event celebrating local theatre

### FEATURING SONGS BY

*(in alphabetical order)*

Lynn Ahrens, Kristen Anderson-Lopez, Benny Andersson, Billie Joe Armstrong, Howard Ashman, Sara Bareilles, Lionel Bart, Jerry Bock, Leslie Bricusse, Jason Robert Brown, Johnny Burke, Martin Charnin, Mindi Dickstein, Anthony Drewe, Jack Feldman, Stephen Flaherty, Matthew Gerrard, Zina Goldrich, Green Day, Sheldon Harnick, David Hein, Marcy Heisler, Jason Howland, Herbert Kretzmer, Jonathan Larson, Alan Jay Lerner, Frank Loesser, Frederick Loewe, Robert Lopez, Alan Menken, Tim Minchin, Robbie Nevil, Anthony Newley, Benj Pasek, Justin Paul, Tim Rice, Irene Sankoff, Dick Scanlan, Claude-Michel Schönberg, Stephen Schwartz, Marc Shaiman, Richard M. Sherman, Robert B. Sherman, Glenn Slater, Stephen Sondheim, George Stiles, Charles Strouse, Jeanine Tesori, Björn Ulvaeus, Jimmy Van Heusen, Frank Wildhorn, Scott Wittman

Friday November 12 7:30 PM	Directed by Kele Gasparini
Saturday November 13 2:00 PM	Choreographed by Kathy Eggert
Saturday November 13 7:30 PM	Musical Director Emily Gates
Sunday November 14 2:00 PM	Orchestra Director Allison McIvor

**Tickets are available through [Brownpapertickets.com](http://Brownpapertickets.com)  
or San Marin High School counseling office**

**\$15 General Admission / \$10 Students & Seniors**

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI ([mtishows.com](http://mtishows.com)).