



**PResPRes**

**February 2022**

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

**“The Agile Church”**

“The central challenge facing churches today is rediscovering who they are in a society that has in many ways rejected Christianity. Christian community cannot be assumed; it must be cultivated intentionally, both within established congregations and with new neighbors” (Zscheile, Dwight, The Agile Church).

One of the ordination questions in the Presbyterian Church USA in which all Elders, Deacons, and Ministers of Word and Sacrament affirm reads, “Do you promise to serve the congregation with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?” The word that I always get hung up on is the word “imagination.” Why is this included? Where does it come from? What purpose does it serve and to what are our officers committing?

The word seems to imply something more than just being shrewd, more than careful and reasoned planning and discernment, something beyond maintaining the status quo and managing well. It implies dreaming and wondering, being creative and open-minded, thinking outside the box and beyond ‘the way things have always been done.’ ‘Imagination’ stirs up images of a child playing with her toys, inventors dreaming up preposterous things like flying machines, trips into outer space, and mobile telephones; innovations like vaccines, modern psychotherapy, and online worship.

When we think of church, we don’t often think of the word ‘innovation’ do we? We don’t think of words like agile, nimble, or flexible. We think of words like immutable, sturdy, and unchanging.

But our call to ‘share the gospel’ and ‘make disciples’ is truly a call to innovation, creativity, and imagination, is it not? The culture and the world around the Church changes. Methods and ways of fulfilling our mission, by necessity, have to change too as we work to make accessible the good news at the heart of our faith. It’s not that the good news changes, but that our job as gospel-sharers is that of interpreter and translator, sharing good news in the language of our contemporary culture.

It is not that we are supposed to throw out the best of who we are – our worship, our sacraments, our prayers, and the like – in order to do this, instead it’s being able to adapt and modify those elements so they continue to orient us toward our Lord and Savior in community, but also so that they include others from outside. When our ancient Israelite brothers and sisters were forced into exile, they found ways to retain the best of their identity, their stories, their rituals, their scriptures, and yet they found ways of being faithful in the changing world around them.

Looking around the landscape of western Christianity, it is evident that being able to be agile and nimble as well as imaginative and innovative are necessary pieces of living out our mission. It’s not a contemporary notion, but an ancient one that perhaps we are called to reclaim.

For further reading on this topic, you can find the book, “The Agile Church: Spirit Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age” by Dwight J. Zscheile.

In Grace & Peace,  
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.*

## ***LOCAL*** MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- Groceries needed monthly for **Center for Domestic Peace**. Leave a bag of unexpired, non-perishable groceries in the church office. No glass jars please. Groceries are picked up mid-month.
- **Vivalon (formerly Whistlestop)** is looking for part-time and full-time drivers. *Paid positions.* Fully paid training. Great benefits.  
OPEN INTERVIEWS: Tuesdays 3:00-4:00 p.m.; Fridays 10:00-11:00 a.m.  
[www.Vivalon.org/jobs](http://www.Vivalon.org/jobs) or call 415-456-9062 x562
- Join **PCN's Emergency Response Team** by participating in bimonthly Zoom meetings. You don't have to commit to all meetings; any help is appreciated. Contact Regina Rus at [reginabrus@gmail.com](mailto:reginabrus@gmail.com).

**CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE** Generous donations from PCN to the Center for Domestic Peace have come in once a month since last April. We will continue each month going forward. Thank you to all of the friends who have donated their time and effort to keep it going. Now we would like to know who you are! It will help if you leave a note attached to the bags, leave a voicemail (415.999.9720) or an email ([bjgildea9@aol.com](mailto:bjgildea9@aol.com)) so we can thank all of you for the continued support. As always, THANK YOU!!!





## *All Dressed Up Ministry Update 2022*

The All Dressed Up Ministry was started in 2011 to support the California Re-entry Program (CRP) by providing clothing for inmates in San Quentin State Prison who are being paroled or released from incarceration to re-enter society. Many of you may already know about this ministry, and there are probably some who have never heard of it. Hopefully, this short write-up will give you an understanding of this valuable mission.

The California Re-entry Program is a program in San Quentin that provides guidance and counseling to help inmates transition to society after being released from prison. The program is a volunteer program that meets at San Quentin to assist inmates with the needs they have in preparation for release. The volunteers work with the inmates to help with their needs such as obtaining an ID, locating transitional housing, processing forms for SSI, job applications, and other items that we take for granted. When the inmates are released, the program provides transportation for them if needed to get to their final destinations.

One of the support tasks that CRP provides is supplying the inmate with what is called 'dressout' clothing to wear when they are released. Normally, dressout clothing is sent to the inmate by friends or family on the outside of the prison. In many cases, the inmates do not have family or friends who are willing or able to provide them with clothing. If the inmate does not receive any clothing from outside the prison, they are required to purchase the clothing from the prison.

The clothing provided by the prison is medical scrubs, and the inmate is charged \$37. The All Dressed Up Ministry receives clothing requests from CRP for the prisoners prior to their release. On or about the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month, the All Dressed Up Ministry gathers the clothing (currently stored in the shed behind the nursery) for inmates who

are scheduled for release in the upcoming month, boxes the clothing, and mails it to the prison to be stored in the warehouse until the inmate is released.


Additionally, a notification card is sent to the inmate to notify them that the clothing is available for them to pick up when they are released. Here is an example of the notification card.

Dear

A package containing clothes for you has been sent to San Quentin. Please ask for it when you are released. These clothes are provided as part of the "All Dressed Up" ministry at the Presbyterian Church of Novato (PCN). If you are in the area, we invite you to visit PCN. Our church services are Sunday at 10 a.m. in-person or online at [pcnovato.org](http://pcnovato.org). We hope these clothes help as you move on after prison.

Good luck with your new life and may God Bless You. "In all your ways acknowledge [God], and He will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:6

All Dressed Up Ministry  
Presbyterian Church of Novato  
710 Wilson Ave.  
Novato, CA



NOTE: Please do not pass this letter along to other inmates. We receive all our requests for clothing through CRP.

Occasionally, we receive thank you letters from the inmates expressing appreciation for the clothing. The letters convey a deep appreciation for what we send. It is easy to see how much the clothing means to the inmate.

This ministry has sent more than 1000 boxes of clothing to the inmates being released since 2011. Last year we sent 81 boxes. There has recently been an increase in the number of boxes sent because of an increase in the number of inmates being released. In the last three months, we have sent 51 boxes of dressouts.

This ministry couldn't be possible without the valuable support of the congregation. Over the past years, the congregation has donated almost all of the clothing that has been delivered to the inmates. The All Dressed Up Ministry and the inmates are grateful for all the donations for this program.

Currently, the inventory of clothing is getting low. We need the following items.

- Pants – preferably jeans. Waist sizes 40" and larger with length of 30" and longer
- Shoes – sizes 8 to 12
- Windbreakers – sizes XL and larger
- Sweatshirts and hoodies – sizes XL and larger
- Shirts – sizes XL and larger

We try to send only durable clothing to the inmates because many of them end up on the streets. They need clothing that will keep them warm and will last for some time



under street conditions. We do not take suits or sport jackets because they are not durable, and we can't get the proper measurements for dress clothing.

If you have any of these clothing items that you would like to donate, please bring them to the church office or contact Mike Robinson at 415-302-1729 for assistance. Also, if you would like to help with the boxing and delivery of the clothing for the inmates, please let Mike know as well.

Blessings to all of you for supporting this ministry.

Contributor: Mike Robinson





Last month was the 29<sup>th</sup> annual CVNL “Heart of Marin” awards, which recognizes the achievements and contributions of many of our community’s nonprofits and volunteers.

This year, NMCS was honored to be chosen for “Achievement in Nonprofit Excellence.” Additionally, NMCS Peer Health Promotor volunteer, Lizbeth Mendieta-Alvarado, received a Youth Volunteer of the Year award! Congratulations to all those nominated and recognized at today’s celebration. Lizbeth was nominated by both NMCS and Youth Leadership Institute. A passionate promotor of adolescent health and youth voice, Lizbeth has helped to destigmatize mental health at her high school and connected peers to reproductive health education and mental health support.

Cheryl Paddack, Chief Executive Office, received CVNL’s 2018 Excellence in Nonprofit Leadership Award for her successful leadership of the merger between Novato Human Needs Center and Novato Youth Center, a merger which positioned NMCS to meet the increased community need during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cheryl stated, “This past year has been incredibly challenging and rewarding and, with a stronger infrastructure and more resources, we were able to provide informed, integrated and culturally appropriate services to 33% more people in need (8,380 to 11,174). We are all humbled by this acknowledgment and grateful to work alongside such impactful partners and donors to help create a stronger, healthier community in 2022.”





## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR NEW FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION ELDER – Brad Praun

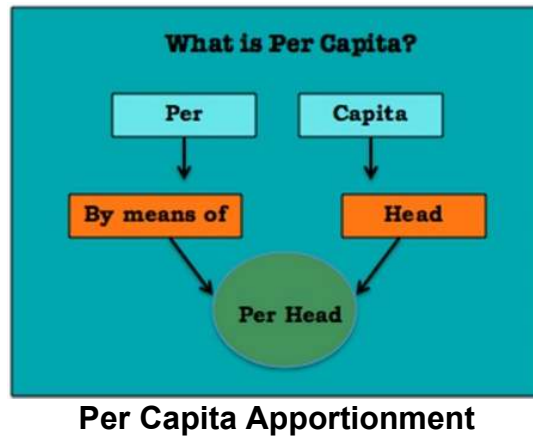
With the entrance of a new year, you have a new Finance Elder. We have been blessed for six years having Tonya Church as our F&A Elder and PCN corporation president. Under Tonya's leadership, this committee has worked hard to secure and grow our endowment and church funds while reducing expenses and implementing a new and improved accounting system. We were so blessed to have her share her expertise and energy throughout these years, and even more blessed that even though she is taking time off from Session, she will still serve and support our F&A Committee in 2022. Thank you, Tonya!

Additionally, our F&A Committee lost our beloved financial secretary, Stephanie Monahan, who moved to Grass Valley in September 2021 after serving our church and committee for 21 years. Her contributions, knowledge, sensitivity, friendship and faithfulness to serve have been a blessing to us all, and we miss her deeply. Even though we would rather not have had to search for a replacement, thanks to quick support from our personnel committee, we were able to hire Suzanne Schmidt to handle our accounting and also expand Sydney Fletcher's responsibilities to take over the other administrative tasks that were previously handled by Stephanie.

There are many financial challenges ahead of us as we look to revitalize and grow our ministries and facilities, and we will be looking to you for help by sharing your time, talents and treasures. We are excited to have John Reuscher and Robert Coleman join Walt Campbell, Tonya Church, Pastor Adam and me on this committee, but we would like even more financial expertise and energy join us (that could be you!) to complete the F&A key priorities this year. Our church nominating committee is still searching for another Session Elder to take on F&A Committee leadership responsibilities, and I am very interested in welcoming any of you that have financial knowledge, ideas and a vested interest in managing and growing our finances that will support our church ministry values and vision.

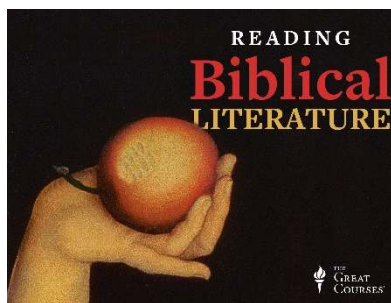
For more information on our finances, budget, and how you can help or join our committee, please contact me by email ([bradpraun@yahoo.com](mailto:bradpraun@yahoo.com)), or call me at 415-472-1733.



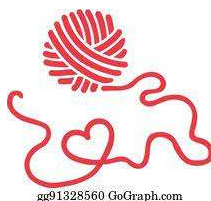


What is the Per Capita apportionment?

Each year the Presbyterian Church (USA) establishes a per capita apportionment. When we pay our per capita, we are helping to support the structures that support us as a congregation: the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly. These councils of the church consult with our elders and pastor(s) on all aspects of church life, bring us together with other congregations to grow in faith and do mission, sponsor projects to show Jesus' love all over the world, and help us manage our programs, finances, and buildings. In 2022, each congregation in Redwoods Presbytery will receive a bill charging \$34.00 for each active member. Of that amount, \$8.98 goes to the General Assembly, \$5.22 to the Synod of the Pacific, and \$19.80 to the Presbytery of the Redwoods. If you are able, please prayerfully consider paying this per capita apportionment in addition to your regular giving. It will help with our church budget!



The Christian Education committee is sponsoring a new spring 2022 adult learning opportunity: "Reading Biblical Literature," a free series of 36 video lectures via Zoom that present scripture from Genesis to Revelation as literature. Weekly sessions will cover two lectures and include discussion led by PCN elders Ellen Breazeale and Walt Campbell. There will be eighteen 75-minute sessions starting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays from January 29 to May 28. Please see the PCN website to enroll. This opportunity is open to non-members.



## Wits That Knit

**Wits That Knit** (previously known as The Knitting Group) received a letter from North Marin Community Services thanking us for three bags of hand-knitted items (valued at \$300.00) that were donated prior to Christmas.

Cheryl Paddock, CEO, wrote:

*Your beautiful hats, blankets and sweaters were distributed to our case managers who are giving them to very low-income families that we are currently serving in our community.*

We Wits That Knit are pleased to be able to participate in this ministry of outreach. Come and join us the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the PCN library.

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## Novato Covid Response Team Update



Thank you, PCN! You responded with enthusiasm to the home COVID test kits. Thank you to the County of Marin for providing these kits to PCN because of our partnership with the Novato Covid Response Team. We hope you used them to keep your families safe!

Don't let your defenses down; now is the time to keep vigilant with safe COVID practices, even if you tested negative. Keep washing your hands, upgrade your mask and use it, keep your distance from others and be careful of your indoor public activities. We will get through this!

Some people are still hurting financially. MCE (Marin Clean Energy) has pulled together a list of state and local resources that are available to residents and households in local areas including Marin. Be sure to review the agencies that are waiting to help people who need help! Novato agencies include North Marin Community Services (food pantry, mental health services), Homeward Bound of Marin (primary provider of homeless shelters and services), SF Marin Food Bank and Marin Health.

See <https://www.mcecleanenergy.org/covid-relief/#marin> for more information. Stay healthy! Be aware of others that need our help.



## ***A Message from Tammi***

Thanks to graciousness of Personnel, I am going to be living in Maryland from February 12 through May 20. I have been fortunate to be able to go back and visit my father for a couple weeks every few months. While I have enjoyed those visits, it's simply not enough time for me to discern whether or not I would be happy returning there to live. I'm hoping with a longer stay I can decide whether I want to uproot my life and move back to my hometown.

Many thanks to Carol Robinson, who will be staffing the office in my absence; to my wonderful co-workers, who will be affected by this; and especially to Adam and the Personnel Committee who have been so generous to me as I wrestle with this decision.

I will miss being in the office and talking to and seeing all the wonderful members of this church. Please pray that God will lead me to discern His will in what for me is a life-changing decision.

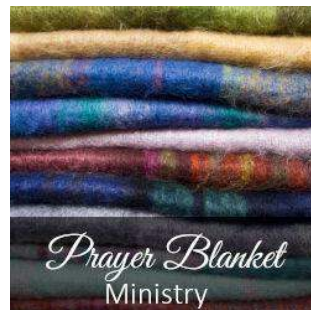


Would you like to be one of the first at PCN to welcome new visitors? Or to welcome back members who have not attended for a while? Please join our Hospitality Team if you are interested in serving in this ministry. Contact Beverly Winsor at [winsor6@gmail.com](mailto:winsor6@gmail.com) with any questions.

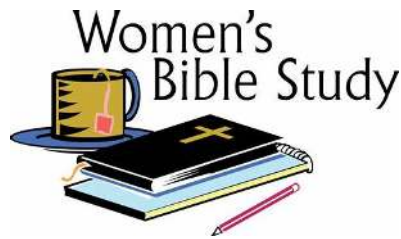


### **JIGSAW PUZZLE SWAP - - - SUNDAY EDITION**

We have another jigsaw puzzle swap coming up! On Sunday, February 27, you will have the opportunity to drop off some puzzles you have completed (or given up on!) and get some new puzzles as you drink your coffee or tea and visit with others who just attended the worship service. For some of you, this will be your chance to "get the puzzle bug." The swap tables will only be open for 30 minutes after the worship service concludes.



**COME MAKE A PRAYER BLANKET** Anyone can make a prayer blanket! It's fun and super easy. Save the date: Saturday, February 19th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Christensen room. Join us in making prayer blankets for those in need of prayers and comfort. Questions? Contact Tonya Church at [tonya.church@comcast.net](mailto:tonya.church@comcast.net) or Laurie Dougherty at [lwdougherty@me.com](mailto:lwdougherty@me.com).



## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

In February, our Thursday morning women's Bible study group will be meeting on Zoom until we are able to meet in person in the Christensen room. We will let you know. We will be meeting from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. We are continuing our studies in 2 Samuel. The cost of the guidebook, ***"Life Change: 1 & 2 Samuel"*** is \$7.00.

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

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89432531783?pwd=dE44aEhKQm1FTeg0Zmg0WXRoNVVPZz09>

We will begin to study David's disobedience, deception, and discipline as we come to chapters 11-12. Here we see David, the man after God's own heart, who committed adultery and then murdered a man in a last-ditch effort to cover his own sin. For at least nine months, David refused to confess his sins, but then God spoke to him and he sought the face of the Lord and made a new beginning. But he paid dearly for his sins. David suffered the consequences of his sins for the rest of his life, and so shall we if we rebel against God.

Join us as we see in these two chapters several stages in David's experience. We hope that each of you and more ladies of our congregation will join and bring friends to join as well.

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





We would like to invite each of you to come to the Sunday Morning Adult Study which meets from 8 to 9 a.m. via Zoom (see the link below). We have a marvelous group of men and women who enjoy studying God's Word to together, and we have terrific discussion on each lesson.

The theme of our studies this quarter has been on ***"Justice, Law, History."*** As we look forward to February, we deal with a situation in which justice seems absent such as King David's injustice toward Uriah and when Ezra determines to restore respect for God's Law. Scriptures from Job question the presence of God's justice when Job suffered greatly.

We all want justice for ourselves when we do good, and rightfully so. But we also are ready for justice to come to us when we do wrong. God's law and civil law make this clear. Justice cuts both ways. Looking outward toward others, we also are to uphold the laws that tell us how to give the justice that others deserve, even if doing so is costly for us. God has given us guidance on how to treat other people including our friends, family, workmates, employers, and employees whom we know personally and also those in our communities, cities, states, nations, and world whom we do now know. These laws on how we are to deal with other people are for our good, individually and collectively.

Justice is built on the application of good laws. Sovereign God, the Creator, has given us the good laws that we need. They are written for us in Scripture, where we not only read the laws themselves but also learn how they were given and how life worked out for people in the past when they lived by the laws ... and when they didn't! That historical record is good to both understand God's law and to apply it daily so we give and get justice in our lives.

Come and join us for a very lively discussion. You don't want to miss it!

The link is the same every week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87972311041?pwd=VU9ndGcwM04vRmJSWVgwZ0RWN1lpdz09>

Grace and Peace,

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 10 am –12 pm  
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of SAN RAFAEL

A morning with  
*JOHN PHILIP NEWELL*

Poet † Minister † Scholar † Celtic Contemplative Teacher



*Sacred Earth • Sacred Soul*

*Celtic wisdom for reawakening*

"...we know in the depths of our being  
that the earth is sacred and that this sacredness  
is at the heart of every human being and life form."

Free and open to the public  
Pre-Registration required. Email [EventFPCSR@gmail.com](mailto:EventFPCSR@gmail.com)

Supported by the  
One World, One Spirit  
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of San Rafael  
1510 Fifth Avenue, San Rafael, CA  
[FPCSR.org](http://FPCSR.org)  
Masks and proof of full vaccination required.







### 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!

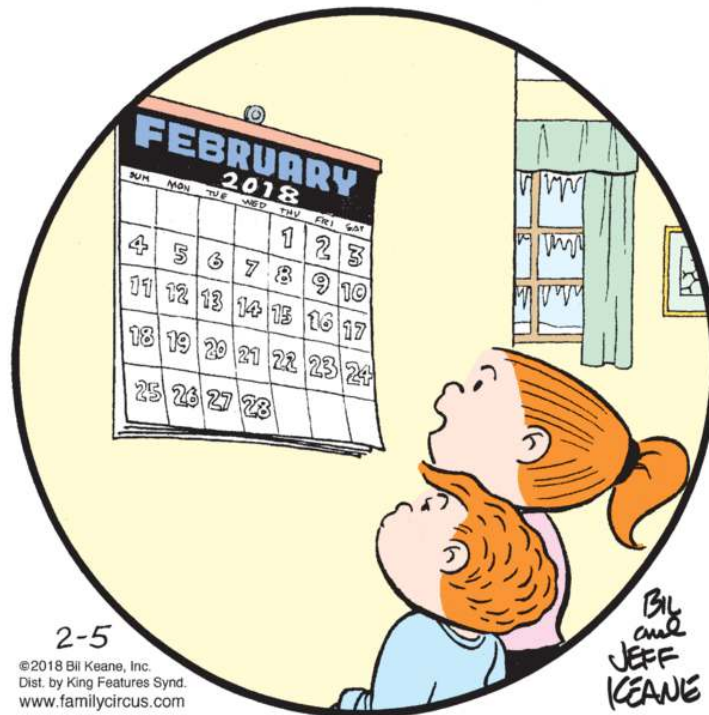


If, during this unprecedented time, you find yourself in need of someone to talk to, the Stephen Ministers are here to listen, and all conversations are confidential. Please contact Jane Sime at (415) 497-5158 or Gail Penfield at (415) 897-7929 for more information.



### 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!



**“They made February a short month  
so spring can come sooner.”**