



**PresPress**

**June 2022**

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

**TIME TO CONNECT**  
**“Relational Gospel Sharing”**

“The gospel is meaningless to the world absent relationship.”

I hate the word evangelism. It evokes too many memories and awkward conversations with door-to-door salesmen selling Jesus wholesale. But I am often so overwhelmed by the good news of Jesus Christ that I want to share it with someone. I **NEED** to share it because it's not good news for me alone; it's the *BEST* news for the entire world. I hope that others can encounter the same life-changing grace that's changed my life, to experience the same love that's saved me and gives me hope everyday.

But...

I don't know how. I can't just walk up to someone and say, 'Hey, do you know Jesus? Can I tell you about how Jesus changed my life?' They might look at me like a crazy person, not to mention that I struggle with talking to strangers anyway about sports or the weather much less about what many consider a 'taboo' topic.

Yet...

At PCN, one of our core values is 'Relational Gospel Sharing.' We know Jesus calls us to share the gospel with our neighbors, in the community around us, and with the world. Not only that, as our mission statement offers, the initial sharing and connection with our neighbors is not the end of the story: sharing the gospel leads us into relationship with others, invites others to be a part of our church story and for us to be a part of theirs, so that we can grow in worship, faith, and service together.

I've prayed a lot about this in recent months as we've moved forward in our strategic plan for the future. We've created a hospitality team to help extend the welcome and the hospitality of Jesus Christ with our visitors; to connect members and visitors alike to Jesus, to each other, and to the life and ministry of PCN. But this gospel sharing in the form of relationship building is not the task of one team or one committee. This is the call from God for each of us.

The good news of Jesus Christ doesn't make sense outside of genuine, authentic, trusting relationship. How can we share about love, grace, forgiveness, empathy, hope, a full life, and have it make sense to anyone - or have anyone listen for that matter - absent the intent to create meaningful, intentional relationships? The message seems hollow without it.

I know many churches right now are looking for the secret to boosting and growing their membership, especially after the sobering 'come back' from the pandemic. There is no secret, of course, to church

growth, and no guarantee that it will happen. Much of the decline can be attributed to a secularizing society around us of which we have little control.

But what we at PCN are committed to doing is building intentional, authentic relationships with our neighbors, not to grow our church, but because we feel called to extend and share the grace of God. We want to invest in our neighbors and community, to include them, to let them know that they belong here in our church community, that we accept them for who they are, and that we are a stronger community with them here. In fact, we need them.

We feel called to create a culture of radical hospitality at PCN, where every member, participant, and visitor can't help but share the good news with his/her neighbors, co-workers, family members, and friends by extending welcome, kindness, an invitation to join us for worship or a PCN event. We feel called to relational gospel-sharing where people aren't just numbers, but are loved and are a vital part of who we are as the Church.

Isn't this what Jesus did for those that followed him? Didn't he help show them that they mattered, that they belonged, that they were important to what God was up to in the world, and that they were genuinely loved by God no matter what?

I think this intentional relational gospel-sharing can be challenging, even for me.

But this is our commitment at PCN.

The formation of the hospitality team ministry is the beginning. Even now we are developing a new Life Groups ministry whose primary purpose will be relational gospel sharing as we encourage our entire congregation to be a part of this small groups ministry. We will be hiring a new Director of Community Life to oversee this Life Group ministry and to help the Community Life Committee discern and create new initiatives, programs, and events to help us connect with God, with each other, and with our neighbors.

As we reflect on old ministry activities and develop new ones, we will now be asking, "How does this connect us with God, with each other, and with our neighbors outside of our church?" Our ministries will have an outreach component to them.

But aside from all the strategy, the plans, the programs, and all the things that our Session is doing to help lead and guide our congregation into God's vision for us, relational gospel sharing is the call for each of us. That's right. Each of us inviting a neighbor to church, to a mission project, to a ministry event, to check out our worship or classes online, is going to make the biggest difference. Each of us being willing to not only invite, but shepherd and come alongside others, is going to have the biggest impact as we seek to build up the Body of Christ.

Beginning this June and throughout the summer, I want to challenge you to begin to think about how each of us can be more intention about our relational gospel sharing; how each of us can extend the hospitality of Christ, come alongside neighbors and help them experience the grace of God in Jesus Christ. Maybe this means going out of your way to greet someone you don't know in worship, or maybe it means walking next door and inviting your neighbors to join you at church on Sunday.

Maybe it means being more affirming of those around you, sharing hope when the world seems to be falling apart. Maybe it means seeing church as less about consumerism (what I get out of it, how I'm fed spiritually), and more about what I can give for the sake of my neighbor. Maybe it means taking more time to fellowship after church, to participate in a class or on a ministry team. Maybe it means making Life Groups a priority when we get the ministry up and going.

Try it out. Take on this challenge this summer. Get out of your comfort zone a little bit. I'll do it with you. And let's see what God can do right here at PCN.

With 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.*



### **Unprecedented Generosity**

That is how our congregation met the challenge of giving this Palm Sunday, both to One Great Hour of Sharing's three pronged efforts (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People) and also to alleviate the suffering in Ukraine and for Ukrainian refugees.

A total of \$6,275.00 was gathered: \$2,845.00 went to OGHS in general, and \$3,430 was specifically sent to PCUSA's faith partners in neighboring countries of Eastern Europe to support those who are fleeing and to provide basic health and welfare needs to those who have chosen to stay.

You should be proud of your generosity and grateful for ability to reach out. Thank you, PCN, for literally DECADES of support to these two local non-profits....



**PENTECOST OFFERING -- Sunday, June 5th**. Sixty percent of our offering goes to youth programs within the denomination, such as Young Adult Volunteers and children-at-risk advocacy groups. This year's speaker, on the 5th, will be Robin Pence. *Forty percent* of our offering will go to their Makers' Space program. Please give generously on or around the 5<sup>th</sup>, and please mark your offering as 'Pentecost'. Thank you!!

## CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE & PCN

Thank you for this month's groceries for C4DP. All your efforts are really appreciated! Please drop off your donations in the office. The June 22nd grocery pickup/delivery date is set; please drop off your donations June 20 and 21 or when able.



*The Presbyterian Church of Novato's Mission Committee has chosen to help the Center for Domestic Peace with grocery delivery this past year. The residents of Second Step could not have been more thrilled. Having these bags delivered right to their apartments saves them time and energy by not having to take a bus to the food bank, allowing these moms to focus on more important things.*

To learn more about Center for Domestic Peace go to [www.c4dp.org](http://www.c4dp.org)

**Mission Committee Liaison: Barbara Gildea**

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### North Marin Community Services celebrates 50 YEARS!!

Fifty years and going strong, having been given the Heart of Marin Non-Profit Excellence Award for 2021, there was a lot to celebrate at April's thank-you lunch.



A warm welcome



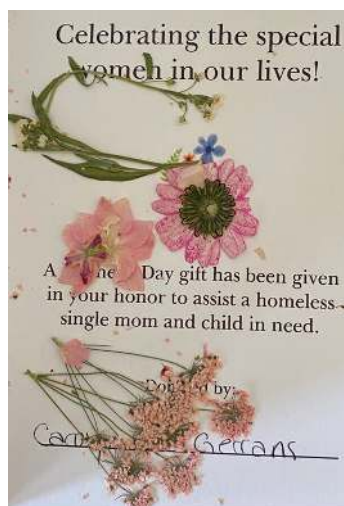
Teen board members from SMHS & NHS



Awaiting a gym full of well-wishers



AND ADDITIONAL THANKS from Gilead House for our support in May of Mothers' Day cards.....



Mother's Day starts out beautifully      Enclosing hand-picked dried flowers!

.....and Mothers' Matter wine tasting at West Winds Winery in Nicasio.



West Wind host Cynthia Klock



Live music by Black Cat Bone (Rob Sundberg)

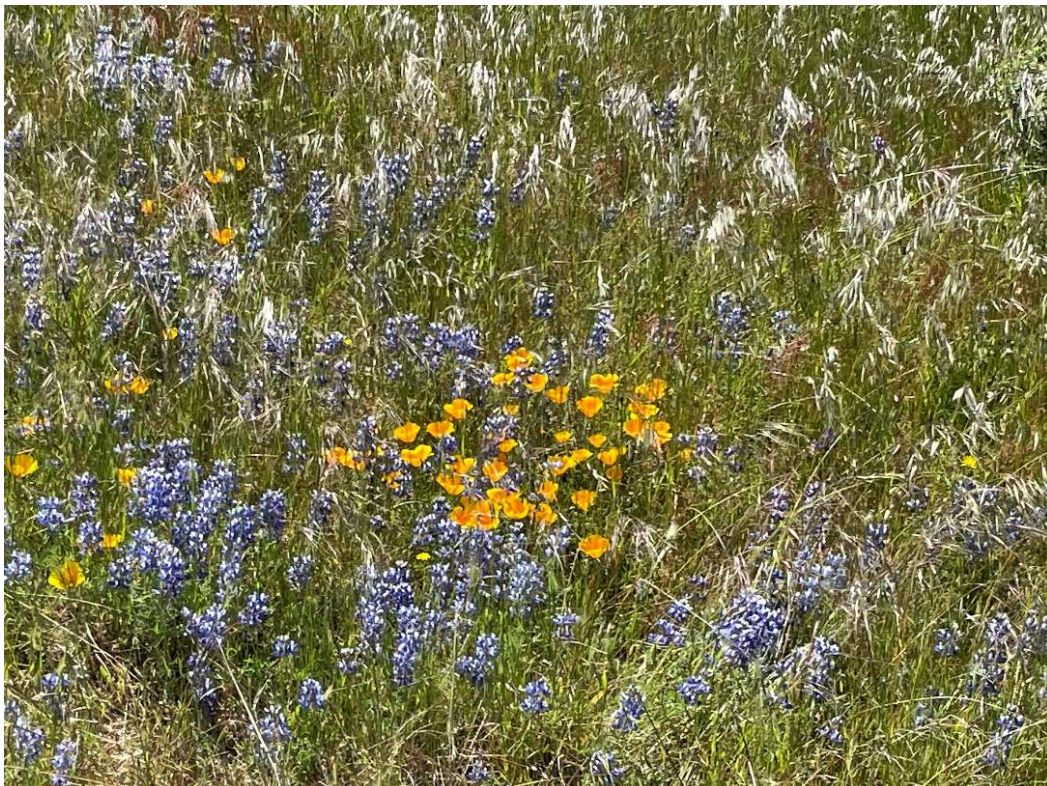


The wine cave





Only in Marin ...



... does a day like this come along.



# COME TO THE **BIG SHRED**

**-- Saturday, June 25th --**

**9:00 am to 12:00 PM**

**Clients may show up at 8:30**

**Our Lady of Loretto Parking Lot  
1806 Novato Blvd - Novato 94947**

**The B I G S h r e d !**

This, our 10th **BIG Shred** year, and Valley Oak Wealth Management chose to raise donations for Homeward Bound of Marin for the 2nd year in a row. We support their mission of providing services for homeless Veterans in Marin County.

**100% of your donation is tax-deductible**

Please make check payable to "Homeward Bound of Marin"

- Drive-thru service
- Staples, binder clips  
and paper clips are ok
- **LIMIT 5 PAPER BAGS**
- **NO BOXES OR PLASTIC BAGS**





**MONUMENTAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING**  
**June 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>**



🌵 Join us June 13<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am - 12:00pm 🌵

**New friends 🌸 Amazing experiments 🌸 Creative games 🌸 Super-fun snacks**  
**🌸 Surprising adventures 🌸 Incredible music**

**Incoming kindergarteners through 6th graders are invited to participate!!**

Each day at Monumental VBS, kids celebrate God's greatness! Monumental is filled with awesome Bible-learning experiences kids see, hear, and touch! Sciency-Fun Gizmos™, team-building games, unforgettable Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. Registration is \$50 for one child and \$20 for each additional child. Confidential scholarships are available to those in need.

**Middle and high schoolers – we have a spot for you as well!!**

Come join us as a crew leader! The crew leader will lead a small crew of approximately five elementary-aged kids. There's no preparation required but one-hour group training is required. A good crew leader is a friend and helper for the kids and station leaders. They ask questions, take kids seriously and encourage them throughout VBS. Also, we offer community service hours.

If you are interested, contact Sally Carbonaro, [childrensministry@pcnovato.org](mailto:childrensministry@pcnovato.org) or register NOW at [www.pcnovato.org](http://www.pcnovato.org)!

# Youth



The ***Kid's Night Out Fundraiser*** is a night for kids and parents alike to be able to get out of the house! On Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5 to 8:30 p.m., families with kiddos aged 6-11 can drop kids off at PCN for a night of games, pizza, movies and more, giving the parents a chance to get a night out themselves. There is a suggested donation of \$20 a child, with each additional child in a family being only \$10. Funds raised by this event will go to help support this summer's high school mission trip! Reserve your spot at [www.pcnovato.org](http://www.pcnovato.org). Contact Emme for more info.



The end of the school year is drawing near, and so are our PCN Youth summer pool parties! We will be hosting two end-of-year pool parties, both on June 12th. The middle school pool party will be from 2:30-4:00 p.m., and the high school pool party will be from 4:30-6:00 p.m. Please bring a towel, swimsuit, and a dish to share. The parties are being hosted by families of the youth group, so contact Emme to get the addresses.

Starting June 19th, the week after the pool parties, we will ALL be meeting at **5 p.m.** as we move to our combined youth group schedule through the summer. Drop off for both middle AND high schoolers will be at 5 p.m., and pick-up will be at 7 p.m., except when we have trips, which will be communicated through email and our calendars.

Please reach out to Emme Monahan, Director of Youth Ministries, if you have any questions at [youthdirector@pcnovato.org](mailto:youthdirector@pcnovato.org), or call the office and leave a message at (415) 897-6152.



# Session

## Session Highlights - May 2022

Session approved the Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) between North Marin Community Services and PCN. The MOU will provide PCN with \$14,500 for participating in Novato Emergency Response by sharing current information on the church website and Facebook page.

Five applications have been received for the Music Director positions. Resumes have been requested for the candidates.

Finance & Administration will review the annual budget and year-to-date income and provide an update to the congregation via the *PresPress*.

New member Catherine Kuroki has joined PCN via Letter of Transfer from the Federated Church of Saratoga, CA.

Kathy Takemoto, Clerk of Session



I'm at a loss for words to express how deeply touched I am by the outpouring of support following the death of my son, Eric. So, I will simply say I treasure each card, note, prayer, phone call, and beautiful bouquet of flowers. Trusting that God hears our prayers brings a sense of comfort.  
Thank you. ~Sylvia Jensvold





## UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Our committee wanted to update you with a status report of our finances and key initiatives for this year. Many of you were concerned late last year when Session approved and submitted our ministry budget for 2022, and for good cause.

In December, our Session Elders had in-depth discussions on where God was leading our church, based on a Mission Vision Report compiled by our Discernment Committee made up of church members. In deciding our budget strategy, the Elders chose to take on a “ministry budget” (spend what you need to support needed ministries) versus a “material budget” (fund only what you can afford). In other words, Elders agreed that the only way for us to sustain, revitalize, and grow our church was to adopt a “stretch” budget, and that would necessarily include drawing from investment funds reserves and income, while not touching our Endowment Funds (“restricted funds”). Hence, In the approved 2022 budget, we projected we would need to draw as much as \$250,000 over and above our normal pledge and facility-use income in order to fund the new/reallocated ministry staffing and operating expenses, transitioning to our full PCN vision. Let us reassure you that we did not make this commitment lightly – a lot of discernment and prayer went into our decisions.

We want to share with you what we have done over the first five months to ensure your generous gifts of money and time are well managed as we transition to our full vision, i.e. managing the 2022 budget tightly while also working to grow toward (and paying for) the full vision. To do this, our Finance Committee and Session Elders have taken on a number of initiatives:

1. Expense Management – wherever possible delaying or reducing non-essential committee and staffing expenditures.
2. Income growth is the key element to closing the gap. We are working on several avenues, including: expanding income sources such as facility use contracts and opportunities; membership growth opportunities; stewardship and a possible midyear request; allocating interest and dividend earnings to operations; legacy giving programs; government COVID stimulus help for Employee Retention Credits, and more.
3. Additionally, we are working to improve financial communications with Session and members. We have simplified financial tracking and reporting systems for better management, clarity, and understanding. We are beginning a mid-year review of budget by Session to recalibrate as needed.

So, bottom-line, how has Session done so far in our efforts to minimize drawing on our reserve funds and investment gains? Where we anticipated a need of \$85,600 in the first four months to supplement income, we only drew \$18,250 from our investment income and reserves. This is very good news.

That said, we still have a deficit to close and growth to achieve to fulfill our vision. We need to be aggressive on the above finance initiatives in order to fund planned staffing positions for the Community Life Director, Contemporary Music Director, and other ministry expenditures. So, what can you do to help?

- Ask questions of us whenever you have concerns or need better understanding.
- Get involved in/with your church leadership – as an Elder, Deacon or committee member
- Continue your generous support of our church ministry funding opportunities; consider making *additional* contributions.
- Invite neighbors and friends to join us at church and in community service.
- Pray for your church, its leadership, and our mission/vision plans.

We are optimistic and confident that God will provide. Together we serve Christ and our church, putting “feet to our faith.” Thank you for your support.

Brad Praun and George Pilloton  
Finance & Administration Committee Elders

*Note: other committee members are Walt Campbell, Tonya Church, John Reuscher, Robert Coleman, and Adam Smith*



The Sunday Adult Class meets every Sunday morning at 8:30 A.M. in the church library and via Zoom as well. We would like to invite you to join a great group of men and women who enjoy studying God's Word together. There is a place for you as well. We have great discussions. **Come and join us!**

This quarter considers ways in which believers are partners with God in creation.

In **Unit 1**, a study of **Isaiah** explores God's predictions of the future destruction of Babylon and deliverance for Israel. God grants mercy and redemption to the penitent and restores God's people to a state of peace and prosperity.

In **Unit 2**, lessons from **John's Gospel** stress how Jesus, the Creating Word, at work in and with humanity, became flesh, healed the sick, saved the lost, resurrected the dead, and granted – through the Holy Spirit – peace.

**Unit 3** studies in **Revelation** help us envision the new home and city God has prepared for the redeemed. In this heavenly environment, the saints will enjoy the new water of eternal life.

We are **excited** to welcome Doris Dooley to our teaching team. We are pleased see the following people on Zoom at the class: Elinor Lacy, Nevada; Gary Pearce, Oregon; Charlene/Roger, Texas; and Karen Rogers, Virginia. We thank you for your **kind faithfulness**.

Grace and Peace,  
James Baird, Carol Dacquisto, Larry Dacquisto, and Doris Dooley

Link for the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88401949220?pwd=QS9MMHJsbU5TVtJ6enVpU1hDL0VNQT09>

Meeting ID: 884 0194 9220

passcode: pcnovato





The Program & Fellowship Committee is hosting a fun “dads and dogs” lunch right after church on Father's Day, June 19th at 11 a.m. All are welcome, including visitors and VBS families. We'll serve hot dogs, fruit, chips, brownies, coffee, tea and lemonade. We'll be outside, weather permitting!

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### **THE PCN EMERGENCY SAFETY COMMITTEE**

is seeking volunteers for the following roles in the event of emergency situations:

- Evacuation Wardens
- Asst. Evacuation Wardens
- Searchers
- Disability Aides

If you are interested in being part of this safety team or have questions, please contact Delane Ramser at (415) 897-3829 or [dramser8@comcast.net](mailto:dramser8@comcast.net).

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**BLOOD DRIVE** The Deacons will be sponsoring another blood drive on June 12 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.

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A big thank you to all the meal providers for our youth during April and May.

Audrey Boland (twice '1-)  
Katrece Hunt (twice '1-)

Tonya Church      EB Hanlein (for the Deacons)  
Linda Ward (for the Deacons)

Love your generous hearts and wonderful meals!!

Blessings, Becky/Youth Meal Train Coordinator



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 Bekah Harmon at [bekahsbytes@gmail.com](mailto:bekahsbytes@gmail.com) with any questions.

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**REQUESTING A PRAYER BLANKET** Requesting a prayer blanket is easy. Email Tonya or Laurie. Give us their first and last name, address, phone, and what colors they like. We try to send a prayer blanket that is meaningful for the recipient. 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).

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PCN's much-loved 4<sup>th</sup> of July tradition, the Buckaroo Breakfast, is returning to the Redwood Credit Union parking lot. Breakfast will be served before the parade, from 7 to 10 a.m. Everyone is invited. We will be asking for a \$7 donation per person (\$5 for children ages 5-12). Proceeds benefit our community partners.

Steve Kinney is taking sign-ups for volunteers. Be on the lookout for an email with the link to the SignUpGenius if you have volunteered in the past or contact Steve at [stephen\\_kinney@yahoo.com](mailto:stephen_kinney@yahoo.com).



### 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 7:15 a.m.** via Zoom. 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 Alan Dunham at (415) 897-8886 or Athena Craig at (415) 725-9299 for more information.



### Community Outreach for PCN

We would like your help in spreading the word about PCN's activities. 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. It's always a good time to get the word out about our congregation and what God is up to through us!





*Help reduce the risk of suicide, accidental discharge,  
domestic violence and guns getting into the wrong hands.*

# **GUN BUYBACK**

**ANONYMOUS. NO QUESTIONS ASKED.**

**SATURDAY JUNE 4, 2022**

**9 AM - 1 PM**

**MARIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**1600 LOS GAMOS, SAN RAFAEL**

**\$100 for handguns, rifles, shotguns**

**\$200 for assault weapons**

**Firearms must be functional**

**Limit 3 firearms per person**

**Drive-up only, firearm unloaded in trunk**

**Boxed ammo will be accepted**

*Questions or want to give a tax-deductible donation?*

*Call 415 485-3059*



PCN is a community partner in the *Marin County Gun Safety Collaborative* which promotes education and programming to improve gun safety and responsible ownership. This Gun Buy Back event is chaired by Lori Frugoli, District Attorney, and David Sutton, Public Defender. The Marin County Sherriff will staff the Gun Buy Back event.



# COVID-19 Treatment in Marin County

## Paxlovid, a medication to treat COVID-19, is available.

### Who is eligible for Paxlovid?

If you are at higher risk for severe COVID-19 disease, talk to your healthcare provider promptly about Paxlovid if you test positive for COVID-19.

### Some risk factors for severe COVID-19 disease include:

- People age 65 and older, OR any age upon advice of a provider.

### Individuals with the following conditions may also qualify for treatment with Paxlovid\*:

- Cancer
- Disabilities
- Dementia
- Diabetes (type 1 or type 2)
- Chronic kidney, liver, or lung disease
- Weakened immune system including HIV infection or organ transplant
- Obesity
- Pregnancy
- Blood diseases
- Smoking
- Heart conditions or stroke/cerebrovascular disease
- Current or former substance use disorders

*\*This list does not include all possible conditions. Speak with your provider if you think you might be at high risk.*

### Knowing if Paxlovid right for you:

Paxlovid can cause side effects and interact with other medications you are taking. It must be prescribed by a medical provider after a thorough review of your health conditions and medication list. Your provider can describe the risks and benefits of treatment to guide your decision.

### How to access treatment:

#### There are two ways to get Paxlovid COVID-19 treatment:

- 1 If you test positive, talk to your health care provider to determine if you should be offered a prescription for treatment. Bring a list of all medications you are taking.
- 2 If you don't have a healthcare provider, you can find a Test to Treat location that offers COVID-19 testing and treatment to take home, if needed, at one location.

There are other things you can do to help your body recover from COVID-19. Your health care provider might recommend treatments that do not require a prescription to relieve symptoms and support your body's natural defenses. Also, the CDC has information on [over-the-counter treatments](#).

### Where to find Test to Treat in Marin County:

Test to Treat locations are being added weekly. Check the [Test to Treat Locator](#) for the latest offerings. Test to Treat is currently available to everyone. The OptumServe/LHI community testing sites offers treatment to those without health insurance.

*Appointments are required. Call (888) 634-1123 or [book an appointment online](#)*

#### West America Bank Parking Lot

1177 E. Francisco Blvd,  
San Rafael

(Tues, Thurs, Sat: 11am - 7pm)

#### Kerner Campus

3260 Kerner Blvd,  
San Rafael

(Tues - Sat: 8am - 3pm)

#### St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

101 Donahue Street,  
Marin City

(Fridays: 11am - 7pm)