



PresPress

September 2022

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

“I Love this Place!”

What is it that you LOVE about Church? Worship? Fellowship? A Supportive Community? An alternative ‘way’ different from the ‘ways’ of the world? Is it a group in the church or a person?

I’m sure all of your answers are different and unique.

Do you know what I love most about Church? As Church with you all, I can be myself. Even at a young age, Church was the place I didn’t have to put on a facade. I could be me. Perhaps that’s something my parents helped instill in me, or maybe it was the acceptance and love of my congregation growing up, or perhaps it was the Holy Spirit’s loving embrace working within me. I’m not sure. But I do know it is this realization that has shaped and directed my life. In many ways it has helped me show a little more grace to my neighbors, to listen more attentively, to hope more fiercely, to forgive more readily, to encourage more openly, and to allow Christ to transform me daily.

The things we love about being Church shape and form us. They are the things that we draw energy from, that motivate us, and inspire us. They are not simply things to rest in, but to invest in. Encountering the goodness and love of Jesus Christ within the Church moves us to dance and act.

This Stewardship season, we are going to spend time talking about what it is to be Church and why we love it so much! Over the month of September and into October, during worship you will hear stories and presentations from committees and groups within PCN. You’ll hear why some of your brothers and sisters love our church and you’ll get glimpses of how God is moving in our midst.

We are excited to begin this program year, a year of building connections with each other and our community. And we are excited to jump into this year together with you as we go into another year living into our mission: “sharing the love of Jesus Christ, connecting with our neighbors, and growing together in worship, faith, and service.”

In the days to come, I invite you to think and pray about 3 questions:

- 1) What is it that you love about Church?
- 2) How can you invest in what you love as we live out our mission together?
- 3) What are your hopes for PCN in the 2022-2023 program year?

Blessings to you, saints, as we journey on together.

With Care,
Adam

UPDATE MESSAGE FROM THE FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Our committee is committed to checking in regularly with membership to update you on our finances and key initiatives for the year. Good news: There is solid progress to report as we continue to build out the vision to sustain, revitalize, and grow PCN.

Please recall that In December of last year, Session Elders, after a lot of discernment and prayer, agreed to adopt a “ministry budget”, showing what is needed to support the needed ministries as and when the vision is built out. That budget had us drawing as much as \$250,000 from investment funds reserves and income (while *not* touching Endowment Funds) to meet the needs. Let us reassure you we did not make this commitment lightly. Now we want to share with you what has been done over the first 7 months to ensure your generous gifts of money and time are well managed.

The Finance Committee and Session Elders have taken on several initiatives to manage the Budget, including working on enhancing revenue, controlling expenses, improving financial systems, and expanding financial conversations with Session and membership. Our over-arching goal is to work together to “close the gap”, i.e., to fulfill the vision and arrive at a place *where deficits are history*...this will take time, hard work, and everyone’s help.

Where are we now? Well, while the 2022 ministry budget anticipated drawing about \$150,000 through July, our actual deficit was about \$50,000, which has been funded largely by interest/dividend distributions. This result was from higher revenue, delayed or restructured hiring, expense control, and the various initiatives. We are hopeful the year’s deficit may be contained to about \$100,000 (fingers crossed), vs the \$250,000 projected in the 2022 budget.

Having said that, and soon looking to the 2023 budget process, we will *all* need to be quite aggressive in our efforts to continue progress, i.e., to fully fund the Community Life Director position and other planned ministry goals. This is especially demanding as we are being heavily impacted by 8% inflation, which is to say we need revenue increase of at least 8% *just to stay in place and continue to be under-funded*. To complete our vision and close the deficit gap, we currently estimate we will need at least a 20-25% increase in our revenue sources, including stewardship and membership growth (where we’ve had some success this year!).

What can you do to help?

- **Ask questions of us whenever you have concerns or need better understanding**
- **Continue to grow your generous support of our church ministry funding opportunities**
- **Start considering how you can increase your 2023 pledge during our October 9, Stewardship Program, to help fund our essential church ministries and staffing**
- **Vitally important, invite neighbors and friends to join us at church and in community service!**
- **Get involved in your church leadership - as an Elder, Deacon or committee member**
- **Pray for your church, its leadership, and our mission/vision plans**

Thank you. Together we serve Christ and our church -

F&A Committee Elders Brad Praun and George Pilloton, and Members Walt Campbell, Tonya Church, John Reuscher, Robert Coleman, and Adam Smith

MISSION

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.

CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE & PCN



Thank you again for this month's generous donations of groceries for the Center for Domestic Peace. Next month's delivery date to C4DP is September 21. Drop off groceries at the office anytime. Thank you!

To learn more about Center for Domestic Peace go to www.c4dp.org



TWO WAYS TO HELP GILEAD HOUSE

#1 Join PCN friends and families for the **Gilead House Bocce Ball fundraiser** on September 17th from noon to 3 p.m. This is a great event for all ages. VERY fun to participate in, a big boon to Gilead, and a good way to stretch summer out just a little bit l-o-n-g-e-r.

Enjoy an afternoon of Bocce ball, lunch, and drinks, plus enter to win one of our incredible raffle prizes! All proceeds support homeless single moms and kids and helps them move toward a life of financial stability and independence. This tournament is for both beginner and seasoned players alike. Instruction is provided at the start of the tournament for new players.

Register at www.gileadhouse.org (be sure to say you want to be on a PCN team) or contact Carolyn Gerrans at grace624@comcast.net or 415-897-1504.

#2 As the holidays approach PCN has been asked to give of our time and/or talents to Gilead's families. Carolyn would like a helper or two to bring the joy of Halloween or Christmas to those living at Gilead House. There are many opportunities: Chaperoning rides to pumpkin patches? Pumpkin carving at the house? Buying Nutcracker ballet tickets? Hosting a gingerbread house-building event? Carolyn doesn't have enough time to do it alone, but, if it sounds like fun, contact her at the email/phone listed above to work together.

PEACEMAKING AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING

PCN's Special Offering will be taken on World Communion Sunday, October 2, 2022. Our speaker that day will be representing the San Francisco/Marin Food Bank, which will receive a percentage of the offering donations. Further information will be given out on Sundays throughout September. You can also go to www.pcusa.org/specialofferings for more information.



A new national mental health resource is available. Have you heard about 988? This new nationwide number connects people experiencing mental health crises to trained crisis counselors. Instead of dialing 911, *emergency calls and texts can now be placed to 988 for urgent help in a time of mental health or substance-use crisis.*

The pandemic has affected us all profoundly, and mental health care can be a powerful tool. If you or someone you know would like mental health care this fall, contact NMCS. They offer affordable individual and family therapy in English and Spanish. To get started with your free intake assessment, please call 415-892-1643 x239.

♥ Our Guardian Circle

Guardian Circle donors provide monthly support of our work in North Marin. Thank you to our newest Guardian Circle members Andrew Peasley, Jami Davis, and **Regina Bianucci Rus! (Yay Regina!!)** Knowing we can count on them each month helps reduce our overhead costs and direct more funds to essential programs and services. That is why our Guardian Circle members mean so much to us and the people we serve. Thanks to all of you! And Regina, PCN is proud of you and your care for community.

Can you help us stock our food pantry?

As food prices have increased, so has demand for our food pantry. If you can help, we would be grateful to receive any of the nonperishable food items listed below (non-expired food items only). Drop offs can occur at our 1907 Novato Blvd. location on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9AM to 4PM.

Rice	Peanut butter	Pasta
Cereal	Granola bars	Bottled water
Flip top cans of chicken/tuna	Other nonperishable foods	

Thank you for lending a hand to families and adults in need locally.



**Pedal for Protein Moment for Mission
Sunday, September 4**

Our Moment for Mission on Sunday, September 4 will feature Patty Sanders, speaking about Pedal for Protein. In addition, PCN is hosting a fair-trade sale after church featuring equal exchange chocolate bars and organic coffee and tea. All proceeds will go to PCN's fundraising for Pedal for Protein.

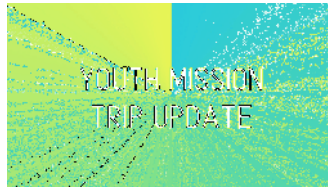
Camp Compassion

Would you like to be involved in a Novato mission project? The project is to bring coffee and visit our neighbors at Camp Compassion on Sundays after church 11:45-12:30. This is a PCN local Mission project that we started in the spring in conjunction with The Street Chaplaincy. We have had about 10 volunteers who have visited the camp, which has led to positive relationship building with the community.

Camp Compassion at Lee Garner Park is a Novato City designed fenced-in area shaded by trees with a semi-private area for tents and tables. The people who are allowed to live in this area are waiting for housing vouchers and/or have vouchers and are looking for housing. The success rate has been notable with many from the original community finding housing and moving to permanent living solutions.

Hilary Kinney is leading the Camp Compassion project and will be with the other PCN volunteer(s) Sundays. Please click on the link for the Camp Compassion Sign Up Genius that has dates throughout the remainder of 2022. Camp Compassion has much gratitude for our weekly visits and appreciates our outreach of coffee and friendship. Contact Hilary Kinney with questions and further details: Text: 415-577-8616 or Email: hilarykinney@yahoo.com

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4CA4A92BA13-camp>



by
Emme Monahan, Director of Youth Ministry

In early July the high school youth group traveled to Nashville, Tennessee as a part of our calling to be a reflection of God's love to his people. We were able to join Mission Discovery at its "home base" and work with the residents of Nashville by building bridges (figuratively and literally!), playing with kids, rehabbing gardens, and getting to know our hosts and the other team that was working with us (from Chase Oaks Church in Texas)!

This trip was a great opportunity to not only learn how to lean into our calling as God's people to be His hands and feet on this Earth, but also to learn from the residents of Nashville, our hosts, and the other team in order to better understand experiences and perspectives. Being able to work side by side, laugh, and understand the hard moments of the week together gave our students an opportunity to grow closer to each other and to Christ while forming memories to last a lifetime!

We are so grateful for all the support the church has given us to be able to make this trip possible. To all those who prayed for us, those who drove us, and everyone who made it possible along the way – THANK YOU!





Seekers is back this month! Join us on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., starting September 27 and going through November 29, then returning January 10 and going through April 25. Registration is open at www.pcnovato.org. Volunteers, we need you! There are so many ways to be involved! Some will have direct contact with the children (leading classes, table parent, etc.) and some can have no contact (set up, clean up, laundry, etc.). We have a place just for you! If you are interested in learning more, contact Sally Carbonaro at childrensministry@pcnovato.org!

Youth Group Meal Train

Thank you to everyone who stepped up and provided meals for our Youth during the summer months.

June: Bethany McMickin, Deacons- Brenda McIvor,
July: Bruce Stahley, Becky Praun,
August: Audrey Boland, Sandy Fong, Pam and John Laidley

Your love and culinary treats are most appreciated!!

With gratitude and full tummies,
PCN Youth Group
Emme Monahan-Director, Becky Praun-Meal Coordinator



PCN elders Walt Campbell and Ellen Breazeale will lead a “History of Christianity” video lecture and discussion group, using two sequential Great Courses lecture series on the post-Biblical history of Christianity: a) “from the disciples to the dawn of the Reformation,” and b) “from the Reformation to the megachurch.” Both courses have 36 lectures. The lecturers are Dr. Timothy Johnson of Emory University and Dr. Molly Wurthen of University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, respectively.

The class format consists of watching two 30-minute lectures followed by up to 15 minutes of discussion. We expect to cover the first series in 18 weeks of Saturday morning, 90-minute (10:30 a.m. to noon) Zoom sessions beginning October 15, 2022 and finishing about March 4, 2023. We will poll participants for continuing to the second series over 18 weeks and finish about August 19, 2023. The courses are free of charge and open to non-PCN members. Register either via the PCN website or by contacting the leaders by email, text or phone at:

Ellen Breazeale, Breazeales@comcast.net; (415) 892-6546
Walt Campbell, walterleecampbell@gmail.com; (415) 497-5157.

Participants will receive a weekly email reminder with a Zoom link, a pdf document of relevant pages from the course study guide, and suggested discussion questions.



Session Highlights –

Sessions did not meet in July 2022.

Session approved Kim Stahley as the facilitator for the Session Retreat on 8/20/2022, 8:30 am – 4:30 pm. The Deacons generously provided morning refreshments and lunch.

Session approved increasing the size of the Recology trash bin to pre-COVID size at a cost of \$67 per month.

Finance & Administration reported the Endowment Committee met on June 24, 2022. The committee submitted a federal government *Employee Retention Credit* application with the services of a consultant. PCN may receive a one-time payment for retaining and paying PCN employees through the COVID 19 pandemic.

The Session Retreat on Saturday, 8/20/2022 focused on leadership development.

Kathy Takemoto
Clerk of Session

The Rhetoric of Absolutism & the Hardening of Hearts

Doesn't it feel like lines are drawn in the sand in our nation? The message is clear. Pick a side. You have to choose one. There is no middle ground; no in-between; no room for doubt. If you show any sign of ideological dissension, you are branded a traitor. If you question an issue within the party platform, you are politically assassinated. If you question the moral and ethical decisions and behaviors of high ranking political leaders, you've betrayed not just the party but the country.

This description sounds like hyperbole but having observed the evolution of the political landscape over the last two and half decades, does this not reflect closely our political paradigm? Does this not reflect the vehemence of our national division and the absolutism in our ideological frames?

In fact, all we have to do is look at the aftermath of the FBI raid of Mar a Lago. The most googled phrase on the internet was 'civil war,' a message picked up and openly propagated in certain media circles. Threats were delivered to our FBI and law enforcement officers.

This coming on the coattails of the hearings regarding the January 6th insurrection of the capital, and the continued false claims of a 'stolen election,' paint the picture of a nation not only divided, but of people so entrenched in their political absolutism that conclusions are formed before conversation and debate ever happen.

This false dichotomy we have created in our politics is something we've all bought into. Rhetoric from our political leaders fuels this separation. The more zealous and sensational the rhetoric, the more we can play on the fears of people and the more the divide grows. The truth gets lost in partisan narratives and the real facts, truth, and evidence seem not to matter any more.

What happened? How did we get here? This is not simply a political issue, it is a theological one. What do we, as the Church, have to say about this? Is it our role simply to buy-in to this false dichotomy, to choose a side, and to let that ideological frame hold sway over our lives? Can we allow anything to go as long as it fits under our party platform? Will we stand by as the threat of physical violence looms large?

Jesus spent much of his ministry not criticizing or tearing people down, nor tapping into the fear among the masses...he spent most of his ministry challenging the systems of his world that created division, that exploited the poor and the lowly, that ignored facts, truth, and justice. He challenged the idea of adhering to any and all worldly systems that dehumanize people, that seek personal gain over the well-being of others. He brought hope to people, all people. And he called people to love in a particular way: a sacrificial love for one another. He encouraged seeing others with compassion, being kind, truth-telling, practicing non-violence.

These gospel values and ways of living are not the lens through which we compose our posts on social media today. Seldom do we consider the 'other' when we say whatever it is we feel so passionate about. This gospel lens is not the one our politicians speak from when they deliver rhetoric

from their pulpits of power. The gospel lens is not the lens that we want to filter our lives through when we are convinced, we are 'right' in our beliefs.

The Apostle Paul was someone who knew that life in Christ was a transformed life; a different way of being in the world. Something has to give in order to be faithful and to follow after Jesus. In his grand opus, Paul writes to the church in Rome:

"I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:1-2).

For Paul, life is worship. To worship God is to offer our whole selves as a 'living sacrifice,' a life of self-giving. To be holy is to be set apart and acceptable to God, that is to be more 'Christ-like.' This is not conforming to the world, the ways of the world, and the systems of the world, it is about a life of submission to Christ allowing ourselves to be transformed, having our minds renewed by the Holy Spirit so that we can discern the will of God.

God's will is not found within the systems that we so vehemently proclaim allegiance, it is found when we pull away from those systems peering through the lens of Jesus Christ, a lens saturated in compassion for the 'other;' a lens that questions any system that is self-centric, that ignores fact, truth, and the humanity of all people.

Our hearts have been hardened by the scourge of our political paradigm, by our need to be right at all costs. In short, we want to hide sin: our personal sins, our corporate sins, the sins committed within the systems we ascribe. We want to justify them so that we can be right, so that we can win at all costs. If we can ignore our sin, we can look past the immoral and unethical behavior of our politicians, support platforms that may truly hurt people if we were to look closely, condone uncivil behavior, choose not to listen, and be separated from one another even to the point of violence.

Yet the author of Proverbs knew: *"No one who conceals transgressions will prosper, but one who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy. Happy is the one who is never without fear, but one who is hard-hearted will fall into calamity."* (Proverbs 28:13-14 (NRSV))

When was the last time our political leaders admitted to and apologized for wrongdoing? That would be perceived as weakness. When did we hold them accountable, especially those within our own parties? That would seem disloyal or like we were admitting we might be wrong. How have we let our fears influence our politics? Is it a wonder that our 'hard-heartedness' has led to the national calamity that we see today?

Perhaps we need to hear the prophets of old speaking to us again: Change. Change your behavior or the path you're going down will worsen. See differently. Don't get locked into this way of being that is life-sucking and community-destroying. Instead, as the hymnist composes,

*“Turn your eyes upon Jesus.
Look full in his wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace.”*

Perhaps we need the things of the earth, the broken systems we participate in, to ‘grow strangely dim.’ We need to cast our eyes to something else, something life-giving and hope-filled. While many may not know Jesus, the way of Jesus is not foreign to most people. The common thread of compassion, kindness, civility, self-giving, love, forgiveness, etc. can be a meeting place, a crossroads, the supper table at which dialogue can begin.

The question is, who has the courage to lose? Who has the courage to give it up, this destructive way we have adopted in our nation...Who can take up one’s cross, stand up and say ‘let’s stop?’ Let’s stop playing into this broken system. Let’s stop manipulating people’s fears to develop party and politician allegiance. Let’s stop encouraging enmity and hate, discrimination and ‘othering.’ Let’s stop this sense of self-righteousness at the expense of our brothers and sisters. Let’s see our own sin before trying to point out those of others.

Who will stand up and say, “I’m sorry. I was wrong. Will you forgive me? Can we find a way to move forward together? I want to work with you to dismantle the wall we have built up to towering heights over the years, one brick at a time. Will you commit to that with me for the sake of each other, our kids, our grandkids?”

Perhaps we need a voice such as Jonah’s to risk it all and shout to the ruling powers, “Change.” “Repent of this life-destroying way.” And we need leaders, like the king of Ninevah, to have their eyes, ears, hearts, and minds opened so they can be transformed and begin the process toward reconciliation together; hearts softened and ready to forgive.

Can we, as the Church, be the prophetic voice shouting into the wilderness of our nation: repent, change? Can we shout, not from a position of power over or to proselytize, but from a position of compassion and care for all of those within our culturally and religiously diverse nation? Can we be the voices on social media that reframe the conversations? Can we offer a different narrative, one that does not propagate the false dichotomy? Can we use different language and rhetoric that builds up rather than tears down; that builds on hope rather than fear; that uplifts and listens to political adversaries. Can we be the ones that come together to hold our leaders accountable even if they are within the party we support?

It’s risky business - following after Jesus. Our early church brothers and sisters were put to death for their faith standing against the oppressive power of the domineering, violent Roman empire under the tyrannical rule of Nero. But cross-bearing is part of the gig. Reshaping the narrative from destructive to life-giving is part of the calling. It finds its way into all aspects of our lives including our politics.

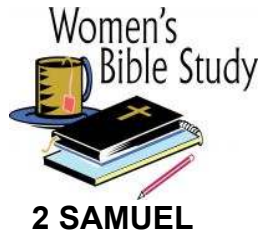
Perhaps I offer no specific solution, saints, only an observation and a challenge. But it is my challenge too.

For me, I will closely filter my social media engagement. I will call out friends and family who post online in ways that perpetuate the dangerous narrative. I will be kind. I will be civil. I will listen rather than ignore. I will seek to be compassionate rather than apathetic. I will respectfully disagree with others at times. I will call out injustice when I see it. I will be honest and truthful. I will admit when I'm wrong or I just don't know. I will stand up against violence of all kinds. I will seek to be aware of my own sin, my own bias, my own selfish desire to be right. I will pray for Christ to continue to be about my transformation and submit my life to God.

I will write to my elected leaders at all levels and point out their destructive rhetoric, false claims, and the demonization of political opponents. I will implore them to find a different way. I will encourage them to come to the table with political rivals.

Changing the narrative is not outside of our ability, but it will require sacrifice. For the sake of my brothers and sisters, even those I do not agree with or even like, I will gladly give of myself for them.

With Hope & Peace,
Adam



We are happy to announce that **Women's Bible Study** will return to its weekly study on the completion of 2nd SAMUEL in the **CHRISTENSEN ROOM** and via **Zoom** beginning Thursday, **September 8th from 9:30 to 11 a.m.** Your Bible Study leaders will continue to be Carol Dacquisto and Margaret Franz-Costello. We are excited and grateful that we will be able to share God's word with all of you again.

The book of 2 Samuel picks up where 1 Samuel leaves off – with the death of King Saul and the succession of David to the kingship. Toward the end of David's reign, his son Absalom raised an army and tried to take the kingship from his father by force. David's army prevailed, but Absalom was killed in battle. The king mourned his son with some of the saddest words in the Bible: ***"O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son my son!" (2 Samuel 18:33).***

For class September 8th it will be helpful to have read 2 Samuel 18:1-33, with emphasis on David's outpouring of grief over his son Absalom. Apparently, such expressions of sorrow over deceased loved ones were common in biblical times.

As we come to the close of our study in 2 Samuel, the ladies of the group have chosen the **Gospel of John** as our next Bible study.

Please feel welcome to join us each Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11 a.m. *We have only one requirement - we need your email address so that we can invite you to join us at our meeting.* To be added to our Zoom contact list, email Carol Dacquisto at caroldacquisto79@gmail.com or call (415) 892-2070 for more information.

Grace and Peace,
Carol Dacquisto and Margaret Franz-Costello

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81284025735?pwd=VTY4cWFJQWtDTlpUVE9MT0JlL1dHdz09>

Meeting ID: 812 8402 5735

Passcode: pcnovato

Ladies, keep this paper with the Zoom information. The meeting ID and password will remain the same for the year.



The Sunday Adult Bible study group meets in the library at 8:30 a.m. and also on Zoom. 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 each of you as well.

The month of September's lessons are entitled **"God Calls Abraham's Family"**

- September 4 No Class – Attending Church
- God Chooses the Younger Twin Genesis 25:19b-34
- Jacob Called Israel Genesis 32:22-32
- The Scepter Given to Judah Genesis 35:22b-26, 38:24-26, 49:10-12

The quarter begins by looking at the narratives in Genesis set amid the nomadic life of the ancient Near East. God demonstrated his choice by calling a descendant of Noah to experience blessing and a new land (Genesis 12:1-7). God's choice was demonstrated through this family as he chose certain individuals for service to his name (Genesis 25:19b-24).

God's choice is not reserved for the notable or the powerful. These Scripture texts show that he may choose people not widely recognized. His choice is not based on any criteria other than his desire and freedom to choose.

Sometimes our expectations do not align with God's choice. We should practice humility and show attentiveness to God's purposes – he might work in ways that catch us unaware. Are you in a position to notice?

Study Leaders:
James Baird, Carol Dacquisto, Larry Dacquisto, and Doris Dooley

Link for the Zoom meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88401949220?pwd=QS9MMHJsbU5TVVTJ6enVpU1hDL0VNQT09>
 Meeting ID: 884 0194 9220
 passcode: pcnovato

Will wonders never cease??



Thank you to Sydney who cleaned, sorted, and organized the Christian Ed closet, like it's never been seen before!! Christian Ed staff and teachers have only two requests of the rest of us:

#1 – When you take something out of the CE closet, please put it back in EXACTLY the same spot.

#2 – If donating anything, of any kind, please contact Sydney first, at 813-394-1317 or communications@pcnovato.org.

Thank you!



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 with any questions.

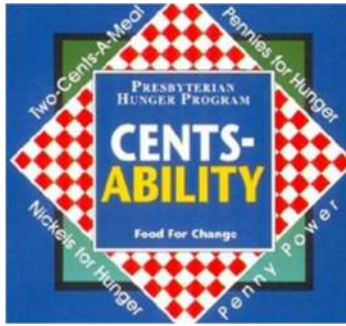


REQUESTING A PRAYER BLANKET Requesting a prayer blanket is easy. Email Tonya or Laurie. Give us their first and last name, address, phone, and what colors they like. We try to send a prayer blanket that is meaningful for the recipient. Questions? Contact Tonya Church at tonya.church@comcast.net or Laurie Dougherty at ldougherty@me.com.

Novato Community Response Team

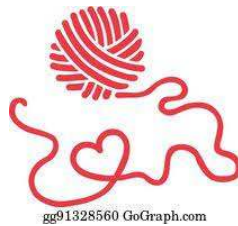
The Novato Community Response Team (NCRT) wants you to be prepared for a wildfire. Here are a few things you can do:

- Sign up for messages from Nixle and Alert Marin at <https://emergency.marincounty.org/pages/alerts>
 - In an emergency, be prepared for 5 to 7 days without power or utilities. For more information, visit <https://readymarin.org/plan-prepare/>
 - Learn what to do to keep your loved ones safe at <https://emergency.marincounty.org/pages/prepare-for-emergency>
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Two-Cents-A-Meal

Just a reminder that you'll see the Two-Cents-A-Meal box in the narthex the first Sunday of every month. The money received supports hunger-alleviation projects in our communities. Last year, PCN received a grant which allowed us to provide gift cards to give out at the Showers in Novato, a mobile shower program. Please continue to contribute to this worthwhile program as you feel you are able, and many thanks!



Wits that Knit

HATS OFF!

This month saw Hats Off to the NICU (Neo-natal Intensive Care Unit) at UCSF Children's Hospital in Oakland. Wits that Knit responded to and quickly filled a request from the NICU for premie baby hats. What a privilege to know each hat would crown a newborn child.

We also filled a need at Creekwood Care Home (Novato) with six knitted lap robes for their residents.



HATS OFF to the WITS!



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 with questions.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81107446679?pwd=Yy9ub1pReGdMTHVhbDJpRzhHVVdHQQT09>

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 Walt Campbell at (415) 497-5157.



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!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Office Assistant/Bookkeeper Position — \$25.00 an hour
Illness and vacation leave provided

Faith Presbyterian Church 190 Arlen Drive Rohnert Park, CA 94928 707-795-6620
fpcrp@sonic.net ~ Office Assistant/Bookkeeper

Purpose: To provide support to the pastor and the Session. To be responsible for the smooth functioning of the weekly church operations. Accountable: to the pastor and the session Evaluation: annually by the session, with input from the pastor

Please respond to either the phone number or email address listed above

