

PResPRess

November 2022

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

Oneness in a Divided World

'Togetherness' has been a common theme in a sermon or two of mine...okay... maybe a dozen or more. And the reason is simple: God's desire for humanity is togetherness with God and each other. We see it preached by Jesus from the mount; shared in His parables, most notably in the story of the Prodigal Father; expounded upon in His teachings. Oneness in Christ seems to be the goal. We see this spelled out clearly in John's gospel:

"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them." (John 17:20-26)

It's a bold claim that the Church makes, that there is a different way of being and living in this world; a way that is not divisive and malignant, but unifying and whole. When we look at our world and see the brokenness, the division, the suffering, the hate, etc., it all boils down to one thing: a term that religion has coined 'sin.'

Whether we are religious or not, we all know 'sin' when we see it. It comes in the shape of greed, a desire for power over others, manipulation, preying on others, war, domination, etc. The list can go on and on, but the root always comes back to self-centered living apathetic to or directly against others (and God). In a sense, sin is the opposite of oneness and togetherness.

So what is this unifying, hopeful 'way' of being and living that the Church claims to bring to the world, and how do we live into it?

The Apostle Paul shares a concise answer for us in his letter to the church at Philippi:

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave." (Philippians 2:5-7)

Jesus 'emptied' himself as a means to serve. He did not exploit his power for selfish gain, but used it to serve God and others, and in so doing showed us what it is to live a sin-free life.

When we pray for our enemies, turn the other cheek, go the extra mile, care for the nobody begging on the street corner, give of ourselves to help meet the needs of others, promote dialogue and break

bread together, we show the way of Jesus. When we seek to heal, to help, to truly see people for who they are in Christ, we show the way of Jesus. When it seems impossible, and we work and promote peace and compromise in the middle of war, we show the way of Jesus. When we give of ourselves, sacrifice some of what we have for the well-being of others, we show the way of Jesus. When we live everyday with hope that cannot be squashed even by the darkest of news, we show the way of Jesus.

The aim of the way of Jesus is togetherness with God and each other. It probably seems impossible to most, but the more it is lived out, seen, and imitated, the more the way of Christ takes hold over us. The gospel of Jesus is embedded in the way of Christ and is a light that cannot be covered up. It shines and penetrates the darkness, and its luminance and vibrance only grows and grows.

And it begins with one small act. And then another. And then another. Until it becomes a way of life...a way of being.

Haven't you ever noticed how one act of kindness can change the entire day for a person? Haven't you ever noticed how a genuine apology can heal tensions that were fueled to explode? Haven't you noticed how the sacrificial giving of someone for the sake of someone else touches your heart and moves you to want to do the same? Haven't you noticed that when the lowly and exploited of society are cared for and helped by others who have the means, it feels right? Don't you cringe and hurt when you hear news reports of violence, hate, and discrimination, but cheer and are filled with hope when you hear about the good Samaritan, extravagant generosity, and crises averted by true dialogue?

The way of Jesus is not unknown. It's found in the selfless love that we all long to receive and at the same time share. It's often hidden below the surface where the selfish, worldly wants and desires that fuel our contemporary paradigm reign supreme. Where personal power and the individual trumps the community.

My friends, we offer a different way of being in the world. It is not unknown and is longed for by all of humanity from deep within, but it necessitates something the secular world just can't offer: a foundation in sacrificial love that has already changed the world forever; a love that has shaped and is shaping the love we are called to exhibit and share. The grace of God in Jesus Christ is the foundation with which we orient our lives as Christians. It is this hope that pushes us on, keeps us striving to do better, to love more faithfully, and it is the Holy Spirit who is always with us to help us when we are ready to give up and turn away.

Let's share with the world the way of Jesus. Let's lean on Christ more and more as we seek to love with our whole lives for the sake of togetherness with God and each other.

In Hope, Pastor 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.

Lynwood's Elementary School Kids

"It takes a village" to help kids develop their reading skills to become successful members of our society. You can be part of that "village" by joining with other PCN members spending quality time reading with youngsters on a one-on-one basis. It's not only a rewarding experience for all but a fun one as well. Contact Art Plumstead (aplumstead@comcast.net or 415.279.9949) for details.









Camp Compassion

Would you like to be involved in a Novato mission project bringing coffee and visiting our neighbors at Camp Compassion on Sundays after church from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.? 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 SignUp 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



Baskets of Bonnets and Blankets Bound for Babies

These beautiful items, lovingly created by WITS, are off to UC Children's Hospital NICU in Oakland and to our local Canal Alliance. There is care and hope in every stitch.

I know there are many WITS out there that, perhaps, do not knit. Even so, let me emphasize, you are ALL welcome. Some WITS donate their completed projects and others work on personal items. It is your choice. Need a little refresher course? It's available. Need inspiration? We share it.

On the second Tuesday of each month, bring your hand-work, your crocheting project, your quilting, your embroidery, YOURSELF! It is a time for fellowship, laughter, sharing, and good Christian love.



Come and enrich your WIT!



What makes PCN stand out in the community, and why?

Did you know that PCN has given 25% (or nearly that much) of all its revenue every year for at least 20 years to our community? We have given funds to local organizations fighting hunger and homelessness and international organizations building housing.

We give to Christian-based agencies that are evangelical in nature, seeking to bear witness to Jesus Christ and the Christian Gospel. These agencies serve the hungry, sick, poor, prisoners, immigrants and orphans as Jesus commands. Each organization has a PCN liaison that ensures the organization is a 501c3 nonprofit and uses the funds efficiently and effectively and provides significant community service.

Do you want to help PCN allocate funds to these organizations? Do you know of an organization that could use a boost of funds to help people in our community? We want to hear from you!

We invite you to the Mission Committee. We meet as needed to allocate funds. Our next meeting on December 8th will be our wish list meeting where we make a list of the organizations we fund and add new ones. Please contact Regina Rus at reginabrus@gmail.com or 415-497-2212 if you would like the Zoom link.



Join us on Thursday, Nov. 10 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway as Homeward Bound breaks ground on a 24-apartment project for veterans. Come celebrate and honor all who have served.



Back by popular demand, join us on November 21 at 1 p.m. for a hosted tour of NMCS by Director and our Peacemaking speaker, Cheryl Paddack and Development Director Stephanie Williams. See first-hand how creative, loving and effective NMCS is in our community. Reserve your spot with Carolyn Gerrans, grace624@comcast.net or 415-328-1578, text or call.



The Street Chaplaincy

The Street Chaplaincy received sturdy backpacks with gloves, a hat and rain poncho in each one. Another organization in Marin County provided these backpacks for distribution to the homeless in San Rafael. There were 40 extras, and we get to fill them up with additional useful things to provide to our homeless neighbors in Novato!

On Sunday, November 13, we will assemble donated items and bring the backpacks to our neighbors on Sunday, November 20, right before Thanksgiving. We would like to add things like reusable water bottles, socks and other warm things, and snacks. Please bring your donations to fill these backpacks with items our neighbors can use right now.

Questions? Contact Regina Rus at reginabrus@gmail.com.





2022 Alternative Christmas Faire



There are many organizations in need of help, and we know the congregation has stepped up for many years to support the organizations sponsored by PCN. The Mission Committee is organizing the annual "Alternative Christmas Faire" event that will be held December 4th. This "in-person" event will follow the worship service. These are the organizations we'll be sponsoring:

Homeward Bound – Provides housing, training and hope to end homelessness. Housing is provided to homeless families, adults, and veterans. Services include mental health counseling, job training, and help with accessing other needed services. The Homeward Bound organization will also be providing goods for purchase at the event. Please see the Homeward Bound order form attached to this article for a list of the products that will be available at the faire. Unlike our Alternative Christmas Faire last year, we will not be accepting orders until the of the 'in-person' event.

Faith in Practice – The mission of Faith In Practice is to improve the physical, spiritual, and economic conditions of the poor in Guatemala through short-term surgical, medical, and dental mission trips and health-related educational programs. Its mission is based on an ecumenical understanding that as people of God we are called to demonstrate the love and compassion that is an outward sign of God's presence among us.

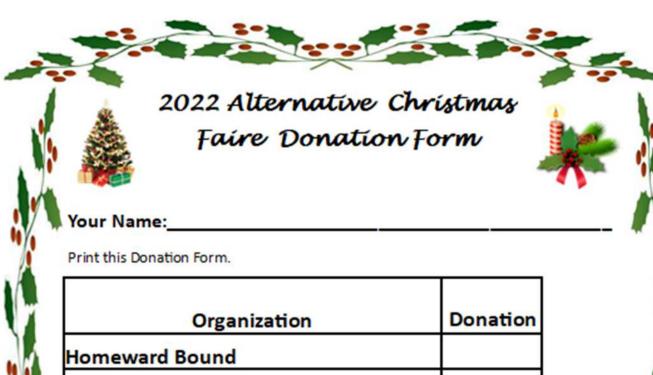
Camp Compassion – The Street Chaplaincy's primary mission is to bring compassionate spiritual care to unsheltered and temporarily sheltered persons in Marin County and to build community between homeless persons and non-homeless faith communities and other organizations.

Presbyterian Giving – The objective of Presbyterian Giving is connecting people as neighbors with others who are experiencing needs; supporting projects and friendships that grow gardens and generations; bringing water and watching for corruption; sharing education, tools and training; and linking each of us more closely with one another and with God.

Lynwood 'Makerspace' – The vision for the program is to focus on STREAM activities (science, technology, relationships, engineering, art and math) that allow time and space for its students to create, tinker, learn how to do something new, problem-solve, and take risks. Makerspace provides a safe and supportive space that inspires children to be challenged, creative, innovative and collaborative – all skills needed for a 21st-century world.

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

If you wish to participate but cannot attend the in-person event, you can send in the attached donation form with a check to the church. Simply print out the donation form and follow the instructions to make the donation. Forms will also be available in the office if you prefer to pick one up there. We will be taking donations for the Alternative Christmas Faire until December 11.



Organization	Donation
Homeward Bound	
Faith in Practice	
Camp Compassion	
Presbyterian Giving	
Lynwood 'Makerspace'	
Heifer Project	
General Donation	
Total Donations	

Write a check for the total amount payable to the Presbyterian Church of Novato. Write "Alternative Christmas" in the memoline on the bottom left comer 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 Attention: Alternative Christmas Faire P.O. Box 631

Novato, CA, 94948





2022 Halo Holiday Gifts

HANDMADE CHOCOLATE BARK	60Z. BAG/\$7	
Dark Chocolate with Dried Cranberry and Pump	kin Seeds	
HALO PRODUCTS	\$10 EACH	
Seedless Blackberry Jam - 9oz Strawberry Jam - 9oz Bread & Butter Pickles - 16oz Sweet Smokin' BBQ Sauce - 16oz Oaxacan Mole Sauce - 16oz		
OTHER HALO PRODUCTS		
Hot 'n' Holy Pepper Sauce Soz Halo Honey from our Novato Hives - 9oz	\$7 \$15	
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 <u>each_flavor!</u>		
Wagster Treats Gift Box - \$50 1 Bag Each: Apple & Peanut Butter, Banana & and Peanut Butter & Molasses + 6-Pack of Custom Doggie Notecards	Toasted Coconut	

Take a Bite Out of Homelessness!

All proceeds support Homeward Bound of Marin 1385 N. Hamilton Pkwy. Novato, CA. 94949 | 415-382-3363, ext. 214







PCN's youth group and Seekers, along with the youngsters at North Marin Community Services, are painting rocks this year for the holiday gift bags of the clients of CERES Community Project. Sally and Sydney thought it would be fun to have the PCN community participate as well, and we had a great time painting rocks at the Grace & Giving Fest on October 9.





Session Highlights – September 2022

- Elders Parry Reed and Brad Praun will join the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee has begun work to identify Deacon and Elder candidates beginning in 2023.
- Session discussed developing leaders within the church and welcoming new members.
- Stewardship Sunday will include a *Grace and Giving Festival* for the congregation to learn about the work of the church and volunteer for projects and committees of interest.
- The Endowment Committee unanimously approved changing investment income distribution from quarterly to monthly to be paid on the last day of the month.

Kathy Takemoto Clerk of Session



In last month's article about the upgraded restroom at Westminster Woods, we neglected to note that the funds for the improvements came from Ardith Blackwell's bequest to the Mission Committee. We hope Ardith would be happy to know her bequest was used for something very necessary that will be appreciated by all who attend Westminster Woods!



The Thursday morning women's Bible study is currently on hiatus until Carol recovers and can continue leading the class. We will post updates as they become available in the weekly update, and we pray for Carol's return and full recovery! If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Franz-Costello at 415-806-8849.



The Sunday Morning Adult Study Class meets from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. **via Zoom only.** We would like to invite everyone to come and enjoy studying God's Word and become amazed what God has taught you each and every Sunday.

We hope you would like to come and discuss with others about how God works in surprising ways with His people. Our God is mysterious and does not work in ways we might expect. We will be looking forward to seeing you soon.

Grace and Peace, Jim 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

Gun Safety Collaborative

PCN is a community member of the Gun Safety Collaborative, a group started by District Attorney Lori Frugoli. Following is a summary of Marin's first gun buy-back event. Funds for this program were donated by local foundations and individual community member donations. Contact kathy.takemoto@outlook.com if you have questions.





Community Emergency Preparedness

Below is a link to a great website for community preparedness information: https://www.novato.org/government/police-department/emergency-preparedness

Find information on being prepared. Every disaster, whether it affects one person or millions, has one thing in common...it is disruptive. The greater the impact, the more it disrupts those things we depend upon and often take for granted. Universal emergency or disaster education and preparedness means everyone, regardless of age or circumstance, needs to devote the time, resources and energy to understand and benefit from being "ready" for any type of an emergency.

Know your evacuation route. The following link has information including an evacuation map, evacuation tag FAQs, and evacuation checklist and more. https://www.novato.org/government/police-department/evacuation-information

Have you picked up your Evacuation Tag yet?

The Novato Police Department and Novato Fire Protection District are giving away evacuation tags to residents living in the City of Novato. Evacuation tags are a new tool to help us quickly ensure that neighborhoods are evacuated during a disaster. Hang the tag in a location that is highly visible from the street when they evacuate (mailbox, front door, garage, end of your driveway). This saves time and effort which we need to immediately check the next home. We have learned that seconds can count during evacuations, and we are excited to bring this new life-saving tool to our residents. Each tag comes with an instruction flyer in English and Spanish.

Evacuation Tag Pickup Locations

Downtown Novato

Novato Police Station (909 Machin Avenue) Monday - Thursday 8am - 5pm **Central Novato** Novato Fire Administration (95 Rowland Way) Monday - Friday 8am - 5pm **Get trained.** In Novato, we offer a free two-hour course to prepare you and yours in an emergency. Check out a <u>Get Ready</u> training today. You can also go beyond the basics and get Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, which is offered throughout Marin County. For more information, go to Ready Marin.

Stay Informed.

Receive emergency alerts by phone, text and e-mail for your neighborhood, even when you are not home. **Register your phones and e-mail addresses** at:

- <u>www.alertmarin.org</u> to receive local emergency alerts sent by call, text, or e-mail from the County of Marin Office of Emergency Services, **and**
- <u>www.nixle.com</u> to receive emergency messages and related information from both the Novato Police Department and Novato Fire District.
- Check out our <u>monthly emergency preparedness tips</u> or <u>sign-up to get these updates via our e-notify system</u>.

Updated (Omicron) Booster Information

- 1 How does the updated booster differ from the previous booster?
- Why do I need the updated booster?
- Who is eligible to get the updated booster?
- When am I eligible for the updated booster?
- When can I get the updated booster if I recently had COVID?
- 6 Can I "mix and match" the updated booster?
- Where can I get the updated booster?



Marin County Public Health strongly recommends the new booster for anyone age 50 and older.

- As new variants emerged, the booster was updated to **improve protection** against currently circulating variants.
- The updated booster strengthens protection against the newer Omicron variants, which account for most of the current cases.
- Everyone 12 and older who has had their primary series can get the updated booster.
 - Pfizer: 12 years of age and older.
 Moderna: 18 years of age and older.
- 2 months after your last dose (including the booster).
- It is recommended to get the updated booster 2 months after a COVID infection
- You can "mix and match" no matter which vaccine you received for your primary series and prior booster doses. Mixing vaccines may enhance the immune response, and it increases flexibility in case the vaccine you initially received is not available.
- (1)
- Local Pharmacies
- Healthcare Providers
- Select few Community Clinics

GetVaccinatedMarin.org





Emerging Visionaries 2022

When

Tuesday, November 1, 2022 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM PDT Add to Calendar

Where

Westminster Presbyterian Church

240 Tiburon Blvd BelverdereTiburon, CA 94920 **Driving Directions**

Dear Bruce PCN,

The Marin Interfaith Council invites you to attend our 17th annual Emerging Visionaries event, which will take place Tuesday, November 1, 2022 from 6 pm - 8 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Tiburon. We are looking forward to a time to connect with new and old friends while enjoying food and beverages.

This year's theme is *Faith in Action*Please join us this evening to hear the wisdom and vision of our guest speakers

Rev. Deborah Lee & Elaine Tokolahi

Tuesday, November 1st, 6pm-8pm Westminster Presbyterian Church 240 Tiburon Blvd, Belvedere Tiburon, CA 94920

Click here for more information about the event



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 is easy. Email Tonya or Laurie. Give us the recipient's 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 lwdougherty@me.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 7 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=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 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!