



PresPress

January 2023

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

“Time”

The older I get, the faster time just seems to fly by. There never seems to be enough of it. I feel pulled in hundreds of directions simultaneously with a longing to move toward each one of them, but reality keeps slapping me in the face saying, “You ain’t got time for that! Pick a few and let’s move.”

As I write this article, I am visiting my family in Texas for the first time in a few years. Infants are now toddlers. Pre-teens are now driving cars. New homes have been moved into. Health emergencies have led to changed lifestyles. In many respects I’m not sure I am going to have enough time to actually ‘catch up’ with all that I’ve missed. A part of me laments the fact that I have not been a more invested and involved part of my Texas family’s life. Another part of me knows that, if I had been, what would have had to give? My time is a finite gift and can’t be used for anything and everything. We all choose how we use our time; how our life stories intermingle with those of others and with God’s epic narrative.

Here we are beginning a new year, a season of resolutions and goals for many of us. For me, I think it’s a season to consider time: this precious gift of which we are called to be good stewards. We don’t have infinite time in this earthly life, so how do we spend it? What matters to me, to those around me, to God? I think the answers to these questions change over the course of our stories and so the need to reflect and to pray becomes ever more important.

This year, I want to stay more connected with my Texas family. I want to work to make church accessible and hopeful for people who don’t yet know Jesus. I want to actively work toward church growth and community building. I want to better balance church and family life. My list could go on and on, but for me, I know these are some of the things I want to spend my time on.

What about you, my friends? Perhaps this is a good time for you to think and pray about how you feel called to spend your time. What matters to you? How can you jump into God’s epic narrative in this new season?

Blessings to you, dear saints. May God guide you and our congregation into this new year.

With Care,
Adam

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.



Jonathan's Place (formerly Mill Street Center) has been completely renovated and reopened in November. PCN has resumed its mission to contribute dinners each month. Volunteers are needed to provide a main course, side dish, salad and whole fruit for 45 people each month. We will continue to provide a meal on the third Monday of every month. Contact Patty Reed at (415) 699-5246 or pdreed@sbcglobal.net.



This year, Seekers, PCN Youth and NMCS youth painted rocks for CERES Community Project clients' holiday gift bags. The project came in two days before deadline and under budget. Many are to be thanked. Mission Committee unanimously supported the event. CR/Marin Landscaping donated rocks. RileyStreet Art donated paints. Sally, Sydney and Emme and the friends at NMCS worked tirelessly with the kids to create these beautiful painted rocks.

So, many thanks to everyone and be sure to look for more photos on the PCN Facebook page in the new year.
~Barbara Gildea



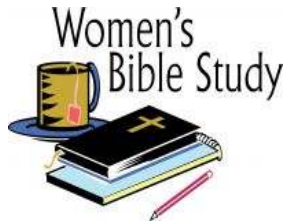


Again this year, Becky Erba has made these beautiful pillowcases for the children at C4DP. Now when they move to their next home, they can bring their belongings with them in their own beautiful pillowcase. Thank you, Becky!

Thank you for all the grocery donations this year for the Center for Domestic Peace. The drop-off dates for this month are Monday, January 16 and Tuesday, January 17. Thanking you in advance for your generosity!



Our next jigsaw puzzle swap is scheduled for Sunday, January 22 immediately following worship. Now that Christmas is over, it's time to recycle those old puzzles and start 2023 with a new batch to bring joy, and perhaps a little frustration, into your life! We'll have a drop-off box in the office for your old puzzles.



The Gospel of John

The Women's Bible Study will resume its Bible Study in the New Year on **Thursday, January 5, 2023** beginning at **10 a.m. (new start time)** and **conclude at 11:30 a.m.** We would like to extend an invitation to all ladies of the congregation to come and join us on Zoom as we begin our in-depth study of the **Gospel of John**. We will begin our study on page 19 of our study guide, ***"Life Change."***

As we begin our study in the ***Gospel of John***, we see that John borrowed language from the opening lines of Genesis to help us understand the prehistory of Jesus. He existed as the eternal Logos (word, message) before he was born in Bethlehem.

The phrase ***the Word was with God*** indicates a distinction between the Word and God; at the same time, the phrase ***the Word was God*** indicates unity. Christian belief in the deity of Jesus as the Son of God does not mean that Christians believe in two gods. There is only one God, and the preexistent Christ is an essential part of God in ways we cannot fully understand (1 Corinthians 8:6).

Jesus is creator and also illuminator. The word translated ***overcome*** can also mean "understood." The forces of darkness can neither fathom nor defeat the light of Jesus. The light of the Word will shine in the most depraved human conditions. Light always trumps darkness.

The power of the enlightening message of Jesus is in the splendor of the ***truth it reveals***. This message of God's love and salvation for all humankind is one of grace (John 3:17).

How does the fact that we serve a God who dwelt "among us" affect your life?

- In the way you pray
- In the example you set
- In your speech patterns

Grace and Peace,

Carol Dacquisto and Margaret Franz-Costello

Here is the Zoom link and passcode:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81284025735?pwd=VTY4cWFJQWtDTIpUVE9MT0lL1dHdz09>

Meeting ID: 812 8402 5735 Passcode: pcnovato



The Sunday Adult Bible Study Group will begin meeting at 8:15 a.m. via Zoom, which should give those who desire to attend church time to drive and arrive on time. 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.

COMING IN JANUARY: "GOD'S PROMISES"

In January we will be looking at God's promises in the Old Testament with lessons from 2 Chronicles, Isaiah, and Joel that remind us to hear prayers of repentance and to be present and see how God restores His people after times of distress.

God identified himself as the creator, and then spoke the substance of his message: ***Do not fear.*** God explained why Israel should not fear: (1) ***I have redeemed you.*** The Lord owned Israel because he created Israel. But Israel had been captured and enslaved by its own son. So the Lord redeemed the people (bought them back). Although Babylonian captivity was still in their future, the Lord's rescue was so certain that he spoke of redemption in the past tense. (2) God ***summoned you by name.*** There could be no question about whom God redeemed. (3) God states the result, or effect of his redemption: ***You are mine.*** How could Israel be afraid of anything?

God proclaimed his faithful presence – even in frightening or painful situations – and declared himself ***the Savior.*** God affirmed his love for his people; he promised to gather again those who would be scattered. He also challenged the pagan world to produce ***witnesses*** to prove that anyone among them had foretold future events as God had done. Then God himself names his own ***witnesses.*** His point is made abundantly clear: ***there is no savior other than the one true God. He is eternal, all-powerful, and sovereign over all.***

God is your creator, redeemer, and protector. How can this knowledge help you navigate tough times? Come and join a great conversation.

Study Leaders:

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



CITY OF NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

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 Get Ready 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:

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

Updated (Omicron) Booster Information

- 1 How does the updated booster differ from the previous booster?
- 2 Why do I need the updated booster?
- 3 Who is eligible to get the updated booster?
- 4 When am I eligible for the updated booster?
- 5 When can I get the updated booster if I recently had COVID?
- 6 Can I "mix and match" the updated booster?
- 7 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.
- ✓
 - Local Pharmacies
 - Healthcare Providers
 - Select few Community Clinics



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 ldougherty@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=Yy9ub1pReGdMTHVhbDJPZzhHVVdHQT09>

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 Ruth Haas at (415) 897-7629 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!