



PResPRes

April 2022

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

“Won’t You Be My Neighbor?”

I grew up in days of Mister Rogers. He was a seemingly ordinary guy that loved to talk with and tell stories to children. In his children’s T.V. program he used puppets and model toys, guest actors and elaborate stage sets, and all sorts of visual and auditory tools to engage his young audience. But his program always began and ended the same way: loving neighbors. He didn’t entertain strangers but welcomed neighbors into genuine conversation and relationship...well, as close a ‘relationship’ as one can have in a one-way broadcast. But his intent was to validate the identity of his viewers not as ‘other,’ but each as ‘neighbor’ whom he treated with dignity, respect, kindness, and love. He treated them as children of God.

There is a book by Jay Pathak & David Runyon entitled, “The Art of Neighboring,” in which they open chapter one by pondering the question, “what if the solution to our society’s biggest issues has been right under our noses for the past two thousand years (pg. 15). And the answer they theorize is simple: follow the greatest commandments. Literally! Love God with everything you have and love your neighbor, your ACTUAL neighbor, as yourself. The neighbors in nearby houses and apartments, those in our congregations, our co-workers, etc.

Naturally we might all simply nod our heads and say, “Well of course, pastor. I could have told you that!” But we live in a society today where fewer people know their actual neighbors. Many do not know the names of those who live just next door. Fewer church goers know more than a handful of other members or seek to get to know them. With the invention of technological connection (social media in particular) people can find groups of belonging with like-minded individuals from all over the world while never knowing those in actual, physical proximity to themselves. And, yes, while our neighbors can be anyone and everyone on the planet, our day to day lives inherently cross those who are physically close by; near where we live, drink coffee, grocery shop, worship, and work.

We all want to tackle the problems and challenges we see in the world today but we too often find them to be too daunting, too big, too much for one such as the likes of us to handle. What if addressing these worldly challenges begins with something much smaller? What if honing what Pathak & Runyan calls ‘the art of neighboring’ is the answer? That is, starting with the 2nd greatest commandment with our ACTUAL neighbors?

When we do this, ... “center our lives around the Great Commandment and take very literally the idea and practice of loving our neighbor, there’s great freedom, peace, and depth of relationship that come to our lives. By becoming good neighbors, we become who we’re supposed to be. As a result, our communities become the places that God intended them to be” (The Art of Neighboring, pg. 25-26).

One community at a time, the world can be transformed.

I think about this in terms of being the Church as well. In fact, our congregation's vision embraces our call to be authentic community together, connecting with God, with one another, and with the community. It is a call to authentic 'neighboring.' But this is not an easy practice, as the way of Jesus rarely is. It is a different way of journeying through life and engaging people around us. There's an intentional self-giving, an act of cross-bearing, in our 'neighboring.' It is the act of living into our priestly call as we intercede on behalf of one another.

Think of the story of the good Samaritan in the tenth chapter of Luke's gospel. While the prominent holy men of esteem have ignored the beaten man, seeing only through their narrow paradigm of understanding, the Samaritan sees with compassion. He sees a child of God in need. The Samaritan allows his life to be interrupted, to put his plans on hold, and to put his fears aside to reach out and help this child of God. He must offer first aid, but to do so he listens to the man's account so that he can understand his predicament and know how to best offer aid.

The Samaritan uses his own resources to help the man, the gifts God has given him. He takes the beaten man to an inn, a common place of refuge, a place to find additional aid and to tend to the man further. Even when the Samaritan leaves, seemingly days later, he makes sure that this battered man can get back on his feet and live again.

Neighboring begins with compassion, an intentional 'reaching out,' an act of self-giving. It is allowing our lives to be interrupted for the sake of someone else; for another's well-being. I think of Jesus sitting down and sharing meals with prostitutes and sinners as well as seeing and having compassion for outcasts and those in need. He intentionally goes out of his way, guided by his compassion and love, to practice the art of neighboring.

Let me ask you this, dear saints: what if each of us began to think about and practice authentic neighboring with our closest neighbors? What might this look like? How might it be different than what we do right now? Are there next-door neighbors that we don't really know? What about in our church? Are there members we've never met? What might it look like to intentionally reach out, to connect, to give of ourselves so that we can love as Jesus loves...so that our communities can become those that Jesus intends...communities that reshape and transform the world?

How many of us come to worship on Sundays simply to worship, maybe say 'hi' to our friends, and then go home to rest on the Sabbath? I bet many of us do just that. But how might we practice the art of neighboring on Sunday mornings? How might we extend the welcome, compassion, and self-giving of Jesus Christ with our neighbors? What better place to practice the art of neighboring than in our church community?

Blessings to you, dear saints, as we grow each day in Jesus Christ.
With Care,
Adam



Where your treasure is, there your heart will lie also. ~Matthew 6:21

Below you will find evidence of the many places where your hearts, time and money are making a difference, both locally and abroad.

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE



Thank you for this month's groceries for C4DP. All of your efforts are really appreciated! The next drop off dates will be April 18 & 19. April's groceries will mark one whole year of helping C4DP with this wonderful food supply.

**THE GREATEST POWER
YOU POSSESS IN LIFE IS
YOUR UNDERSTANDING
THAT LIFE GIVES YOU A
FRESH START ANY
MOMENT YOU CHOOSE
TO START FRESH**

WWW.LIVELIFEHAPPY.COM

GUY FINLEY

ALL DRESSED UP MINISTRY This ministry has been sending clothes to inmates who are being released from prison to help them transition back into society. We are beginning to run out of various sizes of clothing. If you have any of the following items that you would like to donate, please bring them to the church office for Mike Robinson.

- Pants – jeans or casual slacks with waist sizes 36 to 44 and lengths of 32 to 36
 - Shoes – casual shoes or tennis shoes sizes 9 to 12
 - Shirts – long sleeve sweatshirts, casual shirts, or flannels sizes XL and larger
- Please do not bring suits or sports jackets. If you would like to purchase underwear or socks, that would be great. We need larger sizes. Thank you

in advance for assisting with this ministry. It makes a big difference for these men to have decent clothing when they leave prison as they rebuild their lives.



RISE AGAINST HUNGER IS BACK! We will be coming together as a church to pack meals for those in need around the world! At 10am on Saturday, April 2nd, we will meet in Trevitt to pack 10,000 meals in about an hour or two. Sign-up in advance at:

<http://events.riseagainsthunger.org/FirstPresNovato> or register at the door the morning of!



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING offering can be taken before, on or after Palm Sunday, April 10th. Donations can be given online at www.pcnovato.org, via text OGHS to 91999 to give, or by check, mailed to the church office. In each case note that your donation is for “OGHS.” When you give you are supporting *Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of Peoples*, the three arms of PC(USA) that support people across the country and around the world, when everything seems against them. Please give generously, if you can. Thank you.



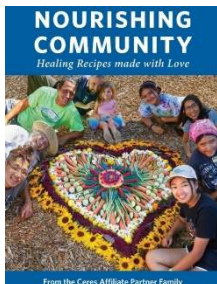
JEEPERS, CREEPERS, WE SURE NEED YOUR PEEPERS!

Dr. Vicki Martinez is once again collecting reading glasses to take on her next mission trip. Magnification of 2.0 and 3.0 is preferred, but all strengths can be used. Please drop them off at the office by April 15th.



CERES COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Is an intergenerational food and nutrition program serving both acute and chronically ill people of all ages. For more information, their website is <https://www.ceresproject.org/>



The Press Democrat featured our new cookbook, *Nourishing Community!* You can [purchase our book](#) and support our programs, and the book will also soon be available at the Marin and Sonoma County Library Branches.

Upcoming Classes

There are six upcoming classes from now through May! Enroll early to ensure you get a spot. We have a special guest teacher for one of them (Nutrition to Heal and Prevent Breast Cancer), with a wide range of topics. [View the calendar.](#)



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



The current Russian invasion that started on February 24 follows eight years of conflict between Russia and Ukraine. Hundreds of thousands of people across the country are enduring bombings and assault by Russian military forces. As people head toward the western regions, there is a shortage of food and other basic supplies.

One Great Hour of Sharing — the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to provide hope, help and relief. Our response to the situation in Ukraine will include both financial and technical assistance in the months ahead.

The needs for the response will be great. God's people are called on to stand in the "GAP" — Give. Act. Pray.

GIVE: Gifts can be [made online](#), by calling (800) 872-3283, by texting PDAUKR to 41444, or by check made payable to Presbyterian Church U.S.A. with "DR000156-Ukraine" on the memo line. Mail to:
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

ACT: Urge the government to support aid and call for a diplomatic solution.

PRAY ([click for full prayer](#)): God of mercy, justice, and peace, in this Lenten season, when we walk the way toward death and resurrection, repent our complicity in cultures of violence and renew our efforts toward justice and peace.

--Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance



Join North Marin Community Services in Celebrating 50 Years!

As long-time supporters of NMCS, PCN congregants are cordially invited to their 50th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon. Join them as they honor significant contributors who advanced NMCS's mission and celebrate their growth and success in touching the lives of 150,000 people in North Marin!

Date: Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Time: 11:30 am to 1:30 pm

Location: 680 Wilson Avenue, Novato, CA, under a spacious outdoor tent

Keynote speaker: Jared Huffman, U.S. Congressman representing California's 2nd District. Special guests include Mary Jane Burke, Marin County Superintendent of Schools.

For more Information & Tickets go to (<https://givebutter.com/NMCS50th>)

The prices of gas and food are straining those already struggling in our community. Whether attending or not, if you are so moved, please make a donation and have it matched by an anonymous donor up to \$5,000, half of which will go towards stipends for gas. Write "Match" in the gift designation field.

Thank you!

We Stand With Ukraine

As an organization that supports social justice and democracy, we stand in solidarity with Ukraine and those around the world who are committed to Ukraine's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Visit the U.S. Dept of State (<https://www.state.gov/united-with-ukraine/>) for more ways to stand united with Ukraine. Our partner MCF has also compiled a list of international orgs (<https://www.marincf.org/resources/supporting-ukrainians>).

ALL CHURCH MARDI GRAS PANCAKE SUPPER

Thanks to all of you who attended PCN's Mardi Gras pancake supper and Lenten worship. It was a fun event for all ages. And we look forward to seeing you next year!



Without the steadfast help of dozens of volunteers our celebration of life and commemoration of sacrifice would not have happened. Please thank them when you see them.....

Brad & Becky Praun
Art & Carolyn Gerrans
Ray & Shirley Shanahan
Jim & Melodie Baird
David & Bekah Harmon
Bill & Jane Bradfield
Robert Coleman

Don & Becky Erba
Ron & Marion Hune
Fred & Janalee Holmes
Pastor Adam Smith
David & Ariel Mink
Mary Contreras
Johnson Kitavi & his custodial crew!

Tonya Church
Delane Ramser
Sally Carbonaro
Sydney Fletcher
Shirley Nye
the Boy Scouts



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING

June 13th – 17th



We will be having an in-person Vacation Bible School at PCN!! For the first time in TWO years! We need your help to make this the best week of summer!!

High Schoolers are needed to be crew leaders. Adults are needed to lead games, crafts, snack time, or video time. If you want to help us out beforehand, we need help with planning or set decorations. If interested, contact Sally Carbonaro, childrensministry@pcnovato.org

YOUTH GROUP MEALS

Many thanks to the families that have provided delicious and creative meals for our Youth Group on Sunday evenings. You're all SO WONDERFUL and we appreciate you, your time, talent and love!

Audrey Bolan, Alison Coelho, Bethany McMickin, Becky Praun, Pastor Adam Smith, James Wood and the Deacons - Sandy Fong, Brook Stahley and Linda Ward

blessings to you all!!

**If you would like to participate in this Meal Train, please feel free to email me, Becky Praun, or give me a call.

No experience necessary!

Becky Praun 415-472-1733 beckypraun@yahoo.com



Session Highlights - March 2022

In March, Session approved:

- And adopted the *Safe Church Misconduct and Abuse Prevention Policy* to replace the current *PCN Safety Policy*. This effort was coordinated by Elder Melodie Baird and the Christian Education Committee.
- Membership and welcomed new members Jesse and Catherine Kuroki
- Appointing Communications Director Sydney Fletcher as the Safe Church Coordinator.
- A job description for a Bookkeeper position as presented by the Personnel Committee.

Information items:

- Lewis Berkhout will begin cross training with interim Finance secretary Suzanne Schmitt. Mr. Berkhout will replace Ms. Schmitt in this position.
- Worship Committee is looking for an experienced technician for the AV booth.
- Elder volunteers will review current church policies and make updates as needed. Of immediate attention is alignment of Memorial and Wedding officiant policies.

Kathy Takemoto, Clerk of Session

The Marin County Mobile Vaccination Unit is giving **FREE COVID-19 Vaccines** near you!

**POP-UP
COVID-19
VACCINATION
CLINIC**

**Margaret Todd
Senior Center**

1560 Hill Road, Novato (in Hill Community Room)
(Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer)
Look for a "Marin County Mobile Vaccination Unit" sign

Mar 16 & 30
3:00PM- 7:00PM

- Must be 5 or older (Pfizer)
- Must be 18 or older (J&J, Moderna)
- 5 to 17 year olds must be accompanied by parent/guardian & provide proof of age
- You don't have to be a US citizen
- All doses available, including boosters

Vaccines are free, regardless of immigration & insurance status

Requests for disability accommodations may be made by phoning (415) 473-4381 (Voice), CA Relay 711 or by e-mail at DisabilityAccess@MarinCounty.org.

- Walk-ups welcome. Appointments recommended.
- Schedule an appointment online: [MyTurn.Ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) or call 833- 422-4255

[GetVaccinatedMarin.org](https://getvaccinatedmarin.org)

Novato Covid Response Team Update



Do you know someone that needs a vaccine or booster? Be a friend and direct them to the County of Marin website to find a vaccine clinic easy to find: <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/vaccinefinder>
Please use the map or filters to find an ideal vaccination site near you.



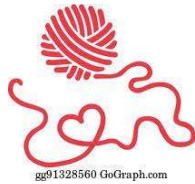
Four intrepid souls cleaned out, reorganized, and swept the shed in early March. Many, many thanks to Don, Bill, Mike, and Brad (you know who they are 😊) for making a world of difference. Everything visible and accessible....Photogenic and efficient!!



Just think!! The shed could look like this EVERY DAY if we try!!



A few copies of the Novato Historical Guild's newsletter, the Historian, are available in the church office and is also available on the Guild's website. The Feature section article mentions history of our current church property.



Wits That Knit

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

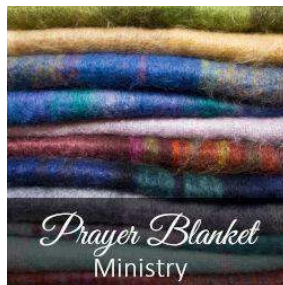
Cheryl Paddock, CEO, wrote:

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

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



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

Come make a Resurrection Garden

After Worship on Sunday, April 3, 2022, on the patio

Please bring:

- Ceramic or plastic pan, around 12" in length. A large pot dish can be used.
- 2 – 3" small plant pot
- Large stone to use as the tomb stone
- 6 twigs that can be fashioned into crosses

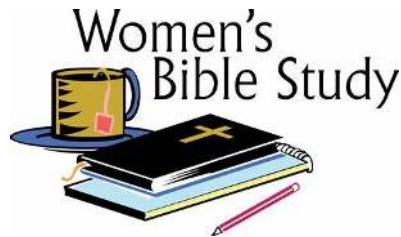
The finished product will look similar to this:



Soil and decorative rocks will be provided.

Sponsored by Community Life Committee

Questions to kathy.takemoto@outlook.com – 415-884-9204



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Women's Bible Study is back meeting at the church on Thursday morning from 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. We are, also, on Zoom as well. We hope that by being at the church and on zoom we can meet all the women in our Bible Study Group.

This month we will be completing Chapter 15 and heading into Chapter 16 of 2 Samuel. We will see with Amnon (David's son) out of the way, and Abigail's son dead, Absalom is next in line to the throne. But Solomon's is David's chosen heir. For four years Absalom lays his plans (v.v. 1-6), gradually winning the people over. When he does come into the open (vv. 7-12) the challenge to David is extremely serious.

King David is caught unprepared. To save the city, and gain time, he leaves Jerusalem. But David organizes a spy-ring. And Hushai (a friend and wise counselor of King David) is sent back to outwit Ahithophel (one of David's counselors who assisted Absalom rebel against David), whose far-sighted counsel is otherwise likely to win the day for Absalom. Lots of drama!!

The Women's Bible Study ladies are saving the pull-tabs, or "pop top," from a variety of cans. It is the aluminum that has recycle value and the tab is one of the **pure aluminum parts of the can.** If you have tabs, please give them to Carol Dacquisto or put them in the Library Box in the office. "You can help a child by "recycling tabs." Thank you for your help.

Link for the Zoom meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 894 3253 1783

passcode: pcnovato

Study Leaders,

Melodie Baird, Margaret Franz-Costello, and Carol Dacquisto



The Sunday Adult Bible Study Group meets in the Library at 8:30 A.M. We would like to invite you to join a great group of men and women who enjoying God's Word together. There is a place for each of you.

In the month of April, we will be in the gospels of Matthew and John:

- Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem: Matthew 21:1-11
- The Passover with the Disciples: Matthew 26:17-30
- April 17, 2002: Easter Sunday: No Class - Attending Church
- Freedom In Christ Jesus: John 8:31-38

We will be studying and celebrating Easter: **"Sacrifice and Salvation."** Jesus made His triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a sizeable crowd like any other worldly king, but how He entered the city was remarkably different – not in pomp, but in Humility, on a donkey. Jesus also knew that it was His "appointed time" (Matthew 26:18) to celebrate the Passover and institute a new covenant "for the forgiveness of sins" (vs. 28) through His sacrifice. Jesus gave His disciples a way to remember and partake in His new covenant: broken bread for His broken body and a cup of wine for His spilled blood.

Link for the Zoom meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 884 0194 9220

passcode: pcnovato

Study Leaders:

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



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=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 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 Kathy Botko at (415) 897-7783 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!

The following appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing 'Break Forth Into Joy'.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new tithing campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge – Up Yours.'

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.