



PresPress

June 2021

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

“Authentic Community: A Way Forward”

“The character of our shared life – as congregations, communities, and families – has the power to draw people to the kingdom or to push them away. How we live together is the most persuasive sermon we’ll ever get to preach.” (Christine D. Pohl, Living into Community; pg. 35.)

Inevitably as churches seek to reach out and invite others to join them in life and ministry together, they begin to ask their current membership two questions that help to create a strategy moving forward: 1) What brought you to the church? and 2) Why did you stay?

The answer to the first can be all over the map. “It was close to my house.” “The sermons just spoke to me.” “It was the only Presbyterian Church in town.” “I love the way the church worships.” “My kids connected in the kids program.” “A neighbor invited me.”

However, the answer to the second question almost always boils down to one thing: “I stayed because of the people; because of the relationships I made.”

The character of our life together as a community of faith is indeed the most persuasive sermon we could ever preach because it is not just words about the gospel or one good deed done for someone in need, but it is living the gospel in the way it was intended. The ‘good news’ is about God’s love, and that love inherently is known, experienced, lived out, and transformational in relationship.

Christine Pohl in her book, Living into Community, says this best when she writes, *“The best testimony to the truth of the gospel is the quality of our life together. Jesus risked his reputation and the credibility of his story by tying them to how his followers live and care for one another in community* (John 17:20-23).”

But what is the nature of this ‘authentic community’ we are talking about? I think this is where most congregations get stuck. The thought is, “Well, if anyone just got to know us just as we are that’s all we’d need to do. They’d be hooked!”

Of course, that mindset only leads to plans for new programs and ministry endeavors with the intent to create more visibility. The hope would be that if the church is seen or if people just ‘show up once’ to the ‘way we already do things,’ the church will simply be irresistible for the newcomer. But that, my friends, is a recipe for disappointment. That, unfortunately, leads to ‘inauthentic’ community.

I know what you’re thinking. “But why, Pastor Adam?! That just sounds like being authentically ourselves and not trying to be something we’re not.”

It does sound that way, doesn’t it? Ah, but this is the mistake so many congregations make. It is the assumption that the way we do things is fixed...that the ways of being a local church community are

immutable; that creating and growing in authentic community doesn't require the give and take that marks all relationships.

You see, when a congregation commits to growth (and I should note this is true of any church since 'building up the body' is a part of our ongoing call from God), it is inevitably committing to being transformed in a relationship marked by grace. There is no way around it. A church that assumes that new people joining their fold will not inherently change the community in some way is not interested in authentic relationship but in preserving the status quo.

And THIS, my friends, is one of the biggest obstacles to church growth.

If authentic relationship centered on God's grace is the key to building up the body (or at least an important piece of being the Church) then there are some inherent practices that congregations might embrace.

The first is this: **hospitality is not a suggestion, but a way of being together.** One of the most awkward times for a new person in a church community is the first time they show up. Let me ask you this, when you see a new person at church, what's your first move? Instinctually mine would be to 'mind my own business.' But if a relationship is the goal, then the first move should be 'making a connection:' sowing the seeds of relationship. The first move should be going out of our way (a sacrificial giving of ourselves that may be challenging for many of us) to greet, welcome, and build a relationship with that person. Churches often try to do this in a systematic way with greeters and ushers and the like, but that often diminishes the universal call for the whole church to be about building and growing in authentic community, to extend the hospitality that marks discipleship.

The second practice is related: **making room at the table.** If a congregation is rigid in its ways of being together, leaving no room for reform, then it should not be surprised when people don't stay. Jesus always welcomed people from different walks of life at his table, even when it didn't seem to make sense. What space do churches make for newcomers? How do churches position themselves structurally to receive and assimilate people into their life and ministry while leaving room to adapt and evolve together in community? I wish there were ways to discern this? ;)

The 3rd practice seems obvious: **developing an intentional way of building authentic relationships.** In the crazy, busy world of today, churches have to be intentional about building and developing relationships in community together. Numerous activities and classes (quantity of gathering opportunities) are not the answer. If we listen to the world around us, we see that people are plagued by busyness. Churches need a way to create, build, and foster the authentic relationships that mark being the Church. While this can and does happen organically, due to the nature of people's limited investment in church today, this 'way of being the church' in authentic community should be a priority. The question is, what does this look like?

My friends, welcome to a small piece of the kind of work your Discernment Team has been up to: the deep, prayerful listening that God has led us to in this place and in this time.

In the next month, you will hear more about the fruits of the Discernment Team's labor, but in the meantime, I ask for your prayers as their work is brought to Session soon. Pray for God's guidance,

God's wisdom, and God's revelation in our midst. Pray for healthy dialogue and an abundance of grace.

With Grace & Peace,
Adam



Virtual Vacation Bible School will be held **June 14-18**. At Treasured VBS, kids dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures. They'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold – it's them! Each day you will have access to the program through our secure kids YouTube channel. You have the option of ordering a VBS kit for each child in your home to have everything they will need to fully experience **Treasured!** To register visit, pcnovato.org. Kits are limited, so order yours today!



Your VBS *Treasured* Team
Sydney Fletcher, Sally Carbonaro, Mark Clark, and Tammi Jester



PEDAL FOR PROTEIN 2021!
A WONDERFUL OPPERTUNITY TO SERVE
OUR PRESBYTERY AND FIGHT FOOD SCARCITY

Pedal for Protein began seven years ago in the Redwoods Presbytery, and has earned close to \$250,000 toward 'beefing up' the protein offerings in food banks presbytery-wide. This year, for the first time, the seven-day bicycle ride will stop overnight in Novato.

PCN is the host church, and we need your help. From the afternoon of September 20th to the morning of the 21st, we need afternoon greeters, pot-luck dinner providers and hosts, overnight hosts (individual riders or couples), and breakfast set-up and provisions.

Please call Carolyn Gerrans at 415-897-1504 or email grace624@comcast.net to volunteer or with any questions. It's an important way we can work for good and stay connected to the whole!

If you would like to join in for part of the ride itself, please register at www.pedalforprotein.com. Ride registration will be live on June 1st. For further details about the ride, please call Bill Morgan at 707-694-9660.

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.

NMCS Our Deacons pitch in! Thank you to our PCN Deacons for giving \$500 to North Marin Community Services when they learned about the Wyndover Fire displaced persons, and NMCS's efforts to house and feed them. The Deacons' Christian spirit reaches out beyond our own walls, and the mission committee (and people of Novato) are lucky to have their love and support!

Center for Domestic Peace Our second effort to provide 21 bags full of non-perishable groceries for Center for Domestic Peace will be on June 7-8. Specific items requested: rice, pasta, pasta sauce, cans of beans, sugar, flour, sweets, chocolate, and juice. Two bags have already been pledged; we are asking for 19 more from our congregation. To pledge one or more bags of groceries, contact Barbara Gildea at bjgildea9@aol.com or co-elder Carolyn Gerrans at grace624@comcast.net.

Pledged groceries (double-bagged, please) will be dropped at the church office and then will be delivered by Barbara to the C4DP location. Thank you for your support in this effort.



Ceres Garden Tour The first and last tour of Ceres Community Project's garden in Sebastopol was presented by Sara McCamant, garden coordinator, last month. The garden will have to move (hopefully only a few blocks away) sometime this summer.

The garden entrance is graced with two woven willow trees that create a canopy and make it seem magical ... although Sara says the roots spread and aren't great for gardening in the long run. The water from the shed cover drains off into the tank so no water is wasted. Kale, potatoes, flowers, 19 varieties of garlic, and much more are grown here and provide 12% of the produce used in preparing meals for Ceres clients.

The tour was well worth the drive and the time!



Gilead House's PCN bedroom has a new family! Thanks to your generosity (discretionary funds), our mission committee was able to buy and deliver ALL the bath and bedroom linens, cleansers, toiletries, etc. for this family of mother and two children. They are now able to begin their new sheltered and mentored lives with a *'clean start'* from you. Thank you!





The Mental Institution



My strategy for distancing at the mental institution is to arrive, open the tailgate, step back, and let the patients carry in the food! When the virus comes “to visit” I don’t want anyone to think that I brought it! 😊

The Retirement Home



A full case of breakfast pizza was an unusual treat to bring to the residents, along with milk, fruit and pastries.

My Second Juarez Podcast



My first podcast was sort of hidden in my last newsletter. This time I want to do a better job of highlighting it! If you have ever wondered why I go to the mental institution, the podcast answers that question: <https://anchor.fm/jeff-pinar-m25mi/episodes/Augustine-euqd80>

Super El Robles Purchases



We continue to purchase heavy volumes of food like in this cart (there were two full carts of miscellaneous food and two cases of fruit). I require assistance at my current level of recovery, nine weeks post triple-bypass. It's great to have Juanita from the store help me with the heavy load! She's probably calculating the tip she knows I'll give her!

Marili



Marili (spelled incorrectly in the last newsletter, my error) continues to help in many ways. Mexican Customs does not recognize her as she drives through the border crossing, and so far \$0 tax has been required to bring in a lot of food and donations. This helps offset the 2021 high gas prices. I wear my hat and mask going through, and they don't recognize me! She is more polite and social with Customs; we have only had one full inspection with her driving. I may have become a little agitated over the years dealing with Mexican Customs, paying bribes and taxes. Marili also collects food from multiple sources in the USA and does a lot of the heavy lifting.

Resplendor Orphanage



In these pandemic days, we are attempting to bring some unexpected foods in addition to our usual milk, eggs, vegetables, meat and fruit.

Tarahumara Colonia



The children cautiously approached and are adjusting to my unfamiliar red van instead of my gold Tacoma. Usually up to 50% of these children don't have shoes or sandals as they collect treats.

Food Pantry – New Road



Either the need is increasing or the satisfaction with our supplies is growing as we stock this food pantry!

Casa de Dios



Weekly warm food for the children at Casa de Dios (House of God) is always a blessing. Families always have some leftovers to take home. Adults load some food donations while the children eat a nutritious meal!

Charge and Benediction

We are blessed by your continued prayers and concern. Particularly now, we need all the prayers you can provide. God has continued to keep me safe from the virus and gang activity in Juarez as we serve "the least of these" for His glory!

Personal Health Update

Overall, I'm doing very well and pleased with my progress. I have reduced my prescription medications from almost 30 a day down to six; it's been a challenge, but worth my constant attention. That seems to be supported by my most recent blood tests this past Saturday. Eight of the medical blood tests were over the recognized limits at the end of February, but all eight went into recognized limits last week. My cardiologist is pleased with every aspect of my recovery. She recommends blood tests every three months.

One of the most important things I have learned is the following: drug sheets given to you by a doctor or pharmacy only tell part of the side-effects of a drug. If you want the facts, search the internet too! I like to use the Mayo Clinic's side effects' postings. I truly believe one reason for my fast recovery is getting off "snake venom pills" early as possible! Amiodarone was my heart rhythm pill; it might have saved my life, but I experienced some bad side effects. The worst side effect on the list is possible death! My suggestion to everyone is to research all your medications, and if you experience any of the side effects mentioned, let your doctor know!

Disclaimer

The pandemic is not over and is extremely unpredictable in poor countries. Today Mexico is third in the world with reported COVID deaths, ahead of India for a few more days. Violence and kidnapping are out of control in Juarez. Do not attempt to travel to Mexico and assume it is safe around Juarez based on what you see or read here. I do live a dangerous lifestyle!

COME TO THE BIG SHRED

Supporting



When: Open to the public June 5th at 9 a.m. (Valley Oak clients can arrive at 8:30 a.m.) and ending either at noon or when the trucks are full.

Where: Our Lady of Loretto Church/School at 1806 Novato Blvd. in Novato

Rules: We limit drop-offs to five (5) paper grocery bags. NO boxes or plastic.

Cost: Tax-deductible donation is requested for this year's partner, *Homeward Bound of Marin*.

More info or to volunteer: Email us at info@ValleyOakWM.com



Wyndover Fire Update – It Takes a Village

Once again, our caring community came through to help our neighbors in need. Thank you for helping us serve the 19 families most impacted by the Wyndover apartments fire. Since April 20, you've helped us:

- Provide Safeway gift cards for food.
- Pay for hotel stays for clients that did not have friends or family to stay with and literally had nowhere to go. Six families are still in hotels and await permanent housing. Two families have found permanent housing at Wyndover, and the remaining families are in temporary housing (with family or friends or at a temporary unit at Wyndover).
- Connect families to our food pantry, mental health services and other organizations in our community for additional help through our case management team.

Donations are still needed and can be made directly to North Marin Community Services at <https://www.northmarincs.org/financial-assistance/>. Thank you for helping us be a key resource for people during their time of need.



DONATE



Dear David,

We are delighted to announce that the meals from your Rise Against Hunger Experience on 3/27/2021 have been shipped in a container totaling 285,120 meals from our Sacramento warehouse. The meals will be received by our in-country partner Children of Vietnam - Vietnam in Vietnam. If you happen to receive more than one of these announcements, your meals have gone to impact multiple partners.

Children of Vietnam - Vietnam is an organization that nourishes lives through food assistance and other services in Vietnam. To learn more, please visit our partner/country spotlight on the Impact Stories tab and click and drag on our World Aid Map at <https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/global-impact/>.

Thank you for generously giving your time to volunteer and packaging meals with Rise Against Hunger. We are sincerely grateful for your dedication and for sharing our vision of a world without hunger.

Due to the global health crisis, our meal inventory is shrinking and we are working to find ways to still meet the needs of our beneficiaries. To make a difference in the lives of children and families around the world during this challenging time, please donate now at [riseagainsthunger.org/meettheneed](https://www.riseagainsthunger.org/meettheneed).

Gratefully,
Rise Against Hunger
Stay in touch!





Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Mission

~Below please find two letters from missionaries supported by PCN~

Dear PCN,

Eastertide greetings to you! We hope that you are well. Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and generous support for our ministry in South Sudan. Your support enables us to serve with God's people in South Sudan, training leaders and helping the church be an agent of healing.

As you know, we are currently in the U.S. because of the Covid-19 crisis. However, we have been able to continue supporting our partners in South Sudan remotely and hope to return to Juba in July of this year. We praise God for ways that churches in South Sudan continue to grow and show the love of Christ in the midst of great challenges, especially this year during the pandemic. We trust that you are receiving our newsletters – our recent one describes an ordination of pastors and leaders in a remote region and you can find it at the website below.

Please pray for God's peace and provision for people in South Sudan. Please pray also that we can be faithful in our work with our partners. We are grateful for you and always appreciate hearing from you. Thank you, Bill, for letting us know of your pledge of support for 2021 – we are humbled and grateful for your partnership. We pray often for PCN and your witness of Christ's love in Novato and around the world. We know that this has been a very challenging season for everyone. May this Easter season be a joyful time for you of celebrating our risen Savior!

Gratefully,

Bob and Kristi

Mission Co-workers, PC(USA)

Profile and newsletters: <http://pcusa.org/bob-and-kristi-rice>

Blog: <http://bobandkristi.blogspot.com/>

Hello dear friends,

My father passed away three weeks ago on April 9th, and I would like to share with you a little about his life.

I was able to be with my family and our family friends for the celebration of Dad's life. Serving the Latin American Biblical University (the UBL for its initials in Spanish) in San José, Costa Rica since January 2020, Jenny, Keila, Annika and I have been able to remain here all during the pandemic, adapting and learning to work in new ways. But even before Dad passed, I had purchased a plane ticket. I tested negative for COVID-19 on Monday, April 12th and flew to Ohio on Wednesday the 14th.

Dad was 90 years old, a goodly amount of time to be on this earth, and his last couple of years were not easy for him, nor for Mom. Still, knowing that hasn't eliminated my family's sadness at his passing, nor does it help knowing that Dad lived life well. During visiting hours Friday, April 16th and after the memorial service on Saturday my family and I were bathed by the peoples' stories of what Dad had meant to them. Simple notes, more stories and even photos shared on social media and in cards mailed to Mom have brought joy – small bright rays of light. But grief persists, washing over me at unexpected moments.

I also started sorting through Dad's books. More than three hundred of the books that I catalogued were centered on Appalachia, one of Dad's longtime passions. Southeast Ohio, where my brothers and sisters and I were raised is in the foothills of Appalachia, designated in the 1960s as a main focus of President Johnson's war on poverty. Dad's books cover a wide spectrum of themes related to those hills and mountains. A lot of Dad's Appalachian books, though, are social, political and economic analyses. A few that I found compare the situation in Appalachia to countries like ones where I have lived and worked – Nicaragua, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. For example, just as foreign interests control gold, bauxite and sugar production in the Dominican Republic, absentee landowners own most of the timber and coal rights in West Virginia (<https://www.wvpublic.org/news/2013-12-11/who-owns-west-virginia>). My siblings and I grew up learning about those kinds of injustices from Dad, almost the same way we learned to pick up litter, plant trees and recycle tin cans. I still find myself taken off-guard when I hear people talk about how poor people's poorness is because they're lazy. I've known better than that since I was five.

I am profoundly grateful that I was able to travel to the United States, thanks mainly to the massive vaccination campaign that has started to reduce the ravages of COVID there. Mom, all my siblings and their spouses are fully vaccinated, or nearly so. But

back here in Costa Rica, things aren't looking so good. The new COVID variants from England, Brazil and South Africa are all present and COVID cases are skyrocketing. The Health Ministry has already shut down all non-essential businesses. We aren't as stretched as Brazil, India and South Africa, but Costa Rica's public health system, one of the strongest and best organized in Central America, is moving towards collapse.

The Costa Rican government is working hard to get people vaccinated. More than 50% of those 58 and older have received their first dose and 24% have received both (<https://www.ccss.sa.cr/web/coronavirus/vacunacion>). But that will not be enough. The pharmaceutical companies are making it hard for poorer countries to get vaccine doses. Dad would be clear about this. He recognized injustice when he saw it. We need to be the people who step up and call for justice. It is who God, and my Dad, have taught us to be.

Thank you for all you do!

In Christ,

Mark (and Jenny) Hare

P.S. The article below outlines steps that the US government can and should take. And check out this site for a petition you can sign: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/urge-biden-reverse-trumps-deadly-obstruction-of-global-covid-19-vaccine-access>

P.P.S. You can keep track of our work in Costa Rica by checking out my blog, Faith Food and Family (<https://faithfoodfamilycostarica.blogspot.com/>).

Prayer Blanket Ministry Returns



The Prayer Blanket Ministry, formerly the Prayer Quilt Ministry, is being revitalized. The Deacons are going to support the new Prayer Blanket Ministry and just a few enhancements are being made. Most of the quilters in our church are no longer able to participate, so we are changing to two different types of blankets. We will have knitted blankets or tie blankets available. Blankets can be requested to be sent out for people who have been diagnosed with cancer or other life-threatening illnesses. Blankets can be hand-delivered by the requestor or sent out if the family member or friend lives out of state. The blankets will be sent in a bag, so they can be easily carried to chemo appointments (since those rooms are often very cold) and accompanied with a card indicating PCN is sending prayers.

We want to make sure that we have enough blankets available at a moment's notice, so on Saturday, June 12 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. we are planning a tie blanket and card-making day. We will be helping everyone willing to learn how to make tie blankets with simple instructions, so if you have never done this before, no worries – we will be close by to answer any questions. We know some of you might want to bring your own scissors which is great, but we will also have scissors available. Tie blankets are best made in teams, so bring a friend with you. The goal is to make at least 10-12 tie blankets during this time.

If you are a knitter, we would love to have you join us. The knitted blankets need three skeins of Lion Brand Homespun yarn and either size 17 or size 15 needles. Since we are not sure how many people want to knit, please let us know if you need yarn or needles ahead of time. We will have instructions for the pattern for these blankets as well. We will also be making cards, by decorating the front of the cards, to let people know we are praying for them.

On Sunday, June 13, we are going to have a blanket-blessing moment during the service. Since we are unable to tie the knots as we used to, we can pray ahead of time that the person receiving the blanket will know they are being prayed for by PCN.

If you have any questions about the Prayer Blanket Ministry or need a blanket, please contact Laurie Dougherty at lwdougherty@me.com or Tonya Church at tonya.church@comcast.net. Please look for more information in the weekly update.

The link to sign up is <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090B44ACAF2BA31-prayer>.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

PCN is set to send a team and partner with Missions Ministries to Colonia de Esperanza, Juarez, Mexico. The dates for our mission trip are October 19 - October 24, 2021. If you have a heart for mission work and love to work with your hands, this is a great opportunity for you. Our purpose is to build a new home for a family in the church community of Colonia de Esperanza.

All interested parties, family, friends and neighbors, youth and adults, please contact Becky Praun/Team Coordinator for more information: 415-472-1733 or beckypraun@yahoo.com.

"We are co-workers in God's service" (1 Corinthians 3:9)

PCN Bingo is Taking Break

Friday, May 21 marked PCN's one-year anniversary for bingo, so we are taking a break for at least the month of June, and Patty is going to take the summer off. Never fear though, bingo is always near.

We tried hard to make it fun and adding just a little bit of trivia helped all of us have some great laughs. I think what made it the most fun for me was seeing all your smiling faces as the "Prize Prius" made deliveries. Patty and I were even able to talk Les into helping us with the deliveries at Christmas, and for those of you who won, thank you for putting up with our singing. A special thank you goes to Becky Praun for providing some of the most amazing baked goods. I will never forget the beach cupcakes and the spice cookies. Les and I were recipients of the treats this month; the cream puffs were fantastic.

Thank you all for participating. Thank you for being patient as we experienced some technical difficulties along the way. We were always able to get cards to everyone playing, and Patty entering the numbers in the chat allowed you to catch a number through all the excitement. Many of you might still be wondering what the Chef Surprise was for Marcus and Diane; it was a strawberries and cream cake. Make sure you watch the weekly update as we will make sure to advertise the return of bingo. Have a great month of June.

Your bingo caller,
Tonya Church



Session Highlights May 2020

In May, Session approved:

- 1) Listing Presbyterian Church of Novato as a supporter on any published information by the Marin County Gun Safety Collaborative.
- 2) Blended summer worship services from June 20 through September 5, 2021.
- 3) Re-hiring of Kelsey McIvor as a youth intern for the summer to assist with youth programs and serve as a chaperone for the youth mission trip.

Property Committee recommends the purchase and installation of a heat-pump system to replace the aged, broken boiler system. Session approval will be requested once bids are received and recommended and funding sources are identified.

Kathy Takemoto, Clerk of Session



The Thursday morning women's Bible study group is currently taking a summer break. We will return to our study of 2 Samuel, beginning with Chapter 4, on Thursday, September 9, 2021. If you would like to join us this fall, please contact Carol Dacquisto or Melodie Baird.



On Sunday mornings at 8 a.m. the adult Bible study class meets on Zoom. We send out an agenda, and it will have the Zoom link on it.

We have a **lively Bible study discussion. That's what happens here.** As adults study the Bible and discuss what they found during the week in the lesson, they gain a growing understanding of how to move forward on their discipleship journey.

In the class, we read the Scripture and then focus on the passage. Easy week we're challenged to prepare for the next week's lesson. The preparation isn't long or difficult, but it does encourage participation. When adults have invested something of themselves in the lesson they get more out of it.

The biggest part of the lesson doesn't happen in class. It happens on Monday and Tuesday – and through the week – when instead of following their own desires or the crowd, they dare to say, "No, I will follow Jesus."

In the month of May we will be concentrating on "**Courageous Prophets of Change**" using several books of the Old Testament: 1 Kings, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Jonah. These five bold prophets show that when people strayed from their covenant with God, the prophets called them back.

For more information about the Sunday adult class, contact anyone of the study leaders listed below.

We will look forward to seeing you on Sundays – come and join us!

Study Leaders,
Carol Dacquisto (415) 892-2070, Larry Dacquisto (415) 577-2115, Karen Rogers (415) 892-9608, and
Jim Baird (415) 897-7512



The Deacons will be sponsoring another blood drive on June 6 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Go to www.vitalant.org to register. Contact Janalee Holmes at (415) 898-8418 for more information.



JIGSAW PUZZLE SWAP Our next puzzle swap will be Saturday, July 17 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you want to drop off some puzzles, the donation box is in the office.



LITTER BEE CLEAN-UP in Novato! Join us for our next clean-up day on Saturday, June 5 from 9 to 10 a.m. Meet us at the PCN parking lot and wear your mask and bring gloves and tongs. Garbage bags provided.



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. The Zoom link is a series that runs through 2020; the same link can be accessed 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 7:30 a.m.** via Zoom. We have started a new study called "Old Testament Characters." The author writes "It is my prayer that we might be better participants in the shaping of God's drama today by our careful reflection on the successes and failures of the men and women who have gone before us." 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 Jane Sime at (415) 497-5158 or Gail Penfield at (415) 897-7929 for more information.



Community Outreach for PCN

We would like your help in spreading the word about PCN's online activities during this time of sheltering in place. 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. With everyone having to shelter in place, it's a good time to get the word out about our congregation and what God is up to through us!



Job Postings

We have been receiving a number of emails about job opportunities. We have received quite a few recently, so they have been compiled below. As I receive these listings before I'm able to publish them, please note that they may already be filled.

- North Marin Community Services is looking for a bookkeeper. You can reach them by calling (415) 892-1643.
- T-Mobile is looking for a Hometown Expert, Retail Field Sales in Novato. Go to www.tomobile.careers for more information.
- Camp EDOM has several positions for their in-person summer camps, including Site Coordinators, Learning Coordinators, Camp Instructors and Camp Counselors. Go to www.edmo.org/jobs for more information.

There are also a few churches with open positions.

The First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo is looking for a Communications & Office Administrator:

First Presbyterian Church, San Anselmo

Position: Communications and Office Administrator (25 hours per week)

First Presbyterian Church San Anselmo – an inclusive, justice-minded faith community – seeks a collaborative, welcoming **Communications and Office Administrator**. This position supports the church's life in community by (1) coordinating and administering communications and communication platforms; (2) administering the church office (including reservation of church facilities); and (3) providing effective and welcoming communication with congregational members and all who interact with the church. Applicants should be familiar with Constant Contact or MailChimp email platforms; Google Suite and Drive; and Servant Keeper or other Client Relationship Management (CRM) systems.

Must also have strong written and verbal communication skills and the ability to interact with a variety of people in a professional and welcoming manner.

To see a complete job description, visit <https://www.togetherweserve.org/job-opportunities>

To apply, send resume and cover letter to mail@togetherweserve.org

Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church
Part time Pianist/Accompanist

Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church, Petaluma, CA, seeks a skilled pianist to join our expanding music ministry team to start in mid-September when we can sing without COVID restrictions. You will cover Advent, Christmas (mid-September to end of December): 16 dates. Then to cover Lent, Easter (the Sunday after Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday): 9 dates. Then three special event dates totaling 28 dates to play during the year. Numbers will vary slightly each year. The pianist/accompanist will play piano for the congregation during church services and accompany the choir during rehearsals (just before or after worship services). This position reports to the choir director and is overseen by the pastor.

JOB DESCRIPTION

This position is year-round but only requires attendance at 25 Sundays and three special events. Expectation of attendance is for Sunday worship services, rehearsals with the choir (an hour before or after the worship hour), accompanying the praise band (time to be determined with members), instrumental solos, special music of voice solos or small ensembles.

SKILLS NEEDED

1. Ability to plan, prepare and play appropriate sacred music for scheduled worship services and other required occasions to support the music ministry of the church.
2. Ability to work with a variety of age groups and types of music (i.e. gospel, contemporary Christian, choir anthems, traditional hymns, classical violin music).
3. Ability to work well with others, taking direction from the choir director and pastor, and work as a team member.
4. Ability to be punctual and flexible.
5. Ability to rehearse with the choir, organist, praise band, and special music groups.
6. Ability to be sensitive and to interact with a variety of people.
7. Ability to communicate well and in a friendly manner with the church leadership, church choir, and members of the congregation.

ANTICIPATED TIME COMMITMENTS

1. Playing for 25 church services and 3 events (Choir Christmas Concert; Candlelight Service).
2. Accompany the choir.
3. Accompany voice, instrumental solos, small ensembles, praise band working with each for a time to rehearse.
4. Arrange for an acceptable substitute when unable to attend, with approval from the choir director.

COMPENSATION

Compensation is \$200 for each Sunday/event, or \$5600 per year, paid at the end of the month.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested applicants should submit a resume and references electronically or by mail to:

Pastor Cornelia Cyss-Carter, Ph.D
Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church
7063 Bodega Ave. Petaluma, CA 94952
trtompc@aol.com

Director of Youth Ministries

Job Description

Under the general direction of the Church Pastor, the Director of Youth Ministries provides a positive impact through Christian leadership and development and implementation of all facets of youth programs and activities for the church's middle school and high school aged youth.

Summary

The Director of Youth Ministries for the [First Presbyterian](#) Church of Eureka will minister to all students, both church family and non-church families, through planning and implementing midweek and Sunday youth group activities for middle and high school aged youth.

Salary

\$20 - 25 per hour, depending on experience.

The successful candidate will meet these qualifications and requirements:

- Strong and evident commitment to the Christian faith.
- Previous experience working with, teaching, and/or mentoring middle age and high school youth, preferably in a church setting.
- Ability to disciple middle school and high school aged youth.
- An understanding of the challenges and needs of our local youth and community.
- Strong organizational skills for curriculum and event planning and budget and record keeping.
- Effective communication skills with all constituents including parents, youth, church staff, and community leaders.
- Available for 20 hours per week including at least 2 evenings and Sunday mornings.
- Able to pass FBI and Department of Justice background checks and prove no substantiated ecclesial (church) complaints for offences related to harm or endangerment of a minor.

Program responsibilities

1. Prepare curriculum and coordinate volunteers to run middle school and high school midweek youth groups and Sunday school classes.
 - Develop a connection with students and their families.
 - Coordinate with the Pastor to provide regular opportunities for students to experience worship by participating in the church service and delivering programming to our larger congregation.
2. Plan, organize, and participate in youth trips, summer camps, missions work, and leadership activities.
3. Develop and plan special youth events during the year, including holiday programs for Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.
4. Mentor and supervise youth volunteers who participate in ministry and mission activities in the church.
5. Assist with Vacation Bible School (VBS) by serving on the VBS committee, recruiting youth volunteers, and assisting during our annual event.
6. Nurture, train, and equip a network of volunteer lay support for youth ministries.
7. Assist Homestay Committee during the homestay week by participating in the weekly homestay activities with youth and attending TLC with students.
8. Meet monthly with the Children and Youth Ministries committee to plan programs, curriculum, and budget and resources.
9. Participate in regular professional and spiritual development.

Please send resume and cover letter to FirstPresbyterianEureka@gmail.com.