



PresPress

January 2022

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

“Faithful Experimentation”

I loved science as a kid. I loved discovering how the building blocks of everything worked, how combinations of elements created new elements, and how knowing the properties of the smallest things could lead to the creation of new, complex things. But one of my favorite things about science was the inclusion of labs and experiments. I loved getting away from the book, from the memorization, and actually trying something out, seeing what the result might be, reflecting on what happened, and creating new experiments.

My favorite experiments were the ones in which we were not told what the outcomes would be. These experiments required educated guessing on our part, hypothesizing as to what outcome might be probable. And then we would do the experiment. Sometimes the hypothesis proved to be true, but other times the experiment would result in something unexpected. It might even look like it failed miserably. And we'd be forced to admit, “Well, that was fascinating!” And we would have to ask, “Why did that happen?” The experiment would teach us something new, something that could help us learn and grow for future experiments.

In many ways, PCN is going into 2022 prepped and ready to journey into the wilderness. The world has kept changing around us. A pandemic lingers. People aren't joining churches like they used to. We are going into an unknown future seeking to be faithful to Christ, worshiping together, sharing the gospel, building up the body of Christ, and serving those in need. But in the wilderness, there is no certainty. The patterns and models of ministry we have been accustomed to may or may not serve the purposes they used to serve. We may be in need of revising those patterns or learning new patterns that serve to live into our call.

You see the wilderness is a place of faithful experimentation. We don't have it all figured out, much like our brothers and sisters who journeyed through the wilderness following their escape from slavery in Egypt. They had to experiment, learn, struggle, adapt, trust in God more and more. And we, too, are having to learn together new practices and patterns of faithful discipleship in the wilderness: discipleship that welcomes and invites our neighbors into worship and community, that bridges cultural divides, that makes the gospel message accessible to a new generation. And the only

way to learn and grow is to experiment; to faithfully try new things, take risks, boldly go in directions previously untaken.

And some of these experiments will have the result we hope for. Others will fail. Others will have unexpected consequences. And all the while we will learn something new, something about the wilderness, something about how we are called to move.

In this wilderness we will have to be agile, adaptable, creative and imaginative. We will have to think and move outside the box, learn to grow accustomed to change, collaborate with and care for one another. We will have to be loving, forgiving, patient, and kind. We will have to lean on God more and more knowing that the promised land, while not in sight, is on the horizon.

This coming year, we will be working to “Building Connections in Christ.” We will create a new life group ministry that intentionally connects our members and visitors, expands our communication, and connects to the life and ministry of the church. We will be seeking staff to help administer this new ministry initiative. We will be working to build up our communications to help boost PCN’s visibility and presence within the community. We will be developing and expanding our focus on Emergency Response. We will be reforming our leadership model to reflect a more collaborative and agile approach to leadership.

This will be a year of hope-filled action, trying new things, and learning as we go. It is exciting and scary all at the same time. But we move in this direction putting our trust in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Blessings to you, dear saints, as we embark on this journey together.

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.

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

- Groceries needed monthly for **Center for Domestic Peace**. Leave a bag of unexpired, non-perishable groceries in the church office. No glass jars please. Groceries are picked up mid-month.
- **Vivalon (formerly Whistlestop)** is looking for part-time and full-time drivers. *Paid positions.* Fully paid training. Great benefits.
OPEN INTERVIEWS: Tuesdays 3:00-4:00 p.m.; Fridays 10:00-11:00 a.m.
www.Vivalon.org/jobs or call 415-456-9062 x562
- Join **PCN's Emergency Response Team** by participating in bimonthly Zoom meetings. You don't have to commit to all meetings; any help is appreciated. Contact Regina Rus at reginabrus@gmail.com.

Advent is a busy time of year when your mission committee has come to you with many needs in our community. Your contributions to **NORTH MARIN COMMUNITY SERVICES' HOLIDAY SHARE**, **groceries for CENTER 4 DOMESTIC PEACE**, The **ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIRE (a Christmas Christ would recognize)**, and the **CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** have all made a world of difference to our neighbors we know, and our neighbors we may never meet. Thank you so very much. (Figures for Alternative Christmas Faire and Christmas Joy Offering will be in February's PResPRes.)

CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE Thank you to Becky Erba for these lovely handmade pillowcases for the kids at Center 4 Domestic Peace. Forty lovely pillowcases were delivered last week and they are very much appreciated. And thank you, as always, for the groceries for the moms and kids at C4DP shelter.



WE VACCINATED

Matteo and Tadeo S.
Novato youth



We want everyone to be
safe in the **COMMUNITY.**

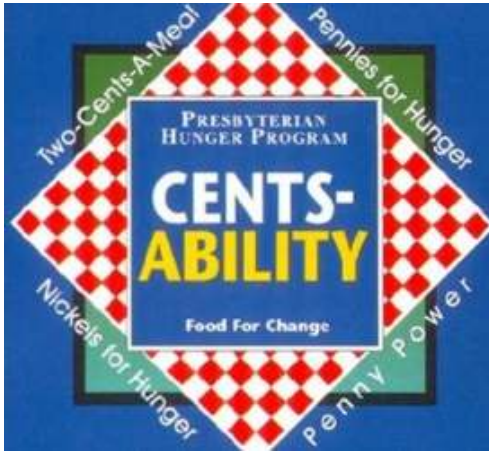


**Questions about Vaccination?
Call Us At (833) 422-4255**

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

Two Cents a Meal* Asks for Your Support

The Presbytery of the Redwoods Hunger Task Force has been hard at work this year, reviewing grant requests and funding 21 timely, creative, and necessary projects. Through your contributions and by



God's grace, we have awarded **\$29,425.00** to date to support hunger alleviation projects in our communities. This represents an increase of more than \$10,000 compared to the amount we granted in 2020 (\$18,675.00) Some of our 2021 grantees are:

Community Presbyterian Church, Vallejo which received \$2,500 on behalf of Rebuilding Together Solano County to provide fruits, vegetables, protein and non-perishables to low-income families, veterans, seniors, and disabled individuals in Solano County.

Church of the Roses, Santa Rosa which received \$2,000 to provide a daily free, hot, nutritious breakfast to Montgomery High School students in Santa Rosa with intentions of boosting academic performance and curbing low school attendance while providing students a safe place to gather before school.

Presbyterian Church of Novato, Novato which received \$1,000 to provide gift cards for groceries for individuals participating in The Showers at Novato, a mobile shower program for those in Marin County.

Presbyterian Church of the Redeemer, Fortuna which received \$4,250 on behalf of 2 community-based partners (River Life Foundation and St. Joseph's Food Pantry) to provide holiday meals and canned goods to the Humboldt County/Redwood Empire community along the North Coast.

The Hunger Task Force expects to receive additional applications for hunger relief projects in our Presbytery before December 31, 2021, but our current account balance is **\$1,065.83**. We will not be able to fully support requests for these life-changing projects or begin 2022 ready to support requests received in January without your continued financial support.

Please continue to contribute to Two Cents a Meal* as you feel and are able.

Thank you for your continued service to God, to the Church and to the World! May God continue to bless you and yours abundantly as you continue to be Jesus' hands and feet in the world!

Peace and blessings,
Presbytery of the Redwoods Hunger Task Force



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.

FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS



When attending worship in the sanctuary please sign the attendance sheets in the blue folders. These 'Friendship Folders' serve multiple purposes - visitors provide contact information so that we can follow up with them; writing your name down then passing the folder to the person next to you helps to remind us of our friends' names; and they let us know if someone might need checking on (e.g. a regular attendee suddenly stops attending). Thank you!



COME MAKE A PRAYER BLANKET Anyone can make a prayer blanket! It's fun and super easy. Save the date: Saturday, January 15th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Christensen room. Join us in making prayer blankets for those in need of prayers and comfort. Questions? Contact Tonya Church at tonya.church@comcast.net or Laurie Dougherty at lwdougherty@me.com.



Session Highlights December 2021

At the December 15, 2021 Session meeting:

- The Session met in a hybrid format: in-person and via Zoom
- Session approved a 2022 budget of \$899,083.00
- Membership & Outreach Elder Beverly Winsor provided an update on plans to launch a new, introductory “community life group” program
- Mission Elder Regina Rus provided an update on the Novato Emergency Response Team program in which PCN will participate.

Kathy Takemoto, Clerk of Session



Custodian Position -- First Presbyterian San Anselmo

First Presbyterian Church San Anselmo is looking for a custodian who will provide the essential cleaning and maintenance services for the church buildings and grounds which may include minor repairs to electrical system, heating system, plumbing, and masonry and also support the use of the church buildings by the congregation and by outside renters. This is a 25-hour a week position.

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

Read more about this job opportunity by clicking the following link:

<https://www.togetherweserve.org/job-opportunities>

The Church of the Roses, Santa Rosa, is seeking a part-time Director of Family Ministries.

If interested, email a resume to the church office at: office@churchoftheroses.org.



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study will resume on Thursday, January 6, 2022. We will be meeting in the Christensen room, but we will be continuing to use Zoom as well. We meet from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. If you need a guidebook (***Life Change: 1 & 2 Samuel***), the cost is \$7.00. Contact Carol to arrange getting your copy.

Women's Bible Class Link:

The link to class is the same every week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81726330698?pwd=a1hvY1JUOFV1OFRXUitrc05FaTBZUT09>

We will be studying chapter 9 about the "***The Kindness of the King.***" The Kingdom of God is unlike any human society. It is a kingdom of perfect justice and righteousness. While David's kingdom was not perfect (far from it, as we shall see), in his reign something of the characters of the kingdom of God was on display. King David "did justice and righteousness for all his people."

However, what we are about to see in 2 Samuel is astonishing. It is not what most of us would expect in a kingdom of "justice and righteousness."

Come and join us and find out what is astonishing in 2 Samuel.

Grace and Peace,
Melodie Baird, Carol Dacquisto, and Margaret Costello



In the next quarter of the Sunday Morning Adult Study Group, we will be studying “**Justice, Law, History**” from books of the Old Testament: Pentateuch, 2 Samuel, Ezra, Job, Isaiah, and Nahum.

Quarterly Preview:

Justice originates in the nature of God and is given to God’s people as a gift under the Law. Unit 1 explores how David demonstrates justice by showing kindness to Mephibosheth. Isaiah describes a reign of justice and righteousness through the Messiah, while Nahum shows God’s justice to Judah’s enemies.

Unit 2 focuses on God’s justice in the face of human injustice, with stories about Cain’s murder of Abel as well as the plight of Hagar and Ishmael. Exodus and Deuteronomy discuss how judges, officials, and priests work together to administer justice for all.

Unit 3 deals with situations in which justice seems absent such as David’s injustice toward Uriah, and when Ezra determines to restore respect for God’s Law. Scriptures from Job question the presence of God’s justice when Job suffered greatly.

We are meeting in the library from 8:30-9:30 a.m., and we are also continuing to use Zoom for those who can’t attend in person. The link is the same every week:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87972311041?pwd=VU9ndGcwM04vRmJSWVgwZ0RWN1lpdz09>

We will be looking forward to seeing you on Sunday mornings – come and join us!

James Baird, 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=Yy9ub1pReGdMTHVhbDJpRzhHVVdHQ09>

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 "Abiding in Christ." 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!

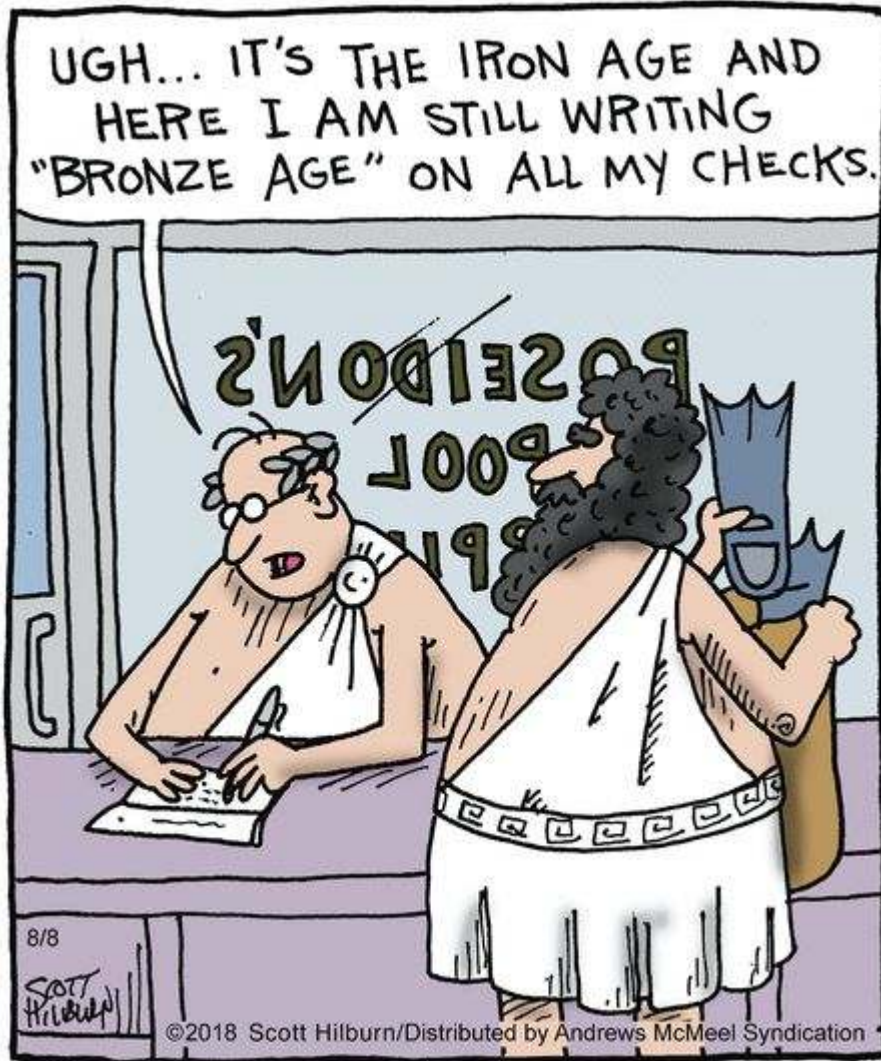


If, during this unprecedented time, you find yourself in need of someone to talk to, the Stephen Ministers are here to listen, and all conversations are confidential. Please contact Jane Sime at (415) 497-5158 or Gail Penfield at (415) 897-7929 for more information.



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!



The staff at PCN wish you all a healthy, happy and safe 2022!