



PresPress

March 2022

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

Gospel-ish?

What is the gospel? Well, if we are going to ‘preach the gospel...to the ends of the earth,’ we should have some kind of answer. And we know it. The gospel is Jesus. It’s the ‘good news’ of Jesus life, death, and resurrection that has given us new life and made us one again with God.

But is it that simple? Yes & No.

Some scholars argue that the Apostle Paul and the other disciples preached different gospels. The discovery of Gnostic gospels shows that the early church in fact had different variations and versions of the good news. Sure, it all centered around Jesus, but they were different in understanding theological significance.

Even today, are there not different ‘working gospels’ that we see take shape in our nation? I don’t know how many times I have heard that saying, ‘just believe the gospel,’ when people ask about the heart of faithfulness. And some might wonder, “which version?”

In his article titled, “Own Your Working Gospel,” Frank A Thomas writes: “Some of the most prominent working gospels functioning in the American environment today include: the gospel of American sentimentalism, the gospel of American exceptionalism, the prosperity gospel, the gospel of denominationalism, the evangelical gospel, and the social-justice gospel.”

The **American Sentimentalism gospel** is the American civil religion. It’s the, ‘when-tragedy-strikes-the-nation’ gospel that rallies the country, issues moments of silence, offers thoughts and prayers, and sings “Amazing Grace.” It’s a cultural religion of America. It has little to do with someone being or not being a Christian.

There is the **gospel of American exceptionalism**; a gospel that has little to no boundary between religion and nationalism. It stems from “the vision of “a city set up on a hill,” a paraphrase of Matthew 5:14 spoken by John Winthrop to his fellow passengers in 1619 in a sermon at sea on the Arabella, reminding them that New England was a model for future settlements and the “eyes of all the people are upon us.” (John Winthrop’s ‘City on a Hill’ speech).

This gospel sees America as the ‘divine chosen,’ superior to other nations and peoples in all ways, set apart to be a light for all others. Many churches today still mix the Bible, and the American flag, and capitalist culture to preach a gospel of American exceptionalism.

What about the prosperity gospel? This is that gospel that takes scripture as a divine mandate that says, “if you are faithful, then God will prosper you in all ways: health, wealth, family, and even material things.” It’s a transactional gospel: Do this and you will be rewarded.

The prosperity gospel seems to allude hardship, struggle, and has no answer for why bad things happen to faithful people. But it is extremely popular in many denominations and churches because it promises the very earthly desires that are our constant temptation.

Then there is the **gospel of denominationalism**. Though I feel like this one is less prominent today than it was 20 years ago, there is sometimes an unabashed loyalty to the theological tenets of a particular denomination or brand of Christianity sometimes to the exclusion of all other ideas, beliefs, and tenets.

Growing up in the Presbyterian youth group, I remember hearing the phrase, “Once Presbyterian, always Presbyterian.” There was somehow this fierce push toward denominational loyalty. It is often reinforced with teaching and preaching particularly from the denomination’s founding father(s) and his/their theological lens(es).

In recent days, we have seen this denominationalism gospel on display when theological disagreements have led to the splitting of denominations over issues such as the ordination of LGBTQ individuals, over allowing women in leadership roles, and others.\

The **evangelical gospel** is another form that has arisen in recent decades, but it has been reenvisioned even more recently during the candidacy and presidency of Donald Trump. 84% of those who self-identified as ‘evangelical’ supported Mr. Trump’s candidacy, platforms, and politics. The evangelical gospel is often found combined with the American exceptionalism gospel. This has become a strong political lobbyist power within our nation.

Frank A. Thomas writes in his article: “To briefly define the evangelical gospel, consider this list that identifies how evangelical respondents strongly agree with these four statements:

1. The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe.
2. It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior.
3. Jesus Christ’s death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin.
4. Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God’s free gift of eternal salvation.”

While most Christians might nod their heads at these statements, there are distinctions. The Bible’s interpretation and authority is primarily based on a more literal perspective of the texts. Literary and historical genre often give way for a timeless text in which context is not as important. Cherry picking verses is ‘okay’ because it is all ‘God-breathed’ down to the last pronoun.

Evangelism is often about ‘saving souls’ rather than sharing good news in gratitude.

Another **gospel is that of social justice**. This has grown more and more in recent years even though it has been around for centuries. The idea is that the work of the gospel is to help change and transform the social and economic conditions of people as well as the salvation of their souls. Historically this included our ethical response to issues such as poverty, hunger, clean water,

workers' rights, equal access, etc. The term social justice really became prominent with the work and ministry of Martin Luther King, Jr.

In his article, Thomas writes: "Contemporary social justice issues might include mass incarceration, sex trafficking, environmental justice, gender equality, equal rights for LGBTQI communities, police violence, and crony capitalism."

This gospel has picked up steam in recent years, particularly in mainline denominations who have been working on clarifying their identity as institutions and denominations within the larger Body of Christ. The millennial and xennial generations are prone toward action when rectifying acts of injustice. The social justice gospel, like the evangelical gospel, has become a political powerhouse in recent years.

So what gospel are we supposed to be sharing?

Which working gospel is the correct one? Don't we have to know before we share it?

Each working gospel above is shaped by a particular lens through which the Church (and even those outside the Church) make sense of the good news of Jesus. It is easy for us to be critical of those that do not fit our particular lens, but I often wonder if the ambiguity and perspectives are not a blessing? I'm not saying that each working gospel is without blemish or flaw. Most even carry with them some degree of danger for society when taken alone. But the blessing, should we take the time to listen to one another, is the opportunity to rediscover a gospel that is more than we can contain, more than we can understand, more than what is in our personal 'gospel box.'

I often wonder if we mainline churches might learn a thing or two from the passion with which our brothers and sisters who ascribe to an evangelical gospel share Jesus with the world; Or how we might learn more of the profound works of John Wesley to inform our reformed understanding of things. I often wonder if the message of prosperity that connects with so many people, might be reframed in light of having 'fullness of life' in Jesus in our church messaging? Does the gospel that bleeds over into our American cultural religion offer an opportunity for the Church to see and share the gospel differently using this unique, yet imperfect, bridge?

Perhaps some questions we might ask ourselves when we are thinking about our call to share the gospel include, "What working gospel do I use?" Which of the ones above shape my view? What are their benefits and flaws? Each of us carries our own unique working gospel that is imperfect and yet that is what we are called to share with the world. Sometimes in order to share good news, we have to do the work of untangling that news from the lenses through which it has passed, to understand the shortcomings of our own lens, and to leave room for something more. Maybe all we can do is share our transformation story, how we moved from darkness and into God's amazing light, and that Jesus was responsible for it, and then leave it at that.

But that, my friends, is up to you. What do you think?

In faithfulness & love,
Adam

Much of this article's information comes from an article posted at MinistryMatters.com entitled, "Own Your Working Gospel." Feel free to check out this source for more information.



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



CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE Thank you for all the C4DP groceries again this month. It's fun to see the wide variety and all of it is tremendously appreciated. We're collecting groceries again! Please bring your donations of non-perishable groceries, specifically rice, pasta, pasta sauce, cans of beans, sugar, flour, chocolate and juice are requested. C4DP serves women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. Pledged groceries (double-bagged, please, and not too heavy!) can be dropped off at the church office March 14 and 15.



Gardening Project

From Mark Hare and Jenny Bent, our PC (USA) missionaries in Costa Rica

Mark Hare & Jenny Bent have been busy. Mark's photos and his descriptions show how the garden is laid out and made. The end result, a large garden of 'mini' raised beds is impressive and looks like it will be quite productive!

"The first three photos are from the second week of January, when we started work on our next gardening project, creating a circular gardening space about 176 square yards, one form of what is sometimes referred to as a mandala.

First photo: left to right: Jenny, David and Johan measuring out the mandala. David is a Bolivian pastor currently working as a truck driver in Canada. He graduated from the UBL in the 1980s and decided to spend two weeks with us volunteering. Johan is an agronomy student from the Costa Rican University. He is doing 300 hours of volunteer work with us.



Second photo: David laying out the rings of the mandala with banana leaves.

Third photo: The rings of the mandala laid out.



Fourth photo: Hypatia, Emily, Keila and Annika. Hypatia is Jenny's sister who came with their mom from Nicaragua to spend a month with us. Emily is a friend of a volunteer working at the UBL who loves to garden and asked to work with us for a couple of days. Hypatia came with Keila and Annika this past Thursday to help me plant new lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, and some other odds and ends".



2021 Community Impact Report



PREVENTING HUNGER

- 677 households (2,490 people) accessed our weekly Tuesday food pantry at our Novato Blvd Center. Our volunteers distributed 12,639 bags of groceries, with food provided by SF-Marin Food Bank and Extrafoods.org.
- Our stocked non-perishable food pantry (open Monday through Friday) served those in need of additional food support.
- Child Development Food Program served 55,000 freshly prepared, nutritious meals (breakfast and lunch) and snacks to ensure all students were nourished for optimal learning and growth, providing a critical safety-net service to low-income working families.



PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS

- We helped 1,255 people remain housed with emergency financial assistance that included emergency rental assistance, assistance with security deposits and payment of utility bills.
- \$745,800 in emergency rental assistance was provided to 244 low-income households in our community.



ADVANCING HEALTH & WELLNESS

- Our case managers connected 1,849 people to key support services (emergency food and financial assistance, childcare, and educational opportunities) to advance their economic stability and emotional well-being.
- As lead to the Novato Community Response Team, NMCS developed a vast outreach network and with our 21 Promotors/Community Health Advocates and community partners to reduce the number of eligible, yet unvaccinated people in Novato by 68%; provide health education to 55,000 vulnerable/highly susceptible people; and facilitate 6,419 COVID-19 vaccinations and 400 COVID-19 tests.
- NMCS expanded its Mental Health Team to 18 mental health professionals to serve the growing demand for our mental health services in Novato's schools, in the community and via our Novato Teen Clinic. We served 850 people with brief mental health interventions, crisis interventions and individual, family and group therapy.



ADDRESSING LONG-TERM CHANGE in our community

- More intensive case management programs Amigos de la Familia and Thriving Family Initiative enabled 89 program participants to achieve long-term economic stability. For example, 83% of those who engaged in six months of case management services experienced increased financial stability (measured by the Arizona Self-Sufficiency Matrix).
- 50% of Child Development families received financial support, enabling them to work, attend school and advance their economic well-being.
- NMCS advocated for policy changes to improve the social determinants of health for vulnerable populations: Affordable housing and tenant protections; Universal childcare access; End Child Poverty in California; Voter registration; Guaranteed income programs, Financial assistance and income tax credits to support economically vulnerable people; Access to basic needs during public health/emergencies and fair wages and benefits.



ENSURING EXCELLENCE

- NMCS received the Heart of Marin Achievement in Nonprofit Excellence Award in January, 2022.
- NMCS led the Novato Community Response Team and helped strengthen Novato's public health and emergency/disaster infrastructure.
- NMCS staff and board members participated in monthly diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings.



STORIES OF IMPACT



HOLIDAY SHARE

Holiday Share served the highest number of children (468) in 2021.

Food pantry volunteers shared stories from a typical week:

- The single mom with young kids who isn't making enough money in her job at a big-box retailer to provide the basics. She stops by the pantry in a rush to take kids to school and tells the volunteers how much she appreciates the fresh fruit and vegetables.
- An unhoused couple rely on the weekly food pantry and nonperishable food items during the week.
- A family man with a master's degree who was suddenly unemployed came for a protein box to cook for his family (milk, eggs, vegetables and fruit).

“When cars come through to pick up the groceries, we hear... ‘I don’t know how I’d make it without you.’ They are so gracious.”

– Cindy Stern, lead food pantry volunteer and recipient of the 2021 Community Pandemic Assistance Award

Enjoy more stories of impact at: www.northmarincs.org/videos.

Food for the Needy

Contributor: Mike Robinson

Over the past two years, we have all been suffering through a pandemic of enormous impact. Some have experienced loss of income, job loss, isolation, and various issues that have taken a tremendous toll on us. Some have suffered from the inability to have enough food to feed their families. This has resulted in the rise of the number of organizations that provide food for those in need. As these organizations have evolved, so has the need for more people to become involved with the preparation and distribution of food to those in need.

Over the past few months, my wife, Carol, and I have volunteered weekly at a food pantry in Rohnert Park to help prepare food for distribution to those in need in the Rohnert Park community. This pantry is sponsored by several churches in Rohnert Park as well as the Rotary Club and local High School.

Each Wednesday, we go to the pantry and wait for a truck from the Redwood Empire Food Bank to deliver food for preparation and distribution. Once the truck arrives, we store the packaged food in various rooms. Additionally, we prepare tables of produce for clients to collect during the distribution.



As the clients pass through the pantry, they are given food from the various rooms including, canned goods, bread, eggs, milk, and prepackaged dinners such as Amy burritos and pot pies.

Additionally, they are given meat products such as hamburger, chickens, ham, and even turkeys during the Thanksgiving and Christmas season. After the client passes through the pantry, they arrive at the produce tables where they can select the various

items of produce (potatoes, carrots, onions, apples, pears, etc.) that they may need. This pantry distributes food to approximately 65 to 75 clients per week.

After volunteering there for a period of time, Carol and I spoke to the director and mentioned that there was a need at the North Marin Community Services (NMCS) for food products to help with their distribution to those in need in Novato. We also mentioned that there was a need for food at the Gilead House and Center for Domestic Peace (C4DP). The director of the pantry said she was happy to provide these organizations with any surplus food items.

Since we spoke with the director, we have been delivering the surplus food items to these organization on a weekly basis. In addition to distributing these surplus foods to the Novato organizations, we have also delivered food to the Mary Isaac Center (COTS) in Petaluma and Gospel Mission Inn in Santa Rosa. COTS has 80 rooms for the homeless and serves 3 meals a day. The Gospel Mission Inn in Santa Rosa also houses and feeds homeless in Santa Rosa. Both COTS and Gospel Mission Inn have rehabilitation services for those in need.

The following is a list of food items distributed to these organization since the beginning of 2022.

- 8 cases of canned vegetarian beans (96 cans)
- 8 cases of Kraft Macaroni and Cheese (280 boxes)
- 12 cases of Kind bars (96 boxes of 4 bars)
- 6 cases of Pepperidge Farms Stuffing Mix (72 bags)
- 4 boxes of Pancake Mix (32 x 4 lb. bags)
- 4 boxes of Spaghetti (48 boxes)
- 4 boxes of Brown Rice (32 bags)
- 50 lb. bag of onions
- 4 large boxes of Oranges
- 2 large boxes of Potatoes
- 1 large box of Green Apples
- 2 large boxes of pairs
- 10 bags of assort produce (carrots, potatoes, onions, and fruit)
- 50 loaves of assorted bread (sour dough, English muffins, pita pockets, baguettes, etc.)

The purpose of this writing is not to impress you with this effort in this distribution of food but to provide the awareness that there is a need available that we, at PCN, can serve. NMCS is in continuing need of non-perishable food for their distribution. NMCS also needs bags for their distribution. If you have extra grocery bags, you can take them and your excess non-perishables to the NMCS office at 1907 Novato Blvd. and drop them off with the receptionist.

The Center for Domestic Peace (C4CP) continues to need non-perishables every month. Please continue to bring those non-perishables to the church office for pick each month. Contact Barbara Gildea for more information.

There are also volunteer opportunities available at the San Francisco-Marin Food Bank to help prepare and box food for delivery to the various pantries in Marin and for delivery to those in need. **Mission Committee Elder Regina Rus is organizing a team from PCN to volunteer together on a regular basis (see separate article). Or you can volunteer on your own,** for more information, please visit their website at <https://www.sfmfoodbank.org/volunteer/>.

If you would like to assist with the program that Carol and I volunteer with or have any questions, please contact Mike Robinson as 415-302-1729 or email at skybird24@comcast.net.



There is no vaccine for **HUNGER.**

SF Marin Food Bank – Let's Build a PCN Team!

Volunteering for the food bank is a rewarding experience you can fit into your schedule. We are building a PCN team that will allow us to easily sign up for shifts at the San Rafael warehouse located at 2550 Kerner Blvd.

We will build a PCN team and sign up for Wednesday 12noon to 2pm shifts starting March 16. Invite your friends and family to join our team.

Please let Regina Bianucci Rus know if you would like to be on the team, and which Wednesdays work for you (March 16, 23, 30) reginabrus@gmail.com, or call 415-497-2212 and leave a message. Depending on response, we will either change the day of the week, or sign up for every other week going forward.

Description

Masks are required indoors and outdoors -

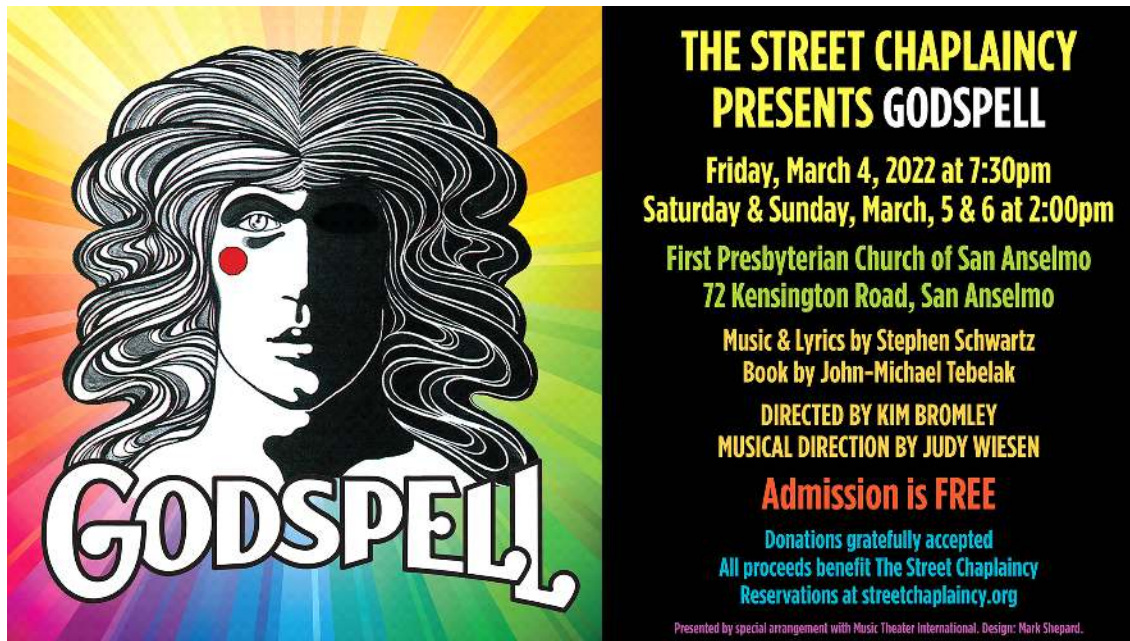
Help us sort through grocery store donations, glean produce, build grocery bags for home delivery, help with a drive-thru pantry distribution, and other various tasks as needed.

Capacity for each opportunity remains relatively low in order to ensure enough space for social distancing – please only volunteer if you have responded to an opportunity.

We encourage you to consider your own health before deciding to volunteer.

Individuals and teams may respond to a shift below. Learn how to respond as a Team. While an individual may start a Team reservation, we ask that each Team member create an account and join the Team.

Orientation and training are included in each shift. Volunteers MUST be 11 years or older and minors must be accompanied by an adult.



First Presbyterian Church of San Anselmo is hosting a free benefit performance to support the work of The Street Chaplaincy. This year **Godspell is back live** with three performances (2 Matinees) all at FPCSA! March 4-6th.

It is a benefit performance to support the work of the chaplaincy. All donations will go directly to TSC. Reservations can be made at www.streetchaplaincy.org under the events tab. People can also make donations online at our site prior to the show if they choose. Masks are required and seating is limited so please register.



**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.

ALL CHURCH MARDI GRAS PANCAKE SUPPER



We are happy to announce the return of Mardi Gras! To celebrate the day before Lent (Shrove Tuesday) you and your families are invited to join us for a Pancake Supper! We will gather at the Presbyterian Church March 1st at 5:30 for mask making, have dinner at 6:00 and parade to the sanctuary for an opportunity to give our hurts and worries to God! This year also marks the 500th year anniversary of the Sausage Reformation! Say what? True story! Hear more about that too!

This is a special event for the whole congregation: something for everyone!! Bring your friends and neighbors! Join us for this annual event and let's start off Lent with a very special celebration!





Session

Session Highlights - February 16, 2022

In February, Session approved:

- Voiding the vote for approval of the PCN bylaws change taken at the Congregational Meeting on January 30, 2022, based on insufficient notice and error in parliamentary procedure. A new vote will be taken at a future congregational meeting with:
 - proper notice
 - a copy of the bylaws with noted change
 - the job description of the Treasurer role
 - process for selecting the Treasurer
 - Reaffirmation that the Treasurer is approved annually by Session as is the President and Secretary of the Corporation.
- Proposed improvements and additions from Good Shepherd Lutheran School (GSLS):
 - Use of the Stephen Ministry room for private counselor meetings with students. The room will be painted, have a hardwood floor installed, and be furnished with new furniture. Good Shepherd Lutheran School will pay for these improvements. The Stephen Ministry program has approved these changes.
 - Installation of new white boards in all classrooms
 - Installation of a large TV in the school office to be used for professional development classes
 - Installation of a bell and emergency warning system. Property will investigate if the equipment can be extended to the first floor of the Education Building for use as an emergency warning system.

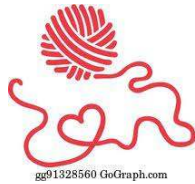
All of these improvements will be paid for by GSLS. The Property Committee will oversee and approve all work.
- Motion from the Personnel Committee to budget \$7,400 in benefits for the Communications Director position to align benefits with the Youth Director position of \$5,400 for health care coverage and \$2,000 for automobile and professional expenses.

Information Items:

Christian Education Committee is working to meet requirements of AB-506 *Youth service organizations: child abuse and neglect prevention*. Volunteers will undergo background checks and instruction on sexual harassment and mandated reporting of child abuse.

Personnel Committee is developing a Bookkeeper job description

Kathy Takemoto, Clerk of Session



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.

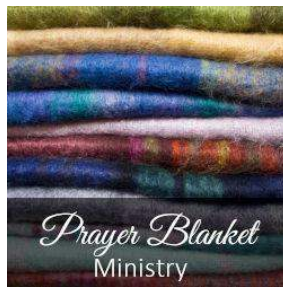
Cheryl Paddock, CEO, wrote:

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.

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. You can filter by vaccine type, eligibility age group, or drop-in and appointment availability. Appointment availability is updated at 10:30am, Monday through Friday. Availability is subject to change in afternoons or on weekends/holidays and will be updated on the following business day.

You can also find a retail pharmacy vaccination site on the website. You can text your **zip code** to **438829** or call **1-800-232-0233** to find your nearest vaccine option.

A big advantage to being fully vaccinated is the ability to take off your mask inside in most situations, but, if possible, continue to wear them to protect yourself and others.

Marin County has a long way to go to get to the endemic phase. Less than one half of the Latinx population and pediatric residents have been vaccinated. Let's be prepared if there is another surge! Get your family and friends vaccinated!

Here are some other resources if you are interested:

Covid-19 Data: <https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/surveillance> Testing:

<https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/vaccine/pediatrics> Booster Shot Information:

<https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/VaccineBooster> Isolation & Quarantine Guidelines:

<https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/isolation-and-quarantine> Vaccine Truths:

<https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/vaccine/truths> Communications Toolkit: Health Updates:

<https://coronavirus.marinhhs.org/updates>

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

(Johnson & Johnson, Moderna and Pfizer)

Look for a "Marin County Mobile Vaccination Unit" sign

March 2

1:30PM- 5:30PM

- 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

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



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

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

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

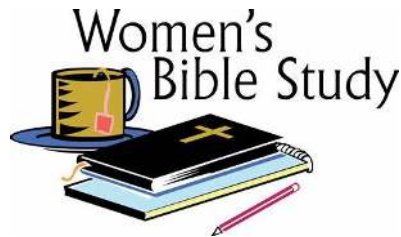
The finished product will look similar to this:



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 meets every Thursday morning from 9:30-11:00 A.M. as we continue our study in 2nd Samuel on "Zoom". We only have one requirement – we need your **"email" address** so that we can officially invite you to join our meeting. To be added to our **"Zoom"** contact list, email Melodie Baird at melodie.baird@gmail.com or call her at 415-897-7512 for more information.

We will be studying 2 Samuel 13 and we will be finding one of the most disturbing stories in the whole Bible. It is a story that will affect some readers deeply. One of its most disturbing aspects (more disturbing than might at first appear) is that it is a story of like father, like son.

There are five main characters in the story. First there was **David**. He is the main human character in the book of 2 Samuel. He was God's chosen king over the Lord's chosen people of Israel.

Second, in 2 Samuel 13 we will meet **Amnon**, David's eldest son. Amnon was at this time the most obvious candidate to inherit David's throne.

Third, we will also meet another son of David, **Absalom**. Amnon and Absalom were both David's sons but had different mothers. They were half-brothers.

The fourth character to mention is **Tamar**. She was David's daughter and Absalom's sister. She was, Amnon's half-sister.

A fifth relatively minor character in the story is **Jonadab**. He was David's nephew and Amnon's and Absalom's cousin. He is described in the story as a "friend" of Amnon.

The story is carefully and brilliantly told, building to its terrible turning point and then the aftermath. It is a story that moves from "love" in verse 1 to hatred in verse 22.

Ladies, we hope that each of you will join us to see how each of these people interact and the trouble that has been prophesied for David's house as a consequence of his adultery and murder, (2 Samuel 12).

The "Zoom" link is

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

Meeting ID: 894 3253 1783

Passcode: pcnovato

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



In the next quarter of the Sunday Morning Adult Study Group, we will be studying “**God Frees and Redeems**” from the books of Ezra, Deuteronomy, Matthew, John, Romans, and Galatians.

Quarterly Preview: March-May 2022

This quarter uses the lens of liberation, Christian freedom, to examine and experience the nature of god, who acts to deliver and free people in different situations.

Unit 1 explores in Ezra and Deuteronomy the memory of the liberating event of the Exodus as the Jewish people came back from exile and rebuilt the temple.

Unit 2 looks at the liberating freedom found in Matthew’s description of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem and continuing through His death and resurrection.

In Unit 3, lessons based on Romans and Galatians explore Paul’s understanding of the radical nature of Christian freedom, concluding with the fruit of the Spirit emanating from that freedom.

We will be meeting in the Library from 8:30-9:30 A.M. and we are also continuing to use “Zoom”. The link is the same every week. The link is

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

Meeting ID: 884 0194 9220

Password: pcnovato

Grace and Peace,

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=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 "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!



Office Administrative Assistant Position -- Covenant Presbyterian Napa

The Covenant Presbyterian Church has an immediate opening for an Office Administrative Assistant.

20 hrs per week/5 hrs Mon-Thurs.

Please submit a resume to:

Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1226 Salvador Ave, Napa, CA 94558

You may drop off your resume to the CPC church office, drop in the mail slot if the office is closed, or you may email your information to bdirector@aol.com, chairperson of personnel committee.

The personnel committee along with the pastor will interview potential candidates and submit finalists to the church session.

