



PresPress

December 2025

Presbyterian Church of Novato, 710 Wilson Ave., Novato, CA 94947

**“Sharing the Table With A Changing Body”
by Pastor Tony**

Over the years at the Presbyterian Church of Novato, you have shared the Table of the Lord in so many different ways. From what are called *intinction services*, where you come forward or have servers come to you so you can dip elements in a shared cup. From services where you stay in your seats and *trays are passed* with individual elements. To *single-service pre-packaged communion elements* passed out before service and taken during communion. To sharing the Table of the Lord *from your own tables in your homes in a virtual online worship* experience during COVID and during medical recoveries, using whatever communion elements you had available. I remember during COVID using bagels at home on some Sundays when I didn't have regular bread available, and using other kinds of juice when I ran out of grape juice in my home. Who knew coffee could be a communion cup! Regardless of who we celebrated the meal, we were committed to sharing the Table of the Lord together, as one body.

Once again, my friends, our church family is having a conversation about how our current practices help us or hinder us from sharing the Table of the Lord together as one body. In a discernment discussion that began in the Worship Team monthly meeting and grew to the Session monthly meeting, we revisited our communion practices and asked ourselves, ***“Is there a way we can share the Table together? Can we even share the specific elements of the meal together instead of breaking apart the communion service to different groups in the room and online?”*** You may not realize it, but our current practices push us to come to the Table separately and take the elements individually rather than together. How so? You ask.

First, we ask people with mobility differences to raise their hands, which requires them to be centered and pointed out so they can be served. For some people with mobility differences, this is neither helpful nor welcome.

Then, we have everyone else come forward in lines to take elements individually.

Then, we serve the Media team in the booth.

Then, we serve the choir.

Then, we serve the worship director, communion servers, and the pastor.

All the while, those gathering with us online are not included in the taking of the elements or the words shared with individuals during our intinction and passing of trays.

This has caused the Worship Team and the Session to ask, ***“Is there a way we can take this meal together. All at once, consume each element at the same time, and share the same elements in the Sanctuary and in virtual worship?”*** We believe there is, and beginning in January, we are going to adopt a new communion practice to help us share the Table together and consume each element together.

We are going to use a single-service communion resource that will be available in the church office for those who worship from home to pick up before communion on Sunday, or have it delivered by friends in the congregation to them per their own arrangements. Below is a picture of this particular single-service communion resource that comes in gluten and gluten-free forms.



For those who gather with us in the Sanctuary in person, servers will pass out these individual cups at the door before service as people arrive. There will be baskets at the doors at the end of worship to collect the individual cups. We have chosen to use TrueVine cups because they are double-sided and much easier to open than the version we used before, which had a double-top (see below). The TrueVine single-service cups also do not use the wafer, which was less appealing to many people; instead, they use a cracker.



When we approach this part of worship, the Pastor will invite everyone online, in-person, and those leading in parts of worship to come together to consume each element in one unified act. First, the bread element on the bottom of the single-serving resource, and then the cup on the top, and join in a moment of prayer following each element being consumed. That means that everyone online and in person will take the elements together at the same time. Including all choir, band, media members, and the Pastor. One Table, one meal, for one body. No individual will be asked to acknowledge mobility differences or special service needs; no one will have to wait until after everyone else to take the meal; instead, as one church (virtual and in-person), we will celebrate the Lord's love feast together.

The Worship Team and the Session realize that with this change, we are losing practices such as certain bread choices and no longer having wine as a choice. ***We will adopt this change from January through April and revisit it as a practice in May.*** We invite you to share your experiences with us about the change by contacting the church office. Comments will be captured and shared with the Pastor, Worship Team, and the Session. We will report back to you in the April *Pres Press* with the feedback we have received and whether we will continue this practice or return to our former practices.

With great hope for the possibilities this change to our practices will bring as we come to the Table together, as one body, *Pastor Tony*



Session

Session Highlights – November 2025

At the November 19, 2025, Stated Session meeting:

- Session received the Nominating Committee's recommendation to approve Robert Coleman, Karen Marks, Becky Moser, Delane Ramser, and Greg Smith for the Mission Study Team. Session approved this recommendation. A current Mission Study report is needed as part of the Call process for a new installed pastor.
- Received an update from the Pastor on work to become a Guest Welcoming church. Bids are being sought by December 14, 2025, from studios who can create a new PCN logo, letterhead, worship bulletin, welcome packet materials, and digital tools for use with social media.
- Session approved the Worship Team request for a trial period, January – April 2026, to use single serve communion elements. Communion elements will be distributed as worshippers enter the sanctuary; worshippers will dispose of the cup upon exiting the sanctuary after worship. This change will no longer require congregants to walk forward to received communion and permit all in the sanctuary and on-line to participate in communion together. Input from the congregation will be solicited in April 2026 regarding this change in serving communion.
- Finance & Administration gave an update on 2025 expenditures and income. Committees/Teams are asked to reduce spending if possible and remain within budget. F&A will present a 2026 budget to Session in January 2026 as they are awaiting additional pledge cards. Membership growth at PCN is critical in developing sustainability in the coming years.

Kathy Takemoto, Clerk of Session



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.

DECEMBER MISSION OPPORTUNITY!

Please visit our Christmas Sharing Tree



Sundays, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7

and pick up a tag(s) to ***Bring Joy and Hope***
to the moms and kids at Gilead House

Please return gifts with the **tag attached** by December 18th to church

Sharing Tree 2025 for Gilead House

Please take a gift tag of any \$ amount off our PCN Sharing Tree in the narthex Sunday, November 30th through Sunday, December 7th. Return your gift card **with the TAG attached**, to the narthex or office by Thursday, December 18th. Our participation brings Christmas joy to the mothers and children of this **FAITH BASED** charity which we have supported for decades. Any questions, contact Carolyn Gerrans at 415-328-1578 or grace624@comcast.net.

Holiday Share 2025 for North Marin Community Services

NMCS is again hosting a community-wide holiday and toy event. Go to www.northmarincns.org home page and click on 'Holiday Share'. You can provide toys from a child's wish list, buy a Target, Ross, or Amazon gift card for teens, volunteer to collect & sort toys in early December, or decorate and set up the week before Christmas. Over 700 children felt the joy of Christmas wishes fulfilled last year, which was NMC's 53rd year of leading Holiday Share. Any questions, contact Carolyn Gerrans at 415-328-1578 or grace624@comcast.net.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING will be taken on December 21. Help our denomination support disadvantaged youth in furthering their education, plus support retired church workers in financial/medical straits.



2025 Alternative Christmas Faire



There are many organizations that are in need of help, and we know the congregation has stepped up to help out for many years to support the organizations sponsored by PCN. The Mission Team is organizing the annual "Alternative Christmas Faire" event. This "in-person" event will follow the church service on December 7. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#) to access the Alternative Christmas Faire detailed document. This document is also available in hard-copy form in the church office.

For those who are unable to attend the 'in-person' event, donations to the organizations sponsored in the event can be mailed to the church by December 15 using the order form on the following page. The following organizations are included in the Alternative Christmas Faire.

Homeward Bound

NOAH (Neighbors Organized Against Hunger)

Heifer

Faith in Practice

Presbyterian Giving

Boy Scout Troop 200

Hope Opens Doors

Those who wish to participate in this giving opportunity can use the instructions in this document to donate to any of the organizations listed above. Participants can also purchase items from the organizations and/or simply donate to the organizations as they choose to do so. Alternatively, participants can simply provide a single donation to be divided across all the organizations.

Here is how it works.

- 1) **Print** this document. Copies are available in the church office.
- 2) On the next page, you will find a list of the organizations that we are sponsoring. Use this page to decide which organizations you wish to donate to and to enter the amounts.
- 3) **Enter** an amount you wish to donate for each organization on the donation form.
- 4) **Add** all the donations together and put the total on the 'total' line at the bottom of the page.
- 5) **Cash, credit cards, or checks will be accepted for your donation. If you write a check, write** 'Alternative Christmas Faire' in the memo line.
- 6) **If you donate before the 'in-person' event, send** the donations page and a check to the following address:

Presbyterian Church of Novato
710 Wilson Ave.
Novato, CA 94947



2025 Alternative Christmas Faire Donation Form



Your Name:

Organization	Donation Amount
Homeward Bound	_____
NOAH (Neighbors Organized Against Hunger)	_____
Heifer Project	_____
Faith in Practice	_____
Presbyterian Giving	_____
Boy Scout Troop 200	_____
Hope Opens Doors	_____
General Donation	_____
Total Donations	_____

You can also mail in the check to the following address if you wish to donate before the event.

Presbyterian Church of Novato
710 Wilson Avenue
Novato, CA 94947

Friends,

Every year NMCS puts together a "donor acknowledgement" wall in their main building (680 Wilson), right off their lobby, which is visited by thousands of community members each year.

Well, this year because of our contribution and of Buckaroo proceeds, PCN will be included, for the very first time, in the highly recognized "Leadership Circle", the third highest tier of contributors (out of 8). This group includes such names as Bank of Marin, Episcopal Impact Fund, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Marin Clean Energy, Redwood Credit Union, Umpqua Bank, and Walter and Elise Haas Fund (there are perhaps a dozen others, less well known)...pretty impressive company!

PCN hearts, you are making a difference and being recognized! THANKS!



JOIN THE MUSIC MINISTRY! You are invited to join the PCN Music Ministry for the Christmas season. If interested, please contact Music Director Art Maramba at musicdirector@pcnovato.org for more information.



POINSETTAS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE Help us adorn the sanctuary with Poinsettias for Christmas Eve! We will be collecting \$30 donations to purchase poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary on the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve. Donations can be turned into the church office. Please submit your donations no later than Sunday, December 14th!

Living Nativity

Please join our church family in this special Advent presentation, open to everyone!

Bring your kids, grandkids, neighbors and friends.

Celebrate the season.

Live animals will be present, donkey, camel and sheep,
plus the Nativity characters.



December 14 - 11:15 a.m. – 1pm



The Safety Team Celebrates 2025 Accomplishments!

Your Safety Team has been hard at work this year on projects to improve the safety and comfort of our church campus. Here are some of the projects we completed in 2025:

- ✓ *Performed a thorough risk evaluation of the PCN campus and operations to identify and prioritize critical projects and priorities.*
- ✓ *Purchased and stored essential emergency supplies, such as first aid items, blankets, and water.*
- ✓ *Developed a campus evacuation map and evacuation plan handout.*
- ✓ *Held an Evacuation Drill on July 13, 2025.*
- ✓ *Created a PCN Accident Report Form.*
- ✓ *Installed Wheelchair and Walker reserved seating in the Sanctuary.*
- ✓ *Replaced trip-prone entry and kitchen mats.*
- ✓ *Refreshed and replaced carpeting in the Nursery to improve safety.*
- ✓ *Recommended resurfacing and painting of the PCN walkway.*
- ✓ ***Created and installed a Sunday Morning Safety Team***



Michael Moser, Garrick Fong and Bruce Stahley

Helping ensure everyone feels welcome, safe, and comfortable attending worship services by assisting anyone with mobility issues and providing on-site first aid.

✓ ***Published the first-of-its-kind PCN Emergency Guide!***



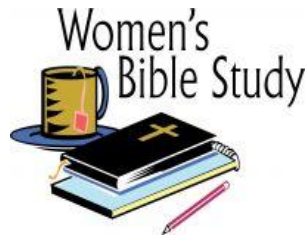
Emergencies can't be predicted. They happen suddenly and can include anything from the lights going out to a significant fire or earthquake. Does PCN have an action plan in such situations? That is the question your Safety Team was tasked with answering.

We are proud to announce that after years of work, we have completed and published the first-ever ***PCN Emergency Guide***. This Guide provides a protocol to ensure a timely, organized response to emergencies or crises affecting PCN. It also includes quick reviews of basic first-aid procedures, such as how to find and use our AED devices.

So that everyone has access to these protocols and advice, we are currently installing the Guide in plastic wall holders throughout the PCN campus. We encourage you to look through one soon. Some of the topics you'll find include essential phone numbers, emergency communication, roles and responsibilities, handling medical emergencies, smoke and fire, evacuations, lockdowns and lockouts, shelter-in-place, earthquakes, bomb threats, power outages, adverse weather events, gas leaks, hazmat situations, bomb threats, and PCN assembly locations. That's a lot of information. As you can imagine, a document this thorough is bound to need updates, and we have promised to review it yearly to ensure its information is as accurate as possible.

Special recognition is due to Susan Searway-Fertig, who designed our campus evacuation map, and the PCN Property Team, who advised and supported us all year long. Thank You.

**Safety Team members include Sydney Fletcher (chair), Melodie Baird, Audrey Boland, Karen Carlson, Beth Flynn, Nancy Gill, Sam Gill, Delane Ramser, Walt Searway, Bruce Stahley, Diane Orsini-Tarkman, and Roland Tolosa. We'd love to welcome you as a member too!*



Women's Bible Study's is back! We continue to meet via Zoom on Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. There will be time for conversation, fellowship and prayer. The new Zoom link is below.

We will continue collecting pop-top tabs. We enthusiastically collect these from friends and PCN members all year to donate to the Shriners Hospital for Children in Sacramento, which sells them to a recycling company. The proceeds are used to help parents with expenses. You can drop off yours in the office.

If you have any questions, call Becky Praun at 415.472.1733 or email beckypraun@yahoo.com.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86913616907?pwd=gsbDqww6cuwPq9qtsmCVMQ2ZE28u6P.1>

Meeting ID: 869 1361 6907 Passcode: pcnovato



All signs point to Jesus! Come join us via Zoom Sunday mornings from 8 to 9 a.m. Your study leaders are Larry Dacquisto (415-577-2115), Karen Carlson and Doris Dooley.

Link for the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82970812537?pwd=eGZESUo3dzQ4NXh3WFFNT3AvQmpDdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 7081 2537 Passcode: pcnovato

Ushers & Greeters Ministry

Are you a newer member of our PCN family? Are you looking for a way to meet people and be of service? An ideal solution for you might be to volunteer as a member of the PCN Usher and Greeters Ministry. Be part of the team that is an integral part of each Sunday morning's worship service. For more information, contact Bill Bradfield at 415.408.3427.



REQUESTING A PRAYER BLANKET is easy. Email Tonya Church or Carol Robinson. Give us the recipient's first and last name, address, phone number, and what colors they like. We try to send a prayer blanket that is meaningful for the recipient. Questions? Contact Tonya at tonya.church@comcast.net or Carol at carol001@comcast.net.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Come join us for study and fellowship. We meet every **Wednesday at 7:15 a.m.** via Zoom. All men are welcome. To be added to the Zoom contact list, contact Walt Campbell at (415) 497-5157 or email walterlcampbell@aol.com.



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!