



PresPress

January 2025

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

Eleven Minutes: Radical Hospitality

Eleven minutes.

Within eleven minutes, a person or family who visits a church on Sunday decides whether or not they will come back again.

Research has shown that it is within this time frame that people learn all they need to know about a church community to know if it is for them or not. Think about that with me. What happens within the first eleven minutes?

- A person sees the exterior of the church but is primarily concerned with finding parking.
- After parking they find their way to the sanctuary, gathering place, or nursery.
- They meet church members and visitors along the way all the while looking for signage to guide them.
- The interactions they have with people tell them a lot about the community.
- Eventually they find the sanctuary, are greeted by sanctioned greeters, and find seats in the sanctuary. How are they greeted apart from the official greeters? Who do they see in the sanctuary? Do they see people like them? What are the age demographics represented in the room? What does the space look like? Is it inviting? Is it welcoming? Can I fit in here?
- They see the announcement slide show flashing on the screens. What does the church do? What is important to them? Why should I care? The bulletin/program is viewed with the same scrutiny.
- The service starts. Is the 'welcome' inviting? Is the leader someone I can relate to? Is the pastor crazy? How's the music? Do the musicians and leaders exhibit energy, joy, hope, enthusiasm in worship?
- In the back of their mind, people are asking: Can my family and I be safe here? Can we fit in? Are there connections to be made? How is this relevant to my life? Is weekly worship worth my time? Can I connect with these people?

Do you know what doesn't happen in the first eleven minutes? Sermons, scripture readings, music specials, community announcements, and coffee/fellowship. All the things we might spend hours prepping, planning, hoping to connect with people on play a smaller role in building up the body of Christ.

We all know that the first impressions people get of our churches are from our websites. So when people visit on Sundays it's not out of the blue. They know enough about who we are to check us out and consider becoming part of our church community. But what the eleven-minute rule tends to show

us is that all people need to know beyond the first impression can be found BEFORE the 'heart' of what we do on Sundays.

Why is this?

It's about connection. People are asking: Can I connect here in some meaningful way that makes it worth my time? Are the pastor and staff relatable? They've seen sermons online. They have an idea about theology already. They know the preaching style and style of worship.

Are the church activities worthwhile? They've seen our website and know what we do. Now they're juxtaposing what it says online with what things actually look like. Is the narrative online consistent with real life?

But perhaps, most importantly, are those interactions they have with church members and visitors within the eleven minutes. It's not just about being greeted but being extended the radical hospitality of Christ. In other words, being greeted as if people actually care about you, your family, and they would bend over backwards to help you if necessary. Also, are there people like me? People in my age demographic? Online they've seen a mishmash of pictures of the community. Now they're seeing the bigger picture.

Why do I bring this up, dear saints? Well, in this new year, we are putting our time and energy into building up the Body of Christ at PCN. We want to make disciples, growing our church community both deep and wide, welcoming new members into our community while simultaneously deepening our faith together in Christ. We have faithfully adapted our leadership model, honed our mission ministry focus, expanded our staff, and bolstered our music program. We have put the pieces in place to continue to be PCN at its best, living into our call together. Now is the time to share light with the world; to intentionally be a beacon of hope reaching out to our neighbors and inviting them to join us in life, ministry, and mission.

And here's the thing. This task primarily falls to each and every one of us. How do we extend the radical hospitality of Christ to our neighbors? We invite people to church. We share about how Jesus has changed our lives and how this light can be found in our church community at PCN. We see the people we don't know on Sunday mornings and we respond to them like they are our long-lost family members. We connect our young family visitors with other young families.

Oh, yes, your Session will be focusing on initiatives toward Building up the Body and will be working to guide us in this wonderful part of our call. We'll see a lot of this in 2025, but the reality is, it comes down to us, each of us, to make 'making disciples' a focus in our own discipleship.

So what do you think, dear saints? Want to give it a try in 2025? What's the worst that can happen, we embarrass ourselves? People don't join our church? No big deal. We do our best to extend the radical hospitality and love of Christ, and we lean on God to carry us the rest of the way.

With Joy & Peace,
Pastor Adam



Session Highlights – December

At the December 18 meeting:

- Session approved a PCN Anti-Bullying Policy
- Session approved Personnel's request to hire Meredith Fletcher as an AV Technician when needed. She will be trained by Director of Music, Art Maramba. She will be paid \$25 per hour, not to exceed four hours per week.
- Session approved a budget of \$932,030 for 2025. This figure includes a projected surplus of \$3,000.

Kathy Takemoto, Clerk of Session



The Deacons would like to give a BIG thank-you hug to everyone who provided meals, rides, blanket-making, calls and helped serving coffee during our fellowship hours after worship.

You have all earned your Angel's Wing. A very Merry and Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families.

With gratitude,

Your PCN Deacons

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.

Homeward Bound Vets Receive PCN Gift Bags

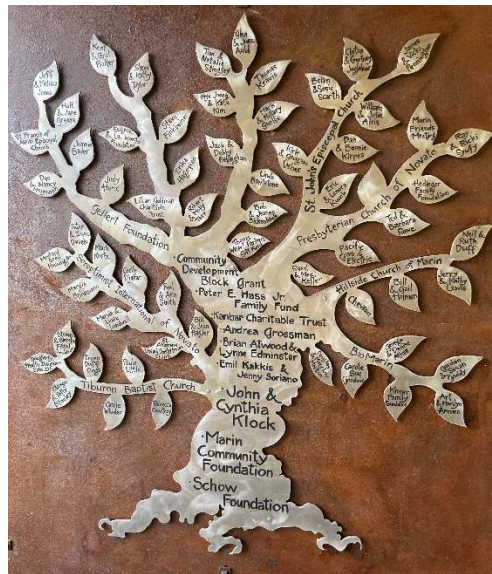


In the above photos, Art Plumstead and Sally Carbonaro display PCN gift bags and Art presents Dave Brown, Homeward Bound's Veterans Housing Coordinator, with PCN gift bags for the 24 previously homeless Marin veterans who moved into permanent housing (Pruitt Apartment Units) located at Novato Homeward Bound Hamilton. The PCN gift bags were created by Sally and Sydney and contained a "Veteran" ballcap, a "thank you for your service" card created by our PCN youth, a PCN stress-relief squeeze ball/heart, a \$50 gift card, a copy of "Our Daily Bread," a ceramic heart decoration, and a small hand-held American flag. Feedback thus far is that the veterans were "surprised and appreciative" of the PCN gifts, especially since it was Christmastime. For some of them it may be the only gifts they receive.

The PCN Mission Team thanks you, our PCN congregation, for your generous support in extending a warm welcome to Marin's newly housed veterans.



Your Mission Committee and Gilead House staff and families cannot thank you enough for your generosity this past Holiday Share/Sharing Tree season. A grand total of \$1,400 was collected this year, a record amount of giving from PCN! It's enough for Gilead's Christmas season and to spread out over Valentines Day, Mother's Day, and family birthdays. This is truly a Godsend for this faith-based home which changes lives on a daily basis, *without government funds!* To find ways to help, go to www.gileadhouse.org.





These beauties are some of the painted rocks from PCN Mission to CERES Community Project clients for their holiday gift bags.

Thank you to everyone for the support of the painted rocks project again for this, our third year! ~Barbara Gildea



**NORTH MARIN
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

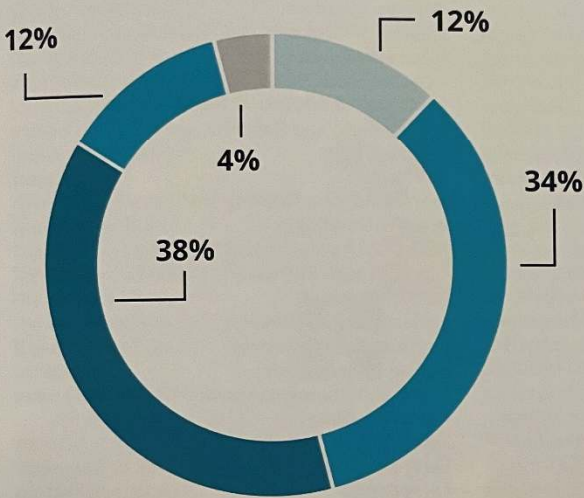
Where our community connects

From its inception as Novato Helping Needs Center to the current day, PCN has faithfully supported the largest “Community Chest” in North Marin. The following three photos graphically explain all they do and how their funds are raised and apportioned. For further info on this pillar of Novato, go to: www.northmarincs.org.

A Wise Investment

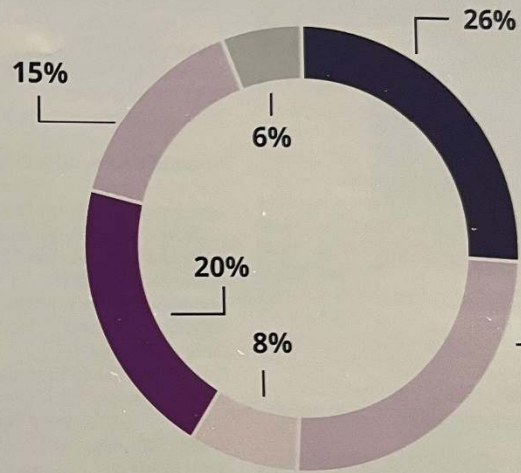


Financials • Fiscal Year 2024-25 Operating Budget: \$7,920,935



INCOME

- 12% Program Fees
- 34% Government Grants & Contracts
- 38% Foundation Grants & Family Funds
- 12% Individuals & Businesses
- 4% Community & Other Funding

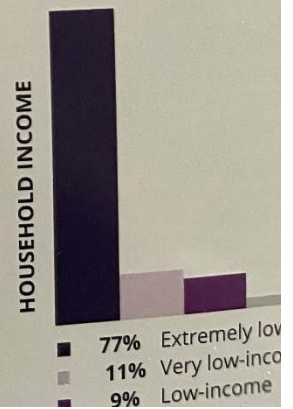


EXPENSES

- 26% Child Development
- 25% Mental Health
- 8% Latine Program
- 20% Case Management, Health & Safety
- 15% Admin & Facilities
- 6% Fundraising

13,379 Participants

Count is duplicated for participants using multiple programs. Known demographics only.



HOMEBOUND PROGRAM MAP - 2024

Adult Services

King Street Senior Housing
Larkspur
12 beds
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Housing at Last
Multiple Locations
27 beds
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Fourth Street Center
San Rafael
20 rooms (20 beds)
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

OPENING SOON
Sweeney Place
Workforce Housing
(20 apartments)
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Fireside Apartments
Mill Valley
Partnership with Eden Housing
8 senior units (8 beds)
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Warner Creek Senior Housing
Novato
Partnership with Eden Housing. Support services provided for 60 residents
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Jonathan's Place Housing
San Rafael
(32 beds)
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Puett Place
Veterans Housing
(24 apartments)
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Family Services

Oma Village
Novato
14 houses (35 beds)
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Family Place
Multiple Locations
8 units (33 beds)
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

OPENING SOON
Sweeney Place
Workforce Housing
(6 apartments)
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Next Key Apartments
Novato
4 studio units (8 beds)
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Fireside Apartments
Mill Valley
Partnership with Eden Housing. 10 houses (35 beds)
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Families First
Multiple Locations
10 houses (29 beds)
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Nuestra Casa
Multiple Locations
10 houses (29 beds)
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Family Center
San Rafael
9 rooms (25 beds)
SHELTER SERVICES

La Casa Buena
Corte Madera
18 studio rooms (18 beds)
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Next Key Apartments
Novato
25 studio units (25 beds)
TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

New Beginnings Center
Novato
80 beds (including 12 beds for veterans)
SHELTER & TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Transition to Wellness
Novato
3 studio units
(6 medical respite beds)
SHELTER SERVICES

Jonathan's Place Shelter
San Rafael
(38 beds)
SHELTER SERVICES

Job-Training Programs

Fresh Starts Culinary Academy
Offers intensive 10-week job-training program. Enrolls up to 60 students annually.
JOB-TRAINING PROGRAMS

Mental Health Services

Palm Court
Multiple Locations
25 beds
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Carmel Program
San Rafael
26 rooms (26 beds)
PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Voyager Program
San Rafael
5 rooms (10 beds)
SHELTER SERVICES

OPENING 2025
Gilardi Training & Events Center
Production bakery and teaching kitchen
JOB-TRAINING PROGRAMS

Supportive Employment
Offers paid training in Culinary, Janitorial, Building Maintenance & Gardening.
JOB-TRAINING PROGRAMS

WHO WE SERVE



981
PEOPLE SERVED



245
PEOPLE IN FAMILIES



736
SINGLE ADULTS



SENIORS (62+)

266

VETERANS **53**

CHILDREN (UNDER 18)

130



FAMILY PROGRAMS
81% left for a housing opportunity



ADULT PROGRAMS
63% left for a housing opportunity



CULINARY TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

41
students trained at
Fresh Starts Culinary Academy

40
employees engaged in our
culinary enterprises

15,000
meals produced monthly for shelter
and housing programs



TRANSITION TO WELLNESS

Medical Respite Shelter

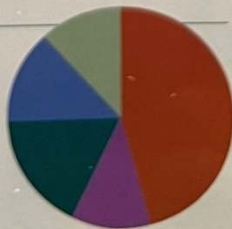
99 people served

827 hospital days avoided
\$3.59 million saved through
avoidable hospital stays

OPERATING BUDGET / TOTAL AGENCY EXPENSES AND REVENUES • 2023-2024

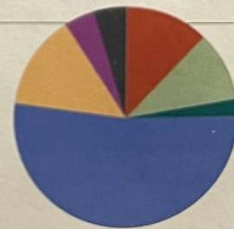
EXPENSES

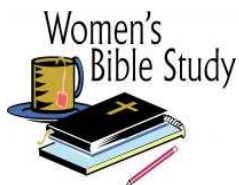
Adult Services	48%
Mental Health Services	12%
Family Services	13%
Job Training & Social Enterprise	19%
Administration / Development	8%



REVENUES

Gifts/Bequests	12%
Foundation Grants	10%
Corporate Grants	2%
Government Grants	53%
Program Revenues	13%
Social Enterprise	5%
Other Income	5%





WBS will resume meeting January 2, 2025.

Spies, Jericho walls tumbling down, trumpets and shouts, battles. Women's Bible Study's first day back is only weeks away. Class meets on zoom on Thursdays from 10-11:30am. All the ladies of PCN are invited to this "not to be missed" study of the Old Testament Book of Joshua. Did you know Joshua was commanded by God, face-to-face and considered second to Moses?

If you have questions, contact Margaret Franz-Costello at 415-806-8849 or Karen Carlson at 415-382-9616. New members are always welcome! And keep collecting tabs to raise money for the Shriners Children's Hospital, which has been our faithful project for more than 35 years and helps house visiting families.

Grace and Peace,
Margaret Franz-Costello and Karen Carlson

Here is the Zoom link and passcode:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81284025735?pwd=VTY4cWFJQWtDTlpUVE9MT0ljL1dHdz09>

Meeting ID: 812 8402 5735 Passcode: pcnovato



Join our lively discussion as the Sunday Morning Adult Study Group continues meeting via Zoom at 8:00 a.m. We will be using the David Cook curriculum focusing on Psalms. For information, please call Doris Dooley (415-895-5104) or Karen Carlson (415-382-9616).

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



REQUESTING A PRAYER BLANKET is easy. Email Tonya Church or Becky Praun. 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 Becky at beckypraun@yahoo.com.



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!