



PresPress

June 2025

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

“Hope for the Future”

As most of you know by now, the Holy Spirit has been working in your pastor's life, guiding and directing me in unforeseen, and unexpected ways. As a result, I have announced that I will be leaving PCN at the beginning of August in pursuit of God's call in my life. My last day will be on Sunday, August 3rd.

And I know such announcements can serve to take the breath right out of us. The announcement of such an abrupt and sudden change in a community of faith is the stuff that anxiety and fear feeds on. Maybe some of you are asking, “Why?” Others may be wondering, “Is it us?” And again, others may be thinking ahead, “What are we going to do now?” These are natural questions and I hope to briefly address them with you in this article.

Why? To this, I can simply offer the truth...I am following God's call for my life. I know it sounds overly spiritual and perhaps cliché even, but it is THE reason. A life of discipleship is a life of change. Following after and answering God's call can, and does, lead to unexpected places and outcomes. And it has been through no small amount of prayer, reflection, and even faithful wrestling that my family and I have made this decision.

Is it us? Not at all. The decision has nothing to do with you, PCN. You are a wonderful, loving community of faith. You are an extraordinary family of disciples who bears amazing Kingdom fruit and you have been this way throughout the years regardless of who your pastor has been. It's embedded in the culture and DNA of this community. You can't be anything else. This decision has to do with me and my sense of call at this time and place in my life. And, ultimately, I also think it is the best thing for PCN.

What are we going to do now? Fear not, for you are in good hands. Over the next few months the Presbytery and I will be guiding you through the next steps in this transition period. An interim pastor search committee will be formed to begin looking for an interim. This process does not take very long. When your interim is on board, they, with the Presbytery, will guide you through the next steps toward finding your next installed pastor. As you will hear throughout this process, it's okay to have mixed feelings. It's okay to feel uncomfortable and not know what's around the corner. It's

okay to feel the need to do something and get some quick solution in place. But do not be in a rush. Pray. Lean on God a little more. Take time to listen to the Spirit at work in your midst. God will lead and direct in God's time. Let God guide your discernment & movements.

You are a strong church, with strong leadership, & ample faith. You will not only endure during this time of transition, you will flourish, my friends. That is my prayer and hope for PCN. As I write this article, I do so with no small number of tears, knowing just how blessed this community is and knowing that God will be leading you into such marvelous abundance in the weeks, months, and years to come.

Until August, it will be my joy and honor to continue to serve with you in life and ministry. Do not hesitate to reach out if you need to talk, grab coffee, or pray.

With Care,
Pastor Adam



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.

May Mission Opportunity!



Thanks from Gilead House mothers and from your mission team

The generosity and spontaneity of our congregation showed up once again this Mothers' Day. With only a week's notice we gathered approximately 20 full bags of toiletries, make-up, scents, etc. to shower Gilead House's mothers for the day. (SEE BELOW)

So many that your gifts can also be spread out over birthdays and other special occasions all year. Thank you all so much for your generosity to this faith-based home for second chances.





Session

Session Highlights – May 2025

At the May 21, 2025 meeting:

- Session discussed updates to job descriptions for a Senior Director of Community Engagement and Youth Director positions.
- Elders Tonya Church and Karen Marks announced a donation of two Bunn coffee brewing machines and 15 air pots which will make coffee preparation faster and safer. The donation is valued at \$700. The process of providing coffee hour is being developed.

Kathy Takemoto
Clerk of Session



Help save a life! Donate Blood!

Go to [Vitalant](https://www.vitalant.org) and enter our zip code 94947, to search for PCN.
Register today!

Sunday June 8 is the Deacons Semi Annual Blood Drive from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tell your family, friends and neighbors. There is a link on our website, or you can go to www.vitalant.org to register. Questions? Contact Becky Praun.

Children's Ministry Corner!



What an incredible year it has been for Grace Generation! We wrapped up our last one on Tuesday, May 20th, celebrating a truly amazing year with over 50 kids and more than 30 dedicated volunteers. We're so grateful for the tireless support of more than 30 volunteers. Thank you for making this year a resounding success! We can't wait to see you all at Vacation Bible School, and we'll be back with more fun in the fall!

Sydney Fletcher
Director of Children's Ministries and Communications



Preschool through 6th graders are invited to participate! Join us for 5 fun days, from June 16th - 20th, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

We have Jesus—our true north! At True North VBS we point kids to Jesus, their unmovable, unshakable friend forever! As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today.

Registration is \$60 for one child and \$40 for each additional child. Confidential scholarships are available! We do not want anything to prevent you from coming!! Register Now at: www.pcnovato.org

Middle and High Schoolers – We have a spot for you as well!!

Come join us as a crew leader! We offer community service hours!

The crew leader will lead a small crew of approximately five elementary-aged kids. A crew leader is a friend and

helper for the kids and station leaders. A one-hour group training is required. Register Now at: www.pcnovato.org

We need volunteers, and there are so many ways to be involved! Even if you are not available on the VBS dates, you can still help with the preparations. We have a place just for you! If interested, please contact Sydney Fletcher at children@pcnovato.org



Save The Date!

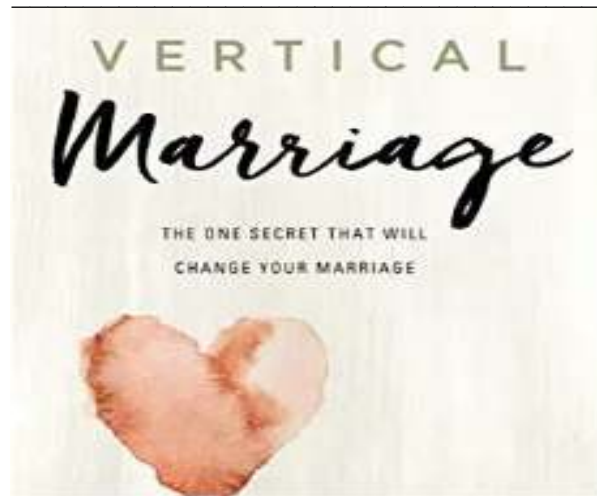
June 15th

Father's Day Barbeque!

Immediately following our Worship service!

Contact Tonya Church to volunteer!

tonya.church@comcast.net



Saturday June 28th, 9am - 4pm

"Vertical Marriage", The one secret that will change your marriage!

\$50 per couple, includes work book, breakfast and lunch

Come hear what God's plan for marriage is. Hosted by Brad and Becky Praun

Look for registration information to come.

The Endowment Committee

Estate Planning Presentation June 29!



Kerry Spence's Guide to Estate Planning: Clarity, Confidence, and Control

The Endowment Committee happily invites you to a brief presentation after Worship on June 29 about Estate Planning! This helpful conversation is kindly offered by Kerry Spence, a seasoned certified planner with 48 years' experience, based in San Rafael, who regularly presents around the County.

Kerry brings decades of experience, deep listening, and heartfelt guidance to the estate planning process. Known for her warm and personalized approach, and with the wisdom of a seasoned elder, she brings a gift for making the complex simple. She will guide you to make clear, confident decisions about your will and living trust, that honor your values, stories, and the people you love. That brings peace of mind!

Join us in the Christensen Room after Service on Sunday June 29 for this exciting half-hour presentation. Bring your questions too!



ANNUAL BUCKAROO PANCAKE BREAKFAST

If you're interested in helping, please contact Steve Kinney at stephen_kinney@yahoo.com.

Buckaroo Breakfast Volunteer Signup link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050A4BA5A82FA75-56422768-71st>

Sign up now to volunteer at the Buckaroo Breakfast and make sure you get your free T-Shirt. Made In Marin has been working with us to design a T-shirt that fits in with the theme of this year's parade and our breakfast. You will not want to miss out. Our deadline for you to let us know your size is June 2.

We will be out on the patio on Sunday, June 1st if you need to check your size. For those of you who volunteered last year, we will use the same size information we already have, unless you tell us different. For those of you who like to sign up late, please be an early bird this year.

We expect to have another fabulous year serving the community and know it takes everyone at PCN for the Buckaroo Breakfast to be successful.

Steve Kinney, Big Buckaroo



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NOVATO

★★★ 21st Annual ★★★ Buckaroo Breakfast



**July 4th, 7am – 10am
Before the Parade**

Pancakes* | Eggs | Sausage*

***Gluten Free & Vegetarian
Options Available!**

**Suggested Donation:
\$12 Adults & \$5 Children**

**At Redwood Credit Union
Parking Lot, 1010 Grant Avenue**



www.pcnovato.org



Net Proceeds Benefit:



**NORTH MARIN
COMMUNITY SERVICES**

FOOD PANTRY



Pouring Coffee Now (PCN) Coffee Service Update Coming Soon

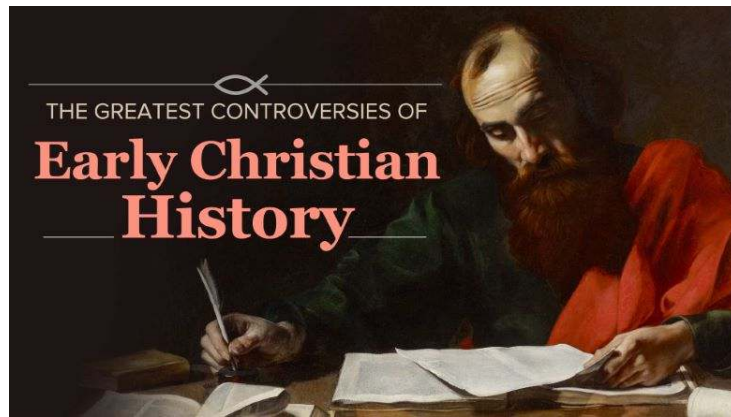
After many years of the Deacons providing coffee during fellowship hour, Session has approved to off load that service from the Deacons. This will allow the Deacons to continue their focus Care and Compassion Ministry. A transition team was formed, but of course. Becky Praun, Greg Smith, Karen Marks, and Tonya Church gathered to discuss what this might look like. The timing was perfect, as a change to the coffee making process was also needed for the Buckaroo Breakfast.

After much research, and a generous donation to PCN by BUNN coffee company (Thank You very much), 2 brand new coffee makers are on the way. These new coffee makers will brew directly into airpots. The best part about this is we can have an airpot of coffee ready in less than 10 minutes. We will be placing multiple airpots on the table, so you can still choose to be served, or bypass the line and serve yourself. We will still have decaf and regular varieties and of course hot water for tea and hot chocolate. We hope to also have some great homemade treats available to eat with your coffee.

Of course, with a transition, comes an opportunity. If you are a part of a team, committee, life group, bible study, or just want to have the fun of making coffee, we will be conducting the training and scheduling all committees and groups for the upcoming months. (Two teams will share each month.) If you and your team prefer a particular month, please contact Karen Marks. The schedule is being put together as we speak!

We want to make sure everyone is comfortable using the new machines, so we will be offering training in June. We are excited to make such a big part of our Sunday morning, so much easier. Please say thank you to the Deacons, (past or present) for their service to us over many decades. The new coffee service starts on Sunday July 6. See you on the patio.

Becky, Greg, Karen, and Tonya



Summer 2025 Adult Education Class
"Greatest Controversies of Early Christianity"
PCN Christian Education Committee

PCN Elder, Walt Campbell, is leading a new Great Courses video lecture series via Zoom on "Greatest Controversies of Early Christianity", on Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. until noon. The course will run over twelve Saturdays, commencing May 17 and finishing August 2.

The course will address several misconceptions/conspiracy theories about the early church that should debunk the "Da Vinci Code" plot:

- Emperor Constantine's role in compiling the New Testament.
- Was Mary really a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus?
- Did Jesus have a twin brother?
- Did Mary Magdalene and Jesus have a romantic relationship?
- What information did Judas communicate to betray Jesus and what motivated him?

The lecturer is Bart Ehrman of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He is an author, editor and university lecturer. He earned his PhD from Princeton Theological Seminary.

To participate, contact Walt at walterleecampbell@gmail.com or call 415.497.5157.



SAVE THE DATE
Saturday July 12th, 11:30am - 2pm
Ladies 2nd Annual Gratitude Luncheon at PCN

Sponsored by the Presbyterian Women, Women's Bible Study, Deacons and Fellowship Team. No fee luncheon celebrating the Ladies Young and Seasoned for a delightful luncheon. Contact Becky Praun for any questions or more information. 415 472-1733
email: beckypraun@yahoo.com



News from Corinne L. Quinn, Presbytery of the Redwoods Hunger Action Advocate

Dear Friends:

As food insecurity persists and inflation continues to raise prices of essential goods, please be reminded that many people in the Presbytery of the Redwoods and throughout the world are relying on your Cents-Ability donations to sustain them in their times of need.

The Presbytery of the Redwoods Hunger Task Force has been hard at work this year, reviewing grant requests and has funded 3 timely, creative, innovative and necessary projects. Through your contributions and by God's grace, we have awarded **\$5,000.00** to date to support hunger alleviation projects in our communities. Our 2025 grantees to date are:

- **Bread for the World** which received \$500 to continue the fight against hunger in the US and abroad through policy, program and system changes.
- **Church of the Roses, Santa Rosa** which received \$2,500 to provide a hot, nutritious breakfast and a safe space before school for Montgomery High School students.
- **First Presbyterian Church, Fort Bragg** which received \$2,000 to serve Easter and Thanksgiving meals to members of the Fort Bragg community.

To date, the Cents-Ability account balance is approximately \$1,200.00. The Hunger Task Force will receive and consider for funding many more applications these next few months. Please continue to promote Cents-Ability within your congregation and contribute to Cents-Ability generously. Please mail in all Cents-Ability funds collected to date to the Presbytery office as soon as possible.

The Hunger Task Force thanks God and you for your willingness to support the fight against hunger in our communities.

Peace and blessings,
Corinne L. Quinn
Presbytery of the Redwoods Hunger Action Advocate

PCN Highlights the Presbytery Hunger Program on the first Sunday of the month with a special drop box for donations as you leave the sanctuary.

WESTMINSTER WOODS



At Westminster Woods, Family Camp is more than a weekend getaway – it's a chance to slow down, laugh together, and explore the beauty of Sonoma County with you family.

Introduce your family and friends to what makes camp so special....

Ziplining through the redwoods

Relaxing by the pool

Creek walks down Dutch Bill

Morning Inspire services

Kayaking the Russian River

Hiking the Jenner Headlands

Lanyards at the Craft Shack

S'mores around the campfire

Hikes to the Ridge

explore the Sonoma Coast

Tide pooling at Shell Beach

Exploring Armstrong Redwoods

and make new memories!

Join us for a weekend of summer camp magic full of epic adventures and family fun!

Plus! Childcare provided by our awesome Summer Staff when parents need a break.

This is a place where generations of campers and staff have found their home away from home. Now it's your turn.

SAVE THE DATE!

WESTMINSTER  WOODS

SUMMER CAMP 2025

Session 1 June 15th - 20th	Session 2 June 22nd - 27th	Session 3 June 29th - July 4th	Session 4 July 6th - 11th
CAMP HEARTWOOD (AGES 9-16) WAITLISTED	CAMP HEARTWOOD (AGES 9-16) WAITLISTED	CAMP HEARTWOOD (AGES 9-16)	CAMP SOULSPRING (AGES 8-17)
Session 5 July 13th - 18th	Session 6 July 20th - 25th	Session 7 July 25th - 28th	Session 8 July 29th - August 2nd
CAMP SOULSPRING (AGES 8-17)	CAMP SOULSPRING (AGES 8-17)	THE GROVE: FAMILY CAMP (ALL AGES)	FRIENDSHIP CAMP (For adults with developmental disabilities) (AGES 18+)

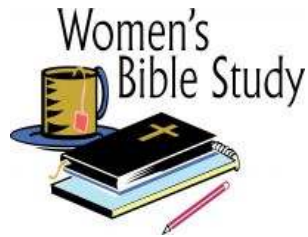
[Click here to learn more about The Grove](#)

[Register for
Family Camp!](#)



We want to make our incredible summer programs available to every camper regardless of their ability to pay for camp. Contributions to the Summer Programs Fund go towards providing direct scholarships to campers in financial need and supporting our summer programs as a whole, which helps keep the cost of camp low for all families. **Help us reach our goal of raising \$10,000 by May 31st!**

[Donate Today!](#)



Women's Bible Study's last meeting will be held Thursday, May 1 with a potluck celebration in the Christensen room. We'll resume meeting September 11 to continue our study of Joshua followed by a new N.T. Wright's study book on Mark later in the year. WBS meets Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

In addition to its studies, our group provides a warm fellowship time before class and a service component involving the collection of 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. We also enjoy acting as PCN greeters at special events, wearing our signature red clothing and "Ask Me About WBS" buttons.

To learn more about our group and receive the link to our Zoom class, please contact:

Margaret	415-806-8849	allaboutchoices@yahoo.com
Karen	415-382-9616	kcarlson39@icloud.com
Melodie	415-897-7512	melodie.l.baird@gmail.com



All signs point to Jesus! Come join us on Zoom Sunday mornings from 8 to 9 a.m. The summer study is about Risk takers - Noah, Joshua, Rehab, David, John the Baptist and Stephen.

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 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!

