



**PResPRes**

**March 2024**

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

## **Where is PCN going in 2024?**

Saints of PCN,

God is on the move!

At our congregational meeting at the end of January, we made some exciting announcements for life and ministry at PCN in 2024. Your Session has been hard at work faithfully and prayerfully seeking to live into our call from God in 2024. We aim to be visible, inspiring, and hope-filled as we embrace our mission, “sharing the love of Jesus Christ, connecting with our neighbors, and growing together in worship, faith, and service.” To that end, we’ve made some important decisions for 2024 involving worship, music, and mission.

### **WORSHIP**

Because togetherness is more important than worship-style preference, because a sanctuary filled with energy of our full body together, and to maximize our resources, Session has faithfully decided to move back to one worship service at 10 a.m. beginning March 10th. The Worship Committee is currently piecing together what this service will look like liturgically, but our goals are to fashion a service that: a) focuses on God; b) is organized and led with excellence; c) represents our whole congregation, d) is accessible to our neighbors who do not know our church and; e) utilizes a wide variety of music from the most contemporary music heard on the radio to the organ and choir hymns.

### **MUSIC**

To this end, Session has made the bold decision to invest in a wholistic music program that encompasses both our traditional and contemporary styles. We envision our strong music program to become even stronger with excellence in musicality and worship leadership a priority. Funds have been budgeted from our Endowment to help invest in this vision and make it a reality. A music task force team is being put together to begin to create a vision for how this might be done. We are conscientiously putting together a team that represents the wide array of musical-style preferences in our congregation.

### **MISSION**

And lastly, we are looking to invest heavily in mission, but with a more directed focus including distinct mission priorities. We know that our mission giving is one of the distinctive pieces of our identity as a church. Our generosity stands out far and above. We have a heart for helping those in need around us.

But we want to begin to move toward a model that prioritizes two to four mission partners/ organizations annually with the intent to invest first and foremost in relationship before dollars. Relationship between not just one or two PCN representatives and the organization, but with the entire congregation. First comes relationship, then working hands and feet, and finally dollars. We think this focus on relationship in the local community creates visibility as a church and can help aid us in our ongoing goal of church growth. With greater growth as a church, the greater our mission program can expand and grow.

I am excited about the direction we are moving at PCN. God is at work in our community and moving us to try some new things and experiment a little bit, and I know we'll learn a lot along the way.

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

With grace and peace,  
Pastor 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.*

## CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE®

Working Together to End Domestic Violence

Thank you to everyone who has donated groceries for the Center for Domestic Peace. C4DP has a new family, and the organization needs donations of non-perishable goods, including specifically rice, pasta, pasta sauce, cans of beans, sugar, flour, chocolate and juice. C4DP serves women and children who are victims of domestic abuse. You can drop groceries off in the office anytime. Questions? Contact Barbara Gildea or call the office.





# Holy Week



Please join us after worship on Sunday, March 24 for our Palm Sunday brunch. The Fellowship Committee is seeking volunteers to help with set-up, cooking, serving and clean-up. Please contact Tonya Church if you're interested in volunteering for this PCN tradition: (415) 328-6583 or [tonya.church@comcast.net](mailto:tonya.church@comcast.net).

We will have a Good Friday/Tenebrae service on Friday, March 29 at 7 p.m. beginning with a concert by the Chancel Choir and PCN Bells, followed by a moving worship service.



Join us for our Easter Sunday worship at 10 a.m. We will have a "Kids Easter Eggstravaganza" on the turf field during the worship service. Volunteers are needed to help with the Easter stations: cookie decorating, crafts, games, and more! See Sydney if you're available to help.



# Session

## Session Highlights – February 2024

At the Feb. 21, 2024 meeting, Session approved:

- Revised Terms of Call for Adam Smith. The Revised Terms of Call requires congregation approval. A Special Congregational Meeting will be held immediately after worship on March 17, 2024 for the congregation to approve the Revised Terms of Call.
- The solicitation of sponsors and donations for the Buckaroo Breakfast and donation of the proceeds from the breakfast to a local non-profit organization.
- Tammi Jester to serve as the PCN Wedding Coordinator.

Below are the Elders and Deacons serving in 2024:

<b>Elder Class of 2024</b>	<b>Elder Class of 2025</b>	<b>Elder Class of 2026</b>
Melodie Baird	Tonya Church	Karen Marks
George Pilloton	Sandy Fong	Brad Praun
Delane Ramser	Patty Reed	Greg Smith

<b>Deacon Class of 2024</b>	<b>Deacon Class of 2025</b>	<b>Deacon Class of 2026</b>
Loree Draeger	Marcus Combs	Audrey Boland
Cathy Haney	Alan Dunham	Becky Praun
Becky Moser	Sally Jacob	
Kristen Rush	Shirley Shanahan	

Kathy Takemoto, Clerk of Session



Thank you to everyone who attended PCN's Mardi Gras pancake supper! It was a fun event that brought our church and our SEEkers community together. We look forward to seeing you next year!

A big thank you to our dozens of volunteers; we could not have done this without you!





## **A New 2024 PCN Safety-Emergency Committee**

Session has created a new PCN *Safety-Emergency Committee* designed to consolidate our efforts to maintain and improve the safety and security of our beautiful PCN campus. This year's primary goals are to develop an up-to-date campus emergency plan; provide information and training in campus safety, emergency evacuations, and first aid; and recruit and train a permanent emergency response team. We are also charged with evaluating any risks to health and safety on our campus.

Led by our interim chair, Sydney Fletcher, our team has been meeting bi-weekly since last fall to begin designing a team to respond to on-campus emergencies, such as a fire, earthquake, or lockdown situation. Based on Novato Fire's advice, we have developed an improved evacuation model, identified trained first aid and emergency responders within our PCN family, and begun a study of the additional resources we need to update overall campus security and safety.

As you might guess, there is so much more to do! Still, we are excited about our progress to date. You will soon hear and learn more about our emergency training plans. Meanwhile, please be ready and stay safe.

If you want to join our committee or have questions, please get in touch with Sydney Fletcher or Melodie Baird.



Never a dull moment. The property team has been busy keeping up with general maintenance, extraordinary interventions, and campus improvements.

The first big item was the continued challenge of water infiltration into the Christensen Room. Unfortunately, the connection of the downspouts on the rear of the CE building to a sump with pump to direct the water to the storm drain system did not fully resolve the issue as the January storms, once again, made the carpets wet. Upon further investigation, it was clear that water was entering the electrical closet from under the slab in the electrical closet and seeping under the wall into the Christensen Room. The conduits coming up through the slab in the electrical room were sealed and a French drain was installed in front of the electrical closet to divert water away from the concrete slab. Observation of the closet after the latest heavy rains indicate that this is likely resolved. Fortunately, the delay of the new carpet delivery has given us time to deal with this before installation.

Another chain of events precipitated further improvements. The Manse dishwasher gave up the ghost and needed replacement. We had just been planning to replace the recently installed dishwasher in the church kitchen because it wasn't adequate to the needs of the Seekers dinners. A new industrial dishwasher was installed at the church, freeing up the previous one to serve duty at the Manse. The original stoves in the kitchen were quite flaky and could not reliably hold the correct temperature. The property team lost no time in procuring replacements. The team modified the cabinets and installed the new stoves. These two major kitchen improvements should be a big help to the users of the kitchen.

The heavy rain revealed a leak above the window in the finance office (now located next to the copy room) that was sealed and the need to flush the gutter downspouts. The weather also caused fencing problems which were rapidly attended to by the property team, keeping up good relations with our neighbors.

Normal maintenance continued with installation of new light tubes and ballasts, repair of the sanctuary door lock and the biannual HVAC system maintenance.

Thanks for your service Don Erba, Bill Walker, Jay Haney, Bob Clausen, Fred Holmes, Brad and Becky Praun, Sally Carbonaro, Tonya Church and James Wood.



## A MATTER OF BALANCE

In collaboration with A Matter of Balance, the award-winning falls prevention program for senior adults, we're offering an eight-session course for seniors whose fear of falling limits their social and physical activity. The course will cover safe and simple exercises to promote balance and strength, ways to create a safer home environment, and more!

Each of the eight sessions is two hours and you must commit to the entire series. **Registration required.**

To register for A Matter of Balance or information regarding the course, please call Vivalon at 415-456-9062 ext 165.



MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS

Date: Tuesdays - March 12-April 30

Time: 1:30pm- 3:30pm

Location: Novato Library - 1720 Novato Blvd

Together, we can make a significant difference in our community to prevent falls for older adults and create a meaningful impact on the health and well-being of Marin residents.

Funding for this program is made available, at least in part, by the Marin County Area Agency on Aging.



Christ caring for people through people

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministry Training @ PCN!  
January 2024!

"Bear one another's burdens,  
and in this way  
you will fulfill the law of Christ." Galatians 6:2



## The Stephen Series...

### MEETS THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE

The Stephen Series equips lay people to provide effective caring ministry to . . .

- the hospitalized
  - the terminally ill
  - the bereaved
  - the elderly
  - the disabled & handicapped
  - those in job crisis
  - the lonely or depressed
  - the inactive in your congregation
  - the shut-in & institutionalized
  - new members in your church or community
  - those in spiritual crisis
- ... and many more

#### DEFINITION

*The Stephen Series is a system of training and organizing lay persons for caring ministry in and around their congregations.*

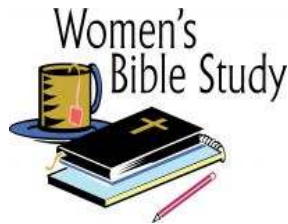
### MULTIPLIES THE MINISTRY OF CONGREGATIONS

- Increases significantly the number of congregational members involved in ongoing, caring ministry.
- Gives pastors renewed joy and fulfillment as they equip others and so extend the reach of their own ministries.
- Enables the entire congregation to grow as a warm, loving, nurturing community as the contagious caring of Stephen ministers expands to touch more and more lives.
- People who receive ministry from lay persons in the Stephen Series—
  - receive quality Christian care,
  - deepen their relationship with their Lord,
  - increase involvement in their congregations,
  - willingly accept and value ministry from a fellow lay person.
- Stephen ministers apply caring skills to other important relationships and discover that their whole lives are enriched.
- Pastor, church staff, and lay people form a strong and supportive ministry team to bring God's care to others.

### SUPPLIES COMPLETE RESOURCES TO CONGREGATIONS

- A *Leader's Manual*, consisting of training materials along with experiential teaching aids for leaders to use in equipping lay people for caring ministry.
- *Trainee Manuals*, with clear outlines and helpful Reference Notes for use by every lay person trained as a Stephen minister.
- A 12-day Leader's Training Course where leaders are trained to organize, teach, and administer the Stephen Series system.
- An approach to lay training that is easy to understand, yet in-depth—simple, but profound.
- A carefully planned series of steps that the congregation takes to set up a workable and lasting lay caring ministry.
- Free, ongoing consultation with the Stephen Ministries staff to respond to your questions and concerns.
- Enrolled congregations can send any number of people to any Leader's Training Course in any year as part of the one-time enrollment fee. This insures continuity and permanence for your lay caring ministry.

## Christ Caring For People Through People



## The Gospel of John

Is Jesus living water leaping and welling up inside you? How is its presence or absence affecting your life?

Women's Bible Study invites all women to know Jesus better and in a personal way as we study the Gospel of John – God's love letter to the world.

The first 12 chapters focus on the signs/miracles that Jesus performs. Presently we are in Chapter 13 where Jesus is exclusively with His disciples explaining the difficulties looming ahead: betrayal, parting words, the Lord's Prayer, condemnation, crucifixion and resurrection.

In class we discuss that Jesus knew who He was, where He was from and what power and authority He had.

Join us on Zoom Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. with Carol Dacquisto leading the study, using the NavPress "Life Changes" study guide. Our next study will be Joshua.

Our dedicated project for more than 40 years is Tabs for Kids – collecting pop tabs from aluminum cans from PC members, friends and neighbors. They are donated to the Shriners Hospital for Children in Sacramento which sells them to a recycling company. Proceeds are used to assist parents' families with care expenses.

If you want a wonderful way to connect to the PCN community and learn about the disciple John with a warm and open group of women contact Carol Dacquisto, lead teacher, at 415-892-2070; Margaret Franz-Costello, assistant, at 415-806-8849 or Karen Carlson at 415-382-9616.

Grace and Peace,  
Carol Dacquisto, Margaret Franz-Costello and Karen Carlson

Here is the Zoom link and passcode:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81284025735?pwd=VTY4cWFJQWtDTIpUVE9MT0ljL1dHdz09>

Meeting ID: 812 8402 5735    Passcode: pcnovato



The Sunday Morning Adult Study Group will continue meeting via Zoom (until further notice) at 8:00 a.m. Please sign on to join a wonderful group of adults who share what they are learning about God's Word. The link to sign on is at the end of this article. If you want or need materials, please let Carol Dacquisto (415-892-2070) know, and we will see that you have the appropriate materials.

The coming quarter (March, April, May) is entitled "***Examining Our Faith.***" In this quarter, we will explore the fullness of faith as a response to God's desire to be in relationship with us. To be faithless is to turn away from God – to put trust in something, or someone, other than God. The lessons of this quarter ask: Is your faith steadfast? Are you contending for the faith? What can today's Christians draw from these ancient accounts that will help us grow more deeply in faith?

**Unit 1** has lessons drawn from Jude, Second Corinthians, First Peter, Acts, and Mark that invite learners to turn the challenges of life into opportunities for nurturing a vibrant faith instead of giving up, turning away from God, or rejecting faith. It includes the Easter lesson.

**Unit 2**, lessons from Luke and Matthew discuss the range of Christian faith.

The lessons in **Unit 3** from Romans encourage believers to continue standing in the faith.

Study Leaders,

James Baird, Carol Dacquisto, Karen Carlson and Doris Dooley

Link for the Zoom meeting:

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

Meeting ID: 884 0194 9220 Passcode: pcnovato



We celebrated Scout Sunday on February 11. The Scouts were our greeters and ushers, and then they served coffee and cake during our fellowship time. During the service, Troop leaders presented their charters to Pastor Adam. Below are some photos from Scout Sunday.





**REQUESTING A PRAYER BLANKET** is easy. Email Tonya or Carol. 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 Church at [tonya.church@comcast.net](mailto:tonya.church@comcast.net) or Carol Robinson at [carol001@comcast.net](mailto:carol001@comcast.net).



### **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 7 p.m. Use the same Zoom link each month. Contact Janis West at [Janisw99@gmail.com](mailto:Janisw99@gmail.com) with questions.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81107446679?pwd=Yy9ub1pReGdMTHVhbDJPZzhHVVdHQQT09>

Meeting ID: 811 0744 6679 Passcode: pcnovato



### **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.



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!



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**“The Easter Bunny really knows how to count. He gave us each the same number of jelly beans.”**