



**PResPRes**

**March 2025**

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

**Lenten Class with Pastor Adam**  
**“Exercising Power in Tumultuous Times”**

We live in a nation divided. The combination of political unrest, the degradation of truth and ethics, and the influence of Christian Nationalism have created a social climate that is difficult to navigate as disciples of Jesus Christ. The question many of us are asking is “How can we live out our Christian faith in the middle of all the chaos?”

Jesus lived in a chaotic and broken world too. He had a way about him that stood apart from the ‘ways of the world.’ This way of Jesus centered around Jesus’ understanding and exercising of power. “Almost every single story – from his birth to death to resurrection – reveals an inversion of the world’s understanding of power” (Escobar, Kathy. Turning Over Tables, pg. 11). Jesus disrupted existing power structures in his countercultural ministry where he cared for those on the margins of society. Jesus touched lepers; ate with outcasts and sinners; chose non-violence; said the first were last and the last first and that the greatest among us is the servant. He told the truth, respected and valued all others, and led with compassion and empathy. Jesus showed the world a way to exercise power.

This Lent, I will be teaching a weekly class where we will be examining ‘power’ and how it can be used in unhealthy ways: toward division, destruction, and self-interest, but also in healthy ways: building community, raising up the lowly, sharing hope, and selfless giving. ‘Unhealthy power (power over) is centered on fear, hierarchy, scarcity, and being right, while healthy power (power with/to/within) is built on empathy, expansion, and connection’ (Brene Brown).

We all have power. It’s not good or bad. But what we choose to do with the power we have is what matters. And regardless of what is going on around us, we still have a choice in how we exercise our own power and how we respond to the unhealthy use of power throughout the world.

**I want to invite you to join me every Thursday from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Christensen room beginning March 13th and going through April 17<sup>th</sup>** (with the only exception of Thursday, March 27th, when we will not meet) where we will explore ‘power’ together through scripture, stories, and several resources. There will be plenty of opportunities for discussion and dialogue as well as your questions. And if that’s not enough, I also invite you to bring a dish to share! We’ll begin with a potluck meal at each gathering. Even if you cannot bring a dish, don’t let that stop you from coming. God will provide plenty of food for us all.

My friends, I look forward to jumping into this Lenten season together. See you on Thursdays!

With grace and peace,  
Pastor Adam

## **“Exercising Power in Tumultuous Times”**

**LEADER:** Pastor Adam

**WHEN:** Every Thursday (March 13- April 17, except Mar. 27); 6-7:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** Christensen Room

**REGISTRATION:** A registration link can be found on the church website and in the weekly email update. While it is not required to register, it will help us get an idea of headcount and better organize what people are bringing for the potluck.

**BRING:** Food item to share for potluck

**DESCRIPTION:** In this Lenten class, we will examine the use of ‘power’ and how it can be used both in healthy and unhealthy ways. How we live as faithful disciples in a difficult social climate often comes down to both how we respond to and exercise power in light of who we are in Jesus Christ. Plan for food, fellowship, a brief lesson, and plenty of discussion.

To register, go to:

<https://pcnovato.e360chms.com/external/form/dd83e47b-cc16-48fe-bce5-261d85b17bb7>



***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.*

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## **SoCal Wildfires: PCN Steps Up – Again!**

After sending our initial batch of 40 blankets to victims of the Pacific Palisades wildfires, the PCN congregation once again stepped up to make another 30. We received this lovely note from Pastor Grace and the Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church:

Dear George and the fantastic blanket team –

It is with grateful hearts that we write this thank you note. Your blankets came at a time when God knew we needed cheering and special support. Thank you so much for all the time and the prayers spent for us!

We are so thankful for all of you, knowing we do not walk alone.

With gratitude, Pastor Grace and Pastor Matt

PCN, you have once again shown these fire victims, in a very real and tangible way, that people from afar, the congregation of PCN, are thinking of them, comforting them, and praying for them, offering hope during a tragic time.



### **Faith in Practice Update**

Our congregation also stepped up in a big way for Vicki Martinez's mission trip to Guatemala through Faith in Practice. Once Vicki asked for new reading glasses to take with her, PCN answered the call, donating more than **300 pairs** of glasses! This was the most glasses we have ever donated. And a special thank you to Becky Erba who made more than 200 eyeglass cases. Ask anyone who needs reading glasses and can't find them, and you'll learn how valuable these are. Many, many thanks to our generous congregation!

## 2025 PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH TRIENNIUM



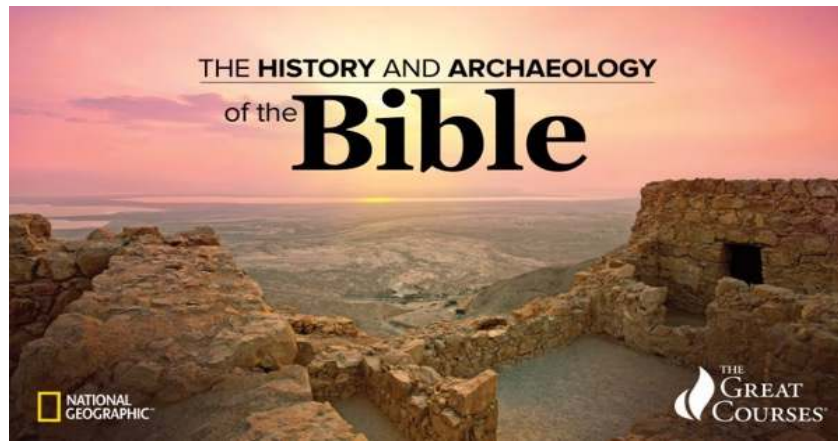
Every three years, the Presbyterian Church USA offers an incredible opportunity for high school youth from around the world to come together in one place and one time for worship, fellowship, service, and fun! This opportunity is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for our youth. I still remember when I participated in the Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT) as a senior in high school. It was at that event that Christ strengthened my faith. I built fantastic, meaningful relationships. And, you might say, God moved me in new directions and toward the path that God had intended for my life all along. I probably wouldn't be the pastor I am today without PYT. And so, as you might imagine, I am thrilled to be one of the co-leaders for our delegation this year.

PYT will be held in Louisville, Kentucky from July 28 to 31. Seven youth and I will be embarking from PCN to join seven more youth and adults from other churches from all around our Presbytery to form one Redwoods Presbytery delegation. Together, we will come together in the name of Jesus Christ with 6,000 Presbyterian youth from around the world, to be the church together.

As you can imagine, PYT costs quite a bit of money for our youth to attend. Redwoods Presbytery has already committed to covering about one-third of the cost of this trip. Traditionally, the other two-thirds were covered by the church (1/3) and by participants (1/3). Our goal at PCN is to work toward covering the full two-thirds cost for all of our youth and leaders who feel called to attend. To that end, our youth will be doing several fundraisers over the next few months. I want to encourage everyone at PCN to consider giving and giving generously so that we can support our youth in this transformational endeavor. I truly believe this is an investment for the future of our youth but also the church. When we return, stay tuned for a full report from our youth participants as they share about their experience.

In the meantime, I invite you to begin praying for our delegation as we make plans. Pray for Annelise and Tennyson McMickin, Ellis and Weston Stahley, and Aaron, Kaydence, and Zachary Smith, and this pastor.

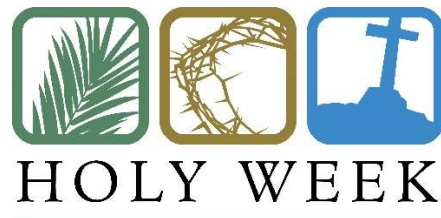
With care,  
Pastor Adam



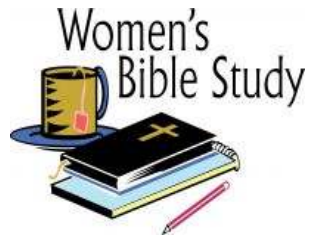
## Winter/Spring 2025 PCN Adult Learning Opportunity

PCN elder Walt Campbell is moderating a Great Courses video lecture and discussion group on “Biblical History and Archaeology” via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The lecturer for the class is Dr. Jean-Pierre Disbouts, a professor of history at Fielding Graduate University. The video lectures are co-produced by The Great Courses and National Geographic. The course content addresses cultural sharing among ancient civilizations using literary texts and archaeological findings to gain insight into Biblical texts and the evolution of Judeo-Christian traditions from the creation accounts of Genesis to the spread of Christianity in the Roman Empire.

The course will consist of 24 half-hour lectures to be viewed over 12 weeks, from February 22 to May 10. Participants will receive a pdf copy of a written course guide, a weekly email with suggested group discussion questions, and credentials to stream make-up sessions from the Great Courses website. The class is open to non-PCN members. A small donation to help cover the cost of course materials is requested. Please email Walt at [walterlcampbell@aol.com](mailto:walterlcampbell@aol.com) if you wish to participate.



Palm Sunday, April 13, 10 a.m. – Children’s Palm Sunday program  
Good Friday, April 18, 7 p.m. – Tenebrae service  
Easter Sunday, April 20, 10 a.m. – Easter worship service



We will continue meeting on Zoom Thursday mornings from 10 to 11:30 a.m. We would be happy to have you join us in our study of Joshua, the story of God fulfilling His promise to give the land of Canaan to Jacob's descendants if only they would trust and obey. Joshua portrays the Lord as their general, leading His people in victorious battles. It is an exciting narrative!

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](mailto:allaboutchoices@yahoo.com)  
Karen 415-382-9616 [kcarlson39@icloud.com](mailto:kcarlson39@icloud.com)  
Melodie 415-897-7512 [melodie.l.baird@gmail.com](mailto:melodie.l.baird@gmail.com)



Join our lively discussion as the Sunday Morning Adult Study Group continues meeting via Zoom at 8:00 a.m. 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](mailto:tonya.church@comcast.net) or Becky at [beckypraun@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto: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!