



**PResPRes**

**November 2024**

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

## **“I (Jesus) Have a Dream”**

What if the Sermon on the Mount was Jesus’ “I Have a Dream” Speech? In it, he shares a vision of what can be, what should be, and, in fact, what will be. He paints the picture of the Kingdom of God with such vivid and grace-filled imagery that it awakens the heart and mind to something wonderful and hope-filled.

How might we hear the hopeful themes of this sermon anew today? How might its powerful message be shared so that we can hear it as the message of grace for the world that it truly is. Below is an attempt to portray the heart of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount in a way that pulls from the power and presence of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s writing style. It is not meant to reproduce Dr. King’s content or his specific message, but it is a way to help understand and convey the import and power of Jesus’ words and teachings.

*“I have a dream that the world is not what you think.  
That the way you see it, the way it is said to be,  
Is, at best, a shadow, insubstantial & undefined,  
And at worst, a life-destroying deception that robs you of your very identity.*

*The ways of the world, mired in selfish desire,  
Have clouded your minds, and shackled your hearts  
Imprisoning you with the illusion of freedom.*

*But you are not free.*

*You are bound and held fast,  
By the manacles of empty promises birthed from fear.  
You think you are in control,  
But the control you have is fleeting and false.  
You are not truly you, not as God created you to be.*

*What if I told you that you are more than you think.  
You are greater than this world promises.*

*My beloved, you are serving the wrong master  
You are serving a master of falsehoods & lies  
Selfish desires, and empty promises;  
A master who preaches scarcity and fear.  
This master leaves you asking,  
Do I have enough? Am...I enough?  
Where can I quickly get enough?  
How do I acquire enough?  
Or work hard enough to get it?*

*But, my friends, these are the wrong questions.  
Life is not about you.  
To serve yourself, or money, wealth, power, & prestige,  
Is to stay in the dark and wonder where the light is.  
It's to remain in shackles and wonder why you still aren't free.  
The greatest lie that keeps you in darkness  
Is "I've got this."*

*But I have a dream.  
I have dream where God's got this.  
God makes you enough.  
You are created in God's image,  
In fact, you are God's children,  
Precious and wonderful.*

*I have a dream.  
Where you are loved unfathomably & unconditionally.  
Where your value and purpose is defined, not by this world,  
But by the God who breathed life into you  
And even now has chosen and called you  
As family, friends, and disciples.*

*I have a dream  
Where light overcomes darkness  
Where hope becomes real  
Where the fog that covers this world is lifted  
And sunlight streams into hearts and minds.*

*It's not where the powerful and prestigious reign  
But where the poor, the merciful, & the peacemaker are blessed.  
Where the lowly is lifted up  
The suffering ones are cared for  
and the lost are found and celebrated.*

*I have a dream  
where kindness and compassion  
Supersedes self-righteousness.  
Where you move from hate and bitterness  
To forgiveness & reconciliation.  
Where enemies are loved  
Rather than retaliated against.  
Where you give of yourself for the sake of others  
Not for show and notoriety,  
But because they are your siblings in need*

*I have a dream  
Where you pray,  
Not for worldly things,  
But in thanksgiving for God's grace, and goodness, and gifts.  
For this dream to be made real right here and right now...  
For Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done,  
On earth as it is in heaven.*

*I have a dream where worry is a thing of the past  
And is replaced by hopeful opportunity  
Where grace is not just what God gives to each of us,  
But becomes who we are every day.*

*You see, my beloved, the master you should serve,  
Is the God of the dream...*

*A dream of abundance and hope,  
Of love and grace  
Of mercy and forgiveness.  
Of life and living*

*You see, this dream is not just a dream.  
This dream is not just a hope.  
This dream is power made manifest in me and it lives in you.*

*Can you see it? Can you feel it in your heart?*

*You, my Church, are stewards of the dream*

With Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Adam



Dear Friends,

**Please don't forget to turn in your Pledge this week!!!**

PCN's Finance Team is in the process of finalizing the 2025 Budget. You've heard about all the exciting plans we have for 2025 to expand our ministry together and our outreach to the community. These include our expanded and exciting Grace Generation program for youth, up to and including high school, and our wholistic music program, providing excellence in content and delivery, to enrich our worship experience (we are very close to making an offer to a new Music Director - stay tuned for more on that front!!!). Finance has determined that if we are able to increase our pledged income from 2024 by 10% in 2025, we can not only move these and other exciting programs forward, we can do so with no operating deficit - for the first time in 7 years!!!

As of today, we have received Pledges from only 50% of those who have pledged in the past. As with our own personal budgets, it is difficult, if not impossible, to make plans for the future without some sense as to whether we'll have the financial resources available when needed. So, please, if you've not had a chance to turn in your 2025 Pledge, please try to do so this week by either dropping off or mailing your Pledge card to the office, or you can do it online by going to your profile on the Church website and completing the 2025 Pledge information under the Giving tab.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to give Brad Praun, George Pilloton, or Greg Smith a call. Thank you in advance for taking this very important step and doing your part to make 2025 a most blessed year for PCN and those it serves.

Your Finance/Stewardship Committee

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# Session

## Session Highlights – October

At the October 16, 2024, meeting:

- Approved the installation of a plastic box on the PCN campus to hold Narcan. The Property Team and Good Shepherd Lutheran School will work together on where the box should be placed. Narcan replenishment is provided free of charge.
- Property Team has planted new trees on the island. An irrigation system for the trees will be installed.
- The Curb Appeal sub-team has planned 34 new plants and repaired the irrigation system in the Meditation Garden.
- Three candidates are being interviewed for the Holistic Music Director position.
- The next QPR training will be on November 7, 2024, from 2 – 4:30 pm.
- A reminder for Session and the congregation that there are several food recalls at this time with Boar's Heah meat products and processed chicken contained in pre-packed meals such as salads and sandwiches.

Kathy Takemoto, Clerk of Session

# 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.*

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CENTER FOR DOMESTIC  
**PEACE**  
Working Together to End Domestic Violence



**Look at all of these GROCERIES!**

Thanks for making the Mission Grocery Drive benefitting Center for Domestic Peace a HUGE SUCCESS!





Gilead House hosted a wonderful 25-year celebration of their beautiful home on October 20<sup>th</sup>. PCN has been supporting this FAITH-BASED mission (no gov't grants) for many years more than that. Below are some pics to show you how your mission dollars AND time AND efforts are changing lives!

Both coming and going reinforces what a sanctuary Gilead House really is!



Passing the torch: Carolyn & Janalee represent the many volunteers that PCN has provided over the years. Now, under the guidance of Kim Stahley, Annie McMickin and Ellis Stahley are beginning a brand-new program of teen volunteers to mentor the children. Way to go, Ellis & Annie!!



In the study hall, with 8 computers, used for mothers' classes and children's homework, Gilead House's vision, mission and values are clearly stated for all to see.

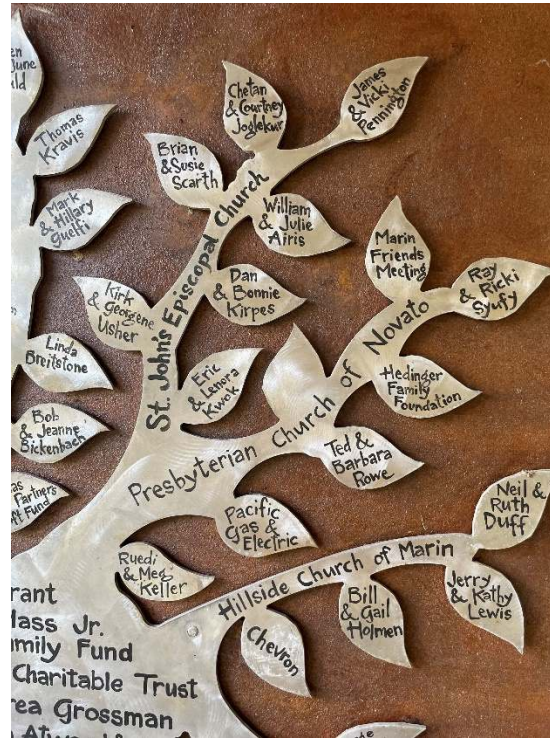
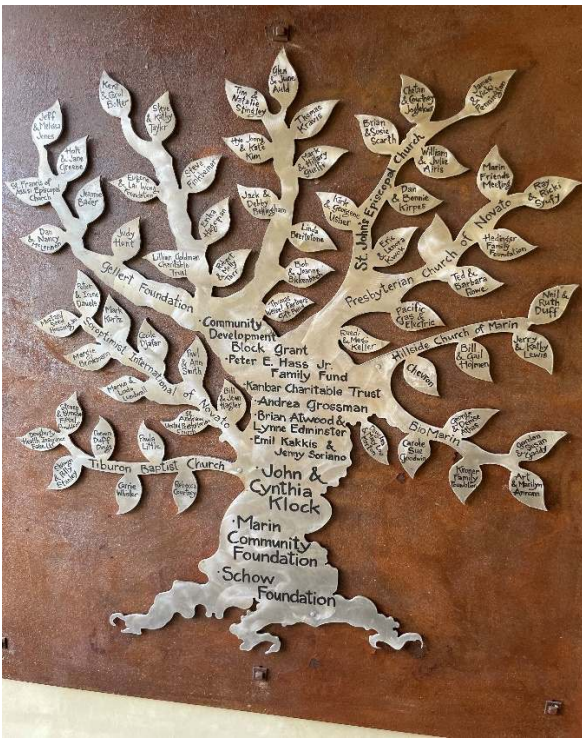


The most recent of PCN provided purchases for Gilead: a new refrigerator and two new dishwashers. (Two! Not one, because of CEO Carrie Scrimshire's [shown] wheeler-dealer capabilities.)



The pewter foundational tree at the office entrance clearly shows (upper right) that Presbyterian Church of Novato has always been, and continues to be, a sturdy trunk, helping to leaf out their mission. Many thanks to all of you PCN'ers!





## Homeward Bound Mission Update: Veterans Welcome Celebration

Due to unexpected administrative processing delays, less than half of the 24 eligible vets will be moved into their new apartments by November 8, the day of our planned "Veterans Welcome Celebration". Subsequently, the Mission Team has decided to cancel our November 8<sup>th</sup> Celebration event and instead explore providing a similar event in the Spring when all 24 units will have been occupied by then.

Additionally, during the month of December, a few Mission Team members will personally visit each vet and present them with a "PCN Welcome Holiday Gift Bag" (reusable) containing: a Holiday Greeting Card and a "Thank You For Serving" hand written note card by our PCN kids, a PCN Heart, squeezable stress relief item, a small American Flag, a Daily Bread pamphlet, and yes, a Safeway Food Gift Card provided in part from your generous World Peace Offering on Sunday October 6. (The Vet Ballcaps will be distributed at the Spring event.)

Thank you for your continuing support of Homeward. The Mission Team will keep you posted on further developments. Blessings



## Safety/ Security Team 2024 Accomplishments

- First aid training class
- AED machines updated (pad replacement)
- First PCN evacuation drill
- Formation of veteran's CBERT (church building emergency response team)
- Purchase/placement of emergency equipment
- Safety vests, walkie-talkies, a bullhorn, light sticks, etc.
- Fire blankets for kitchen and PCN barbecues
- Usher-greeter emergency safety training
- Installation of emergency storage benches
- Complete risk evaluation of the PCN campus (self-inspection safety checklist)

The Safety/Security Team has made significant progress this year!! We are excited about our upcoming goals and are planning an evacuation drill in November!! You will soon hear and learn more about our emergency training plans! And don't worry, there will be donuts!! If you are interested in joining our team or helping with the evacuation drill, please contact Sydney Fletcher or Melodie Baird.

Be ready and stay safe!!!

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PCN's Prayer Blanket Ministry - Join us for our next blanket-making party on November 2. No special skills required. If you know how to tie a knot, you can make a blanket! Contact Tonya Church at [tonya.church@comcast.net](mailto:tonya.church@comcast.net) if you'd like to participate or have any questions, or if you have someone, you'd like to get one of the prayer blankets.



**FRIENDSGIVING** will be held on Saturday, November 16 at 12:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend, but please call the office at (415) 897-6152 to RSVP. Contact Tonya Church at [tonya.church@comcast.net](mailto:tonya.church@comcast.net) with any questions or to volunteer.

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## *Meditation Garden Fundraiser*

The "curb appeal" arm of the Property Team is looking for donations to refresh and restore the church's Meditation Garden to its original glory of Eden. Twenty to twenty-five new plantings along with ground cover and new soil are needed to bring this special place back to its original peaceful space.

Checks can be made out to PCN with "Meditation Garden" in the memo. You can drop off your check or donate online through our website. Thanking you in advance for your generosity and support. If you have any questions, please reach out to Becky Praun, Curb Appeal Committee Chair.



A big Thank You to Jenna Haney for the beautiful art 'Dresses' on the wall in the newly refreshed Brides Room. The room was completed just in time for Sierra Mink's wedding!



## Deacons

Don't be shy! If you'd like to help serve coffee and treats after worship service and join in fun conversations, please sign up to help at the Deacons Coffee Table. You'll be glad you did!

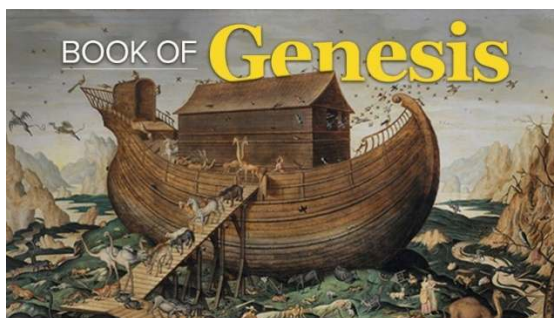
Please contact Becky Praun/Deacon Moderator at 415 472-1733 or email [beckypraun@yahoo.com](mailto:beckypraun@yahoo.com).

The PCN Deacons

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Tammi will be out of the office from October 4 through December 3, as she returns to Maryland to clean out her father's home. Carol Robinson and Linda Ward will staff the office in Tammi's absence.



Summer-Fall PCN Adult Education

PCN Elder Walt Campbell is moderating a Great Courses video lecture and discussion group on "The Book of Genesis" via Zoom through November 16. The class is held from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

The lecturer for the class is Dr. Gary Gensler, a professor of history in the Department of Jewish Studies at Rutgers University. The course will consist of 24 half-hour lectures to be viewed over 12 weeks. Participants will receive a pdf copy of written course guides and a weekly email with suggested group discussion questions. The class is open to non-PCN members. A small donation to help cover the cost of course materials is suggested.

To sign up or for more information, contact Walt Campbell at [walterlcampbell@aol.com](mailto:walterlcampbell@aol.com).

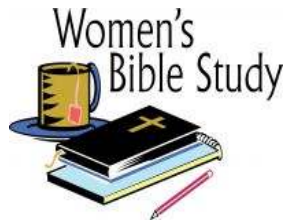
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PCN will honor our veterans on Sunday, November 10. Below is a list of PCN veterans. If you are a veteran and would like to be added to our list, please contact Kathy Takemoto at (847) 274-8276.

Ray	Carlson	Army
Ramona	Chipman	Army
Robert	Douglass	Army Air Corps, Air Force
Alan	Dunham	Naval Reserve
Jim	Emrich	Coast Guard
Donald	Erba	National Guard
Carl	Fehring	Army Air Corps
Garrick	Fong	Army
Jon	Hanlein	Navy
Fred	King	Army
John	Marks	Marine Corps
Janet	Morales	Air Force
Michael	Moser	Coast Guard
Gail	Penfield	Army
Arthur	Plumstead	US Public Health Service
Donald	Powell	Air Force
Mike	Robinson	Air Force
Ray	Shanahan	Army
Greg	Smith	Air Force
Bruce	Stahley	Army
Donald	Taylor	Naval Reserve, Army
Tom	Telfer	Army
Bill	Walker	Coast Guard
Bill	Wolff	Air Force
Stan	Wood	Air Force



Spies, Jericho walls tumbling down, trumpets and shouts, battles. Women's Bible Study's first day back is only weeks away. Class resumes Thursday, September 12 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Carol Dacquisto invites all the ladies of PCN to this "not to be missed" study of the Old Testament Book of Joshua. Carol has spent her summer researching Joshua and is raring to share her discoveries. 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,  
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



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 this fall on Psalms. For information, please call Doris Dooley (415-895-5104) or Karen Carlson (415-382-9616).

Your study leaders are Carol Dacquisto, 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!