

The Presbyterian Church of Novato
710 Wilson Avenue
Novato, CA 94947

Return Service Requested



October 4 – Elder retreat
October 19 – Consecration Sunday



PresPress

October 2025

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

“Did you know this is PCN’s approach to worship?”

by Pastor Tony and Art Maramba

Greetings, Presbyterian Church of Novato church family. Before Pastor Tony joined you for this season of Transition Ministry, he was given two documents that the Session had approved that captured PCN’s new approach to a “Wholistic Music Program:” a larger document created in June 2024 that represented the work of a special Task Team, and a single-page document that served as a summary of that larger document, were approved by the Session in July 2024.

Below is the official single-page document approved in July 2024, sharing the new approach for a “Wholistic Music Program.”

“WHOLISTIC” MUSIC PROGRAM

Approved by the Session on July 17, 2024

GOAL: A music program that is:

- *CELEBRATIONAL: inspiring “joyful noise” and reverence*
- *HIGHEST QUALITY: excellence in performance*
- *ENGAGING: active congregation participation and enthusiasm, singable*
- *VARIED: includes wide range of music genres and media*
- *INCLUSIVE: involves youth and children*
- *SUPPORTIVE: enhanced connection to sermon message*
- *ATTRACTIVE: to visitors, outsiders, newcomers; visible and creates buzz*

ELEMENTS OF PROPOSED PROGRAM:

- *Music Director:*
 - o *Builds the new wholistic program, providing leadership to the entire program*
 - o *Networks, recruits talent (builds a pool of volunteers as well), selects music (coordinated with pastor message), includes musical elements within worship, leads performances (or delegates), engages the congregation*
 - o *Implements high quality standards, including auditions for all singers and instrumentalists, in a non-threatening, competitive way, that welcomes volunteers*
 - o *May be full-time or part-time*
- *Lead vocalists:*
 - o *Vocalists (e.g., section leaders) to be the lead singers, providing professional-level strength and foundation.*
 - o *Music Director conducts auditions to satisfy excellence expectations. This quality and foundation will encourage volunteers to join in backup positions*

- *Instrumentalists:*
 - o *1-4 paid instrumentalists as needed (as determined by Music Director) and auditioned by Director*
- *Selection:*
 - o *Music selected by Music Director to support pastor message*
 - o *Music sung by congregation to be familiar (e.g. from a repertoire) or easily learned*
 - o *Music may be sourced from outside PCN as well (visiting musicians, video, etc.)*
- *Range:*
 - o *Music drawn from multiple genres and media, not limited to/defined as “contemporary” vs. “traditional,” intended to create a sense of variety yet a unity of program, i.e., across a spectrum*
 - o *Music includes bell choir and youth/children’s music*
- *Congregational Leader:*
 - o *Music Director or designee is responsible for leading the congregation in singing, drawing from repertoire (e.g. 10 favorites) or teaching the song in service*
- *Sound Tech:*
 - o *Person dedicated to high-quality sound, in person and online*
 - o *Updated sound equipment updated to support the program, on-site and online.*
- *Visibility:*
 - o *Plan a visibility campaign to increase awareness, possibly including concerts, featured at various events, or putting on an event (concert) in the community every year, which may also act as a fundraiser for PCN.*

Art Maramba has been working on realizing this vision for worship at PCN. There are elements from the larger document created in June 2024 that include having a larger staff team of vocalists, sound equipment updates, and instrument purchases that have not yet been realized.

As you read through the single-page capture document, you might say to yourself that the language of a “wholistic music program” is a bit uncommon. Many churches call the approach used in weekly worship a ‘blended approach.’ One of the challenges of blended worship gatherings is that people who come from defined worship traditions, like “traditional worship” or “contemporary worship” have a difficult time observing their traditions present within the blend. In the future, we will include specific pieces that express traditional and contemporary approaches directly, as well as pieces that bring these elements together, and even pieces that don’t fit into either approach. We recognize that experiencing those things in distinct ways has been challenging for members of the congregation.

Art, the Transition Pastor, and key staff members will collaborate with the Worship Team to clarify how the weekly worship experience integrates multiple genres and traditions of worship approaches on Sundays. Please look for future *PresPress* news articles from the Worship Team and staff on worship, special email blasts, a Town Hall discussion item coming up, and other congregational communication resources from worship in the months to come. We hope this news article is received by you as the ‘first of many’ intentional, transparent communications about how we worship at the Presbyterian Church of Novato.

With joy and great expectation for the future of worship at PCN,

Pastor Tony and Art Maramba



A message from your Finance Committee

SEEDING OUR FUTURE

Friends,

Yes, it is that time of year again where the PCN Finance Committee runs its annual Stewardship Campaign, asking you, our PCN members and friends, to consider how God has blessed you and how you will share the “first fruits” of the treasures God has blessed you with, making a financial pledge to fund your church’s ministries and vision for 2026.....SEEDING OUR FUTURE.

Over the next three weeks leading up to Consecration Sunday, October 19th, we will be sharing with you more on how your financial generosity in the past has continued to transform our worship, music, mission and community outreach, and what our increasing budget needs will be in 2026 to sustain and grow these ministries.

What we do want to accomplish here is let you know how important it will be for all of us to designate our 2026 pledges by the end of October so that our Session leaders and committee chairs can build their budgets based on sound forecasted income. The later the pledge commitments are made, the tougher it is for Session to support investments in existing and transformative ministry programs and staffing planning required to be approved in November and December.

We know many of our families are also faced with the same budgeting decisions for the future and don’t usually make their charitable donation determinations until December, but we are asking that you prayerfully make your Stewardship pledge in October (which can be adjusted at any time should your financial situation change).

Financially, our message is this: we can keep moving to the PCN vision AND have sound finances. The challenge, and the opportunity, lie in your timely and generous increase in your stewardship pledges. Hence, to meet our goals, we ask you to consider increasing your pledge commitment by 10% this year, taking this to heart, prayerfully. We are almost there in meeting our goals, so *please* reach deeply so we can widely seed PCN’s future throughout Novato and beyond. With your generous support, personally and financially, together, we *can* step up and keep expanding God’s work at PCN.

Thank you very much, and may God bless you.

Finance Committee



Do Well by Doing Good Give to PCN – Save on TAXE\$ by John Reuscher

We often advise our clients, who are charity-minded, to use their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) to advantage. You probably know that at a certain age you are required to take an income-taxable distribution from your IRA and from other “qualified” accounts. That age was raised from 70½ to age 72, and more recently changed to age 73 and for some people, age 74 – and now age 75 for those born in 1960 or later.

HERE'S THE NEWS: *If you make some, or all, of your distribution payable directly to PCN (a qualified charity) that amount is NOT included in your taxable income.*

Your own personal donation might otherwise be tax-deductible but only to the extent that it and other itemized deductions exceed your standard deduction. Check with your tax preparer or financial advisor.

This strategy is not limited to the required distribution. Any funds transferred from your IRA directly to a qualified charity pass income-tax free, up to \$108,000. It's important that the charity gets its funds before you take any amount for yourself. This is a fairly simple process. There are not many caveats, but do seek advice.

Securities and investment advisory services offered through **Osaic Wealth, Inc.** member FINRA/SIPC. **Osaic Wealth** is separately owned and other entities and/or marketing names, products or services referenced here are independent of **Osaic Wealth**.



CONTINUE TO GIVE ONLINE. *If you are not able to join us for in-person services, there are ways to contribute your tithes and offerings. To connect with our online giving page, here is the link: <http://www.pcnovato.org/give/make-a-donation-online.html>. You may also mail your check to the church or drop it off in the mail slot. Thank you!*



Session

Session Highlights – September 2025

At the September 17, 2025 stated Session meeting:

- Session approved the updated Safety Emergency Manual, with thanks to the Safety Emergency Team for keeping the manual up to date.
- The Clerk and Moderator introduced a meeting-minutes template for use by committees and teams which highlights current issues, accomplishments, and any needs for guidance from Session.
- Received updates from the Community Life Team on user responses about the church website improvements.
- Elders will be sent two Mission Studies from other Presbyterian churches. The Moderator asked the Elders to read these two documents prior to the Session retreat on Saturday, October 11, 2025.

Kathy Takemoto, Clerk of Session



Join Us for “The Truth Project” – A Life-Changing Journey of Biblical Worldview

Sally Carbonaro’s morning Life Group is excited to host a Tuesday morning class featuring *The Truth Project*, a powerful 12-session video series produced by Focus on the Family. This thought-provoking program explores the foundations of a Christian worldview and challenges participants to live out their faith in every area of life.

 **Tuesdays, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

 **Through November 18**

 **Location:** the Christensen Room

Whether you're new to exploring biblical truth or looking to deepen your understanding, this series offers rich teaching, meaningful discussion, and spiritual encouragement.

All are welcome – come grow with us!

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.



Saddle Up for Gilead House was a great success and a very fun afternoon. Attendees enjoyed good live country music and both a hot and cold buffet. The afternoon garnered many generous donations and a good time was had by all! Thank you to Bruce Stahley, the Carbonaros, the Gerrans, and the Kesichs for attending.

Camp Compassion

Members of PCN continue to serve food to the unhoused children and adults at Camp Compassion. Volunteers do the meal planning, shopping, preparing and cooking, then serve the grateful recipients. This project continues on each third Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in participating, please contact Hilary Kinney at hilarykinney@yahoo.com for more information.

JOIN US FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

CENTER FOR DOMESTIC PEACE
OPEN HOUSE AND
PURPLE RIBBON AWARDS

Date: Thursday October 2

Time: 5:30-7:30 PM

Location: 734 A Street, San Rafael

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- Resource sharing and panel discussion on increasing access to justice for survivors
- Presentation of Inaugural Purple Ribbon Awards to honor individuals and organizations
- Networking opportunities with local advocates and service providers

PURPLE RIBBON HONOREES:

- Lori Frugoli, Marin County District Attorney
- Jim Correa, Novato Police Department Domestic Violence Liaison
- Community Violence Solution's Rape Crisis Center

STAND WITH US TO END DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Registration: c4dp.org/events

CENTER FOR DOMESTIC
PEACE®





Good news! The nursery has been updated with new carpet and fresh paint for the cabinets and shelves. Our youngest believers can enjoy the warm flooring and bright colors while they spend time playing and learning about the love of Jesus!

Thank you to Sydney for her vision and for all those who helped paint, move furniture and be present during the installation: Matt Rodriguez, Don Erba, Andy Potter and Becky Praun.

Come check it out!

With gratitude,

Becky/Property Refresh Team



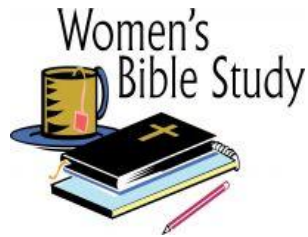
Meditation Garden Update

It has been one year since the request for donations to the Meditation Garden to bring this special and peaceful place back to life.

Many thanks to Donna Pfeiff for all the hours she put in weeding the garden. Her time made it possible for the garden to accept 15 new plantings. Thanks to Dinah Sims and her connection with the nursery for purchasing the plants and Brad Praun for digging the holes and getting the plants in, protected with gopher baskets.

There are still limited funds remaining to continue the garden with additional plantings and finishing touches. Your continued support has been a blessing and most appreciated.

With gratitude,
Becky Praun



Women's Bible Study's is back and has two options for fellowship! We will continue to meet via Zoom on Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. There will be time for conversation, fellowship and prayer. The new Zoom link is below.

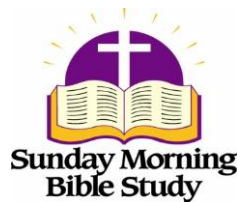
Many of us are also attending The Truth Project video series on Tuesdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

We will continue collecting 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. You can drop off yours in the office.

If you have any questions, call Becky Praun at 415.472.1733 or email beckypraun@yahoo.com.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86913616907?pwd=gsbDqww6cuwPq9qtsmCVMQ2ZE28u6P.1>

Meeting ID: 869 1361 6907 Passcode: pcnovato



All signs point to Jesus! Come join us via Zoom Sunday mornings from 8 to 9 a.m. Your study leaders are Larry Dacquist (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!



"This would get me lots of candy
'cause I'd look really hungry."



"Is it dark enough yet?"