



## **PresPress**

**October 2018**

Presbyterian Church of Novato, 710 Wilson Ave., P.O. Box 631, Novato, CA 94948

### **A Note from Ariel** *October Opportunities*

#### **Rev. Dr. Greg Love – October 25**

I wanted to briefly share a little more about Rev. Dr. Greg Love, whom most of you have seen this summer. Greg is preaching a total of five times in 2018 – once later in October and twice in November (he’s already preached twice this summer), and then will increase his preaching schedule in 2019. In addition to being an accomplished preacher, Greg is also a professor of systematic theology at San Francisco Theological Seminary. He’ll be teaching a four-week class beginning Thursday, October 25, from 6 to 7 p.m. on “God and Human Suffering.” Since that is the dinner hour for many people, Program and Fellowship is hosting a “Supper and Study” time in Trevitt Hall from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. We’ll be serving a simple supper for registered students, who can eat and then participate in class with Greg. There is a registration form in this newsletter; registration forms are also be available in the church office. Greg’s Statement of Faith is also included in this newsletter.

#### **Consecration Sunday – October 21**

**Breakfast 8:45 – 9:45 a.m.; ONE WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 a.m.**

Ben Kerns will be our guest pastor for Consecration Sunday. Ben grew up in this church and is Lead Pastor for Students and Families at Marin Covenant Church. Please note that we will have a congregational breakfast before our ONE worship service, which will begin at 10:00 a.m. Every member and friend of PCN is being asked to pray and reflect on what “Generous Living” means – how you choose to respond is deeply personal, so please do take time to prayerfully consider what God is calling you to give, not only of your finances but of your precious time and extraordinary talent as well. On October 21, we will be inviting you to complete an Estimate of Giving card, which we’ll ask you to bring up as an offering to God in response to His unconditional, abundant, and generous love for us. This estimate of financial giving is not binding – we know circumstances can change, and so if

you need to revise it at any time, just contact Stephanie Monahan. If you are unable to join us on October 21, we will miss you!

### **Harvest Festival – October 28, 4:30 pm**

You, your family and friends are invited to join us here at PCN in non-scary costumes for our annual Harvest Festival. We are looking for folks to decorate their cars and hand out candy to our little trick-or-treaters as well as engage in age-appropriate activities! Food, fun, and fellowship for ALL AGES!



We will be running our annual Stewardship Program in October, culminating with Consecration Sunday where members and friends of PCN submit their Estimate of Giving offerings which will support the 2019 church budget. During the service, we will bless and pray over your generous gifts. It is always an important time for all of us to realize how we have been blessed by God, how we can help support the exciting future of PCN and the hiring of a new senior pastor and youth director, and continue to maintain and grow our mission giving, fellowship programs, and youth ministries.

We always ask for the Estimate of Giving Cards at the end of October so we can formulate next year's budget by early December. As it is, we always have to follow up with those who did not submit their EOG card on Consecration Sunday with letters and/or by phone so that we account for all your pledges in the budget process. It would be greatly appreciated if you make your giving decisions as close to, if not on our Consecration Sunday date of October 21<sup>st</sup>.

You will be receiving more information about Consecration Sunday in the mail in early October, and we will also be implementing a new "Giving" tab on our PCN website in mid-October that will provide more information about ways to give during the stewardship campaign and throughout the year.

Should you have any questions about stewardship and our upcoming program, please don't hesitate to call me at 415-472-1733 or contact Stephanie Monahan at our church finance office at [smonahan@pcnovato.org](mailto:smonahan@pcnovato.org) or 415-897-6152.

Prayerfully submitted,

Brad Praun, Stewardship Elder



# God and Human Suffering

Thursdays, October 25 – November 15 *ca* 6-7 p.m.

Light supper provided from 5:30-6 p.m.

Presbyterian Church of Novato

710 Wilson Avenue

Instructor: The Rev. Dr. Gregory Love

Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at

San Francisco Theological Seminary

If God is all-powerful and loves us like a parent loves her or his child, why do horrific things happen to us or to those we love? Where is God when it hurts? This four-week class will investigate three different Christian views of God's relationship to human suffering. First, we will look at Biblical views which begin with the premise that God is Lord over all things. Next, we will investigate Biblical views which begin with the idea that God is never the source of evil. We will end with a contemporary position which incorporates aspects of both these Biblical beliefs and see whether the view makes sense in light of our own experience of suffering. We will also look at what helps people who suffer, and what does not.

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## ***God and Human Suffering***

\*Registration Form: **Please Print**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I'd like to come for supper before class.

\*Registration is open to all interested adults. Mail or deliver this form to the Presbyterian Church of Novato, 710 Wilson Ave. (P.O. Box 631) Novato, CA 94948, phone (415) 897-6152

## **Statement of Faith**

*Gregory Love, February 2000*

We come from nothing but the love of God, and all things are held in being and find their end in that divine love.

*God in the one who loves in freedom.* God is not a lonely, solitary God. Apart from the world's existence, the triune God lives in the ecstatic movement of life, power and love shared between the persons of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Out of the plenitude of this reciprocal love, God freely elects to share God's joy with something that is other than God: the good creation created to image God's own community of love. The first person of the Trinity, the Father, spoke through Christ the Word and the breath of the Spirit, and through the creative processes of nature – perhaps those of the Big Bang and evolution – brought all things into being. Called to be mirrors of the love of God toward the creatures, and of the creatures' praise toward God. Christ gives us this form, and the Spirit of Life gives us vitality.

Created from love and for love, inexplicably we chose, and continue to choose, a possibility that is an impossibility, for it holds nothing but ruin in the end. We choose to live a life without God. Sin is this isolating movement away from God, the refusing of God's grace in egotistic pride or self-destructive despair. Distrusting God's goodness, we soon develop a habit of mistrust, perhaps seeing our neighbor as threatening us, ourselves as incompetent, our environment as stingy. We protect ourselves with force or acquiescence to force, breeding cycles of violence.

The Word through whom all things were made became one of the creatures, the historical Jesus of Nazareth, placing himself in front of this violence. Fully human, fully divine, by the Spirit who accompanied him, Jesus clung to God the Father and finally lived a truly human life, loving the Father, his neighbors, and himself rightly. In a divine exchange, in his good human existence he judged our own warped existence; in his divine, kenotic presence, he accompanied and bore our sins to their ultimate end, indeed to hell. Resurrected by the Father through the Spirit, the risen Christ reigns at the hand of the Father as the first fruit of the restoration of all things.

The risen Christ speaks to us, calling us toward our new existence in the inbreaking Kingdom of God. Our freedom is restored and we respond in faith when the Holy Spirit acts as teacher, showing us that our life is hidden in Christ. Set free from mistrust, we begin to trust again.

The Church is its mission. Called into faith, it is shaped by the risen Christ and the teacher Spirit to be a witness to the inbreaking reign of God, enacting personal and social parables of that new community of reciprocal love. It witnesses to the presence of God hidden and sovereignly active in fleshly form – in Jesus, who proclaimed good news to the disheartened, touched lepers and revived the dead; in the historical events of God's savings witnessed to in Hebrew and Christian scriptures; in words painfully crafted by preachers; in cleansing water and life-giving bread and wine. Baptism and Eucharist represent God's sovereign acts of grace and their saving benefits; through Christ, they also carry our free response of joy back to God.

Through the powerful, suffering love of Christ and the power of the resurrection brought into our world by the Spirit, we are called from mistrust into trust, from self-enraptured and self-hating chains into the new freedom of life within the love of the triune God. Even now there are signs, and those who choose to participate in this love shall join the Sabbath rest and feast of the new heaven and earth.



*Presbyterian Women nurture their faith through prayer and Bible study, support missions of the church worldwide, and build an inclusive, caring community of women.*

**Are you a woman in the Presbyterian Church of Novato (PCN)?** Are you interested in supporting local and worldwide missions, a monthly Bible study, and being part of a group of caring and fun women? **Please join us and consider becoming an active member of the Presbyterian Women (PW) of PCN ... ALL ARE WELCOME (invite a friend)!** We currently have two active PW circles at PCN that each meet once a month in the Christensen Room: (1) **Ruth Circle** usually meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 2 p.m. (Glenise Johnson, leader) and (2) **Rachel Circle** usually meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. (Pat Sullivan, leader).

### **Bible Study:**

The Bible study this session is from a book titled “*God’s Promise, I am with You,*” by Amy Poling Sutherland. The circle meetings will all be presented via a video narrated by the author of the study book, which promises to be a very rich and meaningful study of each lesson. Four of us recently went to the San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo and met Amy, who gave us a preview and guided us through the lessons in the book ... what a fantastic experience!

### **Mission Projects:**

During the Autumn months, we collect the **Thank Offering**. Much of this money goes toward support of hospitals and other health ministries throughout the year. **Anyone can make a donation to the Thank Offering to support these ministries.**

Each month our circles collect what is called the **Least Coin Offering**. Since 1956, Presbyterian Women have been collecting the Least Coin worldwide for evangelism, service, and relief projects. We also collect money for mosquito nets to help stamp out malaria in the world: each month, our women donate at least \$0.05 for the program called **Nickels For Nets**. This gives the Presbyterian Women a sense of being a part of the worldwide family of faith. Even the smallest donation will make a difference in the world when added together.

In the Spring, we collect the **Birthday Offering**, giving at least one penny for each year of our lives. This donation also goes toward innovative mission projects in the United States and worldwide.

We always welcome women interested in local and worldwide missions, a monthly Bible study, and being a part of caring and fun women by becoming an active part of our circle of Presbyterian Women ... **Come Try Us Out!!!**

**-Glenise Johnson, Moderator**



*PROJECT SERVE DAY AT GILEAD HOUSE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>  
GILEAD NEEDS OUR HELP! SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY!*

**WE HAVE SIX VOLUNTEERS SO FAR.  
WE NEED FOUR TO NINE MORE!**

Calling on our congregation to support Gilead House for Mothers and Children, right here in Novato. They need 10 to 15 volunteers from 10 a.m. to noon to accomplish any number of tasks in and around the house. Come join us in a hands-on way by volunteering for any of the following tasks:

**Outside:**

weed pulling  
bush trimming (nandina [heavenly bamboo] extraction 2-3 feet)  
window washing  
sweeping/blowing leaves and putting them in green bins  
watering container plants  
clean street gutters  
someone with truck to take chair/old bed frame to Goodwill or to corner of Simmons and Shady Lane

**Inside:**

window washing downstairs, common rooms, and upstairs hallway  
clean stove hood with 409  
clean floors behind furniture  
wipe out refrigerators  
clean wood furniture with Lemon Pledge  
hand-clean stairwell with warm wet rags (stairs and railings)

**PLEASE SIGN UP BEFOREHAND WITH CAROLYN GERRANS  
AT 415-897-1504 OR AT [grace624@comcast.net](mailto:grace624@comcast.net)**



## Sunday Morning Adult Study

The Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study meets in the library at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome to an exciting time of sharing with others. We are studying the Book of Genesis and are finding that God is interested in our daily lives.

When He wrote the Bible, God didn't give us a ponderous theology book divided into sections labeled **God, Creation, Man, Sin**, and so forth. Instead, He gave us a story, a narrative that begins in eternity past and ends in eternity future. It's a story about God and His dealings with all kinds of people and how they responded to His Word. As we read these narratives, we learn a great deal about God, ourselves and our world, and we discover that our own personal story is found somewhere in the pages of Scripture. If you read long enough and honestly enough, you will meet yourself in the Bible.

We hope you will join – we have a seat ready just for you! Questions? Feel free to call or email Carol Dacquisto (415-892-2070 or [dacqmom@aol.com](mailto:dacqmom@aol.com)).

Study Leaders,  
Carol Dacquisto, Rosie Nicholas, Larry Dacquisto



# Session

## Session Highlights August & September 2018

At a Special Session Meeting on August 18, 2018, Session approved hiring Rev. Dr. Gregory Love for pulpit supply and teaching of adult education classes through June 30, 2019.

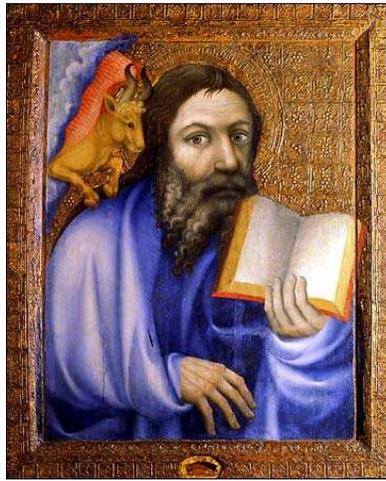
At a Special Session Meeting on August 13, 2018, Session received a recommendation of engaging Brown Church Development Group as a consultant for PCN campus and ministry assessment and development. No action was taken.

At the September 19, 2018 Stated Session meeting:

- Session approved the hiring of Brown Church Development Group as a consultant for PCN campus development and ministry assessment. The vote was not unanimous.
- Approved one blended worship service on Consecration Sunday at 10 a.m. A church brunch will precede worship from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m.
- Approved Rev. Dr. Greg Love's adult education class on *God and Human Suffering* on Thursday evenings for four weeks beginning on October 25, 2018 from 6 to 7 p.m. A simple supper is offered prior to Rev. Love's class from 5:30 to 6 p.m.
- Approved the baptism of Mireille Angelique Isodja Bodipo-Mbuyamba, daughter of Jean-Claude Mbuyamba and Ana Isabel Bodipo-Mbuyamba on Sunday, September 23, 2018 at the traditional service. Mireille was born on April 5, 2017 in Santa Rosa, CA and is the granddaughter of Eleuteria Etuba-Memba.

Kathy Takemoto  
Clerk of Session

## WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY



### Luke Chapters 13-16

Women's Bible Study, led by Carol Dacquisto, Elaine Harris and Melodie Baird, meets on **Thursday mornings, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. in the Christensen Room.** We welcome you to join us at any time.

We are currently studying chapters 13-16 of the Gospel of Luke. These chapters include many of Jesus' most memorable parables, such as:

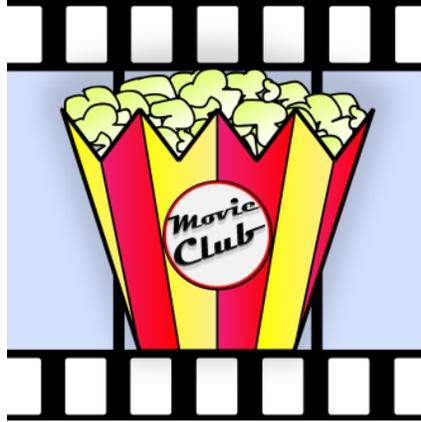
- The Great Banquet
- The Lost Sheep
- The Lost Coin
- The Lost Son
- The Dishonest Manager

Luke portrays Christ in His fullest humanity, and these parables speak to us in profoundly human terms. The parables of The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin and The Lost Son epitomize the heart of Luke's message: that God through Christ has come to seek and save that which was lost. Parables challenge us to understand this message and respond.

Women's Bible Study is an inspiring journey of discovery. Won't you join us in October? We'll provide the place, time and support to guide your studies. Women of all ages and knowledge levels are welcome. If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail one of our study leaders:

Carol Dacquisto    phone 415-892-2070, e-mail: [dacqmom@aol.com](mailto:dacqmom@aol.com)  
Elaine Harris    phone 415-382-0854, e-mail: [e.harris@comcast.net](mailto:e.harris@comcast.net)  
Melodie Baird    phone: 415-897-7512, e-mail: [melodie.l.baird@gmail.com](mailto:melodie.l.baird@gmail.com)

## Christian Education



### PCN CONNECT *OSCAR SEASON* MOVIE SMALL GROUP

Are you a movie lover? If so, then you may want to join our Oscar season movie group that starts this month. The host(s) will pick one *NEW* movie a month, which participants will see at their leisure. Then we will gather once a month at the home of the host(s) to discuss the movie and enjoy pot-luck appetizers and desserts. The host(s) will provide beverages. If interested, please contact Carolyn Gerrans at (415) 897-1504 or [grace624@comcast.net](mailto:grace624@comcast.net).

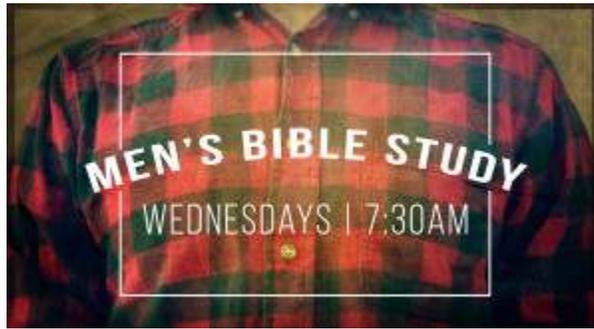
*ENJOY THE BEST MOVIES OF THE YEAR, GREAT  
FOOD, AND GREAT FRIENDS.*

## PCN Bag Lunches Evolve into PCN Snack Sacks



PCN piloted a three-month program in spring to provide bag lunches to people in our community through North Marin Community Services, and it was a mixed success. While we could have had more people come for a bag lunch, our congregation turned out with a positive attitude and willingness to do more. The Mission Committee talked about how addressing food insecurity could be a continued local mission project, and we found Downtown Streets Mobile Showers as our next project. While PCN has been involved with bringing mobile showers to Novato to serve the homeless amongst us, now we are going to provide some food for the people using the shower. We will provide a snack sack with a bagel, two granola or breakfast bars, two pieces of fruit, a peanut butter cup (Jiff on the Go) and a homemade cookie. We hope to get the bagels, fruit and cookies donated each week.

We will start our program the first Sunday in October, making 20 snack sacks a week. We need one person to donate bagels, two people to bring fruit, and one person to bring homemade cookies (20 each). Then two or three people can assemble the food into the bags in between service every Sunday. Last, we need one person to bring the 20 bags to the mobile showers in Hamilton at 6 a.m. on Monday morning. **Can you help? E-mail Regina at [reginabrus@gmail.com](mailto:reginabrus@gmail.com)**. A Sign-Up Genius will be started soon, and she can put your name on the distribution list similar to how we operate the monthly Mill Street food program.



## **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The Men's Bible Study group starts up again Wednesday, September 5th at 7:30 a.m. We are studying ACTS. Join us for this one-hour mid-week boost and share great fellowship with brothers. And no homework!

## **OUR DAILY BREAD**

Helping you connect with God every day. Pick up your copy on the hall table in the office.





# October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 9:00 Morning Prayer 5:30 SEEkers	2 7:30am Stephen Leaders 2:00 PW Coordinating Team	3 7:30am Men's Group 4:00 Bell Choir 5:30 Mission Cmte. 6:00 PNC 6:30 Worship Cmte. 7:00 CE	4 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 6:15 Youth Director search committee 7:00 Choir rehearsal	5	6
7 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 12:00 M&O 1:30 Joyce Peterson memorial 4:30 Youth Group	8 9:00 Morning Prayer 5:00 Nominating Cmte 5:30 SEEkers 6:00 PNC 7:00 PCN Campus Development Cmte.	9 6:30 Personnel Cmte.	10 7:30am Men's Group 10:30 Marian Stitchers 4:00 Bell Choir 6:00 PNC 6:30 Deacons 6:30 Finance Cmte.	11 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 6:15 Youth Director search committee 7:00 Choir rehearsal	12	13
14 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 4:30 Youth Group	15 9:00 Morning Prayer 2:00 Mill St. meal p/u 5:30 SEEkers	16 7:00 Stephen Ministry Supervision	17 7:30am Men's Group 4:00 Bell Choir 6:00 PNC 6:00 Session dinner 6:30 Session meeting	18 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 6:15 Youth Director search committee 7:00 Choir rehearsal	19 5:00 CE pumpkin patch and corn maze 6:00 Mingling Singles Pizza Night 	20
21 <i>Consecration Sunday</i> 8:45 Brunch 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 One Service/SEEker Sunday 1:30 Creekwood 4:30 Youth Group	22 9:00 Morning Prayer 5:30 SEEkers	23 2:00 Ruth Circle	24 7:30am Men's Group 4:00 Bell Choir 6:00 PNC	25 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 5:30 Rachel Circle 6:00 Fall class begins 6:15 Youth Director search committee 7:00 Choir rehearsal	26	27 10:00 Scream on the Green event
28 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 4:30 Harvest Festival/Trunk-or-Treat	29 9:00 Morning Prayer 5:30 SEEkers	30	31 7:30am Men's Group 4:00 Bell Choir 6:00 PNC			

# 2018