



PResPRes

December 2017

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

KENT'S COMMENTS

*“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife,
for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.*

She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus . . .”

- the angel's announcement to Joseph at Matthew 1:20-21

December will be a busy month in the worship life of our congregation! Here is a rundown of what is planned –

Sunday December 3 is the first Sunday of the Season of Advent and is a Communion Sunday. That morning at our usual 9:00 a.m. Contemporary and 10:30 Traditional services, I'll begin a sermon series from Matthew's Gospel, which Ariel and I will pursue till Easter. That afternoon from 2-4 we'll hang greens in the Sanctuary while Advent Afternoon proceeds in Trevitt Hall with the building of Advent Wreaths and (faux) Gingerbread Houses. At 4 p.m. we'll all gather in the Sanctuary with Katy Hatfield for the singing of Christmas Carols and then move to Trevitt Hall for a Soup Supper at 5 p.m.

The Second Sunday of Advent, December 10 is the day our children will present their annual Christmas Program and lead us in worship! We will have a single 10 a.m. worship service that day, so please mark your calendars accordingly!

On Sunday December 17, the Third Sunday of Advent, at our normal 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. times, I'll speak about Jesus' interesting and unusual genealogy from Matthew chapter 1.

Christmas Eve is the Fourth Sunday of Advent this year and features both morning and evening services. Ariel will be preaching at our normal 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. services, while I'll be giving a homily at our evening 5:00 p.m. Contemporary and 8:00 p.m. Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. As you might expect the Chancel Choir will be singing for the 10:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. services and will offer a Christmas Concert beginning at 7:30 p.m. that night, while the Praise Band will lead the music at 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Finally on the First Sunday after Christmas, December 31, we'll gather for a single worship service in the contemporary style with the Praise Band at 10 a.m.

I hope you'll mark your calendars now and plan to join us for worship in the Seasons of Advent and Christmas!

Your Friend in Christ,
Kent

Message from Ariel

The Pastor Nominating Committee Has Been Elected – Now What?

On October 29, 11 PCN members were elected to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC): Walt Campbell, Robert Coleman, Diane Combs, Lisa Lee, Susi Lynam, Brad Praun, Delane Ramser, Patty Reed, Delores Revere, Janis West, and Mike Winsor. In addition, two Committee on Ministry liaisons will represent the Redwoods Presbytery and serve as resources to our PNC. We are grateful for this entire committee's willingness to be part of this process.

The PNC will begin their work by using the Mission Study Report to develop the Mission Information Form (the MIF). Once completed, and approved by Presbytery, it will be submitted to the Church Leadership Connection (CLC) which is a database of PCUSA churches seeking pastors and pastors seeking churches. The CLC will use an algorithm and send the PNC potential applicants to consider. In addition, the PNC will probably get some self-referrals. The PNC will work through their established process, and once they have found a final candidate, will present that person to the congregation for a vote. There are a lot of steps between now and then, and a lot of time will elapse.

One of the peculiar aspects of the search process is the high level of confidentiality. The PNC will be able to provide general reports to the Session and to the congregation about their progress, but will not share specific details. While it may feel frustrating at times, know that the PNC will be hard at work discerning God's will for us at PCN.

What can you do between now and then? Pray regularly for the PNC: while an extraordinarily rewarding experience, it also requires a lot of time, energy, and emotion. Pray for Kent: for his ongoing, vibrant ministry and leadership as well as his upcoming plans for retirement. And, continue to support the ministry of PCN through your prayers, active participation, and financial support during this time.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE DATES FOR DECEMBER



DECEMBER 3rd... 2 services with Sunday School at 9:00 am. Followed by....

- Gingerbread houses and Advent wreaths in Trevitt Hall + the “hanging of the greens” in the sanctuary from 2:00pm to 4:00pm
- Carols in the sanctuary from 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
- Soup supper (provided) back in Trevitt Hall from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm.
Come for all or a part of this very special tradition within our church. Make the most of this wondrous season by starting the Advent of Christmas together.

DECEMBER 10th1 service at 10:00 am for our wonderful yearly **CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

DECEMBER 17th2 services.....**NO Power Hour** Regular Sunday School at 9:00 am

DECEMBER 24th.....2 services.....Regular Sunday School at 9:00 am **ALSO.....**

- Christmas Eve services at both 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Candlelight service at 8:00 pm only.

DECEMBER 31st.....1 service at 10:00 am. Children remain in sanctuary though the nursery will be open for ages two and under.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

This month Women's Bible Study will have one meeting on **Thursday, December 7 at 9:30 A.M. in the Christensen Room.** Our first meeting of 2018 will occur January 11,

and subsequent Thursdays at 9:30 AM in the Christensen room. We welcome you to join us at any time. We are a friendly and congenial group of women who sincerely wish to include you in our studies of God's Word.

In the coming months, we will continue our study of Luke's Gospel. Chapter 10 resumes Jesus' journey to Jerusalem and includes some of the most well-known and well-loved of Jesus' teachings. For example: The sending forth of the seventy disciples to proclaim the gospel and to heal diseases; the account of the Good Samaritan; and an incident in the home of Martha and Mary where Jesus will teach His friend Martha a hard lesson about priorities. Yet, Jesus' journey is difficult and dangerous since rejection and skepticism stalk Him wherever He goes. As He tells his disciples, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Go your way; behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves." (Lk 10:2, 3)

Come along with us as we travel the path to Jerusalem with Jesus. You may find - as we have - that you've embarked on a life-changing journey.

Carol Dacquisto, Elaine Harris and Melodie Baird

MISSION

MARIN FOOD BANK THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Thanks to *ALL OF YOU* who have generously filled the MFB barrels week after week. We are taking a break on publicity after Thanksgiving, but the barrels are still here through Sunday, December 17th, well into the Holiday Season. Please bring an empty bag with you to your grocery store one more time if you are able, and fill it for needy families here in Marin, both in its cities and its rural areas.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIRE: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD AND 10TH

After both services on the 3rd, and after the single 10:00am service on the 10th, join us for a CHRISTMAS CHRIST WOULD RECOGNIZE to give meaningfully to family and friends by donating to the following charities:

- **HOMEWARD BOUND OF MARIN** - A nationally recognized program fighting homelessness.
- **CHURCH WORLD SERVICE** - Support for refugees of political turmoil and violence, and natural disasters.
- **HEIFER INTERNATIONAL** - Faith based efforts to support families and communities around the world with animals and training for sustainable farming/fishing.

- **WATER OF LIFE** - Supplies in-home water filtration systems to bring safe water to third world families for a lifetime.
- **FAITH IN PRACTICE** - Our own Dr. Vicki Martinez participates in this yearly medical mission trip to central America.
- **NOVATO YOUTH CENTER** Serving Novato's youth and their families for decades with high quality sports and arts programs, along with healthy snacks and homework help after school.
- **GILEAD HOUSE** A select few of Cami Mandell's *wildly popular* handmade tote bags will be available again this year. They'll go quick! Grab one!

NOVATO HUMAN NEEDS CENTER HOLIDAY SHARE "SHARING TREE"

PCN's traditional "Sharing Tree" is up in the narthex until Sunday, December 10th. Please buy Safeway and/or Target gift cards (\$25 amount suggested, but smaller amounts and multiple \$25 cards are gratefully accepted) and put them in Santa's box underneath the tree.

For NHNC, you can buy books for children of all ages, if you would prefer to contribute that way. PCN is NOT a toy/stuffed animal collection site this year.

CHILDREN'S SHOPPING DAY IS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, FROM 10 am to 1 pm, AT THE NOVATO YOUTH CENTER. TO VOLUNTEER, CALL 415-897-4147.

CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERING: WHAT DOES THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING DO?

ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OF THE BOARD OF PENSIONS – By supporting the Board of Pensions, Christmas Joy honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families. QUICK FACTS: In 2016, 291 households received income supplements and 211 households received help to remain in their homes, afford assisted living, or long-term care.

SUPPORT FOR THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS –

- **MENAU SCHOOL** – 98% of graduates go on to college. Ranked best Christian high school in New Mexico
- **PRESBYTERIAN PAN AMERICAN SCHOOL** – Welcomes a diverse international student body, with 26 countries represented in the last 25 years. 100% of graduates are accepted into colleges in the United States or their home countries.
- **STILLMAN COLLEGE** – 84% of faculty hold terminal degrees. Ranked among top tier schools in U.S. News and World Report for more than a decade.

A SPECIAL EXPERIENCE IN JUAREZ

I have made several mission trips to Juarez to help build homes for Mexican families in the colonias. These trips are wonderful opportunities to help a family fill its basic housing needs, experience another culture, develop friendships with members of the team and deepen one's faith.

This year a new experience was added to our trip called 'A Prayer Walk.' On Friday afternoon after the house was completed, a number of us, led by Walt Campbell, met at a local church where Pastor Leo and Elizabeth, the wife of Pastor Miguel, walked the dusty roads of the neighborhood with us to offer prayers. Elizabeth would call to the house and a member or members would come out to the road to meet us. We had nine visits which included: an elderly man whose legs had been amputated, who asked for a continued life, his family and his daughter's family; an elderly woman with diabetes wanted prayers of healing for her sore feet; another woman asked for prayers for her family, who live in another city; a young woman with breast cancer wanted healing and a long life with her family; a lady who was driving by and when stopped by Elizabeth, wanted prayers for her son, who is in prison; and an elderly construction worker who was walking home with a bag of greens for his rabbits asked for prayers for continued work and his son, who lived in another city.

I was awed and moved that all the folks we met were very faith filled and sincerely receptive to having us pray for their special needs. I'm happy and honored to share this most touching and memorable experience in my recent life.

In Christ,

Alan Dunham

BETTER OUTCOMES SOUGHT for HOMELESS RESIDENTS

After ten years of hosting and sharing dinner with people in Marin who are experiencing homelessness, the rotating emergency shelter team program known as REST will be coming to a close, in pursuit of better outcomes for REST guests. The season of REST that began on November 1 and ends on April 30 will be the last.

"The end of REST is a movement toward better outcomes and a better life for those who are currently without a home," said Pat Langley, chair of the Marin Organizing Committee's REST team. "We can do better than provide a floor on a part-time rotating basis to our guests, we can work with them to find housing, and that is our goal."

Created in 2007 to be an emergency stop-gap measure, the REST program is evolving to focus on interim housing through a housing-ready shelter. "Our intent is that this housing-ready shelter will be a short stop on the way to permanent housing, rather than a destination where people return year after year", said the Reverend Jan Reynolds of First Presbyterian Church in San Rafael, a founding member of MOC and of the REST program.

New national best practices teach that housing is not a reward for good behavior, and homelessness is not a punishment. A housing-ready shelter that acts as interim housing on the way toward permanent housing is in line with these best practices, and MOC urges the inclusion of such a program in the overall system of care in Marin.

Over the course of this final REST season, the REST team and MOC will be working with guests, volunteers, and community partners to educate and organize support for both a robust housing-ready shelter, as well as an increase in the supply of housing in the County.

MOC calls upon the County of Marin to partner with us to assure that a housing-ready shelter is in place by November 2018.

PCN CLEANUP DAY VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to dedicated volunteers who gave up Veterans Day Holiday to help make our church grounds more beautiful and safer:

Mike and Bev Winsor, Ron Hune, Fred Holmes, Nancy Mandell, Kent and Lisa Webber, Abram, Tennyson and Annelyse McMickin, Dick and Jo Crocker, Bruce Stahley, Laverda Shaver, Carolyn Ainsworth, Ray Shanahan, Jane and Bill Bradfield, Jane Sime, Jay Haney, Don Erba, Charles Lee, Dan Rice, Lyle Borcharding, David Sekiranda, Ariel and Dave Mink, Ann Glazner, John Maher, Alan Dunham, Don Brand



Bill Walker, Property Elder

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen ministers are available to the congregation. It is important to know that care giving relationships are strictly confidential. Below is a description that helps explain what a Stephen minister is. If interested, a member should reach out to Pastor Kent or Ruth Haas. Thank you.

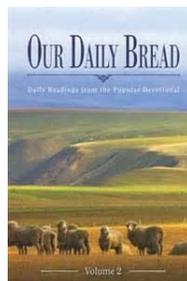
Athena Craig
Stephen Leader

People often ask, “What exactly is a Stephen Minister?” One way to put it is that Stephen Ministers are the After People.

Stephen Ministers are there: . . . after the phone call you hoped you’d never get. . . . after the divorce papers are served and the bottom falls out of your life. . . . after the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you’ve held at bay come crashing in on you. . . . after the doctor says, “I’m sorry, but there’s nothing more we can do.” . . . after the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, “Welcome to your new home.” . . . after the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away—and the house suddenly seems empty. . . . after the gavel goes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away. . . . after the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible. . . . after you find a pink slip with your final paycheck. . . . after your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out.

Stephen Ministers are the “After People.” They are ready to come alongside you—or your friends, neighbors, coworkers, or relatives—and provide comfort and support for as long after as needed.

OUR DAILY BREAD



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

STAFF

Kent Webber, Pastor

Ariel Mink, Ministry Associate

Jeff Page, Youth Director

Sally Carbonaro, Dir. of Children's Ministry

pastor@pcnovato.org

ministryassociate@pcnovato.org

pagejeffrey@gmail.com

childrensministry@pcnovato.org

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 9:00 PEO 10:00 Balance class	2 9:00 Children's Christmas program Rehearsal 
3 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:00 Alternative Christmas Faire 10:00 Cong. meeting 10:30 Traditional 11:30 Alternative Christmas Faire 11:45 Choir rehearsal 12:00 Membership & Outreach 2:00 Advent Afternoon	4 9:00 Morning Prayer 10:00 Balance class	5 7:30 Stephen Leaders 8:30 BSF 1:30 PW Coordinators 2:30 wired club 5:30 SEEKers!	6 7:30am Men's Group 9:30 BSF 4:00 Bells 5:00 Mission 6:00 PNC 6:30 Worship 7:00 CE	7 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir	8 10:00 Balance class	9 9:00 Children's Christmas program rehearsal 
10 9:00 Adult Bible Study 10:00 Children's Christmas Program 11:00 Alternative Christmas Faire 11:00 Choir rehearsal 3:00 Middle School Christmas party 6:00 High School Christmas party	11 9:00 Morning Prayer 10:00 Balance class	12 8:30 BSF 11:30 BSF 2:30 wired club 7:00 Personnel	13 7:30am Men's Group 9:30 BSF 2:30 Bells 6:30 Deacons 6:30 Finance	14 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir	15 10:00 Balance class 5:00 Mingling Singles Pizza Night	16
17 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 11:45 Choir rehearsal 1:30 Creekside 2:15 Atria 6:00 Youth Group Caroling	18 9:00 Morning Prayer 10:00 Balance class 3:00 Mill St. Meal p/u	19 8:30 BSF 11:30 BSF meetings and party 2:00 Ruth's Circle 2:30 wired club 7:00 Stephen Ministry Supervision	20 7:30am Men's Group 9:30 BSF 6:00 Session dinner 6:30 Session meeting	21 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 6:00 Rachel's Circle 7:00 Choir	22	23
24 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 5:00 Contemporary Christmas Eve service 7:30 Chancel Choir 8:00 Traditional Christmas Eve service	25 OFFICE CLOSED <i>MERRY CHRISTMAS!</i> 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 7:30am Men's Group	28 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside	29	30
31  10:00 One service – Contemporary <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</i>						