



Presbyterian
Church of
Novato

PR_{ess}

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“Those who are ashamed of me and of my words
in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them
the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes
in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

* Jesus at Mark 8:38

As the New Year has arrived, many of us think about changes we might want to make in our lives. Have you ever wanted to get a clearer grasp of the Bible, especially of the New Testament, and the story of Jesus? Then let me strongly encourage you to participate in an adult Bible study that Walt Campbell and I will be leading.

On Monday January 26 we will team up to begin a 9-week course in which we'll read a sensationalistic book about Jesus and compare it with the canonical gospels. The class is entitled, *SEARCHING FOR THE REAL JESUS: A Critical Reading of Reza Aslan's bestseller – "Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth."*

While Aslan's book puts Jesus in historical context in a very helpful way, we strongly disagree with his understanding of who Jesus was and what he was about! Why teach a class on a book with whose conclusions we disagree? Because we need to be able to dialogue with our unchurched friends who may have read Aslan's book but have never read the New Testament and assume they have discovered the "real Jesus!"

We'll explore such question as:

- * What was the political situation into which Jesus was born?
- * How did Jesus respond to the Jewish nationalism which led to the forming of the Zealot movement?
- * What did Jesus teach concerning the kingdom or reign of God?
- * How was Jesus perceived as a threat to Jewish and Roman authorities?
- * What was Jesus' self-understanding?
- * What influence did the resurrection have in giving birth to the Christian movement?
- * How did early Christians view Jesus?

Whether you have never seriously studied the Bible or have a long personal history of studying Scripture, I think you'll gain a great deal from this class! It will involve a careful study of the gospels as well as Aslan's book and will teach you skills you can use to evaluate other books about Jesus which might interest you.

We'll offer the class twice each week from 9:30 – 11 a.m. and from 7 – 8:30 p.m. We're requesting a donation of \$10 for a copy of Aslan's book and a donation of \$10 for the printed Study Guide Walt and I will provide for a total of \$20. I hope you'll consider joining the nearly seventy others who have already registered for the class!

Warmly in Christ,
Kent

January 2015

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**Regular Worship
Hours Resume
January 4**

Contemporary

Service

9:00

Traditional

Service

10:30

Reminder: submit your
PRessPRess articles to Kai
Lancaster by the 10th of
every month.

kailancaster@hotmail.com

Amanda's Corner

What's Your Resolution?



Happy New Year! How many resolutions have you already made for this New Year? Some of us will make a resolution to watch less TV; or lose weight; or eat healthy foods; exercise more; swear less; spend more time with family and friends; read more; spend less time with our technological toys; etc. and yet I wonder how many of our resolutions are centered around our Christian faith? Do we resolve to spend more time carving out time to worship God; or spend more time reading the scriptures and growing in faith; spend more time in service and ministry with our Christian brothers and sisters? What about Sabbath? How many of us really think about resolving to take

time to rest in our day and in our week? Too often I think that we forget to include God and our faith in our desires to grow and change. We think of other practical ways that we want to change and improve ourselves and yet we forget to include God in that journey. Often we look for the tangible goals that seem reachable if only we had the resolve to accomplish? What if in our resolution we invited God in to that sacred space and asked Him to help us in our journey? What if this year as we made a resolution to eat better, exercise more and be healthy and we looked for Christian programs to help us? Or what if in our endeavors to accomplish these goals we did it with Christ in mind, inviting Christ into that space, lifting up our prayers and desires to him and allowing him to help us in the process? What if we said we would watch less TV and so to help us accomplish that we joined a group of others in the church for: a Bible study, Kent's class, got involved with our SEEker's programs, or volunteered with the youth; or some other program that got us out

of the house and into a group of folks who are yearning to study and grow as well? What if one of our resolutions was to read more and so we got a program that helps us read the Bible in a year so part of our reading time is focused on Christ and our Christian faith? What if our resolution was to spend time with friends and family, what if we included members of our church family in that and we started an affinity group (something we hope to be discussing in upcoming months), or decided that once a month we invited a different family from the church into our home to enjoy a meal together; or called someone to go out for coffee? What if we made it a goal to spend time each week in Sabbath, reflecting on God while taking a hike, or writing a poem, or reading a book on Sabbath, or simply resting and learning to say no to a few things to carve out time to say yes to God? I don't think that our resolutions need to be extravagant or unattainable, for when they are we are more likely to fail at them and become discouraged. If however, we make sim-

ple adjustments and commitments to our life we are more likely to succeed. When we share those commitments with a small group of people that hold us accountable we are even more likely to succeed and where better to find people who would support us than in the church? I invite you to examine those resolutions you are making and ask God- what is most important in this list? Where are you God in my list of priorities? Where can my hopes and dreams meet up with God's desires for my life? Let our "resolutions" be "to continue to grow in faith and Christian maturity" as we seek the heart of Christ in our everyday life. May this year be less about getting our resolutions correct and fulfilled and more about our desire to take steps to grow in Christian faith, love and maturity. May God's Holy Spirit inspire and encourage you to think of the ways that you can be growing in faith this year through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and through the ministries offered here at PCN.



SEEkers Begins on January 6th. Meet at the church at 5:30, we will have dinner together and then travel over to the Quest (will need some drivers that day) to help serve meals to homeless men with the REST (rotating emergency shelter team) program.

POWER HOUR!

Dates for the Spring:

- January 25th
- February 22nd
- March 15th
- April 19th
- May 17th

Save the Date!!!!

VBS: June 15-19th!

Confirmation: 8th Graders-High School

We will be offering our confirmation class once again this coming spring. It will be held once a week from February to May. We will meet on Sunday afternoons from 4:30-6:00pm. Please contact Amanda if you have a student who is interested in joining us this year. We will have an informational meeting on February 8th with the class beginning on February 22nd and ending on May 10th (Mother's Day) when the students will lead worship. If you have any questions please contact Amanda. This is a great way for students to learn more about our church, our church history and make decisions about whether they wish to become a member of this particular congregation.

Dominican Republic Mission Trip Meeting: January 11th at noon

Parents and Youth Need To Attend. Please attend this meeting with your fundraising ideas and enthusiasm ready to go as we will be finalizing the year's fundraisers and organizing teams for everyone to serve on.



Congregational Dinner & Meeting - Sunday January 25th

dinner at 5pm, meeting at 6:15. Once again one of our small groups is taking on the joy of making you a meal so that we might share in fellowship and fun. More information to come.

New Church Directory

If you haven't signed up to take pictures for our new pictorial directory sign ups will be available on Dec 28th after worship or online; go to www.pcnovato.org and click on "Church Pictorial Sign Ups" and follow the steps. Click on the number of folks in your party and then a screen will pop up alerting you to available times and how to reserve your spot. **We need everyone!** Dates for photos are Jan 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10th. Sessions will depend on what is still available. Or if you need to, call Kathy Takemoto.



Explorers' Annual Game Day

Explorers will have their Annual Game Day at the church on Sat., January 10 from 1-4pm. It is a fun time to play and learn new games. We always have a big table or two of Mexican Train. Please bring your favorite game and a snack to share. RSVP to Jane and Bill Bradfield at 408-3427. **All are welcome**--bring guests, neighbors and your family. Happy New Year.

The Presbyterian Women will join us for the afternoon and will be selling puzzles--good for a rainy day. Please join us.



God's Global Mission

Dear PCN members and friends:

Our hearts go out to all of you who supported (and in some cases, led) the efforts of your mission committee in the past two months. Through the Alternative Christmas Faire, the Holiday Food Drive, the Holiday Share Sharing Tree and the Christmas Joy Offering *you have made the presence of Christ real for people here at home and around the world.* Your mission committee is so very grateful to all of you and *we count PCN's staff and congregation as blessings in our lives, both now and throughout the year.*



January 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 New Year's Day OFFICE CLOSED 	2 OFFICE CLOSED Pictures: Pictorial Directory 1:00-8:30pm	3 11—4 Nick Robinson Court of Honor Pictures: Pictorial Directory 10:00-6:00pm
4 Communion Deacon's Offering, 2-cents-a-meal offering 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary School & Childcare 10:30 Traditional 4:30—8:00 Youth	5	6 9:00 BSF Leaders 3:00 PW Team mtg 4:00 Property 5:30 SEEkers Pictures: Pictorial Directory 1:00-8:30pm	7 7:30am Stephen Ldrs 7:30am Men's Group 9:30 BSF 10:00 Marian Stchrs 5:00 Mission 7:00 C.E Pictures: Pictorial Directory 1:00-8:30pm	8 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir 7—8:30 Missional Pictures: Pictorial Directory 1:00-8:30pm	9 OFFICE CLOSED Pictures: Pictorial Directory 1:00-8:30pm	10 1:00—4:00 Explorers/PW Game and Puzzle Day Pictures: Pictorial Directory 10:00-5:30
11 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary nday School & Childcare 10:30 Traditional 4:30—8:00 Youth Gps	12	13 9:00 BSF Leaders 5:30 SEEkers	14 7:30am Men's Group 9:30 BSF 7:00 Deacon's	15 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir 7—8:30 Missional	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17
18 Annual Rpt. Available 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 1:30 Wrshp @ Creekside 2:15 Wrshp @ Atria, Tam Crk 4:30—8:00 Youth Gps	19 OFFICE CLOSED 	20 9:00 BSF Leaders 5:30 SEEkers 7:00 Stephen Supervision	21 7:30am Men's Group 9:30 BSF 6:00 Session Dinner 6:30 Session meeting 7:00 Bells 6:00 PW Rachel Circle	22 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir 7—8:30 Missional	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24
25 Annual Congregational Meeting 9:00 Adult Bible Study 9:00 Contemporary 10:30 Traditional 12:00 VBS Meeting 4:30—8:00 Youth Gps 5:00 Cong. Dinner 6:15 Cong. Meeting	26 9:30 Kent's Class 7:00 Kent's Class	27 9:00 BSF Leaders 1:00 PW Ruth Cr. 5:30 SEEkers	28 7:30am Men's Group 9:30 BSF 6:00 PW Rachel Cr. 7:00 Bells	29 9:30 Women's Bible Study 2:00 Singles Coffee Creekside 7:00 Choir 7—8:30 Missional	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 9—noon Elder / Deacon Safety workshop