



The Redwoods LOG

December 2022

Grace and Peace to Redwoods Presbyterian Church!

It has been a season of celebrations this Fall, and as we head into Advent toward the ultimate celebration of Christ's birth, we have so much to be grateful for:

Our 125th Anniversary celebration (see Nancy's submission inadvertently omitted in the October LOG included here on page 9); celebration of blessing the animals; celebration of our music director, Denise Wharmby, with wonderful song tributes from Conrad Williams and Diane Forster (lyrics included on page 6); celebration of All Saints' Day as we remembered those who set our faith foundations, celebration of Mark Chambers and Keenan Kelsey's wedding and Mark's membership with us, and the 1st Sunday of Advent celebration of lessons and carols followed by the uncovering of the time capsule, set into our church building in 1950.

As we look ahead, what would we want to include in a time capsule to be opened 72 years from now... in the year 2094, as our church nears its 200th anniversary? Consider something you might like to add to the time capsule. We will be opening the time capsule during the 10am Sunday service on Christmas Day, and will then put our offerings into the time capsule to be replaced in the building at a later time. (*Please note, our Christmas Eve service this year will be at 5pm!)

As the year closes, I want to particularly thank the contributions of Colton Berger and Jan Salas.

Colton has stepped up most recently as our office administrator, also serving as Elder on Session, Sunday school teacher, and live-stream technician; and previously our zoom technician during COVID, website designer, featured speaker/presenter on his World Expo trip to Dubai, and Compassionate Kids participant and youth leader. We pray for Colton's continued leadership and success as he heads to New York University in January. We will miss you, Colton! Please join us for a celebration of Colton after worship on Sunday, January 8 in Fellowship Hall.

Jan has served as our clerk of session and LOG editor for the past few years, in addition to being an Elder on Session and Chair of Finance and Mission Outreach, as well as an ardent member of Personnel and other committees. She will be retiring from these positions in the new year. Jan has been a member at Redwoods for most of her life and has served in so many ways in the past 50+ years. We offer our deepest thanks for her service to us and pray for her as she opens to new opportunities in her life. Thank you, Jan! We will see you at the Alternative Christmas Faire after worship on December 11, God willing!

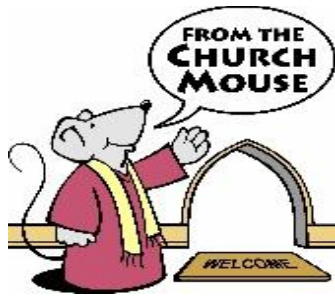
May we look forward to the anticipated celebration of the light that continues to shine upon, within, and through us. Thanks be to God!

Blessings,

Stephanie

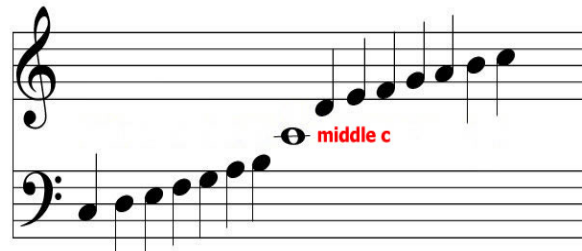
In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:4-5





It was so great to see Sal, Hunter and Juliana Newton join their Grandmother (and Great-Grandmother) Diane Forster to light the first candle of Advent – Hope.

Prayers for health and healing for Debbie Lundberg as she continues to work with her medical providers to manage her medications and other procedures. Mouse has it on good authority she would appreciate cards –Debbie usually is the one who always sends greetings and cards. We look forward to the day she is back with us to ring the bells.



Our Pastor Emeritus Cornel Barnett will be our guest preacher December 4. It will be great to see him (and hopefully Suellen) during the Advent season.

Our new Office Administrator Aranda Dill joins us December 19. She will spend her first week working with Colton Berger to learn the ropes and settle in before the Christmas holiday. Please send her warm welcome when you have the opportunity.

And, of course, we send Colton off in the new year to university with our prayers and blessings and much gratitude for all his service here at Redwoods.

Mouse sends you all the best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and hopes for the best in the new year!

Peace

Music Notes

Happy December! First, I want to thank everyone for such an amazing 'surprise' when you all celebrated your music director recently. The surprise worked beautifully, and you are all so good at keeping secrets! I had no idea there would be this moment of celebration dedicated to my tenure here, nor that it had been planned for some time! I will repeat the sounding joy, that I am so very grateful to be part of this wonderful community.

Speaking of secrets, following yesterday's 'bash', after the first Advent service - and by that, I mean, the ceremonial opening by hammer and chisel of the 'secret' enclosure built into the outside brick walls of the office - several of us stayed to witness the unearthing of yet unknown items inside a Time Capsule from 72 years ago, placed there, back in 1950. Buried Treasure! We have to wait till Christmas Day to see what's inside, but I am so looking forward to the moment when we will share messages, maybe newspaper articles, things rare and unique, sent from those gone before us, which will surely be a unique connection with the past, and probably a once in a lifetime experience for us all. Connections can certainly appear in all sorts of unexpected and interesting ways!

Now for a fun little singalong, to share particularly with the youngest members of your families!

Please sing to the tune of 'The First Noel'....

"To spell Santa's name is easy to do
You write S A N T and another A too
But no-eL, no-eL, Santa's name has no-eL
And he won't be too pleased if you don't learn to spell!"

Wishing joy and happiness to all,

Denise



DEACONS' CORNER



Prayer is Sabbath

I believe our most honest, heartfelt prayers are the ones we pray in the middle of the night. Those prayers may not be very brave or noble or holy, but they come straight from the heart to God's ear. Lying in bed late at night with exhausted bodies and anxious minds, our usual, daily social defenses are all that's asleep. We are most open to God our Creator who knows our innermost thoughts, our most secret dreams. In the middle of the night, when we can't get off that anxious treadmill of worry and fear, the words "Please God, help!" form on our lips, take wing, and fly through the darkness.

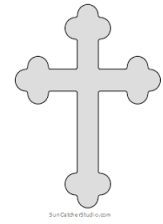
Prayer is Sabbath. No matter what the actual content of our prayers, in prayer God calls us to trust him, to rest in him. When we pray, we lay down our burdens before the throne of Grace. Whether we pray for ourselves or others, we put ourselves or those for whom we pray to rest in God's hands. When we go into the bedroom and shut the door; we enter the Sabbath.

*The LORD upholds all who fall, and raises up all who are bowed down.
~ Psalm 145:14*



Diane Forster was in 8th grade and present when the time capsule was placed in the building. Oakley Dexter was also present.

Please note the beautiful graphics inserted in the LOG represent our traditional Chrismons hung on the tree each year on the first Sunday of Advent. Chrismons are ancient symbols for Christ's ministry: the dove descending down, Jerusalem cross, shepherd's crook, chalice, shell, star, heart, butterfly, angel, rose, and crown are examples of Chrismons we use to adorn our Chrismon tree in the sanctuary. (See page 10 for a photo of our tree.)



December Calendar Notes

December 3 - SFTS Lessons and Carols Concert in Stewart Chapel

December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent, Communion Sunday

Deacons' Meeting at 11:30 AM

December 8 – Session meeting at 4 PM by Zoom

December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent

21st Annual Alternative Christmas Faire

December 18 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 5 PM

December 25 – Merry Christmas! – 10:00 AM Worship

Opening of Redwoods Time Capsule

January 1 – Cafe-style worship in Fellowship Hall



For those unable to attend the Sunday service, the livestream link is available at
9:55am Sunday.

[Click here for YouTube live stream](#)

The link is also available by going to our website, www.redwoodspres.org, and clicking on "Join Us."

Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. Contact the church office at office@redwoodpres.org to inquire about joining the study. All are welcome!

Birthdays

Dec. 1 – Charlie Ryder

Dec. 1 – Bryan Webb

Dec. 4 – Kelly McNaughton

Dec. 17 – Colton Berger

Dec. 21 – Maisie Campbell

Dec. 24 – Robert Putzi

1. Denise Wharmby Song (to the tune of *Waltzing Matilda*)

~by Conrad Williams

First the lovely choir-mistress steps into the sanctuary
Readying the prelude that she's chosen to play.
Next comes the Bell Choir, ready for their serenade
Soon we'll all be singing a hymn today.

(Chorus):

We will all be singing, We will all be singing
We will all be singing the hymns today;
And our voices can be heard as you pass by on a Sunday
We will all be singing The hymns today.

Up stands the choir, holding all the bells aloft,
Denise starts the piano... Three, Two, One;
Soon the bells are ringing, inside we are singing.
Joyfully, happily, the worship has begun.

(Chorus)



2. For Denise (to the tune of *You're a Grand Old Flag*)

~by Diane Forster

What a grand-filled day with Denise here, we say,
She's a talented lady, we know---
She's an emblem of our church above
All else with her high pitching twills---

Every note beats well with piano and bells
Like it's never been done before---
Should auld acquaintance be forgot
Put your eye on Denise today!

Christmas Joy Offering

“And the word became flesh and lived among us.” – John 1:14

THE PERFECT GIFT

When Jesus was born among us, he came as a helpless baby destined to bring joy, peace and salvation to his people. This child, God’s Word made flesh — fully human and fully God — became one of us. One with us. One among us. In all of our vulnerabilities, struggles and triumphs, Jesus became one of us — leading us, knowing us, connecting us to himself and to each other, and offering us his gift of eternal life. The perfect gift.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God’s perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God.

We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.

Jesus’ example as a child born to be among us and lead us to eternal life provides a pattern for us to follow as we celebrate those who have led us in the past and will lead us into the future. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God’s perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.

PCUSA



JOIN US AT THE 22ND ANNUAL ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIRE

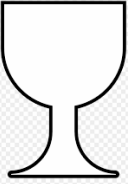


December 11, 2022, after worship in Fellowship Hall

On the third Sunday in Advent we will gather for fellowship and coffee hour and a chance to do some meaningful Christmas shopping. This year we will have Equal Exchange goods available for purchase. You may also choose to buy a box of nails (Habitat for Humanity), honeybees (Heifer International), or snacks for patients waiting to see doctor (Faith in Practice). We also welcome donations to Bread for the World. There may be additional agencies represented: the Mission/Outreach Committee is still making plans for the event and invites any and all ideas and volunteers for the day.

The Faire is a long standing tradition at Redwoods. We see this as an opportunity to remember “whose birthday we celebrate”. In recent years we have had to adjust and postpone the Faire due to covid restrictions. We are delighted to be able to reinstate the event for our members and friends. You will see more information as we begin Advent (bulletin inserts, announcements, and sharing of good memories) to welcome you to the event.

As always, gift cards and statements about the agencies involved will be available. You will be able to share the feelings of helping others with your generosity. See you at the Faire. Merry Christmas!

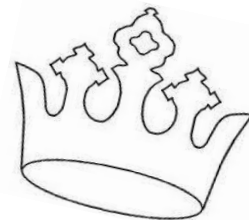


Redwoods has been a longtime supporter of Canal Alliance and their vital work in the community. They recently sent the following notice about their mission and work.

This year, Canal Alliance celebrates 40 years as the leading direct service provider and community advocate for the immigrant community in Marin. We are proud of the impact we are making every day to help hardworking individuals and families get on a pathway out of poverty.

We are also grateful to you - our donors, volunteers, partners and community members. We could not have achieved this milestone without the generous contributions and investments of thousands of community members, like you.

Thank you all for all the ways you support our mission and help create a place where everyone can pursue and achieve their dreams.



Nancy Rademacher 's 125th Anniversary Memory ~

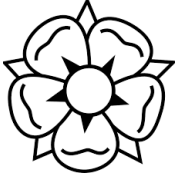
Among the many, many special memories I have as a member of Redwoods Church for more than 30 years, I wanted to share some of my favorites (all related). Irene Kohler was the beloved Sunday school teacher when Molly and Erik were young and greatly influenced both of them. She and others in the congregation would plan and direct a Christmas Eve program with the children. One year Molly, around 12 with her long flowing hair, was an angel and Erik, a sweet and innocent 6 year old, was King Herod. Another year Erik and Robert and Patrick Little were the three wise men, Tani and Nathan were Mary and baby Jesus, and Molly again an angel. And still another, the young boys were shepherds, Rory Little was Joseph, Irene's granddaughter, Sandy, was Mary and Molly was yet again an angel among other angels. I was able to find a couple of pictures of those events that I am sharing. It was such a precious time in my children's lives and will forever be in my memory. As a thank you and tribute to Irene, Molly taught Sunday School for 15 years (part of the year while in college).

I feel so blessed to be part of this wonderful, loving, hard-working, faithful and inspirational congregation. I treasure the friendships I have made with those still here and those no longer with us and the never ending love and hospitality extended to me and my family. I am so very proud of the ways we support those in need here in our congregation, community and the world at large and the inclusiveness we embrace. Happy 126th Birthday Redwoods Church! What a long and vibrant history we have here and a future wide open to endless possibilities.

Blessings,
Nancy Rademacher



Christmas Eve program with Redwoods children



A special thank you and

blessings to all the

Liturgists and Ushers
who served on Sundays during November worship:

Our Liturgists for November: Keenan Kelsey, Stephanie Ryder, Clay Wiens, Ginger Gmahling.

Our Ushers were: Conrad Williams, Bonnie Kaiser, & Ginger Gmahling.

We warmly welcomed Rev. George McLaird to the pulpit on November 13th! George graduated from the San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1968. He was pastor at Sausalito Presbyterian Church for almost 27 years, and now serves as Pastor Emeritus for 21 years. He and his wife Linda were Mill Valley residents for 37 years. They downsized and moved to Tiburon earlier this year. Since COVID-19 began, he has conducted a weekly Zoom session on Mindfulness and Meditation.

Log Editor – Jan C. Salas



Mark and Keenan celebrating their recent marriage!

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