

# THE REDWOODS LOG

April 2023

Grace and Peace to Redwoods Presbyterian Church!

As we approach the final week of Lent and Holy Week, we are on the cusp of some changes at Redwoods. Saturday, April 1, we will have a dinner in Fellowship Hall to honor Polly and Jim Gorder as they prepare to move to Colorado. Please join us for appetizers at 5:30pm and dinner at 6pm.

Polly and Jim have been members at Redwoods for 45 years! I have known them the past 10 years. They have been such solid, strong leaders and pillars of Redwoods Church. I looked forward every Tuesday morning to their arrival for the church accounting — Polly recorded and deposited the incoming funds, and Jim processed invoices and the outgoing funds. We would have short, pleasant visits regarding church and other business.

Polly and Jim have been steadfast and faithful members of the choir and bell choir. We have all greatly appreciated their musical gifts at Redwoods at rehearsals and on Sundays. Polly has served as Deacon and Deacon Moderator/Secretary and Jim has served as an Elder on session and as Treasurer during my tenure, and both likely long before. They have been active leaders of the heart and soul of Redwoods Church, keeping church operations organized and running well. They are usually already here when I arrive on Sundays, setting up things in the kitchen and rehearsing for choir, and are often the last to leave, cleaning up from fellowship hour.

People often say about Redwoods Church that the people here walk the walk. Polly and Jim exemplify the Christian faith and the fruits of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. I have experienced all of these qualities from Polly and Jim as I'm sure all of you have as well. They have supported the church in every possible way, and supported individuals as well, including me. I have deeply appreciated their genuine care and consideration for all of us and the church as a whole.

We will commemorate Good Friday on April 7 from noon – 3 pm, as we remember the hours Jesus hung on the cross. The doors of the church will be open for those who want to come to meditate, pray, and light a candle during this time. At 10 am on Easter Sunday, we will celebrate that death is not the end of the story with our flowering of the cross service. New life emerges from great loss. Though this will be Polly and Jim's last service with us, we will celebrate their new life ahead in Colorado, trusting in the ways God will nurture and provide for them in their new home.

Our church will be different without Polly and Jim. We put our faith in God, that new life will emerge, that hidden gifts will spring forward, that the Holy Spirit will continue to move within and around us. This is what Jesus came to proclaim. God is with us. Let us rejoice in this good news!

Easter Blessings,

Stephanie

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11*

## Deacon's Corner

*Thank God for Faith!*



Dear God:  
 Thank you for the gift of faith.  
 When I am alone and frightened,  
     faith is there.  
 When it appears that my resources and reserves are diminished,  
     faith is there.  
 When my friends shut their eyes and turn their backs,  
     faith is there.  
 When I make decisions and choices that are not in my best interests,  
     faith is there.  
 When my human world is in turmoil,  
     faith is there.  
 When my human mind can no longer see the goodness you have in store for me,  
     faith is there.  
 I am so grateful for the gift of faith.  
 I cannot buy it. I cannot borrow it. I need only to acknowledge you in all my ways  
     and faith is there; with its Grace and its Mercy, always at my side.  
 I am faith-filled, I am faithful. I know your angels are faithfully  
     watching over me and paving my way.  
 Thank you, God.  
 For this I am so grateful.  
 Amen.

## Pastor on Sabbatical

I will be going on sabbatical from April 17 – July 17. It is an immense blessing that Rev. Keenan Kelsey will be covering for me in my absence for pastoral care, leading worship, and preaching. Aranda Dill has been phenomenal as our office administrator and will be in the office Monday – Friday from 9 am – 1 pm. I am confident that between the two of them, they will be able to meet the needs of the church during this time.

I will be taking some time for rest and retreat, spending time reconnecting with friends, family, myself and God. I will be heading to Los Barriles, Mexico in April. In May, I will travel to Iona, Scotland for a retreat near the Abbey of Iona, founded by St. Columba in 563 AD. It is a popular pilgrimage site for Presbyterians, as well as all Christian denominations. I will also have an opportunity to visit Edinburgh, Amsterdam, and Barcelona with my husband, Bill, before we take a biking and hiking tour in Catalonia, Spain. We were invited on this trip by Julie Baretz, a dear friend and tour guide from my trip to Israel in 2017. Many of you met her when she came to Redwoods to speak in 2018. June and July are open for how the Spirit moves, likely more travel and time for contemplation, restoration, and rejuvenation.

I am deeply thankful for a sabbatical grant from the PC(USA) Board of Pensions that approved these plans and will help in funding! I am especially grateful for Redwoods Church, for supporting this recommendation by the PC(USA) to allow pastors a time for renewal.

Contacts in my absence:

Rev. Keenan Kelsey: [keenan@comcast.net](mailto:keenan@comcast.net); (415) 218-7948

Office/Aranda Dill: [office@redwoodspres.org](mailto:office@redwoodspres.org); (415) 924-4832

May God's peace be with all of you. See you in July!  
 Stephanie



## “The Cat’s Away....”

Pastor Stephanie’s well-earned Sabbatical is upon us. Her last Sunday is April 16th.

This is also the date that our own Sabbatical begins. Sabbatical, after all, is a time of renewal and creative opportunity for pastor and for church.

I will be leading us as your Sabbatical pastor, and I am hoping it will be 12 weeks of surprises: experimentation with sermon series, guest preachers, a healing service, prayer practices, dance, drama, congregational participation... wouldn’t it be fun to wonder “what will we be trying this week?”

The Cat’s Away....and the Mice Will Play. What would you like to see in worship or in fellowship or in mission outreach. Please share all ideas with me and with The Worship Committee.

On April 23 we will begin Sabbatical Time with Scout Sunday, as well as a hands-on celebration of Earth Day.

See you there!  
Keenan Kelsey

## From the Church Mouse

As we prepare for the farewell dinner and celebration of our friends Jim and Polly Gorder on April 1 (no foolin’!), mouse would like to take a moment to share fond memories. Mouse has many memories of times together with both Jim and Polly, but perhaps the fondest are shared practices of the bell choir. In addition to making music (which is spiritual and uplifting) we were able to laugh together and help each other with the difficult notes at times. This is only an example of all they have done for Redwoods over the years. We will miss their presence, their grace and their love. Prayers for a safe journey into the next chapter of their lives.



Others have offered words of farewell below:

“We will miss Polly and Jim dearly. For many years they have truly shown their devotion and upmost dedication to Redwoods. Most of all, I will miss their dedicated service to our music program. They are a talented couple not only in music, but have fulfilled many other church-wide duties. Wishing them good health and happiness as they begin their new life chapter in Colorado!”

— Diane

“They are nice folks, warm and friendly. Sure hope their family and next church has folks as nice.”

— As ever, Conrad

“I have loved every year that Jim and I have worked together as part of the Redwoods financial team. What a joyful, considerate, intelligent, kind person! I will truly miss him and wish he and Polly a shower of God’s blessings! I’ll say a prayer for both of them every Tuesday when I would usually receive their weekly Redwoods data. Smooth sailing, dear friend!”

— Gail Fox Johnson

“Jim and Polly are lights of Redwoods Presbyterian Church. Their commitment and generosity to the church reach to the heavens. Their care and friendship is palpable, Polly in the deacons and Jim the Session and oversight of the financial welfare of the church. Both are mainstays in the bell choir and Polly with gifts on the guitar and her group in tow. Redwoods’ loss will be another community’s gain and the realm of God will expand and spread. Thank you Jim and Polly for your support and friendship during our tenure at the church and beyond. We will miss you greatly. Peace and God’s blessings to you as you continue your journey close to your family. Keep in touch.

— Love, Cornel and Suellen

“I am so sorry to see you leaving the Redwoods, but I’m very happy to know you will be near your children and grandchildren! You have both served our church so faithfully for many years, and we will all miss you very much.”

— Blessings, Joan Robinson

## ♪ Music Notes ♪

I would like to invite everyone in the congregation to a special 'Marin Girls Chorus' concert on Saturday, April 22nd which is being held in Redwoods sanctuary at 2pm. I have been working with girls aged 5 - 8 years of age on Monday afternoons in Fellowship Hall, and another location on Wednesdays, and they have several songs prepared to share with you all, and with their families. They are a delight! The girls are part of the Lower Division of the chorus which holds classes for girls up to 18 years of age. The Spring concert, featuring all 130 girls of the chorus, will be held on Saturday May 20th, at Mt Tamalpais Methodist Church. I hope you will be able to attend one of these concerts and hear some lovely singing.

On Easter Sunday, we share a final bells performance with Jim and Polly Gorder, then they make their way to a new home. It has been wonderful to meet and get to know them through the music and fellowship these past years, and I am so thankful to them for their musical gifts of singing and bell ringing, brought to the music program at Redwoods over many years, and for their positive spirits, dedication and friendship. Everyone will miss you both so much, but we know that the next chapter will be right and rewarding for you.

Every change brings a chance for new opportunities. Looking forward to those as we move into the next several months.

Musically,  
Denise

## Call on Churches to be More Vocal About Gun Violence

The headlines just keep coming. Day after day, week after week, people are dying because of gun violence. It doesn't matter where you live, what you are doing or what your economic status is, the access to guns in this country has placed everyone at risk. My heart breaks once again for the loss of innocent lives in the latest shooting at The Covenant School in Nashville, Tennessee, on Monday. Seven people are dead because one person decided to kill. Our hearts grieve for the children and families impacted by this latest tragedy.

Gun violence in this country has reached epidemic proportions, and we are known across the globe as a very violent nation. Something is wrong when a nation has the number of deaths we've had, where even 6-year-old children can get access to guns. This is not going to stop until there are regulations in place, and that starts with our lawmakers. As it stands, the gun industry has the right to sell to anyone at any time. The lawmakers that we elect to look out for our best interest must more forcefully regulate this industry and get the violence off the streets.

It is not just a problem for the government. It's a spiritual problem as well. The church needs to speak out. Every pastor needs to preach about this issue from the pulpit. Ruling elders, deacons and members must call for action from the government. How can we love one another when we are packing pistols to kill one another? We have to be more vigilant in the church, and that means more than just preaching. It means more than just taking back old guns through a buyback program.

Today, someone we don't personally know is gunned down. Tomorrow, it could be one of our children or someone else we love. We are in a time where any of us can be a victim of random violence, whether we are out shopping, in the yard playing with our children, any time we send our children to school or get in the car and drive down the street. We don't have control of it until we take a major step in changing the laws of this land.

Pray endlessly for comfort and love for the community scarred by this latest incident. Pray that God will work in the lives of those who have the authority and power to make real change. May our country once again turn to God for guidance and direction.

Blessings,  
Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II (Stated Clerk of the General Assembly)  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



## Per Capita 2023

The following are definitions and descriptions of the Per Capita assessment and how it impacts our denomination. (Source PCUSA.org)

The official definition: Per capita is an opportunity for all communicant members of the Presbyterian church through the governing bodies [mid councils] to participate equally, responsibly, and interdependently by sharing the cost of coordination and evaluation of mission; and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians" (GA Minutes, Part I, 1995).

In essence: Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Said another way, it is a Presbyterian Covenant Community Fund — part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well.

"As the Church seeks reform and fresh direction, it looks to Jesus Christ who goes ahead of us and calls us to follow him. United with Christ in the power of the Spirit, the Church seeks "not [to] be conformed to this world, but [to] be transformed by the renewing of [our] minds, so that [we] may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Rom. 12:2)." (Book of Order, F-1.0401)

Per capita funding is how we mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

This year the assessment is \$35.00 per member, which breaks down as follows: General Assembly: \$9.85 Synod of the Pacific: \$5.22 Presbytery: of the Redwoods \$19.93. If you are able to pay the assessment, please indicate on your contribution.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

For more than 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has connected us in God's healing, tending and growing to create a world where all needs are met.

*You shall be called  
Repairers  
of the breach*

— ISAIAH 58

*"...my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples... The Lord GOD, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, declares, "I will gather yet others to him besides those already gathered." — Isaiah 56*

This Easter, as we gather together to celebrate the Resurrection and the community of family, we will receive the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. The Redwoods family has participated in this Offering for many decades and we rejoice in the chance to share our blessings with the world. Below are a few ways to recognize and pray for those who need assistance as we approach Holy Week.

1. The vulnerable are often the most impacted in emergency situations. Consider who in your community are the most vulnerable and say a prayer for them.
2. In India, Dalit women have found hope as they work together to provide shelter, food and livelihoods for their communities. Make a gift to honor the strong and courageous women in your life.
3. Education is a vital tool to help people address their needs. Give a gift for every year you have been in school.
4. Sometimes people need help advocating for their rights — as is done at Canal Alliance.. Say a prayer for those who advocate for basic human rights for all
5. People without housing have nowhere to keep food. Give a gift for each time you have opened the refrigerator today and pray for people experiencing homelessness.

On Easter bring the gifts to your congregation. Say a prayer for all who will receive help from your generosity.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in more than 100 countries. Visit [www.pcusa.org/oghsmap](http://www.pcusa.org/oghsmap) for locations and ministries.



## April is Earth Month

The first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970. The event was organized by Gaylord Nelson, a United States Senator from Wisconsin. He was inspired to action after witnessing the damage caused by an oil spill in Santa Barbara, California in the year 1969. Gaylord Nelson realized that there was a need for humans to become **more environmentally aware** and active in preserving our planet. He hoped that Earth Day would be a way to educate people about the importance of [environmental protection](#).



Earth Day quickly became a global phenomenon. More than 20 million people participated in the events across the United States on the first Earth Day. Today, Earth Day is celebrated in more than 193 countries around the world. At present, more than 1 billion people around the world take part in Earth Day.

As a way to celebrate the planet and participate in an Earth month challenge below are listed several sustainable development goals (SDG). If you wish, fill in the “( )” with any number of activities you select and consider how your carbon footprint affects the earth.

- **ADVOCATE FOR WATER HABITAT!** I will make ( ) phone calls and/or send ( ) emails to public officials to advocate for water habitat protection and clean up in my region.
- **PLANT A TREE** On average, a tree absorbs 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of carbon dioxide yearly during the first 20 years. To do my part, I will plant ( ) trees in my community, public parks, or backyard.
- **SUPPORT LOCAL POLLINATORS** At least 30% of crops and 90% of flowering plants rely on pollinators to produce fruit. I will plant pollinator-friendly plants in my area to support local pollinators ( ).
- **DRIVE LESS** To reduce CO2 emissions each day, I will cut my car trip mileage by only taking necessary trips ( ).
- **EXPLORE MY AREA** Each day, I will spend ( ) minutes exploring a new area around my neighborhood (e.g., park, water body, nearby trail, community garden, green space, etc.).

For more info or details visit <https://earthmonth.ecochallenge.org/challenges/climate-ecosystems>.

## Cents-Ability / 2 ¢ a Meal

Problems like hunger are so immense – they may even seem unending. Hunger has so many roots and ramifications that it can be hard to determine where to begin. Relying on God's guidance, we can look for the “handle” which seems best to fit our hand. Using God's strength, we can begin to cut out the root that is nearest us.

Cents-Ability is about more than collecting coins; it encourages us to pray for guidance in our lives as we attempt to minister to the poor in God's name. It also calls for us to learn more about hunger and what we can do about it. By being faithful to the call of the gospel to feed the hungry and free the oppressed, we can make a BIG difference.

*“I was hungry and you fed me.” – Matthew 25:31-46*

Offerings can be made at Redwoods Presbyterian Church or [online](#).



## Easter Season Recipe: Ritz Carlton Lemon Pound Cake

Author: [Plain Chicken](#)  
 Prep Time: 10 minutes  
 Cook Time: 55 Minutes  
 Proving Time: 1 hour, 5 minutes

### EQUIPMENT

- Electric Mixer
- Bundt Cake Pan (or Tube Cake Pan)

### INGREDIENTS

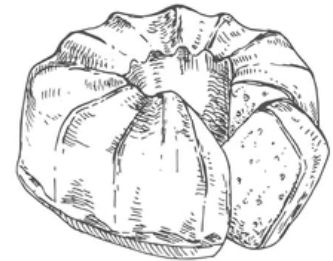
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbsp baking powder
- $\frac{3}{4}$  tsp salt
- 3 cups sugar
- 1 cup unsalted butter, room temperature
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup shortening, room temperature
- 5 large eggs
- 1 cup whole milk
- 6 Tbsp lemon juice
- 1 lemon, zested

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350°F. Cooking spray or butter and flour a 15-cup Bundt pan.
2. Sift flour, baking powder and salt into medium bowl. Set aside.
3. Using an electric mixer, cream together butter, shortening and sugar. Add eggs one at a time, beating until well blended after each one.
4. Add dry ingredients in three additions to butter mixture alternately with milk, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Beat at low speed just until blended after each addition. Mix in lemon juice and zest.
5. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake cake until tester inserted into center comes out clean, about 55 minutes. Cool cake in pan for 15 minutes. Turn cake out onto rack and cool completely.

### NOTES

- **DO NOT fill your pans to the very top or the cake will overflow!**
- If you are using a 12-cup or 10-cup Bundt pan, make sure to leave at least 1-inch to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches unfilled. **You may have leftover batter.**



## Thank You

- ♥ Thanks to those who gifted us with Lenten Reflections during our Sunday services: Marc Morita, Pam Hooper and Oakley Dexter. Their heartfelt and powerful testimonies were greatly appreciated, and the messages will remain with us for a long time.
- ♥ Thanks to Rev. Eric Beene for his Lenten sermon and for leading us in an evaluation and "backpack" planning time during fellowship on March 12.
- ♥ Thank you to Rev. Judy Slater for leading worship on March 19!
- ♥ Thank you to our musicians: Music Director Denise Wharmby and the Parke Kurtz Bell Choir (Diane Forster, Jim and Polly Gorder, Debbie Lundberg, Gabrielle Putzi and Nancy Rademacher).
- ♥ We appreciate the help with the Sunday live-streaming by Keara Roethke, and Tani & John Girton.
- ♥ Much appreciation for our Sunday School teachers, Nathan Girton and Tani Girton.
- ♥ We thank our March Ushers: Robert Putzi, Sara Laureyns, Bonnie Kaiser and Ginger & Georgene Gmahling.
- ♥ And we thank our March Liturgists: Nancy Rademacher, Ginger Gmahling and Polly Gorder.
- ♥ Under the guidance and spirit of our pastor, Reverend Stephanie Ryder, we worship joyfully together.
- ♥ We appreciate those who keep things running: Jim and Polly Gorder, Mark Chambers, Aranda Dill, the Deacons, Committee Chairs, and everyone who participates in the family of Redwoods Presbyterian Church.



**Worship is every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**

For those unable to attend the Sunday service in person, the live stream link is available at 9:55 a.m.

[Click here for the YouTube live stream \(if viewing the LOG online\)](#)

The link is also available by going to the 'Join us' page on our website at [www.redwoodspres.org](http://www.redwoodspres.org)

Bible Study meets Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Contact the church office at [office@redwoodpres.org](mailto:office@redwoodpres.org) to inquire about joining the study. All are welcome!



## Calendar

<b>Saturday, April 1</b>	5:30 pm appetizers 6:00 pm dinner	Farewell Dinner for Jim & Polly Gorder in Fellowship Hall
<b>Sunday, April 2</b> <i>Palm / Passion Sunday</i> <i>Sacrament of the Lord's Supper</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
<b>Tuesday, April 4</b>	10:30 am	Bible Study
<b>Friday, April 7</b> <i>Good Friday</i>	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Sanctuary open for prayer, meditation, and candle lighting
<b>Sunday, March 9</b> <i>Easter Sunday</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
<b>Tuesday, April 11</b>	10:30 am	Bible Study
<b>Friday, April 14</b>	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
<b>Sunday, April 16</b> <i>Second Sunday of Easter</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
<b>Tuesday, April 18</b>	10:30 am	Bible Study
<b>Friday, April 21</b>	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
<b>Saturday, April 22</b>	2:00 pm	Marin Girls Chorus Concert in Sanctuary
<b>Sunday, April 23</b> <i>Third Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Scout Sunday – Birthday Celebration</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
<b>Tuesday, April 25</b>	10:30 am	Bible Study
<b>Friday, April 28</b>	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
<b>Sunday, April 30</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Easter</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship

Rev. Stephanie Ryder will be on sabbatical from April 17 – July 17 and Rev. Keenan Kelsey will be covering for pastoral care: (415) 218-7948; [keenankelsey@comcast.net](mailto:keenankelsey@comcast.net).

### 🎂 Birthdays 🎂

Happy Birthday to our April-birthday members and friends!

April 10th	Elani Wallace	April 23rd	Crosby Doyle
April 11th	Rev. Stephanie Ryder	April 24th	Frank Wood
April 12th	Nancy Rademacher	April 28th	Liam Wallace Aranda Dill

#### Redwoods Presbyterian Church

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