



THE REDWOODS LOG

June 2023

Welcome to June, Fellow Pilgrims:

Our Pastor Stephanie often refers to her Sabbatical as a Pilgrimage – a journey to sacred places. It is a specific kind of journey that deepens one's connection with God and expands connection to the worldwide community of Christians.

A tourist passes through places; a pilgrim lets a place pass through them. It asks that we pay attention, that we see life and make decisions with curiosity.

We are also on a Pilgrimage. At least that is what I hope you have gleaned and embraced. We are immersed in our experience of Prayer, we have celebrated Earth Day (twice!), Ascension and Pentecost. In worship, we are adding musical responses, varying the liturgy, experiencing liturgical art in the sanctuary, taking on Tiburon Hills nursing home ministry... but most importantly, we are replacing scarcity with abundance. Replacing fear, with faith.

Pilgrimage also encompasses an individual's journey through life. It can be a general description of personal growth and exploration.

A good traveler does not much mind the uninteresting places. He is there to be inside them, as a thread is inside the necklace it strings. The world with unknown and unexpected variety is part of the leisure, and this living participation is what separates the pilgrim and the tourist, who remain separate, as if they were at a theater, and not a part of whatever the show may be.

One of the most graphic examples of being a pilgrim was in the square outside the cathedral of Strasbourg. A droll little man with an old-fashioned hurdy-gurdy dragged his cart to a space, set up, and began turning the large handle to produce some fascinating music. A family of tourists came by, pulled their kids away from the music man, and rushed on to another destination. A pilgrim mom came by and led her two children to the cart, peered in to examine how the music was made, and asked about the art on the side of the cart. They listened appreciably and went off with curiosity assuaged and new understandings of the world of people and things.

We are about halfway through Stephanie's Sabbatical. It is quite a tribute to you all that we are not just functioning, but thriving.

God has spread the table and shown the way. May we all be ever better Pilgrims!

Blessings,
Keenan Kelsey, Sabbatical Pastor

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

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!

Looking Ahead at Sabbatical Worship (continued)

(Rev. Keenan Kelsey preaching, unless otherwise noted)

During Sabbatical, our worship theme is Seasons of Prayer. On Sundays that don't have a guest preacher, we will dive into types of prayer, reasons for prayer, ways to pray, and prayer in the Bible. Prayer exercises can be taken home and prayer activities will be available during fellowship.

June	July
<p><i>June 4</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer With and For Others: Intercession • Honor a Friend Sunday • Holy Communion 	<p><i>July 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayers of Confession and Forgiveness; Prayer Postures • Holy Communion
<p><i>June 11</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Preacher 	<p><i>July 9</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Preacher
<p><i>June 18</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayers of Lament • Father's Day • Birthday Sunday 	<p><i>July 16</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telling Our Story • Prayers of WOW and Thanksgiving • Birthday Sunday
<p><i>June 25</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taizé Service • Sung Prayer; Healing Stations 	

Breakfast and Labyrinth Walk

The Membership/Fellowship Committee invites you to a special Saturday breakfast on June 17th. Rev. Keenan Kelsey has offered to lead us on a Labyrinth walk at the University of Redlands/San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo.

We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the church library for a light potluck breakfast and car-pool to the Seminary following the meal around 10:00-10:15 a.m.

Please bring something to share if you are able. The Membership-Fellowship committee will provide coffee, tea and the set up.

Please mark your calendars. We hope you can join us.

Blessings,
Nancy Rademacher and the
Membership/Fellowship Committee



San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo



Deacon's Corner

During our weekly bible study, Tiburon Hills reached out to Redwoods to see if we would be willing to offer the residents a service once a month. Rev. Ryder followed up with the Deacons and membership committee. It was decided the third Sunday of the month after Membership/Fellowship committee that we would see how this could work.

On April 16, 2023, we departed from Redwoods around 12:45 p.m. and arrived around 1:00 p.m. Residents were moved to a lovely, cheerful room (where there are beautiful plants in the middle of the room) with a piano. Residents were brought into the room where they made a circle around the plants.

We each went around and greeted the residents, settling ourselves near them while Rev. Stephanie and Conrad Williams (who provided music for the service) got in place to start the service.

We sang Amazing Grace. Rev Stephanie provided words of comfort and appreciation that we all were present with each and *for* each other. The room was filled with the loving presence of the divine, and trusted servants. While many of the residents were not mobile, smiles broke out when Conrad played an old familiar tune and those who could sang along with us.

After the service, the nurse thanked us for bringing some joy from the outside to the residents inside. We left with full hearts and filled with a desire to continue this outreach program monthly.

B. Kaiser

♪ Music Notes ♪

I had the great pleasure on Memorial Day weekend to attend the CS Music Convention held this year in San Francisco. It is a national singing competition for young high school and college singers, and for emerging professionals. Included was a college fair with opportunities for many young singers to receive scholarships to continue their musical studies.

On two occasions in the past, a young baritone student and soprano student of mine were selected to sing in the final rounds of the competition. Cities hosting the competition were Chicago and New York. As their teacher and accompanist, I was able to attend multiple masterclasses being offered as part of the convention. I have seen renowned opera singer, Dawn Upshaw (who was part of the vocal faculty at Bard at the time), in recital and presenting her masterclass.

During Memorial Day weekend, I attended masterclasses given by faculty from Juilliard, Interlochen and many other educational institutions of note. Not only is classical singing a feature, but musical theatre has been added in the last several years. The session by guest presenter, Meghan Picerno (who played Christine in Phantom of the Opera on Broadway), offered 'straight from the stage' information about vocal techniques, delivery, presentation, interpretation and stagecraft. Many young singers had the opportunity to sing, listen and learn from the professionals who were there to share their craft. I heard some very beautiful voices.

Psalm 23 excerpts, "and my cup overflows". It felt like that. I hope you all have enough moments to feel that too and if there are times when that's not happening, reach out. Music might help!

Denise



Our Pentecost Charge in Church – May 28, 2023

Last century, in Zimbabwe, a young Christian convert became a pastor and, was eventually martyred for his faith in Christ. In a book called “A Dangerous Encounter” May his testimony be ours:

I'm a part of the fellowship of the unashamed.

I have the Holy Spirit power. The die has been cast.

I have stepped over the line. I'm a disciple of his.

I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future secure.

I'm finished and done with sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving and dwarfed goals.

I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits or popularity.

I don't have to be first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded.

I now live by faith, lean in his presence, walk in patience, am uplifted by prayer, and I labor with power.

May it be so.

Pentecost Offering

May 28 is Pentecost and June is the Season of Prayer; a month of post-Pentecost Sundays.

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support children-at-risk, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Donations can be made through Redwoods Presbyterian Church or by going to the [PCUSA website](https://www.pcusa.org).



The children are our future. Building a foundation of faith during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service.

 **PENTECOST**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS
APRIL 10 - MAY 28, 2023



Excerpts from the Hunger Task Force Newsletter of the Presbytery of the Redwoods



“The mission of the Presbytery of the Redwoods Hunger Task force is to support and facilitate hunger alleviation efforts throughout the Presbytery. The Hunger Task Force, composed of members from various churches throughout the Presbytery, accomplishes this mission primarily by awarding grants to churches and their non-profit community-based partners, enabling them to fight hunger in their respective communities.

The Presbytery of the Redwoods Hunger Task Force thanks God for your financial contributions, which allow this hunger relief work to take place in the communities which need it.”

Corinne Quinn

Hunger Action Advocate, Presbytery of the Redwood Member

First Presbyterian Church of Vallejo Pedal for Protein (P4P) Report

The “Why?” of P4P – According to California’s Association of Food Banks, California produces nearly half of the nation’s fruits and vegetables, yet 1 in 5 Californians — that’s about 8 million — currently struggle with food insecurity. “Food insecurity” is the occasional or constant lack of access to the food one needs for a healthy, active life.

This is why our work at Pedal for Protein is so important. We often cannot easily see the hunger needs as it can reside in the shadows. But thanks to the supporters of Pedal for Protein, we make known the needs of the hungry and we help close the gap on “food insecurity.

The “How’d We Do” of P4P - 2022 was another banner year of P4P fundraising, thanks to generous members of churches and communities we serve. We raised over \$50,000 dollars, and while the ride was challenging, with long days, and significant vertical ascents, the fellowship was great. Our dedicated P4P planning team put in long hours to see success executing the plan.

We will continue P4P in 2023, so get out your bicycles and train, and ready your church volunteers. We need these hard working, dedicated individuals, and the resources provided by our supporting Churches, to make our 10th Annual Pedal for Protein successful too! Thank you in advance to all the P4P supporters and Team Members. God Bless You All.

Reverend Dan Link,
Ride Director

For more information about actions completed at the Presbytery, and/or a full copy of the newsletter, please contact Jan Salas, Co-Chair of the Mission/Outreach Committee.

June is Pride Month

The celebration is a call for greater unity, visibility and equality for the LGBTQ community. And while it's a time to look forward, it's also a moment to recognize all of the advances — and setbacks — in the last few decades.

Pride Month is observed in June to honor the anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, a touchstone event in LGBTQ history that laid the foundation for Pride.

In the late 1960s, being openly gay was largely prohibited in most places. New York, in particular, had a rule that the simple presence of someone gay or gender queer counted as disorderly conduct, effectively outlawing gay bars.

On June 28, 1969, patrons of the Stonewall Inn, a popular bar with a diverse LGBTQ clientele, stood their ground after police raided the establishment. The resulting clash led to days of riots and protests, known as the Stonewall Uprising.

One year later, on the anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising, thousands of people flooded the streets of Manhattan in the Christopher Street Gay Liberation Day March, regarded as the first gay pride event ever.

In 1999, President Bill Clinton officially declared June as [Gay and Lesbian Pride Month](#), setting aside the month as a time to recognize the LGBTQ community's achievements and support the community.

The rainbow flag is universally recognized as the symbol for LGBTQ pride. Created by Gilbert Baker, a renowned San Francisco activist, the flag was flown for the first time at the 1978 San Francisco Gay Freedom Day celebration.

According to Baker, what inspired him about the rainbow was that it represented all the genders, races and stands for "the rainbow of humanity." Each of the six colors of the rainbow flag represent a different aspect of the LGBTQ movement including life, healing, sunlight, nature, serenity and spirit.

To some, the rainbow flag also signifies power, rebellion and hope.

In 2017, Philadelphia added a black and brown stripe to their flag to symbolically represent LGBTQ people of color who have often felt marginalized from their own community. Today, many organizations have adopted that flag, also adding the colors of the transgender pride flag — baby blue and light pink — to represent that community as well.



Pride Flag with angled stripes for People of Color and the Transgender Community.



June Recipe: Sweet Potato Tacos

Author: [The Modern Proper](#)

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 25 Minutes

Yields: 5 servings

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into ½ inch cubes (about 2 medium sweet potatoes)
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 tbsp taco seasoning
- 1(15oz) can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 6 or 8 in. tortillas
- 2 oz. crumbled goat cheese
- Queso (vegan options available in stores)
- Guacamole or avocado slices

SLAW INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups finely shredded red cabbage
- 2 tbsp lime juice
- ½ tsp salt
- 1/3 cup roughly chopped cilantro



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 375° F.
2. Spread the sweet potatoes out on a rimmed baking sheet. Drizzle with olive oil and taco seasoning, toss until combined. Cook potatoes on center rack until tender, about 25 minutes. While the potatoes are still warm, toss them with the black beans.
3. Meanwhile, in a medium sized bowl, mix all ingredients for the quick slaw (see instructions below).
4. To serve place a scoop of the sweet potato mixture into a warmed tortilla shell. Top with quick slaw, crumbled goat cheese, a scoop of guacamole and a drizzle of queso.

QUICK SLAW

- In a medium-size bowl, mix together the cabbage, lime juice, salt and cilantro.

Thank You

- ♥ Our immense gratitude to Rev. Keenan Kelsey for being our Sabbatical Pastor.
- ♥ Thank you to Rev. David Brown for leading worship on May 21st!
- ♥ Thank you to our musicians: Music Director Denise Wharmby and the Parke Kurtz Bell Choir (Diane Forster, Debbie Lundberg, Gabrielle Putzi and Nancy Rademacher).
- ♥ We appreciate the help with the Sunday live-streaming by John Girton, Denise Wharmby and Sal Newton.
- ♥ Much appreciation for our Sunday School teachers, Nathan Girton and Tani Girton.
- ♥ We thank our May Ushers: Robert Putzi, Conrad Williams, Sara Laureyns and Clay Wiens.
- ♥ And we thank our May Liturgists: Mark Chambers and Nancy Rademacher.
- ♥ We appreciate those who keep things running: Rev. Keenan Kelsey, Mark Chambers, Aranda Dill, the Deacons, Committee Chairs, and everyone who participates in the family of Redwoods Presbyterian Church.



Calendar

Sunday, June 4 <i>Trinity Sunday</i> <i>Holy Communion</i> <i>Honor a Friend Sunday</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, June 6	10:30 am	Bible Study
Friday, June 9	12:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday, June 11 <i>2nd Sunday After Pentecost</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, June 13	10:30 am	Bible Study
Friday, June 16	12:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Saturday, June 17	9:30 am 10:00 am	Potluck Breakfast in the Church Library Labyrinth walk at San Francisco Theological Seminary in San Anselmo (via car-pool)
Sunday, June 18 <i>3rd Sunday After Pentecost</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, June 20	10:30 am	Bible Study
Friday, June 23	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Sunday, June 25 <i>4th Sunday After Pentecost</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, June 27	10:30 am	Bible Study
Friday, June 30	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice

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.

🕯 Birthdays 🕯

Happy Birthday to our June-birthday members and friends!

June 4	Lilian Webb	June 21	Iris Giacotto Tyler Green
June 11	Oakley Dexter Diane Newton Brooks Ryder	June 24	Ginger Gmahling
June 14	Paige Doyle	June 26	Ann Barnecut
June 20	Jan Salas	June 27	Jim Campbell
		June 30	John Girton

Redwoods Presbyterian Church

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