



# THE REDWOODS LOG

March 2023

Grace and Peace to Redwoods Presbyterian Church!

As we enter the season of Lent, we are called to look inward and consider how we may best serve one another. We are called to consider our faith journeys.

I am grateful for the ways our church has provided these opportunities through the Saturday breakfast on February 25, which was a precious gathering set aside for us to share with one another our stories of faith. Also, we will have special guests during worship this season to reflect on the theme of "Walking Through Difficult Seasons." Thank you to Marc Morita for his heartfelt and inspiring reflection on our first Sunday in Lent!

On March 12, Rev. Eric Beene, our General Presbyter, will join us after worship to lead us in considering future opportunities. A light lunch will be provided. Please attend! The time with Eric will be a chance to contemplate, in true Lenten practice, what the church needs to feed our souls... what brings us new life... what is the fresh air among us? Let us review what is no longer working, what we want to release, what we might want to incorporate, and where we see our mission and opportunity for service in the community. May we bring open hearts and minds to commune, in true Redwoods-family fashion, in meaningful and genuine ways.

The discussion with Eric is especially timely not only because it relates to a Lenten theme of reflection, but also because of the shifts and changes ahead of us. As I wrote in last month's LOG, Polly and Jim Gorder will be moving to Colorado in April. I will be on sabbatical from April 17-July 17. I shared on February 19 how much I appreciated the comment from our longest member (Diane Forster!) that, "We will be fine." Yes! I remind myself of her comment when I think of being apart from the congregation for such a long time. I will be fine. You will be fine. We will be fine.

You will be surrounded by the loving care of God and one another. You will be in my prayers, and in this way, we will stay connected. It will be a time of rejuvenation for me and for all of you. Aranda will be in the office 5 days a week, M-F from 9am-1pm. There are some exciting ideas on the horizon that I have heard already from Rev. Keenan Kelsey who will be covering for me in my absence, and from Denise, our exceptional music director!

Blessings,  
Stephanie

*Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths. Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation, and my hope is in you all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)*

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**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!

## Deacon's Corner

### *A Prayer*

Heavenly Father: Help us remember that the jerk who cut us off in traffic last night is a single mother who worked nine hours that day and is rushing home to cook dinner, help with homework, do laundry and spend a few precious moments with her children.

Help us to remember that the pierced, tattooed, disinterested young man who can't make change correctly is a worried 19-year-old college student, balancing his apprehension over final exams with his fear of not getting his student loans for next semester.

Remind us, Lord, that the scary looking bum, begging for money in the same spot every day (who really ought to get a job) is a slave to addiction that we can only imagine in our worst nightmares.

Help us to remember that the old couple walking annoyingly slow through the store aisles and blocking our shopping progress are savoring this moment, knowing that, based on the biopsy report she got back last week, this will be the last year that they go shopping together.

Heavenly Father, remind us each day that, of all the gifts you give us, the greatest gift is love. It is not enough to share that love with those we hold dear. Open our hearts not to just those who are close to us, but to all humanity.

Let us be slow to judge and quick to forgive, show patience, empathy and love.

Working with you on Earth, oh God, does not pay much – but your retirement plan is out of this world.

**Amen.**

## ♪ Music Notes ♪

March will be a busy month for musical adventures. I invite all who enjoy the music of Leonard Bernstein and the lyric writing of Stephen Sondheim, to attend the Throckmorton Theatre production of 'West Side Story' which opens March 10 in Mill Valley. The show runs for 3 consecutive weekends, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, through March 26. I will be playing piano as part of the pit band of seven musicians, with George on trombone and Liam playing drums. While it is over sixty years since the show premiered on Broadway, this musical which is based on 'Romeo and Juliet', remains poignantly relevant and thought provoking.

April follows, when we must bid farewell to Jim and Polly Gorder, who are moving and who are such dedicated and amazing members of this church community and wonderful musicians. We will cherish every Sunday until their departure, as we continue to hear them playing bells beautifully with all other wonderful members of our bell choir. We will need more players to step in, so I wish to invite anyone who might be interested in ringing bells to please talk with me, and come try it out. Rehearsals are held on Fridays from noon to 1pm in the sanctuary. We are friendly and fun!

To music!  
Denise



## One Great Hour of Sharing

During Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus' resurrection, and connects us with "those who have least." One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world by advancing the causes of justice, resilience, and sustainability.

*I was hungry and you gave me food.  
 I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.  
 I was a stranger and you welcomed me.  
 I was naked and you gave me clothing.  
 I was sick and you took care of me.  
 I was in prison and you visited me.*  
 — Matthew 25:31-46



**Presbyterian  
 Disaster  
 Assistance**  
*Restore Streets  
 To Live in*

**Presbyterian  
 Hunger  
 Program**  
*Share Bread with  
 The Hungry*

**Self-  
 Development  
 of People**  
*Loose the Bonds  
 Of Injustice*

Lent is February 22 to April 9, 2023. Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. To learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, visit [www.pcusa.org/oghs](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs)

## Cents-Ability / 2 ¢ a Meal

Lent is an opportunity to save coins to help alleviate hunger in our community. Thank you on behalf of those who will eat better during Lent because of your caring and sharing through Cents-Ability. We appreciate Pam Hooper who is our new Cents-Ability representative. Thank you Debbie Lundberg for being the representative for so many years.

*I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you,  
 but it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need,  
 so that their abundance may be for your need,  
 in order that there may be a fair balance.  
 As it is written, "The one who had much did not have too much,  
 and the one who had little did not have too little."  
 — 2 Corinthians 8:13-15 (p. 183)*



## A Prayer for Those Affected by the Turkey-Syria Earthquake



A 7.8 magnitude earthquake near the Turkey-Syria border struck in the early hours of February 6, 2023. This earthquake is estimated to affect more than 23 million people.

Solidarity grants to meet immediate needs, such as hygiene kits, psychosocial support, shelter, medicines, winterization items, food packages and more have been processed. PDA will be present for the long-term recovery.

A difference can be made by visiting the [PCUSA Disaster Relief website](#).

*God of mercy, we join in prayer for our siblings in Syria and Turkey, and all other regions affected. In the face of the terrible images that come to us, we ask that your Spirit, O God, once again move in the midst of chaos and destruction.*

*May your Spirit be with the first responders, neighbors putting their lives at risk to help those around them, and anyone assisting during this time of emergency. May you provide protection, energy and strength through your presence. Be with them as they search for loved ones, guide them during the long hours and allow them to find hope through your Spirit.*

— Rev. Edwin González-Castillo, Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance



## Contemplative Retreat and Concert

First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael invites you to two special events on Saturday, March 11, as part of our contemplative spirituality ministry One World One Spirit. We are hosting a Saturday morning contemplative retreat from 10 – 12 pm and a free concert at 5 pm featuring Cyprian Consiglio.

Cyprian is a world-class guitarist, composer, monk and singer who divides his time between solitude and extensive travel, performing and teaching around the world. Magically blending Western chant, East Indian and Afro-Caribbean styles and Hindu devotional song, Consiglio's music evokes a mix of deep serenity and embodied joy in the listener. Currently, he is Prior of the New Camaldoli Hermitage in

Big Sur, a Tuscany based Benedictine order which believes in inter-religious dialogue. Consiglio calls it "bridge work," the joy of finding resonances among the religions, especially at the most basic, deepest levels." His professed goal is to foster contemplative experiences through music, meditation and the study of sacred texts.

The concert will feature Consiglio along with two additional musicians – John Pennington, percussion and Joseph Hebert, cello.

Preview his music and teaching by visiting Cyprian Consiglio's [YouTube Channel](#).

Grace and Peace,  
Rev Cynthia Cochran-Carney, First Presbyterian Church of San Rafael



## ♣ History of St. Patrick ♣

St. Patrick was credited to bring Christianity to Ireland in the 5<sup>th</sup> century. Born in Britain, he was captured at the age of 16 by Irish raiders and kept as slave in Ireland for six years. After his escape back to Britain, he read a letter from Victorinus titled “The Voice of the Irish.” He was deeply moved by the letter to return to Ireland to begin missionary work. Though he wasn’t confident in his education or abilities, his hesitations disappeared once he arrived on the island. He spend a majority of the remainder of his life preaching, baptizing and confirming. He retired in Saul, the location of his first church. It is here where he is thought to have written his spiritual autobiography, the *Confessio*.

One of the most popular legends about St. Patrick is that of the shamrock, which he used to explain the Holy Trinity. Traditionally, Irishmen have worn shamrocks on their lapels on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17.

### Festive Recipe

#### **Traditional Irish Colcannon**

Author: Beth Pierce; [www.smalltownwoman.com](http://www.smalltownwoman.com)

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 30 minutes

Total Time: 40 minutes

Yield: 10 servings

#### INGREDIENTS

- ♣ 3 large russet potatoes peeled and cut in to large chunks
- ♣ 3 large Yukon Gold potatoes peeled and chunked
- ♣ 7 tablespoons unsalted butter
- ♣ 1/2 cup heavy cream
- ♣ 1 medium onion chopped
- ♣ 1/2 head green cabbage chopped
- ♣ 6 slices crispy cooked bacon coarsely chopped
- ♣ kosher salt and fresh ground black pepper



#### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place potatoes in a large saucepan with enough lightly salted water to cover. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Reduce the heat and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes or until fork tender. Drain well, making sure to remove excess water. Add 4 tablespoons butter and cream. Cover the pot and let the butter melt.
2. Meanwhile, melt 2 tablespoons of butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion and cook until tender. Add cabbage and cook until tender and lightly browned on the edges: approximately 7-8 minutes.
3. Mash potatoes with a potato masher and gently stir in the cabbage mixture and half of the chopped bacon. Season with kosher salt and fresh ground black pepper to taste. Top with the remaining chopped bacon. Transfer to a serving bowl. Cut the remaining tablespoon of butter into pats. Make a small well on top and add the remaining butter.

Delicious with Pan Fried Chicken, Corned Beef, and Turkey Meatloaf.

Note: Make this meal vegetarian by excluding the bacon. Make it vegan by replacing butter with plant-based margarine and the heavy cream with Oatly.



## March is Women's History Month

Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the [contributions of women to events in history](#) and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with [International Women's Day](#) on March 8.

The commemoration began in 1978 as "Women's History day" in Sonoma County, California, and was championed by [Gerda Lerner](#) and the [National Women's History Alliance](#) to be recognized as a national week (1980) and then month (1987) in the United States, spreading internationally after that.

In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued a presidential proclamation declaring the week of March 8, 1980, as National Women's History Week. The proclamation stated, "From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well. As Dr. Gerda Lerner has noted, 'Women's History is Women's Right.' It is an essential and indispensable heritage from which we can draw pride, comfort, courage, and long-range vision. I ask my fellow Americans to recognize this heritage with appropriate activities during National Women's History Week, March 2–8, 1980. I urge libraries, schools, and community organizations to focus their observances on the leaders who struggled for equality –[Susan B. Anthony](#), [Sojourner Truth](#), [Lucy Stone](#), [Lucretia Mott](#), [Elizabeth Cady Stanton](#), [Harriet Tubman](#), and [Alice Paul](#). Understanding the true history of our country will help us to comprehend the need for full equality under the law for all our people. This goal can be achieved by ratifying the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which states that 'Equality of Rights under the Law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.'" (Carter was referring to the [Equal Rights Amendment](#), which was never ratified, not to the amendment which did become the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution after his presidency.)



*Gerda Lerner; 1920-2013*

Since 1988, U.S. presidents have issued annual proclamations designating the month of March as Women's History Month on occasion.

The United Nations has sponsored International Women's Day since 1975. When adopting its resolution on the observance of International Women's Day, the United Nations General Assembly cited the following reasons: "To recognize the fact that securing peace and social progress and the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms require the active participation, equality and development of women; and to acknowledge the contribution of women to the strengthening of international peace and security."

The 2023 theme is "Celebrating Women Who Tell Our Stories." This theme recognizes women, past and present, who have been active in all forms of media and storytelling including print, radio, TV, stage, screen, blogs, podcasts, news, and social media.

Thank you for all the cherished women in our lives and in our histories: mothers, sisters, friends and neighbors. God, may women across the globe continue to be empowered, knowing the love you offer.

## Farewell Dinner for the Gorders

A very special farewell dinner is being planned on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, for our long time and devoted church members and dear friends, Jim and Polly, before they move to Colorado in mid-April. It will be a festive as well as bittersweet evening of food, comradery and gratitude for all they have contributed to Redwoods Church and our community.

Appetizers will be at 5:30 and dinner at 6:00 pm. More details will be forthcoming soon but please mark your calendars. If you have any ideas on planning for this event, please let either a member of the Membership/Fellowship committee or a Deacon know. There will be sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall during the month of March.

Blessings,  
Membership/Fellowship Committee

## A Message from the Towlers

Hi Redwoods Friends—here's a quick update on the Towler family for those of you who remember us!

Bob Towler is alive and doing fairly well. He's living at Balfour-- an assisted care facility in Denver close to our daughters, Edith Zemanick and Elin Hanley. Edith is a pediatrician at Denver Children's Hospital; Elin works there also in the pulmonary research department as a data coordinator. Bob plays Bridge several times a week and serves as an unofficial greeter at Balfour as well as cheerleader for his 3 grandchildren. He's a member of Central Presbyterian Church but doesn't get to attend as often as he wishes. Recent news is that daughter Elin was married on Valentine's Day to Eric Hanley. Bob, though confined to a wheelchair, was able to accompany Elin down the aisle and later dance with her.

In case anyone would like to drop him a card, his address is: Bob Towler, 2979 Unita Street, Apt 222, Denver, CO. 80238. Phone: 415-450-8565 If you happen to be traveling to Denver, I'm sure he'd love a visit.

Anne Towler

## Thank You

- ♥ Thank you to our musicians: Music Director Denise Wharmby and the Parke Hurtz 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, John and Tani Girton, and Liam Wallace for his expertise.
- ♥ Much appreciation for our Sunday School teachers, Nathan Girton and Tani Girton.
- ♥ We thank our February Ushers: Bonnie Kaiser, Diane Forster, Ginger Gmahling, Clay Wiens and Robert Putzi.
- ♥ And we thank our February Liturgists: Mark Chambers and Marc Morita.
- ♥ Under the guidance and spirit of our pastor, Reverend Stephanie Ryder, we worship joyfully together.
- ♥ Thank you to Jan Salas who was the LOG editor for the past two and a half years. Her hard work and dedication kept the LOG going.
- ♥ 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.
- ♥ Our Office Administrator, Aranda Dill, works in the office from 9 am – 1 pm Monday through Friday. She has been responsible for the photos on the bulletins and is the new editor of The Redwoods Log. In the afternoons, she runs her online artisan gift business with her partner.



## Calendar

<b>Friday, March 3</b>	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
<b>Sunday, March 5</b> <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Sacrament of the Lord's Supper</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
<b>Tuesday, March 7</b>	10:30 am	Bible Study
<b>Friday, March 10</b>	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
<b>Sunday, March 12</b> <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Future Opportunities with Rev. Eric Beene in Fellowship Hall
<b>Friday, March 17</b>	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
<b>Sunday, March 19</b> <i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
<b>Tuesday, March 21</b>	10:30 am	Bible Study
<b>Friday, March 24</b>	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
<b>Sunday, March 26</b> <i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i> <i>Birthday Celebration</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Celebration of Oakley Dexter's 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
<b>Tuesday, March 28</b>	10:30 am	Bible Study
<b>Friday, March 31</b>	12:00 pm 4:30 – 6:30 pm	Bell Choir Practice Children's Violin Recital in Sanctuary
<b>Saturday, April 1</b>	5:30 pm appetizers 6:00 pm dinner	Farewell Dinner for Jim & Polly Gorder in Fellowship Hall

Rev. Stephanie Ryder will be on vacation from March 13 – 19 and Rev. Keenan Kelsey will be covering for pastoral care: (415) 218-7948; [keanankelsey@comcast.net](mailto:keanankelsey@comcast.net).

### 🎂 Birthdays 🎂

Please join us on Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, in Fellowship Hall at 11:00 am to celebrate Oakley Dexter, who this year is turning 100 years old. **Happy Birthday Oakley!**

Happy Birthday to our March-birthday members and friends!

March 4th	Sara Laureyns
March 6th	Katie Zwarg
March 16th	Marilyn Sutherland

#### Redwoods Presbyterian Church

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