

# THE REDWOODS LOG

May 2023

Dear Redwoods Church,

Welcome to Sabbatical. Pastor Stephanie has been “launched” and I suspect most of us are still expecting to see her at meetings or worship. The abrupt reality check for a few of you was the realization that Sabbatical means no contact, no emails or messages. One of you shuddered at that, saying it felt like a death. On the contrary, this time is a healthy pause, and will be life-giving, for Stephanie and for us, the congregation.

As a way of connection, we now have a Stephanie Book in Fellowship Hall for messages, vignettes and comments. We will present to Stephanie when she returns.

Meanwhile here we are in Sabbatical time. And we get to remember that each of *us* is the church. This is our opportunity to expand and explore ways of worship and fellowship. If After all, “Sabbatical” comes from the word Sabbath. It is a time of renewal to strengthen our relationship with God, our discipleship with Jesus and our ongoing infusion of the Holy Spirit.

We will be trying different ways of expanding our horizons, opening ourselves to each other, finding a new place of spirituality within yourself and with your community.

Since this is a period of experimenting, we seek your input. To this end, there is a Suggestion or Response Box in Fellowship Hall near the Stephanie Book. When you experience something in worship or fellowship that surprises or delights you, something that makes things clearer or teaches you, something that is particularly meaningful; or when there is something that provokes you, annoys you, disappoints you, then write all of that that down. Place your comments in the Box signed or unsigned. And if you have ideas about other things to try or to change, put that in the Box as well.

Of course, you can always talk to me or to any member of Session or Worship Committee. But this Box will remind you that we want everyone’s input.

I will be in the office Thursday mornings, and available on phone or email anytime.

*Let us walk together, knowing God is in charge.*

Blessings,  
Keenan Kelsey, Sabbatical Pastor

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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!

## Looking Ahead at Sabbatical Worship

(Rev. Keenan Kelsey preaching, unless otherwise noted)

In response to the Sabbatical Survey, our worship theme is Seasons of Prayer. Our guest preachers will, of course, choose their own texts. But other Sundays, we will dive into types of prayer, reasons for prayer, ways to pray, prayer in the Bible. There will be prayer exercises to take home. And at our Saturday Breakfast in June, there will be chance to make prayer cards, that is, prayer through collage art.

May	June	July
<p><i>May 7</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to Prayer: Pray Ceaselessly</li> <li>• Holy Communion</li> </ul>	<p><i>June 4</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer With and For Others: Intercession</li> <li>• Honor a Friend Sunday</li> <li>• Holy Communion</li> </ul>	<p><i>July 2</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayers of Confession and Forgiveness; Prayer Postures</li> <li>• Holy Communion</li> </ul>
<p><i>May 14</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayer in the Bible</li> <li>• Mother’s Day</li> </ul>	<p><i>June 11</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Preacher</li> </ul>	<p><i>July 9</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guest Preacher</li> </ul>
<p><i>May 21</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Rev. David Brown preaching</li> <li>• Birthday Sunday</li> </ul>	<p><i>June 18</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prayers of Lament</li> <li>• Father’s Day</li> <li>• Birthday Sunday</li> </ul>	<p><i>July 16</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Telling Our Story</li> <li>• Prayers of WOW and Thanksgiving</li> <li>• Birthday Sunday</li> </ul>
<p><i>May 28</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Celebration of Pentecost</li> <li>• Praying for Justice, Praying through Action</li> <li>• Memorial Day</li> </ul>	<p><i>June 25</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Taizé Service</li> <li>• Sung Prayer; Healing Stations</li> </ul>	

### Amen vs. Ahmen

You will probably notice that our Sabbatical pastor Keenan pronounces Amen with a long “A” at the beginning, with equal emphasis on each syllable. Increasingly, however, the word is pronounced Ah-men, with more accent on the final syllable.

Amen is an Abrahamic declaration of affirmation which is first found in the Hebrew Bible, and subsequently found in the New Testament. It is used in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim practices as a concluding word, or as a response to a prayer.

It translates as “So be it” or “verily” or “truly.” It carries an undergirding of truth, faith, or belief in.

Amen, with the long A, was, for centuries, the correct pronunciation. But with the advent of more liturgical music, musicians began to use Ah-men in singing. It just worked better.

Old-timers or purists say Amen; increasingly more people are saying Ah-men. Both pronunciations are acceptable, Now you know!



## Pentecost Offering

On Pentecost Sunday (May 28, 2023), we will celebrate the spirit and receive the Pentecost Offering. Each year as we gather in honor of the birthday of the church, we also come together to support children and youth. The Pentecost Offering is devoted to ministries that support young people as they grow from childhood to young adulthood.

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. The Mission/Outreach Committee will be meeting in May to select the agency to receive the local portion of the offering.

You are invited to join us in this very special offering. For more information about the offering and the work of the denomination visit [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org).

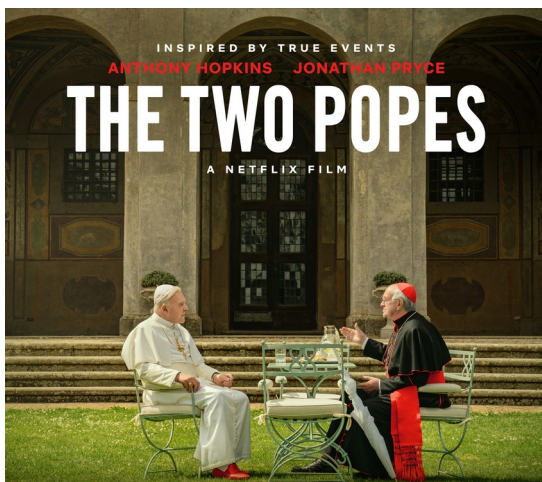


*Building up the body of Christ.* — Ephesians 4:12

## Honor a Friend Sunday

Your Worship Committee, with full buy-in from Deacons and from Membership/Fellowship, has declared Sunday, June 4 as “Honor a Friend” Sunday. This is different than “Bring a Friend to Church.”

On a Sunday when we will highlight Intercession, that is prayer with and for others, we will tell our guests how special they are. As an added bonus we get to introduce them to our worship and our hospitality. Start thinking of whom you might invite!



## 🎬 Movie Night 🎬

Join us at Redwoods Presbyterian Church on Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm for Movie Night!

The Membership-Fellowship Committee has organized the showing of “The Two Popes” in the Library.

Popcorn and lemonade will be provided!

A sign-up sheet is available in Fellowship Hall. Bring your family and friends!

## Ritter Center's "Under the Stars" Event

Under the Stars is a peer-to-peer fundraising event, meaning organizations form teams and compete to raise funds in support of Ritter Centers anti-poverty programs. These funds directly benefit low-income families and individuals who need food, medical care, and other basic services throughout Marin County. We rely on support from the community to continue our mission of providing life-saving care to locals in need.

New for this year is an in-person celebration at the San Rafael Elks Club on May 20th, featuring Mark Horvath from Invisible People, catering by Big Jim's (award winning) BBQ, as well as games, awards, a silent auction and more!

Team Up and Sleep Out: Team up with family and friends, pick a safe place to sleep out, and raise funds for Ritter Center's programs that prevent and resolve homelessness using our online fundraising tools. Registration \$25 per person. Kids 5 and under are free. Free T-shirt for all paid participants.

BBQ Celebration: Join us for a pre-Sleepout BBQ celebration at the San Rafael Elks Lodge on Saturday, May 20, from 5:00 – 7:30 p.m. Award-winning BBQ, special guests, auction, lawn games, and more! Tickets from \$95 per person.



Reserve or donate at [rittercenter.akaraisin.com](https://rittercenter.akaraisin.com).

## "Taking Shame out of the Equation" Panel

On May 11th, Nancy Wiens is presenting at the 2023 VISIONS Spring Summit, [Taking Shame out of the Equation: Building Successful Relationships Through Authentic Connection!](#) She'll be speaking on the plenary panel, about why taking shame out of the equation is an important step to intervening in divisive, shame-based norms of discourse (e.g., toxic call-out culture), especially in this increasingly fraught period.

This event will offer perspectives, tools, and skills for intervening in shame-based norms of discourse (e.g., toxic call-out culture). The keynote event is a fireside chat with Loretta J Ross, hosted by Gloria Steinem.

VISIONS offers interventions that offer transformative and powerful ways to intervene in these questions. Come learn with us, and please spread the word to anyone who would find this interesting! (Code "PANELREF" will give you access to the early bird ticket prices even after early registration is over!)

LinkedIn event: <https://www.linkedin.com/events/takingshameoutoftheequation-bui7046522207916736512/>

Facebook event: <https://facebook.com/events/s/2023-spring-summit-taking-sham/1304316950300041/>

Nancy S. Wiens, M.Div., Ph.D.  
[EmergenceInitiatives.com](https://emergenceinitiatives.com) on Coast Miwok Land

*If we have no peace, it's because we have forgotten  
we belong to each other. — Mother Teresa*

## Trans Heartline Educational Event



Trans HeartLine will be at CPC Terra Linda with a presentation featuring:

**Rev. Dr. Cameron Partridge**; an openly trans and genderqueer Episcopal priest, theologian, spouse, and dad of two school-aged children.

**Dr. Angela Rodriguez** is a highly renowned aesthetic plastic surgeon trusted by her transgender, non-binary and gender-diverse patients to bring life-changing, personalized surgical care.

- Hear Cameron's journey to authenticity and his pathway to transgender liberation
- Learn about Angela's work to becoming a highly renowned aesthetic plastic surgeon dedicated to providing care to the transgender and non-binary community
- How are both these professionals coping with the current anti-trans laws
- What are the current trends in both theology and medicine around trans rights
- There will be time for and we encourage your questions to our presenters

The event will be at CPC Terra Linda (620 Del Ganado Rd, San Rafael, CA 94903) on Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

## Presidio Chapel Sunday Concerts: Shushana Hakobyan - Concert Pianist

Presidio Chapel Sunday Concerts In-Person and Live-streamed presents concert pianist Shushana Hakobyan in "Romantic Inspiration of Great Composers" playing the music of Frederic Chopin, Sergei Rachmaninoff and Arno Babajanyan.

Admission is free. The concern will take place Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at the Presidio Chapel, 130 Fisher Loop, San Francisco, CA 94129.

Donations appreciated [www.interfaithpresidio.org/donate.html](http://www.interfaithpresidio.org/donate.html)

RSVP for In-person or Live-stream: [presidiointerfaith@gmail.com](mailto:presidiointerfaith@gmail.com)

Mask required. Parking is metered.



## May is Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month



May marks Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, which celebrates the histories of Americans hailing from across the Asian continent and from the Pacific islands of Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia.

The month was the brainchild of Jeanie Jew, a former Capitol Hill staffer, who shared the idea with Rep. Frank Horton, who introduced the legislation that formed it.

Jew's great grandfather, M.Y. Lee, left China for the United States in the 1800s before he helped build the transcontinental railroad, according to *Time*. Lee became a prominent businessman in California and later traveled to Oregon. He was killed during a period of unrest and anti-Asian sentiment.

"Ms. Jew turned a personal tragedy in her family history into a positive force," Horton later told Congress in 1992.

In 1977, Horton introduced a resolution that would establish Pacific/Asian American Heritage Week. Sen. Daniel Inouye introduced similar legislation to the Senate.

In the following year, Horton, with cosponsor Rep. Norman Mineta, introduced another related resolution that passed. President Jimmy Carter signed it in October of 1978.

The resolution "authorized and requested" the president to proclaim the 7-day period beginning May 4, 1979 as Asian Pacific American Heritage Week. It also called on Americans, and especially educators, to observe the week with "appropriate ceremonies and activities."

Congress later passed legislation to extend the observance to a month in 1990. Two years later, Congress passed another public law to annually designate May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

The legislation to annually designate May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month referenced two key dates: May 7 and May 10. May 7, 1843, marks the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States. And May 10, 1869, or Golden Spike Day, recognizes the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the U.S., which had significant contributions from Chinese workers.

Let us join in the celebration and recognition of people of this heritage who are such a vital part of our country.



## Spring Recipe: Chicken Pasta Salad

Author: [The Pioneer Woman](#)

Prep Time: 20 minutes

Cook Time: 50 Minutes

Yields: 8-10 servings

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 lb. penne pasta
- 1 cup plain yogurt (not greek)
- 3/4 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp. grainy Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp. lemon zest
- 2 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 1/4 tsp. ground cayenne pepper
- 3 cup shredded rotisserie chicken
- 3 celery stalks, chopped
- 4 green onions, thinly sliced
- 2 c. red grapes, halved
- 3/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 cup fresh dill
- 1/2 cup sliced almonds, toasted
- Butter lettuce, to serve



### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook for one minute longer than package directions. Drain, rinse with cold water, and let cool.
2. In a large bowl, combine the yogurt, mayonnaise, mustard, lemon zest, lemon juice, salt, pepper, and cayenne.
3. Fold in the pasta, chicken, celery, green onions, grapes, parsley, and dill. Refrigerate until ready to eat.
4. Sprinkle the salad with almonds before serving on butter lettuce, if desired.

### NOTES

- Make sure the pasta is thoroughly cooked. One minute past what the pasta's packaging suggests works best!
- This salad can be made a day in advance, just sprinkle the toasted almonds on top before serving!

## Thank You

- ♥ Our immense gratitude to Rev. Keenan Kelsey for being our Sabbatical Pastor.
- ♥ Thank you to Rev. Cornel Barnett for leading worship on April 30<sup>th</sup>!
- ♥ 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, Tani Girton & John Girton.
- ♥ Much appreciation for our Sunday School teachers, Nathan Girton and Tani Girton.
- ♥ We thank our March Ushers: Keara Roethke, Bonnie Kaiser, Clay Wiens and Conrad Williams.
- ♥ And we thank our March Liturgists: Keara Roethke, Jim Gorder, Conrad Williams and Tani Girton.
- ♥ 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

<b>Sunday, May 7</b> <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Holy Communion</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
<b>Tuesday, May 9</b>	10:30 am	Bible Study
<b>Friday, May 12</b>	12:00 pm	Choir Practice
<b>Sunday, May 14</b> <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
<b>Tuesday, May 16</b>	10:30 am	Bible Study
<b>Friday, May 19</b>	12:00 pm 7:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice Movie Night showing "The Two Popes"
<b>Sunday, May 21</b> <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
<b>Tuesday, May 23</b>	10:30 am	Bible Study
<b>Friday, May 26</b>	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
<b>Sunday, May 28</b> <i>Pentecost</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
<b>Tuesday, May 30</b>	10:30 am	Bible Study
<b>Friday, June 2</b>	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
<b>Sunday, June 4</b> <i>Trinity Sunday</i> <i>"Honor a Friend" Sunday</i> <i>Holy Communion</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 May-birthday members and friends!

May 2nd	Georgene Gmahling	May 12th	Susan Doyle
May 6th	Marian McNaughton	May 15th	Sharon MacQuarrie
May 7th	Wyman Harris Patrick Little	May 24th	Matthew McNaughton

### Redwoods Presbyterian Church

110 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur, CA 94939 | (415) 924-4832 | [www.redwoodspres.org](http://www.redwoodspres.org)

