



THE REDWOODS LOG

November 2023

Grace and Peace to Redwoods Presbyterian Church!

We have been doing a lot of "Fall cleaning up and cleaning out" at the church lately. In the midst of our cleaning, some relics have been discovered.

First, when cleaning out the kitchen, a list was found from 1965 of the number of each item in our cabinets: 87 teaspoons; 114 forks, 120 knives, 134 salad plates; 135 cups and saucers; 135 dinner plates... plus a list of every item in the kitchen from cake plates to frying pans. The Deacons and others put in a great deal of effort to sort through all the items and discern what was still needed, and what, that we no longer used, could be donated. The items were placed on the tables in Fellowship Hall for people to take as they liked.

Make It Home in San Rafael was the recipient of our remaining no-longer-needed dishes. This organization furnishes homes of those in need with donated furniture and household goods, solving 2 problems at the same time: collecting, repurposing and curating gently used furnishings and household goods (saving them from the landfill) and giving them to people in need. With the homes created, tons of furnishings are kept out of landfills, showing care for community and environment. Make It Home is a Certified California Green Business. We also donated items to St. Patrick's Thrift Shop in Larkspur.



Second, when cleaning out the bell choir closet, another list was found, taped to the inside cabinet door where communion items were kept, atop the communion preparation instructions. It was dated 1984 and showed the number of communion cups used each month during the year (a high of 130 in Dec. 1984 and low of 76 in August 1985).

Also, in the communion cabinet was a wooden communion tray with a lid, labeled, "FIRST SET USED BY THE CHURCH," which, when lifted, showed an array of elegant glass communion cups and an engraved silver plate dated of Nov. 5, 1895. We used this tray on Sunday, October 1, for World Communion Sunday, also the day of receiving the Peace and Global Witness Offering. It serves as a reminder of the 127 years that Redwoods Presbyterian Church has been a witness to global peacemaking.

As many noted in the cleaning, we are now lighter, more spacious, less weighed down and more open for newness with room for the Spirit to move. It can be challenging to let go, yet knowing that others in need will be using what we cherish but no longer use is a blessing.

Grace and Peace,
Stephanie

By this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' □ Acts 20:35

Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality. □ Romans 12:13

And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased. □ Hebrews 13:16

Deacon's Corner

"Celestial Communion"

Whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he come. — 1 Corinthians 11:26

When Apollo 11's *Eagle* lunar module landed on the moon's Sea of Tranquility on July 20, 1969, the space travelers took time to recover from their flight before stepping onto the moon's surface. Astronaut Buzz Aldrin had received permission to bring bread and wine so he could take Communion. After reading Scripture, he tasted the first foods ever consumed on the moon. Later he wrote: "I poured the wine into the chalice our church had given me. In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup." As Aldrin enjoyed this celestial Communion, his actions proclaimed his belief in Christ's sacrifice on the cross and guarantee of His second coming.

The apostle Paul encourages us to remember how Jesus with His disciples "on the night he was betrayed" (1 Corinthians 11:23). Christ compared His soon-to-be-sacrificed body to the bread (v.24). He declared the wine as a symbol of "the new covenant" that secured our forgiveness and salvation through His blood shed on the cross (v.25). Whenever and wherever we take Communion, we're proclaiming our trust in the reality of Jesus' sacrifice and our hope in His promised second coming (v.26).

No matter where we are, we can celebrate our faith in the one and only risen and returning Savior – Jesus Christ – with confidence.

Xochitl Dixon
Our Daily Bread Ministries Canada

Guidance for Prayers for Israel/Gaza



Doug Dicks, the PC(USA) Presbyterian regional liaison to Israel, Palestine and Jordan, suggests at this time of war between Israel and Gaza we pray this: Pray for all the victims, Israelis and Palestinians. Pray for those who have been killed. Pray for the hostages still held by Hamas, civilians of Gaza, Israeli communities devastated by the attacks, for peace and calm to prevail, for humanitarian aid to be allowed into Gaza, and that the situation doesn't lead to a wider conflict in the Middle East. Pray that we do not let hatred win out over compassion. Amen.

♪ Music Notes ♪

So, we have somehow reached the beginning of the last quarter of this year, which is so rapidly passing by! A friend of ours shared thoughts a few years ago about the strangeness of Time and how variably we can perceive it, that the feeling of time passing can feel super swift, or conversely how time can go by very slowly. I experience this way more frequently as Time goes by.

We have so many '-isms' around the subject of time. "So much to do in so little time". "Time flies". "I haven't got enough time". "I ran out of time". - "I didn't notice the time". This last one often refers to experiences that can be refreshing, exhilarating, filled with laughter and music, time passing with joy, beautiful interactions with those we love and appreciate, giving us the gift of a cup completely overflowing. Conversely, it can mean the opposite, where we may become forgetful of the time, be under so much pressure that we don't notice the time, and inadvertently miss an appointment, important deadline, or perhaps a window of new opportunity. Another one is: "We have all the time in the world". If only this were so...

I remain grateful for the dedicated time we spend together as the Redwoods Church community. We are all grateful for this church and its mission. I reflect that we are just visitors here, spending what time we have, making the most of what time we have, for very necessary purpose. May we continue to invent, be inspired, be alert to the needs of the church and who we want to be and spend really excellent time together to that end... after all, fundamental things apply, and each of us, either on the surface or deep down, do have a sense of what they are. "Let us sing together, one and all a joyous song!"

Musically,
Denise

Homeward Bound of Marin

Homeward Bound of Marin is the primary provider of Marin County homeless shelters and services for homeless families and individuals in Marin, California.

Homeward Bound celebrates 50 years of solving homelessness. The current project under construction is the veteran's Key Room in Novato. Come to the open house on November 8, 2023 to learn about the project and sign your well wishes on a beam. [RSVP](#) by November 6, 2023 on the Homeward Bound of Marin website. 1385 N. Hamilton Parkway, Novato, CA94949.



Join Us at the 23rd Annual Alternative Christmas Faire

December 3, 2023, after worship in Fellowship Hall



On the first 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 coffee, tea and chocolates available for purchase. You may also choose to buy a donation of a box of nails (Habitat for Humanity), honeybees (Heifer International), and 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”. We at Redwoods value the work done and are proud to support their efforts around the world. In these times of difficulties and strife in many areas, the Faire gives us a chance to celebrate the work of the dedicated members and volunteers of these agencies.

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. Apologies if it seems too early, but Merry Christmas!

Compassionate Kids!



Compassionate Kids is an after-school program for children in Kindergarten – 5th grade.

Through bible stories, art, drama and music, children will practice peace, tolerance, communication, kindness, and empathy. Compassionate Kids will be held at Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Avenue in Larkspur, and is open to children of all faiths. The program will begin January 10, 2024 and will meet Wednesdays, 3:30 – 4:30 pm through February 7. There will be optional participation in the Sunday Service at 10:00 am on February 4.

Please contact office@redwoodpres.org or (415) 924-4832 for more information or to sign up.



Blessing of the Animals



October 8 was the Blessing of the Animals service. Thank you and your wonderful animals for making this an (adorably) joyous day!

Peace and Global Witness Offering

You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace. — Isaiah 55:12



“The Peace & Global Witness Offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, and embrace God’s mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world.

Through the Peace & Global Witness Offering, congregations are encouraged and equipped to find and address the anxiety and discord that is prevalent throughout this broken world.

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ’s peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.” *

The Mission/Outreach Committee at Redwoods has voted to send the local portion of the offering to the Center for Domestic Peace. The Center not only provides shelter and respite for people fleeing domestic violence, they also provide counseling and training for people who need to learn to cease being violent. We invite you to join us in our peacemaking in our community.

The offering was received on Sunday, October 1. You may still contribute by writing P&GW on your check or designating this to your online donation.

Jan Salas

Source; www.PCUSA.org



Bread for the World

O God, I give thanks for my church and all other churches that work together to end hunger. Bless the efforts of those organizations that offer relief in times of emergency as well as those who support long-term development. May our witness to the Gospel of your love and compassion shine ever more brightly. Amen.

Happy are those...whose hope is in the Lord their God, who made heaven and hearth...who keeps faith forever; who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. — Psalm 146:5-7



Stewardship 2024

About this time every year we ask ourselves how we can help the Church and the world beyond. This year I am particularly thankful to be living in a peaceful community, as so much of the rest of the world seems to be in strife.

We are lucky to have a church that is being used so constructively to educate school-children, and help those in need, including the AA community and beyond. It is important to keep the church going so we can support these and other causes.

It is pledge time for Redwoods and we are grateful for your continued support of the church. If you would be so kind as to prayerfully consider filling out the pledge card which was recently mailed to you (also available in the Sanctuary), we will be receiving the completed cards during worship on Sunday, November 12. Alternatively, if you are unable to attend, you may mail the card back or call the church office.

*I would feed you with the finest of the wheat
And with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.*
— Psalm 81, verse 16

God feeds and takes care of us so that we can take care of others.

We look forward to another meaningful year at Redwoods Presbyterian Church. Thank you to all!

Yours in Peace,
John Girton
Finance Committee Chair



Thank You

- ♥ Our immense gratitude to the service and care of Rev. Stephanie Ryder.
- ♥ Thank you to Rev. Donald Olds for his October sermon.
- ♥ Thank you to our musicians: Music Director Denise Wharmby and the Parke Kurtz Bell Choir (Beverly Carter, Diane Forster, Gay Harris, Debbie Lundberg, Gabrielle Putzi, Nancy Rademacher and Elani Wallace).
- ♥ We appreciate the help with the Sunday live-streaming by Denise Wharmby.
- ♥ Much appreciation for our Sunday School teachers, Nathan Girton and Tani Girton.
- ♥ Thank you to Keenan Kelsey and Ellie Chestnut for festively decorating the Fellowship Hall bulletin boards.
- ♥ We thank our September and October Ushers: Keenan Kelsey, Mark Chambers, Clay Wiens, Bonnie Kaiser, Tani Girton, Conrad Williams and Ginger Gmahling.
- ♥ And we thank our September and October Liturgists: Bonnie Kaiser, Tani Girton, Conrad Williams, Keenan Kelsey, Nancy Rademacher, Clay Wiens, Ginger Gmahling and Bonnie Kaiser.
- ♥ We appreciate those who keep things running: Rev. Stephanie Ryder, Rev. Keenan Kelsey, Mark Chambers, Aranda Dill, the Deacons, Committee Chairs, and everyone who participates in the family of Redwoods Presbyterian Church.

🎂 Birthdays 🎂

Happy Birthday to our October and November birthday members and friends!



October 3	Ann Benezra
October 4	Glenn Fischer
October 11	Joyce Wells
October 17	Salvatore Newton
October 20	Jolyne Liberati
October 21	Robert Little
October 25	Nathan Girton Joan Robinson
October 29	Bonnie Kaiser

November 6	Diane Forster
November 12	Kurt Rademacher
November 13	Tani Girton
November 14	Beverly Carter
November 18	Gabriele Putzi
November 25	Polly Gorder
November 30	Karen Carmody



Calendar

Friday, November 3	12:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday, November 5 <i>23rd Sunday After Pentecost</i> <i>Holy Communion All Saints' Day</i> <i>Daylight Savings – turn clock back 1 hour</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, November 7	10:30 am 4:00 pm	Bible Study Finance Meeting
Thursday, November 9	4:00 pm	Session Meeting
Friday, November 10	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Sunday, November 12 <i>24th Sunday After Pentecost</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, November 14	10:30 am	Bible Study
Thursday, November 16	11:00 am	Worship Committee Meeting
Friday, November 17	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Sunday, November 19 <i>25th Sunday After Pentecost</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:15 am 2:00 pm	Worship * Congregational Meeting Fellowship Luncheon hosted by the Putzis <i>It's a Wonderful Life</i> at Marin Art & Garden Center
Tuesday, November 21	10:30 am	Bible Study
Friday, November 24	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Saturday, November 25	2:00 pm	Marilyn Sutherland Memorial Service
Sunday, November 26 <i>Reign of Christ</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, November 28	19:30 AM	Bible Study

*On November 19, we will hold our annual congregational meeting immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers (elders and deacons). The nominated officers are: Deacons – Class of 2026: Pam Hooper and Debbie Lundberg; Elders – Class of 2026: John Girton and Nancy Rademacher. Additional nominations, if any, will be taken from the floor.

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!



Redwoods Presbyterian Church

110 Magnolia Avenue, Larkspur, CA 94939 | (415) 924-4832 | www.redwoodspres.org