



THE REDWOODS LOG

September 2023

Grace and Peace to Redwoods Presbyterian Church!

It is such a joy to be back among you all after an enriching and restorative sabbatical. Thank you for the wonderful welcome luncheon on my first Sunday back, and for the journal of your thoughts and messages. I shared at the luncheon my post-sabbatical review, which is shared again below:

I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to have experienced a sabbatical. My intentions for rest, rhythm and reconnection were fulfilled.

Rest, I realized halfway through, was not having a notebook by my bed for middle of the night jots about what I needed to do the next day or add to my sermon. Rest was also being able to experience life and documenting it for my own perspective and not for a Sunday message. I was blessed to have been given a fresh new journal from my sister just before my sabbatical, upon which the cover reads, "We are living our adventure." I wrote nearly every day and of the 150 pages of the journal there are just 12 blank pages left.

Rhythm was being attentive to my own needs for rest, exercise, and nourishment; also, being attentive to the earth's gifts of the sky and its colors and cloud formations; the birds that fly there; the trees, hills, mountains, oceans; listening to my own breath and being free to hear from God without distractions, and witness God at work all around.

Reconnection was perhaps the most profound. Spending this restful rhythmic time with family deepened bonds, and with longtime friends to have seemingly endless time was a gift. I made new friends at poetry and bird-watching classes and made a new connection with a colleague while worshiping at the church he pastors. I attended 14 different Sunday services and affirmed my soul's unequivocal need for church!

To be available for my son, Brooks, before his unexpected move to London was perhaps one of the greatest gifts of sabbatical. I treasured every undistracted second with him.

The sabbatical timing of 3 months was perfect as I was definitely ready to return the week before my scheduled time. In fact, I could hardly wait. Because of my sabbatical and these gifts of rest, rhythm and reconnection, my body, mind, and spirit are renewed.

*Consider the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns,
and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. — Matthew 6:26*

I have been fed. Thanks be to God! Thanks be to the PC(USA) Board of Pensions and Redwoods Presbyterian Church. Thanks to Rev. Keenan Kelsey for covering for me in my absence. Diane was right, we were fine!

Sabbatical In Brief

I DID NOT: Write music, paint, learn how to play golf or drums, take Spanish lessons, or volunteer at the county jail.
I DID: Travel to Mexico, Scotland, Amsterdam, Spain, Boise, and Lake Tahoe; journal, read, rest, hike, bike, run, practice yoga, swim, kayak; reconnect with family, friends, God and self; take birdwatching and poetry classes, and embroider, or what I like to call "needlepoint."

I look forward to a Spirit-filled Fall!

Blessings,
Stephanie

Deacon's Corner

As we approach the Fall season, we consider the work of the Deacons. Reflecting on Stephanie's sermon the last Sunday of August, the Lord built his church on the rock, Peter. Was that rock, "Petra: the immovable foundation" or "Petros: the stones that scattered far and wide spreading the word of God"? Can we even distinguish between them? The Deacons derive their energy and inspiration from the whole Redwoods Church congregation and move into the community to spread God's love through service. Recent works include taking Sunday services and communion to Tiburon Hills Care Center and helping prepare for new residents to move into the Project Homekey facility on South Eliseo Drive in Larkspur.

These are just two examples of opportunities God provides for us to love and help our neighbors. We hope that you are as delighted by them as we are and invite you to join us or share your ideas to keep Redwoods Presbyterian Church's light shining bright!

Project Homekey at South Eliseo



Sara and Stephanie setting up a room at 1251 S. Eliseo.

Homelessness is a major issue in our state. The California Department of Housing and Community Development has established Project Homekey as an attempt to help people at risk and improve conditions in our communities. This statewide effort to sustain and expand housing for people currently unhoused or at risk of losing shelter has demonstrated progress in addressing this serious concern while treating people with dignity. To date, 8264 individuals have been housed under this program at 94 sites.

One of the sites is in Greenbrae at 1251 S. Eliseo Drive. In 2020 the Marin County Board of Supervisors approved the project for supportive housing. In September the new center will receive 43 new residents who can face the future without fear of losing their secure homes. This is welcome progress in addressing this critical issue.

On Saturday, Aug. 26, volunteers, including members and friends from Redwoods (Nancy, Diane, Sara and Rev. Stephanie), worked together to prepare the residences for the newcomers due in September. Gathered together to make beds, sweep up and engage in other household duties, the volunteers were part of this hopeful mission to provide housing with dignity for those in need.

There was an open house on Wednesday, August 30th and residents will begin to move in on September 11th.

I was homeless and you gave me a room... Whenever you did to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me. (Jesus to his followers; Matthew 25: 35, 40)



September 16th Breakfast Gathering

Join us for a Saturday morning of comradery and fellowship as Rev. Keenan Kelsey leads us in making prayer cards. She will share her ideas for this and provide the materials. It is sure to be a meaningful morning as we have experienced recently with her creative worship services. We'll begin with our usual potluck breakfast starting at 9:30 am in Fellowship Hall, with the activity from 10:00 – 11:00 am.

Please bring something to share for the breakfast if you can. We hope you can join us! If you have questions, please contact me or a Membership/Fellowship committee member (Debbie, Bonnie, Sara, or Gabriele).

— Nancy Rademacher

Pedal for Protein



Pedal for Protein is a group ride sponsored by the Presbytery of the Redwoods Hunger Task Force. All funds are donated to Northern California Food Banks and One International Relief Project. Participation helps many northern California grassroots food pantries that are struggling to provide quality food to hungry families, seniors and children.

Patty Sanders, a founder who assists at running and promoting the event, will be joining us on Sunday, Sept 3 to give a minute for mission during the service and afterward, offer fair trade items of chocolates, coffees and teas.

Here is what she said:

“It’s time for the P4P Sunday promoting the ride and selling Fair Trade Coffee, Tea and Chocolate. I look forward to coming to Redwoods again and do a Minute for Pedal for Protein during worship. This year is the 10th anniversary of the Ride and we have raised and donated over \$403,000 to food banks in our Presbytery and one international food project thru the Presbyterian Hunger Program.”

Pedal for Protein raised \$50,000 in 2022. What will it be for 2023?



100th Birthday Celebration of Iris Giacotto

On Sunday, August 27, Redwoods celebrated the 100th birthday of longtime member, Iris Giacotto, with tributes during the service and a luncheon following including special singing from Elani Wallace.

Iris is a long-time member of Redwoods Presbyterian Church and enjoys the status of being a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great grandmother!

100 years is a great accomplishment. Happy Birthday, Iris!

3 Haiku on Church

Rev. Keenan Kelsey

*Angst, envy, worry
are bound in soft strong cocoon
wrapped, transformed by peace.*

*Pleasing, secure, safe
Bell choir, chalice, scripture, prayer
God's conscribed estate.*

*Self-consciousness moves
into selfless space and time.
Monks enter my heart.*

Time Capsule at West Point

A box from nearly 200 years ago was found under a monument at the U.S. Military Academy in May. The academy announced the box's discovery to the general public and scheduled the ceremony for August 28. Academy leaders said they would "unlock secrets from the past" when they opened the time capsule during a live-streamed ceremony. The roughly one-square-foot box took center stage during the ceremony in West Point, NY. When the cloth was removed and an archaeologist carefully lifted off the top cover to reveal the interior, there was only mud inside. "The box didn't quite meet expectations," the archaeologist said.

Friends, it seems Redwoods is not the only time capsule that did not "age well" over the years!



Hawai'i and Maui Fires: Disaster Relief



Multiple fires continue to burn in Hawai'i on the islands of Maui and Hawai'i (The Big Island). The Presbyterian Church U.S.A. is collaborating with *United Church of Christ* and other *National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster* members to respond.

An initial response grant has been disbursed to address emergency needs, and PC(USA) will be present through the long-term recovery phase. Emergency needs include but are not limited to food, shelter, WASH (water, sanitation and hygiene), medicine and more.

You can make a donation by writing a check to Redwoods Presbyterian Church or visiting the [PC USA Website](#).

Seniors Living in Hawai'i

A friend of mine on Maui is in deep sadness. In her last note to me, she said:

"The ramifications of the terrible fire in Lahaina are still with us. There is something that has changed about Maui. Some sense of sadness seems to permeate everywhere. Hard to describe, but very real and present.

The management of the building I live in had four of these Hale Mahaolu senior living sites over there. They left a letter at everyone's door telling us they lost all four buildings and cannot tell who all died yet, although the Maui news keeps printing names as DNA results come in and also the buildings themselves were multistory and they have to be dug out as they collapsed."

It kind of brings it home. I am happy she also said that her symptoms of Covid are easing. But so many people, living much as she does, in Senior Living High rises, have yet to be searched for bodies.

Let us remember that those who survive suffer because they carry with them the love they had for those who didn't.

— Conrad Williams

International Day of Peace: September 21



The International Day of Peace (“Peace Day”) is observed around the world each year on 21 September. Established in 1981 by unanimous United Nations resolution, Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

This year the theme is a call to action that recognizes our individual and collective responsibility to foster peace. Fostering peace contributes to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Achieving Sustainable Development Goals will create a culture of peace for all. The goal is to bring us closer to having more peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, free from fear and violence.

Peace Day is an opportunity to pray or meditate on peace, to build fellowship and greater interfaith respect, and to put faith into action in service our community. We are encouraged to join in a minute of silence at noon, sharing the minute with people throughout the world (who will join at their local time). We will pray for those impacted by war and violence and for a world seeking peace.

September is National Substance Abuse Recovery Month

National Recovery Month, which started in 1989, is a national observance held every September to promote and support new evidence-based treatment and recovery practices, the nation’s strong and proud recovery community, and the dedication of service providers and communities who make recovery in all its forms possible.

Wellness in recovery encompasses a person’s whole life, not just their substance use or mental health issue.

- When people are equipped with evidence-based treatment and recovery supports, they can regain their lives and contribute to their families and communities.
- Access to housing, education, social support, and employment affect the ability to enter and maintain recovery.
- Recovery is personal and requires tailored, individualized care and supports.

Eight different Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Co-Dependent Anonymous Groups Meet at Redwoods Presbyterian Church on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Groups can be found via [AA’s](#), [Al-Anon’s](#) and [CoDa’s](#) websites.

Thank You

- ♥ Our immense gratitude to Rev. Keenan Kelsey for being our Sabbatical Pastor.
- ♥ We lovingly welcome Rev. Stephanie Ryder back as our pastor since her return from Sabbatical in July!
- ♥ 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 Denise Wharmby.
- ♥ Much appreciation for our Sunday School teachers, Nathan Girton and Tani Girton.
- ♥ We thank our July and August Ushers: Tani Girton, Mark Chambers, Conrad Williams, Keenan Kelsey and Nancy Rademacher.
- ♥ And we thank our July and August Liturgists: Conrad Williams, Clay Wiens, Bonnie Kaiser, Tani Girton and Robert Putzi.
- ♥ 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 September-birthday members and friends!

September 6	George Wallace
September 7	Bill Mills
September 8	Alan Edmonson

September 19	Blaise Salas
September 24	Melissa Gill

Happy Anniversary

Happy 65th wedding anniversary to Maisie and Jim Campbell. (August 23)

Happy 64th wedding anniversary to Polly and Jim Gorder. (August 23)

Happy 61st wedding anniversary to Robert and Gabriele Putzi. (August 25)



Renewal of Vows for the Campbell's 60th on August 23, 2018.



Calendar

Sunday, September 3 <i>14th Sunday After Pentecost</i> <i>Holy Communion</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am 11:15 am	Worship Fellowship <i>Patty Sanders with Pedal for Protein will join us for service and Fellowship for a Minute for Mission</i> Deacon's Meeting
Tuesday, September 5	10:30 am 11:30 am	Bible Study Returns Mission Outreach Committee Meeting
Thursday, September 7	4:00 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Friday, September 8	12:00 pm	Choir Practice
Sunday, September 10 <i>15th Sunday After Pentecost</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, September 12	10:30 am 4:00 pm	Bible Study Session Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Thursday, September 14	11:00 am	Worship Committee Meeting
Friday, September 15	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Saturday, September 16	9:30 am 10:00 – 11:00 am	Potluck Breakfast Prayer Card Activity with Rev. Keenan Kelsey
Sunday, September 17 <i>16th Sunday After Pentecost</i> <i>Birthday Sunday</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, September 19	10:30 am	Bible Study
Thursday, September 21	12:00 pm	International Day of Peace (minute of silence)
Friday, September 22	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice
Sunday, September 24 <i>17th Sunday After Pentecost</i>	10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Fellowship
Tuesday, September 26	10:30 am	Bible Study
Friday, September 29	12:00 pm	Bell Choir Practice

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

