

November 2017



The Redwoods LOG

Redwoods Presbyterian Church, 110 Magnolia Avenue,
Larkspur, CA 415-924-4832 www.redwoodspres.org

From Rev. Stephanie Ryder

Grace and Peace to Redwoods Presbyterian Church!

It seems as though we have been especially inundated with devastating tragedy lately. Senseless violence and natural disasters, one after the other, with literally no breathing room. When our family, friends, and neighbors are suffering, we wonder: what can we do to help?

The North Bay fires have emblazoned terror among us. Many of us have taken action by volunteering at evacuation sites, by inviting evacuees to stay in our church and homes, by making donations, and by praying. Others have physically fought the fires, organized volunteer efforts, searched for the missing. We may have found it difficult to focus on anything else as we awaited the elusive direction of the wind.

It is November, the month of gratitude, of Thanksgiving, and I am reminded of a reflection by Pastor Mike Woodruff of Lake Forest, IL who responded, after the recent hurricanes, to the question of how we are to give thanks in times of distress. We can learn, he says, to thank God in the face of all kinds of trials, which can lead us to pray a bit more and even to offer thanks. Here's what he says:

- I am thankful to see people come together. We have gotten very good at fighting and dividing. Natural disasters like hurricanes (and fires) bring out the best in many. I am thankful for that.
- I am thankful for a reminder of God's power. We've become a bit arrogant, and are quite taken with our own power and ingenuity. It is good to be reminded what real power looks like. Especially when we note that, all things considered, Irma (or Atlas, Nuns, Tubbs, Bear...) was a small storm (fire) in a small corner of a small planet in a small galaxy in a small solar system. It hardly displayed God's power. God's power will overcome the tragedy.
- I am thankful for a reminder of what matters. Many whose homes or cars flooded (or burned), are reminded that our life can be cluttered with a lot of stuff that, in the end, is just stuff.
- I am thankful for a reminder that life is fragile. Few today expect to lose their life in a storm (or fire). But many did.

We are asked to consider and plan for sudden evacuation from fire or flood or other natural disaster by planning an exit strategy and having a box of valuables ready to go at a moment's notice. People question, "What do I take?" In a moment's notice, what is it we grab? What is it we most hold dear? May we be thankful today for what we do have, especially for our church family and our very breath.

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

~ 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Blessings, Stephanie

Music Notes Denise Wharmby

In November, Redwoods will be featuring three special music services:

- November 5 – Guest harp/vocalist: Amelia Romano returns
- November 12 – Bell Choir Service
- November 19 – Compassionate Kids

Bell Choir rehearsals are on Tuesday mornings, 10:30-11:30am and our Choir meets on Thursday evenings 7:30-8:30am and all are welcome!

Musically, Denise

Greetings from the Membership/Fellowship Committee

Thanks to all who attended the amazing performance of *Cabaret* at Ross Valley Players. It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and entertainment with a powerful story told.

Please join us on Saturday, November 18 for our monthly breakfast featuring a presentation about the border between the U.S. and Mexico.

Presenters from Tiburon's Westminster Presbyterian Church will share experiences from a recent delegation trip to the Arizona/Mexico border with BorderLinks.

Eighteen people, including two youths, were in Tucson and environs for five days. They walked the desert, experienced road-side checkpoints, attended an immigration hearing, touched the wall, and crossed the border into Mexico.

To quote Pastor Barbara Rowe: "This faith-based trip transformed our understanding about why people come to the United States, and what happens when they are detained by Homeland Security."

The potluck breakfast begins at 9:30am with the program from 10:00-11:00am.

This year we again support Operation Christmas Child. The organization collects shoeboxes filled with gifts and delivers them to children in need around the world.

Those participating choose a boy or girl and an age range, 2-4, 5-9, 10-14 years old and fills a box appropriate to the gender and age. Shoe boxes and instructions are available in the library. We ask all filled boxes be brought to RPC by Sunday, November 12. If you have any questions, contact Nancy, Gabriele or Debbie.

We look forward to seeing you at the Saturday breakfast on November 18 and at the Alternative Christmas Faire on November 26.

Thanksgiving blessings to all Nancy

Bread For The World Notes:

From the September-October BFW (Have Faith, End Hunger) Newsletter: "Before year's end, Congress must pass legislation to keep the federal government operating. They will make decisions about funding levels for programs such as SNAP, the WIC nutrition program and international assistance – both famine relief and long-term development." We are asked to ACT NOW! Call, email or write to our members of Congress urging them to oppose budget cuts in these programs. For up-to-date information check Bread's website: bread.org/activist.

Mission Outreach Debbie

Deacons Corner

Let Go of Everything but God

I must let go

For so long I have held to the habit of holding on

I cling to my money, not so much by a wise economy and a thoughtful spending, but by a sense of possession that makes me depend upon it for strength

I must let go, deep at the core of me, I must have a sense of freedom –

A sure awareness of detachment – of relaxation.

I must let go of everything.

I must let go of pride

I must let go of everything but God.

But God – May it not be

That God is in all the things to which I cling?

That may be the hidden reason for my clinging.

It is all very puzzling indeed. When I say

I must "let go of everything but God"

What is the meaning?

I must relax my hold on everything that dulls my sense of Him,

That comes between me and the inner awareness of His

Presence

All the common ways with wonderful wonder.

"Teach me, O God, how to free myself of dearest possession,

So that in my trust I shall find restored to me

All I need to walk in Thy path and to fulfill Thy will.

Let me know Thee for myself that I may not be satisfied

With Aught that is less."

Abridged version – *Deep is the Hunger*

by Howard Thurman

Mission Outreach

18th Annual Alternative Christmas Faire

An invitation to all to come to the Alternative Christmas Faire on Sunday, November 26 following Worship. Join in the fun selecting gifts of love, joy and hope available from sponsor tables. A wonderful selection of gifts – one size fits all.

We will feature EcoViva, Habitat for Humanity, Heifer International, Fair Trade items and more. There will be something for everyone.

So...be sure to mark November 26 on your calendar and come to the faire! Fellowship Hall is beautifully decorated and the Holiday Refreshments and Spice Cider are not to be missed.

If you have any questions about this event, please ask members of the Mission Outreach committee – Ani Lelea, Debbie Lundberg, Nancy Rademacher, or Jan Salas.

Debbie

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOVEMBER 2017			1	2 7:30pm - Choir	3	4 *Mindful Self-Compassion Retreat - Registration Deadline
5 Daylight Savings Time Ends COMMUNION 10:00am – Worship 11:00am – Fellowship 11:15am – Deacons Meeting 11:15am – Mission Outreach Cmte.	6	7 Election Day Polling Booth Fellowship Hall 9:00am – Bible Study 10:30am – Bell Choir	8 3:30-4:30pm – Compassionate Kids	9 7:30pm - Choir	10 Mindful Self-Compassion Retreat – begins 12:00pm	Veterans' Day 11 Mindful Self-Compassion Retreat – concludes 12:00pm
12 **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY Guest Preacher – Rev. Floyd Thompkins 10:00am – Worship 11:00am – Fellowship Congregational Mtg. 11:30am – Session Meeting 12:00pm – Mill Street Meal Delivery Operation Christmas Child Deadline	13	14 9:00am – Bible Study 10:30am – Bell Choir	15 December LOG Deadline 3:30-4:30pm – Compassionate Kids	16 7:30pm - Choir	17	18 Sunday Breakfast 9:30am – Light Potluck Breakfast 10:30-11:30am – Speaker: BorderLinks
19 COMPASSIONATE KIDS/ BIRTHDAY SUNDAY 10:00am – Worship 11:00am – Fellowship 11:15am – Membership/Fellowship Cmte.	20	21 9:00am – Bible Study 10:30am – Bell Choir	22 December LOG Mailing	23 Thanksgiving 	24	25
26 CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY 10:00am – Worship 11:00am-1:00pm – Alternative Christmas Faire	27	28 9:00am – Bible Study 10:30am – Bell Choir	29 3:30-4:30pm – Compassionate Kids	30 7:30pm - Choir		

* Mindful Self-Compassion Retreat – contact Rev. Ryder or Kay at office@redwoodspress.org or (415) 924-4832 for more information.

** We will celebrate Stewardship Sunday on November 12.
Please consider how you would like to contribute to the church in 2018.

November Mouse



Many nice happenings have taken place at Redwoods this passed month.

The 3rd annual Blessings of the Animals on October 8 was heartwarming with dogs, Bonnie Kaiser's parrot "Lovey" and a green cat (toy) all graciously blessed one by one by Pastor Stephanie.

That same day several members and friends, including June Bellen and brother Charlie spent a fun afternoon watching "Cabaret" performed by the Ross Valley Players. Our own Denise Wharmby trained one of the lead actors in voice. Many thanks to Nancy Rademacher for arranging plus the delicious lunch.

It was a joy to have Jeffrey Lelea preaching October 15. Jeffrey grew up in Redwoods Church and expressed his appreciation for helping him choose his calling to the Ministry.

Jeffrey is the son of long-time member Ani Lelea. Jeffrey's sister Leanne and friend also attended. His special sermon based on the biblical story of the "Loaves & Fishes" was inspiring. Nice

to have the Barnetts' visiting.

At the October 21 breakfast our "tour director" Pastor Stephanie Ryder, shared her travel experiences from her trip to the Holy Land. There was so much material to cover we continued the "trip" after worship the following day!

The Compassionate Kids shared their joyful talents on October 22 at worship service singing special music with motions while "flying" around the sanctuary! They did a super job with the readings, various announcements, along with passing the mike for joys and concerns. They are an inspiration for us all.

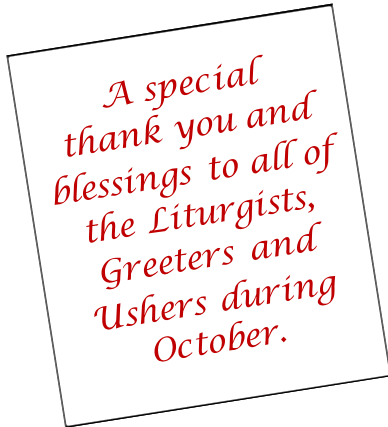
We continue our heartfelt thoughts and prayers for June Bellen, Maisie Campbell, Margie Egger, Georgene Gmahling and Marilyn Sutherland. We miss your presence at Redwoods.

Thanksgiving blessings to all from the Mouse.

Helping Hands in October – Thank you!

Mill Street Meals

Karen Carmody, Joan Emerson,
Diane Forster, Tani & John Girton,
Polly & Jim Gorder, James Holmes,
Bonnie Kaiser, Debbie Lundberg,
Joyce Liberati, Gabriele & Robert Putzi,
Nancy Rademacher, Joan Robinson.



November

Liturgists

5 Nancy Rademacher (L)
12 Bonnie Kaiser (L)
19 Compassionate Kids (L)
26 Joyce Wells (L)

Greeters & Ushers

5 Bonnie Kaiser (G/U)
12 TBA
19 Clay Wiens (G/U)
26 TBA

Sunday Coffee Hour

1st – TBA
2nd – Mission Outreach Committee
3rd – Deacons
4th – Membership/Fellowship Committee
5th – TBA

Happy October & November Birthdays

From Deacons Moderator Polly Gorder
Join the Deacons in wishing the following members and
friends a happy birthday this month:

October

3 – Ann Benezra
9 – Carrie Kim
11 – Joyce Wells
17 – Salvatore Newton
21 – Robert Little
25 – Nathan Girton
25 – Joan Robinson
29 – Bonnie Kaiser

November

6 – Diane Forster
12 – Kurt Rademacher
13 – Tani Girton
18 – Gabriele Putzi
25 – Polly Gorder
28 – Bob Bellen
30 – Marisa Phipps
30 – Matthew Phipps

Add your name and birth date to our list by contacting office@redwoodspres.org or 415 924-4832.

FIRE DONATIONS— Our hearts and prayers are with all those affected by the North Bay fires. To receive updates on volunteer and donation needs go to www.cvn1.org, the Center for Volunteer and Non-Profit Leadership.