

# Mendocino Presbyterian Church

Lent Newsletter

March, 2022



Dear Mendocino Presbyterian Church,

Over the last five months a team of MPC leaders have been working with Rev. Jim Kitchens (from the consulting team called PneuMatrix) and our congregation to affirm the MPC vision and mission as we enter 2022. The following is their statement:

## **MPC VISION**

***We are God's love by***

***\*Singing with the joyful\****

***\*Comforting the sick and the suffering\****

***\*Listening to those who want a voice\****

***\*Walking in companionship with Jesus\****

***Join us in this journey!***

This vision is invitational in nature and assumes that God's church is expansive and inclusive yet intimate and personal. That is the way of Jesus!

I give thanks for the work of Elizabeth Vrenios-Kirkpatrick, Susan Holli, Sally Swan, Rod Lorimer, Natalie Knott and Lois Leister for their work on articulating this vision.

Now comes the exciting work?

How might you use your gifts to live into this vision?

As we ramp up church life following the last two years of COVID, there is much opportunity to support the work of our committees and teams like the Worship Committee, Mission Committee, Facilities Team, New Member Team and Christian Education Teams. Call me at 707-337-9045 and I would be delighted to share the important work being done in these areas and where we need your help. I especially want to encourage you to seek our Director of Music Marie-Claire Dizin if you are interested in singing. Now is the time—as was stated above—to "sing with the joyful!"

I am challenged by the third vision invitation...

***"Listening to those who want a voice."***

As Presbyterians we are called to be concerned about the larger community and so I feel personally called at this time to listen to the Pomo People (Coyote Band) who are trying to find a seat at the table with California State Parks and the writing of the timber harvest plans for Jackson Demonstration State Forest. Currently--and once again--the Pomo are on the outside looking in. Why is Pomo leadership not part of the decision-making process? This doesn't seem right especially when considering the historic displacement and marginalization of the Pomo peoples from these same forests being considered for harvesting. Coyote Tribal Chairman Michael Hunter is requesting a moratorium on future timber harvest plans to allow time for Cal State Parks to adjust their process simply asking that tribal leadership have a voice in this process. Seems like a simple and just request. However, for politicians to listen to those who want a voice...other must stand with the members of the Coyote band. This isn't an argument about clear cutting or selective cutting...this is institutional question of who is at the decision-making table.

Over the next weeks, I will post opportunities where you can learn more about this issue and hear directly from the Pomo people who are hoping to have their voice heard. I am not stating that you need to agree with their point of view but I do believe we have the Christian opportunity to listen. This is at the heart of Christianity. This is what makes the Mendocino Presbyterian Church a special place because--at our best--we listen for the Spirit of God working in the lives of those around us.

Please share with me those issues which stir your heart and raise question in your mind about peoples that we forget or leave out.

I hope that we will see you again in worship at 11 AM on Sundays where we can listen to God in new ways walking in companionship with Jesus.

Grace and Peace,

*Rev. Matthew E. Davis*

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## Save our Pomo Homeland Rally!



Join Pomo Tribal Elder Priscilla Hunter on **March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022** from 3 PM-5 PM  
Alex Thomas Plaza, Ukiah. CA.

[www.pomolandback.com](http://www.pomolandback.com)

[#pomolandback](https://twitter.com/pomolandback)

# ECUMENICAL LENTEN WORSHIP

**Wed.  
6:30PM**

Area Churches Joining together for Mid-Week  
Lenten services focusing on Jesus' parable of the  
Prodigal Son (Forgiving Father).

**March 9th**

First Presbyterian Church

367 S. Sanderson Way, Fort Bragg

Guest Preacher : Fr. Rob Torczynski (of St. Andrews RCC)

**March 16th**

St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church

10700 Lansing Street, Mendocino

Guest Preacher: Pastor Randy Knutson (of Trinity Lutheran & St. Michaels)

**March 23rd**

Grace Community Church

1450 E. Oak Street, Fort Bragg

Guest Preacher: Pastor Matt Davis (of Mendocino Presbyterian)

**March 30th**

Trinity Lutheran Church

620 East Redwood Ave, Fort Bragg

Guest Preacher: Pastor John Carrick (of Fort Bragg Presbyterian)

**April 6th**

Mendocino Presbyterian Church

44831 Main St, Mendocino

Guest Preacher: Pastor Jim Kirby (of Mendocino Christian Fellowship)

## MPC Session Notes and Communications:

1) Approval at the February 16, 2022 Session meeting of a MPC Mission Committee feasibility study considering the impact of a deepening partnership with the Fort Bragg Food Bank through the transformation of the "Music Box" into an expanded community pantry. Session approved Elder Kathleen Alexander being the official liaison to the Fort Bragg Food Bank. One hope is that other uses of the current Music Box might emerge.

2) Rev. Matthew Davis updated MPC Session on his Doctor of Ministry program with Drew University in New Jersey. Rev. Davis' program is focused on questions regarding pilgrimage. One aspect of pilgrimage of particular interest is that of "placemaking". Placemaking is the study of how human beings give meaning to "spaces" thereby making them "places" defined as areas of meaning and purpose. One such space is below our MPC parking lot. How might that area become a welcoming place? How might that area tell stories of who we are as a community and church? A MPC "Placemaking Project" will be shared with the congregation in May, June and July.

3) Approval to invite students to participate in a MPC High School Wilderness Program entitled "God and the Grand Canyon: Looking at Life from the Top-Down and the Bottom-Up" from April 10th to April 17th. (See full description on page 9)

4) Approval of Mendocino Film Festival to use Preston Hall from June 1 to June 6 in exchange for being named "Festival Sponsor" valued at \$1,000. MFF Executive Director Angela Matano is so excited to be able to use Preston Hall as a "Welcome Center" for the 2022 film festival. Mendocino Presbyterian Church will be given a number of pro bono tickets so please contact Office Manager Tamara Fites if you would like your name on the list.

5) MPC Clerk of Session Elizabeth Vrenios-Kirkpatrick was informed on March 2, 2022 that the Community Foundation of Mendocino County has approved a \$20,000 gift to help repair the north side roof of Preston Hall. Thanks to Paul Douglas, Scott Anderson and Matt Davis for writing this grant to the Community Foundation. Repairs will be scheduled probably in August 2022. Thanks for your patience in advance.

### Per Capita 2022 The Presbytery of the Redwoods

The per capita contribution breakdown for 2022

General Assembly:	8.98
Synod of the Pacific:	5.22
Presbytery:	19.80

**TOTAL: \$34.00 per active member**

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## A “Note” from our MPC Music and Arts Director:

Over the past 2 years we have tried some safe alternatives such as holding rehearsals on Zoom and recording vocal tracks separately using new technology and programs. These creative alternatives, simply are incomparable to the close fellowship and connection created with our in-person choir rehearsals. So, it is with great joy, to announce that with the current rates of COVID-19 decreasing and the easing of restrictions in California, it looks like we may be able to resume our MPC Choir and sing in-person once again!

Another creative musical alternative that has come about during COVID is the beginning of our MPC Handbell group that meets weekly. We started small with just a few members but it has grown and is so much fun. We are constantly adding new songs to our repertoire and look forward to playing some special pieces on Easter.



**MPC Handbell Group:**  
Marie-Claire Dizin, Elizabeth Vrenios, Norma Lee Andres & Linda Banta

Although we may never get back fully to the way things were before COVID, perhaps the greatest things we are learning in the face of all this is that we are resilient. No matter the challenges we face, we are still here, and invite anyone interested in singing or playing handbells, to join us, in lifting our voices, making music with the joyful, in companionship with Jesus, showing that we are God's love.

*"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the Earth" (Psalm 100:1)*

Your Music Director,

*Marie-Claire Dizin*

## Bible Study Opportunities!

**DATE and TIME change! Mystical Tradition of Christian Spirituality Study Group** - Held in Eidsath House is now meeting: Thursdays at 4pm **WE ARE ONE IN HIS SPIRIT! WE ARE ONE IN THE LORD** All kinds of spirituality abound up and down the Mendocino Coast. But there is only one true Spirituality. St. Paul in Athens observed people worshipping An Unknown God. Then he told them about this God, preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The study group on the Mystical Tradition of Christian Spirituality will be in Eidsath House each Thursday and the community is invited to join. The study is facilitated by MPC member, Elder Robert L. Scott.

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**Please Join Pastor Master Matt - In Preston Hall at 10am on Sunday's** Currently we are focusing on the Gospel of John. All are welcome to Join. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Matt. This is a wonderful opportunity for Sunday fellowship, prayer and diving deeper into the Word.

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**Men's Bible Study - In Person and Zoom Thursdays, 9:30am**  
This is an open community for men of all ages, single or married that come together to study the Bible and enjoy Christian Fellowship. The MPC Men's Bible study meets IN PERSON and also on Zoom Thursday mornings in the Eidsath House at 9:30am. Zoom Link can be found on the MPC website calendar or ask pastor Matt for more information!

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**Women's Bible study and Prayer on Zoom** (and call in).  
Bible Study begins 10:30am on Tuesdays. If you are interested in joining the woman's Bible Study Please call Pat Westfall: 937-5570.

## One Great Hour of Sharing March 2 - April 17, 2022



### Now Supporting Emergency Relief to those Fleeing Violence in Ukraine

Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

For many, many, many years...Kathy Mooney tolled the bell for the Mendocino community on Friday afternoons at 5 PM. She was ringing the bell for peace. Kathy embodies peace and for that I give thanks. I give thanks for Kathy's leadership which is an example we need to embody now! It is time that we ring our bell today pointing to the God of Peace who--through Jesus Christ--call us to honor all human beings as Children of God. **Join me, Fridays at 5 PM...in the MPC courtyard as we unite our hearts as one in Jesus working for a peaceful world.**

In Christ, Rev. Matthew Davis

## Looking Forward, Easter Cycle Worship for the Month of April,

### ***Passion / Palm Sunday begins Holy Week April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022***

“Palm Sunday begins Holy Week, a time in the church year when we remember how Christ gave his life in love for the world. As this service opens, the crowd waves palm branches, wanting to crown Jesus as king. But as the story of the passion unfolds, their shouts of praise turn to demands for his crucifixion; he receives a crown of thorns as he is handed over to be mocked and killed.”

From the Presbytery USA Website

### ***Maunday Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022***

Maundy Thursday begins the Three Days, remembering the new commandment that Christ gave us in word and deed as he taught us how to love one another, washing our feet as a servant. We also celebrate the Lord’s Supper, remembering the meal Christ shared with his disciples before his death.”

From the Presbytery USA Website

### ***Sunrise Service on Sunday April 17, 2022 at 7 AM.***

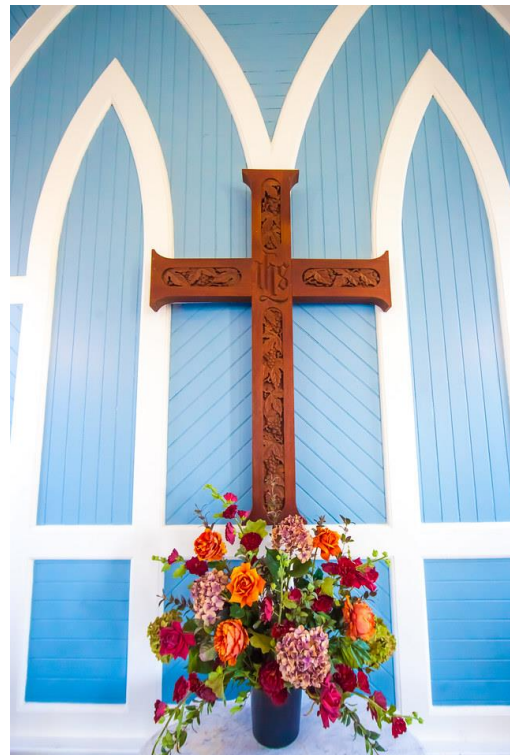
Meet at the old bridge pilings on the east side of the Mendocino Bridge and Highway 1. From the parking lot...walk 20 steps and be warmed by the fire. Dress warm. Scripture and story.

### ***Easter Worship on Sunday April 17, 2022 at 11 AM.***

Meet in the MPC patio. Dress warm. Sit in chairs placed six feet apart. Scripture and story and song. Prior to benediction, worshippers will be invited into church sanctuary in groups of five through east doors to be served communion. Groups will exit west doors of the church returning to seats. Once all have been served, worshippers will stand for the Charge and Blessing.

### ***Video Easter Worship on Sunday April 17, 2022***

Participate in worship clicking on the video link found at the MPC website: [www.mendopres.org](http://www.mendopres.org).



In gratitude,

*Pastor Matt*

## Calendar Items, Events... plus Date and Time Changes!

**Date Change:** Session will now meet on the **FOURTH MONDAY** of each Month, 5:45 pm in the Alma Mendosa Room in Eidsath House or by Zoom (depending on the County Health Advisory) Time and Date remain the same each month unless otherwise noted.

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The start of Daylight Saving Time in 2022 occurs early on **Sunday, March 13th**, when clocks will **"spring forward" one hour** and we lose an hour of sleep. **Don't Be LATE for Church!**

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**Men and Women! Single Social at the Home of Darlene Clay is happening again!** There will be fellowship, laughter, hors d'oeuvres and the best ocean view ever is **STILL** there. Join the gang at 5 p.m., Friday, March 18th - *45170 Albion St.--second house west of the Chinese temple.* **Guests must be fully vaccinated and boosted See you there!**

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**Saturday March 27th** is the date of our first official clean-up day of the year. Clean-up starts around 9am...but you can arrive at any time. It takes the whole team to help keep our church clean and tidy for another year of ministry. Please join us as we do landscaping, washing, and organizing together. Lend a hand for an hour or more on Saturday March 27<sup>th</sup>. Meet new and old friends, have some fun, and chase away the cobwebs. There is lots to do both inside and out. Lunch will be served around 12:30. Work hard, play hard and eat well! Help make our church home and grounds sparkle! It will be helpful if you can bring rags, gloves (indoor and/or outdoor), and basic tools like indoor cleaning solution, shovels, and rakes for the various projects we will tackle.

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**First Presbyterian Church of Fort Bragg will be providing free Easter meals** to the community again this Easter Sunday, April 17. As part of their outreach mission to our homeless neighbors, they will be delivering meals at predetermined locations from Fort Bragg down to Mendocino in the afternoon. They will use our front parking area as one of our delivery sites. The van would be arriving at approximately 2:30pm Easter afternoon, and will stay about 20 minutes or so.

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**MPC High School Wilderness Program**  
**“Looking at Life from the Top-Down and the Bottom-Up”**  
**April 10 to April 14, 2022**



As we restart the MPC High School Wilderness Program, you are invited to join Rev. Matt Davis and Jason Island from April 10<sup>th</sup>-April 14<sup>th</sup> as they lead a team of students (max. 12) to the Grand Canyon. Students will be engaged in hiking, drawing, sketching, sharing and reflecting as they consider “looking at life from the top-down and the bottom-up.” Student leaders will be asked to consider how God uses their particular gifts to make a difference. If you don’t have gear (whether it be notebooks and charcoal for sketching or a good backpack and shoes) ...we will get you outfitted!

Sunday, April 10: Worship and fly out from Santa Rosa to Las Vegas.

Monday, April 11: Drive to the South Rim camping in the Kaibab National Forest. Tuesday, April 12: Hike the South Kaibab Trail.

Wednesday, April 13: Hike the Bright Angel Trail.

Thursday, April 14: Fly home.

Sunday, April 15: 11 AM Easter Worship & Reflection with MPC Congregation

Email Matthew Davis at [gravityofgrace@gmail.com](mailto:gravityofgrace@gmail.com) to reserve your spot. \$100 Deposit. Total Cost: \$350. Scholarships Available.

Sign-Up and Orientation meeting at MPC on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon following worship.

## Poem: By Elizabeth Vrenios

You've Got It child

I am full of gratitude and joy of the restless sea, sky buttermilked with clouds, the gentle love of a girl named Shih Tzu. What can I do to reach out to the world?

*I have given you all you need.*

What am I supposed to feel right now?

*Feel what you will, it is unimportant.*

What can I do to move over the hurdle of this chaos.

*There is no chaos, only change. You may not be around for the end, only enjoy what is the now.*

What is it in me that is so wondrous?

*The essence that is me, believing, feeling and loving.*

Sometimes I cannot reseed the patches of my life.

*Do not carve your initials in the tree or scrape your name in the dust, your footsteps do not matter. No one will care. All will be taken away, but much will be given to you.*

How can I light the way?

*Light the wicks on the ravens, and enjoy the flight.*

Sometimes I cannot bring myself to take down the pictures of the dead I carry inside.

*To remember is a part of me. To not let go is a death of a different kind.*

Why do the poisons of the air, the earth, the sea, the flames of the forest disturb who I am as a human?

*Because the larger part of you is me – the one who cares for the earth, the sea and all who dwell within.*

Why do guns, bombs, destruction jar my inner self – shaking me to a place I cannot reach?

*Because you are my child, my miracle, my right hand. Be still and listen to what you are to do.*

Why does an image of an angel descending toward a miracle that never comes, haunt me.

*Because you are waiting for a miracle which is already here.*

What if I forgave those who destroy us, take over who I am and leave me a crushed shadow in the dust?

*That is right child, what if, what if?*

Sometimes I want to gather up my shattered glass and stars with both hands like a child and cradle them safely home.

*I think you've got it child.*