



SEPTEMBER

Rose Clippings - 2020

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE ROSES
Reaching Out with Nurturing Love to All

Rose Clippings Newsletter Vol. 58 No.6
(707) 542-4272, office@churchoftheroses.org



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU!

Chris Rhodes and our B&G Volunteers worked hard to build a platform for the Outdoor Worship services which begin August 30th. Our custodian, Gia Telles, did a beautiful job of painting the classrooms. They look so clean and inviting!



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Subscribe to our Youtube Channel, follow us on Facebook! Catch past sermons and services by going to the sermon blog on our website: <https://www.churchoftheroses.org/sermons-and-services-blog/>

Listen to Pastor Cindy's sermon from the week before on Sundays from 6:30-7 am on KSRO!

Report from Teaching Elder Commissioner Reverend Dr Cynthia Alloway to the Redwoods Presbytery on the 224th General Assembly (2020)

On Juneteenth, “more than 400 commissioners, over 180 advisory delegates, and hundreds of staff,

churches, and spectators tuned in to take part in the first-ever, online 224th General Assembly (2020). Initially slated for two hours of business followed by the Co-Moderators’ election, the session lasted nearly four-and-a-half hours, prompting the rescheduling of the election.” (This quote is from an article on our [PCUSA.org](https://www.pcusa.org) website by Rick Jones titled: “*First plenary of the 224th General Assembly (2020) puts technology to the Test.*”

The Offices of General Assembly and the planning committee for the 224th gathering took as long as they could before cancelling our in-person meeting in Baltimore. I was personally terribly sad because I was looking forward to reuniting with friends from seminary and catching up with East coast colleagues who were also commissioners this year. In the 1990’s I worked in Baltimore at the University of Maryland College of Nursing as a Psychiatric Nursing Instructor. I know Baltimore quite well and feel sorry for the churches and businesses there that worked hard to prepare for our arrival at their convention center. The loss of revenue from our GA’s change in plans and from the coronavirus pandemic in general has caused economic hardship. And yet, I agree it was the wise decision to keep us from spreading the virus to each other.

(Please read the report from our RE commissioner, Chuck Stark. My report shares additional information to elaborate on Chuck’s well written report.)

The GA planning committee created a “Spirit of GA” Facebook page where commissioners and staff could share thoughts and ideas leading up to and during the GA meeting. The commissioners were all mandated to participate in a “Zoom training” on how to vote through the PC-biz and Session Sync sites. You can go to this site today and see the list of consent agenda items and what action the assembly took on each one. <https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000735>

After a beautiful opening worship service led by the PCUSA churches in Baltimore, the GA was addressed by our Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson who exhorted us NOT to mourn the inability to gather in person, but to embrace the moment, “Don’t be sorrowful about sitting in front of a computer. God has chosen the PC(USA) not because we are deserving of it, but because God chose us by grace,” he said.

Barbara Gaddis, moderator of the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly (COGA), told commissioners that all options were considered for conducting an assembly gathering. “General Assembly is required to meet every two years and we needed to gather in 2020. Finding a time later in the year to meet would be difficult,” she said. “We didn’t know what venue would be available later in the year or even if we could find one. Meeting online was the only option.”

As Chuck said in his report, most of the items that did not need immediate action were deferred to the next GA meeting. As a result it felt as if our work was truncated with only 1/4th of the intended work of the meeting accomplished.

The time sensitive items were addressed such as approval of a statement from the GA plenary committee titled: “On Responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic.” It began with a quote from Lamentations 5:20-21: “*Why have you forgotten us completely? Why have you forsaken us these many days? Restore us to yourself, O Lord, that we may be restored; renew our days as of old.*” This theme was reflected in the Bible study that we were invited to participate in before GA began and the same theme was reflected in all the worship services that kicked off each Zoom meeting.

The Co-Vid response statement can be found on the PCUSA website with this amendment added: “We seek compassion and justice for the most vulnerable among us, especially those who have been further marginalized by the pandemic—older persons, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and

CONTINUED

People of Color)], [the LGBTQIA+ community,] immigrant communities, impoverished and working poor persons, homeless persons and those for whom home offers no safety, those who are ill, afflicted, or challenged in body, mind, and spirit, [persons living with HIV,] and all whose lives are threatened because of harmful social structures and discrimination, which have been made even more apparent during the COVID-19 outbreak. We repent of the role we have played in these injustices.”

On the second day of Zoom GA we heard final reports from both co-moderators of the 2018 GA. The two new co-moderators for this 2020 GA were elected after the candidates gave recorded speeches and answered questions live on Zoom. I was so pleased that the two I voted for were elected! Elona Street-Stewart, executive from the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, and the Rev. Gregory Bentley, pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, AL.

Being a Matthew 25 church was mentioned periodically throughout the meetings. In Bentley’s first comments he said: “We believe the denomination is headed in the right direction,” especially with the Matthew 25 invitation, Bentley said. “We want to heed Christ’s call to not be afraid ... We want to run this race with perseverance, looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.”

Co-Moderator Bentley also mentioned that his church in Alabama has 5 core practices: *Passionate Worship - Radical Hospitality - Intentional Faith Development - Risk-taking Witness and Service - Extravagant Generosity.*

After the first Saturday Session of the Assembly there were no business meetings until the following Friday, June 26th. And on Saturday June 27th we re-elected J. Herbert Nelson for a second term as our Stated Clerk.

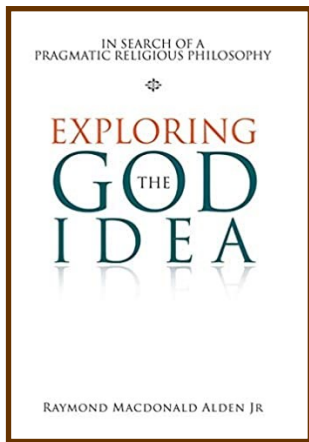
During the early part of the GA gathering, our effort to protest the ejection of San Francisco Theological Seminary from the official group of PCUSA seminaries was resisted by the stated clerk and the new co-moderators. Since the decision was previously made by the Committee on Theological Education before the GA meeting, it was being addressed by the Judicial commission for remediation. Hence, there was no willingness to allow us to bring it up as a business item during the plenary meetings despite our belief that the whole General Assembly should decide such important historical matters.

In between the business meetings there were opportunities to participate via Zoom in the Mass Poor People’s Assembly and Moral March on Washington. And to learn about Baltimore Presbytery’s work with young entrepreneurs and organizations that are empowering youth. They focus on creating more opportunities for young people in Baltimore. The offering for the GA opening worship service benefited this fund. You can give anytime at <https://ga-pcusa.org/worship-offering/>. Another way to support the Youth Rising program is by going to: <https://shop.mica.edu/art-apparel-gifts/community-made/youth-rising-coalition/> and purchasing their creative items. For more on GA visit: ga-pcusa.org

After all the hours on the GA Zoom (with about 743 others), I felt sad at the end. Tears welled in my eyes during the final worship service. It was strange to be sad about not having to be visibly present for more GA zoom meetings! But I was lamenting that the whole experience was so different from what I had expected when elected as your commissioner. I am glad I learned an online version of how our General Assembly works and I took the role very seriously.

Part of my grieving was related to PCUSA promoting our being a “connectional church.” I had high hopes for connecting with old friends and for making new friends, too. (That is hard to do when they disable the chat feature on Zoom!) Yet, I am still grateful to God and for having the opportunity to represent the Presbytery of the Redwoods. Thanks to all the preparatory emails about SFTS, Chuck Stark, RE Commissioner, Presbytery of the Redwoods, is my new friend.

Prayerfully submitted, Cindy Alloway, TE Commissioner, Presbytery of the Redwoods



CHECK OUT RAY ALDEN'S LATEST BOOK!

Exploring the God Idea:
*In Search of a Pragmatic
Religious Philosophy.*

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VOYAGERS

Dear Voyagers,

Here we are heading into fall. Didn't we just start to shelter in place as we were looking forward to spring? It's starting to feel like Groundhog Day (the movie, that is). We hope you are all observing best practices for health and safety. Now we have some bad air days to contend with.



Can't spend much time outside
for a diversion now.

All the more reason for
wearing a mask though.

Bob and I cheer you on as you do what's needed to carry on. We continue to miss you all and, remember, if you're feeling alone, or overwhelmed, or bored, reach out and touch someone, figuratively.

We're usually here at 707-538-5277 .

We'd love to hear how you're doing, and please remember the great need at the Redwood Empire Food Bank right now.

God's blessings to all of you,
Bob and Eleanor Flandermeyer
PS-Be careful out there.

All are invited to the Exploring God class with Jack Tibbetts, at 10 am on Thursday Sept. 3rd.



Santa Rosa Council member, Jack Tibbetts, will be giving a short presentation (by Zoom) on the status of the homeless population in Santa Rosa. He will also

answer our questions and concerns as we explore what we might do to be helpful and have an impact on the wellbeing of our homeless community. Please email the church if you want the zoom link to this meeting.

AN INVITATION from Presbyterian Women

When Presbyterian Women meet for Bible Study on September 15 at 10:30 am. It will be by Zoom to keep us safe.

The study for the year written by Lynn Miller. INTO THE LIGHT, is particularly appropriate for our troubled times. We struggle to survive a pandemic and at the same time people have been rising up in protest against racism and injustice in our country. The scriptures are full of the lamenting cries of God's people. As they cry out to God they discover hope. Our two PW Study Leaders, Linda Burille and Nita Pinney, have both heard Lynn Miller talk about her work and they are eager to begin.

THIS STUDY IS SO IMPORTANT FOR OUR TIME THAT WE WANT TO INVITE ANYONE WHO IS INTERESTED TO JOIN US.

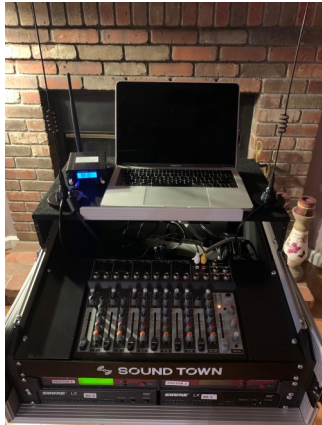
JUST ZOOMING IN WOULD BE OK BUT YOU WILL LEARN MORE IF YOU ORDER YOUR OWN BOOK BY CALLING 800-533-4371. (\$10.00 PLUS SHIPPING)

OUTDOOR WORSHIP

WHAT TO EXPECT

We will have our first outdoor worship service on the front lawn of the Church of the Roses on Sunday, August 30th at 10am. We will be sending out the information on the all church email as the time gets closer. Some of the things to know:

- All will be asked to pre-register if possible but showing up the day of the service is OK, too.
- Come early to get pre-screened and given a mask, hand sanitizer and other instructions
- All will sit 6 feet apart with masks on.
- Water will be given to attendees and cookies for the way home.
- Children will receive activity packs at every service. We ask that the children stay with their parents.
- No fellowship time before or after.
- There will be an FM broadcast of the live service for those who want to remain in their cars and park at the Lucky store lot facing in towards the church lawn.
- The service will be recorded for Live broadcast on Facebook and for Youtube later.
- Beginning with August 30th, all the services (including Sacred Space First Saturday services at 5pm) will be outdoors until we are allowed back indoors again.
- No more Zoom worship after August 30th



From the Reopening Committee

The Reopening Committee has been meeting and working weekly for the reopening of PCOR and live worship services. Our first aim is to have an outdoor service in Campbell Court and the Church Lawn on Sunday, August 30. A 20 X 20 foot platform has been built on the lawn to provide a visible vantage point from Campbell Court for musicians, pastor, and liturgists. Social distancing will be marked on the pavement in Campbell Court with seating set up in advance and in position.

We have been watching the wildfires and air quality potential, our plans continue to move forward for the outside service on August 30. Please watch for updates and any change of plans in the weekly newsletter.

Pray we will be able to have our outdoor worship service , August 30.

Thank you. *Your Reopening Committee, Cindy Alloway, Deborah Baker, Kim Chris Rhodes, Kim Seamans, Gary Smith, and Jim Taylor*

Other Ways to Listen or Watch!

Tune in from your car across the street, watch Facebook Live, or catch it later on Youtube or KSRO.

This last month preparations have been underway for outdoor worship in the Campbell Court area starting at 10am Sun Aug 30th (smoke from the fires permitting). In addition to the platform that, Chris Rhodes, Gary Smith and Jim Taylor graciously erected, I have been putting together an outdoor sound system to insure those attending in person will be able to hear Pastor Cindy's sermon as well as our musicians and liturgists. To save on cost, some of the wireless microphone receivers were borrowed from the sanctuary sound board since we do not expect to be back in there anytime soon. In addition to a 500W sub woofer, to improve the outdoor sound, and a new mixer desk, I also added an FM transmitter so that we can broadcast short range (a

few hundred feet) to the Lucky's car park where you can park up and listen to the service live from the comfort and safety of your car.

Anyone who is more at risk from COVID may wish to listen this way. When you arrive, switch your engine off and please tune your car radio to FM channel 88.1 MHz. It will not work from your house as it is only short range to comply with FCC regulations. For those attending from home virtually, we plan to live stream the service (no slides) using Facebook LIVE. We will also live stream no-host using Zoom (so please leave your camera off and microphone muted when you join) the normal Zoom link will be the same one you have been using every week (it remains unchanged). The above system has been donated as an in-kind donation to minimize any financial impact to the church. Blessings to you and your loved ones. Norm Smith (Zoom Co-Host & Sound Technician)

SONOMA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH MEASURE ON NOVEMBER 2020 BALLOT



The Board of Supervisors has approved placing a measure on the November 2020 ballot that would raise funding for mental health, substance abuse, homeless and housing services expenditures within this county. If passed, the measure will institute a 1/4-cent sales tax for a period of ten years, generating an estimated \$25 million per year. Approval will now be in the hands of voters. Learn more about how these funds would be used in our NAMI [July e-Newsletter](https://mailchi.mp/130fa06891f7/nami-sonoma-county-e-news-july-2020) at <https://mailchi.mp/130fa06891f7/nami-sonoma-county-e-news-july-2020> and through information in the [Press Democrat](#). As the NorthBay business community has expressed its opposition to anytax increases at this time, it is critical that you consider this measure and determine where you stand before submitting your vote in November. **Your vote matters, just like your mental health and that of your loved one!**



CHURCH AND WORLD

The United Nations has Goals and We can Help!

At our last Church and World Committee Meeting we studied the list of 17 Sustainable Developmental Goals the United Nations hopes to achieve by 2030. They are aiming for a better future for all of us and for our planet. You can see the whole list at [-https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals](https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals)

Our world has so many problems to face that we think there is nothing we can do. As the Committee went through the list of goals we realized that there are at least ten ways we can contribute and are often already doing so. Here are ten to consider:

- Donate what you don't use
- Use less food and support local farmers
- Help educate kids
- Avoid water waste
- Use efficient light bulbs and appliances..... even cars!
- Recycle
- Ride your bike or walk
- Avoid plastics
- Plant trees
- Lobby your government

Church of the Roses is committed to being an Earth Care Congregation. Let's do our best to support the United Nations goals in any way we can and encourage others to join us.

DEACONS

Just another month of limited mobility within the community but the Deacons have been distributing the funds that have been generously contributed. Here is where the Deacons have sent funds:

- \$500 to the Boys and Girls club of Sonoma Marin to help support the program that provided child care for the essential workers in the beginning of the "Shelter in Place" orders.
- \$500 to the YWCA of Sonoma County to support services for victims of Domestic Violence at the Safe House.
- \$1,100 to the Council on Aging for preparing and distribution meals to the seniors in need in our community.
- \$2,000 to the Redwood Empire Food Bank helping feed 82,000 men, women and children in Sonoma County.
- \$1,159 to the Redwood Empire Food bank for food purchased that was distributed for the PCOR's Food Shelf Program.

Thanks to everyone who has continued to contribute to the Deacon's Fund during this crazy 2020 year. Just call your Deacon Buddy, myself or Pastor Cindy if there is anything we can help you with.

Barb Basham, Moderator

WE ARE ON THE RADIO!

Join us Sunday mornings
6:30—7 am KSRO 103.5 FM

Check their website for past shows at any-time! Go to:

<https://www.ksro.com/show/presbyterian-church-of-the-roses/>

PEDAL FOR PROTEIN 2020



To help prevent further spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), Pedal for Protein has decided to take a "Sabbath Rest" from the 2020 group ride. However, we are still raising funds for the

local food banks and pantries, and WE NEED YOUR HELP! P4P raised \$45,000 last year, and in six years, it has raised nearly a quarter of a million dollars. Our goal for 2020 is \$40,000. Every contribution will make a difference!!

While the group ride will be in hiatus, riders will be organizing day rides locally. Called the Homespun Edition 2020, these dedicated riders may even log up to 350 miles from September 21-25th! While the fellowship and comradery of the group ride will be missed, we can still help others who don't have enough food for their families.

Donations by check can be made out to **PRESBYTERY OF THE REDWOODS**, and either mailed directly to 1226 Salvador Ave, Napa CA 94558, or to Church of the Roses. I will see that they get to where they need to be. **Please make sure P4P, and Team PCOR is in the memo line.**

Thank you for helping us help others!

Bill & Nancy Morgan



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Greeting from your Music Director!

Here we are at the end of August. Summer is winding down and Fall is on its way. Just yesterday I saw that some of the leaves on our neighborhood trees have begun to turn color and we have seen flocks of Canadian Geese flying south for the winter. It's nice to know that at least trees and birds don't seem to be affected by a global pandemic. They are comforting reminders that time does still march on and some day we will all be able to return to our "normal" lives.

Fall would normally mark the return of Chancel Choir and Bellissimo after their summer hiatus, but of course Covid 19 has other ideas. Be that as it may, our chancel choir will be performing an anthem on the First Sunday of September. We will be masked, of course, and it will be outside so it may not be as easy to hear us as it would in the sanctuary but we will still make "Our Joyful Noise to the Lord". It is a small first step towards a return to in person worship in our sanctuary. And even though we might not know when that will be, it is a very good thing to realize that we are heading towards that day.

Small steps are sometimes the only way we can make progress when we are faced with a pandemic, job insecurity, excessive heat and freak lightning storms that have once again turned our beloved Bay Area into an evacuation zone. But just so long as we keep putting one foot in front of the other we will assuredly get past all of this into a brighter and better tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing all of you in September at our outdoor worship services!

Yours in Christ,
Myles Ellis

PUSHBACK

Each day, a moment
of Life.
Each moment, a celebration of Mentation.
But the Universe intrudes
With the remorseless energy of Time lost.
Our lives, as we think them
Are but chaff cast in the Winds of
Passage, and are easily lost
In the furious reality of existence,
Buffered by the burden of our own thoughts,
Our own philosophies
And several religions to the
Same Deity, for to
Which we cannot fully
Or several partly know
Or maybe even wish to fully Touch.
But the lesson is sure and present
If we only unlock our Minds to listen,
To see with a clearer light,
That We are all One,
One with a family of Kind-Mind
And that needs
To find a balance
In which we may all live
And find Sanctuary.

Carlton G. Burille 5/11/2020



Zoom Book Club
September 17 1:30 p.m.

Rain: A Natural and Cultural History
by Cynthia Barnett

Pick up books at Jeanne Nussmeier's

Seniors Dealing with Technology by Rich Osborne

After face masks, technology has emerged as the number two bane of our existence in this COVID-19 environment for the hearing impaired because we find ourselves forced to confront technology head on just to exist.

Gone are the days when we could ignore technology.

Instead, many of us must learn how to use Zoom when we have only just gotten to be minimally competent with email and Facebook. At least with email and Facebook, we had help: classes at the Senior Center, friends dropping by, and arguably our best source of help - grandchildren. Social distancing has eliminated these things. It is not fair. It is not what we expected and prepared for. But it is reality and we have no alternative. I learned this lesson in Air Force boot camp many years ago and it holds today: adapt to reality. As seniors, we must adapt to using technology or risk becoming even more isolated. I already bear the burden of severe hearing loss, which causes me to self-isolate.

The problem with technology is that it is so unforgiving.

You must approach the computer or phone with utmost caution. It will not work the way you want; you must do it its way. Ever have this experience with a computer or phone? Suddenly, a screen appears, and you have no idea why or how to get back where you were. Usually, it is because you typed in the wrong spot, or touched something on the screen that made the computer react as if you wanted it to do something else but you had no idea what you had done. I can give you a great example. My mobile phone rings. Because the phone is in my pocket, I reach in with my hand to retrieve it. Naturally, I grasp the phone – it will not come out by itself! – but in so doing, I invariably touch some part of the screen that tells the phone to hang up. Once the phone is out and in view, I stand there in a state of befuddlement because the screen shows nothing, yet I know it was ringing.

How to cope with technology and its larger presence under COVID-19 restrictions?

I wish I had the answer. I started to write this as an aid to dealing with the travails of technology and quickly realized that I would have to create a training manual with far more materials than I could or would be able to produce. For those who are able, there is an astonishing amount of help on YouTube (**yes, that requires technology to use**). I hope you can enjoy this humorous example of a son helping his mother: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8nkOO3ocrw>

BTW, YouTube videos provide captions but you have to find the "CC: button.

I am going to cut this short by sharing the following tips that I practice. I hope these will help.

- Proceed very slowly.
- Read everything on the screen first before touching the keyboard.
- Make notes about what to do (no – you will not remember what you read).
- Look for the blinking cursor – it might not be in the right place and keying will result in unpredictable actions by the computer. As you key, ensure that it is going into the correct spot.
- Before hitting the "enter" key, reread the screen and ensure it reflects what you thought you did.
- Even when doing some you have done it before, proceed as if it were the first time.

FINANCE

Thank you to all those who have continued with their giving during these unusual times. Remarkably, we are very close to normal collections through our first 7 months of the year.

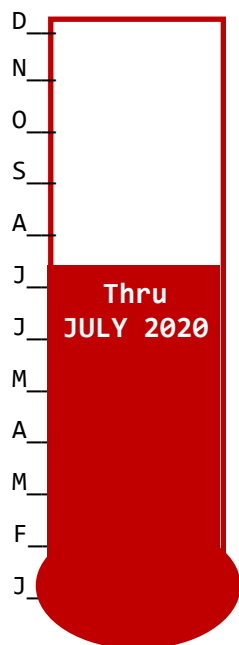
However, we are losing money from operations but thankfully have reserves to cover as well as the debt forgiveness of our PPP loan which we received as part of the first economic stimulus package approved by Congress.

Whether it's being able to worship together or what, we need revenue to grow in order to stop the operating losses. With the Stewardship Campaign for 2021 approaching, please start thinking about the giving level your most comfortable with pledging to help fund our Church and all the good that it does.

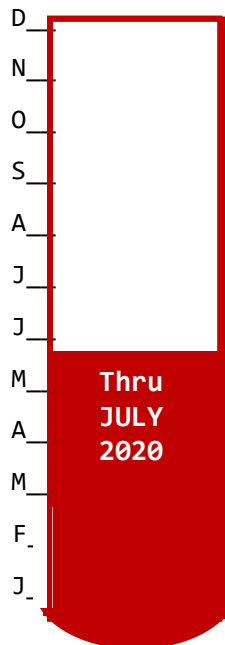
Thank you for your support. Stay safe.

Chris Nelle

GOAL
225,000
PLEDGED



GOAL
58,000
UNPLEDGED



PRAYER REQUESTS

Those Who Mourn Family and Friends

- *The family of Helen Burns, as they mourn her passing on August 14, 2020.
- *The family of Elizabeth Ann Palmer, as they mourn her passing on July 24, 2020.
- *The family of Gwen Christiansen, as they mourn her passing on June 5, 2020
- *The family of Ray Foreaker, as they mourn his passing on April 23, 2020
- *The family of Jeanette Nichols, as they mourn her passing on April 21st.

THOSE WITH HEALTH ISSUES

Bill Beaumont	Jessica Morse
Bob Bunting	Diane Schuler
Patrick Butler	Debbie Seat
Peggy Call	Bob Simmons
Stephen Caron	Sharon Sorani
Doreen Cowden	Shirley Walton
Dick Draper	Bob Weber
Danny Duchsherer	Jill White
Barbara Flannery	Roger White
Marilyn Hilen	Helen Wikle
Janice Holmes	Betty Witchey-Ryer
Carolyn Kenworthy	Betsy Yeager
Vivian Mazeski	Avery Yudice
Luu Maxwell	

THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY

Sgt. David A. Dickens, USAF Jason Morse, Coast Guard Lt. Ian Alloway Culver, Lt. Col. David Trowbridge, M.D. is stationed at the Joint Air Force Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Ak and serves as a Cardiologist with the Alaska Native Medical Center, Chris Loranger serving in Afghanistan.

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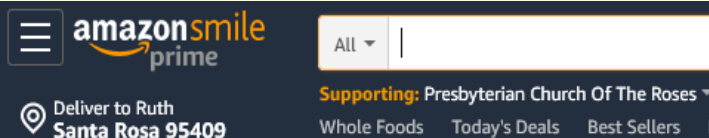
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deposit at booking, another \$350 in June 2021 and final
payment is July 2022!

**Contact PCOR member Barbara Nelson for more
information, brochure, and short video: 707-538-
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