

Rose Clippings

Proverbs 3:9-10 – “Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.”

Church of the Roses



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE ROSES
Sept/Oct 2025

Rose Clippings Newsletter Vol. 63 No.4
(707)542-4272, office@churchoftheroses.org



GREETINGS AND LOVE FROM YOUR CHURCH FAMILY IN KENYA!

Upcoming Events

09/06—All Church Clean-Up Day, 9am

09/06—Sacred Space, 5pm

09/11—PW Quilting, 10am

09/13—Presbyterian Women, 10am

09/18—ZOOM Book Club, 2:30pm

09/19—Parents' Night Out, 5:30pm

09/20—PCOR Men's Group, 8:30am

09/20—Beading Group, 9:30am

09/21—Fall Concert Series I, 2pm

09/23—Session Meets, 6pm

09/24—The Choses Bible Study begins, 7pm

09/27—Safari Fall Festival

10/04—Sacred Space, 5pm

10/09—PW Quilting, 10am

10/11—Presbyterian Women, 10am

10/12—Fall Concert Series II, 2pm

10/16—ZOOM Book Club, 2:30pm

10/18—PCOR Men's Group, 8:15am

10/24—A Little Music Night, SRCCA, 7:30pm

10/25—Beading Group, 9:30am

10/26—Celebrating Pastor Cindy, 11am

10/28—Session Meets, 6pm

10/31—Trunk or Treat, 5pm

A Grateful Goodbye After 12 Years of Ministry Together

By Pastor Cindy



"Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." –
Philippians 1:6

Serving as your pastor has been one of the greatest joys and privileges of my life. We have prayed, served, wept and laughed together—and through it all, God has been faithful.

When I first arrived in 2013, I had no idea how deeply I would come to love this congregation. Brian Smith, Nancy Morgan, Nita Pinney and David Nelson were on the PNC and they are still here!

Their faith in me and counsel from the other pastors in our Presbytery of the Redwoods over all these years is so appreciated! God and you all have supported me through a divorce, my mother's death, the Covid pandemic, skin cancer, knee surgery, a new engagement and marriage. Your loving support helped me persevere.

Over these 12 years, we (including all the members and staff of PCOR) have built together more than programs and worship services—we have built a strong community rooted in faith, hope, and love. Together we have welcomed many new members, walked with one another through seasons of grief and celebration, opened our doors in inclusive nurturing new ways, sent many groups out on mission trips, welcomed hungry students for breakfast, reached out to the homebound and hospitalized, and strived to be Christ's hands and heart in the SR community.

As I prepare to step away from active ministry, Philippians 1:6 offers me a deep sense of peace and hope trusting that God has blessed this church with the gifts and talents and resources to carry forward this ministry in new and expanding ways. Every member is needed going forward. All have a part to play in the faithful future of this church.

This isn't the end of the story—it is simply a new chapter for both me and Norm and for PCOR. The good work God began in this place long before I arrived will continue long after I leave, because it is God's work, not mine. I believe with all my heart that the Spirit is still moving here. You are in good hands—with one another, with your leadership, and most importantly, with the God who never stops working in us and through us with love.

Though I will no longer be your pastor, I will always carry you in my heart and soul. The new interim pastor and eventually the newly installed pastor will be very blessed to do ministry alongside such an amazing church family.

Thank you for allowing me to journey with you these many years. Thank you for your love, trust, and your shared faith. May God bless and keep you always, and may the good work of the Church of the Roses continue until the day of Christ Jesus' return.

Director of Music

The Chancel Choir came back for the new season and attended our annual Choral Retreat on Sunday, August 24th after church. This is my chance to introduce not only the new music I found, but revisit some that we've sung before. Then every Thursday thereafter we'll be rehearsing on Thursday evenings from 7:00 pm to 8:30-ish, and singing in church again starting on Sunday, September 7th! We've had a lovely summer of various soloists, ensembles, instrumentalists offering their musical talents ... hopefully we will continue with the occasional sprinkling of a solo here and there once the choir is back. As always, it's never too late to consider joining the choir - it's a wonderful group of people who love singing to the glory of God! Singing is wonderful for your health - vocal technique, breathing, concentration, focus, culture, spiritual growth ... it's all there! Why not consider joining us? Just find Carol on Sunday morning at coffee hour, or email carol@churchoftheroses.org. There's always Bellissimo too, in case playing the handbells is something you'd like to try.

The Roses Signature Concert Series 2025-2026 is all planned ... below please find the poster. We're starting the series off with a bang - with Bennett Friedman and his Jazz quartet back by popular demand on Sunday, October 12 at 2:00 p.m. We hope you'll want to support this series and tell all your friends! We are offering these concerts free to the community, but donations are gratefully accepted.



Roses Signature Concert Series 2025-2026

Sunday, October 12 2:00 p.m.	Jazz Concert Bennett Friedman Jazz Quartet
Sunday, November 2 2:00 p.m.	Recital Carol Menke & Marilyn Thompson
Sunday, November 16 2:00 p.m.	A Choral Afternoon MCHS Choral Department <i>under the direction of Gail Bowers</i>
Sunday, December 21 4:00 p.m.	Christmas Concert Four For His Glory & Roses Chancel Choir
Sunday, February 8 2:00 p.m.	Recital Young Aspiring Musicians
Saturday, March 21 5:00 p.m.	Concert UC Santa Barbara Chamber Choir <i>under the direction of Brent Wilson</i>
Friday, April 3 7:30 p.m.	Annual Good Friday Concert <i>Requiem</i> by Michael John Trott

Presbyterian Church of the Roses
2500 Patio Court, Santa Rosa, CA 95405

Free Admission
Donations Gladly Accepted

Roses Signature Concert Series presents:

Bennett Friedman Jazz Quartet



Sunday, October 12th, 2025
2:00 pm

Bennett Friedman
Randy Vincent
Jeff Denson
Kendrick Freeman

Church of the Roses
2500 Patio Court
Santa Rosa, CA

Free Admission
Donations Gladly Accepted

OUR VISION

Reaching Out with Nurturing Love to ALL



OUR MISSION

- To be an inclusive, caring Christ-centered community.
- Follow the Holy Spirit's guidance as we live and proclaim the Good News of God's love, peace and justice.
- Worship God with gratitude in a welcoming environment
- Bring glory to God.
- Serve youth, families, seniors and singles who need God's love and compassion.

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Finance Committee Report

Greetings Church of the Roses! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and had plenty of opportunities for enjoying the warm weather, beautiful sunshine, and glorious outdoors with loved ones.

The financial state of the church continues to remain strong. Through July 31st, 2025, our church income exceeds our expenses by **\$9,825!!** This is very encouraging considering we were budgeted to be at a deficit of approximately \$9,950 by this time of the year. We continue to celebrate and give thanks to the Lord that so far this year we are in the black. May it continue!

Chris Rhodes, Pastor Cindy, and I recently attended an online seminar given by the Redwoods Presbytery on Legacy Giving. It was outstanding. One of the main takeaways from the session was that legacy giving is a meaningful way of continuing to support Gods work through our church even beyond our lifetime. By designating a portion of your estate as a gift, you help ensure that the ministries and mission of our church will bless future generations. This is an area we hope to grow in our collective knowledge, understanding, and involvement, so stay tuned for more to come. In the meantime, if you have any questions or this is something you are strongly considering, please don't hesitate to contact or talk to one of the Finance Committee members.

Best wishes,

Your Finance Committee: Anthony Lim, Linda Burille, Barbara Basham, Kim Seamans, Dave Nelson, Ron Dodge, Linda Lance, Nancy Morgan, and Pastor Cindy Alloway

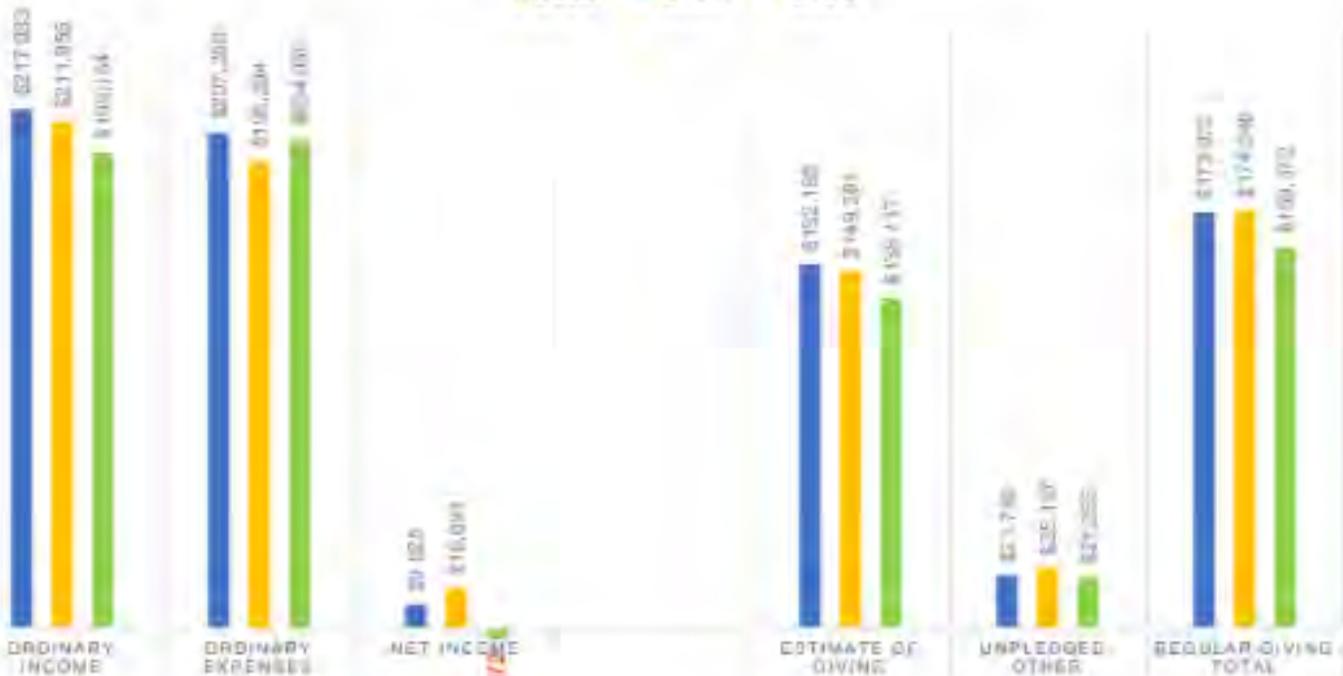


Presbyterian Church of Roses 7 Month Comparison of January-July Actuals for 2023-2025



JAN-JUL BUDGET (ACTUAL) COMPARISON

■ 2025 ■ 2024 ■ 2023



Presbyterian Church of the Roses

2025 Budget: January - July 2025

Net Ordinary Income – 7 months



Regular Giving (does not include special giving) – 7 months



WORSHIP IN THE Arts

We welcome back our Chancel Choir on Sept. 7th. You may recall the last time they sang which was on Pentecost. It was a rousing "Spirit Come Down." Over the summer individuals from our choir and community provided special music. Thanks to all of them and to Carol Menke for arranging it all.

While Pastor Cindy was away with the mission team in Kenya, we heard from guest preachers, Rev. Robert Conover and Rev. Eric Beene. It was also a real blessing to hear from all the members of the mission team on the Sunday after they returned. They clearly had been moved spiritually by their experiences and what they shared touched all who heard them. The Mbogo's, founders of ByGrace children's home which hosted the mission team, were with us August 17 and Rev. Stephen Mgobo gave the sermon.

The Worship Committee wants to thank the many volunteers who help us support worship activities at PCOR. This includes all who serve as liturgists, ushers and communion preparers and servers as well as musicians, and those who provide flowers and help decorate for special occasions. We would love to see more individuals involved in these roles and hope you will stop by the Worship and the Arts table at the Committee Showcase during fellowship time on September 21. You will be able to find out more about what we do and what you might do to participate more actively. In late October we will, with mixed feelings, bid a fond farewell to Pastor Cindy. Wishing her and Norm future joy and satisfying adventures of travel and time with family, we nevertheless lament what we will miss in her thoughtful sermons and warm presence all around the church.

Looking forward, we hope and pray that new voices will inspire, teach and lead us as Pastor Cindy has done so well over the past 12 years. **There will be a celebration of her retirement and her birthday on Sunday, October 26th after worship. Please plan to join us for the farewell celebration.**

Charlotte Finney, Chair of Worship Committee





We are so excited to kick off another wonder-filled school year at Rosebud! Our team is ready to dive into the magical world of childhood, where play, curiosity, creativity, and wonder guide the journey. We'd like to give a brief overview of our program and introduce our wonderful educators.

Our morning program is led by five incredible teachers, each responsible for a different learning area. This structure supports a low 1:6 ratio and helps promote independence and self-help skills. Teachers rotate every two weeks through four key stations: Head Teaching, Music & Movement, Easels, and Floating/Diapering. We also have a dedicated Snack & Lunch teacher. In the afternoons, three teachers rotate weekly through our stations to ensure continued engagement and support.

Our Pre-K program offers two small-group learning sessions each day. These sessions are designed to support kindergarten readiness, with an emphasis on social problem solving, collaboration, and following multi-step directions. Children will explore calendar concepts, literacy and letter sounds, early math, science, art, and reading comprehension all through hands-on, engaging experiences.

Meet Our Rosebud Team!

Director: Ms. Amber Ashworth-Hix

I began my teaching journey in 1999 at Roseland Headstart and then in 2002 became student teacher and then a teacher at Santa Rosa Junior College and found my home at Rosebud in 2012 as the Pre-K teacher and Site Supervisor. I've had the joy of mentoring many future teachers and forming lasting bonds with families. For the past two years, I've been honored to serve as Director, supporting our amazing educators as they guide and inspire our young learners. One of the most heartwarming parts of my journey is now welcoming the children of my first preschoolers. What a full-circle moment!

Site Supervisor / Pre-K Teacher: Ms. Nikki

I'm a proud mom of two girls, both of whom attended Rosebud while I taught here. I started in 2012 covering

Ms. Amber's wedding, and I was thrilled to join full-time in 2013. Becoming Site Supervisor and Pre-K teacher over the past two years has been a deeply rewarding step in my journey. My passions are art, books, nature, and helping children grow into confident, creative learners.

Morning Program Teachers

Ms. Kristin – With 20 years at Rosebud, I'm passionate about circle time, reading, and music & movement. One of my favorite fall traditions is picking apples with the children and slicing them for snack under the trees. I'm also a proud mom of three grown kids and looking forward to becoming a grandma someday!

Ms. Roxy – I've been at Rosebud for 12 years and absolutely love working with toddlers. I bring lots of joy to our mornings through fun music, storytelling, circle time, science, and face painting!

Ms. Teddie – I first joined Rosebud as a student teacher and was so excited to become a full-time teacher a year ago. I also bring 10 years of experience teaching Sunday school. I've always loved learning, and I'm thrilled to pass that joy on to our students.

Ms. Mitzi – With a childcare career that began in 1996, I've loved stepping into new roles here at Rosebud. I've just finished my third month and already feel like I've found my forever home!

Ms. Sicheng – I moved from China in 2017 and began studying child development at SRJC. I fell in love with Rosebud during a student observation two years ago and joined the team in November 2023. Working with children reminds me of the joy I shared with my own son before he headed off to college.

Afternoon Program Teachers

Ms. Kristin – (See above!)

Ms. Gretchen – I came from the Philippines three years ago and have been studying child development for the past two years. I volunteered at Rosebud last October and officially joined the teaching team in January 2025. I love watching how curious and intelligent young children are. It's a joy to support their learning each day.

Ms. Ria - I came from the Philippines to pursue My dream of teaching. My nephew has special needs and seeing his amazing team inspired me. I love learning from children and creating connections with them. I enjoy traveling, and snorkeling.

Christian Education

Our Summer Fun With the Son children program was a hit! We had five children and nine adult volunteers, encompassing a unique mix of ages from 4 to 99. We had a blast exploring the fruits of the Spirit through stories, songs, games, and crafts.



We're sad to say goodbye to our amazing Sunday School teacher, Miss Judy, but we're thrilled to have Teddie Neyman joining us as our new Youth Director and Sunday School Teacher! We can't wait for a super fun year in the Sunday school room with a fresh theme and exciting crafts and learning activities. Kids, don't be shy, invite your friends!

Our first Parents Night Out of the year will be on Friday, September 19th from 5:30-7:30 pm. Children ages 2-11 are invited to enjoy crafts, games, dinner, and a short movie.

Register your child by contacting Amber at Rosebud Preschool, (707) 544-8600 or at rosebudpreschool@sonic.net.



Thank You!

Team PCOR Pedal for Protein riders would like to thank you for your kind donations and prayers during our 2025 fundraising ride. Pictured is the small but mighty group, representing only half of the total 2025 P4P riders, ready to charge off into the Marin County hills on August 2nd. The PCOR participants included Chris Rhodes, Nancy & Bill Morgan, Patty Sanders and Lydia Dehn.

The fundraising effort continues! If you have not had the opportunity to donate and would like to do so, there is still plenty of time. You can see any of us for further details. Donations may be made either online or by picking up an envelope in Campbell Court.



All funds raised are donated to grassroots food pantries that are struggling to provide quality protein food such as canned tuna, peanut butter, canned beans, yogurt, eggs and more to hungry families, seniors and children along the Northern California Coast.



Goodbye and Thank You Pastor Cindy

With grateful hearts, we say farewell to Pastor Cindy as she retires from Church of the Roses. Your unwavering faith, big heart, and tireless determination have touched countless lives and strengthened our community in immeasurable ways. Thank you for leading with nurturing love, courage, and grace. You leave a legacy that will continue to bloom in all of us.

With love and gratitude,
Your Church of the Roses Family



Church and World

Montgomery High School (MHS) Breakfast Program: Presbyterian Church of Kerrville, Texas, to help them, as they are dealing with the hugh flood tragedy. To make donations, please go to: <https://www.fpckerrville.org/>

Montgomery High School started on Wednesday, August 13th, with the addition of 500+ students on campus due to the merging of Slater Middle School (7th and 8th grades). To keep the program going, we are in need of more Breakfast Angels to volunteer, especially as alternates for Mondays through Fridays. We are also challenged with the increase in food costs. The Program's cost is around \$2000+ per month. Please feel free to donate directly to the breakfast program. Please call the church and speak to Raven if you can help: (707) 542-4272.

Thank you for your continued contributions to the Cents-Ability collection baskets in the Narthex and Campbell Court on the second Sunday of every month. The collection is for the Presbytery Hunger Fund. We are able to keep 25 percent of the contributions which will go toward the Montgomery High School Breakfast fund. We have received \$2500 from the Presbytery's Hunger Task Force Cents-Ability Grant.

The application for the Sonoma Speedway Children's Charities Grant was submitted before the August 1, 2025, deadline. We are requesting \$5000 for the MHS Breakfast Program. Demands are high for grants so we pray that we meet their criteria this year!

Mission to ByGrace Children's Home in Kenya, June 7-21, 2025, was TRANSFORMATIVE! Thank you to all of the congregation for your prayers! The 19 team members helped at the ByGrace Children's Home by painting classroom walls, lugging rocks to fillin a dormitory building's foundation, built a new play yard for the primary children, made paper tissue "stained glass" crosses and origami hearts, shared talks about life skills related to your faith, and singing with the high schoolers. Please see the mission pictures on the Church & World bulletin board. Rosemary and Stephen Mbogo, founders of the ByGrace Children's Home, made a visit to Santa Rosa, August 13-17. Victoria and David Kellam hosted a Mission Team Reunion with the Mbogos. Stephen Mbogo gave the sermon on Sunday, August 17th. There was a seminar after service to talk with Stephen and Rosemary to talk about ByGrace Children's Home. Please go to the ByGrace Children's Home website link if interested in sponsoring any of the students: <https://www.bygracetrust.org/>

As a certified Earth Care Congregation, the Building & Grounds Team, PCOR Men's Group and Church & World Committee continue to tend and grow our Community Garden of tomatoes, srawberries, basil, peppers, zucchini, crookneck squash and pumpkins!

Church & World Committee donated \$500 to the First

Church & World Committee approved sponsoring of two summer camperships at Westminster Camp.

Pat Silva, our Interfaith Council of Sonoma County representative, shared that Moe Jabbari, founder of the United in Kindness Project, received a proclamation of acknowledgement of their important work from the City of Santa Rosa.

The Smoothing Stones gathering (sharing of conservative views and liberal views) has gained lots of trust amongst the group. They will start to take deep-dive questions next on how to talk with others with different views, learn how to listen to each other and find out how much we all have in common. A total of eleven people attend this gathering, including three from PCOR (Pat Silva, Anthony Lim and Bob Priestley), John and Jenny Creager from the United Methodist Church, and others from the Santa Rosa Christian Church.

After service on 8/10/25, a seminar on immigration issues (who seeks asylum, the asylum process, winning an asylum case, and other forms of relief) was presented by PCOR's new members, Julio Gutierrez Morales, attorney/founder of his law firm, Tu Brujula Legal (Legal Compass), and Francesca Borin, who recently took the bar.

The next Special Offering will be Peace & Global Witness—September 7 to October 5 (collection day).

Our very own, Norm Smith, shared that PCOR will take part in the NAMI/WALKS Sonoma County on Saturday, November 1st, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, at Howarth Park. PCOR will be tabling at this event. Watch for upcoming updates on being on the Team.

Our current membership includes Anita Pinney, Jonathan Steele, Chris Rhodes, Norm Smith, Pat Silva, Pastor Cindy, Guy Cottle (ad hoc) and myself. This Committee meets by Zoom on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 P.M. If interested in joining the committee or have ideas on local missions or earth-care activities, please contact Rhonda Darrow at rdarrow@pacbell.net or (707) 481-4743.

Prayers for World Peace,
Rhonda Darrow, Chair (2023-2025)



Difficult Conversations - Finding our Unity

Many of you know that three members of our congregation - Anthony Lim, Bob Priestley and Pat Silva, are in a group of 11 people called Smoothing Stones. This group was formed in April, and is comprised of 5 people who hold more liberal views, and 6 people who hold more conservative views, of current social and political topics. All of us are from Christian denominations, and we meet for two hours each month.

Through June we shared many life experiences and viewpoints, and we have built relationships of trust and respect. In July we embarked on the next phase of our interaction, which was to discuss social and political topics which may be divisive due to our differing perspectives. The belief of our group is that we are more unified than we are different, and we listen to, respect and value differing opinions, learning as we share.

Our process for listening and sharing our views on controversial topics is based on that used by a group called Braver Angels, a nationwide organization that offers opportunities to, as they say, “bring Americans together to bridge the partisan divide.” July’s meeting went extremely well - we were able to discuss and understand each other’s views, and the life experiences that had led to these views. It was enriching, and we expect to have many more future conversations that dive into our differences with interest and respect.



Sharing in a controlled discussion with facilitators is great, but how do we do this on our own, if we are in a social situation where we are faced with discussing topics that may be subject to disagreement? We may have friends and/or family members who we love, but with whom we try to avoid real conversations, or focus on superficial topics. Or, we may be getting to know someone with whom we share common interests, but we, so far, have navigated away from divisive topics. Can we agree to disagree and listen without trying to convince of another view?

Here are some tips for these conversations. The goal is to find common ground for learning, not to debate, and to understand our unity in spite of our differences.

Agree to rules for discussing:

- Look for and affirm one another’s good points.
- Refrain from put-downs — of ourselves or others.
- Listen to what each person has to say; we do not interrupt each other, and we do not speak too often or too long.
- Have a genuine desire to understand who another person is, and how they came to the point of view. No right or wrong.

Mentally Preparing to Discuss

- Have a genuine desire to understand who another person is, and how they came to the point of view. No right or wrong.
- Assume that we all have the best intentions.

Start Discussions with Long-Term, Big Picture Goals that can be Agreed on

- These can be places where it’s easier to find agreement. People will have different opinions on what’s needed or how to act to reach those goals. But it can serve as an important starting point of commonality to ground the discussion. For example, when it comes to the issue of guns, generally most people agree that we: 1) want our communities to be safe places; 2) want our constitutional rights protected. Starting with agreement makes discussing differing opinions easier to manage.

Listening

- Listen to learn; don't listen to plan a comeback.
- Listen actively and with an ear to understanding (not judging) others' views.
- Listen from a place of openness and curiosity.
- Listen respectfully, without interrupting, allowing each person a chance to speak - give each other the gift of being heard.

Responding

- Ask questions. Questions show that you care about and respect the other person. A great question to ask is how the person came to believe in the positions they support. Consider how their life experiences and current roles may inform their stance.
- Reframe questions away from emotionally charged talking points, or sounding like judgement. This gives people more space to discuss why they feel the way they do in a meaningful way. For example, say: "What kind of person shouldn't have access to guns? And why?" Instead of: "Are you for or against?"
- Say thanks for sharing their viewpoint, and validate their thinking. You can validate someone without agreeing with their position. Say things like, "I can see how you've come to believe these positions" or "I can understand why that's important to you."
- Ask for permission to share your views, especially if you think they could have strong disagreement. By asking permission, you're getting their spoken agreement, so now they're compelling themselves to listen to you. If you are expressing a potential difference of opinion, focus on ideas, not the person you are speaking to.
- Share what you believe and why. The why is important because it gives the other person a window into what's important to you. You might explain how this affects you or people you care about or why it's important to you personally.
- Above all, avoid blame, speculation, and inflammatory language. Moments of silence can diffuse emotions. Look for opportunities to point out shared values or beliefs.
- Remember what you like about the person, your similarities aside from differences, and the things you both enjoy that bind you together.



The three of us are really excited about being a part of this group. If you have any questions, please reach out to Anthony, Bob or Pat - we will be happy to share!

Peace,
Pat Silva, Member of Church & World Committee

Farewell to the Church of the Roses and the AV Team

By Norm Smith



I love the diversity of our AV team exemplified by this great shot taken by Steve Yeager. I first got involved in the AV team when Ray Alden had rotated off the team and I was trained to create the slides for projection using Media Shout. I believe that was about 8yrs ago shortly after I started attending PCOR.

Since then I have often jumped in and taken care of replacing and upgrading aging AV equipment and lobbying session to fund paid AV staff members to supplement our aging volunteers that over the years retired and then transitioned to heaven. I am thinking of stalwarts like Ray Alden and Hal Sneath as I write. We still miss their knowledge and experience around here!

I am grateful for our newer younger members of the AV team, many of whom have come to us from SRJC AV program.

We are so blessed to have them all, Phil Goede (who is our most experienced and long serving member of the AV team), Nico Wycoff (who volunteers his time to create our weekly KSRO podcast), Josh Lim (who creates MS PPT slides for worship, Youtube posts and also covers projection and sound as needed), Damaris Hamilton (who covers sound), DJ Kelham (who covers projection) and Anthony Cornejo (who recently joined us from SRJC AV program and covers projection and sound).

While there is not officially an AV team leader I somehow have inherited this title over the years. These days the team are self managing themselves through the convenience of Google Sheets shared schedule that they are able to fill out to make sure all roles are covered.

In addition to sound system management the AV team develops and produces the radio podcast (that has over 5,000 listeners each week), creates slides and multimedia content for worship as well as manages the hybrid Zoom service that reaches people and former mem-

bers all over the country including live streaming to Facebook.

Did you know we have never missed a worship service? Not even through the Covid lockdown! Our first Zoom service was the first day of the COVID shelter in place order, March 17th 2020!

In closing, as many of you know Sunday Oct 26th will be Pastor Cindy's and my last Sunday at Church of The Roses as she retires as your Pastor and the both of us will sadly be moving on from PCOR.

I will treasure for always the very many special friendships formed over the 9.5yrs since my first time attending the church which was Ash Wednesday in March 2016. As we move on from PCOR I am also grateful for my time serving as head of Church and World which is another committee I have been involved with for about 9yrs now.

I wish you all the very best of health peace and happiness as you all undergo this transition to a new Pastor too. As Pastor Cindy says "God is good all the time"

Love & blessings
Norm Smith, Elder



*The team recently back from Kenya is excited to return and continue work at **ByGrace Children's Home in Ngong Hills.***

Thank you to all who donated phones, eyeglasses, and funds—your support made a big impact!

Stephen and Rosemary look forward to a lasting connection with our church.

Deacons Report

On July 13, 2025, the Rose Room was filled with energy and anticipation as the Deacons hosted an informational meeting about the future **Roseland Regional Library**.

Community members gathered to hear **Library Director Erika Thibault** share the vision and plans for the new library. Her presentation painted a picture of a space that will not only house books but also serve as a vibrant hub for learning, connection, and opportunity.

The discussion sparked excitement and thoughtful conversation among attendees, who expressed strong support for the project. The event ended on a high note, with many leaving inspired about the library's role in strengthening the Roseland community.



Fellowship Committee

FALL FESTIVAL ~ SAFARI
SEPTEMBER 27 11:00AM TO 3:00PM



JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS LUNCH AND LOTS OF FUN ACTIVITIES FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FEATURING SONOMA CHILDRENS CHOIR, TYEHIMA KOKOYI WEST AFRICAN DRUM AND 6TH STREET PLAYHOUSE

**TICKETS ON SALE NOW! ADULTS \$40 CHILDREN 5 TO 12 \$20
TO PURCHASE SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT**

[HTTPS://WWW.ZEFFY.COM/TICKETING/FALL-FESTIVAL--2025](https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/fall-festival--2025)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Planning is underway to assure a healthy future for Church of the Roses. With Cindy's retirement coming up at the end of October I wanted to let the congregation know about the plans for Pastoral leadership after Cindy's leaves.

The Session has approved a Transitional Pastor Search Committee. The committee members are: Linda Burrille, Gary Smith, Patty Sanders, Barbara Nelson, Anthony Lim and myself.

The Session has also approved the Transitional Pastor Job Description. I have forwarded the job description to the Presbytery of the Redwoods office. Eric Beene - General Presbyter, Ariel Mink - Stated Clerk & Associate Presbyter have received the job description and will start to circulate it in appropriate places.

The committee hopes to be receiving resumes from prospective candidates in the next few weeks and months. The resumes received will be reviewed by the committee and we will offer interviews with the candidates we feel would be a good match to our church. The candidate we select will then move on to get Session approval.

Our goal is to have a Transitional Pastor in place by early November. We will do everything we can to have an outstanding Transitional Pastor in place as soon as possible after Cindy's retirement.

Please join us in our goal to keep our community as a vital congregation. We will do our part to keep you updated as the hiring process progresses.

Chris Rhodes

Chair of Personnel Committee and Chair of the Transitional Pastor Committee



Church of the Roses and the PNC Process

JULY 2025

REV. ARIEL MINK | REDWOODSCLERK@GMAIL.COM | 415.599.9713

REV. ERIC BEENE | ERICMBEENE@GMAIL.COM | 912.704.3024

**[CLICK HERE OR USE THE Q R CODE TO
VIEW THE PRESENTATION](#)**



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Upcoming Bible Studies at Presbyterian Church of the Roses – All Are Welcome!

Join us this fall for two inspiring Bible study opportunities at Presbyterian Church of the Roses, designed to deepen your faith, build community, and engage with Scripture in fresh, meaningful ways.

"The Chosen" Bible Study – Starting Wednesday, September 24 at 7:00 PM (on Zoom)

Explore the life of Jesus through the powerful lens of *The Chosen* series. This weekly Zoom study will guide participants through key moments of Christ's ministry, inviting discussion, reflection, and connection. Whether you're new to the series or a longtime fan, all are welcome to join this engaging, virtual study from the comfort of your home.

Presbyterian Women's Bible Study – Friday, September 13 from 9:45 AM to 12:00 PM (in-person)

Come enjoy a morning of **food, fellowship, and faith!** We'll kick off the day with refreshments and community time, followed by a *New Horizons* Bible Study session. A special highlight will be a **live online meet-and-greet with the study's author, Rev. Rashed Hunter**, offering insight and inspiration.

Books are \$14 and can be ordered by emailing pinney@sonic.net.

Don't miss these opportunities to grow in faith and friendship this season. Invite a friend and join us!



Our new Bible Study Begins September 24 7:00 p.m. on ZOOM

THE CHOSEN

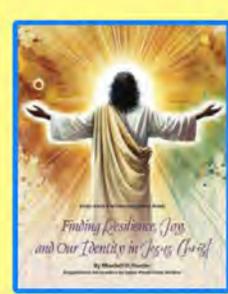
This great film series brings the words of the Scripture to LIFE!

Presbyterian Women

We begin a new year of good food and friendly fellowship followed by a **New Horizons Bible study**

September 13
9:45 a.m. to noon

We will have a unique opportunity to meet **Rev. Rashed Hunter**, the author of our study, **On Zoom that day!**



Email Nita at pinney@sonic.net to order your book. (\$14.00)



KSRO 103.5 FM
96.9 FM
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PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OF THE ROSES

Be an Integral part of our ministry by supporting our Sunday Radio broadcast!
Donate \$100 to pay for a month of sermons and music played over KSRO's radio stations in the Santa Rosa region.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

The **All-Church Cleanup** is scheduled from 9:00 – 12:00 on Saturday September 6. Please join your friends for a few hours of fun and frivolity as we tend to light duty cleaning of all those little things you've noticed and thought, "...someone should clean that up!" Pick your favorite room for: dusting; polishing; cobwebs; glass; vacuuming, sinks, table and countertops...

In recent weeks we have completed inspections, cleaning and certifications of the range hoods and vents; the grease trap; the backflow valves; pest control; the sprinkler and alarm systems. The parking lot

pothole has been fixed and the floors in Bowen

Hall and the kitchen have been burnished.

The range grill, which was a nasty mess, was cleaned and looks as good as new – we hope to keep it that way! Lawncare and pruning of the roses are weekly tasks as are setup and teardown for various events.

In the near future we anticipate exterior wall and trim painting, stucco repair above the office area and required replacement of numerous fire suppression sprinklers by certified professionals.

We meet every Tuesday in Bowen Hall at 8:30 and welcome those who would like to go to work. Contact Gary Smith for more infor-



Stronger Seniors Exercise Class



**Changing to Mondays at 10:30 a.m.
Start your week out right!
Come join us.**

If you or someone you know is being abused (and they are under 18 years old), call: 707-565-4304.

**If you suspect Elder Abuse, call the hotline:
707-565-5940.**

**Your report can be anonymous, the call is
CONFIDENTIAL.**

**You might be saving a life or connecting the family to resources they need.
BLESS YOU!**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Family and friends of Chris Bargar mourning her passing on Tues. Aug. 26th 2025, Memorial at PCOR on Sept. 13th 2pm.

Family and friends of Phil Sitzman mourning his passing on Sunday August 31st. A private memorial will be held at their home.

THOSE WITH HEALTH ISSUES

Darren Adams	Karla
Donald Adams	Carolyn Kenworthy
Dennis Baker	Jania Korbel
Greg Basham	Colby Lundmark
Jeff Basham	Marina
Jim Bauer	LeRoy Mattson
Bill Beaumont	Mauvo
Barbara Blinn	Vivian Mazeski
Diana Burdick	Carol Menke
Joyce Cairns	Gene Michel
Marjorie Cortez	Jessica Morse
Diana	Lesley Pillsbury
Eldon Davis	Nita Pinney
David Dews Jr.	Sherry Rupp
Yvonne Draper	Elizabeth Schulz
Edith	Bob Simmons
Robert Flandermeyer	Marie Slack
Francesca	Alexis Spence
Wendy Galde	Bill St. John
Cathy Guy	Fred Staiger
Guadalupe	Stella
Michele Hare	Tina
Julie Harris	Lynne Vandercook
Sue Upshaw Heidt	Darlene Volkmann
Phil Henry	Jill & Roger White
Jennifer	Naomi Welcome
Wendy Jones	Rich Wells
Jonnique	Helen Wikle
Rusty Jump	Betty Witchey-Ryer
Karen	Dr. Bob Yee

THOSE SERVING IN OUR MILITARY

James Kuntz (Sorani), US Navy on the USS Scranton.
Sgt. David A. Dickens, USAF Jason Morse, Coast Guard Lt. Commander Ian Alloway Culver, Col. David Trowbridge, M.D. with the Air Force Reserve. Private Caleb Thorstad, US Marine's Camp Pendleton

Scripts and Sermons September/October 2025

September 7th

Communion Sunday

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 and Luke 14: 27-32

Sermon: Travel Light for Jesus

September 14th

Psalm 98:1-5 and John 3:13-17

Sermon: God So Loved the World

September 21st

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 and 1 Timothy 2:1-7

God Laments over the World

September 28th

Psalm 146 and Luke 16:19-31

Repent of Your Greed

October 5th

Communion Sunday

Psalm 37: 1-9 and Luke 17: 1-6

Seeds of Faith

October 12th

Service of Healing

Psalm 111 and Luke 17: 11-19

Grateful for Wholeness

October 19th

Psalm 119:97-104 and Luke 18: 1-8

Justice Will Be Done

October 26th

Retirement Service

Psalm 23 and Philippians 4:4-9

Keep on Doing God's Work

Join us each Sunday for
inspiring messages, spirit-filled music, and
thoughtful reflections.

SESSION NOTES

SESSION MEETING JULY, 2025

In the Clerk's Reports to Session, it was noted that the cumulative membership of the church through June, 2025, counting new members less disenrolled members and deaths to date, is a net negative 4 members (Total: 204).

Action Items: Lydia Dehn and Cheryl Malseed were accepted as new members.

Meeting Highlights:

Our guests for this special meeting (Session does not usually meet in July) were Rev. Eric Beene, General Presbyterian, and Rev. Ariel Mink, Stated Clerk and Associate Presbyterian from the Presbytery of the Redwoods. They came to help explain the next steps forward as we prepare for Pastor Cindy's retirement on 10-26-25.

There are two primary parts of this process. The first is to hire an Interim Pastor, who will be with us until a permanent pastor is hired. Session has approved the Personnel Committee – Chair Chris Rhodes, Linda Burille, Barbara Nelson, Patty Sanders, and Gary Smith, with the addition of Anthony Lim, as the Interim Pastor Selection Committee to recommend an Interim. This committee works with the Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) to assist in finding candidates for this position. Their recommendation will be submitted to Session for approval.

The selection of a new permanent pastor is much more involved, and can typically take at least 1.5 years to complete. Part one is the selection and approval of a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC), which happens after the departure of the pastor. This committee is recommended by our Session Nominating Committee, but approval is by the congregation at a Congregational Meeting. Step One of this committee is to do a new Mission Study for the church, and ultimately a Mission Statement to be approved by Session. The Mission Study answers the questions 1) Who are we?; 2) Who is our neighbor?; 3) What is our purpose?; and 4) Do we have the courage to step out in faith? The congregation will play an active part in answering these questions.

When the Mission Statement is approved by Session and COM, the PNC creates a Church Information Form (CIF), which includes the information from the Mission Statement and Goals, a narrative about the church, position description/qualifications and pastoral skills required, and the compensation package offered. The completed CIF, as reviewed and approved by COM, is submitted online through the Call Referral, where candidates can see positions available.

Interested candidates submit a Personal Information Form (PIF) to the PNC. The PNC reviews all PIFs received, and ultimately presents their candidate of choice to the congregation for approval. The PNC will not discuss or disclose any information about candidates until the final presentation to the congregation.

You can clearly see that this is a long and careful process, but with your involvement and prayers, we will be ready to take the next steps forward in our ministry.

Next meeting: 08-26-25

PCOR MEN'S GROUP

Mark your calendar for September 20th and October 18th – two dates filled with camaraderie and connection.

On Saturday mornings at 8:30 am, we gather to savor a delicious breakfast, and everyone is welcome to join in the preparation, indulgence, and clean-up. These moments are where connections thrive, and bonds grow stronger.

Embrace this opportunity to create new friendships and enrich existing ones.

Join us on this journey of camaraderie and friendship. We can't wait to share laughter and memories with you. See you there!



**Support the Presbytery Hunger Fund
and the Montgomery High Breakfast**

It's Cents-Ability Sunday

**Baskets await your
Contributions in the Narthex and
Campbell Court!**

Presbyterian Women

We begin a new year of good food
and friendly fellowship followed by a
New Horizons Bible study

September 13

9:45 a.m. to noon

We will have a unique
opportunity to meet
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the author of our study,
On Zoom that day!



Email Nita at pinney@sonic.net to order your book. (\$14.00)

Book Club

Thursday Sept. 18
2:30 p.m. on Zoom



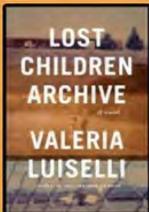
Dial A for Aunties by Jessie Sutano

A mystery with three Asian aunties coming to the rescue.
The first book in a series.

Jeanne will have books

Book Club

Thursday October 16
2:30 p.m. on Zoom



The Lost Children Archive by Valeria Luiselli

Grapples with immigration, race, and an unconventional
marriage through a folksy narrative that follows the
family's travels across the United States.

Jeanne will have books

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE ROSES

SACRED SPACE

EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT IN A NEW WAY

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

5-6 PM

Roses Signature Concert Series presents:

Bennett Friedman Jazz Quartet

Sunday, October 12th, 2025
2:00 pm

Bennett Friedman
Randy Vincent
Jeff Denson
Kendrick Freeman

Church of the Roses
2500 Patio Court
Santa Rosa, CA

Free Admission
Donations Gladly Accepted



NEW! PRAYER BEADS WORKSHOP!



Thanks to Nancy Rada and Raven Duchscherer, we're excited
to offer a new monthly activity—**Prayer Bead Workshops!**

Open to all, these workshops combine the joy of beading with
the power of prayer. Learn how prayer beads can help you
focus during prayer—whether praying the Psalms, the Lord's
Prayer, or your own personal prayers. It's meaningful, crea-
tive, and fun to do together!

Every 4th Saturday at 9:30 AM
Bowen Hall

Come for the craft, stay for the connection. All are welcome!

**CHURCH OF THE ROSES WOULD LIKE TO THANK THESE BUSINESSES
FOR MAKING OUR NEWSLETTER POSSIBLE**

Book Release October 2024



Grandma's Garden Friends

Author, Judith Rivers-Moore
Illustrator, Emily Wycoff

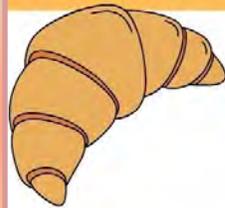
64 Pages and 6 Stories about the wonderful friends in our gardens. Ants, ladybugs, spiders grasshoppers and earthworms. Some science plus life lessons.

Ages 3-8, Early Reader

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Join us Sundays @ 10am
in the sanctuary or watch the
Livestream on our Facebook
page. Or at
www.churchoftheroses.org

Sundays 7:30 - 8 am Listen to
Pastor Cindy's Sermons on
KSRO 103.5 FM.



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