

# Hill 'n Vale

Newsletter of the Tomales and Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Churches

Visit us at [tomalespresbyterian.org](http://tomalespresbyterian.org) and [tworockvalleypresbyterian.org](http://tworockvalleypresbyterian.org)

11 Church Street, P.O. Box 13, Tomales, CA 94971  
May / June 2020

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## ***PASTORAL PONDERINGS***

Dear Friends in Two Rock and Tomales,

The last time we worshipped in our sanctuaries at Tomales and Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Churches was on March 8. That day, Bob Heyman played the hand pan in Tomales, and the joint handbell choir rang in Two Rock.

All that next week, the news about covid-19 became more serious and changed rapidly, day by day, even hour by hour. Eventually, on Friday afternoon, March 13, both Marin and Sonoma Counties issued stay-at-home directives for two weeks; all school districts in Marin County suspended classes; and most school districts in Sonoma County went on spring break.

Wanting to abide by the guidelines set by medical officials and county supervisors, our two sessions votes on Saturday, March 14, to cancel worship for the next two Sundays, March 15 and 22. In doing so, our elders adapted quickly to changing circumstance and responded to what was happening responsibly and with vision. Because we are focused on the safety of our congregations first and foremost, we determined that we would be guided in all coronavirus-related

decisions by the expertise of our local medical leaders.

As this newsletter goes out, the stay-at-home orders have been in place for seven weeks, and it looks like more times of self-isolation may lie ahead. This sure feels like a season of separation from families and friends, and from our churches.

However, under these difficult circumstances everyone has been willing to try a new thing: Zoom is now the platform for our online session meetings, committee meetings, Wednesday check-ins and prayer times, and worship on Sunday mornings. We currently have one combined service at 11:00 am each Sunday, with a liturgist from each of our congregations, and with musicians from both churches, too. We are committed to practice social distancing, so people read Scripture from home, make music from home or from Two Rock Church, and I preach from home.

We have also formed Contact Clusters, where everyone receives phone calls to stay in touch, especially those who are not able to join us for services on their phones, tablets, or computers. For we really want to stay connected, want to encourage one another and offer a listening ear while we are apart physically. In fact, reaching out and showing kindness, empathy, and love to others is perhaps the most important ministry each of us can undertake right now.

During this stay-at-home time, our church buildings continue to be well cared for. In Two Rock, Paul Lewis and his work crew completed the lay-out of our parking areas, planted new shade trees and moved some more rocks; Sue Russell and gardening enthusiasts finished planting our raised beds and did some deep weeding; and a team of four women did some serious cleaning inside the church building. In Tomales, Sharon Knudsen is leading a work project in the sanctuary to repaint the flooring between the pews; and Eric Knudsen has done some patching of the walkway out front. I work from the church office three days a week and still go to Tomales on Tuesdays. All of it helps to have a continued presence in our buildings and care for our property.

When will we be able to be back in our sanctuaries? It now looks like the stay-at-home orders will extend through May, perhaps into June. We will not gather in our churches until it is safe to do so, until we can come together without worry, worship in thanksgiving and joy, and be ready for after-church coffee hours and potlucks.

For now, let us wait, stay apart, stay connected, and worship via zoom. Let us keep on praying for our families and communities, our country and world (see Jeremiah 29:7). And may God bless us all and keep us safe,

Pastor Cornelia

## ***JOYS TO SHARE***

What a joy: **Judy and Don White joined Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church** by letter of transfer. They come to us from First Presbyterian Church in Petaluma and were received as new members at the Zoom session meeting on March 24.

Judy was born in Santa Rosa, grew up in the North Bay, and went to high school in Marin County. Both her parents were immigrants from Hungary what came to the US in the years after WW II. When Judy was 12 and her mother passed away, her father married another woman from Hungary. So Judy grew up bilingual and still speaks Hungarian fluently. In college she was a business major. Inspired by her stepmother, Judy became involved in the jewelry business and has owned a jewelry store in Corte Madera since the 1980's.

Don is also from the Bay Area: he was born in Vallejo, grew up in Solano County, and went to high school in Marin County. During college and afterwards, he worked in a drug store in San Rafael and ended up becoming store manager when he was just in his 20's. But then Don joined his father and brother in doing general contracting. For a number of years, he did home renovations and conversions in the East Bay. After that, Don was a commercial tile installer for ten years; it was an interesting and satisfying job but hard on his knees. Eventually Don joined the insurance business, working for two different brokers and also getting his own license. He is now officially retired but still manages his in-laws' rental properties.

Don and Judy have three daughters: Kristina, Catelyn, and

Alexandra. The two older ones are married; the youngest one is in a Ph. D. program in plant biology at UC Riverside. Judy and Don are hoping for some grandchildren in the not-too-distant future.

One of Don's and Judy's favorite things to do is to go camping. They recently bought a 24-foot ultralight trailer that they can take along to Bodega Bay, the Rocky Mountains or anywhere in between. Don is also a great fan of Bay Area sports teams, the Warriors, the Giants, and the 49ers. For the last eight years, he has been assistant head coach for the girls soft ball team at Casa Grande High School. Judy also likes sports: She played soccer in college and was on the swim team. She is an enthusiastic gardener and always has a big vegetable garden; and she loves to cook. The special apple sauce she makes with Gravenstein apples and Meyer lemons took first prize at a recent Sonoma County Fair! And Judy and Don really enjoy going to music festivals.



Since coming to Two Rock Church, Don and Judy have helped with the flower beds, done some weeding, worked with David Coe on the drip irrigation, and donated two redwoods trees that are now planted behind the church.

We are so glad that you have joined the Two Rock congregation, Judy and Don! When we are back to worshipping in our sanctuary, we will welcome you formally during worship and celebrate afterwards with handshakes, hugs, and cake.

### **Congratulations to Tomales member David Burbank, who turned 87 on April 8!**

David was born in 1933 on the Burbank Ranch on Burbank Lane in Fallon, just north of Tomales. His family had worked the land for three generations, ever since his grandparents came from Boston to Tomales in 1854 by steamer boat and purchase property, livestock, and buildings. David had two sisters, Beverly and Alice Mary.

David started school in 1939 and for the first three grades attended Clark School, located along Fallon-Two Rock Road at the end of the Burbanks' long driveway. Starting in 4th grade, David went to school in Tomales, and he graduated from Tomales High School in 1951.

After High school, David went to UC Davis, where his father had also attended. He majored in Animal Husbandry and Agronomy. But his studies were interrupted by the Korean War: he was drafted and sent to Basic Training in Alabama. When he was shipped to Korea, he served at the Quartermaster's Headquarters, then came home from active duty after 22 months. He was eager to complete college and graduated in 1956.

After returning to the Burbank Ranch, David worked in the family's poultry and dairy business, which also produced crops for its livestock. And he joined his friend and fellow Tomales rancher, John Mitchell, in the Young Adults Singles Group that met regularly in Petaluma. It was there that he met

Marianne Cameron Long who was a school teacher in Petaluma. In August 1957, David and Marianne were married, and made their home on the Burbank Ranch. Their children Margaret and Stewart were born in the early 1960's and also went to school in Tomales.

Because the income from ranching is not always reliable and can vary greatly from year to year, David eventually began a second career in educational publishing. He worked with a publishing company in Santa Cruz and visited school districts all across Northern California. After Proposition 13 passed in 1978 and limited property taxes within our state, school districts were hit hard, and the educational publishing business shrunk considerably. That's when David embarked on his third career: he obtained a teaching credential for special education. At the age of 54, he became a special education teacher in Rohnert Park, a position that he held until he retired in 2005.

In addition to tending to his ranch, his family, and his professional careers, David has been a life-long member of Tomales Presbyterian Church. In 1945, as a thirteen-year-old, he joined the church that his grandfather had helped found in 1865. Beginning in his 20's, David served as a trustee; completed many terms as an elder; and was on the Committee on Ministry in our Presbytery. His most recent term on session expired in 2018.

David sold his ranch in few years ago and moved to a retirement home in Rohnert Park. But it turns out that, at age 87, David is still ready for more adventures: Just a few months ago, he retired from

that retirement community and, with grandson Bradley and granddaughter-in-law Leslie, moved into a brand-new home in Rohnert Park. And David is always delighted when he is in touch with his two children, six other grandchildren, and his great-grandchildren by text and email, as often as possible.

God bless you, David, with continued good health and more joyous years of life to come!



## ***WORSHIP***

† Please join us †  
For Sunday Worship

**On ZOOM at 11:00 am**  
(Please email the church for the link)

until we can return to our sanctuaries and in-person worship, which will be

**In Tomales at 9:30 am**  
**In Two Rock at 11:00 am**

† **A big thank you to Kathy Murphy and David Coe**, who have been instrumental in getting us all connected online! They have worked one-on-one with a number of us, to make sure that we are all able to join the zoom platform. They have taught us how to switch the cameras and microphones on our devices on and off and gotten us ready for meetings and worship. This has sure made a difference for our congregations, and we are very grateful!

† Many thanks to **our marvelous musicians** who continue to lead us during services on Sundays. Gary Foster records himself playing the piano and singing hymns; Mel Todt's singing is accompanied by Margaret on the organ; Kay Fish sings the responses to our prayers live on Sunday mornings, and several people have played special music for the introit and the anthem: Crystal and Nate Miller, Kyle Craft, David Coe, and Julie Hochstrasser. Thank you all!

† We truly miss **our choirs**, and our choir members really miss getting together for rehearsals and singing on Sunday mornings. We know that none of that is possible right now, though when we are able to be back in our sanctuaries, choir practice will resume, and we will pick up the hand bells again, too. We'll just have to be patient ☺.

† Here is a different way to look at the current pandemic and at the need to stay home and be separated from one another:

### **Pandemic**

*What if you thought of it as the Jews consider the Sabbath—the most sacred of times?*

*Cease from travel,  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
on trying to make the world  
different than it is.*

*Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
to whom you commit your life.  
Center down.*

*And when your body has become still,*

*Reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected  
In ways that are terrifying and beautiful.*

*(You could hardly deny it now.)*

*Know that our lives*

*Are in one another's hands.  
 (Surely, that has come clear.)  
 Do not reach out your hands.  
 Reach out your heart.  
 Reach out your words.  
 Reach out the tendrils  
 of compassion that move,  
 invisibly,  
 where we cannot touch.*

*Promise this world your love-  
 For better or for worse,  
 In sickness and in health,  
 So long as we all shall live.*

Lynn Ungar

## **EDUCATION & LEARNING**

☺ Much has changed these last couple of months because of the coronavirus pandemic. We had **no Palm Sunday Procession** down the aisles in our churches on April 5, and **no Easter Egg Hunt** in the Tomales Town Park on April 11. And for now, there are **no meetings of Scout Troop 123** at Tomales Church.

☺ However, we did get creative to reach our children and youth: The week after Palm Sunday, **Easter bags were delivered** to several of our church families, filled with books, candy and small toys. Plus, the **strawberry plants** that were meant to be given out on April 19 for Earth Day were included with the Easter bags.



This is a photo of the strawberries that Maya, Mickey, and Emma Graves planted at their home in Dillon Beach. And below is three-year-old Joe Miller with his strawberry plant at the Two Rock Coast Guard Station.



☺ Two Rock Sunday School teachers Kathy Stroke and Jessica Briggs are searching for some **learning-and-crafts material from a Vacation Bible School program that can be given to all Sunday School students**. They hope to distribute this material in the next few weeks. Many thanks, Jessica and Kathy, for taking the initiative and providing some fun, creative learning tools to our homeschooling families.

## **MISSION & OUTREACH**

How different things are this year: there was **no Butter-and-Egg Parade** in Petaluma on the last weekend in April; there is **no Coast Guard Spouses Flea Market** at Two Rock Church on the first Saturday in May; and our beloved **Ableskiver Breakfast** on Mother's Day is also not happening. The annual **American Graffiti-Cruising the Boulevard fundraiser**, organized by Two

Rock members John and Joetta Furrer, was cancelled, as was the **Tomales History Center Tea in May**. The **Marin County Fair** in July won't happen; and no mass-gatherings are allowed in Sonoma County through Labor Day — so **no County Fairs in Petaluma or Santa Rosa**.

What is open, though, week in and week out, is the **Tomales Food Pantry** at the Town Hall. Each Thursday, volunteers load pre-packed food boxes into clients' cars, to minimize physical contact. By 2 pm, cars line up along Main Street / Hwy 1, often stretching all the way back to the bakery and onto John Street. Many thanks to the amazing food pantry volunteers, especially Denise Brown, Mattie Ivy Leeds, and Kathy Murphy, who help out most weeks. This is truly a much-needed, essential service.

And another good thing that is happening: Two Rock member Carol McClarnon is exploring the possibility of having our **Two Rock Cookie Book** re-issued. The hope is to augment this beloved, out-of-print cookbook with cookie recipes from current members and to add a section of diabetic and gluten-free recipes. It would be great to have this new edition ready for our **Two Rock Harvest Festival, which is planned for Saturday, September 26**. Please contact Carol at 707-778-6279 with your best cookie recipes. Thank you!

## **PROPERTY & FINANCE**

It's been about two years since serious work began at **Two Rock Church**: grading the parking areas; removing old telephone poles that had been used as parking stops; installing cement walkways and

hand rails for better access; checking the status of our septic system; getting a backflow prevention device in place for our water system; painting the church, garage and various signs on our property; enhancing the front of the church through landscaping around sanctuary and patio; replacing the cemetery fence and creating a cemetery sitting area; placing rocks as boundary markers around the Two Rock parking area; planting 19 crepe myrtle trees along the cemetery and Spring Hill Road. By April 5, 2020, all was done! This grand re-design had been championed by elder Paul Lewis, supported by the Two Rock session, and is well received by the congregation and the wider community. Many, many thanks to Paul Lewis and to his work crew of Peter Karoitamana, Ben Visser, and Fred Dolcini.

A big thank-you also to Sue and Brent Russell, Don and Judy White, David Coe, Bruce Carrington, Karin Turner-Seder, and other gardening enthusiasts for completing the landscaping at Two Rock Church; to Kathy Stroke, Lonnie Wernstrum, Doreen Coe, and Mary Lynn Visser for doing some deep cleaning inside the building; and to Cliff Stroke for working with a local carpenter to have three more sanctuary pews repaired.

Please have a look on our website and at the youtube video where David Coe has posted about the work that was done at Two Rock: [https://youtu.be/5ch2m\\_coMCE](https://youtu.be/5ch2m_coMCE)

At **Tomales Church**, Sharon and Eric Knudsen put some **dry patch into a dip** that was developing near the entrance to our church building. Now everything is

smooth and no longer poses a tripping hazard. Thank you!

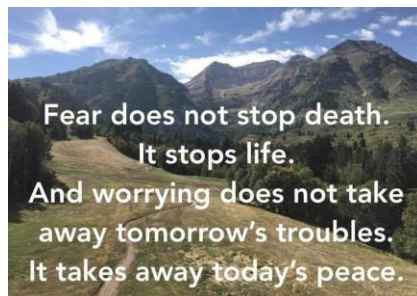
Sharon Knudsen is also leading the effort to paint the floor in the sanctuary, those sections between the pews that are not carpeted. The floor will be prepared by using wood fill, then painted to match the carpet and walls. This work has not been done in years and is much appreciated!

The re-roofing of the Tomales Church sanctuary is on hold until the stay-at-home orders are lifted. Elder Rob Campbell is in touch with our roofing contractor: we are still on their schedule for later this spring or summer.

Since we are not able to meet at church, would you **please mail your offerings** to:

**Two Rock Valley Presbyterian Church, 7063 Bodega Ave, Petaluma, CA 94952, or to Tomales Presbyterian Church, P. O. Box 13, Tomales, CA 94971.** Your continued support will help the ongoing mission of our churches and support their ministry to our members and communities.

## ***CHURCH CARE & FELLOWSHIP***



Many thanks to **Suzie Harms** of Tomales Church and **Nan Leavell** of Two Rock Church. Both send cards to some of our older members, which is particularly

meaningful when our congregations are not able to meet in person.

On **Mother's Day, May 10**, we will hand out flowering plants to all women in our congregations. Please come to **Tomales Church at 2:30 pm** on to pick up a plant and a bit of chocolate. **At 3:30 pm** we will be ready to hand out plants and chocolates at **Two Rock Church**. Please join us, enjoy a drive into the countryside, and have a look at all that's growing and blooming at our churches. We will observe social distancing rules and wear masks and gloves, to keep everyone safe.

Our deacons are already planning for **after-church refreshments and celebrations** when we get back to worshipping in our sanctuaries. Stay tuned and be prepared to bring special goodies to church!

## ***SMALL GROUPS AT CHURCH***

We now have **zoom groups that meet on Wednesdays, at 11:00 am for Tomales and at 1:30 pm for Two Rock**. It's a nice way to stay connected, share joys and concerns and pray together. Please email the church for the zoom link if you want to join in.

The **Tuesday Coffee and Crafts Group** and the **Thursday Quilting Group** will meet again when we can open up our churches.

## ***PRESBYTERY NEWS***

† The next **Presbytery Meeting** will be held at **ZOOM Presbyterian Church on Saturday, May 16, from 10:00 am to 12:30 pm**. This will be the last day for the Rev. Dr. Bob Conover, who has served as Mission Presbyterian of our Presbytery of the Redwoods since 2005.

Two Rock Valley/Tomales  
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“The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. God makes me lie down in green pastures,  
and leads me besides still waters. The Lord restores my soul.

(Psalm 23:1-3)

**May 10th:** Mother’s Day. All women in our church, come and pick up some flowers and a bit of  
Chocolate from either Tomales Church at 2:30pm or Two Rock Church at 3:30pm.  
**ZOOM** services are being held every Sunday at 11:00am. Please email the church for an invitation.  
**ZOOM** meetups are being held every Wednesday: Tomales congregation at 11am and  
Two Rock congregation at 1:30pm.  
Please email the church for an invitation.