



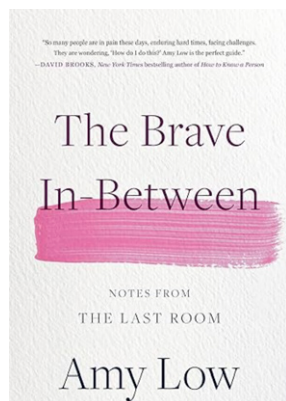

Piedmont Community Church
HOMECOMING
Sunday, September 7

Celebrate the joy surrounding our
New Program Year including
the return of the Chancel Choir
& BBQ in the Courtyard

Amy Low Book Discussion October 5

Women Together invites you to attend a discussion of Amy Low's book, *The Brave In-Between*, on Sunday, October 5, 11:15am-1pm in the Kettlewell Room.

At forty-eight, Amy found herself with two children, a successful career, a new divorce and a stage IV metastatic colon cancer diagnosis. Amy's journey is full of tension, contradiction, hope and beauty. Her story leans into Paul's words from Philippians 4:8 as she takes Paul's intentions for his journey as her intentions for her own. "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy- think about such things" become the lights Amy shines into her darkness.



The Brave In-Between by Amy Low can be purchased on Amazon. We recommend you click the link below to listen to the podcast with Mark Labberton interviewing Amy Low.

[Click here to listen to the Podcast](#)
[Click here to purchase the book on Amazon](#)



Fair Presents Many Ways to Serve

On Sunday, September 14, the Ministry Fair returns to the Courtyard after worship. It's a great opportunity for the various ministry groups and teams to share information about what they do at and through Piedmont Church, and for folks to sign up and get involved. If your group would like to have a table, contact Don@PiedmontChurch.org

Fall Life Groups Begin This Month

The Fall Session of Life Groups is starting soon. In-person groups meet at church on Thursday evenings from September 25 to October 30.

In-person Life Groups get together starting at 6:15pm in Guild Hall for a shared meal, and then meet in separate rooms in the church at 7 pm.

There are also two online Life Groups, meeting from Wednesday September 24 until October 29 at 3 pm. Participants in Online Life groups will receive a Zoom link from the group leader once registrations are finalized.



Adults are invited to participate in a Life Group, whether or not they have been in a group before.

If you've never participated in a Life Group, it is a way to participate in small group discussion, Bible study and mutual support. Discussion usually focuses on the previous week's sermon, but at other times, addresses books or other topics.

All participants need to sign up to be part of a Life Group, whether in person or online. Contact Don Ashburn at Don@PiedmontChurch.org. Register by September 23.

IN-PERSON

REGISTER



REGISTER

ONLINE

Climate Change Group Thursday

As part of the recent sermon series, "What's in a Name?", the topics of both climate change and being an engaged citizen have come up.

Now is your chance to combine the two. The City of Piedmont has invited our congregation to take part in a one-time focus group on the merits of electrification of homes. It's an important and also somewhat complex issue. If you or someone you know would like to take part, let Don Ashburn know.

The group will meet on Thursday, September 4, 7 pm in the Kettlewell Room. It's open to all, whether or not you attend Piedmont Church. Contact Don@PiedmontChurch.org



Seeking info on church membership? You're invited to attend our next Come and See gatherings hosted by Steve Schibsted and Don Ashburn. We will meet on two consecutive Sundays after worship in Guild Parlor: September 28 and October 5, from 11:30am - 1:30pm. We will share a bit about who we are and what brings us to Piedmont Church and how we can grow together in faith and service. Lunch will be provided.

Childcare is available for younger children by contacting Don Ashburn at Don@PiedmontChurch.org before September 24. Sign up to attend in two ways:

- 1) In the Courtyard Sunday after worship starting August 31.
- 2) Use the button below



SIGN UP

Women Together Journaling Event

Women from every walk of life seeking a peaceful moment of stillness and reflection are invited to our Women Together Spiritual Journaling event, Saturday, September 13, 1 - 2:30pm in the C.E. Building Chapel.

Through gentle guidance and thoughtful prompts led by Dora Chin, we'll explore how putting pen to paper can deepen gratitude, bring scripture to life and help us pause and listen to God's voice amid the busyness of daily life. Neither is required, but feel free to bring your favorite journal and Bible so each reflection can be uniquely yours.

Together, we'll carve out space for quiet contemplation, mutual encouragement, and a renewed sense of faith as we write our way into God's presence. Register by September 8.

REGISTER



Paul Simonson Memorial

A memorial service for church member Paul Simonson will be held on Thursday, September 18 at 11am in the Sanctuary.

A reception in Guild Hall will follow.

The service will be live streamed on the church website at PiedmontChurch.org/simonson



Staff Retreat Reflection

The Piedmont Community Church staff recently spent two days in Inverness on a retreat - a time to unwind while preparing for the program year ahead. We thank the congregation for allowing this time to reflect, bond and plan. Pictured from left: Kerry Persichitte, Steve Schibsted, Stephen Main, Toni Fischer, Don Ashburn, Mariana Navarrete, Michael Barber and Leslie Quantz. Photo credit to Phoebe Jue, who is front and center.



Harvest Dinner is October 10

Harvest season is a lovely time to gather with friends on a warm evening while the sun sets and the Harvest Moon comes out. You are invited to a Harvest Dinner on Friday, October 10, 6-9pm in Guild Hall.

Come celebrate all of the blessings for which we are thankful. Enjoy a delicious meal cooked by our Loaves & Fishes team and fellowship with friends.

Sign up below or in the Courtyard after worship through October 5. Cost is \$20 for adults (\$25 at the door) and \$10 for kids under 18 (\$15 at the door).

Contact Kathy Hurd at 11kdhurd@gmail.com

SIGN UP





Middle School Midweek

Middle School Midweek takes place each Wednesday from 2:45–4pm in the C.E. Building Youth Room. Come hang out, connect with friends (and make new ones), play some awesome games and grow in your faith. We can't wait to see you there.



Connecting Students to Ministry

Open to All Middle and High School Students

Students Serving is your student's chance to step into meaningful leadership—whether in tech, music, kids ministry, hospitality or more. We connect students to roles that match their gifts, provide training and mentorship and create a space to build lasting relationships while making a difference at church and with our community mission partners.

Open to kids of all faiths and those with no faith background, this program helps students grow in confidence, develop real-world skills and earn service hours—all while being part of something bigger than themselves.

Click or scan to get started: <https://piedmontchurch57.servewireapp.com/positions/>



Keep Up with the Kids

Our NextGen ministry is very active, with lots of events throughout the month. Visit the NextGen web page at PiedmontChurch.org/nextgen



Online Bible Study

Starting September 8, Don Ashburn will once again lead an online study. At our first meeting, we'll decide as a group which book to study. To participate fully, no previous experience in Bible study is expected or required. Just come with an open heart and mind and see where the Spirit leads you.



Contact Don Ashburn at Don@PiedmontChurch.org

The Zoom link is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8321177073>



Next Game Gathering September 6

Our next FREE adults Game & Gab Night will be held Saturday, September 6, 6:30-9pm in Guild Hall. Snacks, dessert and drinks will be served.

Enjoy chat tables for those who don't like to play games. Poker, Mexican Train, Rummikub, Scrabble and more. Bring your favorite game or puzzle if you'd like.

Click the registration link below.

REGISTER



CityTeam Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for ideas on how to bring hope to others? CityTeam, one of our mission partners, restores the lives of people experiencing homelessness, poverty and addiction. CityTeam needs spiritual mentors, no prior training required. They also seek volunteers with relevant expertise for their workforce development program.



For more information and to sign up, visit <https://www.cityteam.org/volunteer>. Contact Swee Ling Chen at sweeling.chen@gmail.com or Jocelyne Birren at jocelynebirren@gmail.com with questions.

Messenger Survey Results

Thank you to the 90 readers who took time to participate in our brief, 4-question survey. While the questions were few, the answers are extremely helpful to our mission moving forward.

What We Learned

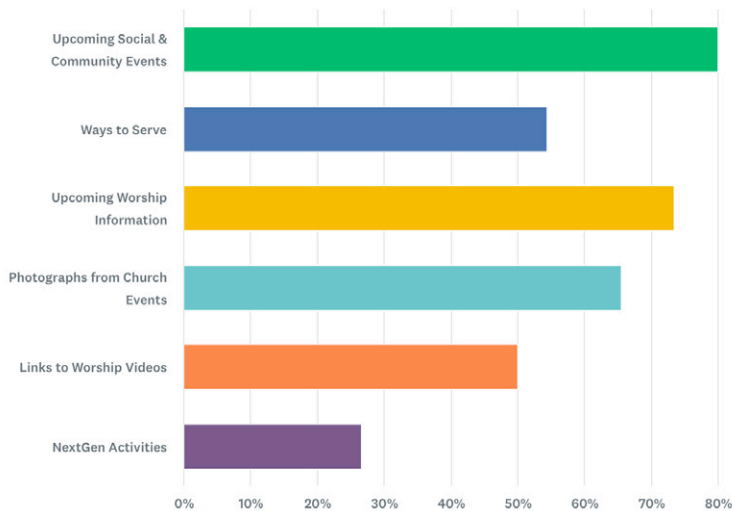
Of the 90 participants answering, 78% read *Messenger* weekly, while 16% read twice a month and 6% read just once a month.

During the summer months, *Messenger* was read by an average of 500 people weekly or 72% of our total mail list. Summer reading was down just 2% from our yearly average of 74%. Average email open rate for our industry is just 38%.

The preferred reading method continues to be online, with versions evenly split with 44% reading the full-sized PDF on desktop or laptop computers, while 43% read the original Mobile version on mobile device. 14% read the paper version of *Messenger* made available Sundays during worship.

The majority of our readers, 80%, read *Messenger* for info related to upcoming social and community events. The second most popular area of interest (73%) is reading details surrounding upcoming worship. We tested this interest recently by printing full details of a summer sermon schedule, including sermon titles, description, scripture and preacher information. Traditionally, this has not been a focus of *Messenger*. However, this response leads us to consider making this information available regularly.

The graph below shows response for all areas of interest:



Finally, the question regarding access to information linked from *Messenger* taught us that 70% of readers use the buttons or hot links, while only 8% scan a QR Code. 22% of readers surveyed do not click links or scan QR Codes. The low response to QR Codes is expected as this is a feature used almost exclusively by the estimated 30 readers who enjoy the paper version of *Messenger* each week.

Don't Miss a Beat

Our church calendar is updated almost daily to reflect all the events happening at Piedmont Community Church.

CALENDAR



Sunday, August 31 Media

Don Ashburn preached 'Let the Walls Fall Down.' Suzanne Latham led us in worship. Music by Michael Orlinsky and Stephen Main.

WATCH

Our Channel This Week

823 Views
201 Hours Past 30 Days
563 Total Subscribers



SUBSCRIBE



You are invited to suggest any theater event you might like to attend. We are a very casual group. If you'd like to be personally notified of upcoming shows, please go to our Church Center app for Theater Group and add your name, or contact Linda McClain at lindamcclain@me.com or Judy Wright at rbwright1@me.com

September 5, 5:30-7pm
 American Patchwork Quartet
 UC Botanical Garden Redwoods
 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley
 Tickets \$60 (we'll picnic there)

September 20, 2pm
 Smuin Ballet
 (1:30pm pre-show talk)
 Leshner Center, Walnut Creek

October 1, 7 pm
 The Reservoir
 Berkeley Rep