

# HIGHLIGHTS

DECEMBER 2018

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 11

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Advent is the time when we prepare our hearts for the celebration of Christ's coming among us. We have many activities planned to support us in a meaningful preparation for Christ's birth. Be sure to pick up a daily devotional for your use throughout this month.



The devotional booklet for adults, Living the Gospel Life, encourages us to be Christians on a mission, with a daily challenge while we wait on the Lord during Advent. The children will receive a poster with devotions and stickers to place on it during the days of Advent. The youth will receive a booklet called God's Word Comes Down.

## ADVENT HIGHLIGHTS



### Saturday, December 1, 2018 – The Annual Advent Celebration

Come at 5:00 p.m. and join us for some great crafts and fellowship time, followed by a brief devotional time of scripture and carols. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Invite your friends – guests are welcome as we anticipate Jesus' birth!

### Sunday, December 9, 2018 – Annual Children's Musical

On Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, the children will be presenting "Out Standing in the Field" at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. You won't want to miss this cute musical!



### Sunday, December 9 – Lunch and Christmas Caroling, 11:30 am

You are invited to have lunch and go out caroling on Sunday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> after the Children's Musical. We will be singing to some of our shut-ins and church family friends. Please sign up ahead of time so we can plan for the lunch.

Caroling

### Sunday, December 23, 2018

Worship this morning will include brass, bells, organ and choirs. Come sing God's praises as we anticipate Christ's birth on this Fourth Sunday of Advent.



### Sunday, December 24, 2018 – Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve worship service will be at 7:00 pm. The Christmas story will be told in scripture and song. We will sing favorite carols, enjoy special music, and light candles at the conclusion while we join in singing Silent Night. All ages are welcome to come to this special service.

## ANGEL TREE CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Our Angel Tree Christmas Project begins soon! Paper Angels will be available the following Sundays: November 25, December 2, and December 9. Please complete your shopping prior to December 16, and bring your wrapped gift before worship on that day to the church library. Or you may make a \$10 donation for a Bible, or a \$20 donation for the family gift basket. You may also help by baking cookies on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am in the kitchen. Please also stop by the table to sign up for delivering the gifts on December 16<sup>th</sup>. See Val Watts or Gil DeHoyos.



## COOKIE EXCHANGE

Do you enjoy baking? If so, you are invited to come to the church kitchen on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am to bake cookies and participate in a cookie exchange! Bring your own recipes and ingredients, and together we'll enjoy making various cookies and sharing them with each other (bring a container to take some home!). Also, we'll share some of our homemade cookies with the Angel Tree families who will be receiving a special Food Basket with their Angel Tree gifts. See Carol Anderson for further information.

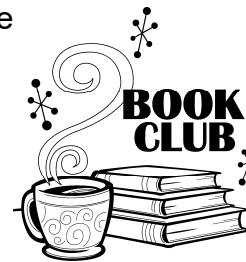


## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Women's Book Club will be meeting on Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room for brunch and a book exchange. Come hungry! Bring any dish you like: it's a true potluck!

For the book exchange, please bring a book wrapped in any style from fancy wrappings to an old section of the comic strips. The book can be old or new, and

should be one you have enjoyed reading or would like to read. New members are welcome. Please RSVP to Jeanette Rauscher or the church office.



## NEWS FROM RISE AGAINST HUNGER

We have received word that the meals which we helped to package on August 26, 2018 have been shipped by Rise Against Hunger! A shipping container, holding 285,120 meals, has been sent to Cambodia for their partner Salesian Missions, which is an organization that nourishes lives through food assistance and other services in Cambodia.

Ending hunger is only possible if all of us continue to grow the movement. Since 2005, volunteers like us have helped the Rise Against Hunger organization to distribute over 310 million meals worldwide. We can end hunger by 2030, but it can't be done without people like you! We plan to pack more meals as a part of our mission giving in 2019 – stay tuned for a specific date!



## WHITE ELEPHANT PARTY

Don and Linda Pollard will be hosting their annual adult White Elephant party at their home on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Cost is \$10 per person (must be paid in advance), to include appetizers, desserts and adult beverages. You may sign up on Sunday morning, or call the church office. Please bring a wrapped, white elephant gift for the exchange.



# December 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>25</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee 11:15 AM Adult Education Class	<b>26</b>  7:00 PM Adult Education Class	<b>27</b> NO Deacons Meeting	<b>28</b> 4:30 PM WOW and PEAK	<b>29</b>  6:17 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast & Women's Fellowship  5:00 PM Advent Celebration
<b>2</b> <b>ADVENT BEGINS</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee/Donuts 11:15 AM Adult Education Class 12:30 PM Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>3</b>  7:00 PM Adult Education Class	<b>4</b>  7:30 PM Building & Grounds, Pastoral Care and Worship Committees	<b>5</b>  4:30 PM WOW and PEAK	<b>6</b>  1:00 PM Women's Bible Class  6:17 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>7</b>  7:00 PM White Elephant Party	<b>8</b> 9:30 AM Children's Musical Rehearsal  
<b>9</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee 11:00 AM Children's Christmas Musical 11:30 AM Lunch and Christmas Caroling	<b>10</b>  7:00 PM Adult Education Class	<b>11</b>  7:00 PM Combined Session and Deacons Meeting	<b>12</b>  4:30 PM WOW and PEAK	<b>13</b> 11:30 AM Young at Heart Luncheon  6:17 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9:00 AM Cookie Baking and Exchange
<b>16</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee/Donuts 11:15 AM Adult Education Class	<b>17</b>  7:00 PM Adult Education Class	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>  4:30 PM WOW and PEAK Christmas Caroling	<b>20</b>  6:17 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 9:00 AM Chancel Bells and Choir Rehearsal
<b>23</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee	<b>24</b>  7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	<b>25</b>  <b>CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  NO Chancel Bells or Choir	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  2:00 PM Wakeman's 50th Anniversary Party
<b>30</b> 9:30 AM Worship 10:30 AM Coffee	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>  <b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>  6:17 PM Chancel Bells 7:30 PM Chancel Choir	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:30 AM Men's Breakfast & Women's Fellowship

## MISSION GIVING

During 2018, our church has given over \$44,000 to various missions we support. This includes our general mission giving, along with our Deacon offerings and our Special offerings received throughout the year.

This year, we have been happy to support several new ministries, including Badjao Bridge in the Philippines, Sleep in Heavenly Peace ministry which builds twin beds or bunk beds for children who are currently sleeping on the floor in Alameda County, and Solar Cookers International which distributes solar cookers in regions of great need, providing the necessary training and support. We also supported many other missions, including Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for recent hurricanes as well as wildfires in California.

We are grateful for God's many gifts to us, and we are blessed to be able to pass the blessing along to those who are less fortunate. Please keep them in your prayers.



## WIDOWS/WIDOWERS GRIEF RECOVERY



We are excited to be hosting a widows/widower grief recovery class and support group at our church beginning on Friday, February 1, 2019. The group will meet for 10 weeks on Friday afternoons, 1:00 – 3:30 pm. It will be led by Merrilee Mitchell, and will include topics such as Facing Loss, Understanding Grief, Letting Go of the Past, and Getting Back in Balance.

The group is open to widows and widowers of all ages, no matter how far along they are in their grief process. Whether you have recently lost a spouse or your spouse died years ago, all who are interested in working through their grief are welcome. Please call Merrilee at (510) 482-5296 for further information, or stop by the church office for a brochure.

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## Happy Anniversary!

*An Invitation from Jim and Mollie Wakeman  
to our church family:*

*Please join us in Celebration of our 50th Anniversary  
with a Renewal of Vows followed by a Reception at  
First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro, CA.  
2 PM on Saturday, December 29, 2018  
Your presence on that day will be your gift to us.*

*RSVP by December 15th  
mollie@wakeman.com or 510 579-4776*

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## ADULT RETREATS AT WESTMINSTER WOODS

Two adult retreats are being offered this year at Westminster Woods:

- ◆ Women's Weekend January 11-13
- ◆ Men's Weekend February 15-17

The cost is \$185 for the weekend in standard housing. Brochures are available in our church narthex, or you may sign up online.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
180 Estudillo Avenue  
San Leandro, CA 94577  
(510) 483-2772

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UPCOMING EVENTS

**CHRISTMAS FOOD AND TOY PROGRAM**

For 45 years, the Davis Street Family Resource Center has been coordinating a food and toy program for thousands of needy families in our area. Please bring a

NEW (unwrapped) toy for a child, and put it in the collection box in the Narthex or in Fellowship Hall. Or you may bring a gift card, which will be given to the teens. Thank you for your support.



**YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON**

The Young at Heart group Christmas luncheon is on Thursday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m. Following the meal, we are delighted to have “The Notables” choral group from San Leandro High School return again this year to present a lovely musical program for us! Please sign up ahead of time, and invite your friends and family to join us for this special event!



**(Please note that for THIS MONTH ONLY, the Young at Heart group will be meeting on the second Thursday of the month.)**