

THE HOPE of Easter

Highlights

Growing Friendships, Families & Faith



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Holy Week begins with **Palm Sunday, March 28**, when we remember Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem, riding on a colt and hearing the crowd cry,

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord." We will be enjoying special music that was recorded previously by our Chancel Choir, since we cannot yet gather for in-person for worship.

On **Thursday of Holy Week, April 1**, we will be posting our audio-recording of a Maundy Thursday/ Tenebrae worship service, when we remember Jesus' last supper with the disciples, as well as his final hours prior to the crucifixion.

We will celebrate Christ's Resurrection on **Easter Sunday, April 4**. The worship service will be posted online, and we look forward to enjoying some special music with brass in worship recordings from previous years. Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Church Office Hours

Wednesdays and Fridays, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
(Please wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart from others.)

Easter Azaleas

If you pre-ordered an Easter Azalea this past month, you may pick it up in the Church Parking Lot on Saturday, **April 3** between 2 and 3 pm. Also, Deacons may pick up azaleas to be delivered to our "Friends at Home" at this time.



Greet and Give – Saturday, April 3 (please note change of day)

The need for food support for many of our neighbors continues to be great. We appreciate our church family's generous response to our "Greet and Give" food collection drives!



Greet & Give

This month, our "Greet and Give" will take place on the first Saturday afternoon – **Saturday, April 3, from 2:00 to 3:00 pm**. (The day has been changed for this month only, so as not to conflict with Easter Sunday.) The following non-perishable food items are especially needed: canned soups, pasta noodles, canned fruits or vegetables, canned meats, and boxed side dishes. Also, if you have unopened utensil packets which you have received with take-out food, bring those along as well.

The food will be taken to the San Lorenzo Family Help Center to help those in need throughout Alameda County. If you have any questions, please call Anne Milner at 510-731-7684.

Easter Azaleas (pre-ordered) will be available for pick up at this same time.

Manna Meals will be available for purchase - please bring along \$5 cash for each bag you wish to purchase.

And you may bring **ink cartridges, aluminum cans and plastic bottles** for recycling, and drop them off at the same time. Please separate the cans from the plastic bottles, into two separate bags. Thank you.



Easter/Communion Sunday April 4, 2021

On Sunday, **April 4**, we will participate in Holy Communion in our homes while listening to the Easter worship service online. If you wish, you may gather "common and ordinary" elements (bread, crackers, juice, wine) as you have available, and partake of the elements after the Word is preached during the recorded worship service.

There are several ways to access the worship service:

Internet is NOT required to participate in worship!

1. Using your phone:

- At 9:30 am on Sunday morning, you may call 1-669-900-9128.
- When prompted for the meeting ID, dial 861 5833 0947 (then #)
- When asked for User ID or press #, just press #
- When prompted for a password, dial 4562580 (then #).
You will be able to listen to the worship service through your phone (but no one will be able to hear you).

2. You may go to our webpage www.FirstPresbyterianChurchSL.org and click on the link on the home page (scroll down to find the link).
3. You may click on the link on our church Facebook page, and it will take you to our webpage.



Zoom Coffee Fellowship

We continue to enjoy connecting with one another at our weekly Zoom Coffee Fellowship at 11:00 am on Sundays. If you would like to receive an invitation, please call the church office or email Anne at Anne@FirstPresbyterianChurchSL.org.

You may participate by Zoom, or you can participate by phone, cell phone or landline. If you want to join in, on Sunday morning a few minutes before 11 am:

- dial 1-669-900-9128 (then #)
- when prompted for the meeting ID, dial 821 3242 9852 (then #)
- then you might hear a prompt to put in your user ID OR to simply press #, so just press #
- and finally, you'll be asked for a password, which is 4562580 (then #)

**"I AM THE LIGHT
OF THE WORLD."**

WHOEVER FOLLOWS ME WILL NEVER
WALK IN DARKNESS,
BUT WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE."
JOHN 8:12



MONDAY Zoom Bible Class

The Monday Adult Bible Class will begin a new six-week study on **April 12** at 4:00 pm. The study focuses on the Gospel of John, known as "The Gospel of Light and Life." It includes a video presentation by Rev. Adam Hamilton, followed by discussion on Zoom, led by Sue Goodnow. The class will study the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John, and will help us to understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament. If you would like to attend these Zoom classes, please call Jane Kraut at 510-537-2369, and she will send you a Zoom invitation by email.

An Update from Session

At the March meeting of Session, a task force was formed to begin the planning process for resuming in-person worship. Four elders currently serving on the Session have agreed to work with our pastor and our music director, as we look forward to the time when we can safely gather in our sanctuary. We will be seeking God's wisdom as we are informed by Biblical truth and scientific knowledge, both of which have been given by God.



One very important factor will be having as many congregational members as possible fully vaccinated. This will not only protect the vaccinated, but will also protect those few who cannot receive the vaccine. In the coming months, we urge

everyone to get their Covid-19 vaccine. It will also be very important to continue wearing masks and social distancing. Finally, our community needs to see steadily decreasing case numbers in order to move safely ahead.

We look forward to gathering with one another for worship, hopefully sometime this summer. Please pray for the elders, as they make wise decisions in the coming months.

Summer Daycamp

We are excited to be making plans for summer daycamp! This year, the daycamp program will be held outside in our church parking lot, and will meet from 1 – 4 pm on the following days: **Monday, July 26; Wednesday, July 28; Friday, July 30; Monday, August 2; and Wednesday, August 4.** Then on **Saturday, August 7**, we will have our family barbecue and swim party at Cull Canyon Lagoon in Castro Valley.



The theme this year is "Davey and Goliath's Camp Creation" which focuses on Psalm 24: *The earth and everything on it belong to the Lord.* We will be learning that God gives life, love, gifts, sharing and caring. Daycamp is for children who are 4-years old through incoming sixth grade. Incoming seventh grade through high school may serve as Youth Counselors. You may contact Jane Kraut for further information.



Update on our Compassion Child in Haiti

We have learned that the church-based center in Haiti which our Compassion child (Nephtalie Chery) attends has resumed normal program activities this past month. Our youth group began sponsoring Nephtalie in 2005, when she was just 5 years old! Over the years, we have continued to support her participation in the Christian program that Compassion provides, along with sending additional gifts for her birthday, Christmas, and family gifts. We correspond with her on a regular basis. Even during these pandemic months, she has received our letters but we have not been able to receive any correspondence back from her.

After completing high school and passing her state exams in 2019, Nephtalie has begun her studies in medicine, hoping someday to become a doctor. Her family was able to complete construction on their house last year, with the help of monetary gifts our church has sent. Also, they have been able to buy a new goat.

Let us keep Nephtalie in our prayers, along with the staff at the center that she attends, and all of the people in Haiti.



APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30 AM Online Worship Service 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM	29 NO Adult Bible Class	30	31 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Church Office Open 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	1 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Online Worship	2 GOOD FRIDAY - Church Office Closed	3 2 - 3 PM Greet and Give Food Drive 2 - 3 PM Easter Azalea Pick-up in Parking Lot
4 9:30 AM EASTER Online Worship Service 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM	5 NO Adult Bible Class	6 7:00 PM Christian Ed, Church in the World, Evangelism, Group Life Committees	7 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Church Office Open 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	8	9 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Church Office Open	10
11 9:30 AM Online Worship Service 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM	12 4:00 PM Adult Bible Class (Zoom)	13	14 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Church Office Open 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	15	16 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Church Office Open	17
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

180 Estudillo Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577

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Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 28

**Maundy Thursday/
Tenebrae Service,
April 1**

Easter Sunday, April 4

All worship recordings will be posted online on our website and with links on our Facebook page.

Like our Facebook page!

Looking Ahead

We are happy to announce two all-church activities are in the planning stages for the coming months, which we hope will be possible as more and more people get their vaccines and case rates decline in our county.

The **All-Church Picnic** is planned for **Sunday, August 29** at 11:00 am. We expect to be able to have this gathering at the lower end of Lake Chabot picnic area (which is just off Estudillo Avenue). Hopefully we can enjoy a cookout and other special food items as we gather outdoors for fellowship!



The **All-Church Retreat** has been tentatively scheduled at Westminster Woods for **September 10-12**. We have requested this weekend, so that the weather will be warmer than our usual mid-October retreat, and we will plan to have outdoor programs and eat our meals outside on the patio. Families will each be housed in their own cabin, so as to be safe for everyone. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.



[HTTP://FIRSTPRESBYTERIANCHURCHSL.ORG/](http://firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org/)