

Highlights

First Presbyterian Church San Leandro

Season of Lent

The season of Lent begins on **February 17**. During Lent, we embark on a spiritual journey that enables us to grow into a deeper and richer relationship with God. God desires to be in a close and loving relationship with each one of us, as we open our hearts to Him. During this season, let us draw near to the cross of Jesus Christ, more fully accepting God's forgiveness and renewing power, even in this difficult time in our world's history.

This year our **Lent devotional guide** is entitled "The Road Back to God" and focuses on encouraging us in our journey to be ever closer to God. It suggests a brief passage of scripture each day, followed by a helpful message as well as a challenge for the day. The devotional guides will be available at our Greet and Give donation event (Sunday, **February 7**, 2-3 pm) or you can call the church office and we will be happy to mail one to you. Let's make this season of Lent a meaningful time of traveling the road that leads us to a stronger awareness of Jesus' presence in our daily lives!



Valentine Opportunity

Would you like to send a valentine to a child from our WOW program? Because of distance learning, our WOW children will be missing out on the annual classroom Valentine's Day parties with a bag of valentines from their classmates.

If you would like the opportunity to help fill their valentine boxes, contact the church office and we will give you the information you need to send a valentine to one or more WOW children. You can call the church office and leave a message, or contact Jane Kraut at (510) 537-2369 or email jane@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org

We will mail the valentines for you or you can mail them yourself. Let's work together to make this a great Valentine's Day for our WOW children.

Ash Wednesday – February 17

In usual times, we would be gathering for a brief time of worship in our sanctuary to begin the season of Lent and receive ashes on our foreheads as a reminder of our brokenness and our sinful nature. This year, because we cannot safely gather in-person, the Ash Wednesday worship service will be posted on our church website (or you can use your phone to call in on Wednesday evening, **February 17** at 7:00 pm to access the service – instructions are the same as listed under the February Communion worship service information).

Traditionally, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday come from burning the palm branches which were used on Palm Sunday the previous year. The minister places ashes on one's forehead in the shape of a cross, representing our sin and desire to repent. As Lent begins, we confess our sins and remember that Jesus gave His life for our salvation.



ASH WEDNESDAY

We remember these words from Genesis 3:19 – "*For dust you are, and to dust you will return.*" Our earthly bodies are not eternal. Yet in Jesus Christ, we are restored and given eternal life with God. Our sins are forgiven, and we are reunited with Christ forever. Although we are dust, on Ash Wednesday we are reminded of the greatest miracle of all: in Jesus' hands, that dust lives on. Our earthly bodies suffer from wear and tear, but our inward selves are renewed and given permanent residence in God's kingdom.

As you worship at home, you may wish to prepare some ashes ahead of time, or have some dust/dirt handy which you may place on your own forehead or even on the top of your hand. Anything that can be used to "mark" the cross and remind you of Jesus' ultimate sacrifice for your sin will suffice. The order of worship for the Ash Wednesday service is included in this Highlights. We hope you will begin the season of Lent in this meaningful way.

MONDAY Zoom Bible Class

The adult education class which was meeting on Wednesdays has changed their meeting day to Mondays, at 4:00 pm (by Zoom).

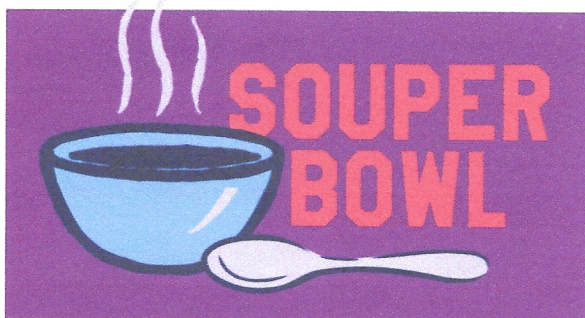
The group started a new series on **January 18** called **“Words of Life: Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today.”** The series includes a video presentation by Rev. Adam Hamilton, followed by group study and discussion. The Ten Commandments show us a way toward more joyful, abundant living, even in these contemporary times.



I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.

Jeremiah 31:33

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. Newcomers are welcome!



Souper Bowl of Caring

February 7, 2021 is Super Bowl Sunday, but this year we will not be able to collect our usual \$1 donations placed in soup pots as everyone leaves the sanctuary after worship. As you may recall, this is a nationwide effort to care for those who are less fortunate. Each year, our church uses the Souper Bowl of Caring money to provide lunches for the homeless who come to the April Showers program in San Leandro.

If you would like to contribute this year, you may put a one-dollar bill in an envelope and mail it along with your offering envelope, or you can drop off \$1 when you drive through the Greet and Give food donation collection on February 7. Thanks!

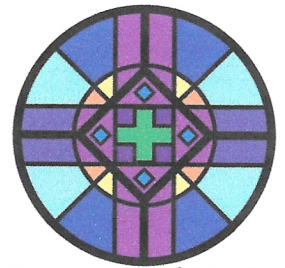
SIDEBAR

Annual Report

We are in the process of putting together the 2020 Annual Report, and will have it available by Wednesday, **February 17** if you wish to come by the church office (1-3 pm) and pick up a copy. Or you may pick it up on Friday, February 19 (1-3 pm), in time for your review prior to our Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 21 (see information below).

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Session has called the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, **February 21**, at 11:00 am by Zoom. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the 2020 Annual Report, receive the Church Budget for 2021, and review our pastor's compensation for 2021.



*Congregational Meeting
Annual Report*

We will also be recognizing and thanking the outgoing church officers (Deacons and Elders) who completed their terms in December, 2020.

Elders - Class of 2020

Carol Anderson
Landon Clark
Gil DeHoyos
Laura Gile

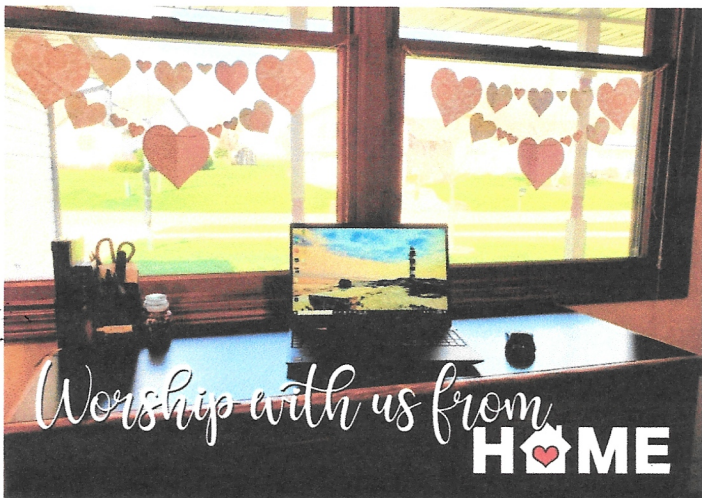
Deacons - Class of 2020

Maria Carter
Barbara Holmes
Bill Holmes
Kathy Knudsen
Julie Larson
Lynne Ondo
Lynn Roman
Susan Sprague
Gordy Tsuchiya
Jan Tsuchiya
Nnabuchi Lebeke (youth deacon)



Lenten devotional guides will be available at our Greet and Give donation event (**Sunday, February 7, 2-3 pm**) or you can call the church office and we will be happy to mail one to you.

FEBRUARY 2021



Communion Sunday February 7, 2021

On Sunday, **February 7**, we will participate in Holy Communion in our homes while listening to the 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! 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).
- You may go to our webpage www.FirstPresbyterianChurchSL.org and click on the link on the home page (scroll down to find the link).
- You may click on the link on our church Facebook page, and it will take you to our webpage.



This month, you may pick up your **Lenten Devotional Booklet** as you drive through the parking lot. Also, **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**, and drop them off at the same time. Please separate the cans from the plastic bottles, into two separate bags. Thank you.

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 11:00 am:

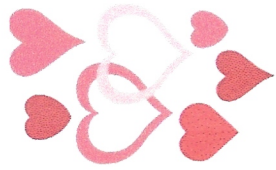
- dial 1-669-900-9128 (then #)
- when prompted for the meeting ID, dial 821 3242 9852 (then #)
- then you might hear a prompt to put in your user ID OR to simply press #, so just press #
- and finally, you'll be asked for a password, which is 4562580 (then #)



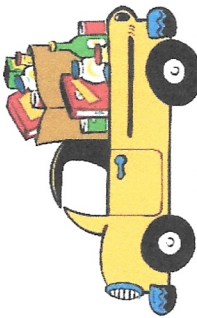


Sunday, February 7

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! Our next "Greet and Give" will take place on the first Sunday afternoon of February – **Sunday, February 7, from 2:00 to 3:00 pm**. This month, the following items would be especially helpful: 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.



FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:30 AM Online Worship Service 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM	1 4:00 PM Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 	2 7:00 PM Christian Ed, Church in the World, Evangelism, Group Life Committees (Zoom)	3 1 - 3 PM Church Office Open 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	4	5 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Church Office Open	6
7 9:30 AM Online Worship Service 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM 2:00 PM Greet and Give Food Drive 	8 4:00 PM Adult Bible Class (Zoom)	9	10 1 - 3 PM Church Office Open 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	11	12 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Church Office Open	13
14 9:30 AM Online Worship Service 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM 	15 4:00 PM Adult Bible Class (Zoom)	16	17  1 - 3 PM Church Office Open 6:30 PM Chancel Bells 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service (online)	18	19 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Church Office Open	20
21 9:30 AM Online Worship Service 11:00 AM Annual Congregational Meeting by ZOOM 11:15 AM Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM	22 4:00 PM Adult Bible Class (Zoom)	23	24 1 - 3 PM Church Office Open 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	25	26 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Church Office Open	27
28 9:30 AM Online Worship Service 11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship by ZOOM	1 4:00 PM Adult Bible Class (Zoom)	2	3 1 - 3 PM Church Office Open 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	4	5 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM Church Office Open	6

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 17, 2021

"Dust you are, and to dust you will return." – Genesis 3:19

WELCOME

PIANO/ORGAN PRELUDE

Toni DiCapua, Mollie Wakeman

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.

Congregation: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I put my hope.

Leader: My soul waits for the Lord, more than those who watch for the morning.

Congregation: I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his Word I put my hope.

Leader: Come, let us worship God.

* **OPENING HYMN** "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

no. 92

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we confess that we have been slow to learn from you, and we have failed to obey you. Forgive us for not being your faithful followers. Create in us a clean heart, O God. Hear us now as we silently confess our sins...

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: We are dust, and to dust we shall return.

Congregation: Though our bodies be destroyed, yet in flesh we shall see God!

Leader: We present ourselves as living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God.

**Congregation: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM "For Things That I Do Wrong, O Lord"...Bedford
(previously recorded, CCLI #20405356)

Children's Choir

SCRIPTURE READING – Matthew 11:28-30

REFLECTIONS ON LENT "His Burden Is Light"

Rev. Anne Swanson

***HYMN** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

no. 81

THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES OR DUST

Anne Swanson

Leader: In times of great sorrow and heartache,
God's people of old would wear their grief. With sackcloth and ashes
their outward form reflected the reality of their hearts.

Congregation: Brokenness cannot be hidden away.

Leader: Tonight we admit the brokenness of our
hearts, and we wear the sign of our brokenness: ashes or dust.

Congregation: Our brokenness cannot be hidden away.

Leader: Yet we know that brokenness is only part of
the story. There's more. The ashes or dust trace the shape of the cross –
the cross that removes our sin, heals our brokenness, and makes us whole.

Congregation: Our brokenness is not forever; we are restored in the cross.

ANTHEM "Create in Me a Clean Heart"...Jeff Reeves

Choral Ensemble

RESPONSIVE READING: PSALM 51

Leader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love. According
to your great compassion, blot out my transgressions.

Congregation: Create in me a clean heart, make my spirit right and true.

Leader: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my
transgressions, and my sin is always before me.

Congregation: Guide me with your wisdom, Lord, as I seek to follow you.

Leader: Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.
So you are right in judging me.

**Congregation: God of creation and Lord of my life, show me how I can be more like you
in all that I do, in word and thought and deed.**

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Congregation: Cleanse my heart, O God, from sin; make my spirit pure within.

***CLOSING HYMN** "Jesus Loves Me"

***BENEDICTION**

Leader: All those who are in Christ are a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!

Congregation: Now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who sacrificed his life for us, and
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with each one of
you. Amen.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

180 Estudillo Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577

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*Love
each other
as I have
loved you.*
JOHN 15:12, NIV



Sing psalms and
hymns and
spiritual songs ...
singing and
making melody to the
Lord in your hearts.

Church Notes

Per Capita Amount for 2021

Each year, our church pays a “per capita” apportionment to the San Francisco Presbytery, which supports the presbytery and the General Assembly in its various tasks in the coming year. For 2021, the amount assessed per church member is \$38. If you would like to contribute that to the church, you may use the Per Capita envelope in your offering box, or just write “per capita” on the memo line of your check (payable to FPCSL). Thank you.

Church Office Hours

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

Women’s Book Club

The Women’s Book Club will be meeting in March on Zoom to discuss The Dearly Beloved by Cara Wall.

If you are not on our email list, please call the church office and leave your name and email.