



Highlights

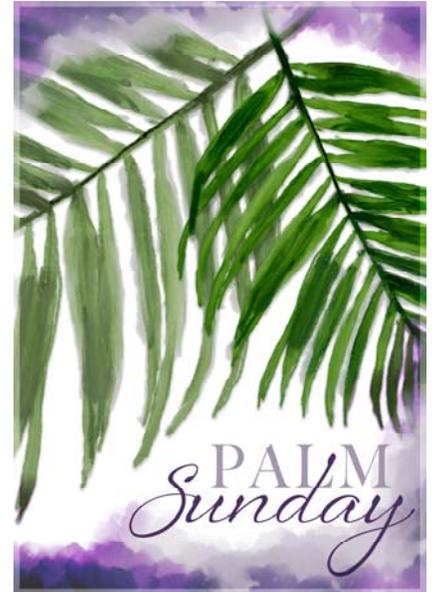
First Presbyterian Church San Leandro • Volume 23 • Issue 4

Palm Sunday: Worship, Picnic, Parade and Egg Hunt

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday, **April 10**, 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." Our worship service is at 9:30 am in the sanctuary and includes special music that our Chancel Choir will have recorded ahead of time.

After worship, we plan to go to a nearby park for a special Palm Sunday parade in the park!! Then we will have a picnic lunch with hamburgers, hot dogs, sides, and desserts. All food will be provided – no reservations necessary. We will also have an Easter egg hunt for all ages. Everyone is invited for this fun, outdoor event!

Would you like to help by providing some "eggs" for hiding? We would welcome plastic eggs filled with small treats or prizes as well as some traditional dyed hard-boiled eggs. Please contact Jane Kraut if you can help.



Lou Pennebaker Joins Our Staff



The Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) is so excited to announce that they have found just the right person to lead the Christian Education programs here at our church! For over a year, they have been seeking to find either an Associate Pastor or a Director of Christian Education who can lead us as we minister to children, youth and families in our area, and that person happens to be someone who grew up in this church: Lou Pennebaker!

Lou was born and raised in San Leandro, baptized, and confirmed here at First Presbyterian. She attended camp at Westminster Woods, and then felt God's call to educational and relational ministry while attending Cal State University Sacramento. Upon graduation, Lou went to the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Virginia, where she received her master's degree in Christian Education, with an emphasis on Children's Ministries. Since that time, Lou has served as a full-time professional Christian Educator in various churches in Arizona, California, Nevada and Idaho.

Lou is a creative, energetic and talented individual. We were blessed by her leadership at our All-Church Retreat last September, and we are so pleased that God has now led her to serve in our church as the Director of Christian Education (half-time) The APNC believes that God has led them to the most qualified and experienced candidate out there! We look forward to officially welcoming her on Palm Sunday, April 10. Welcome, Lou!



Welcome to our New Church Receptionist

This past month, Tessa Gaerlan began working on our church staff as the Assistant to the Administrative Manager. Tessa will be in the church office on Tuesday through Friday, 11 am – 2 pm. If you happen to be coming or going during those hours, be sure to introduce yourself! We are pleased to have her serving as our church receptionist, answering phone calls, and preparing the Sunday bulletins. Welcome, Tessa!



Flower Arrangements for the Sanctuary

If you would like to provide a flower arrangement for the Communion Table in the sanctuary on a Sunday in the coming months, please see Mollie Wakeman or sign up on the Flower Chart in Fellowship Hall. The cost for an arrangement from Lyal Nickals Florist is \$65. Thank you.



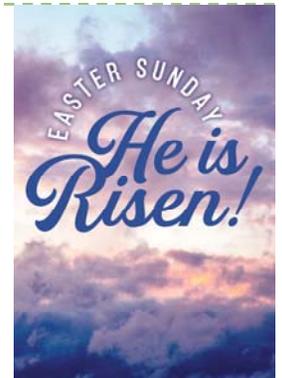
Tenebrae Service – Thursday, April 14

On Thursday of Holy Week (**April 14**), we will be having our annual Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae worship service in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. We will have Holy Communion as we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples. Then we will observe Tenebrae, the "Service of Darkness" that dates back to the early years of the Christian church and is considered the most solemn celebration of the church. Tenebrae (the Latin word for "shadows") depicts the approaching crucifixion, as people representing the deserting disciples read the various "shadows" from scripture, and extinguish the Tenebrae candles one by one. The service concludes in silence, with the last candle (symbolizing Jesus) carried from the church. This candle will remain lit until it is returned to the sanctuary on Easter morning, symbolizing Christ's resurrection from the dead.

Easter Sunday – April 17

On Sunday, **April 17**, we will celebrate Christ's resurrection at our 9:30 am worship service in the sanctuary. We look forward to having our Chancel Bells play in worship, along with other special music for Easter! Christ has risen! He has risen indeed!

After worship, we will have Coffee Fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to seeing one another on this joyous occasion!



Monday Zoom Bible Class

The adult education class, which meets on Monday afternoons at 4:00 pm (by Zoom), is continuing with their special Lent class on "**Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross.**" The class is discussing why the cross was necessary, and exactly what Jesus did to save us from our sin.

The class will be taking a three-week break after Easter, and then resume on May 9 with a series on I Corinthians. If you would like to attend these Zoom classes, please call Jane Kraut at the church office (510-483-2772) and she will send you a Zoom invitation by email. Newcomers are welcome!

Update on Worship and Church Activities

We are thankful that our church family members have taken the important step of being safe and loving our neighbors, by being fully up-to-date with their vaccines against the Covid-19 virus. We are also happy to see many of you coming to worship, spreading out in the sanctuary and wearing up-graded masks which provide better protection.

We have resumed **Coffee Fellowship**, following our worship service each Sunday morning. As we enjoy fellowship with one another in the Fellowship Hall, everyone is encouraged to wear their mask except when eating or drinking. This way we can keep our more vulnerable members safe from any accidental exposure to Covid.

If the Alameda County case count and hospitalization rates stay in the "Low" (or "green") zone, we plan to host a **Young at Heart Luncheon** on **April 21** – watch the worship bulletin for further information. And on the first Saturday of May (**May 7**), we are expecting to have the **Men's Breakfast and Bible Study** meet here at the church, in the Fireside Room. The **Women's Fellowship Breakfast** will gather in Fellowship Hall for conversation and breakfast.

Although the state of California has relaxed their mask requirements, the CDC "strongly recommends" that we all continue to wear masks. Currently, that is the ongoing policy here in the church building (except when eating and drinking). Again, thank you for loving your neighbor by doing your best to prevent the spread of this virus.

For those of you who prefer to not attend worship in-person at this time, you will continue to find our weekly worship recording on our church website: www.firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org Also, you will find the order of worship posted, if you wish to follow along. We look forward to the time when everyone will be able to safely return to in-person worship!



Manna Meals

When you see a person in need, on the street corner or outside of the grocery store, it is helpful if you can offer him/her a Manna Meal to provide food and nourishment for a day.

Our Evangelism Committee elders (Jim Watts and Sue Goodnow) have prepared cloth bags for you to purchase for \$5 and have handy in your car, when you see someone in need. Also included in the bag is information about food pantries that can support them, and about the April Showers program which our church members volunteer with (providing showers on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month, and giving each guest a meal for lunch and a brown bag supper to take with them). Finally, there is an inspirational note, sharing the love of Jesus with them.

Manna Meals may be purchased at any time during office hours, and they will be for sale during Sunday morning Coffee Fellowship time.



Food Support for Our Neighbors

The need for food support for those living in Alameda County continues to be great. You are encouraged to bring non-perishable foods to worship or to the church office, to help supply the Davis Street Family Resource Center with food to distribute. Canned soups, pasta noodles, canned fruits or vegetables, canned meats and boxed side dishes are very helpful. On Communion Sundays, the collection barrel will be located in the Narthex, and you may put your foods there. At other times, the barrel is located in the Fellowship Hall, and you are welcome to bring your food contributions at any time during the month. Thank you for your support.



Being Good Stewards through Recycling

Our church continues to collect plastic bottles, aluminum cans and used ink cartridges, in order to get them into the proper hands for recycling. Our thanks to the Church in the World Committee elder, Gary Calame, who takes these various products to a recycling center and makes money for our church as well as saving the planet from additional garbage collecting in landfills. We appreciate your support for this project – please separate the cans from the plastic bottles, in two separate bags. Thank you.

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30 AM In-Person Worship Service 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	28 4:00 PM Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	29 7:00 PM Building & Grounds, Evangelism, Pastoral Care and Stewardship Committees	30 4 - 5:30 PM WOW and Peak Program	31 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	1	2
3 9:30 AM In-Person Worship Service 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship/Donuts	4 4:00 PM Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	5	6 4 - 5:30 PM WOW and Peak Program	7 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	8	9
10 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:30 AM In-Person Worship Service 10:30 AM Palm Sunday Parade and Picnic at the Park	11 4:00 PM Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	12 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	13 NO WOW and Peak Program	14 Tenebrae Service 7:00 PM Tenebrae Worship Service	 Good Friday	16 9:30 AM Chancel Bells
17 EASTER Sunday 9:30 AM In-Person Worship Service 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship/Donuts	18 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	19 7:00 PM Session Meeting (Zoom)	20 4 - 5:30 PM WOW and Peak Program	21 11:30 AM Young at Heart Luncheon (Reservations required) 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	22	23
24 9:30 AM In-Person Worship Service 10:30 AM Coffee Fellowship	25 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	26	27 4 - 5:30 PM WOW and Peak Program	28 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	29	30

Deacon Offerings

Have you ever wondered where your “Deacon Offerings” go, if you use the special envelope in your Offering Envelope box or in the pew?

Our Board of Deacons supports several local organizations on a regular basis. Each quarter, the Deacons send a check for \$300 to **Building Futures**, which supports shelter, case management, domestic violence services, street outreach and housing assistance for those in our community. A check for \$600 is sent quarterly to **Davis Street Community Center**, to support two of their essential services for Alameda County residents: basic needs (such as groceries and other essential supplies, which are distributed daily to 80 families in need), and the Primary Care Clinic, which provides medical, dental and mental health services onsite, as well as Covid-19 vaccines and testing.

A third organization, which has been added for Deacon support in 2022, is the **San Lorenzo Family Help Center** (which is the food bank that our church supported during the pandemic with our Greet and Give Drives). This organization helps to provide an average of 500 families per week with the food they need to feed themselves. Their outreach includes homeless people, low-income families and those who have been greatly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Quite a few of our church members volunteer at the Help Center on a weekly basis. The Deacons will be supporting the Help Center with a quarterly donation of \$300.

From time to time, Deacons also support families who are a part of our own church programs and facing exceptional need. Each year the Deacons set aside money for “Pastoral Care” which our church staff distributes to those individuals and families in special need within our church family. This may include cash support for individual needs, as well as gift cards to local grocery stores.

Deacons also provide April Showers with bag lunches, four times a year. The Deacon Fund covers the cost for the food that goes into each bag.

Your support of the Deacons Fund goes a long way, and it is very much appreciated! We thank you for your continued support for those who are in special need.

Easter Lily Order Form

Complete the form below and give to Mollie Wakeman or the church office along with your payment of \$23 per Easter Lily by Sunday, April 10 (checks payable to First Presbyterian Church).



Donor name: _____

Please complete one line for each plant ordered:

Given in Memory of _____

Given in Memory of _____

Given in Honor of _____

Given in Honor of _____

TOTAL plants ____ @ \$23 ea = \$ _____

Please deliver my Easter lily (lilies) to Friends at Home.

I will pick up my Easter lily (lilies) after worship on Easter.



Hosanna

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

180 Estudillo Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577



Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN LEANDRO, CA
PERMIT NO. 84

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering



The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received on Palm Sunday, **April 10, 2022**. This offering supports three programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People. All three of these programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance and hope.

This year the One Great Hour of Sharing offering will support the church's humanitarian response to the war that started last month when Russia attacked Ukraine. Millions of Ukrainians have fled their country to neighboring countries to find refuge and safety. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance workers are supporting our ecumenical partners in Poland and other nearby countries with emergency supplies, food and shelter. Through trusted partners who are already in the region, we can demonstrate solidarity with the refugees and displaced persons through our One Great Hour of Sharing gifts.

You may use the special envelope in your offering box, or you may use a special One Great Hour of Sharing envelope in the pew to contribute on Palm Sunday. Or you may mail a check, payable to FPCSL, with "One Great Hour of Sharing" in the memo line. Thank you for your support of those who are in tremendous need at this time.