



MARCH 2022 Volume 23 Issue 3

HIGHLIGHTS

A PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SAN LEANDRO

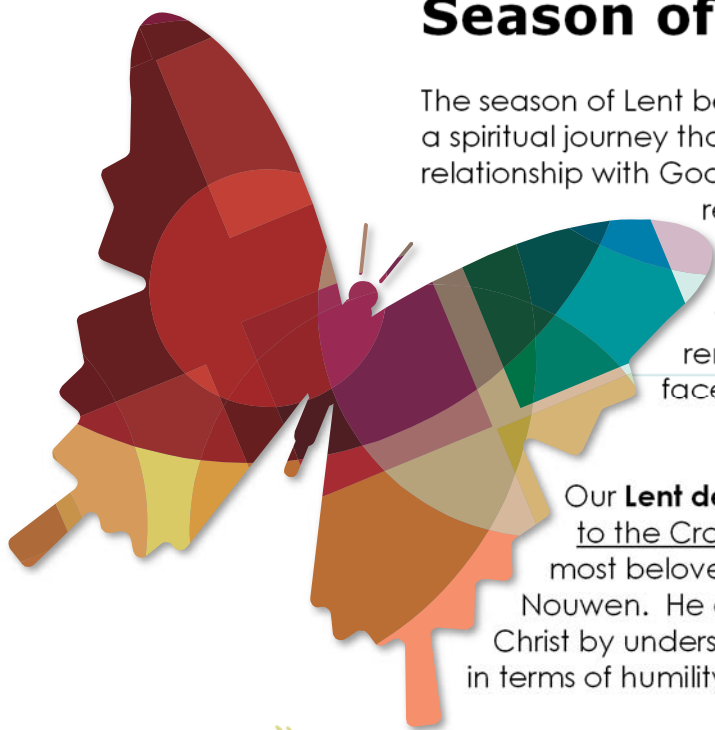
Ash Wednesday
March 2 5:00 p.m.

Season of Lent

The season of Lent begins on March 2. 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, especially as we continue to face difficult world problems.

Our **Lent devotional guide** for this year is entitled "Drawn to the Cross" and includes inspiration from one of the most beloved spiritual thinkers of the 20th century, Henri Nouwen. He encourages us to draw closer to the cross of Christ by understanding more deeply the meaning of the cross in terms of humility, service and sacrifice.

The devotional booklets will be available at the Ash Wednesday service on March 2 at 5:00 pm, and at worship on the first Sunday of Lent (March 6). If you would like for us to mail a booklet to your home, please call the church office (510-483-2772).

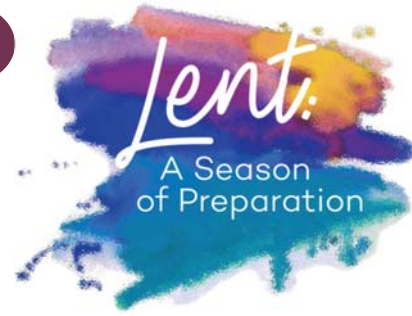


Visit us online at WWW.FIRSTPRESBYTERIANCHURCHSL.ORG

Ash Wednesday – March 2

We plan to gather in the Sanctuary at **5:00 pm**, for a brief service of worship to begin the season of Lent. The children and youth will be joining us as a part of their WOW and Peak program, and all church family members are invited! Devotional booklets for all ages will be available.

During the service, we will receive ashes on our foreheads as a reminder of our brokenness and sin. Traditionally, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday come from burning palm branches that 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.



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.

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 vaccinated and boosted against the Covid virus. We are also happy to see so many of you coming to worship, wearing upgraded masks which provide better protection, as well as spreading out in the sanctuary.

Although the state of California has relaxed their mask requirements, we plan to continue to wear masks at all times while in the church building. We look forward to the time when we can resume Coffee Fellowship and other adult activities, as the case counts and hospitalizations decrease in our county.

Meanwhile, the Session has decided that with the improved masks that most of you are wearing, it is safe for all to participate in the unison prayers and responses during worship. We will continue to have the hymns sung on our behalf by Richard Jackson, Bob Kraut and Leland Morine in the Chancel area.

We are blessed to have our Chancel Choir carefully rehearsing and recording weekly anthems, which are being played during worship. And we are delighted to have our Chancel Bells play in our worship service, from time to time.

The members taking attendance in the Narthex each week prior to worship have additional N95 and KN95 masks available, so just ask them if you have not yet received one.



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!



Palm Sunday Parade, Picnic, and Egg Hunt – April 10

Looking ahead, Palm Sunday is on April 10. We will have worship at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. 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, and appropriate sides and desserts. 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 are interested.



Manna Meals



Meals for the Hungry

When you see a person in need, on the street corner or outside of the grocery store, it is helpful if you can offer to 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.





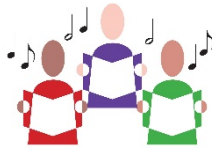

Manna Meals may be purchased at any time during office hours, and they will be for sale as soon as we resume our Sunday morning Coffee Fellowship time.



March 2 Ash Wednesday
April 10 Palm Sunday
April 14 Maundy Thursday
April 15 Good Friday
April 17 Easter



March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30 AM In-Person Worship Service	28 4:00 PM Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	1 7:00 PM Chr. Ed, Church in the World, Group Life and Worship Committees	2  4:00 PM WOW and Peak 5:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service	3 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	4 1:00 PM Widows/Widowers Grief Recovery Group	5
6  First Sunday IN LENT 9:30 AM In-Person Worship Service 10:30 AM Prayer Shawl Ministry	7  Bible Study FOR LENT 4:00 PM Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	8	9 4 - 5:30 PM WOW and Peak Program	10 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	11 1:00 PM Widows/Widowers Grief Recovery Group	12
13 9:30 AM In-Person Worship Service	14 4:00 PM Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	15 7:00 PM Session (Zoom)	16 4 - 5:30 PM WOW and Peak Program	17 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	18 1:00 PM Widows/Widowers Grief Recovery Group	19 10:00 AM Women's Book Club
20 9:30 AM In-Person Worship Service 	21 4:00 PM Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:30 PM Chancel Bells	22 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting (Zoom)	23 4 - 5:30 PM WOW and Peak Program	24  7:00 PM Chancel Choir	25 1:00 PM Widows/Widowers Grief Recovery Group	26 
27 9:30 AM In-Person Worship Service	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



Food Support for Our Neighbors

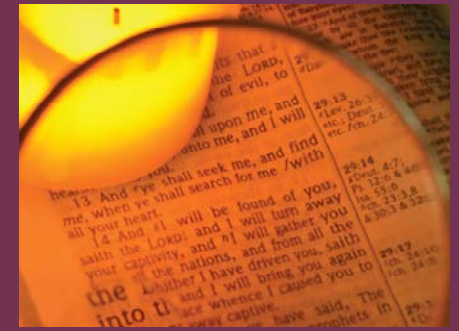
The need for food support for those living in Alameda County continues to be great. You are encouraged to bring non-perishable foods to worship or to the church office, to help supply the Davis Street Family Resource Center with food to distribute. Canned soups, pasta noodles, canned fruits or vegetables, 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 and the World Committee chairperson, 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, into two separate bags. Thank you.

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 call the church office (510-483-2772). The cost for an arrangement from Lyal Nickals Florist is \$65. Thank you in advance!



Monday Zoom Bible Class

The adult education class which meets on Monday afternoons at 4:00 pm (by Zoom) is beginning a new six-week study (**March 7 – April 11**) using a book entitled "**Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross.**" The class will consider why the cross was necessary, and exactly what Jesus did to save us from our sin.

Each session will include a DVD presentation by Rev. Magrey deVega, who is pastor at Hyde Park United Methodist Church in Tampa, Florida. Discussion will follow, led by Sue Goodnow and Jane Kraut. 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!



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Daylight Savings Time Begins ...March 13

Don't forget to turn your clocks
ahead one hour!!

Easter Plants

The Chancel Guild is making plans to have Easter plants available for pre-order by mid-March. Order forms will be inserted into the Sunday worship bulletins, or you may contact the church office and request that an order form be sent to you as soon as they are available.

Women's Book Club

Mark Saturday, **March 19, 2022** at 10:00 a.m. on your calendar for our discussion of *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* by Kelli Estes. Seattle-area author Kelli Estes tells the story of two young women in Seattle and the San Juans living 130 years apart, connected by a secret.

Location: To be determined. Watch for further details in an email or the weekly bulletin.

