

JANUARY 2023  
volume 24• issue 1

# Highlights

First Presbyterian Church San Leandro



## Men's and Women's Breakfast Groups

On **Saturday, January 7**, our Men's Bible Study and Breakfast group will be meeting at 7:30 am in the Fireside Room. They will continue their study on "Words of Wisdom" from the book of Proverbs. There will be a delicious breakfast prepared by Janine Kline! Please sign up ahead of time and bring \$10 to cover the cost.

Also on **January 7**, our Women's Fellowship Group will be gathering in Fellowship Hall for conversation and breakfast. Please make a reservation ahead of time and bring \$10 to cover the cost.



## Epiphany Sunday – January 8

The word "epiphany" refers to the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles, as represented by the Magi. We will celebrate Epiphany as a church this year on Sunday, **January 8**. The magi were probably astrologers or astronomers who combined science and religion, and they were the ones who identified the star which led them to Jesus. They were most likely Gentiles (non-Jews), and so their going to pay homage and respect to Jesus symbolized the fact that Jesus would be king for ALL of the world – all of the people, Jews and non-Jews.

The magi followed the star to find baby Jesus, bringing their gifts to Him. We, too, are seeking Jesus, trusting that God can and does use many signs (or stars) to guide us closer to His Divine presence. On Epiphany Sunday, each person will be invited to take a "star" as he/she leaves worship. On the star there will be a word that invites you to reflect, in the coming months, on how God might be using this word to lead you to a closer relationship with Him. Through prayer and focus on this "star word" or "star gift" it is hoped that each one of us may move closer to Jesus.

"Star words" are one way which God can guide us and speak to us. The word may provide a new way to look for God in your midst, both actively and in hindsight. It can be easy to miss God in our daily life; having an "intention word" to consider may allow you time to see God in a way that you have not seen Him before. Through prayer and reflection, you may find a powerful new way to connect with God. We hope you'll join us for worship on Sunday, January 8 at 9:30 am!



## Monday Bible Class



The Monday afternoon adult Bible class, which meets weekly at 4 pm on Zoom, will begin a new six-week series on The Lord's Prayer on **January 9**. They will be seeing a DVD by Rev. Adam Hamilton, and then discuss each portion of the Lord's Prayer. Newcomers are always welcome. Please contact Sue Goodnow or Jane Kraut if you wish to join the class.



## Alternative Gift Fair

Our thanks to everyone who supported the Alternative Gift Fair this year. We had a lovely selection of fair trade gifts from SERRV, along with coffee, tea and chocolate from Equal Exchange. We also received \$600 in donations for Heifer International! Our thanks to elder Gary Calame for coordinating this event.

## Annual Report

It's that time of year again. All committee chairpersons and organization leaders are asked to have their annual reports in to the church administrator no later than January 15. If possible, please submit the report electronically



(send by email to [office@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org](mailto:office@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org)). Copies of the Annual Report will be available on Sunday, February 12, so that it may be read prior to the Annual Meeting of the congregation (on February 19, immediately following worship).

## WOW - WONDERS ON WEDNESDAYS

WOW is the midweek ministry program for children and youth on Wednesdays from 4 – 7 p.m. Each week includes fun, fellowship, dinner, and a Biblical truth about who we are as Children of God. Each regular week of WOW focuses on a different letter of the alphabet. The last Wednesday of each month families, friends and the congregation are invited to join the children and youth for a special holiday themed evening. This month there will be NO WOW on Jan. 4.

### WOW January 2022 schedule

Wednesday, January 4 NO WOW

Wednesday, January 11 brought to you by the letter J

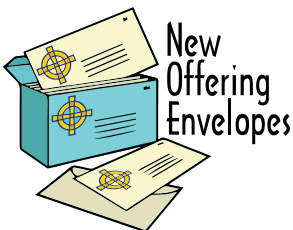
Wednesday, January 18 brought to you by the letter K

Wednesday, January 25 WOWentine with families, friends and the congregation



## Come Celebrate WOWentine Wednesday, January 25

Everyone is invited to join the children and youth of WOW on Wednesday, **January 25** from 4-7 p.m. for a WOWENTINE CELEBRATION. Please let us know if you plan to come, so that we are sure to have enough supplies and food. You may do so by signing up at church on a Sunday morning, calling the church office (510-483-2772) or emailing [Lou@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org](mailto:Lou@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org).









## Offering Envelopes Available for 2023

The new Offering Envelope boxes for 2023 will be available for pick up beginning **Sunday, January 1**. They will be set out on a table in Fellowship Hall. If you would prefer to have your envelopes mailed to you, please give us a call at the church office and we will send them along.

If you need a pledge card, please call Tessa at the church office (510-483-2772) and she will mail one to you. If you want envelopes but prefer not to make a pledge, just give Tessa a call and she will prepare a box of offering envelopes for you. Also remember that we now have Online Giving set up – just go to our church webpage to get the information. You may give by credit card, debit card, or direct transfer from your bank account. Thank you for your faithful support!

# JANUARY 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts	<b>2</b> 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	<b>3</b> 7:00 pm Christian Ed, Church in the World, Group Life and Pastoral Care Committees	<b>4</b> No WOW Program	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am Women's Fellowship Breakfast
<b>8</b>  9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>9</b> 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 4:00 pm WOW Program	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts	<b>16</b> 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	<b>17</b> 7:00 pm Session	<b>18</b> 4:00 pm WOW Program	<b>19</b> 11:30 am Young at Heart Luncheon/Program  7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>23</b> 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting	<b>25</b>  4:00 pm WOWentine Celebration	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:00 am Book Exchange/Brunch 
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>30</b> 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 4:00 pm WOW Program	<b>2</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am Women's Fellowship Breakfast



## Mission Giving

During 2022, the Session has been disbursing our General Mission money on a quarterly basis to support important ministries in the Bay Area and around the world. The generosity of our congregation has allowed us to give \$28,000 through our General Mission commitment, and an additional \$6500 has been given from the Deacons' Fund. The following organizations have received support in 2022:

### General Mission:

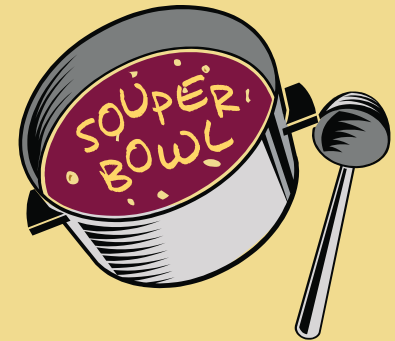
Westminster Woods Christian Camp and Retreat Center  
 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance  
 Harbor House, Oakland  
 Safehouse, San Francisco  
 Cameron House, San Francisco  
 St. Anthony's Foundation, San Francisco  
 UNICEF – in support of Ukrainian refugees  
 Habitat for Humanity, East Bay/Silicon Valley  
 George Mark Children's Home  
 Heifer International  
 Church World Service Hygiene Kits  
 Compassion International – Graduation Gift for our Compassion child, Nephtalie Cherie, in Haiti  
 Compassion International – Global Food Crisis and Disaster Relief in Haiti  
 World Vision  
 Frontera de Cristo Presbyterian Border Ministry (Douglas, AZ)  
 Community Resource Initiative – family support of the incarcerated



### Deacons' Fund:

San Lorenzo Food Pantry  
 Building Futures for Women and Children, San Leandro  
 Davis Street Family Resource Center  
 April Showers – providing sack lunches for shower guests

Thank you for your faithful support! Our church continues to make a difference, not only here within our own church family, but beyond ourselves, in the community and the world!



## Souper Bowl of Caring

**February 12, 2023** is Super Bowl Sunday. We invite you to have a dollar bill handy, which you may place in a soup pot as you leave worship in support of this special offering. 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.



## Per Capita

As Presbyterians, we are a part of a connectional church, known as the Presbyterian Church USA (PCUSA). We are supported in our work here in San Leandro by the Presbytery of San Francisco, the Synod of the Pacific, and the Office of the General Assembly. These valued ministries are made possible through "per capita", which is a set amount of money (apportionment) that is paid for each member of our congregation to the larger PCUSA. Said another way, it is like a Presbyterian community fund, part of the glue that holds Presbyterians together. Our church faithfully pays its "per capita" expense each year, and we invite members of the church to contribute to this offering. The apportionment for 2023 is \$39 per member; you may use the Offering Envelope that says "Per Capita Apportionment" on it, or you may simply write "per capita" in the memo line of your check. Thank you.



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

180 Estudillo Avenue  
San Leandro, CA 94577

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## Highlights—Upcoming Events

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### Young at Heart Luncheon

The Young at Heart luncheon and program will be on Thursday, **January 19** at 11:30 am. We are excited to have the Montecito Brass Quintet providing music for us, followed by the Hillside Woodwind Quintet. As a grand finale, all 10 musicians will be performing *Musical Confrontations: Baroque vs. Mariachi*. We are in for a real treat!

Please be sure to sign up ahead of time, so we have an accurate count for the delicious meal, prepared by Bob Kraut and his team. Sign up on Sunday mornings or call the church office. Donations to cover the meal cost are appreciated on the day of the event.



### Women's Book Exchange Brunch

The Women's Book Club will be meeting on Saturday, **January 28** at 10:00 am in the Fireside Room for brunch and a book exchange. Come hungry! Bring any dish you like, no assigned categories- 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.