



# HIGHLIGHTS

## First Presbyterian Church San Leandro

### Season of Lent

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which falls on February 22 this year. During Lent, we are called to examine our lives and realize that though we once were lost in sin, we now have been found by Jesus, and though we once were blind to God's mercy, we now can see His love at work in us through our Savior's death and resurrection.

This year our **Lent devotional guide** is entitled "Amazing Grace"

and looks at the words of this beloved hymn and how they are tied to our lives today, as well as to the lives of those in the Bible who experienced the amazing grace of God revealed most profoundly in the salvation of Jesus. This year marks the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the writing of "Amazing Grace."

*Amazing Grace  
how sweet the sound*



Devotional booklets will be available at the Ash Wednesday service on **February 22** at 6:30 pm, and at worship on the first Sunday of Lent (February 26). If you would like for us to mail a booklet to your home, please call the church office (510-483-2772).

For our children, youth and families, Lou has created a *3 Ways for 40 Days* paper activity chain with a different *PRAY, FAST or GIVE* activity to do each day as a way to count down the days of Lent. These will be introduced and put together at the WOW Ash Wednesday Worship Night (*see next column for more details*). If your child or youth does not attend WOW but would like to create a Lent Activity Chain at home, please talk to Lou as she will be happy to provide one for you.



### Ash Wednesday – February 22 Simple Soup Supper & Worship Service

On Ash Wednesday, **February 22**, we will begin the season of Lent by having a simple soup supper prepared by Janine Kline and served in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30 pm. At 6:30 pm we will gather in the Sanctuary for a brief service of worship. The WOW children and youth will be participating in the worship service. The Chancel Choir will be singing, and we will receive ashes on our foreheads as a reminder of our brokenness and sinful nature. All church family members are invited to come for both the Soup Supper and Worship Service or simply come to worship! (*If you plan to come for supper, please sign up in Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings.*)



### MONDAY Zoom Bible Class

The adult education class which meets on Monday afternoons at 4:00 pm (by Zoom) is currently studying **The Lord's Prayer**, with a video presentation by Rev. Adam Hamilton, and discussion following. Then, during Lent, they will begin a new six-week study (February 27 – April 3) on "**Seven Words – Listening to Christ from the Cross**" with Susan Robb, a United Methodist pastor from Texas. The class will consider the seven last words of Jesus on the cross through a lens that finds life and hope in his final sayings, while exploring each from a biblical and historical perspective. The class is led by Sue Goodnow and Jane Kraut. If you would like to attend these Zoom classes, please see Sue or Jane, or call the church office (510-483-2772). Newcomers are welcome!



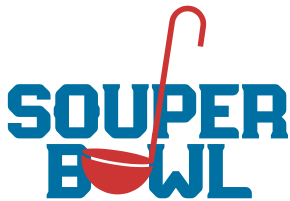
## Update on Worship and Fellowship Activities

We are blessed to be able to gather on Sunday mornings for worship in our sanctuary at 9:30 am. We are happy to have our Chancel Choir singing weekly anthems, and special music from our Chancel Bells from time to time. We are also delighted that the congregation is now singing the hymns and responses in worship.

We continue to require that masks be worn throughout the worship service, in order that we do not inadvertently pass illness along to our more vulnerable or at-risk individuals. Of course, during Coffee Fellowship, masks may be removed while drinking coffee and enjoying snacks together.

For those of you who prefer to not attend worship in-person, you will continue to find our weekly worship recording on our church website: [www.firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org](http://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!

As determined by the Session, our church will continue to follow current recommendations from the CDC, and in so doing, be a part of the solution as we learn how to live with this ongoing reality.



## 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.

## Men's and Women's Breakfast Groups

On **Saturday, February 4**, 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 **February 4**, 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.



The Youth Lunch Date returns this month! On **Sunday, Feb. 5**, Middle and High School students will walk downtown and have lunch together at Dave's Hot Chicken after worship. Students should bring \$\$ to pay for their own lunch. We will return to the church at 12:30 pm to be picked up by parents.



## Young at Heart Luncheon

The Young at Heart luncheon and program will be on **Thursday, February 16** at 11:30 am. We are looking forward to having Martha McDowell with us, playing her ukulele and leading us in a sing-a-long for Valentine's Day!

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.

# FEBRUARY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<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> 4:00pm 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
<b>5</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 11:00 am Youth Lunch Date	<b>6</b> 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	<b>7</b> 7:00 pm Building & Grounds, Evangelism, Stewardship and Worship Committees	<b>8</b> 4:00pm WOW Program	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry	<b>13</b> 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 4:00pm WOW Program	<b>16</b> 11:30 am Young at Heart Luncheon/Program  7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 
<b>19</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Annual Congregational Meeting 10:45 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 	<b>20</b> 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	<b>21</b> 7:00 pm Session	<b>22 ASH WEDNESDAY</b> 4:00 pm WOW Program 5:30 pm Simple Soup Supper  6:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship Service	<b>23</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	<b>27</b> 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	<b>28</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



## Annual Congregational Meeting - February 19

The Session has called the Annual Congregational Meeting for Sunday, **February 19**, at 10:30 am immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the 2022 Annual Report, receive the Church Budget for 2023, and review our pastor's compensation for 2023. There will be a motion to officially dissolve the pastoral relationship with Anne Swanson upon her retirement, effective April 30, 2023. Also, we will need to elect 4 people from the congregation to serve as "at-large" members on the Nominating Committee this year.

We will also be recognizing and thanking the outgoing church officers (Deacons and Elders) who completed their terms in December 2022:

### Elders - Class of 2022

Gary Calame  
Toni DiCapua  
Kathy Pearson  
Jim Watts  
Faye Wilson



### Deacons - Class of 2022

Don Cooper  
Joyce Davis  
Matt Jones  
Jane Kraut  
Tina Maier  
Jennifer Spadoni  
Art Walton  
Val Watts

## WOW – Wonders on Wednesday

WOW is our midweek ministry program for children and youth that takes place on Wednesdays from 4 – 7 pm at the church. Each week includes fun, fellowship, dinner, and a Biblical truth about who we are as Children of God.

Throughout the 2022/23 program year, 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 will include the letters L, M, and N and a special Ash Wednesday WOW worship night on the last Wednesday of the month.



### WOW February 2023 schedule:

**Wednesday, Feb. 1 brought to you by the letter L**  
We will learn... *I am Loved* – 1 John 3:1 and about Lazarus

**Wednesday, Feb. 8 brought to you by the letter M**  
We will learn... *I am a Masterpiece* – Ephesians 2:10 and about Mary

**Wednesday, Feb. 15 brought to you by the letter N**  
We will learn... *I am New creation* – 2 Corinthians 5:17 and about Noah

**Wednesday, Feb. 22 WOW Ash Wednesday soup supper & worship service** with families, friends and the congregation

## WOW Ash Wednesday Worship Night

Families, Friends and the Congregation are all invited to join the children and youth of WOW on Wednesday, **February 22** for Ash Wednesday Worship Night. Beginning at 4 pm we will learn about the significance of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent as well as the three most traditional sacrifices of Lent. As a tool for developing and observing special Lent traditions at home, participants will create a *3 Ways for 40 Days* paper activity chain. This Lent Activity Chain has a different PRAY, FAST or GIVE activity to do each day as a way to count down the days of Lent. A simple soup supper will be served at 5:30 pm; then at 6:30 pm the WOW participants will assist in leading the Ash Wednesday Worship Service in the Sanctuary.

Please let us know if you plan to come for all of the WOW Ash Wednesday Worship Night, beginning at 4 pm, 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).



We are in the process of putting together the 2022 Annual Report, and will have it available by Sunday, February 12 in the narthex. Or you may stop by the church office to pick up a copy anytime between Feb. 14 – 17 (prior to our Annual Meeting of the Congregation on **Sunday, February 19**).



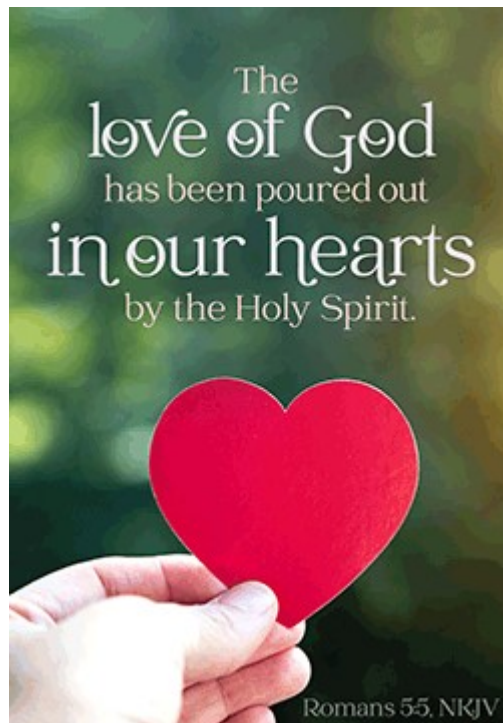


## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

180 Estudillo Avenue  
San Leandro, CA 94577

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## Church Notes

### Per Capita Amount for 2023

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 2023, the amount assessed per church member is \$39. 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.

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### Church Office Hours

Days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday  
Time: 9:00 am - 2:30 pm  
(Please wear a mask and stay 6 feet apart from others while indoors.)

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