

Highlights

First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Palm Sunday Service—April 2

In worship on Palm Sunday, we will celebrate Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. The Chancel Choir, children, youth and families will open the worship service with a choral introit, a poetic telling and reenactment of the first Palm Sunday. Everyone in the congregation will be given a small palm frond to wave in their pews as Jesus travels through the sanctuary on the back of a Donkey. Later in the service there will also be a time for children to come forward for a special lesson and be given a child's activity bag. The Chancel Choir will be presenting a powerful anthem "Open the Gates" and we will partake of Holy Communion.

Tenebrae Service – Thursday, April 6

On Thursday of Holy Week (April 6) 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 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, being 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 9

On Sunday, April 9, we will celebrate Christ's resurrection at our 9:30 am worship service in the sanctuary. We look forward to having our Chancel Bells playing 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!



Palm Sunday Breakfast – April 2

We will begin our celebration with fellowship at the Palm Sunday Breakfast beginning at 8:00 am. In order to know how many people plan to enjoy the meal of pancakes, eggs, sausage and fruit, tickets are being sold in advance. The cost is \$10 for adults and is free for children. If you have not yet purchased your ticket but plan to come, there will be one more opportunity to sign up in Fellowship Hall on March 26, or you may stop by the church office to buy the ticket.

If you have questions, please talk to Sue Robertson.

Youth Lunch Date

There will be NO Youth Lunch Date on Sunday, April 2. Instead, all Middle and High School students are invited and encouraged to attend the Palm Sunday Breakfast and sit together at the designated Youth Table, then participate in the family Palm Sunday worship service. Youth Lunch Date will return on the first Sunday of May.

A Note from Your Pastor

It's hard to believe that April is upon us, and that soon I will be officially retiring! George and I have been treasuring the opportunities to be with you in worship and fellowship during these past couple of months. We will dearly miss each one of you, as our time of ministry at FPCSL comes to a close.

We are very pleased that the Interim Pastor Search Committee has found a caring, qualified pastor to begin her leadership on May 1st. We are grateful to God, that He so clearly led the committee in finding just the right person to come into this community of faith and give guidance during these important months ahead. You are in good hands.

We anticipate a very meaningful Holy Week with you, as well as a special time of celebration and remembering at my retirement party! It will be a full schedule on these last three weekends that we are with you in April – not only full of important worship and fellowship, but also full of feelings, as we feel joy and at the same time grief and sadness as we must move along. Please know that we will be praying for you, as you journey into this next chapter in the life of Christ's beloved church here in San Leandro.

In Christ's love always

,Anne and George Swanson



Retirement Celebration for Anne Swanson

On Saturday, **April 15**, 2023, we will be honoring Anne Swanson in a farewell celebration. Please plan to join us from 2:00 to 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. There will be light refreshments and masks will be required when not eating. Please sign up in advance either during coffee fellowship or by calling the church office.



Report from the Interim Pastor Search Committee

Your Interim Pastor Search Committee has been meeting weekly and more since January 10, 2023, sharing numerous emails, leads, and new information which we have gathered. As we continued our search, we were well aware that several other churches in the Bay Area were also on the hunt. We prayed and faithfully trusted in our God. I can say that we were never discouraged but remained always hopeful with God's guidance. We were fortunate to have had a few interviews which were quite positive. We were blessed again in that our journey coincided with an Interim/Transitional pastor's search for a new position. After several sessions with her, we all knew she would be a wonderful fit for our church.

A Special Session Meeting was called on March 7, so that the elders could meet her and get acquainted, as well as review the contract with her and vote on it. The Session unanimously approved the contract with Rev. Renee Rico to become our Transitional Pastor, effective May 1, 2023.

It is with great pleasure that our congregation welcomes Pastor Renee, as she begins her transitional relationship with us on May 1st. She is skilled in leading churches through this interim process. She is quite excited to work with and listen to our congregation's needs, hopes and desires. As we have been blessed with Anne and George for 30 years, we are blessed with Pastor Renee to lead and help us in the immediate future of our church.

With Thanks to God,
Your Interim Pastor Search Committee
Kathy Pearson, Michele Johnson, Conrad Milner and Bob Kraut








Meet Our New Receptionist

We are happy to welcome Emely Wendell to our church staff! She is the friendly, smiling face you will see at the receptionist desk in the church office. She began her work here mid-February, and is present 10 am to 1 pm, Tuesday through Friday. Emely lives in Hayward and has a lot of great experience which more than qualifies her to serve as Assistant to the Administrative Manager. Welcome, Emely!



Many thanks to the members of our congregation who have stepped up to help do the many things that need to be done while custodian Rich Meadowcroft is off.

APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	27 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	28 10:00 am Book Club 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting	29 4:00 pm WOW Holy Week EGG-perience 	30 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	31	1 7:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am Women's Fellowship Breakfast
2 Palm Sunday 8:00 am Palm Sunday Breakfast 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 	3 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	4 7:00 pm Building & Grounds, Evangelism, Stewardship & Worship Committees	5 No WOW Program	6 Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Tenebrae Worship Service 7:45 pm Chancel Choir	7 Good Friday 	8
9 Easter Sunday 9:30 am EASTER SUNDAY Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 	10 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	11 7:00 pm Session	12 4:00 pm WOW Program	13 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	14	15 2:00 - 4:00 pm  Retirement Celebration for Rev. Anne Swanson
16 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	17 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	18	19 4:00 pm WOW Program	20 11:30 am Young at Heart Luncheon/Program 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	21 Women's Retreat at Westminster Woods	22 Women's Retreat at Westminster Woods
23 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/DONUTS 	24 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	25	26  4:00 pm WOW Westminster Woods Night	27 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	28	29
30 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	1 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	2 7:00 pm Christian Ed, Church in the World, Group Life & Pastoral Care Committees	3 4:00 pm WOW Program	4 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	5	6 7:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 7:30 am Women's Fellowship Breakfast

WOW - WONDERS ON WEDNESDAYS

Our midweek ministry, WOW, for children and youth takes place on Wednesdays from 4 – 7 p.m. 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 **S** and **T** with a special WOW *Westminster Woods Night* on Wednesday, April 26.



WOW April 2023 schedule

Wednesday, Apr. 5 - WOW will NOT meet during Holy Week.

Wednesday, Apr. 12 brought to you by the letter S

We will learn... *I am Strong* – Joshua 1:9 and about *Solomon*

Wednesday, Apr. 19 brought to you by the letter T


We will learn... *I am a Temple* – I Corinthians 6:19-20 and about *Timothy*

Wednesday, Apr. 26 WOW Westminster Woods

Night for families, friends and the congregation

Summer Camps at Westminster Woods

This Summer, Westminster Woods is offering 5 full weeks of summer ministry programs, including longtime favorite camps like *Sherwood Forest*, *Junior High* and *High School* as well as NEW camps, *The Grove*, a week of camp for the whole family and *Driftwood*, an adventure-based camp experience. Our children and youth are encouraged to attend the following camps this summer:

 Summer Camp	CAMP	(ages)	Week #	Dates
	Sherwood Forest	(ages 9-12)	Week 2	June 25-30
	Jr, High Camp	(ages 11-14)	Week 2	June 25-30
	Driftwood Camp	(ages 11 - 14)	Week 6	July 23-28
	High School Camp	(ages 14-18)	Week 6	July 23-28

As always, the church has campership money available for our children, youth and even families who choose to attend summer camp at The Woods. **THANK YOU!** to everyone in the congregation who supports our campership fundraisers, which include the return of the Palm Sunday Breakfast on April 2 and the regular Sunday morning donut sales!

Anyone interested in learning more about summer ministry programs at Westminster Woods, is invited to attend the WOW Westminster Woods Night on Wednesday, **April 26** from 4-7 p.m. at the church. You may also speak with Lou Pennebaker or go to westminsterwoods.org

Wet N' Wild Miracles

Save the Date!

Summer Daycamp – July 10 – 14, 2023

We will once again be offering a full week of summer Daycamp for children at First Presbyterian church. It will be a Wet N' Wild week of Biblical Miracles the week of **July 10–14**, 2023. Look for Daycamp brochures with further details and registration forms to be mailed out and available at the church after Easter. In the meantime, save the dates of July 10–14 and plan to be a part of the Wet N' Wild week of Daycamp as a camper (incoming 1st – 6th grade), youth counselor (incoming 7th grade through college age), or adult volunteer.

If you have questions regarding Daycamp or if you would like to volunteer, please talk to Lou Pennebaker or email Lou@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org



EASTER LILY ORDER

Complete the form below and give to **Jeanette Rauscher** or the church office along with your payment of **\$23.00** per Easter Lily by Sunday, April 2, 2023 (checks payable to **First Presbyterian Church**)



Donor Name : _____

PLEASE COMPLETE ONE LINE FOR EACH PLANT ORDERED

Given n Memory of: _____ Given in Memory of: _____

Given in Honor of: _____ Given in Honor of: _____

TOTAL plants ____ @ \$23ea = \$_____ ☐ Check ☐ Cash

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

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

First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro 510-483-2772

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One Great Hour of Sharing

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be received on Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023.



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.

For over 70 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has partnered with others to take action to share God's love. Through these three life-saving programs, we Presbyterians are there to help others around the world.

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.

Feed My Sheep

As a body, and as individuals, our church actively follows Christ's directive to "feed my sheep" in many different ways.

Our members contribute food donations go to Davis Street and make lunches for April Showers. Regular monetary contributions from Session, the Deacons, and the Presbytery go to support Davis Street and San Lorenzo Family Help Center.

Manna Bags are available to the congregation for encounters with people on the street. There are crews who cook for the Women's Shelter monthly, and more who cook for the Warming Center.

Multiple individuals give their time to support food pantries in San Leandro, San Lorenzo and Castro Valley by collecting food, preparing it for distribution, staffing distribution sites, and providing administrative support and leadership. Many thanks to all who spread love and nourishment to our community.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

180 Estudillo Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577

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MONDAY Zoom Bible Class

During Lent the adult education class, which meets on Monday afternoons from 4:00-5:00 pm by Zoom, is doing a six-week study on "Seven Words – Listening to Christ from the Cross." The class is considering 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 and will continue through April 3. If you would like to attend these Zoom classes, please see Sue or Jane, or call the church office at 510-483-2772. Newcomers are welcome!

Young at Heart – April 28, 2023

Come join us at our April Young at Heart program. We will be joined by "Phyllis Hannan and her Gracious Ladies Hula Group." Join the fun by wearing Hawaiian-themed clothes or accessories, if you have them.

Please sign up in advance in Fellowship Hall or by calling the church office so that our hard-working cook team will be able to plan accordingly. The fun starts with lunch at 11:30. You will have an opportunity to donate to the cost of the meal at your table.

WOW *Westminster Woods Night* – Wednesday. April 26

Families, Friends and the Congregation are all invited to join the children and youth of WOW on Wednesday, April 26 for a special *Westminster Woods Night*. Ryan McKenzie and Charlotte Trotter from Westminster Woods will be joining us and leading our evening filled with a variety of different traditional camp experiences.



Ryan & Charlotte will share about 2023 summer camps, volunteer counselor opportunities, registration details and answer questions. Laptops will also be available for those who are unable to register campers for summer camps from home.

Anyone interested in learning more about Westminster Woods, attending Summer Camps or who wants to come in support of the ministries of The Woods is invited to join us. Please sign up at church on a Sunday morning, call the church office (510-483-2772) or email Lou@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org to let us know you are coming.