



Highlights

First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro

May 2023

Celebrating Pentecost, The Birthday of the Church

After the resurrection, before Jesus returned to Heaven, He told His followers "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 1:4-5)

God sent the gift of the Holy Spirit to His people on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit helped God's people to tell others about Jesus. It didn't even matter if they spoke the same language or not. They told others about Jesus and they understood. Thousands of people came to know Jesus on Pentecost and began the very first church, making Pentecost the birthday of the Church.

This year, **Sunday, May 28**, is Pentecost Sunday and everyone is encouraged to wear RED, the color of Pentecost. Faye Wilson will once again be coordinating the reading of scripture in many different languages within the morning worship service. Our Church will also be participating in the Presbyterian Church (USA) Pentecost Offering that is used for children at risk and for ministry with youth and young adults. Our congregation will keep 40 percent of the offering for use here, and send the remainder to Presbytery and General Assembly for their use.



Following worship, we will also make and enjoy Pentecost Sundaes during Coffee Fellowship, as we celebrate the birthday of the Church.

With a Grateful Heart

Such a lovely retirement celebration - I am so grateful to all of you for the amazing reception in honor of my retirement! It was a wonderful occasion, and I was so happy to see so many of you at the party. I appreciated the many kind words said, the generous gifts given, and the delicious homemade bundt cakes enjoyed by all of us!



George and I feel so blessed by the love and support of this wonderful church family! We will miss each one of you, and look forward to the time when we can return for a visit sometime in the future. In the meantime, please know that we hold you in our prayers and send our love to you in the coming months and years of ministry at First Presbyterian!

We are also delighted to share that our little grandson has arrived, born to Michelle and Alex Sherbon on April 17 at 12:09 am. Everyone is doing well - the baby boy, Paxton Jay Sherbon, is 8 lbs. and 20 1/2 inches long. We got to meet him in the hospital on April 18th, when we arrived in Oregon. Such a wonderful gift from God!

Blessings and love to all of you,
Anne and George Swanson

First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro Welcomes Pastor Renée Rico



The Reverend Renée Rico confesses to be both excited and challenged by the opportunities of ministry in these times in the church. Upon graduation from San Francisco Theological Seminary with a Master of Divinity degree as a second-career minister, Renée began her “accidental

intentional interim” ministry career, serving in churches across the West as interim solo, head of staff and associate pastor positions in both the Presbyterian Church and United Methodist Church.

Outside of church, Rene has many interests, including a love of Mexican food, knitting (she teaches and designs her own line of patterns) and fiber spinning.

Pastor Renée says to us, “I come to you as a pastor who has specialized in this kind of ministry (this is my 12th interim) and I’ve served a variety of congregations in the Bay Area and elsewhere. But I am not an expert in who you are and the history and journey of your congregation. That’s where we will partner together – with me serving as a coach and midwife of change, working along with your

talented staff and leaders.”

I hope you are looking forward to beginning anew with Pastor Renée and will support her and our congregation as we venture into the future. The Deacons will be providing finger foods for Coffee Fellowship on May 7 for Pastor Renée’s first Sunday with us. Please plan to stay for this special fellowship and to welcome Renée to First Presbyterian, San Leandro. Additionally, name tags will be provided at the attendance tables throughout the month of May. Please make and wear a nametag on Sunday mornings to help Pastor Renée get to know each of us by name.

With Christ’s Love,

Kathy Pearson, Chair of Interim Pastor Search Committee

Mother’s Day Sunday



MUFFINS
with Moms

God gives each of us special women who love and care for us. Mother’s Day is a special day in honor of the women who love us, care for us and provide for us. In celebration of Mother’s Day on **Sunday, May 14** a variety of muffins will be provided in addition to the usual coffee, tea and juice during coffee fellowship following worship.

So plan to stay and enjoy a *Muffin with a Mom*, whether it is your own mom, the mother of your children, a fellow congregant who is a mom, someone who has been like a mother to you, or if you are a mom! Come have *Muffins with Moms* in celebration of all the loving and caring women in our congregation.

In addition to muffins we would like to have vases of homegrown roses in the center of the tables in Fellowship Hall. If you have roses growing in your garden that you would like to contribute, please contact Linda Gizzi or call the church (510) 483-2772.



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee has begun their important work of nominating members of the congregation to serve as elders and deacons for the class of 2026. Please pray for them as they seek God’s leading in this important task. If you have names for their consideration, please contact Committee chair Helen Fortner or vice-chair Bob Kraut with your suggestions. You may also contact other members of the committee: Marie Busk, Chad Pennebaker, Sue Robertson, Lynn Roman, and Sheila Warbasse. Thank you.

MAY 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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, Group Life, Church in the World & 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 Women's Fellowship Breakfast
7  9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship Donut Sales 11:00 am Youth Lunch Date	8 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	9	10 4:00 pm WOW Program	11 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	12	13
14  9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Mana Bags & Fair Exchange Chocolate Sales	15 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells 	16 7:00 pm Session	17 4:00 pm WOW Program	18  11:30 am Young at Heart Lunch/Program 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	19	20
21 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 	22 4:00 pm Adult Bible Class (Zoom) 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	23 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting	24  4:00 pm WOW Program	25 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	26	27
28 Pentecost Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/ Pentecost Sundaes 	29 Memorial Day 	30	31	1 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	2	3 



Wet N' Wild Summer Daycamp – July 10 – 14, 2023

Daycamp this summer will be a Wet N' Wild week of Biblical Miracles and will take place **July 10 – 14** in person at the church from 11:30 - 4 p.m. each day. Each day will include lunch, a large group lesson with skit and songs, small group lesson, activities and discussion, a memory verse, crafts, games, a snack and service project(s) that all focus on a different daily Wet N' Wild Biblical Miracle.

There will be no cost to attend Daycamp and any child who is an incoming 1st - 6th grader is welcome to attend. Donations to help cover Daycamp cost will be optional for participating families.

Daycamp brochures with further details and registration forms have been mailed out. Additional brochures are available at the church if your child did not already receive one in the mail or if you would like to invite a friend, neighbor or family member. All are welcome!

Students who are incoming 7th graders – college students

are needed to serve as Daycamp Youth Counselors. Daycamp Youth Counselors will be responsible for a small group of children for the week or will assist an adult leader with a specific Daycamp activity. There is no cost to serve as a youth counselor. We will train and equip you as well as feed you lunch each day! Youth Counselors must complete an application and attend a training prior to the week of Daycamp.

Adult volunteers are also needed to help lead music, small group lesson, activities and discussions, crafts, recreation/ games, service project(s), lunch, snacks and the Saturday family picnic.

Both Daycamp registration forms and counselor applications are due by June 30. If you have questions regarding Daycamp or if you would like to volunteer, please talk to Lou Pennebaker or email Lou@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org

Our thanks to the Chancel Guild

We are so grateful to our Chancel Guild members who prepare the sanctuary each Sunday for worship. We especially appreciate their work to transform the sanctuary on Palm Sunday and on Easter! Last month the Chancel Guild also decorated Fellowship Hall for Anne's retirement celebration.

Many thanks to Sue Robertson, Don and Linda Pollard, Georgie Hickey, Lynn Roman, Mollie Wakeman, Anne Duey, Betty Brown and Cheryl Perenon.



Many thanks!

From March 21st through April 14th our church custodian, Rich Meadowcroft was on medical leave while recuperating following surgery. During this time the church cleaning duties were covered by church members who graciously gave their time and abilities.

The Personnel Committee would like to extend a special thanks to Gary Calame, Scott Crosbie, Lowell Hickey, Mollie Wakeman, Don Pollard, and Conrad Milner for stepping up to help keep our church clean!

Rich would also like to express his appreciation to everyone who helped out while he was on sick leave.

WOW Wonders on Wednesday

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. May will be the final month for the 2022/23 program year and will include the letters, U, V, and W. Families, friends and the congregation are invited to join us for the final WOW that will include the letters XYZ on Wednesday, May 24.

WOW May 2023 schedule

Wednesday, May 3 brought to you by the letter U

We will learn... I am Unique – Psalm 139:13 and about Uzziah

Wednesday, May 10 brought to you by the letter V

We will learn... I am Victorious – I Corinthians 15:57 and about Vashti

Wednesday, May 17 brought to you by the letter W

We will learn... I am Washed – Psalm 51:7 and about the Widow of Zarephath

Wednesday, May 24 brought to you by the letters XYZ.

We will learn I am an eXample – Titus 2:7, I am Young but able – I Timothy 4:12 and I am Zealous – Romans 12:11 and about Xerxes, Yahweh and Zacchaeus.



Youth Lunch Date

Middle and High School students are invited to walk downtown together and enjoy lunch on Sunday, May 7. There will be NO cost to those students who attend, as the church will buy lunch for everyone in attendance this month! We will leave the church after worship (approx. 11 am) to walk downtown. After lunch, we will return to the church by 12:30 pm to be picked up by parents.



Summer Camps at Westminster Woods

This Summer, Westminster Woods is offering five full weeks of summer ministry programs, including longtime favorite camps like Sherwood Forest, Jr. 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 for ages 11-14. Our children and youth are encouraged to attend the following camps this summer:

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, including the return of the Palm Sunday Breakfast this year on April 2 and the regular Sunday morning donut sales!

If you have questions about the summer ministry programs at Westminster Woods, please speak with Lou Pennebaker or go to westminsterwoods.org.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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MONDAY Zoom Bible Class

The Adult Bible Class, which meets on Monday afternoons from 4:00 – 5:00 pm on Zoom, is currently studying **Acts – Catching up with the Spirit** with a video presentation by biblical scholar Matthew L. Skinner. The class is led by Sue Goodnow and Jane Kraut. It will conclude on Monday, May 22. In the class, we are exploring the six key themes that illustrate the ways in which reading Acts can ignite our imagination about the character of the Christian message, the work of God's people (the church), and the challenges of living faithfully in a complex and changing world. If you would like to attend this class, please contact Sue or Jane, or call the church office (510-483-2772). Newcomers are welcome.

Women's Book Club

Our next title is **The Burgess Boys by Elizabeth Stout**. It is available at the county library in various formats. We will meet **Thursday, June 1** at 10:00 am at Lynn Roman's home to discuss the book.

Men's Breakfast & Bible Study and Women's Fellowship Breakfast

On **Saturday, May 6**, our Men's Bible Study and Breakfast group will be meeting at 7:30 am in the Fireside Room. At the same time our Women's Fellowship Group will be gathering in the Fellowship Hall for conversation and breakfast. Please sign up ahead of time and bring \$10 to cover the cost of the food.

Young at Heart – May 18, 2023

Come join us at our May Young at Heart program on **Thursday, May 18** at 11:30 am. We are looking forward to having Anna Mari Mahini present information about Building Futures for Women and Children. Our church has been a long-time supporter of this program whose services are designed to end homelessness and domestic violence in Alameda County. Please be sure to sign up ahead of time, so we have an accurate count for the meal which will be prepared by Bob Kraut and his team. Sign up will be in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings or call the church office. Donations to cover the meal cost are appreciated on the day of the event.