

Highlights

First Presbyterian Church San Leandro

Worship Series: June 11 – July 16

**I've been
meaning
to ask...**
a series for curiosity,
courage, & connection

With the Session's recent decision to make wearing masks optional, one thing I've heard from a few members is a yearning for community again. Both in the church and in our wider culture, people are looking at community - how we build it, repair it, and sustain it. This worship series will focus on how God can call us into more community again, with simple tools like simple (but deep) questions, listening ears, and curious and compassionate hearts willing to dialogue. As noted in the next column, we are also coordinating Let's Get Together gatherings during this series, which will dovetail with our Sunday focus.

- June 11 Where are you from?
- June 18 Where are you staying? Come and See
- June 25 Where does it hurt?
- July 2 What do you need?
- July 9 Where do we go from here?
- July 16 Reflections of the community

Message from Pastor Renée

I want to say thank you to all of you for the very generous welcome you have given me as I have come into your midst. The Deacons gave a lovely reception on my first Sunday, small groups have let me meet with them, and things are (mostly) unpacked in my office and at home.

When and How to Reach Pastor Renée

Working Schedule: Sunday through Thursday
(Monday, working from home)

Days off: Friday and Saturday

Email: renee@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org

Cell phone: Call church office to request number

Let's Get Together Gatherings

To go along with the worship service each week we will be offering Let's Get Together gatherings which will dovetail with our Sunday focus. We are inviting all adults and our older youth to gather for meaningful conversation in any of the groups. We will create safe places of curiosity and compassion! These will begin the week of June 11.

There will be three different times each week when groups will meet, and we are open to having more groups meet if these days and times don't work for you. If you're willing to host a group, let Renée or Lou know.

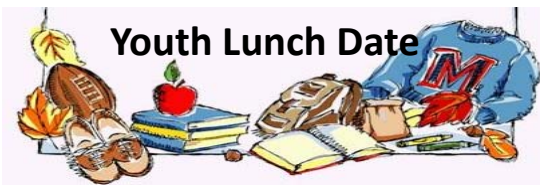
Each week all three groups will cover the same topic, so you can choose the time that works best for you. If you need to switch groups to better accommodate your schedule, you are welcome to do so. It is also okay to not come every time.

- **Sundays** 11:00 am Fireside Room
(begins June 11)
- **Mondays** 4:00 pm on Zoom
(begins June 12; request invite from Renée).
- **Wednesdays** 6:00 pm Fireside Room
(begins June 14)
Come early to participate in any of the following:
4:30 pm Wet N' Wild
AND/OR
5:30 pm Dinner

An additional group specifically for High School and College age will be offered. Day, time & location TBD. If you are interested please contact Lou.

VISIT US ONLINE AT

<http://firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org/>



Youth Lunch Date

This month, incoming high school through college students are invited to walk downtown together and enjoy brunch at IHOP on Sunday, **June 4**. We will leave the church after worship (approx. 11 am) and return to the church after eating. At Brunch we will also discuss ideas for summer events for High School and College age students. So, please come be a part of the discussion!



Come join us at our June **Young at Heart** program on **June 15** at 11:30 a.m. We're delighted to have the Sax Time Quartet provide our entertainment. These local musicians enjoy performing and are happy to be a part of our luncheon. We look forward to some lively music.

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.



Save the Date for the All-Church Retreat at Westminster Woods

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the Annual All-Church Retreat at Westminster Woods the weekend of **Sept. 29 – Oct. 1, 2023**. Watch for further details and registration information to come.



Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is looking for church members to serve as Elders and Deacons to serve during this important time of transition at First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro. The Nominating

Committee is urging you to pray sincerely to discern if you feel called to assist by serving as an Elder or Deacon, starting in January 2024.

Normally, an Elder or Deacon serves a three-year term. However, if you would like to serve, but feel you cannot commit to the full three years, please consider a shorter term of one or two years. If you have never served as an Elder or Deacon before you are welcome to approach any of the committee members, listed below, with your questions or concerns. One of the expectations of an Elder or a Deacon is that we will offer mutual support as we serve together, so no individual feels burdened beyond their God-given talents. We help each other, keeping our church strong, doing God's will in the world, and trusting in Him always.

The members of the Nominating Committee are more than happy to talk to you. Please seek us out if you wish to be considered for nomination, or have suggestions of other church members who you believe should be nominated. THANK YOU!

Committee members: Helen Fortner (Chair), Bob Kraut (Vice-Chair), Marie Busk, Chad Pennebaker, Sue Robertson, Lynn Roman, and Sheila Warbasse.



Adjusted In-Person Gathering Rules Approved by Session

The Session approved at their May meeting adjusting our in-person COVID protocols as of Monday, May 22, 2023. Wearing masks is now optional for gathering indoors at the church.

We made this decision based on the reduced risk levels in the Bay Area, and the fact that practices of mandated mask wearing is largely gone in our community.

Please note that we will continue other aspects for in-person gathering, including:


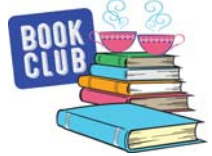




- Taking individual attendance at each event by the organizer/convener
- Asking that any attendee report to the church if they acquire COVID so we can let others know to test

Finally, this is an adjustment of our practice **at this time**. If circumstances change, we will adjust our practice accordingly.

PS – We recognize and support **anyone** who continues to mask at the church.



June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Pentecost Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Pentecost Sundaes 11:00 am Nominating Committee	29 Memorial Day 	30	31	1 10:00 am Book Club @ Lynn Roman's  7:00 pm Chancel Choir	2	3 7:30 am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast Women's Fellowship Breakfast at Manor Grill
4 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 11:00 am Youth Lunch Date (High School & College age)	5 6:17 pm Chancel Bells	6 7:00 pm Building & Grounds, Evangelism, Stewardship and Worship Committees	7	8 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	9	10
11 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am Let's Get Together 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 	12 4:00 pm Let's Get Together ...on Zoom	13	14 4:30 pm <i>Wef N' Wild</i> 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Let's Get Together	15 11:30 am Young at Heart Luncheon/Program  7:00 pm Chancel Choir	16	17
18 FATHER'S DAY 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship Donuts with Dads 11:00 am Let's Get Together 	19 4:00 pm Let's Get Together ...on Zoom	20 7:00 pm Session	21 4:30 pm <i>Wef N' Wild</i> 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Let's Get Together	22	23	24 
25 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am Let's Get Together	26 4:00 pm Let's Get Together ...on Zoom	27	28 4:30 pm <i>Wef N' Wild</i> 5:30 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Let's Get Together	29	30	1

The Time of Transition – Outlining the Steps

As we begin to work through this time of transition, I thought it might be helpful to lay out what the steps ahead are. Calling a pastor in the Presbyterian Church has some key processes that we will follow. There are two big parts of the process: the mission study, and the pastor search.

The Mission Study

As Roger Nicholson discusses in his book *Temporary Shepherds*, “[O]ne of the firmest foundations of our Christian faith is that we worship a God who, in Christ, is continually “doing a new thing.” In fact, the earliest imagery for baptism was that the individual was dying to an old life and being raised with Christ to a new one, with a new identity with Christ.

Just like a person, congregations change through time. First Presbyterian San Leandro, which has such a long and storied history, has gone through more than one location, and several eras. Now, at the end of the productive pastorates of George and Anne Swanson, this church is looking toward a new era. One vehicle for looking at these issues is the Mission Study.

The goal is for you, the congregation, to become aware of who you are *now*, to see how you do and might relate to your immediate and wider communities, which has implications for the gifts, skills and abilities that are needed in the next pastor. We'll be asking three basic questions:

Who are we (now)?
Who are our neighbors (now)?
Who is God calling us to be in light of the first two questions?

The Session will be appointing a task force to lead the congregation in this process, coached by me. We plan to have parts of the study process that will include wide participation as we look at these and other questions.

I will be coaching the team through the process, and our Presbytery will review our study, make suggestions if needed, and approve the study. It usually takes about six months to do the study, and then additional time for the approvals.

The Pastor Search

The second part of the process is the pastor search; this will occur once the mission study is approved. The process begins with the election of members to a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) by the congregation.

The PNC members will be trained in their work and have a liaison from the Presbytery. They will then create the paperwork for the position (currently called the Ministry Information Form – or MIF) based on the Mission Study. The MIF is then reviewed and approved by the Presbytery and put up on a website where the position is posted. Once candidate profiles (PIFs) are received, the deliberations of this group are confidential. The group will hear sermons, interview top candidates, check references, and bring finalists to the area and church, all in confidence. They will do this with an attitude of prayer all along the way, seeking God's guidance in each step. Once the PNC finds one candidate that they agree is the one to bring to the congregation, a “candidating weekend” will be scheduled. The whole congregation will hear the candidate preach in worship and will have the opportunity to ask questions of the candidate. They will then vote on whether to call the candidate as the new pastor. This process can take anywhere from nine to 18 months.

Summary

This journey will take some time, and we will move with all deliberate speed through these steps. Please reach out to me if you have questions regarding the process, I am happy to have conversation!

Young at Heart

In May, Young at Heart welcomed two representatives from Building Futures, an organization that our church has been supporting for many years. Ana Maria Mehiri (Director of Development and Communications) and Meron Shiferaw told



us about the history of Building Futures. The organization started 35 years ago as an overnight warming center in the winter for those who did not have a warm place to sleep. It has since grown to a county-wide organization providing 61,000 meals per year and helping 346 people move out of shelters and into permanent housing.

There are many ways each of us can help. Go to their website, www.bfwc.org for information about how you can donate money, time or service. There are also ways that our church family can help as a group. One way is to work together to provide supplies for a “Move-in Kit.” Each year, Building Futures provides supplies that enable a family to move out of the shelter or their car, where they have little or nothing, to set up household. Look for information in the bulletin and in Fellowship Hall to learn how you can contribute an item or two so we can contribute a full kit.

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. 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

To learn more about and to register for these or any summer camps at Westminster Woods, go to www.westminsterwoods.org. NO code is needed to register for camp this year. Financial assistance in any amount may be requested from camp by filling out the online Discount Form. Financial assistance is also available from First Presbyterian Church. Please speak with Lou Pennebaker to receive a church campership.



SUMMER CHANGES:

A new and different approach to Children's Summer Daycamp

For a variety of reasons, after conversations and receiving input from several past participants and volunteers along with much prayerful consideration, the decision has been made to NOT offer a week long Children's Summer Daycamp this year as previously publicized.

INSTEAD we are planning five Wet N' Wild Wednesdays at the church that will coincide with the Wednesday evening Let's Get Together Summer Adult Gathering. Wet N' Wild Wednesdays will be held weekly from 4:30 – 7:30 pm beginning June 14 and ending on July 12. Each week will include a variety of Daycamp/VBS activities based on Wet N' Wild Bible Miracles. Dinner will be provided each week at 5:30 pm for those attending Wet N' Wild Wednesdays AND those attending the Wednesday evening Let's Get Together Gathering. Both programs will join back together at the end of the evening for a brief intergenerational closing time.

Wet N' Wild Wednesdays are open to ALL ages, children, youth, parents, grandparents and any other adults of any age, after all we are all Children of God! Adults might choose to join Wet N' Wild Wednesday activities at 4:30 pm then after dinner participate in the Let's Get Together Gathering or participate in ALL of Wet N' Wild Wednesday and attend a Let's Get Together Gathering a different day of the week. Whether you come to just one week, some or all five, don't miss out on Wet N' Wild Wednesdays! Further details and weekly updates will be provided in the Sunday Bulletin. You may also contact Lou Pennebaker for more information about Wet N' Wild Wednesdays.



THANK YOU! to everyone in the congregation who supports the ongoing campership fundraisers, including the Palm Sunday Breakfast and the regular Sunday morning donut sales!



Are you the last one to leave?

For the safety and security of our church building, it is important that all the doors to the outside are securely closed and locked after each church event. We need everyone's help with this.

Do you leave through the sanctuary doors after Fellowship hour on Sunday mornings? Do you leave through the kitchen? Please take a second look at the door behind you to be sure it closed all the way.

Take an extra few seconds to check that both doors there are locked. Are you willing to get those extra Fitbit steps by walking around the entire building to check that every door is secure? You could be saving the church from potential unauthorized entry. Thank you very much for making this extra effort to care for the security of our church building.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

180 Estudillo Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577

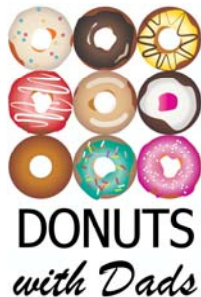
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Donuts With Dads

Our church family is full of wonderful, faithful men, who love God and love others, who serve God and serve our church. Men who care for and provide for their church family in a variety of ways.



This Father's Day we want to honor ALL men in our church family. In celebration of Father's Day on Sunday, **June 18** we will have DONUTS (as usual for the 3rd Sunday of the month) along with the usual coffee, tea and juice during coffee fellowship after the morning worship service.

DONUTS will be FREE on Father's Day, so that everyone can enjoy a Donut with a Dad, whether it is your own Dad, the Father of your children, a fellow congregant who is a Dad, someone who has been like a Father to you, if you are a Dad or simply in the presence of your Heavenly Father! Come have Donuts with Dads in celebration of all the wonderful, faithful men in our church family!



We want to thank all those who contribute each month to the creation of the Highlights. Pastor Renée, Lou, and members throughout the congregation contribute articles that keep us all up to date on all the events in our church life. Gigi MacLeod edits and compiles the articles and Jeanette Rauscher creates the colorfully uplifting layout and graphics. There are also many hands at work –both staff and volunteers--who print and mail the Highlights to your home. We really appreciate the work of so many members each month. If you have an article or information for the highlights, please contact Gigi MacLeod at ggmacleod@aol.com or call the church office.