

First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro

Highlights

July 2023

Volume 24 Issue 7



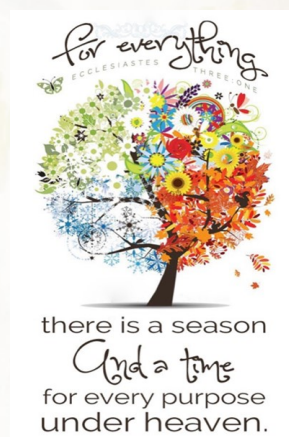
Special Worship Sunday, July 16th *Reflections on* *I've Been Meaning to Ask...*

Our Sunday worship on Sunday, July 16 will have a slightly different twist. It will include poetry on the theme and reflections of the participants in the Let's Get Together groups. We might have a contribution from the Wet 'n' Wild program as well! Come listen to the word of God presented in a different way!

New Worship Series *begins July 23rd* *"For Everything* *There Is a Season"*

We'll be finishing up our worship series I've Been Meaning to Ask... on July 13, and our next series will focus on Ecclesiastes 3. You may know this scripture because it has a healthy number of "A time to..." couplets.

Our theme of "For Everything There is a Season" is an evergreen topic, and this scripture can be read all along at different points in life. It's often read at transition points in life – I've often read it at memorial services, for example. But we can learn a lot from this passage about how to celebrate and engage in the different seasons of life we find ourselves in. Join us as you are able!



JOIN US FOR

LET'S GET TOGETHER GATHERINGS
continuing through July 12th

Sundays in the Fireside Room at 11 am

Mondays on Zoom at 4 pm (request link from Renée)

Wednesdays in the Fireside Room at 6pm

(you're welcome to join us for Wet N' Wild
at 4:30 pm and/or dinner at 5:15 pm)

Pastor Renée is facilitating each group. It's ok to miss a week or attend a different group as fits your schedule. You are even welcome if it's your first time! If you don't already have a Study Guide please call the church office to request one.

Have you experienced **Wet N' Wild Wednesdays** yet?



Wet N' Wild Wednesdays are for ALL ages—children, youth, parents, grandparents and any other adults of any age, after all we are all Children of God! Wet N' Wild Wednesdays take place from 4:30 – 7:30 pm. They began on June 14 and will end on July 12. That means there are only two more Wet N' Wild Wednesdays this month. So be sure to join us on July 5 and/or 12!

The activities each week are based on a different Wet N' Wild Bible Miracle. This month's miracles are The Pool at Bethesda (July 5) and Peter Walking on Water

(July 12). From 4:30 – 5:15 pm participants rotate freely through CREATE, LEARN and EXPLORE stations. Dinner is served from 5:15 - 6 pm for those attending Wet N' Wild Wednesdays AND those attending the Wednesday evening Let's Get Together Gathering. After Dinner Pastor Renee leads the Let's Get Together gathering (for any adults who choose to participate) while Jane Kraut teaches everyone else about the water needs of different countries in God's Wet N' Wild WORLD, then Lou Pennebaker teaches about the Wet N' Wild MIRACLE through stories, songs and discussion. The evening ends with a brief intergenerational closing time of TREAT, PRAY & LEAVE.

Wet N' Wild Wednesdays coincide with the Wednesday evening Let's Get Together Summer Adult Gathering. Some adults come for Wet N' Wild activities at 4:30 then after dinner participate in the Let's Get Together Gathering, while others participate in ALL of Wet N' Wild Wednesdays and attend a Let's Get Together Gathering on a different day.



Wet N' Wild Wednesdays are being offered in place of the traditional Children's Summer Daycamp that was previously publicized.




Westminster Woods Summer Camps

This Summer, several of our children and youth will be attending summer camps at Westminster Woods. The last week of June, campers attended Sherwood Forest and Jr. High

camps. Later this month, campers will be attending High School, Driftwood (an adventure based camp for middle school) and Week in the Woods (a special camp for teens & adults with developmental disabilities). Additionally, Carly Horrobin, one of our college students, is serving on Summer Staff at The Woods again this summer. Please pray for our campers and for all of the camp staff. And to everyone who supports the ongoing campership fundraisers, THANK YOU! for your contributions that help enable our children and youth to attend summer camps at Westminster Wood..

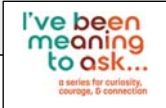




www.firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org

Have you checked out our church website recently? Thanks to Jeanette Rauscher, who manages our website, you can listen to our worship services and find up-to-date information on activities in our church. Anyone who goes to our church web page can see that this is an active church, with many ways to be involved.

To visit all parts of the website, click on the "Hamburger icon" located at the top of each page that looks like this . The drop-down menu will bring you to information about our pastor and staff, our worship service and recordings, our ministries, including Christian Education and Group Fellowship, and past copies of the monthly Highlights.

Check it out! Go to www.FirstPresbyterianChurchSL.org using any combination of uppercase or lowercase letters.

July 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 Wet N' Wild Wednesday 5:15 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Let's Get Together	29	30	1
2 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship Donut sales 11:00 am Let's Get Together	3 4:00 pm Let's Get Together (on Zoom)	4 OFFICE CLOSED 	5 4:30 pm Wet N' Wild Wednesday 5:15 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Let's Get Together	6	7	8
9 9:05 am Summer Singers rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship Mana Bags/Equal Exchange Chocolate sales 11:00 am Let's Get Together 	10 4:00 pm Let's Get Together (on Zoom)	11	12 4:30 pm Wet N' Wild Wednesday 5:15 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Let's Get Together	13		
16 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship Donuts sales	17	18	19	20		
23 Youth Works staying @ FPC SL 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 	24 Youth Works staying @ FPC SL	25 Youth Works staying @ FPC SL	26 Youth Works staying @ FPC SL	27 Youth Works staying @ FPC SL	28 Youth Works staying @ FPC SL	29
30 9:05 am Summer Singers rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	31	1	2	3	4	5

What does a transitional pastor do?

It used to be that the period between the departing pastor and the arriving one was filled with “pulpit supply,” because often the in-between times were short, and mostly filled by retired clergy.

These days, interim or transitional pastors come with an array of skills and options. As we get started together, I want to share with you a few of my roles:

Stabilizer. I am around to do the usual things that pastors do – preach, teach, visit the sick, coordinate staff and committees.

Consultant. Particularly when I first arrive, I am new enough to ask the question, “Why do you do it that way?” I see things from an outsider’s point of view, and can offer some ways of looking at the congregation that might not have been considered. We will look at a variety of things at the church in the coming months, and together keep the things that work or adjust as needed.

Coach. As we identify the work that is being considered for our time together, I play the role of a coach in helping staff, committees and other groups. Sometimes I’ll do this to complete specific things (the Mission Study) or in working with ongoing committees.

Transformational Leader. As I play the above roles, I’ll be asking the question of us all, “What is God asking of this congregation?”

One thing I want to be really clear about – we work in partnership on all of these areas. Both the transitional pastor and congregation have work to do during this important period.

If there is one piece that I think we will spend time on, it is probably around identity, because many protestant congregations are finding that the old ways of being church together need some updating, and some new patterns and ways of thinking about themselves need to be identified. We will look at how God might be calling this congregation to become “new wineskins” in order to reach a changed culture outside of our doors.

All of these are done according to need (we don’t need to fix that which is not broken), because each congregation is unique in its history, culture, and point of starting. My hope is that we incorporate the work into the life of the congregation, and use the church year and events that happen as ways of looking at these tasks, so we don’t wear ourselves out adding a lot of work on to already busy schedules. They also are not necessarily done in straight successive order – a single activity may incorporate aspects of several.

We have work ahead of us, and I am confident, and trust that with your abilities to discern and talk honestly, and with God’s providence, we will do this work well with one another in the coming months.

Blessings and light, Pastor Renée



Would you like to make a joyful noise unto the Lord with the choir on Sunday mornings, but can’t make it to choir practice during the week?

Summer Singers is looking for you! There will be four Sundays in July and August when the choir is open to anyone who would like to sing with us.

Mark your calendar with these four dates: **July 9 and 30, August 13 and 27.** We will meet at 9:05am in the Fireside Room for a brief rehearsal.

Women’s Book Club

Last month twelve members of the Book Club met at Lynn Roman’s house for fellowship and to discuss our last book, **The Burgess Boys**. The lively discussion, accompanied by refreshments took place outside in Lynn’s beautiful garden. Thank you, Lynn, for hosting!



The Book Club’s next book selection is **Brooklyn** by the Irish writer Colm Toibin. It is a historical romance story about a young Irish woman who emigrates to America in the 1950’s to find work. Check the Sunday bulletin for the date of the next meeting.



Throughout the school year, the following individuals faithfully helped to lead, and prepare meals for WOW. Thank you all for your faithful love, guidance and service to our children and youth!

WOW Leaders: Carly Horrobin, Jane Kraut, Lee Holm, Linda Gizzi, Melissa Seaton, Michele Johnson, Sue Goodnow, Sue Robertson

WOW Cook Teams:

Janine Kline (lead), Lee Holm, Scott Crosbie
Anne Milner (lead), Conrad Milner, Lynne Ondo
Bob Kraut (lead), Chris Johnson, Rich Toney
Mary Woosley & Gary Calame (Cook Team fill-ins)

And a HUGE THANK YOU to Bill Gile who faithfully washed our dinner dishes every week! We love you and are praying for you in your recovery.

Support Volunteers: Scott Crosbie (Treasurer), Tina Maier (Laundry)

Church Staff WOW Leaders: Anne Swanson, Lou Pennebaker, Renée Rico

And a special Thank you to Rich Meadowcroft for setting up and taking down tables and chairs, for counting out dinner place settings and cleaning up after WOW each week!

Young at Heart

Every month a dedicated crew provides a delicious meal for those of us who come to enjoy fellowship, lunch and a variety of speakers and entertainers.

Our thanks go to Bob Kraut, Jane Kraut, Jim Watts, Val Watts, Gary Calame, Mary Woolsey, Sue Goodnow, Sue Robertson, Cheryl Perenon, Anne Duey, Lynne Ondo, and Bill Gile for all the work they do in the kitchen.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is looking forward to having some new faces on the Board of Deacons and on Session to begin the new year in January 2024. Please keep the committee in your prayers as we continue with our work during the coming months. Thank you all.

From,

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

Music Appreciation

Throughout the year our congregation is blessed with the musical talents of many people. Thank you to all of the musicians who have regularly assisted in the ministry of music throughout the past year:

Chancel Bells: Sharon Dinwiddie, Jane Kraut, Linda Pollard, Melissa Seaton, and Faye Wilson

Chancel Choir: Sharon Dinwiddie, Sue Goodnow, Richard Jackson, Bob Kraut, Jane Kraut, Julie Larson, Carol Legge, Leland Morine, Linda Morine, Lynne Ondo, Michelle Owyang, Richard Thomas, Jim Watts, Val Watts, and Faye Wilson

Organ and Piano: Toni DiCapua, Bobbi Hunter, Mary Mackie, and Mollie Wakeman



Director of Music: Richard Dinwiddie

Pentecost and the Holy Spirit



On Pentecost Sunday worshippers experienced what it was like on that first Pentecost when, according to Acts 2:1-4, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and they began speaking in tongues.

As Faye Wilson read the passage from Acts in English, more than a dozen others read the same passage aloud in a total of eight different languages: Spanish, French, Italian, German, Latin, Urubú, Turkish, and Igbo.

Thanks to all those who participated in the reenactment of the scriptures: Maria Carter, Gigi MacLeod, Julie Larsen, Richard Thomas, Marj Toney, Gary Calame, Michele Owyang, Toni DiCapua, Richard Dinwiddie, Richard Jackson, Tunde Olagbaju, Ekaete Udofia, and Ben Ball.

Save the Dates

A **memorial service for Rev. Don MacInnes** will be held at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Napa on Saturday, **August 5** at 1pm.

The **All-Church picnic** will be held at Lake Chabot Park on Sunday, **August 27** after worship.

The **All-Church Retreat** will be held at Westminster Woods the weekend of **September 29 – October 1, 2023.**



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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YouthWorks Returns to the SF Bay Area and to First Presbyterian

Many of you know and remember that prior to the pandemic, YouthWorks (a Christian organization providing mission trip opportunities for teens) used our

church facility as a summer “home base” for mission trips that came to the SF Bay Area to serve. Sadly, the pandemic prevented these types of mission trips for the past few years. Fortunately, YouthWorks survived the pandemic and like so many ministry organizations, they are re-imagining mission and ministry!

This summer YouthWorks is offering more customizable mission trip experiences where groups choose locations based on their church/organization needs. When a church group from Colorado requested to come to the SF Bay Area, YouthWorks reached out and asked if this group of 13 youth and 2 adults could stay at our church. Our Session enthusiastically responded YES! So later this month, we will be opening our church as a “home” away from home for this group from Colorado. They will be here from July 23 – July 28. Each day they will be serving

different organizations or agencies throughout the Bay Area and enjoying a different ethnic dinner out each evening. They will sleep at our church each night and use the church kitchen to prepare breakfast to be eaten before they leave for the day, and bag lunches to take with them.

We are excited to once again be able to open up our church to house those serving our greater community. Additionally, we are grateful to Bob and Jane Kraut who will serve as the point people for the group while they are here.

Building Futures

Thank you to everyone who so generously contributed to the Move-In Kit that we were able to assemble and give to the Building Futures organization. Members of our congregation contributed over \$800 to buy items needed for a local family to get started in their own living space after experiencing homelessness. The items included a bed with pillows, linen and a comforter set, a microwave oven, dishes, cups and silverware, cleaning materials, and basic health and beauty supplies. The Kit was delivered to Building Futures in mid-June, so someone is already enjoying the comfort of a new home using the basic supplies we provided. We can be sure that the recipient will feel your love and, through you, the love and grace of God.