



Highlights

First Presbyterian Church San Leandro

September 29 – October 1, 2023

All Church Retreat at Westminster Woods *Embrace the Flow of Divine Change*

The Times They Are a Changin'
Come gather 'round people, wherever you roam
And admit that the waters around you have grown
And accept it that soon you'll be drenched to the bone
And if your breath to you is worth savin'
Then you better start swimmin' or you'll sink like a stone
For the times they are a-changin'

The words of this folk song sang by Bob Dylan back in 1978 still ring true today. For the times they are a changing', because change is inevitable: in our personal lives, our families, our church, our faith our community and our world. Robert Hawkins calls our world "a permanent white-water society" where we are "white-water rafting through the rapids of social, technological, and demographic change."

Have you ever been white-water rafting? It can be exciting; it can also be a bit terrifying. When shooting rapids in a raft, it is important to remember a few basic rules like:

- When the water is fast, keep paddling, but rest in the quiet parts.
- Hang onto the raft tight when it tips, but above all, keep high in the water if you fall into it.

Many rafting rules can be applied to navigating the rapids of change.

This year at the All-Church Retreat at Westminster Woods in the beautiful and quiet redwood forest of Sonoma County we will *Embrace the Flow of Divine Change*. We will experience some time away to relax, and gain perspective as well as find strength and support for living through changing times in our lives, our church, our community and our faith.

Don't miss this exciting white water adventure and the chance to grow in faith, learn life skills, build community, and celebrate life with all ages of our church family! Retreat brochures with registration forms and further details about the weekend will be available at the church this month. And as always, scholarship help to attend the All Church Retreat is available to anyone who needs it, simply speak to Lou Pennebaker.



August 2023

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White Elephant Party

On Saturday, **August 12**, Don and Linda Pollard will host a White Elephant Party at their home from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Please bring an hors d'oeuvres to share and a white elephant gift. Adult beverages and dessert will be provided. There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Women's Book Club

The book club is reading *Brooklyn*, a novel by Irish author Colm Tóibín. Our next meeting will be in the Fireside Room on Thursday, **August 17** at 1:00 pm. Special surprise! Contact Jeanette Rauscher or the church office if you are not on our email list.

All Church Picnic

Sunday August 27 at Chabot Park

The annual All-Church Picnic will take place Sunday, **August 27** at 11:00 am. We will gather at the Chabot Park picnic area, at the lower east end of Lake Chabot, just off Estudillo Ave. for fellowship, food and fun. Upon arrival at the picnic area please check in and pick up a name tag. Grilled burgers and hot dogs will be provided along with buns, condiments, beverages and paper goods.



Participants are asked to sign up on Sundays to bring a side dish (salad, fruit, chips, etc.) or a dessert to share.

Following lunch, we will play BINGO with a table of prizes to choose from.

So plan to come and enjoy a picnic with all ages of our church family.



Our church administrator, Tessa Gaerlan, has resigned to pursue full-time retirement and enjoy a new grandchild that is on the way. We are very appreciative of all that Tessa did first as our receptionist, then church administrator, and we wish her the best in this next season of life.

God has provided for us for the next while – our receptionist, Emely Wendell, has stepped up and has become our interim church administrator for the next few months. She will help us assess our current administrative needs and look at how we might move forward with a combination of staff and volunteers. Please be supportive of her – we are glad to welcome her to this new position.

The church office will continue to be open Tuesday through Friday, **new office hours** will be from **9:30 am to 2:00 pm** on these days.

Memorial Services

Rev. Donald MacInnes passed into the loving hands of his Heavenly Father on June 11, 2023. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 5th at 1 pm at the Covenant Presbyterian Church (1226 Salvador Ave, Napa).

Rev. George Fitzgerald was called home to Heaven on July 6, 2023. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 19 at 1:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Alameda (2001 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, CA 94501)



The next Deacon meeting will be via Zoom on **August. 22** at 7:00 p.m.

This month, the Deacons will help the Group Life Committee with the Annual Church Picnic on August 27.

The annual Deacon Meet & Greet this year will be an October Fest after church. This is a good time to get reacquainted with your deacon and others in your Parish. Look for more information to come in Sept.

Let's Get Together Connections made, Stories shared



Our Let's Get Together groups that met in June and July for five weeks were a success! Across the weeks, we had almost 50 different people participate in at least one meeting. Some sessions were about introducing ourselves (where you were born and raised), while others delved deeper into our hurts and what we need. Both new people to First Pres and long-time members found value in talking at a deeper level with people they didn't know well, and expressed appreciation to be able to greet people differently now that they know a bit of their stories.



What's next? Well, we're working on that. We will take what we've learned from doing this and offer some opportunities in the Fall to continue to help us know each other better and to discover what God is doing in our midst through the process. Stay tuned!

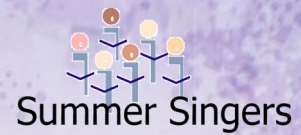
Westminster Woods Summer Camps

Spiritual Growth & Fun!



Summer Camps at Westminster Woods began the last week of June. The first week of camps included both Sherwood Forest and Jr. High camp. Two of our campers attended the first week, one at each camp. The rest of our campers attended camps in July. Two campers attended High School camp, one attended Driftwood (an adventure based camp for middle school) and another attended Week in the Woods (a special camp for teens & adults with developmental disabilities). Additionally, Carly Horrobin, one of our college students, served on Summer Staff all six weeks. Each of the camps this summer explored relationships using the acronym of S.O.N.G. (Self, Others, Nature and God).

THANK YOU! to everyone who supports the ongoing campership fundraisers throughout the year, your contributions help enable our children and youth to attend summer camps at Westminster Woods.



Three More Opportunities to Sing with Summer Singers

If you enjoy singing but "just don't have the time" for weekly choir rehearsals, Summer Singers is for you!

Three opportunities remain this summer – the Sundays of **July 30, August 13, and August 27**. A brief rehearsal will be held each of these days at 9:05 am. You are encouraged to participate in any or all of those dates!

Summer Bell Camp

Chancel Bells will once again be conducting its annual Summer Bell Camp.



These training sessions are an opportunity for the ringers to focus on improving their technical and musical ringing skills, both individually and as a group, rather than rehearsing specific music for a performance. The sessions this summer will be **August 13 and 16**. Two additional sessions will be scheduled for mid-winter.

Chancel Choir Resumes

Plans are already underway for the fall season of Chancel Choir. Weekly rehearsals will once again be held each Thursday evening at 7:00 pm beginning on **August 31**.

Choir members receive profound satisfaction from using their singing to help foster a meaningful communication between God and His people. The message in each song reminds us of God's love and grace to us. At the same time, the singers themselves are blessed with the special sense of fulfillment from knowing they are using their God-given gift to share God's love and encouragement amidst the challenges and complications of life.



August 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:05 am Summer Singers rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	31	1	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 	7	8	9	10	11	12  2 - 5 pm Party at The Pollard's
13 9:05 am Summer Singers rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship Manna Bags & Equal Exchange Chocolate 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:30 pm Summer Bell Camp	14	15  6:00 pm Session Meeting	16  6:17 pm Summer Bell Camp	17 1:00 pm Book Club 	18	19
20 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 11:00 am - 2:30pm Rise Against Hunger 	21	22 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting by Zoom	23	24	25	26
27 9:05 am Summer Singers rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am Church Picnic at Chabot Park 		29	30	31 WELCOME BACK, CHOIR  7:00 pm Chancel	1	2



Wet N' Wild Wednesdays

Intergenerational Times

For five weeks in June and July, about 30 children, youth, parents, grandparents and other adults participated each week in Wet N' Wild Wednesdays. The activities each week are based on a different Wet N' Wild Bible Miracle: Creation, The Great Flood and Noah's Ark, Jonah and the Giant Fish, The Healing at the Pool at Bethesda and Peter Walking on Water.

Participants rotated freely through CREATE, LEARN and EXPLORE stations before enjoying a delicious dinner from the grill. After Dinner many adults attended the Let's Get Together gathering while everyone else learned about the water needs of different countries in God's Wet N' Wild WORLD, and learned about the Wet N' Wild MIRACLE through stories, songs and discussion. Each evening ended with a brief intergenerational closing time of TREAT, PRAY & LEAVE.



Special Thanks to the Wet N' Wild Crew

Thank You the following individuals who planned and lead the many different aspects of Wet N' Wild Wednesdays:

Create: Michele Johnson, Georgie Hickey

Learn: Sue Goodnow, Sue Robertson

Explore: Jane Kraut, Melissa Seaton

God's Wet N' Wild World: Jane Kraut, Marj Toney, Gigi MacLeod

Treats & Music: Toni DiCapua

Attendance: Linda Gizzi

Dinner Crew:

Janine Kline (lead), Bob Kraut, Lee Holm, Scott Crosbie, Rich Toney, Maria Carter



Thank you also to Church Staff members for their leadership and support of Wet N' Wild Wednesdays: Rich Meadowcroft, Lou Pennebaker and Rev. Renee Rico.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Rise Against Hunger

Did you ever want to feed the world? It starts with one meal. On Sunday **August 20**, we will be joining with Rise Against Hunger in a food packaging experience. We will work an assembly line to measure, package, seal, and box **10,000** meals. These will be used in their programs at school and vocational programs, elder care facilities, and medical clinics around the world.

We will start soon after coffee hour in the Fellowship Hall. Bring some healthy snacks to share during breaks since we will be finishing about 2:30.

Plan on some good fellowship while we share the process.

There are jobs for all abilities, from sitting and measuring out portions to carrying around 50 lb. bags of supplies. Or you can help fund the whole thing for about 39 cents per meal. Fifty dollars buys 125 full stomachs!

It all starts with a meal. It all starts with **you**.



Young at Heart

The Young at Heart luncheon and program will be on Thursday, **September 21 at 11:30 am**. We are excited to have Jane Kraut's Hillside Woodwind Quintet start off our season. We're in for a real treat. 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.

