

October 2023  
volume 24 number 10

# HIGHLIGHTS

First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro

## Your Chance to Make a Difference – Be a Cool Cat!

We, your Mission Study Team, have been hard at work looking at how we might take a look at the church that we are, the neighbors around us, and how we might vision a future that God is calling us to. Now we need your help to be a “cool cat.”

Here’s your first chance to make a difference in the future of our church. We will be asking you to complete the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT), an online survey that will help us determine our congregation’s current vitality, the priorities of where our congregation wants to head, the areas that need immediate attention, and our congregation’s culture. Your anonymous responses will be extremely helpful in the later process of selecting our new permanent pastor.

In the coming days, you will receive an envelope by mail outlining this survey, and shortly after an email with a unique link to the CAT. Beginning **October 20**, we are asking you to go online by clicking on the link provided and giving us feedback on your vision for the future of our church. Your opinions are highly valued. Don’t worry if you are “technologically challenged.” There will be volunteers with computers to help you complete the

online survey after church service on Oct. 22, Oct. 29 and Nov. 5. **We will need to have all responses completed by Nov. 10.**

All answers are strictly anonymous. There is no way to match any assessment to a particular person, so please candidly give your opinions. Our future together is dependent on your participation and honest answers. Please do not discuss your responses with others as that may influence their answers. Be a Cool Cat!

If you have any questions, please contact any of the Mission Study Team members listed below. Thank you for your participation in this important process.

Blessings,

The Mission Study Team

Lowell Hickey, chair  
Sue Goodnow  
Linda Pollard  
Leland Morine  
Chad Pennebaker  
Ex-officio Renée Rico



## New Bulletin Board Map: The Road to Calling a New Pastor

If you have not already done so, be sure to check out the new bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. It visually maps out the different parts of the journey to calling a new Pastor. In the upcoming months, you can watch the cute car travel along the road as we progress on this journey together. Many thanks to Michele Johnson and Emely Wendell for creating this wonderful visual aid.



<https://firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org/>

**Men's Bible Study & Breakfast**

Saturday, **October 7** at 7:30 a.m.  
*Manor Grill, 526 Manor Blvd.*

Our theme for this meeting is  
 "Harvest Time".

**Women's Fellowship Breakfast**

Saturday, **October 7** at 7:30 a.m.  
*Manor Grill, 526 Manor Blvd.*  
 All women are welcome!

**If you plan to attend either of these events, please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office.**

**World Communion Sunday – October 1**

With Pastor Renée at Westminster Woods for the All-Church Retreat on October 1st, we will welcome the Rev. Jeff Kunkel to our pulpit. Jeff is a retired United Methodist pastor who, like Renée, specialized in interim ministry, and has served two Presbyterian churches in our Presbytery. He is also an artist and author of several books.

On this Sunday, Christians all around the world will be celebrating World Communion Sunday. This is a Sunday where we celebrate our oneness in Christ around the table with believers everywhere.

This is also the Sunday when we will receive the Peace and Global Witness Offering, which supports our partners in the Presbyterian Church as they continue their efforts to be a part of God's peacemaking and witness throughout the world. You may place your offering envelope in the offering box (in the narthex) before or after worship.

*New Worship Series and Bible Study beginning on Sunday, October 8*

**Seven Marks of Vital Church Communities**

The Holy Spirit's power is constantly reforming and revitalizing the Church. This worship and Bible Study series will use scripture to examine core qualities of churches. We will read, study, and discuss texts related to seven positive indicators (referred to as *marks of congregational vitality*) that communities of faith can possess. Along the way, we'll examine:

1. Lifelong Discipleship Formation (Acts 2:42-47)
2. Intentional Authentic Evangelism (John 4:1-41)
3. Outward Incarnational Focus (Romans 12:1-21)
4. Empower Servant Leadership (John 13:1-20)
5. Spirit-Inspired Worship (Isaiah 6:1-8)
6. Caring Relationships (Galatians 6:1-10)
7. Living a Wholehearted Faith (Mark 12:28-34)

We will be offering five weekly Bible Study and Discussion Groups so that participants can study and discuss the scriptures and topics deeper in a small group setting. The five groups will be offered one on Sunday and 4 on Wednesday at different times as well as in different locations, but all will cover the same material each week. This will allow participants to attend the group at the time and location that best fits their schedule each week. Some groups\* will need to be limited in size as they will meet in private homes, so we ask that you please sign up on Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall. The address (or zoom link) of each meeting location will be available when you sign up.

**Bible Study and Discussion Groups:****Sundays after Worship**

Facilitators: Jeanette Rauscher & Sue Robertson

Hosts: Cheryl Perenon, Lee Holm & Kathy Pearson

Time & Place: 11 a.m. in the Fireside Room

**Midweek Meetings****Wednesday Mornings in Hayward\***

Facilitator: Renée Rico

Hosts: Jim & Val Watts

Time: 10 a.m.

**Wednesday Mid-day in Castro Valley\***

Facilitators: Georgie Hickey & Lou Pennebaker

Hosts: Anne Duey

Time: 11a.m.

Bring your own brown bag lunch to enjoy along with fellowship following the study/discussion. Beverages and cookies will be provided each week.

**Wednesday Evenings in San Leandro\***

Facilitators: Anne & Conrad Milner

Hosts: Mary Woolsey & Gary Calame

Time: 7p.m.

**Wednesday On Zoom**

Facilitator: Art Walton

Host: Jane Kraut










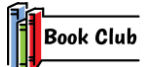




Time: 10 a.m.







# OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> All Church Retreat at Westminster Woods 9:30 am Worship 10:00 am - 11:00 am Chancel Guild Meeting 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 	<b>2</b> 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:00 pm Mission Study Team	<b>5</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast/Women's Fellowship Breakfast @ Manor Grill 
<b>8</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/ Manna Bags & Equal Exchange Chocolate Sales 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 11:00 am Seven Marks of Vital Church Communities - Bible Study	<b>9</b> 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal 	<b>10</b> 6:00 pm Mission Study Team 	<b>11</b> Seven Marks of Vital Church Communities - Bible Study 10:00 am on Zoom 10:00 am @ Hayward 11:00 am @ Castro Valley 7:00 pm @ San Leandro	<b>12</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Called Congregational Meeting 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 11:00 am Seven Marks of Vital Church Communities - Bible Study 	<b>16</b> 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 6:00 pm Session Meeting 	<b>18</b> 10:00 am P.R.A.Y. Seven Marks of Vital Church Communities - Bible Study 10:00 am on Zoom 10:00 am @ Hayward 11:00 am @ Castro Valley 7:00 pm @ San Leandro	<b>19</b> 11:30 am Young at Heart Luncheon/Program-The Fundudes with Perry Lightfoot 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 4:00 pm All Church Game Night 
<b>22</b> 9:30 am Worship 11:00 am Seven Marks of Vital Church Communities - Bible Study 	<b>23</b> 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal Book Club @ John Muir National Historic Site 	<b>24</b> 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting (on Zoom) 	<b>25</b> Seven Marks of Vital Church Communities - Bible Study 10:00 am on Zoom 10:00 am @ Hayward 11:00 am @ Castro Valley 7:00 pm @ San Leandro	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:30am Chancel Bells Rehearsal 
<b>29</b> 9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am Seven Marks of Vital Church Communities - Bible Study 	<b>30</b> 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Seven Marks of Vital Church Communities - Bible Study 10:00 am on Zoom 10:00 am @ Hayward 11:00 am @ Castro Valley 7:00 pm @ San Leandro	<b>2</b> 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast/Women's Fellowship Breakfast @ Manor Grill



## Three Ways to P.R.A.Y. for Children and Youth Ministry

All ages of the church family are invited to join together as we P.R.A.Y. for the future of ministry to children and youth at First Presbyterian. This month there are *Three Ways to Pray* for our children and youth ministries. You may choose to participate in any one, two or all three:



Come **P.R.A.Y.** together for our children and youth ministries in the Fireside Room at 10 a.m. on the 3 Wednesday of the month, beginning Wed. Oct. 18. This will be a monthly time of guided group prayer focused on the future of ministry to children and youth at First Presbyterian.

**Sunday Morning Prayer Station** - At the end of the month, look for an interactive Prayer Station in Fellowship Hall that will give you specific ways to pray each month for our children and youth ministries with reminders and/or resources to take and use as you continue to pray at home. Look for a new Prayer Station with a different prayer focus each month.

**Prayer Pals** – This month, Lou will be identifying church children, youth and families who are interested in being assigned an adult Prayer Pal from the church and finding caring, praying adults in our congregation to be Prayer Pals, or *pen pals who pray*. Prayer Pal adults will be given guidelines and tools for connecting regularly with their assigned Prayer Pal child, youth or family to support and encourage them through prayer. If you are interested in being or having a Prayer Pal please email Lou@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org.

**All Church Game Night**  
Saturday,  
October 21;  
4 - 7 p.m.



Join us in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, **October 21** for an evening of fun, games and pizza. You may bring your favorite board or card game, or come play games brought by others. Play Uno with the whole family, find a partner for Cribbage, test your knowledge with Wits and Wagers, or roll the dice with Tenzi. Learn a new game or play an old favorite. Pizza will be provided, and you are invited to bring a snack or dessert to share.



Let's Go to the Zoo!

### BOO at the ZOO

At the end of the month, our church children, youth and families will be going to the Oakland Zoo for *BOO at the ZOO*.

If your child, youth or family has not yet signed up, please contact Lou a.s.a.p. as tickets and transportation must be purchased in advance and space is limited.

## Prayers for our Church Family & Friends



Did you know that our church has a prayer chain? These individuals are committed to receiving prayer requests and regularly praying for those who have a particular prayer need. Prayer requests are passed along the chain through phone calls and/or emails. If you would like to join this prayer ministry, you may reach out to Sue Goodnow or call the church

office (510-483-2772). We thank all of our prayer warriors, and look forward to welcoming more people who will join the prayer chain.



### Adult Craft Day.

Mark your Calendars:  
Friday, **November 10** from  
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.



## Women's Book Club Selection

The FPC Book Club is currently reading My First Summer in the Sierra by John Muir.

We are planning a field trip to visit the John Muir National Historic Site in Martinez on Monday, October 23. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall on October 8 or 15. Contact Jeanette Rauscher or the church office if you are not on the book club email list.



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

180 Estudillo Avenue  
San Leandro, CA 94577

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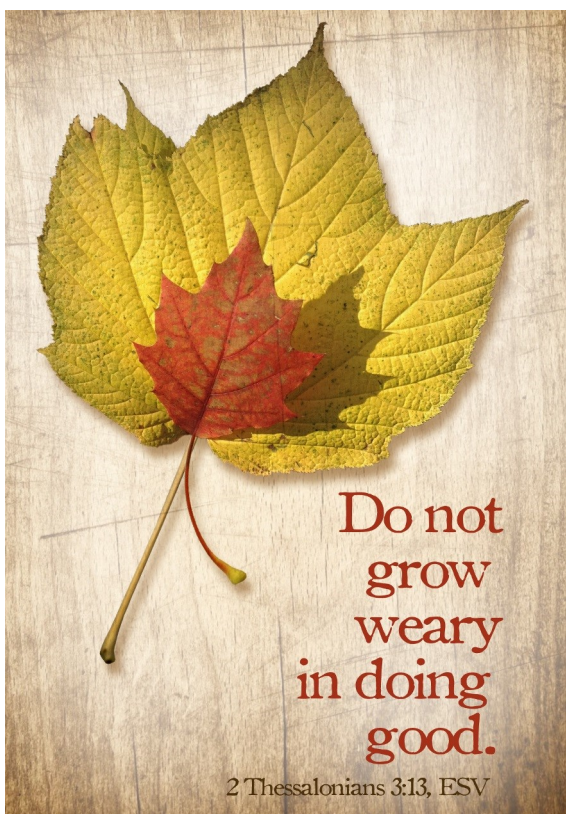
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### Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 15 immediately following worship

All members are invited to come to this meeting of the congregation. We are meeting for two purposes:

1. To modify the church's by-laws to reduce the number of Deacons from 21 to 12-15.

AND

2. To elect elders and deacons for the terms beginning January 1, 2024.

### Young at Heart: October 19

The next Young at Heart luncheon and program will be on Thursday, **October 19** at 11:30 a.m. We are happy to have Perry Lightfoot and the Fun Dudes provide the program. Join us for some lively music, you won't be disappointed. 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.

### Deacons Meeting

The next Deacon meeting will be via Zoom on **October 24** at 7 p.m. If you are unable to attend, please notify Val Watts or Pastor Renée.

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