



First Presbyterian Church San Leandro

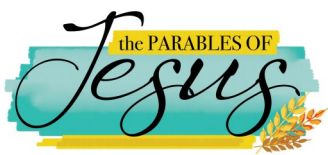
September 2023 Volume 24 Issue 9

Short Stories by Jesus – A Worship Series and Bible Study on the Parables

Worship & Bible Study on September 3, 10, 17 and 24

Jesus told stories. Like most teachers in the ancient world, Jesus understood that people learn best through stories, and so the stories He told helped His followers to understand their roles in the world, and that a new way of living could bring new life.

On August 27, we began a new worship series called Short Stories by Jesus. Jesus did tell a lot of stories in His preaching, and one of His most famous kind are the “short stories” we call parables. Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at some of those parables and discover that they have a lot of power in them if we have ears to hear.



All are invited to come to the Bible Study after worship at 11 am in the Fireside Room led by Pastor Renée. We will look at the parables more closely to discover their power for us today.

Can You Hear Me Now? Assisted Listening Devices Available in the Sanctuary

Do you have difficulty hearing anything in the worship service? If so, did you know that help is available? The church has Assisted Listening Devices available for use on Sunday mornings. Thanks to the efforts of Chad Pennebaker, the church recently increased the number of devices and all devices, both new and old have brand new rechargeable batteries!

We now have ten devices available for use during the worship service. They are easy to use and quite effective. Please ask one of the ushers in the narthex for an Assisted Listening Device and try it out! We want to be sure that everyone is able to fully hear all of the worship service.

Presbytery Day coming on Saturday, September 23rd



San Francisco Presbytery is hosting its first Presbytery Day since 2020 on **September 23** from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley. This is a gathering of all the churches and clergy in our Presbytery and all are welcome to attend. The speaker will be Dr. William Yoo, Professor at Columbia Theological Seminary and the author

of *What Kind of Christianity: A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church*. It will be a time of worship, fellowship, and to listen and converse with Dr. William Yoo. This event will be at no cost, however, a \$10 donation is requested for lunch. Register for this event at <https://presbyteryofsf.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1851893>

A Thank You

“The Family of Rev. Donald MacInnes would like to thank those members of First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro who traveled to Napa on August 5 to attend his memorial service at Covenant Presbyterian Church. We were able to view the service via Zoom (sadly, we all have health issues). In June, 2009, your church hosted a special reception for Donald, celebrating his 50 years of being a minister. We were able to attend and surprised Donald who did not know we were coming. We shall always remember our warm welcome by Rev. George and Rev. Anne Swanson and church members that Sunday.”


Blessings,
Bill (brother) & Judy MacInnes
and Ruth Sweet (sister), San Diego, CA.



**All Church Retreat at Westminster Woods
September 29 – October 1, 2023**

Embrace the Flow of Change

This year's White-Water themed All-Church Retreat will be a wild ride as we shoot the rapids of life, so grab your life jacket and a paddle and come join the adventure!

The weekend will include intergenerational sessions with skits, teaching, learning and discussion groups all focused on the ever changing rapids of life, as well as fun, fellowship, food and of course Sunday morning worship with a special World Communion experience. There will also be a river-front (well O.K, a creek-side) picnic dinner on Friday, The Rollercoaster of Change, opportunities to enjoy God's creation, a Black & White Dinner on Saturday (be sure to bring your black & white attire – as casual or as formal as you prefer!), a family friendly movie night, and S'mores! Oh...and there will also be PENGUINS!?! 

Meals throughout the weekend will be provided and there are different lodging options available, including cabins and detached communal restrooms,

a limited number of cabins with private restrooms, guest house rooms with indoor restrooms and communal kitchens, as well as a few handicap accessible rooms and restrooms. Linens are even provided for the guest house rooms. Price varies based on age/grade and choice of lodging.

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! To register*, return the completed registration form found in the retreat brochure and required deposit (\$50/individual or \$100/family made payable to First Presbyterian Church) to the church office. A schedule and further details about the weekend will be provided to all participants prior to the weekend. And as always, scholarship help to attend the All Church Retreat is available to anyone who needs it, simply email or speak to Lou Pennebaker.

***The deadline to register and pay in full is Sunday, September 10.**



Ministry to Children and Youth at First Presbyterian Church, San Leandro

First Presbyterian Church began "WOW" a mid-week Logos program for children in the 1990s and for over 30 years it served to nurture children on a variety of levels – spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually, all within Christian community. It has served thousands of children over these years and this is an accomplishment to be proud of and to celebrate!

But times have changed. Our culture changed over time and the pandemic changed things even more. At this point, while we still have a dedicated and skilled set of volunteers willing to teach, lead activities and make tasty meals, we no longer have a group of youthful participants and families who are committed to participating. WOW is not WOW-ing anymore.

So, we have made a decision to hit the "pause" button on our children and youth programs. It is a bit sad for some of our volunteers who have given their time, and those who have grown up in the program,

but we want to emphasize two things about this decision:

1. Nobody "failed." We have come to the end of a program's lifespan, and just as we don't think a loved one has "failed at life" if they pass away after a good and long life, so too with WOW – Wow was a treasure and gift for its many years of "living."
2. This is not the end of serving children and youth. First Presbyterian is not alone in having to rethink how to reach families, children and youth after the pandemic. We aren't sure of the direction to go, which is why we think a pause is a good idea. We will be using the next months, in collaboration with the work of the Mission Study Team, to reach out to gather more information on the needs of young families in our communities, while also going deep in our spiritual life to ask for God's direction.

In the meantime, we will **P.R.A.Y.** for the future of ministry to children and youth. (*Continued next page*)

Rise Against Hunger: 10,000 Meals for the Win!

Our crew that signed up for the Rise Against Hunger event worked seamlessly as a team to package 10,000 meals after worship on August 20. Ranging in age from about 10 to mid-90's, those gathered had great fellowship, tasty snacks, and left with the knowledge of a job well done! Special thanks to Bob Kraut for organizing this event again and to Mollie Wakeman for coordinating the sign ups!



SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 9:30 am In-Person Worship Service 11:00 am All Church Picnic @ Chabot Park	28	29 6:00 pm Mission Study Team	30	31 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	1	2
3 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 11:00 am Short Stories by Jesus Bible Study 	4  6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	5	6	7 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	8	9 7:30 am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast/Women's Fellowship Breakfast @ Manor Grill 12:00 pm Music Ministry Party @ Wakeman Home
10 9:30 am Worship Service-Music Ministry Dedication Sunday 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/ Manna Bags & Equal Exchange Chocolate Sales 11:00 am Prayer Shawl Ministry 11:00 am Short Stories by Jesus Bible Study 	11 6:00 pm Mission Study Team	12	13 6:00 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	14 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal  Choir Rehearsal	15	16 1:00 pm David Painter Memorial Service 
17 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 11:00 am Short Stories by Jesus Bible Study	18 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal 	19 6:00 pm Session Meeting 	20	21 11:30 am Young at Heart Luncheon/Program-Hillside Quartet 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 	22	23 Presbytery Day @ First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley
24 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am Short Stories by Jesus Bible Study 	25 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	26 7:00 pm Deacons Meeting (on Zoom) 	27	28 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	29 All Church Retreat at Westminister Woods	30 All Church Retreat at Westminister Woods 

P.R.A.Y. for Ministry to Children and Youth continued...

P - Pause & Pray. As we **Pause** from weekly ministry to children and youth (this means there will be NO WOW or PEAK programs). Let us all **P.R.A.Y...**

Praise God for 30+ years of WOW, as well as the leaders and participants.

Recognize it is time for a change, a different approach to ministry to children and youth.

Ask God for guidance & direction.

Yield the future of ministry to children and youth to God.



R – Relationships & Research. We will work to form **relationships** with young families and listen to what they want, need, expect, hope for and/or would like from a church in their community. We will **research** what is/ is NOT being offered; and how other churches in the community and in our denomination, are ministering to children, youth and families. This work will parallel and be in partnership with the work of the Mission Study Team.

A - Assess & Ask. We will **assess** the demographics of our congregation and community, as well as our church's assets and how they might benefit a new ministry to children, youth, and families. We will **ask** "How might First Presbyterian San Leandro minister to children, youth, and families in the future?" Again, this work will parallel and be in partnership with the work of the Mission Study Team.

Y - Young families - from Youngest to Youth. We will look and work toward a future that includes **young families** as a part of our church family, focusing first on ministries to the "youngest" and working up through ages and grades to "Youth."

As we **P.R.A.Y.** our way through this next season we do not want to neglect or forget our few remaining faithful children and youth. We will be working to foster individual relationships with them throughout the year. We will also host a congregational celebration of the WOW ministry. If you would like to help plan the WOW celebration, be a prayer partner with one of our children or youth or if you would like to actively participate in the Relationships, Research, Assess(met) and Ask(ing) of P.R.A.Y. please contact Lou Pennebaker. Additional opportunities to P.R.A.Y. will be offered throughout the year on Sunday mornings, during the week and in the monthly Newsletter. So please join us as we P.R.A.Y.

-Rev. Renée Rico & Lou Pennebaker

The S.O.N.G. of Summer Camps Echoes on



The curriculum for the summer ministry camps at Westminster Woods this past summer encouraged campers to explore their own relationships using the acronym of S.O.N.G. The youngest to the oldest campers along with the summer staff considered how they each relate to Self, Others, Nature and God. It was a wonderful summer of reflection and growth for all. But the S.O.N.G. has not come to an end. It is not limited to one week of the summer. The S.O.N.G. plays on and echoes in our daily lives as we all live each day in relationship with Self, Others, Nature and God.



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



David Painter

We offer condolences to the family of long-time member David Painter, who passed away on August 8 after a short illness. He is survived by his wife Nancy and his son Wade. We hope to have a memorial service for David at the church, arrangements are pending.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

180 Estudillo Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577

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Men's Breakfast.

Monthly Men's Breakfast meetings will resume on Saturday, **September 9**, at 7:30 a.m. at the Manor Grill, 526 Manor Blvd. Our theme for the first meeting of the new season is centered around Labor Day -- "What's Your Job?" We will have our own table near the rear of the restaurant and everyone can order breakfast off the menu. No host. All men are welcome!

Women's Fellowship.

Women are invited to share fellowship at a no-host breakfast at Manor Grill, 526 Manor Blvd., on Saturday, **September 9**, at 7:30 a.m. All women are welcome!

Young at Heart

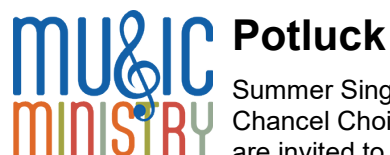
The Young at Heart luncheon and program will be on Thursday, **September 21** at 11:30 am. We are excited to have Jane Kraut's Hillside Woodwind Quintet start off our season. We're in for a real treat. Please be sure to sign up ahead of time, so we have an accurate count for the delicious meal prepared 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.

PHOTO CREDIT: Thank you to James Watts for the "raging water" photos used in the masthead and on page 2.

Joy of Music

On Sunday morning **September 10**, Chancel Choir will be returning to its weekly ministry in song. Also that morning, the worship service will have a Dedication of the Musicians for the 2023-2024 season, including not only the Choir but also Chancel Bells, accompanists, and soloists.

If someone you know loves to praise God through music, let them know about the opportunity to do so through singing in the Choir or learning how to ring handbells. You may be the link God can use to introduce them to the idea. Contact Richard Dinwiddie with any questions. The musicians in both groups use their gifts to the glory of God and, in return, experience the personal joy and deep satisfaction of ministering in worship.



Summer Singers, Chancel Bells, Chancel Choir, soloists and organists are invited to enjoy a Potluck lunch at the home of Jim and Mollie Wakeman in Union City on **Saturday, September 9 at noon.**

Come and share good food, lively conversations, a musical game and of course some singing.

RSVP to Mollie Wakeman by September 7.