

Highlights

First Presbyterian Church San Leandro

September 2024
Volume 25 Issue 8

Do Unto Others – A Worship Series Beginning September 8th

With divisiveness—and anxiety about that divisiveness—at an all-time high, our new Fall worship series beginning the Sunday after Labor Day will consider *How does our faith equip us to survive, and perhaps even thrive spiritually, in this moment?* From everyone's viewpoint (diverse to be sure), there is a lot at stake for the wellbeing of our lives, our families, our communities, and our world. I believe that it is an important time to be talking about “doing unto others” in ways that we hope will foster kindness, compassion, humility, peacemaking, respect, and love in the world.



As Christians, we have enough humility to know that we don't have all the answers, but thankfully we do have the teachings of Jesus, who lived in his own turbulent times. And there are lessons for us in them – in the ways that he invited us to focus on treating others in generous ways – because we know first-hand what it's like to receive that kind of love.

You are invited to reflect on these topics by joining us in worship and in a variety of different Christian Education opportunities (see page 2) – where we gather together in the fragility of a time that feels challenging. We gather and remember how Jesus called together friends and foes and offered the grace and love of God indiscriminately. We'll take a look at how the church could model coming together to care for one another in the midst of what feels like so much hate and distrust.

Blessings and light, Renée

Suggest Members to Become Elders and Deacons

The Nominating Committee is working to discern who may be feeling called by God to serve as an Elder or Deacon starting in January 2025. If **you** are interested in serving, or in suggesting someone, please contact Helen Fortner, Chair or Anne Milner, Vice-Chair of the Committee, or fill out the form available in Fellowship Hall. Prospective Deacons and Elders must be **members** of our church. Thank you for your assistance.



All Church Picnic: One Last Summer Connection Event

Join us on Sunday, September 1 after worship in the Fellowship Hall for a new indoor twist on the Annual All-Church Picnic. This will be the final summer connection event before we launch into Fall missions, ministries and programs. So come dressed in your picnic attire and plan to stay after worship to enjoy the fun and games, food and fellowship of our church picnic... right here at the church!



Pastor Nominating Committee Elected

At the called Congregational meeting on Sunday, July 28, 2024 a slate of eight individuals was elected to serve as the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). This committee will conduct the search for our next called Pastor and will present a single candidate to the congregation for consideration. Immediately following their election, the members of the PNC were commissioned by Pastor Renee who told them "The duty sounds simple, but the task is arduous. [You] have been called to a demanding task to seek out the next leader of this congregation. While it is a demanding task, it is also one filled with the possibility of spiritual growth and gifts of community along the way."

The PNC, consisting of Ben Ball, Gil DeHoyos, Sue Goodnow, Brian Hickey, Conrad Milner, Sue Robertson, Jennifer Spadoni and Mary Woolsey, has already begun to organize themselves, in preparation for the task set before them.

Some of the work of this committee is necessarily confidential. While they can report on their process and the paperwork about the pastor position is public, as they get deeper into their work, they will need to operate with strict confidentiality as they engage with candidates. We trust that members will honor this aspect of their task.



Photo: Front row: Sue Robertson, Jennifer Spadoni, Sue Goodnow, Helen Fortner (Nominating Committee chair). Back Row: Mary Woolsey, Conrad Milner, Brian Hickey and Bell Ball. Not pictured: Gil DeHoyos



Fall Christian Education Opportunities:

Sunday morning, mid-week and at home

This Fall as we explore the Biblical theme of *Do Unto Others*, there will be several opportunities for you to further explore this topic in community and/or on your own. You are invited to choose to participate in any or even all of the opportunities **below** as together we strive to live the Golden Rule amidst the growing hate and distrust of these anxious and divisive times.

Sunday Morning Sermon Discussion

On Sunday mornings, Pastor Renee will hold Sermon Talk Back sessions from 11 am to Noon in the Fireside Room. All are invited to come and join the conversation as we further explore and discuss the sermon topic together. Come ask questions, seek clarification, share your thoughts and insights regarding the Biblical mandate to *Do Unto Others*.

Daily Devotional: Living the Golden Rule by Loving Your Neighbor

This daily devotional guide will be provided for those who choose to further explore the theme of *Loving Your Neighbor* on their own through daily scripture readings, personal reflections and prayer. This devotional is designed to begin the week of Sunday Sept. 8 and continue through the end of the week of Oct. 20 with 6 daily devotionals each week. Hard copies will be available on September 8 at the church or you may request a PDF copy by emailing office@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org.

Mid-week Study: Cultivating Kindness through Scripture & Community

Join us on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. at the church for a small group study that will complement the Do Unto Others Sunday sermon series. We will explore the scriptural call to bless others and wrestle with what this looks like in our day-to-day lives. We will use the great biblical love ethic *Do unto others as you would have them do unto you (Matthew 7:12)* as a guide for how to engage with people both inside our congregation and outside the church in an attempt to de-polarize our communities and love our neighbors through kindness.



CHURCH EVENTS



Cards for Kindness a Success! – July 20

On July 20 approximately 30 participants created 200 beautiful cards! Here's what the Creative Kindness Foundation had to say upon receipt of First Presbyterian's donation:

"Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity. It's hard to put into words just how much we appreciate you. Your handmade creativity makes a difference and brings smiles and healing to people all over the world. Together we are making a difference!"

Thank you to all who participated in this worthwhile project! And thanks to the organizers: Sharon DuFrane, Lee Holm, Sue Robertson, and Suzanne Yee. Additional thanks to Georgie Hickey and Lee Holm for providing refreshments, and Michele Johnson who donated 25 of her beautiful handmade cards. In addition, we were able to use special paper and lovely stamps that had once belonged to long-time member Margo Smith.

Rise Against Hunger– August 4 (pictured above)

51 enthusiastic volunteers were able to package a total of 10,152 meals at our August 4 packaging event! That's enough to feed 47 kids for an entire school year. The meals are very likely to be sent to Southeast Asia. A big thank you to Young at Heart for donating the \$4,000 towards this service project. Thanks also to Georgie Hickey and her team of volunteers for the providing a nice lunch and much appreciation to all the volunteers who together completed the work in a record 90 minutes!

National Night Out– August 6

First Presbyterian Church literally opened its front doors on August 6 to welcome the community. The church patio became the central meeting place for ice cream and home baked cookies and an opportunity to meet neighbors and make new connections. The event was well attended along with visits from the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, the San Leandro Police Department, Congresswoman Barbara Lee's Office, and the San Leandro Times Newspaper.



September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 Annual All-Church Picnic 9:30 am Worship Service</p> 	<p>2</p> 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>7 7:30 am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast/Women's Fellowship Breakfast @ Manor Grill</p> 
<p>8 Annual Music Ministry Dedication Sunday 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/ Manna Bags & Equal Exchange Chocolate Sales 11:00am Nominating Committee</p> 	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 6:30 pm Do Unto Others: Mid-Week Study</p> 	<p>12 12:30 pm Heart to Heart Women's Ministry</p> 	<p>13</p> 	<p>14</p>
<p>15 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 11:00 am Do Unto Others: Sermon Discussion</p> 	<p>16</p>	<p>17 6:00 pm Session Meeting</p> 	<p>18 1:00 pm Christian Education Team Meeting 6:30 pm Do Unto Others: Mid-Week Study</p> 	<p>19 11:30 am Young at Heart Luncheon Program</p> 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship w/ quiche 11:00 am Do Unto Others: Sermon Discussion</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 6:30 pm Do Unto Others: Mid-Week Study</p> 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am Do Unto Others: Sermon Discussion</p> 	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2 2:30 pm Stewardship Meeting 6:30 pm Do Unto Others: Mid-Week Study</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 7:30 am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast/Women's Fellowship Breakfast @ Manor Grill</p>



Men's Bible Study Breakfasts Resume

Men's Bible Study Breakfasts will resume Saturday, Sept. 7, 7:30 a.m., at Manor Grill, 526 Manor Blvd. All men are welcome to the no-host break-

fasts, which are held the first Saturday of the month from September through June (with a two-month break for the summer). We each order off the menu as we enjoy each other's company and share insights on the Biblical topic of the day.

We will use Christian author Max Lucado's book, "Ten Men of the Bible: How God Used Imperfect People to Change the World," as the theme for our discussions this year. We will begin with the story of Noah at our September 7 breakfast.

Women's Fellowship Breakfasts

The Women's Fellowship Breakfast which gathers at their own table(s) at the Manor Grill on the first Saturday of the month will also resume on Saturday, Sept. 7 at 7:30 am All ladies are welcome to the no-host breakfasts to enjoy good food and fellowship.

Book Club

The Women's Book Club will be reading **The House in the Cerulean Sea** by TJ Klune. Gigi MacLeod will lead the discussion at the church in October. Thank you, Lynn Roman, for hosting our last discussion in your beautiful backyard.



Young at Heart

The Young at Heart luncheon and program will kick-off on Thursday, September 19 at 11:30 am. We are delighted to have Kathy and Joe Schmidt provide a fun and engaging sing-a-long program. 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. Donations to cover the meal cost are appreciated on the day of the event.



Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest

Join us for a celebration of Fall with food and fun on Saturday, October 12 from 4 to 7 pm with dinner, music, magic, and folk dancing. Tickets on sale beginning September 15th, \$10.00 per person.



Stewardship Update– Thank you!

In the Spring, the Stewardship Team sent out a letter asking for additional financial gifts to close a gap between our income and expenses. We are happy to report that many in the congregation have responded to this request with one-time gifts and increased pledges. Thank you to all who responded generously and have allowed us to plan for the church's future!

100th Anniversary of First Presbyterian Building located at 180 Estudillo Ave.

The year 2025 will be the 100th anniversary of the current First Presbyterian Church building at 180 Estudillo Ave. in San Leandro, CA. The cornerstone of the building was laid on June 21, 1925 and the building was dedicated on November 22, 1925.

The session voted at the August meeting to approve an ad-hoc committee be formed to plan celebrations throughout 2025 that will not only mark the 100 year building anniversary but also strengthen the relationship between our church and the community; improve the image of our church and its facilities within the community; increase our involvement with the local community. A committee is already being formed and Lou Pennebaker will serve as the Staff liaison.



Fixing Up Our Buildings & Grounds

The Administration Team has worked to remove rocks and repair our broken windows in the Peak Room along Estudillo. A number of the windows had been broken by unknown people throwing rocks through them. We anticipate that by removing the rocks and switching the glass panes for plexiglass there will be fewer incidents in the future. Thanks to Conrad Milner, Don Yee and Bob Kraut for their attention to this issue and to Gary Calame, and DJ who added some extra man power.





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

180 Estudillo Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN LEANDRO, CA
PERMIT NO. 84



ALL NEW Women’s Ministry program beginning this Fall

As iron sharpens irons, so one (woman) sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17

Heart to Heart is an ALL NEW monthly ministry for women of all ages. The goal of Heart to Heart is to create a Christian community where women connect with one another and seek the heart of God together as we study God’s story and share our own stories of life and faith. Throughout our first year, each month we will compare and contrast the character and faith stories of two Biblical women seeing how they relate to each other and to us as we live our lives of faith. Additionally, between monthly gatherings women will have the opportunity to intentionally connect with a few other women to grow deeper in our relationships with one another.



Heart to Heart will take place on the second Thursday of the month from 12:30 – 2:30 pm in the Fireside room and will include a light lunch. Heart to Heart will begin on September 12, 2024. Women are asked to register by Monday, September 9 so that there will be a seat and enough lunch for everyone attending. If you have not already received an invitation and registration card or if you have questions, please contact Lou Pennebaker.

