

Highlights

First Presbyterian Church San Leandro

November 2024
Volume 25 Issue 10

A Message from the Pastor

As this newsletter reaches you, we are in the midst of a variety of “seasons.” The spooky season of Halloween followed by All Saints Day which we will celebrate on November 3 in worship. Our election season is drawing to a close with Election Day on November 5, and we will be focusing on gratitude for the month of November (having already begun by putting leaves on the gratitude tree in the Fellowship Hall). It is also the season of stewardship, when we will be asking the community for financial commitments to First Presbyterian Church’s future.

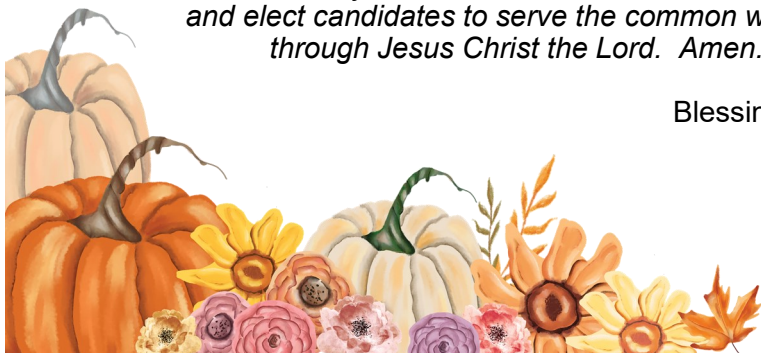
In all of these seasons, we rely on our faith in God to carry us through. We Presbyterians believe in the providence of God. By this, we mean that what we need God will provide, although perhaps not in the timing or the ways that we expect or prefer. But as people of faith, we hope and trust in the future God holds for us.

So, with all these seasons swirling around, I invite you to take moments each week to name the blessings of the seasons in your life – to remember how God works in our lives and invites us to participate in God’s kingdom here on earth.

Finally, I offer this prayer from our Presbyterian Book of Common Worship in light of our election season:

*Holy God, under your law we live,
and by your will we govern ourselves.
Help us as good citizens
to respect neighbors whose views differ from ours,
so that without partisan anger,
we may work out issues that divide us,
and elect candidates to serve the common welfare;
through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.*

Blessings and light, Renée



Mission Possible!



We will kick-off our stewardship season on Sunday, November 3 with the theme “Mission Possible” from the scripture in Matthew’s gospel, where Jesus declares, “for with God all things are possible.”

We will have a short presentation during coffee hour (with extra goodies provided by our Deacons) and everyone will receive their stewardship packets. We will dedicate our pledges on Sunday, November 24.



Time changes on
Sunday, November 3



November Mid-Week Christian Education Opportunities

As the daylight hours begin to fade, and colorful leaves are blown about by the cool crisp autumn breeze, our hearts fill with gratitude for all the many blessings given from above.

You are invited to gather with others from 5:30 - 7 pm the first three Wednesdays in November as we cultivate grateful hearts. Come enjoy a warm chili supper and a relaxed, casual time of praise, prayer and giving thanks at the church. Please sign up if you plan to attend. If you are willing to provide a pot of Chili, cornbread and/or salad any of the weeks please note this on the sign-up sheet or speak to Lou.

Wednesday, Nov. 6: Praise. An evening of Psalms & Songs giving praise to God.

Wednesday, Nov. 13: Prayer. A guided experience of individual and group prayer.

Wednesday, Nov. 20: Thanksgiving. A creative thanksgiving worship, giving thanks to God through prayer, praise and personal reflection.



Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers and At-large Nominating Committee Members Sunday, November 10

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, November 10 immediately following worship to elect ruling elders, deacons and at-large members of the church Nominating Committee. The slate of officers that will be placed in nomination by the committee are:

Ruling Elders - Class of 2027
Bill Gile
Shari Plunkett
Don Pollard

Deacons
Lynn Roman - Class of 2026
Suzanne Yee - Class of 2025
Maria Carter - Class 2027
Gigi MacLeod - Class of 2027

Nominations for Elders & Deacons will also be open from the floor.

Additionally, we will elect 4 at-large members to a one year term on the Nominating Committee. These individuals will serve with two Elders representing the Session and one representative of the Board of Deacons. At-large nominees will be nominated from the floor at the meeting. To be nominated the individual must have accepted the nomination in writing or do so in person at the meeting.

Heart to Heart Women's Ministry

Heart to Heart is a Christian community where women connect with one another and seek the heart of God through studying God's story and sharing our own stories of life and faith. Heart to Heart takes place on the second Thursday of the month from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. in the Fireside room. Between monthly gatherings women have the opportunity to intentionally connect with another woman to grow deeper in relationships with one another.

The October gathering included a lovely lunch of sandwiches, chips, veggies and cookies, prepared and provided by Linda Pollard and Cheryl Perenon. The study focused on Sisters and Rivals: Rachel & Leah, and Dolores McLeod shared parts of her own personal life/faith story.

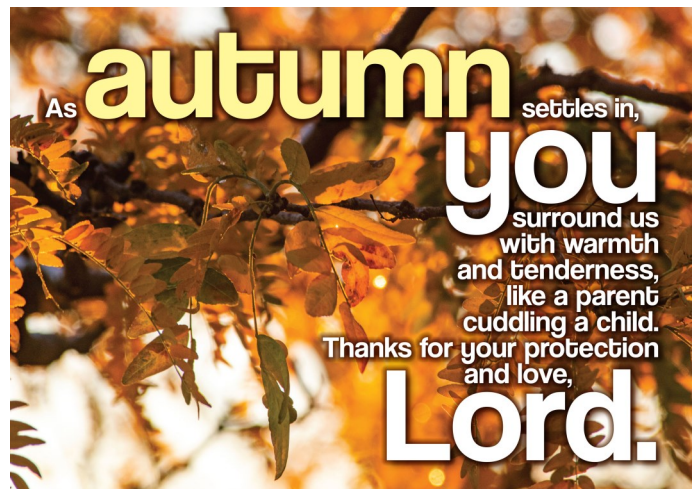


This month's Heart to Heart gathering will take place on Thursday, Nov. 17 from 12:30 - 2:30 pm with a light lunch. The November study will focus on *Outsiders: Tamar & Ruth* and Tina Maier will share *From the Heart*. Women are asked to register for the year, and simply let us know if you will not be able to attend any particular month. If you have not already registered and would like to participate in Heart to Heart please contact Lou Pennebaker.

Follow us on Facebook!

We encourage all members to follow our Facebook page, "First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro," and to share our posts with your friends and family! Your engagement—through comments, likes, and shares helps us spread our message and reach more people in our community.

Together, we can extend our ministry and invite others to join us on our journey of faith.



A NOTE FROM THE FINANCIAL ELDERS

Over the last several months, Session has been assessing both this year's and next year's spending. The good news is that through the generous giving of the congregation this year, an anticipated change in how we account for depreciation, and a net reduction in actual spending, we expect our cash income and expenditures for 2024 to be close to breakeven.

The church will likely return to a cash basis of accounting for its fixed assets and leasehold improvements. Under this method, the church will expense assets when they are paid for and will no longer recognize depreciation expenses. This is an acceptable method of accounting for churches.

The net reduction in 2024 spending is in spite of the fact that Session increased the Administrative Manager's hours effective Sept. 16, to allow her time to cover additional duties in accounting, communications and publicity.

The Session has already begun to look at 2025's operating budget. 2025 will be a transition year as we expect a new pastor to arrive during the summer. We are working to set our priorities so that as we ask you, the congregation, for your support, you know the mission and ministries that we feel God is calling us to support.

While there are challenges in the upcoming year, we know God has blessed us and provided for this church more times than we can count. We will endeavor to discern what choices need to be made to set First Presbyterian on the best path for its future.

Session is in receipt of a number of letters suggesting ways to move forward. We know that there are various opinions about staffing and the use of reserve funds and undesignated funds to cover operating expenses. Be assured that Session is aware of all of these suggestions and is actively considering what can and should be done. All of the suggested "solutions" have their advocates in Session.

Oktoberfest

Our Oktoberfest celebration was a hit, capturing the spirit of autumn with festive cheer! The event kicked off with a warm welcome, and our charismatic conjurer, Doug McKay Eakin, performed magic throughout the evening. There was music, dancing, laughter, and good conversation.

Thank you to everyone who attended and contributed to making this a fun and memorable evening!



NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship	28 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	29 6:00 pm Session Meeting	30	31	1	2
3 Stewardship Sunday 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 	4 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal 	5	6 5:30 pm Chili Nights, Warm Hearts: Praise. 	7 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal 	8	9 7:30 am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast/Women's Fellowship Breakfast @ Manor Grill
10 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/ Manna Bags & Equal Exchange Chocolate Sales 	11 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	12	13 5:30 pm Chili Nights, Warm Hearts: Prayer.	14 12:30 pm Heart to Heart: Women's Ministry 	15	16
17 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 	18 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal 	19 6:00 pm Session Meeting 	20 5:30 pm Chili Nights, Warm Hearts: Thanksgiving. 	21 11:30 am Young at Heart Luncheon/Program  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	22	23
24 Cinnamon Roll Sunday 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 	25 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	26	27	28 	29 	30

NOVEMBER

Donut Sundays

Sunday, November 3 & 17

Join us for our bi-monthly Donut Sundays, where every purchase supports our general church fund! Enjoy a sweet treat while contributing to our church community. Each dollar adds up and makes a significant impact on our mission and ministries.

All Saints' Day Commemoration

Sunday, November 3

This annual service remembers all the saints of the church, including members of the



congregation and those who had loved ones die in the past year. If you wish to have the name of a friend or loved one read at this service, please leave a message for Emely Wendell on the church voicemail or send an email to office@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org by Friday, November 1.

Men's Bible Study Breakfast & Women's Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday, November 9

The breakfast has been moved to the second Saturday for November only in order to accommodate several people who will be away the week before. Gary Calame will lead a discussion of Jacob, the third in a series based on Max Lucado's book "Ten Men of the Bible." All men are welcome to the no-host breakfast.

The women's no-host fellowship breakfast will also be held on Saturday, November 9. Women meet for fellowship at an adjacent table to the men's Bible Study. All women are welcome.



Young at Heart

Thursday, November 21

A representative from Harbor House will be sharing an impactful presentation about their incredible work in our community. As a Christian community development organization, Harbor House provides a safe space where opportunities, resources, and relationships help children, teens, and families thrive. Our church has proudly supported their mission for several years, and this is a great chance to learn more about their programs.



Please be sure to sign up in advance so we can plan accordingly for the delicious meal prepared by Bob Kraut and his team. You can sign up on Sunday mornings or by calling the church office. Donations to cover the meal cost are appreciated on the day of the event.



Cinnamon Roll Sunday

Sunday, November 24

As we embrace the beauty of fall, join us for a special Fellowship Hour featuring warm, delicious cinnamon rolls! It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow members, share stories, and strengthen our congregation.



Canned Food Drive

During the month of November, we'll be collecting canned goods for the Davis Street Community Center.

Davis Street has been a vital force in helping families and individuals transition out of poverty by providing essential resources and empowering them to lead productive lives.

Please place your donations in the basket in Fellowship Hall.



WINTER Coat Drive



As you start your holiday shopping, keep an eye out for sales on socks, scarves, and gloves—perfect items to donate alongside gently used coats for our December warm coats drive for April Showers. Stay tuned for more details.



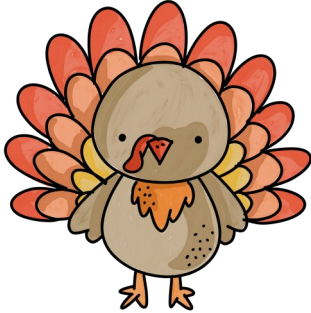


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Thanksgiving Message from Staff!

As we pause to reflect on the blessings within our church, we want to express our heartfelt gratitude for each of you—our dedicated members, attendees, Session members, Deacons, volunteers, and generous donors. Your unwavering support has been a source of strength during this challenging year, and it is a testament to the love and unity that binds us together in Christ.

Rev. Renée Rico, *Transitional Pastor*
Lou Pennebaker, *Director of Christian Education*
Richard Dinwiddie, *Director of Music*
Bobbi Hunter, Mary Mackie, Toni DiCapua, *Organists*
Emely Wendell, *Administrative Manager*
Rich Meadowcroft, *Custodian*



"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."