

# Highlights

First Presbyterian Church San Leandro

October 2024  
Volume 25 Issue 9

## World Communion Sunday and Peace & Global Witness Offering

On Sunday October 6th, 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.

This offering strengthens collaboration with churches, mid councils, and mission partners all over the world. Together we support efforts to inspire, equip, and connect Presbyterians engaging in ministries of reconciliation and peace that respond to cultures of violence, including our own.

Twenty-five percent of collected funds stay with local congregations, such as ours. As always, congregations and mid councils determine how best to use those gifts to engage in peace work and global witness. Our church can choose to support local peacemaking initiatives or community-based ministries, or to offer assistance to immigrants, support a Presbyterian mission co-worker, or provide financial support to the Presbyterian Ministry at the United Nations.

This year, we again come together as we have been sent—from east and west, and from north and south—to proclaim and engage in ministries that witness to the peace of Christ in all the earth.

Blessings and light, Renée



## Do Unto Others Series Continues

Our worship series **Do Unto Others** will continue through **Sunday October 20**.

The corresponding sermon discussions on Sunday mornings & the mid-week study *Cultivating Kindness through Scripture and Community* are also continuing.

Sermon Discussions take place in the Fireside Room at 11 am on Sundays.



The mid-week study takes place on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Fireside Room.



## New Office Hours!

Administrative Manager, Emely Wendell, has had her hours increased to better serve our church. In addition to her current responsibilities, Emely will now also manage our website, social media, accounting, newsletter, and other special tasks.

**Emely's temporary schedule is Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 2:30 pm.**

# Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee is actively working on the process of identifying the church's next pastor. They are in the initial stages and are meeting weekly to move forward with this important task. A key focus at this point is the development of a comprehensive and thoughtful job description.

As part of this process, the committee is carefully reviewing the results of the Mission Study and the CAT Survey. These insights, provided by the congregation, reflect the hopes and expectations for the future of the church. This feedback will guide the committee in shaping the qualities they are seeking in the next pastor, while also affirming the vision of the church both as it stands today and what it aspires to be.

The committee is grateful for the congregation's continued prayers and support as they navigate this important journey.



## Heart to Heart Women's Ministry

Last month 24 women came together for the first gathering of the all new Heart to Heart monthly ministry for women. 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 the year, the monthly study will explore the character and story of two Biblical women, exploring who they were individually, then comparing and contrasting their character and their faith stories, as well as considering how they relate to each other and to us as we live our lives of faith.

Each month a different woman will also share *From the Heart* about her own personal story of how God is at work in her life. 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.

At the first gathering the women enjoyed a delicious Italian Pasta Salad, with bread, butter and fruit, prepared and provided by Shari Plunkett. The study focused on Women of the Covenants: Sarah and Hagar. Kathy Pearson also shared some of her own personal faith story.

**Heart to Heart takes place on the second Thursday of the month from 12:30 – 2:30 pm in the Fireside room.**

The October gathering will take place on Thursday Oct. 10 with a light lunch prepared and provided by Linda Pollard. The October study will consider Sisters and Rivals: Rachel and Leah and we will hear as another woman shares *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.

### Session Elders & Teams

#### Administrative Team

Bob Kraut and Bill Nelson

#### Mission Team

Tunde Olagbagu and Ekaete Udofia

#### Worship Team

Linda Morine

#### Christian Education Team

Anne Milner

#### Community Life Team

Linda Gizzi and Helen Fortner

#### Stewardship Team

Faye Wilson

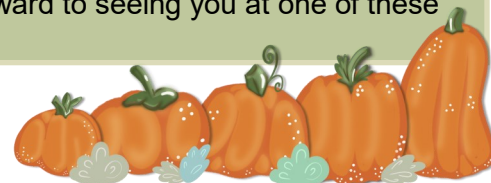
Thank you

### Coffee & Stewardship

Informal gatherings with Pastor Renée and a member of our Stewardship team are currently underway.

These sessions are designed to thank our members for their continued support, provide updates on what's happening at our church, and to answer questions. Invitations will be sent throughout the year for these opportunities to connect.

We look forward to seeing you at one of these gatherings!





## **SEEKING TO BE FAITHFUL TOGETHER:** *Guidelines for Presbyterians in Times of Disagreement*

*In a spirit of trust and love, we promise we will...*

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*Give them a hearing...  
listen before we answer*

(John 7:51 and Proverbs 18:13)

- 1. Treat each other respectfully so as to build trust, believing that we all desire to be faithful to Jesus the Christ;**
    - we will keep our conversations and communications open for candid and forthright exchange,
    - we will not ask questions or make statements in a way that will intimidate or judge others.
  - 2. Learn about various positions on the topic of disagreement.**
  - 3. State what we think we heard and ask for clarification before responding, in an effort to be sure we understand each other.**
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*Speak the truth in love*

(Ephesians 4:15)














- 4. Share our concerns directly with individuals or groups with whom we have disagreements in a spirit of love and respect in keeping with Jesus' teachings.**
  - 5. Focus on ideas and suggestions instead of questioning people's motives, intelligence or integrity;**
    - we will not engage in name-calling or labeling of others prior to, during or following the discussion.
  - 6. Share our personal experiences about the subject of disagreement so that others may more fully understand our concerns.**
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*Maintain the unity of the  
spirit in the bond of peace*

(Ephesians 4:3)

- 7. Indicate where we agree with those of other viewpoints as well as where we disagree.**
- 8. Seek to stay in community with each other though the discussion may be vigorous and full of tension;**
  - we will be ready to forgive and be forgiven.
- 9. Follow these additional guidelines when we meet in decision-making bodies:**
  - urge people of various points of view to speak and promise to listen to these positions seriously;
  - seek conclusions informed by our points of agreement;
  - be sensitive to the feelings and concerns of those who do not agree with the majority and respect their rights of conscience;
  - abide by the decision of the majority, and if we disagree with it and wish to change it, work for that change in ways that are consistent with these Guidelines.
- 10. Include our disagreement in our prayers, not praying for the triumph of our viewpoints, but seeking God's grace to listen attentively, to speak clearly and to remain open to the vision God holds for us all.**

# OCTOBER 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>29</b> 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am In-Person Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am Do Unto Others: Sermon Discussion</p>	<p><b>30</b> 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>1</b> 6:00 pm Session Meeting  <b>Session Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> 6:30 pm Do Unto Others: Mid-Week Study</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast/Women's Fellowship Breakfast @ Manor Grill </p>
<p><b>6</b> 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 11:00 am Do Unto Others: Sermon Discussion </p>	<p><b>7</b> 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal </p>	<p><b>8</b> 5:30 pm San Leandro Art Association Meeting</p>	<p><b>9</b> 6:30 pm Do Unto Others: Mid-Week Study </p>	<p><b>10</b> 12:30 pm Heart to Heart: Women's Ministry  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b> 4:00 pm Oktoberfest <b>Oktoberfest</b></p>
<p><b>13</b> 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/ Manna Bags &amp; Equal Exchange Chocolate Sales 11:00 am Do Unto Others: Sermon Discussion </p>	<p><b>14</b> 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>15</b> 6:00 pm Session Meeting </p>	<p><b>16</b> 6:30 pm Do Unto Others: Mid-Week Study</p>	<p><b>17</b> 11:30 am Young at Heart Luncheon/Program </p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b></p>
<p><b>20</b> 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/Donuts 11:00 am Do Unto Others: Sermon Discussion 11:00 am Deacons Meeting</p>	<p><b>21</b> 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal </p>	<p><b>22</b></p>	<p><b>23</b> 1:00 pm Christian Education Team Meeting 6:30 pm Do Unto Others: Mid-Week Study</p>	<p><b>24</b> 10:00 am Women's Book Club 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal </p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> Make a Difference Day <b>Fall Cleaning</b> </p>
<p><b>27</b> 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship</p>	<p><b>28</b> 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> Happy Halloween! </p>	<p><b>1</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> 7:30 am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast/Women's Fellowship Breakfast @ Manor Grill</p>

**YOU belong HERE!**



**Men's Bible Study Breakfast & Women's Fellowship Breakfast**  
*Saturday, October 5*

The monthly Men's Bible Study Breakfast and Women's Fellowship Breakfast will both take place on Saturday, October 5 at 7:30 am at the Manor Grill, located at 526 Manor Blvd. in San Leandro. All are invited and welcome to join!



**Women's Book Club**  
*Thursday, October 24*

Join us for an engaging discussion led by Gigi MacLeod on *The House in the Cerulean Sea* by TJ Klune. Even if you haven't read the book, we warmly invite you to join us for fellowship and conversation!



Lynn Roman and Georgie Hickey are part of the selection committee, and they welcome your book suggestions. You should have already read the book, and it should be available in our local libraries in various formats. (book, ebook, audiobook, or large print)

To be added to our email list, please contact the church office or reach out to Jeanette Rauscher.

**Oktoberfest**  
*Saturday, October 12*



It's time to celebrate Autumn! Join us for an exciting evening filled with delicious food, captivating magic, lively music, dancing, and tons of fun at our Oktoberfest celebration! Enjoy traditional cuisine and festivities that will get everyone in the spirit of the season.

Tickets are on sale now through October 6th, with a suggested donation of just \$12 per person. Plus, kids age 6 and under are free!

**Young at Heart**  
*Thursday, October 17*

The Young at Heart luncheon and program will be on Thursday, October 17 at 11:30 am. Elaine Eakin will present valuable information regarding the Inflation Reduction Act. and changes coming to Medicare. We will have our normal lunch from 12:00 to 12:45 pm, the public is invited to attend the presentation only at 1:00 pm. 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.



**Church Cleaning Day**  
*Saturday, October 26*

Mark your calendar and plan to join us on Saturday, October 26, for a Church Clean-up Day! We will come together to declutter and organize various areas throughout the church. We'll focus on tidying up our spaces and creating a welcoming environment for everyone. Let's work together to make our church a beautiful space for all.



**Budget Presentations**

Join Don Yee, our Treasurer, for one of his financial updates and educational sessions. This is a great opportunity to learn more about our church's financial health and ask any questions you may have. Stay tuned for upcoming dates, or feel free to reach out to Don Yee directly for more information via email [dpyee@att.net](mailto:dpyee@att.net) or by phone (510) 638-3692.



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### **Seeking to Be Faithful Together**

Our worship and classes are focusing on how we as community talk to one another about things where we may differ. Our Presbyterian Church USA has created some helpful guidelines around this topic, and we've printed them on the back of the calendar in this issue. We hope that these might help us to be even a more loving community where differences are accepted, and we respect each other as we share our individual perspectives.

