

Highlights

First Presbyterian Church San Leandro

February 2026
Volume 27 Issue 2

Seeking: Honest Questions for a Deeper Faith Worship from Ash Wednesday through Easter

This Lent our theme is centered around seeking. It is about being raw and honest in our questioning, our doubts, our fears, our confusion, our discoveries—and in that process, unveiling a more authentic, rooted faith. It is in our seeking that we journey alongside the Son of Man, and ultimately, find the sunrise.



Our worship will take different stories of lent as our jumping off point to consider what questions we might ask ourselves, and our mid-week adult education class will invite those who attend to go deeper in personal reflection and conversation.

The writer of the worship materials we will be using says this about seeking:

“So often faith is portrayed as something you have or you don’t. You are strong in your faith, or you are knee-deep in doubt. It’s one or the other. This black and white thinking fits with our society’s obsession with choosing sides. However, it doesn’t fit with my experience of faith. For me, faith has always been an experience of seeking—seeking God in the world, seeking the good, seeking a deeper truth. I seek my way through prayer. I seek my way into scripture. I am forever cobbling together memories, feelings, questions, and experiences, all in an effort to see God more clearly. When we studied the scriptures for this season of Lent, I saw that same hungry seeking in the text. Over and over, people ask questions. Jesus asks questions. The crowds ask questions. Everyone seems to be looking for something deeper, and it is that honest curiosity that allows them to run into the Divine.”

I long for that same experience for all of us. So may we be seekers. May we ask questions. May we look for God under every rock and stone. And in the seeking, may we find.

Blessings and light, Renée

Ash Wednesday Is this the fast that I choose?

Service of Ashes– Wed. Feb. 18 at 12 noon
New time! 1/2 hour service in Sanctuary

This year we are trying something new – holding our Ash Wednesday service during the day, when most of our membership feels comfortable driving. We will keep the service short in order to invite our neighbors to participate in this service imposition of ashes

As we begin our series, we must examine if our actions match what we profess. As we practice seeking this Lent, what kind of fast will you choose? How will you live your faith? How will you live the questions of your faith?

Note: Due to the time change of this service, we will also offer imposition of ashes during the first Sunday in Lent for those who cannot attend.

Sundays in Lent

Feb. 22	Who will you listen to? Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Matthew 4:1-11
March 1	How can we begin again? John 3:1-17 Genesis 12:1-4a
March 8	Will you give me a drink? Exodus 17:1-7 John 4:5-42
March 15	What about sin? John 9:1-41
March 22	Can these bones live? Ezekiel 37:1-14 John 11:1-45
March 29	Palm/Passion Sunday We hear the story of Holy Week from the Gospel of Mark



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Growing & deepening your faith

Heart to Heart

Thursday, February 12, 2026 at 12:30 pm

Knowing the Third Part of the Trinity: God the Holy Spirit

Heart to Heart women's ministry returned last month and began an ALL NEW study that is exploring the least understood part of The Trinity:



God the Holy Spirit. Together we are encountering the Holy Spirit afresh through deep Biblical study and simple practices designed to help fill your life with the living presence, the almighty power and the peace that surpasses understanding that all comes from *Knowing the Holy Spirit*.

All women are invited to come be a part of this Christian community where women connect with one another and seek the heart of God together as we study God's word and share life and faith. Each monthly gathering begins at 12:30 pm in the Fireside Room and includes lunch, study, discussion and fellowship. This month we will enjoy lunch provided by Georgie Hickey and further explore together *The Spirit Who Hovers*. Women are asked to sign up each month to ensure that there will be a seat and enough food for everyone attending.



**Love is patient,
Love is kind.**

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4

Let's Read This Book!

The Prodigal Prophet by Timothy Keller

Tuesdays, 1:30 pm, February 17 through May 5

Read by Shari Plunkett

If you're saying to yourself, "I know the story of the big fish already, that's not for me." Think again! I guarantee you will walk away from this group with biblical insight you have never considered, and beyond insight, our group is the kind of setting where souls are transformed as well. Please join us in the Fireside Room. There is no advanced preparation. You don't even have to buy a book! But for those who want one, I have bought a supply and you can get it from me for \$10.00. For "us Presbyterians who like to engage our minds" it's hard to think of a better way to spend 60-90 minutes on a Tuesday afternoon. Text or call me at 510-435-6340 to reserve a book or email splunkett708@gmail.com

-Shari Plunkett

Lent Daily Devotionals

This Lent, we have two different options for those who desire to daily deeper develop their individual faith. One is a **Daily Lent Devotional Email** the other is a printed **Daily Lenten Scripture Calendar**. It is your choice to use one or the other or even both.

The **Daily Lent Devotional Email** is designed to further explore the weekly *Seeking Question* asked in the Sunday sermon by asking another honest question for deeper faith. These daily questions might be simply something to ponder, pray about and/or use as a journal prompt. Each daily email will also include a simple daily prayer related to the question. If you wish to receive the Daily Lent Devotional Email with these additional honest questions for deeper faith throughout Lent be sure to **sign up in Fellowship Hall or email office@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org to be added to the email distribution list.**

The **Daily Lenten Scripture Calendar** is designed as a guide for a short, simple, daily worship and devotional experience on your own. Each day offers a brief scripture and simple reflection based on a daily theme. Calendars will be available for pick up at the church.



Midweek Lent Experience: Casseroles & Questions

**Wednesday evenings in Lent; February 25 -
March 25; 5:30 - 7:30 pm; Fellowship Hall**

Come enjoy a warm comforting casserole dinner and dive deeper into the Lent Theme of Honest Questions for Deeper Faith. Together we will seek clarity, connection, wonder, justice and balance as we live as disciples of Jesus Christ. Each week we will further explore a different question designed to help find clarity and new perspectives, and to facilitate new beginnings, restoration and wider grace.



To participate in this Lenten Midweek experience of Casseroles and Questions, please look for further details and a sign-up sheet later this month. If you plan to attend and might be willing to prepare and provide a casserole or other dinner items (salad, fruit, bread, etc.) one of the weeks please speak with Lou Pennebaker or note this on the sign-up sheet.

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am The Years of Ripening Class	2 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	3	4	5	6	7 7:30am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast / Women's Fellowship @ Manor Grill 9:45 am Winter Bell Camp
8 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/ Manna Bags & Equal Exchange Chocolate Sales 11:00 am The Years of Ripening Class 	9 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal 	10	11	12 12:30 pm Heart to Heart: Women's Ministry  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13	14
15 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am The Years of Ripening Class 2:00 pm Love at First Palette: A Valentine Paint Party 	16 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	17 1:30 pm Let's Read This Book! 6:00 pm Session Meeting  Session Meeting	18 12:00 Noon Ash Wednesday Service 	19 11:30 am Young at Heart Luncheon/Program 	20	21 8:00 am - 3:00 pm American Red Cross Blood Drive 12:00 pm San Leandro Art Association Event
22 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am The Years of Ripening Class	23 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	24 1:30 pm Let's Read This Book!	25 1:00 pm Christian Education Team Meeting 5:30 pm Casseroles & Questions	26 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27	28

FEBRUARY

Men's Bible Study & Women's Fellowship Breakfasts

Saturday, February 7 at 7:30 am at Manor Grill

Men will continue their study of the "Fruits of the Spirit." For the February 7 meeting, Jim Wakeman will lead a discussion on "Goodness." Women will meet for fellowship at a nearby table. All are welcome to the no-host breakfasts.

Love at First Palette: A Valentine Paint Party

Sunday, February 15 at 2pm; Fellowship Hall

Celebrate the season of love with an afternoon of guided painting, **hearty** appetizers, and sweet treats, with all supplies included. Suggested donation of \$20 per person or \$60 for a family/group of 4. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall by Thursday, February 12, so we can plan accordingly.



Young at Heart

Thursday, February 19 at 11:30 am; Fellowship Hall

We are delighted to have Harmony Fusion present a fun filled program of foot tapping music. 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.



Reminder for Graduating High School Seniors

Scholarship applications are due this month! Applications have been mailed to graduating seniors of whom we are aware. If you are, or know of, a graduating high school senior who has been active in our church as a child or youth and did not receive an application, please contact Lou Pennebaker. Applications must be received by Sunday, February 15 to be considered.

Pastor Nominating Committee

The Pastor Nominating Committee is still working to find pastoral candidates for the pastor position. Thank you for your continued support and prayers for us. We continue to listen for God's direction as we move forward.

Per Capita Reminder

This is a friendly reminder to include 2026 per capita in your giving, which supports our shared ministry beyond our congregation through the Presbyterian Church (USA). The amount is \$45 per active member—please use the envelope marked "Per Capita Apportionment" or note "per capita" with your payment. Thank you for your continued support.



Church Supply Room

The Christian Education Team has begun cleaning up and organizing the different CE spaces throughout the church beginning with rooms on the 2nd floor of the office wing. Last month, Anne Milner, Jane Kraut, Georgie Hickey and Lou Pennebaker spent several hours cleaning out and organizing the Supply Room. While they got a LOT done, the job is ongoing and nowhere near finished!

As we begin to have more ministries, programs and events there is an understandable increase in use of supplies and the CE team wants to do our best to help facilitate this. The goal is to first clean and organize the space and supplies; then create a system for requesting/using supplies. The intent is NOT to restrict the use of supplies by any means but to ensure that the supplies are maintained and readily available to those who need them, when they need them.

In the meantime, while we are in the midst of cleaning out and organizing, if you need supplies or items that might have previously been stored in the Supply Room, please contact Lou and she will be sure that you have access to what you need. Additionally, it would be very helpful if any/all supplies from the Supply Closet that have been borrowed recently are returned so that they can be given a proper place in the new organization. Thank you!

NEW Date! Annual Congregational Meeting

Our Annual Congregational Meeting will now be held on **Sunday, March 8** following Worship in the Fellowship Hall.



God is
LOVE.

1 JOHN 4:16





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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God demonstrates his own love for us...

ROMANS 5:8



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Day at the Woods: Celebrating 80 years of Westminster Woods

When: Saturday, April 25th, 2026
Time: 12pm-6pm
Where: 6510 Bohemian Hwy, Occidental, CA 95472

Westminster Woods is celebrating its 80th Anniversary this year! To celebrate this very special milestone, The Woods will be filling the year with as many joyful moments as possible. One of the biggest will be a Day at The Woods on April 25th. This celebration of community and heartfelt thank you to the people who have shaped The Woods over the past 80 years will include a Sherwood themed Fair on the Big Green Field, archery, Craft shack creations, Hiking, Food trucks, beer & wine, Live music and the option to add on Challenge Course Ziplines! More than anything, this year's Day at the Woods is about celebrating the incredible 80-year milestone.

Tickets go live at 10am on Sunday, February 1st on westminsterwoods.org.

All proceeds from this event help sustain Westminster Woods' mission to provide a sanctuary for spiritual reflection and growth, to foster character and community, and to deepen care for the natural world. Through experiential outdoor education, we encourage stewardship of our environment, support the development of science literacy, and strengthen relationships with one another, with Christ, and with our diverse communities.

