

Highlights

March 2026

First Presbyterian Church San Leandro

Volume 27 Issue 3

Diving Into Holy Week

With the coming of Lent, we are headed toward Holy Week at the end of March this year.

This is one of the most significant points in our Christian year. Often people tell me that they don't have time to come to mid-week services, so they leap from Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday in worship. This year, if you have the time, I invite you into a deeper level of this foundational story of our faith. We'll be telling a good part of the story this coming Sunday – from Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey to his arrest in the garden of Gethsemane. On Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, we'll have a traditional service to remember the last supper and offer communion. And then we'll have Easter Sunday Service to celebrate the resurrection of Christ.

If you haven't had the chance in a while, I invite you to read the Story of Holy Week from the gospel of Matthew at the end of the month. Begin with chapter 21 and read to the end. You can split it up each day or read it all at once. If you do, you may find your experience of Holy Week deepens.

While we are challenged by current circumstances, as Christians, we live into hope through the resurrection. The hymn Live into Hope has this as its concluding stanza:

*Live into hope of captives freed
From chains of fear or want or greed.
God now proclaims our full release
To faith and hope and joy and peace.*

Blessings and light,
Pastor Renée



Worship at a Glance

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

Looking for a few good folks– Offering Team

Before COVID, the church included a time to take the offering each Sunday by passing plates. That was phased out as COVID hit, and we switched to having the beautiful wood box made by Rich Toney in the narthex as our way of collecting the offering.

Beginning Palm Sunday, March 29, we will re-start collecting the offering row by row. It offers an easier option for regular givers, and provides visitors with a more visible and less-confusing way to give.

The Worship Team needs help – your help. We need a cadre of folks willing to supplement our regular usher team in collecting the offering – just that part of the service. You wouldn't have to sign-up ahead of time, but on a particular Sunday, one of our ushers would let you know that you are needed that Sunday.

Sign-up in the Fellowship Hall, and we'll add you to the list. Then we'll provide a brief training and you'll be ready to help when needed. Talk to Linda Morine or Renée Rico for more information.

-The Worship Team



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Growing & deepening your faith

Heart to Heart

Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 12:30 pm

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

The new Heart to Heart women's ministry study that is exploring the least understood part of The Trinity: God the Holy Spirit is proving to be both challenging and engaging. Each month women are encountering the Holy Spirit afresh through deep Biblical study and simple practices designed to help awaken our relationship with the Holy Spirit. In January, we were introduced to the concept of Parichoresis, a theological term that describes the internal relationship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit as a dance or choreography. In February, we considered many examples from both the Old and New Testaments of the Holy Spirit *Hovering over the Tohu wa vohu*, that which is formless and empty; the uncertainty; the unknown, the chaos. This month as we continue Knowing God the Holy Spirit, we will explore the Spirit Who Makes.



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 p, in the Fireside room and includes a light, study, discussion and fellowship. This month we will enjoy lunch provided by Michele Owyang and Sue Goodnow. Women are asked to sign up each month to ensure that there will be a seat and enough food for everyone attending.



The LORD will guide you continually...
You shall be like a watered garden, And like
a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.

Isaiah 58:11, NKJV

Two Daily Lent Devotional Opportunities:

1. A printed Lenten Scripture Calendar
2. Devotional Email

Are you using one or the other or maybe even both? It's not too late to start!

If you are not already using one (or both) of the Lent Devotionals to daily deeper develop your individual faith - it's not too late to start! The individual daily scriptures found on the printed calendar as well as the single question and prayer found in the daily devotional email are specific to each day and do not necessarily build on what has come before, so it does not matter if you got a late start or if you miss a day. Simply focus on today! **To do so, pick up a calendar in Fellowship Hall and/or email office@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org to be added to the email devotional distribution to deeper develop your faith.**



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. Each week we seek clarity, connection, wonder, justice and balance as we further explore the question that was asked as part of the prior Sunday Sermon. Each question is designed to help us find clarity and new perspectives and to facilitate new beginnings, restoration and wider grace as we live out our faith as disciples of Jesus Christ.

If you plan to attend Casseroles and Questions please call the church office or sign-up on Sunday. Additionally, if you are 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.

March 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 1:30 pm Let's Read This Book!	4 5:30 pm Casseroles & Questions 	5	6	7 7:30 am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast / Women's Fellowship @ Manor Grill
8 Annual Congregational Meeting 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 1:30 pm Let's Read This Book!	11 5:30 pm Casseroles & Questions	12 12:30 pm Heart to Heart: Women's Ministry  7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 9:00 am Handwritten Kindness Cards/Invites	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	16 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	17- St. Patrick's Day 1:30 pm Let's Read This Book! 6:00 pm Session Meeting 	18 5:30 pm Casseroles & Questions	19 11:30 am Young at Heart Luncheon/Program 	20	21 12:00 pm San Leandro Art Association Meeting
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 2:00 pm Doreen Wellman's Memorial	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
29 Palm Sunday 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 11:00 am The Years of Ripening Class 	30 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal	31 1:30 pm Let's Read This Book! 	1	2 Maundy Thursday Service	3	4 7:30 am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast/Women's Fellowship Breakfast @ Manor Grill 9:00 am Music Department Rehearsal



MARCH

Men's Bible Study & Women's Fellowship Breakfasts

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

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



Young at Heart

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

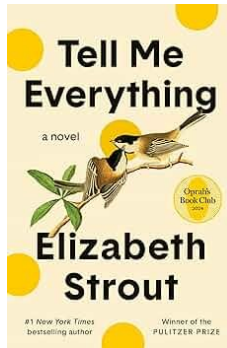
Join us as our guest speaker, Robert Raburn, longtime Director of BART's San Leandro District, will share updates on local station improvements and plans for the Bayfair area. Please sign up ahead of time so we can plan for the meal prepared by Bob Kraut and his team; donations toward the meal are appreciated.



Women's Book Club

Date TBD for late March/early April

Our next selection is *Tell Me Everything: A Novel* by Elizabeth Strout, a hopeful and healing story about new friendships, old loves, and the very human desire to leave a mark on the world. Watch your bulletin for details. If you are not on our email list, please contact Jeanette Rauscher or the church office to be added.



Women's Shelter Help Needed

Our church provides dinner for the San Leandro Women's Shelter on the second Tuesday of every month. Suzanne Yee needs volunteers to provide parts of the meal (entrée, salad, vegetables, dessert, etc.) each month. If you would be willing to help, please contact Suzanne at suzgyee@gmail.com



Thank you from the Deacons

The Deacons are deeply grateful for your faithful financial support. Because of your generosity, we are able to share gifts with Building Futures, San Lorenzo Family Help Center, April Showers, provide supplies for homeless lunches, Pastoral Care, and even keep the coffee, cookies, and juice flowing on Sunday mornings. Thank you!



Called to Kindness

This March, we're spreading a little extra kindness by sharing handwritten cards with messages like "You matter in this world," simple reminders of God's love. We never really know when someone might be having their hardest day, so let's share that love freely, whether or not they ever walk through our doors.



Each card will include our church information and Easter worship date, and we're inviting members to hand them out in the community to anyone they feel led to bless.

If you would like to help, please contact Emely Wendell by Friday, March 6 at office@firstpresbyterianchurchsl.org, or sign up in the Fellowship Hall. We will gather on Friday, March 13 at 9 am to handwrite and assemble the cards.



Doreen Wellman

September 21, 1926—January 6, 2026

A memorial service will be held at First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro on Sunday, March 22 at 2:00 pm. Cards may be sent to:

2453 Harborview Drive, San Leandro, CA 94577

Bill Gile

February 18, 1941—February 18, 2026

Memorial service details are pending. Please watch the bulletin for updates. Cards may be sent to:

3406 Otter Court, Hayward, CA 94542





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

180 Estudillo Avenue
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Daylights Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 8, so remember to set your clocks forward one hour Saturday night and join us bright and on time for worship at 9:30 am. As the days grow longer, we look forward to gathering together in hope and renewal this spring.

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” – Psalm 118:24



Spring forward in faith!
CHANGE YOUR CLOCKS and
join us on time for worship.

Easter Sunday Worship

EASTER SUNDAY

Join us in the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the hope of new life.

APRIL 5 • 9:30 AM

