

Highlights

First Presbyterian Church San Leandro

November 2025
Volume 26 Issue 11

GRATEFUL FOR THE PAST, HOPEFUL FOR THE FUTURE

In 1925, members of First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro gathered to dedicate a new sanctuary—a home built with prayer, generosity, and a shared vision of faith. Through the decades, these walls have witnessed baptisms, weddings, memorials, laughter, tears, and countless moments of inspiration and grace.



The cornerstone of the current church was laid on June 21, 1925 and a building dedication was held on November 22, 1925. Our year of celebrating 100 years of faith, fellowship, and service at 180 Estudillo Ave. will culminate with one final Building Centennial Celebration on Sunday, November 23, 2025 - the first day of our next 100 years!

Building Centennial Celebration - Sunday, November 23, 2025

- Worship featuring a special musical offering by the Chancel Choir and Bells
- Dedication of the 2026 pledges
- Re-dedication of our building
- A proclamation by San Leandro Mayor, Juan González
- A commemorative congregational photo
- A reception in Fellowship Hall with light refreshments

Come celebrate this 100 year anniversary as we look back with gratitude and ahead with hope for the future. The same spirit that guided that generation continues to move among us, calling us to care for one another and to be a light in our community for the next century.

Moving forward in faith—grateful for where we've been and hopeful for what's yet to come.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities to Connect

November 2-23

Invest in Hope Stewardship Campaign

November 2-16

Food Drive for Local Shelter

November 1

Men's Bible Study & Women's Fellowship Breakfasts

November 5

New Officers Training

November 11

Crafts Day

November 23

Pledge Dedication
Building Re-dedication

November 30

1st Sunday of Advent:
Crafts & Casseroles

Enough: God's Blessings of Abundance (Adult Education Class)

Sundays, Nov. 2–16 at 11:00 am

or Tuesdays, Nov. 4–18 at 1:30 pm; Fireside Room

Most of us think we do not have enough – of just about everything. In this class, we are challenged to rethink this impulse – we are led to look at what is really most important to have in life – God's blessings, which are in abundance. We'll explore what it means to have enough and look at how knowing that is good for our bodies, our families, and our world.

Heart to Heart

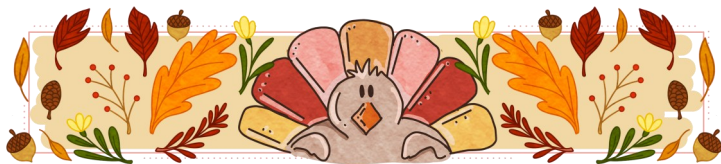
Knowing the Third Part of the Trinity: God the Holy Spirit

Beginning January 9, 2026

Heart to Heart women's ministry is a 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. Heart to Heart will resume monthly gatherings in January and continue through June, 2026. All women are invited to participate as we begin a new study exploring the least understood part of The Trinity: God the Holy Spirit. Together we will encounter the Holy Spirit afresh through deep Biblical study and simple practices that will help to fill your life with the living presence, the almighty power and the peace that surpasses understanding that comes from Knowing the Third Person of the Trinity: God the Holy Spirit.



Heart to Heart will once again take place on the second Thursday of the month starting at 12:30 pm in the Fireside Room and will include a light lunch. Women are asked to sign up each month to ensure that there will be a seat and enough food for everyone attending. The January sign-up will be available throughout the month of December in Fellowship Hall.



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.



STEWARDSHIP DRIVE

Investing in God's hope for our future

Investing in Hope

It's been about two and a half years since I've joined you on this journey of transition. Here we are again at the time of a stewardship campaign and one more time, we are in the in-between.



While we don't know exactly how things will go, we are doing the work to address our transition. The PNC continues to be hard at work to identify a candidate to become the next pastor of this congregation. The usual life and ministry of the church continues: we are still gathering for worship each Sunday, sometimes with fun elements to interpret the word, and other times taking communion. Our chancel and bell choirs continue to share their gifts, members gather to study God's word, and many in the congregation support our local missions with food and their presence.

In other words, we are continuing to make investments in God's hope for our world. We have faith that God has a future for us, even though we don't know exactly what it will look like. This is what hopeful believers do. For example, the earliest believers in Jesus called the Christian faith "the way" because they also were on a journey. Throughout time, Christians have had hope for the future journey, through all the highs and lows.

We hope that you will join us in investing in hope at this critical time. This year, during Stewardship time, we ask you to have faith in the mission of this church.

Sunday, November 2 is Stewardship Sunday. During Coffee Fellowship there will be packets available for each of our church family members to take home, read through, and prayerfully consider your support for God's ministry in the coming year here at First Presbyterian Church of San Leandro. We will also be serving a variety of donuts as a reminder that God asks us to "fill the hole" by supporting the many ministries we have and will involve ourselves in the coming year.

For those who are not able to attend in-person worship on November 2, your packets will be sent to you by mail on Tuesday, November 4. You will receive them in plenty of time to pray about your pledge for 2026.

We will be dedicating our pledges during worship on Sunday, November 23, which coincidentally is the start of the 2nd century of worship and ministry for First Presbyterian at 180 Estudillo. If you are not currently attending worship in person, please mail your pledge card prior to November 23 so that we can include it in our time of dedication during the worship service.

Thank you in advance, for your continued support of our church's ministry.

Blessings and light, Renée

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The cornerstone of the current church was laid on June 21, 1925 and a building dedication was held on Nov. 22, 1925. Our year of celebrating 100 years of faith, fellowship, and service at 180 Estudillo Ave. will culminate with one final Building Centennial Celebration on Sunday, Nov. 23, 2025 – the first day of our next 100 years!

As part of the morning worship service we will recall our past with gratitude and look to the future with hope. The Chancel Choir and Bells will present a special combined musical offering, we will dedicate the 2026 pledges as well as re-dedicate our building using the same *Words of Dedication* that were spoken by the congregation 100 years ago when the building was first dedicated. San Leandro Mayor, Jaun González, will join us for worship and present a proclamation in recognition of our Building Centennial and a commemorative photo of all in attendance will be taken to mark the occasion. After all of this everyone will be to a reception in Fellowship Hall with light refreshments and to hear stories from long time members as they reminisce about the First Presbyterian Church facilities.

Come celebrate this 100 year anniversary as we look back with gratitude and ahead with hope for the future. For the same spirit that guided our founders continues to move among us, calling us to care for one another and to be a light in our community for another century.

THIS MONTH

Upcoming Events & Opportunities to Connect

November 2-23

Invest in Hope Stewardship Campaign

November 2- 16

Canned Food Drive for Local Shelter

November 1

Men's Bible Study & Women's Fellowship Breakfasts

November 5

New Officers Training

November 11

Crafts Day

November 23

Pledge Dedication
Building Re-dedication

November 30

1st Sunday of Advent: Crafts & Casseroles



November 2025

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| 26 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am Enough: God's Blessing of Abundance | 27 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal | 28 1:30 pm Enough: God's Blessing of Abundance 6:00 pm Session Meeting | 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 7:30 am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast / Women's Fellowship |
| 2 Stewardship Sunday 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am Enough: God's Blessing of Abundance | 3 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal | 4 1:30 pm Enough: God's Blessing of Abundance | 5 6:00 pm New Officer Training | 6 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 7 | 8 |
| 9 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/ Manna Bags & Chocolate Sales 11:00 am Enough: God's Blessing of Abundance | 10 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal | 11 1:00 pm Holiday Craft Day  1:30 pm Enough: God's Blessing of Abundance | 12 1:00 pm Christian Education Team Meeting | 13 | 14 | 15 9:00 am Chancel Bells Rehearsal  |
| 16 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am Enough: God's Blessing of Abundance | 17 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal  | 18 1:30 pm Enough: God's Blessing of Abundance 6:00 pm Session Meeting | 19 | 20 11:30 am Young at Heart Luncheon/Program 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 21 | 22 |
| 23 Pledge Dedication 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Congregation Photo 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship & Building Rededication Reception | 24 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal | 25 | 26 | 27 Happy Thanksgiving! | 28  | 29 |
| 30 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Advent Celebration: Crafts & Casseroles 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship  | 1 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal | 2 | 3 | 4 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal | 5 | 6 7:30 am Men's Bible Study & Breakfast / Women's Fellowship 11:00 am - 3:00pm White Elephant Party @ Don & Linda Pollard's Home |

NOVEMBER

Men's Bible Study & Women's Fellowship Breakfasts

Saturday, November 1 at 7:30 am at Manor Grill

The men's group is continuing its study of the "Fruits of the Spirit" from Galatians 5:22–23, using Rilla June's book as a guide. This month, Leland Morine will lead the discussion on "Peace."

Crafts Day

Tuesday, November 11 at 1:00 pm; Fellowship Hall

Join us for simple fall and holiday crafts — perfect for decorating your home, trimming your Christmas tree, or gifting to friends, neighbors, or coworkers. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, November 9 so we can have plenty of materials ready for everyone. Feel free to bring a finger-food treat to share, though it's not required.

Young at Heart

Thursday, November 20 at 11:30 am; Fellowship Hall

Join us for a joyful gathering featuring the Comfort & Joy Ukulele Singing and Playing Outreach Group! Enjoy live music, warm fellowship, and a delicious meal prepared by Bob Kraut and his team. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or call the church office so we can plan accordingly. Donations to help cover the meal cost are appreciated.

New Officers Elected

At the called congregational meeting on September 28, the following officers were elected:

Elders (Class of 2028)

Don Atkinson-Adams

Lowell Hickey

Linda Morine

Deacons

Jeanette Rauscher (2028)

Kathy Pearson (2026)

Terry Kirby (2026)

Marj Toney (2026)

We are thankful to these members for stepping up into leadership positions beginning January 1, 2026. Thanks also to the members of the Nominating Committee for their diligent work in identifying people willing to serve.



White Elephant Party!

Mark your calendars for Don & Linda Pollard's White Elephant Party on Saturday, December 6 from 11am—3pm pm for a festive afternoon of gifts, food, and holiday cheer!

Advent Begins November 30th

Advent is a special time of the church year. It is a season of preparing for the coming of Christ. We have come to understand this as the coming of the Christ-child, the baby Jesus, Emmanuel: God with us. However, Advent not only looks backward, commemorating when God became flesh and dwelt among us, it also looks to the future, anticipating with hope, the time when Jesus, the Prince of Peace will come again.

Angels Among Us

This year our theme for advent will be *Angels Among Us*. The angels that appear in the story of Jesus' birth would have been very comfortable in our world of social media posts and hashtags. Their messages were often short and to the point—their favorite line being #DoNotBeAfraid. As we look at the stories of these winged messengers to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph and the Shepherds and their reactions to them, we will contemplate what messages we can offer that will counteract a culture of fear and bring more hope, more peace, more joy, and more love to the world.



Advent Celebration

Each Sunday in Advent, the Christian Education team will once again be offering Advent Celebrations in Fellowship Hall following the morning worship. On Sunday, November 30 we will have Crafts & Casseroles. Come enjoy a variety of breakfast casseroles and create different Advent crafts to help celebrate and count the days ahead as we anticipate the coming of Christ.



ADVENT Daily Devotional

A LARGE PRINT Advent Daily Devotional written especially for older adults in the later years of life and highlighting the message of having PEACE in the LORD always will be available at the church for individuals to take home and use throughout the Advent season.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

180 Estudillo Avenue
San Leandro, CA 94577

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FOOD DRIVE

Support local community food banks
this November!

Donate **unexpired & non-perishable goods** to help families transition out of poverty and lead productive lives.

Please place your donations in the basket in Fellowship Hall.



DONATE BY NOVEMBER 16