

Highlights

First Presbyterian Church San Leandro

October 2025
Volume 26 Issue 10

Protecting Our Members & Friends

Church is supposed to be a safe place for all of us to gather. We come freely, to be inspired and connect with God and each other. This is something we value highly. Every person is a child of God and worthy of respect and dignity.

Recently, changes at the Federal government level will affect us and our feelings of safety. Where previously immigration agencies had a “hands-off” policy for religious congregations in searching generally or for particular people, we can now be subject to such visits by authorities. One congregation in our neighborhood has already had such a visit.

In response to this change of events, the Session has approved a proposed policy that seeks to protect our members and friends while still fully complying with the law. ICE and other agencies may enter and look for people in our “public” spaces. We are designating our public spaces on Sunday mornings to be our sanctuary, fellowship hall, and hall bathrooms.

Immigration authorities have much more limited access to spaces that are labelled as “private.” We are taking action now to label some of the rooms in our building as “private” – individual offices, classrooms, and storage areas, for example. All that means is that people from the public are not automatically granted access to those rooms. You, as people in our congregation, may freely enter these spaces, and be shielded from visits by immigration authorities except in limited circumstances.

We will be sharing more as we work out our other responses to this new reality. If you have questions or concerns, please talk to Pastor Renée or any member of Session.

Blessings and light, Renée



PNC Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee has been working diligently to identify pastoral candidates for the pastor position. Your prayers are coveted as they continue their work.



Pastor Renée's Contract Renewed

The Session voted at their August meeting to renew Pastor Renee's transitional contract for up to an additional six months beginning November 1. She is committed to staying until the church calls the next pastor. The journey continues...





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Growing & deepening your faith

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

Join us for 4 sessions, beginning Sunday, October 26 at 11:00 am or Tuesday, October 28 at 1:30 pm

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. **Sign up in Fellowship Hall.**

A New Year of Heart to Heart Women's Ministry

The Christian Education Team is excited and grateful that Lou will once again lead Heart to Heart, a monthly women's ministry gathering at 12:30 pm on the second Thursday of the month. However, since Lou is returning from Medical Leave on Oct 5, the CE team feels strongly that it is unrealistic for Heart to Heart to begin that same week.



It is the recommendation of the CE team that Heart to Heart wait to start again in the New Year, after all the holiday and end of year activities are finished. As a result, monthly Heart to Heart gatherings will resume again on Thursday, January 9, 2026. All women are invited to come and be a part of this Christian community, connecting with one another and together seeking the Heart of God once again in 2026!

In Great Gratitude

I want to extend my deepest appreciation to all who prayed for me, cared for me and reached out to me while I was out on medical leave the last two months. I am so very grateful for your many prayers, well wishes, cards, calls, visits and meals as I underwent and recovered from major surgery.

I am also thankful to the Personnel Team, the Christian Education Team and the church staff that made it possible for me to take the time away that I need. Lastly, but most certainly not least, I give all glory and honor and praise to God for providing for and protecting me through all of this. For it was by the grace of God that my condition was discovered early, treated efficiently, effectively and successfully, and that there is no need for further treatment or concern.

After all that I have been through, I am happy to be returning to normal life and to once again be able to serve and worship with you beginning on Sunday, October 5.

Lou Pennebaker
Director of Christian Nurture and Education

Building & Grounds Update

Exciting updates are happening around the church!

- **Stained Glass – Phase 1:**
Work is underway on the west wing windows, preserving these historic treasures for generations.
- **Lighting Improvements:**
Electrical work in the office hallway is brightening the entrance for a more inviting welcome.
- **Fellowship Hall:**
A new TV will share events, photos, and member highlights
- **Copier Room Upgrade:**
The copier room is being refreshed! Shelving is adjusted so the printer can move into the alcove, opening the walkway.
- **Fresh Paint & Flooring:**
The pastor's office will soon be painted and carpeted, and the workroom will also receive a fresh coat of paint.

We are grateful for the hands and hearts making these projects possible. Each update helps our church remain a welcoming home for ministry, fellowship, and worship.



Building & Grounds Chair, Donald Pollard

New Members Class at First Presbyterian – Let Us Know If You are Interested

Would you like to explore becoming a member of First Presbyterian? Pastor Renée will lead a new member class soon at the church for those who wish to explore joining the church. Date is to be decided.

We'll look at what it means to be a disciple of Christ and part of membership, review a little about being Presbyterian, and for those wishing to join, meet with Session members. Lunch is provided. For more information, contact Pastor Renée.

Sign-up in Fellowship Hall if you would like to be a part of it.

Note: in order to vote at the congregational meeting for the next pastor of the church, one needs to be an active member of the congregation. Come to the class if you want your voice/vote to count.

New Members

CLASS



Sing for Unity Around the World

On Saturday, September 21, our church patio was filled with voices, **hope**, and **love** as we gathered for Sing for Unity in recognition of the United Nations International Day of Peace. More than 100 neighbors, friends, and community members came together to lift their voices in songs like *Imagine*, *Lean On Me*, and *Let There Be Peace on Earth*—songs that remind us of our shared **humanity** and longing for **peace**.

It was more than just music—it was a deeply moving moment that touched many hearts. Together, we **laughed**, **sang**, and even shed tears, recognizing how much our world, our nation, and our very own community are in need of **unity** and **healing**. In a time when division can feel overwhelming, this gathering was a beautiful reminder of the power of coming together in **hope**.





We needed this moment. And we can continue to carry it with us by seeking **peace** in our daily lives—in our homes, neighborhoods, workplaces, and beyond. Every small act of **kindness** and understanding is part of building the world we long for.

May the spirit of **Sing for Unity** stay alive in us, encouraging us to keep our lamps of peace burning brightly. 🕊️💖



2025

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>28 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Called Congregational Meeting 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am The Prophets Still Speak</p>	<p>29 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1 6:30 pm Prophets Still Speak Class</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 7:30 am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast/Women's Fellowship Breakfast @ Manor Grill</p>
<p>5 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee & Donuts 11:00 am The Prophets Still Speak Class</p>	<p>6 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal</p> 	<p>7</p>	<p>8 6:30 pm Prophets Still Speak Class</p>	<p>9 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p> 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship/ Manna Bags & Chocolate Sales 11:00 am Deacons Meeting</p>	<p>13 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 1:00 pm Christian Education Team Meeting</p>	<p>16 11:30 am Young at Heart Luncheon/Program</p> 	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9:00 am Chancel Bells Rehearsal 11:30 am Women's Book Club (Anne Duey's Home)</p>
<p>19 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am Rise Against Hunger</p> 	<p>20 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am Enough: God's Blessings of Abundance Class</p>	<p>27 6:17 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 1:30 pm Enough: God's Blessings of Abundance Class 6:00 pm Session Meeting</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1 7:30 am Men's Bible Study and Breakfast/Women's Fellowship Breakfast @ Manor Grill</p>

OCTOBER

Men's Bible Study & Women's Fellowship Breakfasts

Saturday, October 4 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, Conrad Milner will lead the discussion on "Joy."

Young at Heart

Thursday, October 16 at 11:30 am; Fellowship Hall

Get a friendly overview of the 2026 Medicare updates, explained clearly for real-world decisions. We'll highlight impacts on coverage and costs and share resources you can take home. Sign up in Fellowship Hall so we can save you a seat. Donations to help cover the meal cost are appreciated.

Women's Book Club

Saturday, October 18 at 11:30 am; Anne Duey's Home

Anne Duey will be hosting our October discussion on *One Summer in Savannah* by Shelton Harris. Gigi MacLeod will lead the discussion. We are asking everyone to bring a salad or dessert to share. Sign up sheets will be available in Fellowship Hall two Sundays before the luncheon.

SHOE & SOCK DRIVE



OCTOBER 18

This October, Young at Heart and the Deacons invite you to support Vincent Pannizzo's Mission for the Homeless by donating new or gently used shoes and socks.

Your gift will help bring comfort and dignity to our unhoused neighbors.

Please drop off donations in Fellowship Hall by October 18.

Event Spotlight:

Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging

Get ready for one of our most meaningful hands-on service projects of the year! On **Sunday, October 19**, right after worship, Fellowship Hall will be buzzing with energy as we package **10,000 meals** for children and families around the world through Rise Against Hunger.

This is an amazing opportunity for all ages to work side-by-side, measuring, sealing, and boxing meals that will be shipped where they are needed most. Last year over 50 volunteers joined us, and we're excited to do it again. A light lunch will be provided during the break.



Date & Time:

September 19 after Worship

Location:

Fellowship Hall

Sign up to volunteer:

<https://shorturl.at/7Ps5v>

To donate snacks:

Sign up in Fellowship Hall

Questions?

See Suzanne Yee or Georgie Hickey



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World Communion Sunday – October 5, 2025 Peace and Global Witness Offering

On Sunday October 5, 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. 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.

