

Highlights

First Presbyterian Church San Leandro

October 2026
Volume 27 Issue 10

Thank you, Pastor Toby!

As Pastor Toby Nelson completes his first month as our Bridge Pastor, we're grateful for the opportunity to get to know him and begin this new season of ministry together. Already, his presence has brought fresh energy and a sense of momentum to our church.

We've appreciated the wisdom he shares, the warmth with which he connects with members of our congregation, and his enthusiasm for the work ahead. With more than fifty years of ministry experience, Pastor Toby brings both a thoughtful perspective and a heart for helping churches grow through times of transition.

We're excited about the ideas and changes he is planning and look forward to working alongside him as we strengthen our connections, care for one another, and serve our wider community.



World Communion Offering

On World Communion Sunday, October 4, we celebrate our unity in Christ by supporting the PC(USA) World Communion Offering. Your gifts help share Christ's love through peacemaking, racial and gender justice, and building understanding among communities around the world.

Beginning this year, the entire offering will be sent to PC(USA) with 25% of the total collection to be set aside for church grants to support local ministries of peace and reconciliation.

We encourage you to give by check or cash. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church San Leandro, with "World Communion Offering" on the memo line. Please label cash envelopes "World Communion Offering."



Stay connected wherever you are! Our email newsletter brings Highlights straight to your inbox, with church news, events, ministry updates & more.

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OCTOBER WORSHIP SCHEDULE



COMMUNION SUNDAY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

Rev. Dr. Toby Nelson



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Rev. Dr. Toby Nelson



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Rev. Kim Engelmann



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

Rev. Kim Engelmann

New Office Hours!

Monday: Closed

Tues.–Thurs.: 10:00 am –1:00 pm

Friday & Saturday: Closed

Sunday: Worship at 9:30 am

Emely's Remote Hours

Monday–Friday: 8:30 am –1:30 pm

Emely will continue to answer calls to the church during her remote hours.

Save the Dates!

Veteran's Day Craft Day

Wed., Nov. 11; 10 am to 1 pm;

Fellowship Hall

White Elephant Party

Sat., December 5; 11 am to 3pm;

Pollard's Home

Let's Read This Book

Starting Tuesday, January 19th,
2027 at 1:30 pm; Fireside Room

Heart to Heart Women's Ministry Returns

2nd Thursday of the Month; 12:30 pm; Fireside Room
Beginning Thursday, October 8



Song of Songs: God's Divine Love Story

All women are invited to join Heart to Heart this year as we begin an all new study of the Song of Songs. This ancient, often-misunderstood book of the Bible is usually reserved for marriage conferences or books about relationships. But throughout the year we will find an underlying passionate declaration of our Creator Redeemer's relentless love for His people between the racy descriptions of love and the drama of a new relationship. Each month we will unpack how Jesus, the Divine Bridegroom, didn't just come to deliver us but that He also delights in each of us and invites us into a deeper relationship with Him.

Lunch in October will be provided by the Christian Education team. The following lunches will be prepared and provided each month by Janine Kline and donations will be accepted to help cover the cost.

4 Week Fall Sunday Morning Reflections & Discussion

Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ by Debi Thomas

October 18 & 25; November 1 & 8 at 11 am; Fireside Room

Each week a different facilitator will share their favorite short essay from Debi Thomas' book *Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ*. Each essay is an invitation to faith in all its complexity and untidiness that reveals a Jesus of complicated joys and transcendent sorrows, rather than a sanitized Christ of piety and platitude. Come encounter God incarnate as together we reflect on the paradox, mystery, wonder and messiness of the Jesus of the Gospels: Jesus who weeps, wonders, loses, learns, seeks and who finds and loves us in the messiness of our own lives.

Class Schedule & Facilitators

- **Sunday, October 18-** "Tempted" (Mark 1:9-15) led by Georgie Hickey
- **Sunday, October 25-** "The Way of the Hen" (Luke 13:31-35) led by Jane Kraut
- **Sunday, November 1-** "TBD" (Matthew 25:1-13) led by Kathy Pearson
- **Sunday, November 8-** "You Know Everything" (John 21:1-19) led by Shari Plunkett

IN LOVING MEMORY



Robert Sulek

We are saddened to share that Robert "Bob" Sulek passed away at home on September 27 while in hospice care. Bob and his late wife, Marty, were longtime members of our church where they raised their three daughters. We are deeply grateful for the years we shared with him and hold Alexis, Rebecca, Deborah, and their families in our prayers. Details regarding a celebration of life are not yet available.

Cards for the family may be sent to: Alexis Sulek, 1465 Oak Circle, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

Dennis Hollenbeck



With heavy hearts, we share that Dennis Hollenbeck passed away early Monday morning on September 21, after more than a year in hospice care. We are heartbroken by his loss and deeply grateful for the time we shared with him.

We will honor Dennis' memory with "Coffee & Donuts" during Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, October 11 following the Called Congregational Meeting.



Called Congregational Meeting

Sunday, October 11; following
worship

Session has called a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 11 to be held immediately following worship. The purpose of the meeting is to elect Elders, Deacons, members of the Designated Pastor Nominating Committee and members-at-large to the 2027 Nominating Committee.

The Nominees to be presented by the 2026 Nominating Committee are listed below. Additional nominations of qualified persons may be made from the floor by eligible voters.

Designated Pastor Nominating Committee (DPNC)

- Lynn Roman
- Don Atkinson-Adams
- Helen Fortner
- Anne Milner

Elders - Class of 2029

- Faye Wilson
- Gil DeHoyos

Deacons Class of 2027 (1-year term)

- Kathy Pearson
- Terry Kirby
- Val Watts

Deacons Class of 2028 (2-year term)

- Georgie Hickey

Deacons Class of 2029 (3-year term)

- Tina Maier
- Bill Fitzwater
- Will Stengel

2027 Nominating Committee At-large members

- Matt Birkenseer
- Chad Pennebaker
- Sharon DuFrane
- Gary Calame

Men's Bible Study & Women's Fellowship Breakfasts

October 3 at 7:30 am; Manor Grill

All men are welcome to meet on the first Saturday of each month for a no-host breakfast as we study "Twelve Ordinary Men" by John MacArthur. This book is made up of 10 short chapters about the 12 disciples (a few chapters cover two disciples). It's recommended that participants buy their own copy (only \$7.51 on Amazon) and read ahead.

Women are also invited to enjoy breakfast and fellowship at an adjacent table!

Young at Heart

Wednesday, October 21 at Noon;
Fellowship Hall

What could a Hayward Airport expansion mean for our communities? Join Mimi Dean for an engaging presentation on Save SkyWest Open Space (SOS) activities and the potential impacts of airport expansion on San Leandro, San Lorenzo, and Hayward. Doors open at 11:30 am, and lunch is served at noon. Lunch donations are encouraged. Sign up in Fellowship Hall!

Books & Banter (Women's Book Club)

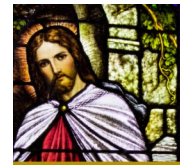
Thursday, October 29 at 10:00 am;
Fireside Room

We will be discussing our October selection, *How to Read a Book: A Novel* by Monica Wood. Please join us and sign up in Fellowship Hall when the sheet becomes available mid-October.

Baby Shower Thank you

"We want to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to all the church family for the lovely cards and gifts. Your kindness, prayers, and thoughtful gestures have made us feel truly loved, welcomed, and surrounded by God's warmth. We are so blessed to be part of such a caring community."

Warmest regards,
Jimmy & Anna Huo



Church News & Notes

April Showers Needs Volunteers

Help provide soup or a hot dish for our unhoused neighbors on the first, third, and fifth Sundays. Volunteers typically serve once a month. Contact Bob Kraut to help.

Flower Cost Update

Communion table arrangements from Lyal Nickals now cost \$85, up from \$65. Bringing your own arrangement is welcome! Sign up in Fellowship Hall.

Join Our Sound Team!

Our longtime sound tech, friend, and church member, Ben Ball, is moving to Napa on November 1! We're so grateful for all the time and care he has given to our church. In his absence we hope to build a team of volunteers that can share the responsibility of operating the Sound System on a rotating schedule. Ben is happy to train anyone interested in learning on Sundays during the month of October. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn and to serve. If you are interested, please contact Emely Wendell or Ben Ball!

Join Us at City Hall

Through our participation in the city's Ring camera program, Lou Pennebaker will accept a Crime Prevention Month proclamation from Mayor Gonzalez on our church's behalf. Join us Monday, October 5, at 7 pm in Council Chambers at City Hall, 835 East 14th Street, San Leandro.

October

AT A GLANCE



2026

October 1 -12

03 SATURDAY

Men's Bible Study & Women's Fellowship Breakfasts
7:30 am | Manor Grill

04 SUNDAY Communion Sunday

Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:42 am | Fireside Room

Worship Service
9:30 am | Sanctuary

Coffee Fellowship
10:30 am | Fellowship Hall

05 MONDAY

Chancel Bells Rehearsal
6:17 pm | Fireside Room

08 THURSDAY

Heart to Heart
12:30 pm | Fireside Room

Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm | Fireside Room

11 SUNDAY

Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:42 am | Fireside Room

Worship Service
9:30 am | Sanctuary

Called Congregational Meeting
Immediately after worship

Coffee & Donuts in Memory of Dennis Hollenbeck
11:00 am | Fellowship Hall

12 MONDAY

Chancel Bells Rehearsal
6:15 pm | Fireside Room

October 13-22

13 TUESDAY

Session Meeting
6:00 pm | Fireside Room

15 THURSDAY

Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm | Fireside Room

18 SUNDAY

Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:42 am | Fireside Room

Worship Service
9:30 am | Sanctuary

Coffee Fellowship
10:30 am | Fellowship Hall

Deacons' Meeting
11:00 am | Conference Room

Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ by Debi Thomas
11:00 am | Fireside Room

19 MONDAY

Chancel Bells Rehearsal
6:17 pm | Fireside Room

21 WEDNESDAY

Young at Heart
12:00 pm | Fellowship Hall

22 THURSDAY

Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm | Fireside Room

October 25-31

25 SUNDAY

Chancel Choir Rehearsal
8:42 am | Fireside Room

Worship Service
9:30 am | Sanctuary

Coffee Fellowship
10:30 am | Fellowship Hall

Into the Mess & Other Jesus Stories: Reflections on the Life of Christ by Debi Thomas
11:00 am | Fireside Room

26 MONDAY

Chancel Bells Rehearsal
6:17 pm | Fireside Room

28 WEDNESDAY

Christian Education Team Meeting
1:00 pm | Conference Room

29 THURSDAY

Banters & Books (Women's Book Club)
10:00 am | Fireside Room

Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00 pm | Fireside Room

31 SATURDAY

Chancel Bells Rehearsal
9:00 am | Sanctuary

Sunday, November 1

