

First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto

Guitarist/Song Leader

First Presbyterian Church, Palo Alto is a theologically and socially progressive Church. We are LGBTQ affirming and strive to be anti-racist. We have a long tradition of engagement in issues of social justice. The ideal candidate will share these values and actively work to help us advance them in the community.

Position Overview: The Guitarist/Song Leader will be an instrumentalist and song leader who will work with the Music Director to increase the diversity of musical offerings in worship. This will include leading the congregation in 1-2 songs in worship each Sunday as well as serving as a section leader in the choir.

Priority Qualifications: Proficient in singing & guitar, experienced in diverse types of music including folk and songs from social justice movements.

Terms of Employment: This position requires approximately 7 hours a week. Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings are required, in addition to responsiveness to email and phone calls during the week. For purposes of benefit qualifications per the church Personnel Policy, this position is categorized as Permanent, Part-Time, Non-Exempt, Non-Pastoral, Worship Staff.

Supervisor: Director of Music

Performance Review: Conducted Annually.

Job Description:

The Guitarist/Song Leader will perform the following duties.

1. Work closely with and under the direction of the Music Director to support their work to diversify the musical offerings in Sunday morning worship. This includes working collaboratively with the Music Director to select music for the service.

2. Lead 1-2 congregational songs while accompanying themselves on guitar or other instrument.
3. Serve as a section leader in the choir.
4. Serve as the substitute music leader for choir rehearsals and worship services as needed.
5. Appropriate preparation for all responsibilities.
6. Support the Music Director in leading productive, meaningful, and joyful choir rehearsals (usually Thursday evenings September - May)
7. Provide approximately 2 hours per week of logistical and administrative support to the Director of Music.

Qualifications

- Very strong singer
- Experience leading a choir
- Comfortable leading songs in front of a congregation
- Proficiency with guitar or other instruments.
- Progressive theology
- Personable and friendly
- Punctual and dependable
- Takes direction well but can also work collaboratively.

Our Church Personnel Policy defines employees positions according to categories. The categories of this position are: Part-time, Non-pastoral staff, Worship staff, Permanent, and Non-exempt. Accordingly the position includes the following benefits.

- Vacation: Four weeks (no more than four Sundays per year)
- Paid holidays: None
- Sick Leave: Yes
- Retirement: Employer match of 8.5% of salary after one year of employment.
- Health Insurance: No

Compensation 2026: \$25,000 per year

To apply please send resume, cover letter, and audio or video samples of playing and singing to jobs@fpcpalalto.org

In accordance with California law, you should be aware that your employment with the Church is for no specified period and constitutes “at-will” employment. As a result, you are free to resign at any time, for any reason or for no reason. Similarly, the Church is free to conclude its employment relationship with you at any time, with or without cause, and with or without notice. We request as a courtesy that, in the event of resignation, you give the Church at least two-week’s notice.

The Church is required to conduct a background investigation on all of its potential employees. Your job is contingent upon a clearance of such a background investigation. You will also be required to complete the San Jose Presbytery’s on-line sexual misconduct prevention and mandated reporter training as per Presbytery policy.