Presbytery of San José

October 30, 2026

"Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us."
— Hebrews 12:1

Dear Members and Friends of the Presbytery of San José,

This Sunday, Nov. 1, congregations across our denomination observe All Saints' Day. In the early church, a saint's day marked the anniversary of a martyr's death, remembered as their "birthday" into God's glory. As the number of martyrs grew, the church set aside one day to honor them all, known and unknown.

In our Reformed tradition, the day carries a different emphasis. Rather than placing a few holy people on pedestals, we give thanks to God for the ordinary, faithful lives of believers in every age. It is a fitting time to remember the members of our congregations who have died this past year, and to give thanks for all who kept the faith, carried the gospel forward and spoke up for God's justice and peace.

All Saints' Day reminds us that we belong to one continuing, living communion of saints. Much of the faith we hold today was handed to us by Sunday school teachers, elders, grandparents, neighbors and friends whose names will never appear in a history book, but whose witness shaped us all the same.

Tomorrow is Halloween, a name that comes from "All Hallows' Eve," the night before All Saints' Day. As this weekend unfolds, take a moment to name one person whose faithfulness helped shape your own, and give thanks for them. Then consider: how might your own ordinary faithfulness become part of someone else's story?

Regards,

Colin Richardson
Communications and Executive Support Associate
colin@sanjosepby.org

IN THIS ISSUE

A quick look at this week's news, events, and opportunities.

FEATURED • ADVENT • • • • •

NEXT THURSDAY: Called Presbytery Meeting

Thurs., Nov. 5 · 5:00 p.m. · Zoom · Register by Tues., Nov. 3 · **Register Here** · Docket (PDF)

Advent Devotional 2026: The God of Peace & Hope Has Come

Sign up by Fri., Nov. 6 · **Sign Up Here**



ADVOCACY & SERVICE

Interfaith Call: Pause on New Data Centers

San José · Sign the Letter Here

VOLUNTEER: AAI Interfaith Blood Drive

Wed., Nov. 4 · Saratoga · 10:45 a.m. or 1:45 p.m. shift · Register Here



PRESBYTER REMINDERS

WATCH: Budget & Ethical Conduct Policy Webinar

Fri., Oct. 23 · Zoom Recording · Watch Here

WATCH: Covenant MOU Webinar

Thurs., Oct. 29 · Zoom Recording · Watch Here

UNITY CANDLE

First Presbyterian Church of Monterey

Sun., Nov. 1 (All Saints' Day) · Rev. Mark Peake



MINISTRY SPOTLIGHT • FINAL REMINDER

CREATION CARE

TOMORROW ***Commissioning of Rev. Veronica Toyomi Ota***

Sat., Oct. 31 · 10:00 a.m. · Westview Pres. Church, Watsonville · All are invited · RSVP & View Info Here



Vegan Sustainability Meals

Free plant-based lunches · Open to all · Bring your own plate & utensils · See details below

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Good Growth Garden Work Day

Sat., Nov. 14 · 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. · Watsonville · Lunch provided · View Flyer (PDF)



RESOURCES

Docket: Called Presbytery Meeting (Nov. 5)

Please review before the meeting · View Docket (PDF)

2027 Minimum Terms of Call

PS-1, Appendix B now updated on our website · View Policy PS-1 (PDF)

Christmas Joy Offering

Serving past, present & future leaders · See details below · Leader's Guide (PDF)

EP's Upcoming Travels & Preaching/Speaking

October 31: Attending the Commissioning of the Rev. Veronica Toyomi Ota at Westview Presbyterian Church (10:00 a.m.)

November 15-25: World Council of Churches Executive Committee, Manila, Philippines

If you would like to invite the EP to guest preach, facilitate a class, lead a retreat, help with strategic visioning/planning, or grab a cup of coffee, email neal@sanjosepby.org or call/text (408) 763-5004.

Featured

REMINDER • NEXT THURSDAY

Called Presbytery Meeting

Thurs., Nov. 5 • 5:00 p.m. • Zoom • Register by Tues., Nov. 3

Ministers, commissioners and friends of the Presbytery of San José are invited to our Called Presbytery Meeting next Thursday. Key items on the docket include:

- Memorandum of Understanding between First Presbyterian Church of Mountain View and Menlo Church
- 2027 budget and meeting schedule
- Ethical Conduct Policy

We have a very full agenda, so to help things move smoothly, please read the materials beforehand as much as you are able. Thank you! If you haven't registered yet, please do so by Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Read the docket here:
Called Meeting Docket – Nov. 5, 2026 (PDF)

REGISTER HERE

For questions or inquiries, contact EP Neal Presa at neal@sanjosepby.org.

SEASON OF ADVENT • NOV. 29 – DEC. 25



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL 2026

The God of Peace & Hope Has Come

Daily Lectionary (Year B) • Sign Up by Fri., Nov. 6

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

This Advent, we invite ministers, elders, members and friends across our presbytery to help write our 2026 Advent Devotional, *The God of Peace & Hope Has Come*. Each day of Advent, from Sunday, Nov. 29 through Christmas Day, will feature a reflection from someone in our presbytery family. This year's cover features a stained glass window at Bonny Doon Presbyterian Church.

To contribute:

- Sign up for a day using our sign-up sheet: Advent Devotional Sign-Up
- Choose **ONE** Scripture text from that day's Daily Lectionary readings (Year B)
- Write no more than **250 words total**, including a brief reflection and a brief prayer
- Add one line with how you wish to be identified (name, title, ministry/church)
- Upload your piece to our shared folder: Advent Devotional Shared Folder

All submissions are due **Friday, Nov. 6**.

Need an example?

View a sample reflection that fits these guidelines:

Sample Devotional Reflection (PDF)

SIGN UP HERE

This Week



VOLUNTEER • SHARED BY REV RYAN ALTHAUS

AAI Interfaith Blood Drive

Wed., Nov. 4 • Congregation Beth David, Saratoga

Our Hunger Advocate, Rev. Ryan Althaus, invites you to volunteer at the next AAI Blood Drive. These drives have united hundreds of Jews, Christians and Muslims to save more than 3,090 lives, in partnership with the American Red Cross, known abroad as the International Red Crescent and Magen David Adom.

Volunteer shifts: 10:45 a.m. or 1:45 p.m.
Location: Congregation Beth David, 19700 Prospect Rd., Saratoga, CA

Volunteer tasks include:

- Checking in donors as they arrive for appointments
- Providing hospitality to donors
- Observing donors after donation and alerting staff as needed

No experience is necessary; American Red Cross staff will train you to handle these tasks easily and safely. Online registration is required.

REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER

For questions, reach Ryan directly at ryan@sanjosepby.org.

ADVOCACY

Interfaith Call: Pause on New Data Centers

Sign the Letter • City of San José

GreenFaith and the South Bay Interfaith Climate Network invite faith leaders and individuals to sign a letter asking San José's Mayor, City Manager and City Council to pause new AI data center projects until enforceable, community-approved standards are in place. The impacts would fall hardest on South and East San José, Downtown and Alviso.

SIGN THE LETTER



CREATION CARE

Vegan Sustainability Meals

Free Plant-Based Lunches • Open to the Public

Eating more plants has many advantages, including a more sustainable world: raising animals for food takes more water, fuel and land than raising plants. A plant-based diet is also healthier and can help prevent or manage many chronic diseases, such as heart conditions, diabetes and cancer.

These lunches are free and open to the public. Guests are encouraged to bring their own plate, cup and utensils to avoid disposables. See the flyer above for dates, times and location.





MISSION & OUTREACH • WESTVIEW PRES., WATSONVILLE

SonRise Kitchen

Breakfast Five Days a Week • Plaza Park, Watsonville

With support from our presbytery's Mission & Outreach Working Group, Westview Presbyterian Church's SonRise Kitchen serves breakfast five days a week at Plaza Park in Watsonville, offering a warm meal and a friendly welcome to neighbors. Volunteers are always welcome, whether regularly or now and then. To get involved, leave a message at Westview, (831) 724-6222.



SPECIAL OFFERING

Christmas Joy Offering

Serving Past, Present & Future Leaders

The Christmas Joy Offering is making a difference for past, present and future leaders of the church. Now joined by causes once supported by the Pentecost Offering, it supports children at risk, youth and young adults, leadership development for people of color, Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color, and servants of the church in need.

How does the Christmas Joy Offering make an impact?

- At-risk children are helped through initiatives like Educate a Child, Transform the World.
- Youth are helped through events like Presbyterian Youth Triennium.
- Young adults learn to serve through the Young Adult Volunteer program.
- Scholarships are provided to students in Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

- The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions helps servants of the church in their time of need.

Be part of making an impact this year by giving to the Christmas Joy Offering through your congregation. Read more in the 2026 Leader's Guide (PDF).

LEARN MORE

POLICY UPDATE

2027 Minimum Terms of Call

Policy PS-1 • Appendix B Updated

The 2027 minimum effective salaries for full-time pastors, by county, are now posted in Appendix B of Policy PS-1, Pastor Terms of Call. This is based on the 3.6% cost of living adjustment (COLA) the Social Security Administration announced on October 14, 2026.

The updated minimums take effect January 1, 2027. Sessions and personnel committees are encouraged to review the policy as they prepare terms of call for the coming year, and ministers are reminded to report approved terms of call by Jan. 31.

View the policy here:
PS-1 Minimum Terms of Call (see Appendix B)

For questions, contact EP Neal Presa at neal@sanjosepby.org.

Unity Candle *SUNDAY, NOV. 1*





First Presbyterian Church of Monterey

MONTEREY

This All Saints' Day, we invite you to pray for the ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Monterey and its leadership: the Rev. Mark Peake, who has served as

pastor since 2010, the Rev. James Potts, Church Administrator Susan Weir, and all who give their time and gifts to sustain its life of worship and service.

Guided by the Word of God and the love of Jesus Christ, FPC Monterey works to glorify God by making disciples and serving its community with compassion, justice and humility, meeting people where they are in worship, in learning and in practical care for neighbors.

Sunday worship is held at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., in person and online, with Adult Education and Sunday School at 10:00 a.m. Youth gather on the first, third and fourth Sundays at 4:00 p.m., and weekly Bible studies for women and men meet in person and on Zoom. Music ministry includes the resident Bell Choir and monthly visits from the Bluegrass Gospel Band. Beyond the sanctuary, the congregation partners with St. Mary's Food Pantry, Dorothy's Kitchen, I-HELP and Gathering for Women to support neighbors across the Monterey area.

As FPC Monterey receives the Unity Candle on All Saints' Day, please hold its leadership and the entire First Presbyterian family in prayer, giving thanks for the saints who have shaped its witness and asking that its ministries continue to flourish and bear fruit in the year ahead.

For more information about this week's congregation, visit the link below:
fpcmonterey.org

To follow the path of our Unity Candle, visit the link below:
tinyurl.com/SJUnity2025

Employment Opportunities

Know of an opening? Help us share it! Send job postings from your congregation or ministry to Colin Richardson at **colin@sanjosepby.org**.

The presbytery and its partners/affiliates are always hiring. Visit our Employment Opportunities page or read about new opportunities below from congregation and presbytery-affiliated organizations:

First Congregational Church of San Jose (UCC)

- Assistant to Interim Minister

First Presbyterian Church of Snohomish (Washington State)

- Installed Pastor

Urban Sanctuary San Jose

- Part-Time Lead Pastor

VIEW ALL POSITIONS

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www.sanjosepby.org

View as Webpage