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Congregation invited to become photographers, document God's presence, p. 11

Weekly Newsletter Week of July 25, 2021

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

M a k i n g G o d ' s W e l c o m e K n o w n

This Week:

Sunday, July 25

- 9:00 Worship leader preparation
- 10:00 Worship, Rev. Matt Prinz preaching
- 11:00 Join us for coffee, refreshments and conversation on the lawn and throughout the campus
- 11:15 Food Ministry lunch preparation in the kitchen, led by Bill Coburn. Sunday lunch preparation consists of sack lunches given out on Sundays and preparation for Monday's meal
Volunteers are always welcome—gate volunteer especially needed.
- 12:30 Food Ministry Lunch Service

Monday, July 26

- 10:00 Food Ministry lunch prep starts
New volunteers are always welcome.
- 12:00 Food Ministry lunch service

Tuesday, July 27

- 11:00 Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts
New volunteers are always welcome.
- 7:00 Women's Circle (Zoom)

Wednesday, July 28

- 7:00 Building the Beloved Community book discussion (see page 10)

Thursday, July 29

- 11:00 Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts
New volunteers are always welcome.

Friday, June 30

- 12:00 ReCares equipment distribution
New volunteers are always welcome.
- 8

Session Wraps up *Jesus & the Disinherited*, Considers Changes to Bylaws, and Meetings in Person

The monthly gathering of Elders in Session was held on July 20 at 7 pm on Zoom. Elders completed reading *Jesus and the Disinherited* by Howard Thurman, 1949. "The book is still very relevant," said Clerk of Session Anne Margaret Manay. "It's about the emotions involved in racial injustice and the relationship between the oppressor and the oppressed," she added. "It also points out the segregation of many Christian churches and how that impedes the forming of relationships across racial lines." Elders are encouraged to leave copies of *Jesus and the Disinherited* on the new book rack in the corridor for others to read.

The Session is considering moving some meetings back to in-person. "I much prefer Zoom," said Anne Margaret, who drives a considerable distance to attend, "but I also understand the value of meeting in person, as much communication is non-verbal." The Pastor Nominating Committee reported that it is considering scheduling Pastor Matt's formal Service of Installation for this fall.

The Nominating Committee asked the Session to weigh in on two changes to the church's bylaws: At its next Congregational Meeting, members may be asked to consider reducing the number of elders and deacons (Deacons have also been asked to weigh in on this subject). The Congregation will also be asked to consider revising the bylaws to allow an Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Session, between regular Session Meetings, when time is of the essence.

Sign-up to Host Fellowship Time

Each week, volunteers are needed to provide light refreshments for the congregation, following worship. Please see Leah Marquez if you would like to help with Sunday hospitality.

Session Envisions Project to Honor Civil Rights Hero Fred Korematsu

“Fred Korematsu was such a humble man,” said treasurer Rose Mary Richmond, speaking of the man she knew who helped count the offerings on Monday mornings with his wife Catherine. “A humble man with a huge legacy,” said Rich Jones, who also knew the former First Church member.

Fred Korematsu has been honored by Bill Clinton with a Presidential Medal of Freedom and by the States of California and Virginia with a state holiday on Sunday, January 30. Born in Oakland, and a long-time member and elder of First Church in his later years, Fred was a civil rights activist who fought first against Japanese internment during the Second World War, and later against restrictions of civil liberties that followed the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

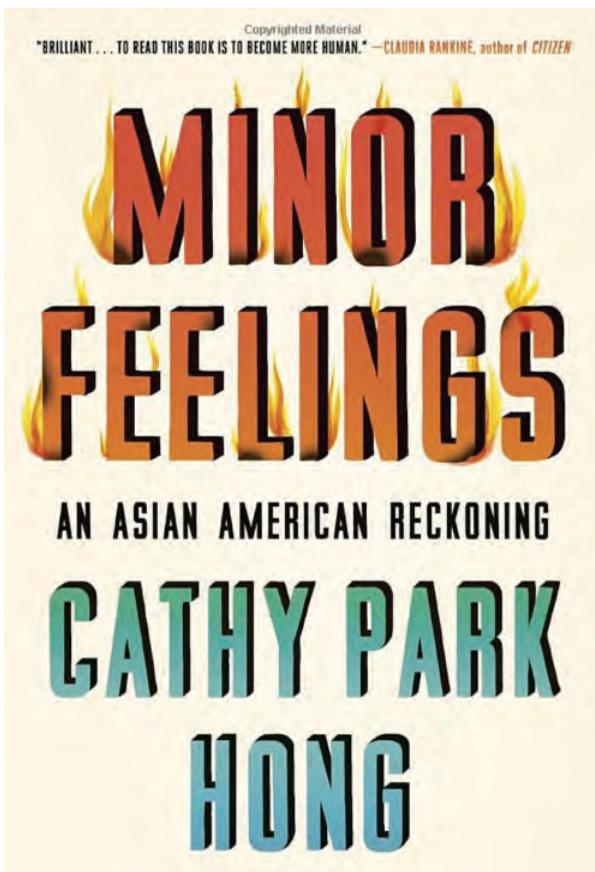


The Session has created a special committee to examine re-dedicating the church’s Reception Room in his honor: Korematsu Hall (exact name to be determined). The Committee won’t just be focused on renaming the room. “We are going to develop a proposal to share with the Korematsu Family, and hopefully work together on a project which not only honors Fred the man, but continues his life’s work,” said Facility Manager Chris Weber.

The Committee will meet the second week of August (exact date to be determined). Any member who is interested in participating in the work of this committee may be a part. The Committee will focus on these areas:

- A new name for the room.
- Improvements to the space that will help to make it more usable by the community.
- Marketing and invitations to non-profit groups with missions in civil liberties and racial justice to use the space for their own work.
- Fundraising

The effort is expected to take more than a year. Contact Chris Weber for more information.



Building the Beloved Community Book Group to Discuss Asian Identity and Expectations

Suzie Inadomi will lead participants through a discussion of an essay from Cathy Park Hong's latest collection, *Minor Feelings, An Asian American Reckoning*.

Hong describes her work as “built from the sediments of everyday racial experience and the irritant of having one’s perception of reality constantly questioned or dismissed.”

Copies of the book can be found on the new book stand in the main corridor. Please leave a payment of \$18 at the office or with a church staff member or Rose Mary Richmond. The discussion of Hong’s work (and our own experiences) will be held on July 28, 7 - 8:30 pm, on Zoom.

Our First Day Back: Friends Re-united



Coming up

- **Cityteam Move-in:** Sunday, Aug 1, 8 am
- **Korematsu Hall Committee:** Second Week August, TBD.

Need Something Printed in *Temple Tidings*?

The First Church Communications Team meets every other week to discuss events and the life of the church. If you have a special event coming up, contact Pastor Matt, Chris Weber, Shawn Jones or Anne Margaret Manay. Want to write short article about something special happening at church or in your own life? Have a poem or a photo you would like to share? See any errrrors? Contact Chris Weber.

Mind the Painting!

Several rooms throughout campus have ongoing painting projects. Your patience is appreciated.

First Church is proud to support the work of these

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Cantare Con Vivo
- Cityteam Renew Program
- College Awareness
- Food Not Bombs
- Habitat For Humanity, East Bay Silicon Valley
- Oakland Early Head Start Preschool
- Oakland Gay Men's Chorus
- Piedmont East Bay Children's Choirs
- Quinteto Latino
- ReCares
- The Lucy Kinchen Chorale

This place was made with you in mind!

Elders

David Alexander,
Erick Bevington, Facilities, Finance
Linda Carter, Finance, Worship & Music
Gay Plair Cobb, Mission & Social Justice
Dorothy Dugger, Food Ministry, Facilities
Anna Lisa Fear, Personnel
Cassandra Flipper, Personnel
Henry Gardner, Personnel
Suzie Inadomi, Building the Beloved Community

Session Officers

Rev. Matt Prinz, Moderator
Anne Margaret Manay, Clerk
Rose Mary Richmond, Treasurer

Deacons

Pauline Ahanotu, Martha Bauman, Diane Hill,
Chris Kovach, Lorraine Provost,
Rose Mary Richmond, Judy Rowan, Carol Zell,
Julia Marquez, Moderator

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Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

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Salome with the Head of John the Baptist, Caravaggio, Madrid

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021

the **Baptizer** & **a king**

*Making God's
welcome known*

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland is a **More Light** faith family,
on a journey toward becoming the **Beloved Community**.

We welcome and affirm persons of every age,
national origin, racial and ethnic heritage, gender identity, sexual orientation,
socio-economic status, physical ability and spiritual leaning.

Welcome to this time of intergenerational praise and worship

- Please fill out a **Prayer Card** if you would like prayer from our pastor and deacons.
- Please also fill out a **Welcome Card** so we can become acquainted with you.
- Ushers can guide you to the **nursery** for children age three years and younger.
- You may also make use of the **Parent Corner** at the rear sanctuary entrance.
- Need help hearing? Ushers can provide **hearing devices** to assist you.

Help us keep everyone comfortable as we get used to worshipping in person

- If you have not received a vaccine yet, please consider getting one.
- While you are indoors, please continue to wear a mask, even while singing.
Worship leaders will not wear masks.
- Please continue to social distance - you may sit close to friends if you are invited to do so. Sit only in pews with cushions.
- Greetings with touch can be nice - but check that it's okay first.
- Worship leaders will provide special instructions for Passing the Peace and Communion (when it is served).
- Refreshments will be served outdoors on the lawn following the service.
- The Sanctuary, Session Room, Reception Room and Courtyard will all remain open following the service for you to spread out and enjoy conversation.

Serving in worship today

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Director of Music & Organist: Aaron Nee

Liturgist: Leah Marquez, Alessandra Mohar

Godly Play Story Teller: Di Pagel

Godly Play Door Person: Judy Rowan

Special Music: Chris Kovach, Leah Marquez/Alessandra Mohar

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Streaming, Recording & Web Support: Diane Hill, Linda Carter,
Bex Fortin, Shawn Jones & Anne Margaret Manay

Fellowship Refreshments: Leah Marquez, Ruby Prinz & Monrovia Prinz

I see God in symmetry
I see God in our make believe
I see God in our grand attempts
to make something beautiful
before life ends.

I see God in irony
in fragile heirlooms
within children's reach
I see God in our damaged good
but you see God
in ways I wish I could

From *Sight*
by Sleeping at Last

ORDER of SERVICE

PRELUDE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
St. Columba

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

From Isaiah 55

One: Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.
Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.
Give ear and come to me;
listen, that you may live.

Please stand as you are able

HYMN : 625

How Great Thou Art
verses 1, 2 & 3

CALL to CONFESSION

All: Lord we ask your forgiveness for the times when our ego has gotten in the way of doing your will; please forgive us when we have been too concerned about saving face or too ready to succumb to cultural expectations and pressures. May we find our confidence in Your love and grace.

Silent Reflection

You are invited into a time of silent, personal prayer

One: In the name Jesus Christ we pray

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able

ASSURANCE of GOD'S GRACE

Message of Assurance

Song of Response

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me
Paul Vasile

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen!**
(repeat one time)

PASSING the PEACE

One: May the peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Let us offer each other a sign of Christ's peace

Greet those around you with a sign of Christ's peace
The children are led to Godly Play

MUSICAL OFFERING

Ark of the Covenant
Chris Kovach

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of joys and concerns

Please fill out a Prayer Card if you would like the pastor, deacons or congregation to remember you or someone you know in prayer. You can place the card in the offering plate during The Offering.

Pastoral Prayer

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.**

READING of SCRIPTURE

Mark 6: 14-29

One: ¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you

to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.”²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her.²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison,²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother.²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

One: This is the Word of the LORD

All: **Thanks be to God**

S E R M O N

Rev. Matt Prinz

R E S P O N S E t o t h e W O R D

Pastor Matt will lead the congregation in reflection on the reading and sermon.

Please stand as you are able

H Y M N : 6 2 1

I Will Call Upon the Lord

T H E O F F E R I N G

Invitation

Donations, Welcome Cards & Prayer Cards can be placed in the offering plate.

Offertory

Please stand as you are able

Song of Response

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below;
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Please stand as you are able

H Y M N : 3 0 7

*God of Grace and God of Glory
verses 1, 2 & 4*

I N V I T A T I O N T O C O M M U N I T Y L I F E

B E N E D I C T I O N

P O S T L U D E

*Trumpet Tune
Henry Purcell*