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Weekly Newsletter Week of August 1, 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, August 1

- 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, August 2

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

Tuesday, August 3

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

Wednesday, August 4

- 7:00 Bible Study - The Acts of the Apostles

Thursday, August 5

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

Friday, August 6

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

Congregation Invited to Show God's Presence Through Photography

What image could represent where you saw, felt, heard, tasted, or experienced the comfort, security, hope, peace or goodness of God? Think through where you saw or experienced God in the pandemic. Where did you find comfort and peace? Where and how did God meet you in the last year? Did you see God in scripture, music, prayer and meditation, in creation and the natural world around you? Did you continue to experience God through worship via Zoom?

Photo submissions must be digital. Entries will be displayed in the Reception Room. Email your photo submissions to Pastor Matt. Entries are due August 8 (example below).



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.

Days Before First Church Move-in, Cityteam Finds Home Elsewhere

August 1 was to be move-in day at First Church for Cityteam's Renew Program, a year-long residential rehabilitation program for men coping with addiction and homelessness. But even as final preparations were being made to accommodate twenty-five of the program's forty residents for a three-month span in our Fellowship Hall, the move-in was cancelled; a new site had been located.

"We struggled for months to find a site that accommodate our entire program," said Cityteam Executive Director Angela Aguilar. "At the last minute, just before construction began, we had an offer for a vacant building that can house all forty of our men with room to spare. In the interest of the men in our program, we had to take the offer."

"We as a church came together and leaned into discomfort to take a risk and do something big in support of God's work," said Buildings and Grounds Chair Erick Bevington, referring to the major operational challenges of housing twenty-five men on a campus with several other ministry groups, a preschool, and community groups. "Perhaps the growth we made together as a church was the purpose God had for bringing Cityteam to us. Perhaps it wasn't really about helping Cityteam solve their housing problem, perhaps it was about preparing us for our mission going forward."

"The entire Session and so many others worked very hard to make this project happen," said Interim Facility Manager Chris

Weber. "It was very eye-opening for me to see both the caution and enthusiasm that developed as we negotiated Cityteam's arrival. I'm very disappointed that it has all fallen through, and at such a late hour, but I'm very proud of our willingness to try something bold and new, and I hope we do it again."

Neighborhood Voters Will Cast Their Recall Election Ballots at First Church.

Alameda County's Registrar of Voters will transform the church's Reception Room into the neighborhood's polling place for the September Special Election. The election site is usually set-up at the nearby YMCA, which was not available this year.

The Special Election will be held over four days, from Saturday, September 11, to Tuesday, September 14. Voters will be welcomed into their polling place through the doors on the Broadway lawn.

Church volunteers are requested to spend time at the campus those days, to allow curious neighbors the opportunity to see the campus and become familiar with the ministry of First Church and its Community Partners. "Many of our neighbors have never set foot inside our campus—it isn't usually open to them," said Interim Facility Manager Chris Weber. "This is a very unique opportunity to have a lot of strangers come through our doors and learn what we mean when we say we 'make God's welcome known.'"

ReCares team members Rob Philbrick, Liisa Nenonen, Dimitrius Brooks



Keeping People Moving Through Difficult Transitions: ReCares Goes the Distance

By Chris Weber

Every Friday afternoon, a queue stretches its way up the church parking ramp and onto 27th Street – it consists of a diverse group that includes all ages, races, and walks-of-life. They have one thing in common: they are all currently, or recently struggling with a family member’s transition to mobility impairment or hospice, and they are waiting for ReCares to open its doors at 1 pm.

ReCares, one of First Church’s many Community Partners, repairs and distributes wheel chairs, walkers, crutches and other mobility aids to the

community for free. They also take donations of new and used equipment, as well as home health supplies related to mobility impairment and home-care.

Every Friday, from 1 – 4 pm, volunteers carefully help the public select equipment. Dimitrius Brooks is there to help them. Dimitrius is ReCares newest Site Manager, responsible for ReCares operations at First Church (ReCares also has facilities in Marin and San Francisco). “My job is to understand what people need, and to help them,” he said, gesturing to three large storage rooms in the church parking garage where ReCares stores its equipment. “It feels good when I can help someone.”

Liisa Nenonen started ReCares in 1996 with a slightly different intention than helping the public. “I was an operating nurse,” she said. “And I noticed that operating rooms had a tremendous amount of waste, so I started collecting usable equipment and finding uses for it. Over time, I expanded to home-care items and mobility aids, and eventually opened three sites for collecting and distributing. There is a great need for this.”

ReCares recently expanded their First Church footprint, thanks to a clean-up effort in the basement. “The parking garage store room was so full of stuff, you couldn’t open the door,” said Interim Facility Manager Chris Weber. “We were storing left-over parts from old construction projects, old odds and ends. By clearing the room of that old junk, we were able to provide space for ReCares to increase their capacity by 50 percent.”

“Some people who come here have just experienced a death in the family, and they can be pretty eager to let go of the equipment that reminds them of hospice,” she said. “Others are dealing with a transition in life where they, or family members, have recently lost mobility or need special care at home. These transitions can be hard to navigate, especially with medical costs.” ReCares provides all used equipment for free.

In addition to its three project sites, Liisa mentions another recent expansion, “We

“Transitions in life can be so hard to navigate, especially with medical costs, ReCares is here to make it easier for people to cope with those transitions.””

have recently partnered with an organization called Joni And Friends that takes some of our equipment in need of repair, damaged wheelchairs for instance, to a local prison where it is refurbished and sent overseas for use,” she said.

“We serve about eighty people every Friday now,” said Liisa of the expanded capacity. “Now we need a few more volunteers,” she added. “Volunteers can either work directly with our public, which usually involves a lot of listening and willingness to be helpful, or they can help with storage and organization – finding what’s needed. It’s all about meeting the needs of the community.”

Interested in volunteering or finding out more about this work?

Contact Liisa at L_nenonen@yahoo.com



Food Ministry Weekly Report

By Lexine Alpert

Today, after 2 1/2 months at home recovering from a broken leg and required surgery, I returned to driving for the food ministry service. I am so happy!

I drove as Lisa and Suze distributed the meals. We picked up 60 meals – all heavy and filled with meat loaf, hash brown potatoes, salads, pastry and desserts. This and some with additional mac-n-cheese. These are favorites of people on the street (me too) and people were so appreciative to receive them.

As is typical, we found many homeless and hungry and also found several men completely passed out on the street with nothing but the clothes on their backs. We had to wake them to offer them food and water. In addition, we offered people socks donated from the church and not one person turned them down. When you are homeless, clean socks are a treat. We also had a few backpacks and underwear to give out and people were very appreciative.

Thank you to the First Presbyterian Church food ministry volunteers for making this happen and for caring for those that have so much less...and for allowing us the opportunity to help in your endeavor.

Coming up

- **Photo Exhibit Deadline:** Sunday, August 8
- **Godly Play - The Holy Family:** Sunday, August 8
- **Korematsu Hall Committee:** Second Week August, TBD.
- **Deacons:** Tuesday, Aug 10, 7 pm Zoom
- **Session:** Tuesday, Aug 17, 7 pm Zoom

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.

Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Reviewed by Communications Team: Pastor Matt Prinz, Chris Weber, Shawn Jones, A.M. Manay. Writing by Chris Weber, Copy editing by Anne Margaret Manay & Dorrie Dodge, Photos by Linda Carter & Chris Weber.

First Church is proud to support its

COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- **Cantare Con Vivo**
- **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

Church Staff

Rev. Matt Prinz, Pastor
matt@firstchurchoakland.org
510.488.3812
Office Hours: Mon-Th, 8 am - 4 pm
Friday mornings: surfing by appt.

Aaron Nee, Director of Music & Organist
aaron@aaronnee.com
510.488.3804

Chris Weber, Interim Facility Manager
chris@firstchurchoakland.org
805.234.5631

Gus Lopez, Head Custodian
510.290.9677

Rose Mary Richmond, Treasurer, office volunteer
rosemary@firstchurchoakland.org
510.488.3805

Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper
joan@firstchurchoakland.org
510.488.3805
Office Hours: Mon, 10 am - 3 pm



This is not
The age of information.

Forget the news,
and the radio,
and the blurred screen.

This is the time of loaves
and fishes

People are hungry,
and one good word is bread
for a thousand.

by David Whyte

The Miracle of the Five Loaves & Two Fish, by Grace Carol

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021

Loaves & Fishes

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

Organist: Dave Hatt, guest musician

Liturgist: Di Pagel

Soloist: Linda Carter

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Communion Preparation: Diane Hill & Martha Bauman

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

Fellowship Refreshments: Chris Kovach

ORDER of SERVICE

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: One: From far and near, we gather together,

All: Call to unity in Christ.

One: Built into one body,

All: We are the dwelling place of God.

One: May God guide our steps and direct our ways,

All: That we may reveal God's love in word and deed.

Please stand as you are able

H Y M N : 1 8 2

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

CALL to CONFESSION

All: Guiding, guardian God,

**We do not want to be like sheep without a shepherd,
or strangers wandering alone in the world.**

**We want to know your presence,
and trust that you dwell within us.**

We yearn for conviction that your Spirit flows in and through us.

Fill us when we are empty.

Forgive us when we are wrong.

Guide us when we are lost.

Comfort us when we are tired.

**Reconcile us when we are disconnected,
and guard our lives with your indwelling Spirit.**

In your loving name, we pray.

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.

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: God of the collective,

We hold close that you are a God who didn't just feed the 5000, but you gave them people to eat with. You weren't content to have a number of singular and independent relationships attached to you; rather, where you went, community was forged.

But it is hard to belong, Lord. To be 'with' is a risk. We have known suffering and alienation at the hands of those meant to care for us. We have found ourselves in communities that suppress our bodies and voices, communities that bear more evil than goodness and liberation.

How do we not give up? Help us to know when to stay and when to find new spaces to trust with our souls. We pray that you would form communities that are harbors of safety, provision, and belonging; that we would find our freedom mysteriously entwined with the freedom of those around us.

Amen

People by Cole Arthur Riley, from Black Liturgies



READING of SCRIPTURE

Mark 6: 30-44 (NRSV)

One: ³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. ³¹He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. ³⁵When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; ³⁶send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.” ³⁷But he answered them, “You give them something to eat.” They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?” ³⁸And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” ³⁹Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴²And all ate and were filled; ⁴³and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

One: This is the Word of the LORD

All: **Thanks be to God**

SERMON

Rev. Matt Prinz

RESPONSE to the WORD

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

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Invitation to the table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them to the Lord

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise

Words of Institution

Sharing the Holy Meal

Please come forward as the ushers allow. Communion is alcohol and gluten free.

Instructions will be provided for social distancing.

Communion Music

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

Sung by Linda Carter

THE OFFERING

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 : 5 2 5

Let Us Break Bread Together

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE