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Weekly Newsletter Week of August 8, 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 8

- 9:00 Worship leader preparation  
10:00 Worship, Elder Henry Gardner delivers message while Pastor Matt is away.  
Godly Play: The Holy Family  
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 9

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

### Tuesday, August 10

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

### Wednesday, August 11

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

### Thursday, August 12

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

### Friday, August 13

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

### Saturday, August 14

- 7:00 Food Ministry morning grocery pick-up  
***New volunteers are always welcome.***

Unsure how to volunteer? Ask Pastor Matt.

## 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).



Lexine Alpert

## 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.



## Habitat For Humanity Construction Projects Welcome Back Volunteers

From the Habitat For Humanity Weekly Blog

Like the weather, things are heating up at Habitat! With the latest update to our COVID restrictions, we're excited to be welcoming back more and more volunteers to our construction sites, ReStores, and Playhouse workshops to help us build more. See what's been going on at the construction site and how you can get involved with Habitat for Humanity in the Bay Area by visiting our construction blog. Here is what we are working on:

**Oakland - Manila Avenue:** We're nearing the "home" stretch on the first of two renovations in the heart of Oakland! The future homeowners have been pitching in alongside our volunteers, and have spent the month installing flooring, finishing up interior trim, and working on landscaping and irrigation. All this hard work is getting us prepped for the final inspection so that a family can soon call this house a home!

**San Jose - Guanacaste Court:** This single-family condo renovation is DONE! Thanks to the time and support of our community, the homeowner is working through the closing process, and we're almost ready to welcome a new Habitat family home.

**Walnut Creek - Esperanza Place, pictured:** We're getting close to shovels in the ground at this future 42-home neighborhood in Walnut Creek! This month, we've wrapped up remediation of the soil on site. Meanwhile, in the Oakland Workshop, several homes' worth of walls have already been pre-framed and are ready to be trucked out to the site, thanks to the hard work of our Women's Leadership Build and other volunteer groups!

Sign up to be a part of one of our build teams by visiting our website: [habitatebsv.org/enews-signup](http://habitatebsv.org/enews-signup).



## Godly Play Foundation Commits to Anti-Racism; First Church Adds New Stories to Curriculum

By Di Pagel, Godly Play Consultant

Like many Christian organizations committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion, the Godly Play Foundation recently became more intentional about the work of anti-racism. In 2020 a Task Force was set up and in December of last year released a statement to the Godly Play community. An excerpt is inserted here:

### GODLY PLAY FOUNDATION ANTI-RACISM STATEMENT

*Our mission at the Godly Play Foundation is to understand, promote, and nurture children's spirituality so that children have the tools they need to make meaning about life and death in a way that will foster growth throughout their lives. In the story of the Great Family (Genesis 12, 15, 17-18, 21, 24) told in Godly Play circles*

*around the world, we hear that God came so close to Abraham and Abraham came so close to God that he knew what God wanted him to do. He made of Abraham a Great Family, "and we are all part of this Great Family, as many as the grains of sand in the desert, and the stars in the sky." The crises in our country right now reveal the degree to which racism and its legacy of unjust systems and institutions have made many feel as if they are not a part of this family. These crises compel those of us in Godly Play circles to, like Abraham, seek ways to come close to God, so that we have both the courage and the strength to work to make this vision a reality, not just for some but for all . . . For us, this means ensuring that Godly Play includes all children as it equips them and the adults who partner with them to imagine and create a more just future.*

Over the past decade in our own Godly Play program in Oakland we have been intentional about adding stories to the room that enable

**“Our goal in Godly Play will always be to ensure that any children who enter this room see themselves reflected in the images of the biblical story.”**

the children of our church to find their stories there. Some told in Room 2 are not found in other Godly Play programs - the story of Sarah’s slave, Hagar; the story of the Queen of Sheba from Ethiopia; a lesson on Martin Luther King Jr. and the story of Fred Korematsu. More recently we added the stories of Harriet Tubman and John Lewis to the room.

One of the standard lessons told during Lent every year describes seven pivotal moments in the life of Jesus – 1) a baby 2) a boy lost in the Temple, 3) a man baptized, 4) tempted in the wilderness, 5) a teacher and healer, 6) the last supper and 7) death and resurrection. The lesson is called the “Faces of the Journey”. For many years these images depicted Jesus as a white male with blue eyes. The manufacturers did try altering the skin and eye colors of the original images but eventually recently commissioned an artist to paint new images which were made available last year. These are now in our room.

Our goal in Godly Play will always be to ensure that any children who enter this room see themselves reflected in the images of the biblical story surrounding them and to support their growing understanding that we are all God’s beloved children.

## Coming up

- **Godly Play - Creation:** Sunday, August 15
- **Oakland Gay Men’s Chorus Resumes Rehearsals,** Tuesdays, 7-9, Fellowship Hall
- **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 errrrrrs? Contact Chris Weber.

### Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Bill Coburn, Di Pagel, Chris Weber  
Copy editing by Anne Margaret Manay & Dorrie Dodge, Photos by Lexine Alpert & 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!**

# Food Ministry Weekly Report

By Bill Coburn, July 26

Today the program served 150 meals. Teri and team roasted lamb over potatoes, cauliflower and summer squash, green and fruit salad and desserts. The meat was served on top of bread, to absorb juices. Jan finished off the fruit salad with signature touches. Additionally we served some meals of Mac and Cheese, a gift from one of the team members. We also gave away substantial food items from a heavy pick up day on Saturday and had a full table of clothes, suitcases and blankets to give away. We thank Teri's team who did the prep work needed to put the meal together. Bryan and Kwong did a clothing storage reorganization, which is needed almost every week.

Our Sunday team had done a lot of prep work to make today a success. Teri, with assistance from Kwong had cut meat and potatoes for their baking yesterday. Matt assisted with cheese cutting, Mary and team had prepared the cauliflower and squash for today's cooking. Plus, had started the fruit and green salads to get a head start on today's finished products.

For the Sunday meal we prepared 150 boxes of cold cut sandwiches with tomatoes, cheese and lettuce. Multiple fruit, chips and desserts completed the boxes. With the start of in-person church attendance Ann, myself, Tiffany P, and Navdeep attended service while other team members kept the food prep going to keep us on time.

Penny, managed the sandwiches, Mary and team did vegetable prep. Tiffany A. managed the box preparation and Kwong was at the gate alerting people of our return to a later food distribution schedule because of the church re-opening. We

thank Dorothy for helping out managing the gate, Victor, and Pauline for finishing off meat preparation. After church we quickly assembled the gate food prep and Bonnie, Ann and Pauline continued with the Monday food prep. Bryan and Peter did the usual excellent kitchen clean up and the Rojas-Cheatum family undertook the food delivery this week.

## 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

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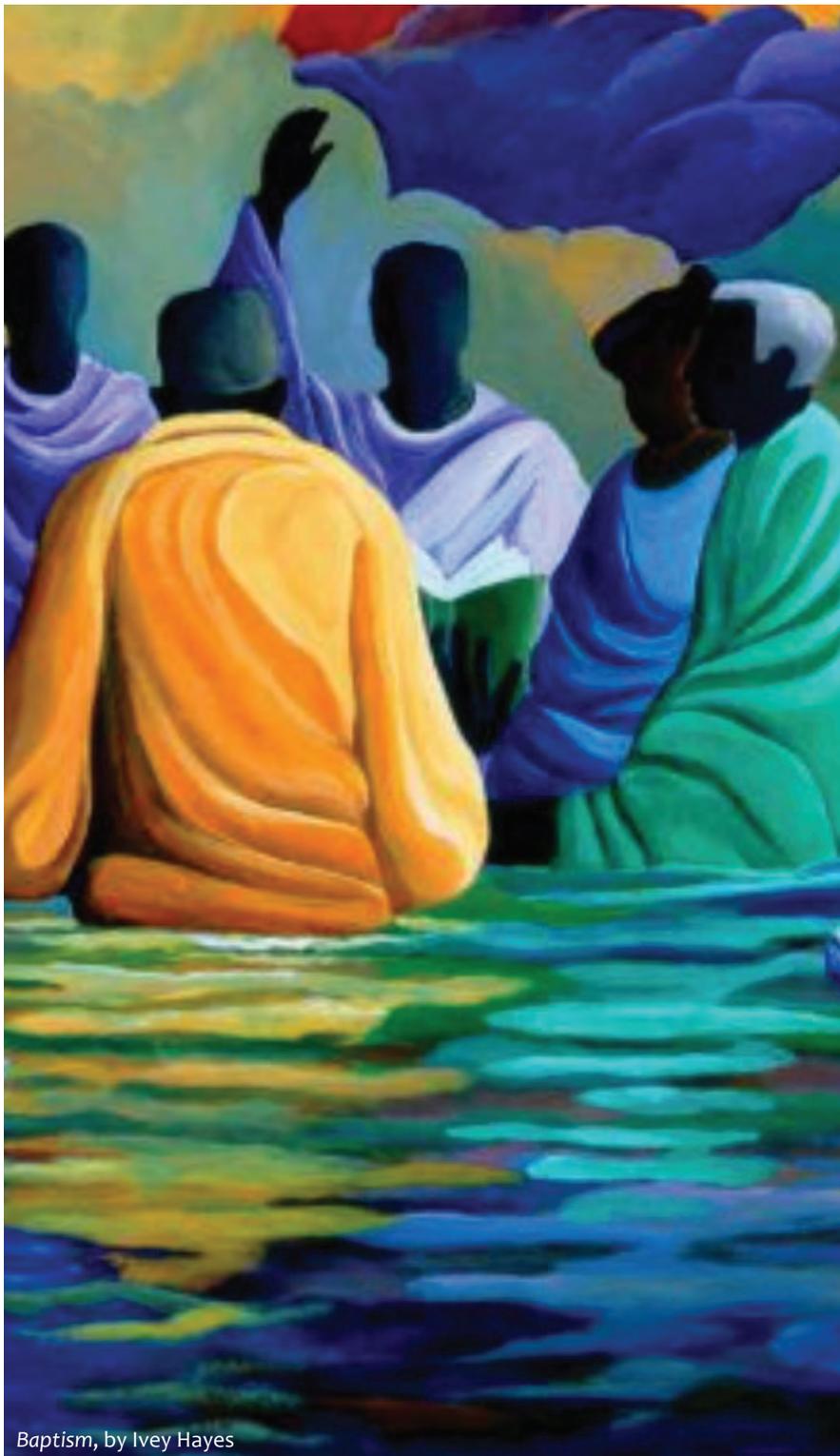
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Baptism, by Ivey Hayes

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
OAKLAND  
AD 1853

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8, 2021

# Baptism

*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.
- On the first Sunday of every month we celebrate **communion** and children remain in worship with families to participate.
- Children's **worship bags** are available in the narthex or from the ushers with materials that can be used by children during the worship service.
- **Godly Play** is offered for children on Sundays without communion service in Classroom 2. Children are escorted to Classroom 2 during *Passing of the Peace* and can rejoin their families during Fellowship Time.

## 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 (away on vacation)

**Today's message by:** Henry Gardner

**Pianist:** Joe Warner, guest musician

**Liturgist:** Suzie Inadomi

**Soloist:** Marilyn Reynolds

**Head Usher:** Matthew Inadomi

**Godly Play Storyteller:** Di Pagel

**Godly Play Door Person:** Rose Mary Richmond

**Streaming, Recording & Web Support:** Diane Hill, Linda Carter,

Bex Fortin, Shawn Jones & Anne Margaret Manay

**Fellowship Refreshments:** Anne Margaret Manay

## ORDER of SERVICE

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

### GATHERING PRAYER

### CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God's strong voice calls us to worship,

**All: calling us to sing and offer praise.**

One: God's creative voice calls us to worship,

**All: calling us to life and light.**

One: God's loving voice calls us to worship,

**All: calling us to love and be loved.**

One: Listen, for God's voice calls to us now.

*Please stand as you are able*

**H Y M N : 7 2 9**

*Lord, I Want To Be A Christian*

## **C A L L t o C O N F E S S I O N**

**All:** When our hearts are hard as stone, soften us with your grace.  
When our lives are riddled with sin and pain, heal us with your mercy.  
When our ears are ringing with self-doubt and cynicism,  
strengthen us with words of faith and love.  
When our minds are muddled with confusion and fear,  
enlighten us with the radiance of your wisdom.  
Speak to our spirits from the truth of your being, the reality of your love,  
and the promise of your forgiveness, that we may hear your voice clearly  
and follow where you call us to go.

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*

## **A S S U R A N C E o f G O D ' S G R A C E**

One: Hear the truth of God's voice breaking through the clouds of our lives:  
"You are my child, the one I dearly love. I delight in your creation."

**All: You are my child, the one I dearly love. I delight in your creation."**

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.*

*Children are invited to join leaders by the cloister door to go to Godly Play in Room 2*

## 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.  
And 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

*Ephesians 4: 1-6 (NRSV)*

One: <sup>1</sup>I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, <sup>2</sup>with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup>making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup>There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, <sup>5</sup>one Lord, one faith, one baptism, <sup>6</sup>one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

One: <sup>13</sup>Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. <sup>14</sup>John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” <sup>15</sup>But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. <sup>16</sup>And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup>And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

One: For the Word in scripture, the Word made flesh, and the Word in our hearts

All: **Thanks be to God**

## MESSAGE

Why Be Baptized?  
Henry Gardner

## MUSICAL OFFERING

*Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine*  
Sung by Marilyn Reynolds

## 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 : 3 7 5**

*Shall We Gather at the River?*

## INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE