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First Church, starts singing again, p. 10**

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Ministry fare, served at encampments, p.12**



Weekly Newsletter Week of August 15, 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 15

- 9 am Worship leader preparation
- 10 am Worship, Pastor Matt preaches  
Godly Play: The Creation Story
- 11 am 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  
Nominating Committee

### Monday, August 16

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

### Tuesday, August 17

- 11 am Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts  
**New volunteers are always welcome.**
- 7 pm Session

### Wednesday, August 18

- 7 pm Bible Study - The Acts of the Apostles

### Thursday, August 19

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

### Friday, August 20

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

### Saturday, August 21

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

Unsure how to volunteer? Ask Pastor Matt.

## Faith in Action Visits First Church, Meets with Social Justice Leaders



From left to right, Aaron Ruff, Gay Cobb, Tiffany Price, Lorraine Provost, Cassandra Flipper, Yuri Sadiki Torres (Faith in Action) and Suzie Inadomi, enjoy lunch on Wednesday. Photo taken by Pastor Matt.

Faith in Action Community Organizer Yuri Sadiki Torres met with First Church leaders on Wednesday. It was an introductory meeting, organized by Pastor Matt, who also serves on the Board of Directors for the organization. Faith in Action is a community organizing institution that serves to draw on the resources of churches to re-organize public policy in the areas of gun violence, health care, immigrant justice, mass incarceration, and voting rights/democracy.

“Many of us in the church are active in these areas individually,” said Dorothy Dugger, who attended the meeting. “I think engaging in these issues together as a church community is a good direction,” she added. “First Church has members scattered all over the East Bay, but the church is still fundamentally interested in Oakland. Most of us want to focus on issues that truly matter in this city.”

Pastor Matt will tell us more about Faith in Action in subsequent issues of this newsletter.



Diane Hill, Julia Marquez, Martha Bauman and Rose Mary Richmond preparing Holy Week deliveries, March 2021

## Deacons Welcome Judy Rowan as New Moderator, Thank Julia Marquez for Service

First Church Deacons met on Zoom, Tuesday, August 10, at 7 pm. The eight deacons, elected by the congregation, are responsible for administering compassionate care to the First Church community. The deacons meet with Pastor Matt, but they are moderated in their discussion by Judy Rowan, whom they selected for the role on Tuesday.

Judy is no stranger to service in the church. She has served as both a deacon and an elder and has been a part of the Personnel Committee and Buildings & Grounds. She is a Godly Play Door Person, where she participates with her grandchildren, Thayer & Leona, in telling Bible stories in thoughtful, inviting ways. The last time Judy served as a deacon, she was very involved in Home Communion, sometimes visiting five home-bound members in one Sunday.

Julia Marquez finished her service

as Moderator in July. Julia faithfully administered the Deacons' meetings during the church's recent interim period. Under Julia's leadership, the Deacons took on some impressive tasks, delivering poinsettias and Christmas greetings in December to every household in the church's directory, and repeating the task again right before Holy Week with lilies and worship accoutrement for the congregation worshipping at home. Julia will share her experience with the Deacons in next week's issue.

At their Tuesday meeting, the Deacons reviewed a benevolence fund with approximately \$6k. They are considering parameters for how it may be distributed. They also discussed the logistics of setting up for the Lord's Supper since the Session, under Pastor Matt's leadership, has increased the frequency of the sacrament to twice monthly.



Artistic Director Ben Riggs leads the Oakland Gay Men's Chorus in its first pandemic-era rehearsal.

## First Church Welcomes New Community Partner, The Oakland Gay Men's Chorus

On Tuesday evening in the Fellowship Hall, the Oakland Gay Men's Chorus began preparation for their fall concert. The Chorus recently became First Church's newest tenant, renting a new office space in the former "Women's Robing Room."

Started in 1999, The Chorus is a performing group with approximately 100 singers, committed to core values of "community, kindness, integrity, trustworthiness, courage, joy, and giving back." The Chorus divides its time between performing and community involvement, particularly around issues of LGBTQ rights and inclusion.

On Tuesday evening, nearly half of the Chorus's singers met together for the first time since the start of the pandemic, for a short rehearsal and social time. They will be rehearsing every Tuesday evening in the Fellowship Hall, from 7 pm to 9 pm. Singers were allowed to tour the campus, which was opened for them, including the Sanctuary, where they are considering future concerts.

The Chorus began as an organization of gay men, but membership is not restricted by gender or sexual identity. Singers are not exclusively gay men; all LGBTQ allies are welcome to participate. August rehearsals are open to anyone interested in auditioning.

## Perspectives on Asian American Identity Shared, More Discussion & Action Considered



Cathy Park Hong,  
author of *Minor Feelings*

Twenty-seven people attended a Building the Beloved Community discussion of *United*, an essay from Cathy Park Hong's collection entitled *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning*. The essay touched on topics including racial bias, racial self-hatred, psychology, and the experiences of first and second generation immigrants in American culture. The essay, which focuses on Hong's experiences and perspectives as a Korean American woman, opened opportunities for Asian American members of the congregation to share experiences and perspectives related to their own identities, revealing tender moments of disappointment, shame, anger and hopefulness.

The discussion group was originally intended to be a one-time event. However, enthusiasm for the topic and a desire to address White Supremacy and Anti-Racism, both at First Church and elsewhere, have the organizers looking for a suitable way to continue the conversation, and choose a response. Kerry Sherman will be organizing the next event.

If you would like to be a part of the next meeting of this Building the Beloved Community discussion group, contact Kerry Sherman, Suzie Inadomi, or Pastor Matt.

## Coming up

- **Godly Play - Creation:** Sunday, August 22
- **The Lucy Kinchen Chorale Resumes Rehearsals,** Tuesdays, 7-9, Reception Rm.
- **Piedmont Children's Choir Resumes Rehearsals,** Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays, Fellowship Hall
- **Netti Deyi Memorial Service,** Friday, August 27, noon

## 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

Writing by Bill Coburn, Chris Weber

Copy editing by Anne Margaret Manay & Dorrie Dodge, Photos by Matt Prinz & 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

The program completed its Monday serving of 150 people, by giving out about 80 meals to the streets for Lexine and her team to distribute, along with extra desserts, green salad and fruit salads, water and socks. Today we served: steak, and a wide variety of supplemental dishes: roasted potatoes, mashed potatoes with cheese, mac and cheese, cauliflower, broccoli mix, carrots, corn on the cob and green beans. Additionally we served quiche, the fruit and green salads and desserts. Teri and team took charge of the steak, arriving early in the morning after driving someone to the hospital. Raphael cooked the vegetables, Jan, added to the fruit salad and others prepared the desserts and quiches. We thank the team members: Teri, Raphael, Trish, Diane, Ru, Paul, Peter, Connie, Lupe, Bonnie. And in the end Lexine and Erica pitched in to get the last food trays and containers put together. We gave out a variety of excess food items and clothing as well.

Sunday, we put together 150 boxes of sliced chicken, tomato and lettuce sandwiches, chips, apricots, boiled eggs with salt and pepper, and desserts. As always the kitchen volunteers did a lot of food prep for today, cutting carrots, broccoli, cauliflower, preparing the green salad and assembling the fruit salad. Our wonderful team. Ann, Bonnie, Mary, Pauline, Penny. Peter, Bryan, Kwong, Tiffany P, Dorothy and Victor, did all of this along with accommodating the church activities and absences of those attending worship service. The Rojas-Cheatum family did the food distribution to the streets, with the sandwich boxes, water and a bag of socks.

Our food pick up teams on Friday and Saturday did a robust collection, from Western Service Workers, Good Eggs, Whole Foods and Arizmendi Bakery. We received a delivery from Food of 12

God and Manna from Heaven. On Saturday we distributed food to Presbyterian Homes and practically a full truck load to ECAP. We are now donating our excess cardboard boxes to ECAP for their use distributing these, filled with foods.

We thank the help of Rajiv, Henry, Steve, Peter, Bryan and Devon and the use of Chris's and Rajiv's trucks.

## Elders

**David Alexander, Erick Bevington, Linda Carter, Gay Plair Cobb, Dorothy Dugger, Anna Lisa Fear, Cassandra Flipper, Henry Gardner, Suzie Inadomi,**

## 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,**

## Church Staff

**Rev. Matt Prinz, Pastor**  
matt@firstchurchoakland.org  
510.488.3812  
Office Hours: Mon-Th, 8 am - 4 pm

**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



Walking on Water, by Joseph Brickey

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
OAKLAND  
AD 1853

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15, 2021

# Walking on the Water

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.

## S E R V I N G i n W O R S H I P T O D A Y

**Pastor:** Rev. Matt Prinz

**Organist:** Dave Hatt, guest musician

**Liturgist:** David Alexander

**Soloist:** Linda Carter

**Head Usher:** Matthew Inadomi

**Communion Preparation:** Diane Hill & Lorraine Provost

**Godly Play Storyteller:** Di Pagel

**Godly Play Door Person:** Judy Rowan

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

**Fellowship Refreshments:** Susannah Prinz

## Welcome to this time of intergenerational praise and worship

Visitors:

- 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.
- Need help hearing? Ushers can provide **hearing devices** to assist you.

Visiting Parents:

- Ushers can guide you to the **nursery** for certified childcare for children age three years and younger.
- You may also make use of the **Parent Corner** at the rear sanctuary entrance or up front by the font.
- 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.
- On the first Sunday of every month we celebrate **communion** and children remain in worship with families to participate.
- **Godly Play** is offered for children all other Sundays. 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.

# ORDER of SERVICE

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## GATHERING PRAYER

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord with all our hearts

**All: Great are the works of our God – the wise take delight in them.**

One: The works of the Lord are faithful and just.

**All: Mighty are the precepts of our God – the wise regard them as trustworthy and true.**

One: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

**All: Blessed are the teachings of our God – the wise apply them in all things.**

One: Come! Let us worship the Lord, whose faithful love endures forever.

*Please stand as you are able*

**H Y M N : 3 5 3**

*My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

## CALL to CONFESSION

**One:** Living bread that comes down from heaven,  
we yearn to be filled with your Spirit of truth,  
but we often embrace the folly all around us,  
we long to eat our fill of your sacred Presence,  
but we often choose poorer fare  
and food that does not feed our souls;  
we desire to embrace your wisdom and your power,  
but we often choose the path of weakness,  
ignoring your call to seek justice and mercy.  
Come to us once more, Spirit of wisdom and truth,  
that we may abide in you, as you abide in us.  
In your holy and blessed 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*

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

One: All who ask in Jesus's name, receive;  
and all who seek in the power of the Spirit, find.  
Rejoice in this good news,  
and be filled with the wisdom and grace of our mighty God.

Song of Response

Hymn : 582 *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*  
(sing verse 1 two times)

## **P A S S I N G t h e P E A C E**

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***

## **P R A Y E R S of t h e P E O P L E**

### **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: Longsuffering God, your people are no stranger to longsuffering.  
40 days, 40 years, 400 years, are all reminders that suffering doesn't just last one night.  
New days don't always bring new circumstances.  
Yet as our suffering persists, you also persist.  
As we face the limitations of vaccines, the virility of variants,  
concerning spikes in case counts, the sobering reality of the long haul,  
meet us in our disappointment.  
Grant us gentleness in our grief, while we recognize that the world we knew  
is never returning, a world of uncertainty remains.  
Be with us in our anger as we face the truth: it didn't have to be this way.  
And steady your people for longsuffering!  
Help us to live anew (again), as you teach us to persist –  
in loving our neighbor, protecting the vulnerable, caring for the collective  
and cherishing each breath – until the day this virus fails to find a home.**

**Amen**

*A Prayer for the Long Haul: in a Pandemic that Persists*  
by Erina Kim-Eubanks

## THE WORD

Mark 6: 45 - 56 (NRSV)

One: <sup>45</sup>Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side, to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>46</sup>After saying farewell to them, he went up on the mountain to pray.

<sup>47</sup>When evening came, the boat was out on the sea, and he was alone on the land.

<sup>48</sup>When he saw that they were straining at the oars against an adverse wind, he came towards them early in the morning, walking on the sea. He intended to pass them by.

<sup>49</sup>But when they saw him walking on the sea, they thought it was a ghost and cried out; <sup>50</sup>for they all saw him and were terrified. But immediately he spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." <sup>51</sup>Then he got into the boat with them and the wind ceased. And they were utterly astounded, <sup>52</sup>for they did not understand about the loaves, but their hearts were hardened.

<sup>53</sup>When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. <sup>54</sup>When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, <sup>55</sup>and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup>And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

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

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 bread of heaven is here, leading us into life.

**All: We draw strength from the bread of life.**

One: The cup of blessing is at hand, bringing us salvation.

**All: We find life in the cup of salvation.**

One: Eat and drink, for Christ is here, offering us eternal life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

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

*Long Ago and Far Away*  
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

*Hymn : 607 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

Prayer of Dedication

*Please stand as you are able*

**HYMN : 463**

*How Firm a Foundation*

# INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

# BENEDICTION

# POSTLUDE