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Weekly Newsletter Week of September 12, 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, September 12

- 9 am Worship leader preparation
- 10 am Worship, Pastor Matt Prinz preaches
Godly Play: *The Ark & the Flood*
- 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

Monday, September 13

- 10 am Food Ministry lunch prep starts
New volunteers are always welcome.
- 12 pm Food Ministry lunch service
- 1 pm Worship Planning Team

Tuesday, September 14

- 11 am Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts
New volunteers are always welcome.
- 7 pm Deacons (Zoom)

Wednesday, September 15

- 7 pm Bible Study - The Acts of the Apostles

Thursday, September 16

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

Friday, September 17

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

Saturday, September 18

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

Games, Bubbles, Balls & Laughter Fill the Broadway Lawn on a Busy Saturday

A day that started off with voters arriving to cast ballots in the very serious gubernatorial recall election was finished with First Church children playing and drawing pictures on the Broadway sidewalk.

Pastor Matt Prinz and Julia Marquez, chair of the church's Congregational Life Committee organized the late afternoon play date to allow families and young people an opportunity to play together and socialize. Late voters arrived to the sight of families blowing bubbles and children roller skating.

Asian American Experience is the Topic of Book Discussion Group

An in-person book discussion group has been scheduled for Thursday, September 16 in the Reception Room. Kerry Sherman will lead the discussion of Chapters 2 -4 of Cathy Park Hong's collection of essays, "Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning." Each chapter of the book is an independent essay, so participation in the Chapter 1 discussion group is not required. Copies of the book can be obtained in the main corridor.

Minor Feelings addresses many shared experiences Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) have in the United States. The essays touch on topics including racism, immigration, cultural norms, family expectations, and psychology (to name a few). Contact Kerry Sherman if you wish to be added to the group, which is open to everyone.



Beach Day

Saturday, September 25, 9 pm
Location to be decided...

Here is your opportunity to go surfing, build a sand castle, play in the waves, nap on the beach and picnic with your church friends. You may rent surf boards and wetsuits there; we can arrange carpooling. Contact Matthew Inadomi or Pastor Matt know if you are planning to come.



Art & Conversation

Sunday, October 17, 3 pm
Prinz Family Backyard

Come engage in directed conversations about faith, participate in a community art project and taste a few appetizers and a glass of sangria. What a lovely way to spend an afternoon! All ages are welcome.



Working on Worship

Saturday, November 6, 3 pm
Marquez Family Home

Participate in community-building games, learn a new song or two, and work in teams to prepare liturgy for Advent Worship services. We might also make stone soup. If you don't know what that is, come and find out.

Goin' Home:

Lucy Kinchen Chorale Returns to First Church.

The Lucy Kinchen Chorale met together for the first time since the pandemic began on Saturday, for a rehearsal that was filled with warm embraces and lots of laughter. “We are like a family, it was wonderful to back together,” said conductor Lori Willis. “There were moments during the pandemic where I did not know if this would happen. We are all so happy today.”

The Chorale, whose repertoire consists mainly of traditional African American Spirituals, was started by Lucy Kinchen in the late 1990’s. Lucy, who was a member of First Church, died in 2020. This rehearsal also marked the first time the chorale had gathered in person since her death.

Lori Willis is Lucy Kinchen’s daughter. She has been leading the chorale since 2018. In order to address concerns that singers had over the ongoing pandemic, the chorale chose to meet in the cloister, wearing masks as they warmed up and practiced an arrangement of *Goin’ Home*, by Paul Langford. The music was audible on Broadway and for the voters arriving in the nearby polling place.

The Chorale does not currently have a performance planned but will be rehearsing on Saturdays this Fall. The Chorale frequently contributes to First Church worship service with choral anthems and offertories.



Voting in the Gubernatorial Recall Election Has Begun at First Church

The Alameda County Registrar of voters arrived early Friday morning with equipment for the Oakland’s Northgate-Waverly precinct voting location. First Church was selected as an “accessible voting location” and was open to receive voters at 8 AM Saturday. It will remain open until 8 pm, Tuesday, which is Election Day. This is the first time First Church has been used as a polling location.

“We’ve had a very steady stream of voters all day, with no lines, but a pretty steady flow. That’s unusual for early voting,” said a poll worker (name withheld). “We’ve had at least fifty voters so far,” she said at 4 pm Saturday.

First Church member Erick Bevington took advantage of the early voting to drop his ballot off Saturday afternoon. “It was wonderful to see the campus so active on Saturday. While I voted, families from the church were playing games on the front lawn, and the Lucy Kinchen Chorale was providing a soundtrack. It was a beautiful Saturday.”

The recall election (the second in a generation) was spurred by a recall petition circulated during the height of the Coronavirus “shelter in place” order. Governor Gavin Newsome faces challenges from a slate of more than forty candidates, most of them Republicans. The last successful recall attempt was in 2003, when Governor Grey Davis was unseated and replaced by movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Any Alameda County voter may drop off their ballot at the First Church voting location. Registered voters may also request a ballot upon arrival.



Coming up

- **Godly Play: the Ark & the Flood (recap)**
Sunday, September 19
- **State Special Election Days**
Alameda County voting precinct set-up at First Church (accessible, multi-day voting)
Saturday, September 11 - Tuesday, September 14
- **Minor Feelings Book Club (chapter two-four)**
Thursday, September 16, 6:30
Reception Room

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.

Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by 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!



Elders

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

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Healing by Ivan Filichev

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

SUNDAY, September 12, 2021

Do we have ears to hear?

*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

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 Corners** 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.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Music Director: Aaron Nee

Liturgist: Chris Kovach

Godly Play Story Teller: Di Pagel

Godly Play Door Person: Elizabeth Goodwin

Head Usher: Louise Hill

Song Leader: Linda Carter

Audio & Online Support: Diane Hill, Linda Carter,
Bex Fortin, Shawn Jones & Anne Margaret Manay

Flowers: Bill Coburn

Fellowship Refreshments: Louise Hill, Judy Rowan, Julia Marquez

ORDER of SERVICE

P R E L U D E

Musical Moment
Franz Schubert

W E L C O M E

C A L L T O W O R S H I P

One: We gather here to worship God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

All: We gather surrounded by God's Spirit, who encourages us to walk faithfully with Christ.

One: Praise be to God, whose goodness and mercy fill our days.

All: Praise be to God, whose ways lead to peace and justice.

Gathering Prayer

Please stand as you are able

H Y M N : 7 2 1

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

CALL to CONFESSION

One: God of us all, your grace and mercy fill our lives every day. We give you our thanks and praise. Too often, we forget or ignore your presence in our lives. Too often, we treat your children unequally, deeming some more important than others. Too often, we forget that our daily actions need to reflect our faith. Forgive us, and lead us to embrace abundant life for all your children. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen

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

Assurance of Pardon

One: Family of God – Christ the great healer, brings healing and wholeness in our lives. In the name of Christ, you are forgiven.

All: In the name of Christ, we are forgiven. Amen

Song of Response

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

**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: We ponder you in your greatness. We bless you in your wonders of creation. We magnify you for your miracles of deliverance. We relish the news of your gift of newness given us in Jesus of Nazareth. We make our praise as large as we can, in order to match your massive presence in the world. But then, in slow times and in lesser venues, we know you to be the God of small things: one widow and one orphan, one touch of healing, one lunch turned to much food, one temple for a small people in a small city.

On good days we are among those, who do not occupy ourselves with things too great or too marvelous. It is enough that short of glory and magnificence, you hang in to make small places your venue for governance. We are grateful for your ‘tidbits’ that bespeak life among us.

Pondering the Small Ways, by Walter Bruggemann

THE WORD

Mark 7 : 31-37 (NRSV)

One: ³¹Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. ³²There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

³³After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then he spit and touched the man’s tongue. ³⁴He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, “Ephphatha!” (which means “Be opened!”). ³⁵At this, the man’s ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

³⁶Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. ³⁷People were overwhelmed with amazement. “He has done everything well,” they said. “He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

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.

Please stand as you are able

HYMN : 693

Though I May Speak

THE OFFERING

Invitation

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

You may also make a donation by using this QR code on your smart phone:

Note: donations made online are subject to a 4% service charge, paid by us.



Offertory

Please stand as you are able

Song of Response

Hymn : 607 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

**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

HYMN : 643

Now Thank We All Our God

INVITATION TO COMMUNITY LIFE

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*Tuba Tune
C.S. Lang*