

More than 300 served by Food Ministry volunteers, at church and on the streets, p. 9

*Faith in Action* shares progress with city's pilot mental health response program, p.10

Racial identity and expectations probed at book group discussion of *Minor Feelings*, p. 10

Building the Beloved Community hosts discussion of ableism, disability, p.11



Weekly Newsletter Week of September 19, 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 19**

- 9 am Worship leader preparation
- 10 am Worship, Pastor Matt Prinz preaches  
Godly Play: *The Ark & the Flood (recap)*
- 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
- 12:30 Food Ministry Lunch Service

### **Monday, September 20**

- 10 am Food Ministry lunch prep starts
- 12 pm Food Ministry lunch service
- 1 pm Worship Planning Team

### **Tuesday, September 21**

- 11 am Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts
- 7 pm Session (Zoom)

### **Wednesday, September 22**

- 7 pm Building the Beloved Community  
Discussion on Ableism (Zoom)

### **Thursday, September 23**

- 11 am Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts

### **Friday, September 24**

- 12 pm ReCares equipment distribution

### **Saturday, September 25**

- 7 am Food Ministry morning grocery pick-up.
- 9 am Beach Day - location TBD



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.



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.



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.



## Food Ministry Weekly Report

By Bill Coburn

Today, we prepared 165 meals of American Chop Suey (as it is known in New England, otherwise known as Goulash), a tomato, meat and vegetable pasta. We served this along with a variety of vegetables, asparagus, carrots, broccoli, a pesto chicken green salad, and fruit compote. For some we had had dark Jewish rye bread with butter, along with desserts and water for those out on the streets.

Lexine's team took out the street food boxes along with water and some extra items. Our team today consisted of Teri, Beth, Bonnie, Jan, Cathy, Shirley, Trish, Barbara, Barbara G., Navdeep, Paul, Peter, Natalie and Victor.

Sunday, we prepared 150 lunch boxes with cold cuts, cheese, tomato, lettuce and pickle sandwiches, chips, sunflower seeds, cookies and fruit. Kyong did a great job putting most of them together and Navdeep stepped in to help, as well. The Rojas-Cheatum family distributed the boxes, for which we are grateful. Penny and Ann were the mainstay of sandwich preparation. Sundays are also the day a lot of prep is done for the Monday meal.

Mary outdid herself, preparing carrots and asparagus. Pauline did a great job preparing the meat and grilling it. Derrick did a great job prepping the vegetables for the pasta dish. He also is a great cleaner, as well, which is a tremendous help. Bonnie and Ann put the salad together. The pasta dish was put together and assembled and 1/2 cooked, allowing us to warm up to finish the cooking on Monday. We had help from Louise, and Gay, as well as Navdeep back with us, distributing foods at the gate.

The team who procures the food donations are essential to providing us with the ingredients we prepare, Rajiv, Devon, Steve, Bryan, Paul, Bryan were the food gatherers Friday and Saturday. We thank Chris and Rajiv for the use of their truck. We received food from Western Service Workers, Good Eggs, Whole Foods, Food of God, Manna from Heaven, Laura Fox and the Richmond family.

We distributed to Presbyterian Homes families and to ECAP. Our excellent commentator on food distribution, Lexine is currently in Greece working to support refugees and is scheduled to return in November.

## Faith in Action Encourages First Church Involvement in Mental Health Pilot Program

Members of First Church met again with Faith in Action East Bay community organizer Yuri Sadiki Torres on Wednesday to continue to imagine and discern ways to collaborate in building the beloved community in Oakland and beyond. Faith in Action is a coalition of churches committed to influencing public policy in the areas of gun violence, health care, immigrant justice, mass incarceration, and voting rights/democracy. For the second meeting of this group, those present shared who first taught them about God’s desire for justice and who inspires them to put their faith into action by loving their neighbors.

Yuri shared about numerous state legislative measures for public safety and housing. There was an invitation to learn about and support MACRO (Mobile Assistance Community Responders of Oakland), a new pilot program that will assign emergency response teams on call to help residents in mental health crisis rather than police. A Community Intervention Specialist, Emergency Medical Technician, and a Case Manager would respond to non-violent crisis calls, rather than a police officer; this would simultaneously free police to respond to violent crimes and help reduce incidents of police violence. The program will be administered by the Oakland Fire Department, with the assistance of state funding. Despite being supported by the City Council, the program has not yet been implemented by city administration.

Many members are discerning the possibility of supporting work around public safety and affordable housing. The group will gather again in October to imagine ways of putting our faith into action together.

## What Are *Minor Feelings*? Book Group Challenged with New Discussion



Fifteen people attended an in-person discussion of Cathy Park Hong’s collection of essays titled *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning*. The group discussed essays titled “Stand Up,” and “The End of White Innocence.” The discussion was led by Kerry Sherman. The group met in the courtyard.

Hong’s essays describe “minor feelings” as the internal conflicts that people of color experience when racial identity is imposed on them, either by mainstream “American” (i.e. white) voices, or sometimes even by others of the same race. The group’s discussion included experiences people have in church, at home, and at work where racial identity and personal experience can be stressful, alienating, or even traumatic. Hong describes these feelings as “American optimism” in conflict with one’s own racialized reality.

First Church is a diverse congregation, with members from many different racial backgrounds. The book group, an offshoot of Building the Beloved Community, is an opportunity for members to share personal experiences of race and identity. Another discussion group is tentatively planned for the Fall, with selections

## Sacred & Profane Chamber Chorus Comes to First Church



The Sacred & Profane Chamber Chorus joins four other choral organizations in calling First Church home – at least temporarily. The Chorus, whose repertoire consists of a cappella music from the medieval through contemporary era, was started in 1977. They ordinarily rehearse at First Unitarian Universalist Church, which has not reopened to the public. They will be rehearsing at First Church in preparation for their Fall 2021 concert *Musical Mystical : Angles Among Us*, performed elsewhere on December 17 & 18.

## 500 Voters Cast Ballots at First Church

At the closing of polls last Tuesday, more than 500 people had voted at the Alameda County accessible polling location set up in the church's Reception Room. Among them, were several First Church members. "This location worked beautifully for us," said the volunteer precinct captain assigned to the location (name withheld). "We were much busier here than when we were down the street at the YMCA. People could get in and out much easier. We hope to come back for the next election."

## Ableism the Topic of Building the Beloved Community Gathering

A new Building the Beloved Community discussion group will be held on Wednesday, September 22 at 7 pm on Zoom, on the topic of "ableism." Ableism is the discrimination and social prejudice against people with physical, sensory, intellectual/cognitive, and/or psychiatric/mental disabilities, based on the belief that "typical" abilities are superior and that people with disabilities are undeserving of the assistance that they need. Some disabilities are invisible. People with certain chronic diseases may also experience ableism. At its heart, ableism is rooted in the assumption that people with disabilities require "fixing" and defines people by their disability.

At the next Building the Beloved Community gathering, members who have experiences with disabilities will share some of their own experiences. The discussion will be led by Dorrie Dodge, who is the parent of a disabled daughter, Rich Jones, who has dyslexia, and Barbara Goodroe, who uses a wheelchair. Others are invited to share as they are willing.

In preparation for this gathering, please watch the powerful documentary called *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*, available on Netflix, and YouTube. "This camp changed the world, and nobody knows this story," said writer/director/producer James Lebrecht. Lebrecht was one of the young campers who eventually became a disability rights activist and now lives in Oakland.

The conversation will help participants recognize ableism in all its forms, both overt and minor. Participants will also be asked to imagine ways that the church can take action. Contact Suzie Inadomi for additional information.

## Memorial Service Planned for Clarence Kyle

A service of remembrance is planned for former First Church member Clarence Kyle, pictured right, who died in August, just shy of his 100th birthday. The service will be held at the Chapel of the Chimes on upper Piedmont Avenue on Tuesday, September 28, at 11 am. Additional details will be posted on the Chapel of the Chimes website as they become available.



## 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 Bill Coburn, Matt Prinz, 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

### 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

### 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



Disciples on the Way by Jyoti Sahi

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
OAKLAND  
AD 1853

SUNDAY, September 19, 2021

# Disciples on the way

Making God's  
welcome known

# 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.

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.

## ORDER of SERVICE INVITATION to WORSHIP

Prelude

*Nun bitten wir den Heiligen Geist*

Welcome

Franz Schubert

Call to Worship

One: Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

**All: As we come into God's presence, the Spirit is speaking words of wisdom.**

One: The Spirit calls us to kindness and peace. Wisdom calls us to service and love.

Gathering Prayer

One: Servant God, humble our hearts and quiet our minds, that we may reflect your servant heart in everything we say and do. Plant your wisdom in our lives, that we might live your teachings and bear fruit at just the right time. With humble hearts, we pray. Amen

*Please stand as you are able*

Opening Hymn

*#182, I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

# CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

## Confession

One: Merciful God, you call out to us, yet we so often reject, ignore or simply miss your invitation. Busy, bored, complacent, focused on status and success, we choose paths that separate us from you, from your creation, from other people, even from ourselves. Forgetting you, we lose more than our way, we lose our very lives. Forgive the harm we do willingly and the harm we do unknowingly. Empower us with your grace, that we may detect our errors and heed your counsel. Steer us from destruction, and pour out your wisdom into our lives, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

## 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 Pardon

One: Friends in Christ, God desires us to heed Wisdom as she cries out to us. God seeks to correct our errors, clear away our hidden faults, and spare us from sin's dominion in our lives. Through the grace of Jesus, who faced great suffering and rejection, who was killed by the powers of his day, and who rose from the dead, God restores us. Amen

## Musical Offering

*Andante (from Oboe Concerto)*

Richard Strauss

*Please stand as you are able*

## Passing the Peace of Christ

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 (practice sign language!)*

**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

*You may share requests for prayer with the congregation or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to share your prayer need with the pastor.*

## Litany

One: God who loves us in every season, our hearts ache as we consider our world. Amid sorrow and pain, we know you hold us and love us.

Two: You hold us in confusion. You hold us in grief. You hold us in trauma. You hold us in war. You hold us in political unrest. You hold us in disconnection. Gracious Lord, you do not celebrate our pain but offer us deep love.

**All: Compassionate God, you hold us.**

One: Lord, we acknowledge that you are a God who does not rush us through our pain. You are a God who made us for process. Like a gardener planting a seed and waiting for new life to emerge, you tend our bodies, minds, and souls.

Two: You make a way for our growth. You make a way for our hope. You make a way for our restoration. You make a way for our mending. You make a way for us to love. You, our Good Shepherd, make paths where none have ever been.

**All: Loving God, you sustain us.**

One: Jesus, just as you wept with Mary and Martha outside of Lazarus's tomb, thank you for grieving with us as we ache. You knew you would resurrect Lazarus yet shared in Mary and Martha's grief. We know you share our grief as we witness a world that seems to be burning. Just as you ache with those who mourn, equip us to mourn with our neighbors. Help us to offer comfort and care to very one of your children.

Two: Empower us to love well. Empower us to see others in their pain. Empower us to move past our differences. Empower us to believe in your goodness. Empower us to be who you've called us to be for ourselves and others.

**All: Compassionate God, you hold us.**

One: Holy God, we pray that in the ways only you are able, you would equip us to be a healing presence in our world. Move us to love well, to hold space, to offer compassion, to bind up broken hearts, and to embody your goodness.

Two: Again and again we cry out.

**All: We need you. We need you. Amen**

*God of the Process: A Litany for When the World Feels Like It's Burning*  
by Aundi Kolber

# THE WORD

New Testament Reading

Mark 8 : 1-21 (RSV)

One: <sup>1</sup>In those days when there was again a great crowd without anything to eat, Jesus called his disciples and said to them, <sup>2</sup>“I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. <sup>3</sup>If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way—and some of them have come from a great distance.” <sup>4</sup>His disciples replied, “How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?” <sup>5</sup>He asked them, “How many loaves do you have?” They said, “Seven.” <sup>6</sup>Then he ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground; and he took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute; and they distributed them to the crowd. <sup>7</sup>They had also a few small fish; and after blessing them, he ordered that these too should be distributed. <sup>8</sup>They ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. <sup>9</sup>Now there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. <sup>10</sup>And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

<sup>11</sup>The Pharisees came and began to argue with him, asking him for a sign from heaven, to test him. <sup>12</sup>And he sighed deeply in his spirit and said, “Why does this generation ask for a sign? Truly I tell you, no sign will be given to this generation.” <sup>13</sup>And he left them, and getting into the boat again, he went across to the other side.

<sup>14</sup>Now the disciples had forgotten to bring any bread; and they had only one loaf with them in the boat. <sup>15</sup>And he cautioned them, saying, “Watch out—beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and the yeast of Herod.” <sup>16</sup>They said to one another, “It is because we have no bread.” <sup>17</sup>And becoming aware of it, Jesus said to them, “Why are you talking about having no bread? Do you still not perceive or understand? Are your hearts hardened? <sup>18</sup>Do you have eyes, and fail to see? Do you have ears, and fail to hear? And do you not remember? <sup>19</sup>When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?” They said to him, “Twelve.” <sup>20</sup>“And the seven for the four thousand, how many baskets full of broken pieces did you collect?” And they said to him, “Seven.” <sup>21</sup>Then he said to them, “Do you not yet understand?”

One: For the Word in scripture, the Word made flesh, and the Word in our hearts  
All: **Thanks be to God**

Sermon

## RESPONSE to the WORD

Community Response to the Sermon

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

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

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.*

Communion Music (solo)

#516 For the Bread Which You Have Broken

Invitation to the Offering

*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

#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

## SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Sending Hymn

#81, Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Invitation to Community Events

Benediction

Postlude

*Prélude*

Gabriel Pierné

## SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

**Pastor:** Rev. Matt Prinz

**Music Director:** Aaron Nee

**Liturgist:** Henry Gardner

**Godly Play Story Teller:** Dorrie Dodge

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

**Head Usher:** Matthew Inadomi

**Song Leader:** John Doppke

**Musical Offering:** Elizabeth Cureton

**Communion Preparation:** Diane Hill, Chris Kovach

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

**Flowers:** Bill Coburn

**Fellowship Snacks:** Sarah Postma & Aaron Ruff