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Weekly Newsletter Week of September 26, 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 26

- 9 am Worship leader preparation
- 10 am Worship, Pastor Matt Prinz preaches
Godly Play: Workday
- 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 27

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

Tuesday, September 28

- 11 am Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts
- 11 am Memorial for Clarence Kyle
Chapel of the Chimes

Wednesday, September 29

- 7 pm Bible Study (Zoom)
The Acts of the Apostles

Thursday, September 30

- 11 am Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts
- 6:30p Buildings & Grounds Committee (Zoom)

Friday, October 1

- 12 pm ReCares equipment distribution

Saturday, October 2

- 7 am Food Ministry morning grocery pick-up.



Remembering Clarence Kyle

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



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.

Beach Day: Surfing, Picnicing and Sand Castles



Early Head Start Preschool Expands Broadway Campus at First Church

At its meeting Tuesday evening, the Session agreed to help the Early Head Start preschool expand its Broadway Campus here at First Church. The preschool, a tenant here since 2009, was offered one additional classroom and the use of two offices, enabling the preschool to serve additional families in the surrounding neighborhood. Early Head Start is a federally funded, community-based program for low-income families with pregnant women, infants and toddlers up to age three. It is administered by the City of Oakland.

Part of First Church's mission is to share its extraordinary campus with community groups who will partner with the church in God's work of reconciliation, peace-making, and care for the disadvantaged. The additional rental income received from the preschool expansions will be re-invested in the church's facilities, helping to ensure that the campus is available to the community for another generation.

Solar Power Nudges Forward for Campus

The Session also agreed to investigate a "green loan" from the Synod of the Pacific, the parent organization of the San Francisco Presbytery (which First Church belongs to). These low interest loans are offered to congregations seeking capital projects that reduce waste, energy costs, and carbon emissions. Early analysis of the church's photovoltaic array installation plan indicate that the savings received from eliminating the church's considerable annual electrical bill easily offset repayment of the loan. The church's Buildings & Grounds Committee and Finance Committee will be working together to negotiate a loan which will be brought to Session for final approval before the project moves forward.



Food Ministry Weekly Report

By Bill Coburn

On Friday and Saturday the food gathering team did their thing and we gave items to Presbyterian Homes and ECAP. Thanks to Steve, Henry, Bryan, Peter, Devon and Paul. We received donations from Arizmendi Bakery, Western Service Workers, Whole Foods, Good Eggs, Manna from Heaven, the Food of God program, socks from the Goodroe's, cookies from the Richmond Family, miscellaneous items from Sandy, and Temple Sinai. We thank Rajiv and Chris for their truck use.

Sunday we did a lot of prep work. We roasted 19 chickens, and broke them apart for serving (Pauline is superlative at this). We cooked 6 trays of potatoes and Bonnie put the salad together. Additionally, we prepared 150 boxed lunches with chicken and cheese and various flavorings.

This was Penny's last day before starting a new job. she has been wonderful to work with, managing the sandwich assembly with Ann. We also served, chips, fruits, cookies, all of which went into the boxes for distribution. Kyong heroically put together the boxes single handedly. Navdeep took charge of the gate distribution and was able to give away a lot of additional foods. The team with us this Sunday were: Bryan, Peter, Navdeep, Matt, Ann, Kyong, Bonnie, Derrick, Pauline, and Victor. The Carmelo and team distributed the sandwiches to nearby encampments.

Monday, the program served 150 lunches. We cleaned out our freezer to make space, pulling out a chicken, tomato sauce mix, American chop suey, lasagna, and cauliflower. We prepared: chicken with barbeque sauce, potatoes with onions and peppers, carrots, brussels sprouts, green peppers, mushrooms, summer squash, green salad, fruit compote and desserts. We had an excellent volunteer crew: Teri, Jan, Matt, Shirley, Crissi, Diane, Barbara, Beth, Ru, Peter, Connie, Bonnie, Navdeep, Devon, Laura, Cathy, and Victor. Volunteers were spaced out from about 7:30 AM to noon, and it was very helpful.

Some items like the salads are made for 150 people and have the challenge of having the quantity of materials and the processing skills to get the foods prepared. The other side of the coin is having multiple vegetables, each one requiring different cooking times and flavoring. Next time someone hands you a 50-pound bag of carrots, consider some of these things. (We have some real heroes (Matt, Devon, Derrick, Mary) among our groups who are undaunted with the challenges presented to us.)

In addition to the boxed lunches the street distribution team took out socks and clothing. We distributed clothing today and extra food items. For some reason, even though we had fully 1/3 of our main dishes prepared, the extended crew was fully busy the whole morning.

Finding Wholeness With Disability:

First Church Members Discuss Disability, Ableism

Building the Beloved Community met on Zoom Wednesday night to discuss the topic of “ableism,” a form of preferential treatment for able-bodied people and discrimination against those with disabilities. Suzie Inadomi led the discussion.

Suzie’s ministry at First Church has been largely concerned with the work of welcoming and including those at church who, without advocacy, are often excluded. Suzie began learning American Sign Language (ASL) a few years ago when her father’s hearing began to decline. She has been introducing small sign language lessons into the congregation’s worship practices. The congregation now knows the signs for “peace be with you” and “and also with you.” These are small steps in a larger conversation about extending genuine peace of Christ to everyone at First Church.

“I was especially impressed by Monrovia Prinz’s story,” said Suzie. Monrovia, Pastor Matt Prinz’s daughter is deaf. She received cochlear implants to allow her to communicate verbally with non-deaf speakers. Monrovia shared with the gathering that deafness is part of her identity, and not something that she would change about herself. She expressed gratitude for her parents’ decision to implant the cochlear devices which allow her to communicate with others.

Rich Jones and Barbara Goodroe also shared their own stories. Barbara became paraplegic in 2015 from a blood clot. Barbara, a frequent Food Ministry volunteer, and her husband Wayne became keenly aware of the challenges of getting around without full mobility. These challenges have included navigating the circa 1914 and 1960 First Church campus, constructed long before the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, civil rights legislation that requires public places

to provide equal access and accommodation for the disabled. “Sometimes accepting help from others is a kindness I can show to those who want to help,” said Barbara, of the different treatment she receives in general since the loss of her ability to walk. Rich Jones, who is dyslexic (and recently hard of hearing), shared stories about the challenges of growing up with difficulty in reading and writing, and how those challenges were often overcome with creativity and determination.

Dorrie Dodge shared with the group about being the mother of a “profoundly developmentally disabled” daughter. Lisa Dodge, who died in 2014 at age 44, never mentally progressed beyond

“Accepting disability is part of being whole, not everything needs to be fixed.”

the age of two. She also dealt with frequent bouts of epilepsy throughout her life. Dorrie described the years of being a care giver for her daughter, and the often-traumatic experiences she had with medical professionals whom she felt had diminished feelings about her daughter’s humanity that impacted the care they provided. A Hollywood Juniper on the north side of the sanctuary front doors was planted in Lisa’s honor.

“It’s important to share and to hear these stories,” said Suzie. “Receiving other people’s stories is a great way to understand who they are and to build connections. Accepting disability is part of being whole, not everything needs to be fixed.” Building the Beloved Community events typically end with a discussion about what the community can do with the information shared, often with proposals for changes that can be enacted. “The story telling was great,” said Suzie, “but we ran out of time for that.”

HOW NOT TO HAVE
TO DRY THE DISHES

If you have to dry the dishes
(Such an awful, boring chore)
If you have to dry the dishes
('Stead of going to the store)
If you have to dry the dishes
And you drop one on the floor—
Maybe they won't let you
Dry the dishes anymore.



**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

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

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



Healing the Blind by Kate Chopin

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

SUNDAY, September 26, 2021

Sight Restored

**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.

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.

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

Fantasia in C

Welcome

J.S. Bach

Call to Worship

One: Draw near to God and grow strong in God's presence.

All: Seek God's wisdom and know joy as God draws near.

One: Live as trees planted by living waters, and Christ will give you peace.

All: Rest in the shade of the Tree of Life, and Christ will lead you home.

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

Gathering Prayer

One: Source of wisdom and understanding, plant us by your streams of living water, that we may bear the fruit of peace and mercy in the seasons of our lives; root us in the soil of your grace and compassion, that we may reach out our hands to the needy and speak with gentleness to the sorrowful; nourish us in your righteousness, that our actions may reflect your presence in our living and in our loving. Place your wisdom and understanding within us, that we may be far more precious than jewels to those in need of your healing love. In Jesus name, Amen.

Please stand as you are able

Opening Hymn

#726, Will You Come and Follow Me

Verses 1, 2, 3, & 5

CONFESSIO N o f SIN & ASSURANCE o f GRACE

Confession

One: We live in a world, God, that looks for wisdom and understanding in all the wrong places. You teach us that charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, yet we strive for these things above virtues of mercy, gentleness, and service. When we strive for worldly recognition and the accolades of power and wealth, forgive us. When we allow ourselves to be blown around like tumbleweeds in the wind, plant us by the waters of your mercy and grace. When we follow the advice of the wicked and sit in the seat of scoffers, lead us back to the paths of life, through Christ, our guide and guardian.

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: When we draw near to God, God draws near to us. God blesses us with humility, gentleness, mercy, wisdom, and understanding. Draw near to God, and touch the inexhaustible love of God.

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 aloud, or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's 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.**

THE WORD

New Testament Reading

Mark 8 : 22-26 (NRSV)

One: ²²Jesus and his disciples came to Bethsaida. Some people brought a blind man to him and begged him to touch him. ²³He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when he had put saliva on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, "Can you see anything?" ²⁴And the man looked up and said, "I can see people, but they look like trees, walking." ²⁵Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he looked intently and his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. ²⁶Then he sent him away to his home, saying, "Do not even go into the village."

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.

Please stand as you are able

Hymn of Response

#727, Will You Let Me Be Your Servant?

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

#366, Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Invitation to Community Events

Benediction

Postlude

Chorale Prelude on an Easter Tune

Healey Willan

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Music Director: Aaron Nee

Liturgist: Tiffany Price

Godly Play Story Teller: Di Pagel

Godly Play Door Person: Dorrie Dodge

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Song Leader: Linda Carter

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

Flowers: Bill Coburn

Fellowship Snacks: Sarah Postma & Aaron Ruff