

Final Minor Feelings Book Group to meet for discussion, p. 8

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Dog park ruffs up the lawn, p.11

Weekly Newsletter Week of October 10, 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, October 10

- 9 am Worship leader preparation
- 10 am Worship, Rev. Matt Prinz preaches
Godly Play: *The Great Family*
- 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, October 11

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

Tuesday, October 12

- 11 am Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts

Wednesday, October 13

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

Thursday, October 14

- 11 am Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts
- 6 pm *Minor Feelings* Book Group
Courtyard (dress warmly!)

Friday, October 15

- 12 pm ReCares equipment distribution

Saturday, October 16

- 7 am Food Ministry morning grocery pick-up.



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.



TOGETHER AGAIN!

Saturday, October 23, 7:30 - 8:30 pm
First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

Oakland Gay Men's Chorus is thrilled to announce its first live performance since early 2020. This one-hour concert will feature chorus favorites alongside brand new music performed by the Chorus for the very first time. This is the first concert to be held at First Church since spring 2020. Tickets are available at the Chorus website or at the door.



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.



First Church Welcomes Oakland's Community Women's Orchestra

The Community Women's Orchestra will be making its new home at First Church, starting this week. The orchestra, which consists entirely of women, will rehearse in the Fellowship Hall on Thursday evenings, from 7:30 – 9:30 pm. They will also have seasonal concerts here, also in the Fellowship Hall.

The orchestra's mission is "to engage, inspire and celebrate women in classical music." Begun in 1985 as a community adjunct to the Women's Philharmonic, the orchestra is now independent. There are currently sixty women performing with the orchestra, whose repertoire highlights the works of women composers, in addition to standard classical works. The orchestra will be led in its 37th season by Ondine Young, guest music director.

First Church is currently a rehearsal and performance venue for seven performing arts groups, including Cantare Chorale, Nova Youth Choir, Piedmont Children's Choirs, Quinteto Latino, Oakland Gay Men's Chorus, The Lucy Kinchen Chorale, and Sacred &

Profane Chamber Chorus. The Community Women's Orchestra used to rehearse at Lake Merritt United Methodist Church, which has yet to reopen to the public.

The Community Women's Orchestra has a fall concert scheduled for November 14, though they have yet to determine whether the performance will be in-person or streamed live.

Ballroom Dancing Comes to Fellowship Hall

Oakland Downtown Senior's Center will be providing ballroom dance lessons in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays, from 10:30 – 11:30 am. The lessons are offered to members of the Senior's Center, but are also open to others for a fee.

Like the Community Women's Orchestra, the Oakland Senior's Center ballroom dance lessons has been without a home since the beginning of the pandemic. Lessons are currently offered outdoors but will move to First Church as weather gets cooler.



Compassion, Generosity and Overcoming Adversity: Food Ministry Work Continues

By Bill Coburn

Our Friday and Saturday pick up team pulled in a tremendous quantity of items from all sources this week, including Whole Foods, Food not Bombs, Food of God, Western Service Workers, Good Eggs, Manna from Heaven, Arizmendi, Firebrand Bakery plus supplies other supplies donated by Sandy. We shared grocery items with Presbyterian Homes and took a full pickup load to ECAP. The pick-up team consisted of Rajiv, Devon, Peter, Bryan, Henry, Steve, Paul, and Teri. Dorothy helped with kitchen cleaning and organization.

Sunday was another busy day. We put together 150 lunches with pesto chicken salad and lettuce sandwiches, chips, apples, grapes, and desserts. Ann, Mary and Stacey managed the sandwich preparation.

Once again, Kyong did a great job putting the lunch boxes together. We did a lot of prep for Monday's meal on Sunday, prepping green salad, potato salad, and assembling the two bowls of fruit salad. We prepared the chicken for Monday, prepping vegetables and arranging our donated rice into cooking containers. We value the skills Derrick, Bonnie, Ann, Peter, Bryan, Navdeep and Victor bring to our Sunday operation. We were also delighted to have Ricky and Jamie help us

out. Every hand helps so much. Melo and Jazmine did the food delivery for Sunday. We are so grateful for these folks who take food to people on the streets and the encampments.

Monday, we made 150 lunches of roasted chicken with pears, rice, vegetables, yellow and green squash, and cauliflower. We also served green salad, potato salad, fruit salad and desserts. We provided our usual full table of extra grocery items as well. Teri and team took the lead with the chicken and vegetables and rice. We had a full house of volunteers Teri, Shirley, Diane, Natalie, Laura, Ellen, Cathy, Jan, Jan L, Beth, Diane, Hunter, Paul, Bonnie, Bryan, Navdeep, Connie and Gus. everyone was needed - for whatever reason, there was a lot to do.

Several folks, such as Cathy, stayed late to help with the cleanup, as she had done last week. We also want to thank Jan J. for the chili she made last week. We struggled a bit today and this weekend with a non-working water heater, juggling food because of a Hall rental, but managed with some inciteful alternative strategies. We thank Dorothy for helping Sunday and Monday and keeping us supplied with bottled water and food boxes. Lexine's team came to distribute the meals and extra foods, for which we are extremely grateful.

“Making God’s Welcome Known” Is Not Always Easy

By Chris Weber

When the blocks around First Church began to transform into the city’s most densely packed residential hub, we all knew that there would be changes to how the neighborhood behaved. The First Church lawn, one of the only green spaces available to many of apartment dwellers nearby, has become a dog park. Every evening, around 6 – 7 pm, a group of twenty to thirty dog walkers coalesce on the grass. Dogs are let off leash, and play time ensues. Terriers, poodles, huskies and mutts run and play, the glorious way that dogs do, while dog owners share treats and conversation. The atmosphere is friendly and often a bit chaotic.

“I wouldn’t know anyone here if it wasn’t for this meet-up,” said Sahar Abi-Hassan, who moved to a nearby apartment building in August with her Staffordshire Terrier, Kaya. “This place has helped me get to know my neighbors – Kaya too,” she said, while Kaya wrestled with Bella, a husky owned by Giorgio Famiglietti, who has been enjoying the First Church lawn for about six months now.

The front lawn is a quarter of an acre, with additional areas planted with roses, camelias, irises, and geraniums, all donated by church members over the years. However, without intervention, the lawn will inevitably go the way of all dog parks – turned into a dusty, muddy, hard

packed patch of ground by scampering dog claws. Our guests have destructive tendencies.

“Making God’s Welcome Known” is the First Church mission statement. We adopted this mission as our central focus in 2014. It is a commitment to “God’s welcome,” a concept amply illustrated throughout scripture as extravagant, generous, bold, and hospitable. “This has become a community for me,” said Giorgio Famiglietti, of the congregation of dog owners who assemble here daily. He pointed to the dozen or so other dogs, all of whose names he knew, along with those of their owners. Bella and Kaya continued to wrestle underfoot, on an area of lawn almost entirely denuded of actual grass.

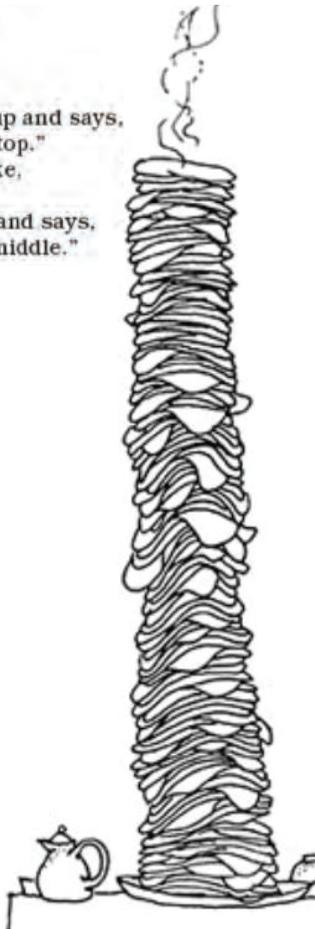
Later in the fall, before the rainy season begins, we will be cordoning off a portion of the lawn, to allow it to heal and grow, and hopefully be ready for springtime. Many of the dog owners have expressed an interest in helping with this effort, and putting their own stamp of ownership on a place that is special to them.

If you have an interest in welcoming some of the church’s neighbors, please stop by the campus any evening between 6 and 7 pm. You’ll likely be greeted by Kaya, Bella and their friends, who have already made themselves home.



PANCAKE?

Who wants a pancake,
Sweet and piping hot?
Good little Grace looks up and says,
"I'll take the one on the top."
Who else wants a pancake,
Fresh off the griddle?
Terrible Theresa smiles and says,
"I'll take the one in the middle."



Poem and art by Shel Silverstein

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!

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

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Portrait of Christ by Bas Uterwijk

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

SUNDAY, October 10, 2021

Who do you say that I am?

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

- 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

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come away from dullness and complacency. Wake up! God is calling us to listen and learn.

All: The heavens are telling the glory of God. The firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

One: How long will we refuse the wisdom God offers? How long will we ignore God's counsel and reproof?

All: The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul. The decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple.

One: Our waywardness separates us from God. Then, when we call on God, we hear no answer.

All: Let us gather to renew our relationship with God. Here we will seek the revival of our souls.

Gathering Prayer

One: God of all wisdom, renew our sense of awe and wonder as we gather before you, the source of all knowledge. Make your Word known to us, and stretch out your hand to touch us. Draw us away from our own devices that we may truly listen to the witness of all creation speaking of wonders we have ignored. Give us eyes to see beauty in all around us. Align us with truth and justice. Quiet our judgments and awaken our trust. Show us the disciplines we need to stay in touch with you each day.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able

Opening Hymn

401, Gather Us In

CONFESSIO N of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: God of the spirit of kindness, in the glory of earth and sea and stars, in the kaleidoscope of color and shade and shapeliness, in the patterns of humor and tenderness and touch, we celebrate generosity.

Forgive us when we forget the gift in our every breath, the care that sustains our every moment, the grace that can transform our every day.

Set us free from the prison of critical hearts, mean desires and resentful spirits. Give us courage to act with justice and generosity. Draw us into love that does not calculate or keep scores.

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: In God's love and grace, we are being made holy.

In God's compassion and mercy, we are named siblings of Christ.

Rejoice and be glad, for in the power of God's Holy Spirit, we are made one with God and with one another in the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God for this glorious gift!

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

CONFES S I O N S OF FAITH

We are beginning a new season of brief testimonies during worship service as a way to know each other better, learn, and be encouraged by one another. These statements of faith also help us to discern our collective journey together. As we share, consider these questions:

Questions for yourself

- Who is God inviting you to become in this season?
- What is God teaching you in this season?
- What new steps of faith are you taking as you walk in the Way of Jesus?

Questions for the church

- Who is God inviting us to become in this next season?
- How are we growing together as God guides us?
- What steps of faith is God inviting us to take together?

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 : 27 - 33 (NRSV)

One: ²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

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

Sermon Continued

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

Hymn

#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

#267, Come, Christians Join To Sing

Invitation to Community Life

Benediction

One: Go forth with the voice of God calling your name.

All: We go in the love of God.

One: Go forth to hear Christ claiming you as his own.

All: We go in the mercy of Christ.

One: Go forth to follow where the Spirit sends you.

All: We go in the power of the Holy Spirit.

One: Go forth, called, named, and claimed by God.

Postlude

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Guest Organist: Dave Hatt

Liturgist: Gay Plair Cobb

Testimonies: Susannah Prinz & Chris Weber

Godly Play Story Teller: Dorrie Dodge

Godly Play Door Person: Elizabeth Goodwin

Song Leader: Linda Carter

Head Usher: Louise Hill

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

Flowers: Bill Coburn

Fellowship Snacks: Kerry Sherman