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planned for Fall, p. 8-9

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feed hundreds, p.10

First Church campus reopening brings boon of
new community groups, budget stability p.11



Weekly Newsletter Week of October 17, 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 17

- 9 am Worship leader preparation
- 10 am Worship, Rev. Matt Prinz preaches
Communion served
- 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
- 3 pm Art & Conversation, Prinz Home

Monday, October 18

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

Tuesday, October 19

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

Wednesday, October 20

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

Thursday, October 21

- 11 am Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts

Friday, October 22

- 12 pm ReCares equipment distribution

Saturday, October 23

- 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.



Halloween Sunday

Sunday, October 31, 11 am
Reception Room

Come to worship dressed in costume to celebrate Halloween (or bring a costume to put on after worship if you prefer). There will be games and Halloween fun for everyone.



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.



Halloween & Our Faith

By Julia Marquez

The ancients Celts celebrated October 31st and November 1st as the end of the season of light and the beginning of the season of darkness. In this in-between time, they believed the souls of the dead roamed the streets and evil spirits abounded.

The Church had originally celebrated All Saints Day in the spring. In order to convert pagans to Christianity, church leaders decided to move All Saints Day to November 1st, to replace the Celtic pagan festival. The word “Halloween” derives from “Hallow”, or “Holy” (e.g. Saint) and “evening”, shortened to e’en or “een”. Thus Halloween literally means the evening before All Saints Day, a day to remember the “cloud of witnesses” who have gone before us.

During the Middle Ages, Christians would gather in churches on All Hallow’s Eve to celebrate Christ’s victory over death and the saints’ victories over evil. The festivities of All Hallow’s Eve were the Christian’s way of laughing at death and evil in certain hope of Christ’s victory over the powers of darkness. Thus Halloween is not a celebration of evil, but rather a chance for Christians to affirm their beliefs in victory through Christ over evil and death, or as the apostle Paul says in 1 Corinthians, “Where O Death is Your Victory?, Where O Death, is thy Sting?”

So on Sunday, October 31st, we will have Halloween activities in the Reception Room for all ages. **Everyone is encouraged to wear a costume.**

Fall & Holiday Concerts



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. **Tickets are available at the Chorus website or at the door.**



Brass Over Bridges

Tuesday, November 9, 7 pm

First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary

Brass Over Bridges is a brass quintet that understands that music is all about connection. Inspired by the cultural diversity of the San Francisco Bay Area, they engage audiences with music bridging barriers of style and artistic discipline. **This is a free concert.**

Cantare Con Vivo presents: Lift Every Voice and Sing! Sunday, December 5, 6 pm





Food Ministry Weekly Report

By Bill Coburn

Early Saturday morning, the pickup team received foods from Western Service Workers, Whole Foods, Good Eggs, Food of God program, Hazel Seiden and her program, and Manna from Heaven. We are grateful for pick-up team members, Steve, Bryan, Peter, Henry, Paul, and Teri this week who gathered items for us. And we are grateful for the Food of God program and Hazel Seiden for delivering food items to us. We are thankful for the Richmond family for the consistent cookie donations. We gave surplus from the grocery haul to Presbyterian Homes of Berkeley and ECAP.

Our Sunday, Kyong and Tiffany prepared the boxed lunches for distribution and Ann and Mary assembled the sandwiches. Additionally, we prepared a tuna casserole for the Monday meal, put the fruit and green salads together and did some vegetable prep for Monday. Dorothy spent time organizing the clothing storage, which was a big relief. Additional folks supporting us were, Pauline, Matt, Bonne, Bryan, Peter, Ricky, Jamie, Victor N., Victor C., and Navdeep.

Lunches were distributed by Tivo Rojas. Tivo shared how much he enjoyed doing this work

and was able to manage on his own this Sunday, also distributing packages of water and bottles of water and some protein packed bars. Tivo shared that his parents were field workers from Mexico. His father had lived through farm injuries and chemical exposure until into his 90's. Tivo works for a biochemical firm. He and his entire family, wife Ann and daughters Marisol and Robin, plus family friends, have consistently been available for our Sunday delivery distribution. This engagement with their family has been a real joy. They have a truly remarkable set of skills that makes each one of them comfortable doing this work. Ann has repeatedly mentioned they feel privileged to be able to do this work.

The Monday meal was the tuna casserole and salads mentioned above, plus desserts. Teri brought in a cluster of folks to help with the vegetable prep and cooking. They were very resourceful when we needed to supplement the vegetable and fruit with items from the pantry for some of the last lunches. We also had to heat our hot water (the hot water is awaiting repair) so we had a resourcesful team handle these logistics.

Otherwise, we had Bonnie, Shirley, Teri, Trish, Cathy, Crissi, Diane, Laura, Connie, Victor, and four additional Temple Sinai volunteers, making this a successful meal. Trish helped with the clothing, taking away items left over from the distribution table. Hopefully this technique will allow us better clothing management. Many food items were distributed at the gate with Navdeep's presence. This was able to facilitate Connie's work distributing boxed lunches and the extra items.

We are very thankful for Lisa and her team for the Monday meal delivery, which numbered close to 100 lunches. Lisa also takes out extra items, today we had extra desserts and she commented these are like 'gold' to the people on the streets.

Early Projections of *Facility Transformation Plan* Show Funding Source for \$3M in Deferred Maintenance & Replacement Projects

by Erick Bevington, Chair of Buildings & Grounds Committee

Following a year and a half of a disruptive campus closure, the Buildings & Grounds Committee is very pleased to report that new income generated by the Facilities Transformation Plan (adopted in February of 2020) is capable of funding up to \$3 million in deferred maintenance projects. This momentous milestone, which once felt entirely out of reach, will provide funding for major campus repairs, including replacement of our leaking slate roof, restoration of our crumbling concrete façade, replacement of our antiquated central heating plant, and a myriad of other necessities for First Church's 107 year old campus

For over a decade I have served with a group of outstanding people on the Buildings & Grounds Committee, where we worked to adapt how we use our campus in the ever-changing world around us. Meeting at times with Di Pagel, Judy Rowan, Rose Mary Richmond, Steve Cabrera, Jerry Brosnan, Dorothy Dugger and Chris Weber, we identified that the campus can be shared as a vital community hub, expanding our church's positive impact in Oakland while also generating much needed revenue to maintain our beautiful but expensive and aging facilities.

We also identified the need to complete \$2-3 million in major repairs and restoration within the next 5-15 years. All of these projects were avoided by previous generations of this church's leadership, as it struggled with the lack of resources to fund the massive campus on its own. A congregation of only 100 people has no business putting \$3M into a building.

We don't have access to \$2-3 million in cash in our bank account, so we developed the Facilities

Maintenance Program (FMP) in 2017. The FMP is a specially designated account, within our facilities budget, that collects money that will allow us to pay debt service on low interest loans of up to \$3 million. In order for this plan to work, the FMP account needed to have \$150 thousand put into it every year, for the next thirty years or so. In 2017, we started with just \$30 thousand of that secured. We had work to do.

In 19 months' time, all of which was during a highly disruptive global pandemic, we have not only met the plan's objectives but exceeded them.

In 2020, the session ratified the Facilities Transformation Plan. This plan included a series of changes to how we operate our facilities. The main goals were to expand our positive influence in Oakland while simultaneously earning more money to put into the FMP. Smaller goals included a lot of cleaning, painting and organizing so that we could be more welcoming. At the time this transformation plan was ratified, we were only one quarter of the way to our \$150 thousand annual goal. We were hopeful that within 18 months we could get three quarters of the way there. Then Covid came.

While the campus was closed, newly appointed Interim Facility Manager, Chris Weber (who has been donating his work with us since July) and the Buildings & Grounds Committee, were hard at work implementing the plan. The campus was renovated, energy efficiency improvements were made, cost reducing operational changes

Continued, from previous page

were implemented, leases were renegotiated, six new community lease partnership agreements were formed, and the way we do event rentals was restructured. A lot was taking place, but the financial impacts were not visible due to the impacts of COVID and the campus closure.

At the close of the third quarter of this year, we finally have visibility into how the Facilities Transformation Plan is working, and the news is truly extraordinary. The Finance Committee and Session are starting the 2022 budgeting process, where the church's two separate budgets, one for Church Mission Operations and a separate one for Facilities are produced and individually balanced. With this configuration, every dollar given to the church through pledges or giving is used only for the mission of the church - not to fund the building. Separately, the revenue generated by facility leases and rentals is used to maintain the campus so that it is available to house our ministry and the work of our community partners. The preliminary Facilities 2022 budget has been pulled together to incorporate newly secured leases, agreements, and confirmed expenses.

We are currently projecting \$159 thousand available for the Facilities Maintenance Program. In 19 months' time, all of which was during a highly disruptive global-pandemic, we have not only met the plan's objectives but exceeded them. This is a truly an extraordinary milestone, and I hope you will join me, Buildings & Grounds, and the Session in celebrating it.

What the FMP and this funding gives us is stability and freedom. We have found a path to sustaining our presence and community influence here at 2619 Broadway for years to come. We can allow the campus to sustain itself and enjoy the freedom as a church to focus our efforts on our mission: Making God's Welcome Known.

In Memorium

Peerless 2.7M BTU Steam Boiler, 1960 – 2021

She kept First Church warm for 61 years. She rusted out peacefully in her basement home, and was discovered functionless on October 16 during her annual start-up maintenance. She is survived by her beloved family of steam radiators, pumps and miles of pipes. In lieu of flowers, buy warm gloves.

Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

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FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

SUNDAY, October 17, 2021

Take up your cross
and follow me

*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.

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

Music Director: Aaron Nee

Liturgist: Suzie Inadomi

Testimony: Dan Akira Nishimura

Song Leader: John Doppke

Godly Play Story Teller: Di Pagel

Godly Play Door Person: Rose Mary Richmond

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

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

Flowers: Bill Coburn

Fellowship Snacks: Marilyn Reynolds

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

Prelude
Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: God of all creation, we come to praise and worship you.

All: You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment.

One: You stretch out the heavens like a tent, making clouds your chariot, and riding on the wings of the wind.

All: You set the earth on its foundations, hiding its depths with a watery cloak that moves in the rhythm of your breath.

One: In your wisdom, you have made us in your image, showing us glimpses of glory in the work of your hands.

All: God of life and love, we come to praise and worship you.

Gathering Prayer

One: Holy God, we come this day, into this sacred moment and this sacred space, aware that your holiness is always around us. As Moses before us, when we turn aside from our daily tasks, and we listen for your holy voice, speak to us in holy mystery. Surround us with your wondrous love, that we might be wise enough to understand your call and be brave enough to follow your path.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able

Opening Hymn

#740 Lead Me, Guide Me

CONFESSIO N of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: In the midst of your holy presence, God, we encounter a mystery deeper than the foundations of the earth. You are who you are, sacred and indefinable. Forgive us when we try and put you in a box, for framing you in our own image. Help us as we allow your divine image to define and shape us. Speak mercy and grace to us, when we deny the path before us, and guide us with your shepherding love, when we are unsure of how to follow. Strengthen us and give us the courage to say: “Here I am, ready to love and serve.” In your holy name, we pray.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able

Assurance of Pardon

One: We are in the presence of the Holy One, whose holiness is in our very being. Rejoice and be glad, for in Christ’s love we are reminded of this divine truth: We are God’s beloved creation, reclaimed for a holy path.

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

CONFESSIO NS 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: 34 - 38 (NRSV)

One: ³⁴He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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.

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

#169 Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

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

#718 Take Up Your Cross

Benediction

One: God sends us to serve.

All: Here we are, ready to serve!

One: God sends us to love.

All: Here we are, ready to love!

One: God sends us to bless the world.

All: Here we are, ready to bless the world!

Postlude

Allegro
G.F. Handel