

Congregation invited to participate in Christmas and Advent planning p. 8

Food Ministry community provides meals to nearby encampments, p. 10



First Church lends support to four local non-profits working for youth, community, p. 11

Major overhaul in the works for First Church campus heating systems p. 11

Weekly Newsletter Week of October 31, 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 31**

- 9 am Worship leader preparation
- 10 am Worship, Rev. Matt Prinz preaches
- 11 am Halloween Sunday Activities
- 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, November 1**

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

### **Tuesday, November 2**

- 11 am Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts

### **Wednesday, November 3**

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

### **Thursday, November 4**

- 11 am Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts

### **Friday, November 5**

- 12 pm ReCares equipment distribution

### **Saturday, November 6**

- 7 am Food Ministry morning grocery pick-up.

## **Special Volunteer Opportunity**

### **Monday, November 29, 10:30 - 3 pm**

Alameda County Health Department and Vituity Care Foundation will host a pop-up clinic at First Church geared primarily toward those without access to conventional health care. Volunteers are needed to assist with hospitality: set-up, patient welcome, patient processing, refreshments.



## **Halloween Sunday**

Sunday, October 31, 11 am  
Reception Room

Following worship today - dress in costume to celebrate Halloween (or bring a costume to put on after worship if you prefer). There will be lunch, activities and Halloween fun for everyone.



## **Working on Worship**

Saturday, November 6, 3 pm  
Marquez Family Home

All are invited to the Marquez family backyard this coming Saturday, to learn new songs, participate in community building games and help plan our Advent and Christmas Eve worship services. All ages are welcome; childcare is available. Mulled apple cider and delicious hot soup will be served to keep you warm and energized.

**Please contact Julia for the address or if you have questions. [jmarquez@fbcl-visa.com](mailto:jmarquez@fbcl-visa.com)**



## **The Installation of Rev. Matthew Prinz**

as the 19th Pastor of First Church  
November 14, 4 pm, reception to follow



## Herman Waters's Improvisation Brings Hammond B3 to Life

By Marilyn Reynolds

Herman Waters was born in Hendersonville, North Carolina and has lived in Oakland, California. since 1983. A gifted child, he began playing the piano by ear at age 4 and began playing in churches at age 9. Herman left home at age 18, moving to Cleveland, Ohio. and then to Detroit, Michigan. He played at St. Paul Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Detroit from 1979-1983. Currently, he plays for Olive Grove Missionary Baptist Church in Berkeley. Herman's vast career has always been in church never having to work outside of the church, what a blessing!

## Volunteer Tributes, Recognition Requested for November

The ministry of this church consists almost entirely of the many folks who generously contribute their time and talent to bless others. In November, we will be recognizing the many volunteers who work to "Make God's Welcome Known." If you would like to recognize someone who has made an impact, please consider sending a written tribute for publication here.

## Your Photos Sought for Year-End Photo Tribute

We are collecting photos that show the life and work of the First Church Community in 2021. Do you have photos from gatherings that you've attended this year? **We would be delighted if you would share them with us: [office@firstchurchoakland.org](mailto:office@firstchurchoakland.org)**

## Fall & Holiday Concerts



Hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, this 80-minute program will include a wide variety of genres including Renaissance, modern classical, Indian-Classical, jazz, and original music by our own trumpeter, Ari Micich. Please maintain distance between groups while seated, and masks are required per Alameda County mandates. This program includes an intermission.





## Food Ministry Weekly Report

By Bill Coburn

A good team effort from everyone allowed us to successfully produce our Monday meal for 150. The Monday meal consisted of roast chicken, vegetables (green peppers, mushrooms, leeks) over rice or potatoes. Teri and team managed the vegetables and prepared the desserts and lead the plating line. Devon was the vegetable cook, Bonnie and the Sunday team had prepared the green salad, and Jan put the finishing touches on the fruit salad. Some bread was added to absorb meat juices. The Monday cleanup crew was delighted to have hot water. Paul arrived a little late, so Hunter had stepped in and Navdeep followed to manage the cleanup job. Teri, Natalie, Laura, Beth, Diane, Shirley, Connie, were the others who provided for the Monday efforts. A few leftover Sunday lunches were also given out, as well as extra foods and clothing. I heard one of our patrons complement us, saying the food was ‘pretty good’. Lisa picked up sandwiches for distribution to the streets

Sunday, we prepared 150 lunches of tuna sandwiches, chips, fruits, cookies, drinks and other miscellaneous desserts. Team members Tiffany and Kyong shouldered the sandwich box assembly and Ann and Mary assembled the sandwiches. Matt provided the sandwich vegetable prep. Additionally, a lot of food prep was done for

Monday, chickens roasted (we used 24 total) then cut up after roasting by expert Pauline. Mary also did vegetable prep as did Ricky and Jennie. The Sunday cleanup team was as delighted with the hot water as was the Monday team, Peter, Ru and others, all struggling to make up for earned time off for Bryan as he traveled with family. We thank Navdeep for distributing the sandwiches inside the gate during the rain. TJ Rojas-Cheatam came with an umbrella, needed for the street food delivery. It was challenging work on a fully rainy Sunday. Also cleanup note: as recommended by Dorothy, she is leading the effort in the process of learning to minimize weekly laundry to make the laundry component a little smoother for those washing wash cloths at home.

On Saturday, we were visited by Bryan’s mom and aunt, visiting for a family gathering. Both arrived from Florida. Bryan’s Mom, Lucy has volunteered in the past getting food on Sat morning and she insisted she wanted to join us Sat morning to say hello, even though, it compromised somewhat their travel plans. It was a delight to see them both. We all celebrated by sharing some vegetarian quiche from our pickup, heated up by Bryan and made the pick up a bit of a party. Our team that day was Bryan, Peter, Paul, Steve, Henry, Devon, and Rajiv came by to say hello. Su Coburn prepared some vegetarian chili and flavored rice for Western Service Workers on Saturday as a thank you for all their donations. Some of this was shared with some volunteers both Sunday and Monday, and as Peter commented, “made a lot of people happy.”

We received on 3,450 bottles of water, from Temple Sinai. The food pickup team was available during the delivery to put the water away in relatively short order. We received foods from Western Service Workers, Food of God, Whole Foods, The Richmond family, Arizmendi Bakery and Firebrand bakery. We also received gifts of masks from both Teri and Dorothy.

## Session Sends Financial Support to Four Local Organizations

At the October Session of elders, Pastor Matt urged funding to three local youth organizations: NOVA Choir, College Awareness Program, and Oakland Kids First. The Session agreed to provide grants of \$500 each to these groups with funds provided by the Davidson Family Bequest. The bequest was created by former First Church members to provide \$700 annually for First Church to use in support of community youth initiatives.

NOVA Choir is a choral singing program offered by First Church Community Partner and tenant, Cantare Con Vivo. NOVA provides choral singing and performing arts experiences for Oakland Unified School District youth. NOVA will perform at First Church Spring 2022.

College Awareness Program was started by Don and Lorraine Provost, also First Church members, to link graduating high school seniors with historically black colleges and universities, particularly those run by Presbyterians.

Oakland Kids First is a local non-profit that provides trains hundreds of high-school leaders each year who work to advance safe and caring school cultures, academic success, and educational equity campaigns that center the needs of underserved Oakland students.

In addition to these groups, the Session provided \$500 to Faith in Action East Bay in support of its initiatives to curb gun violence in Oakland, including “Ceasefire,” a program which advances thorough analysis of violent incidents and trends respectful, in-person communications with high-risk residents by police and community volunteers, relationship-based social services, narrowly focused law enforcement actions and an intentional management structure.

## The Heat Is On To Rebuild Campus Climate Systems

With winter approaching and the campus’s antique heating system no longer in operation, Interim Facility Manager Chris Weber and Buildings & Grounds Chair Erick Bevington are scrambling to find solutions to bring heat back to the heavily used campus.

Prior to the central boiler’s operational failure, the Buildings & Grounds Committee had developed a plan to divide the campus into four zones, based on the unique heating requirements and building types of each zone: the Sanctuary, the Fellowship Hall, the Classroom Wing and the Parish House. Under this plan, the campus would no longer rely on a central heating plant; each zone would operate independently and much more efficiently. The Classroom Wing was already slated for installation of new heating and air-conditioning equipment, a process which the Session sped up with funding approval provided last week.

With the possibility of a cold sanctuary in December, Cantare Con Vivo has moved its annual Christmas concert to Allen Temple Baptist Church. Other campus users are making do without heat, as Covid precautions have them using campus rooms with doors and windows open for ventilation.

Chris & Erick have already met with several installers of new mechanical systems and are weighing options for new systems to install in the remaining three campus zones. The availability of construction material nationwide has been severely affected by supply chain disruptions, adding even more complexity to the project.

The congregation is encouraged to dress warmly while using the campus, until heat can be restored.

# HYMNS



THE ONE THAT  
EVERYONE KNOWS  
AND LIKES



THE ONE THAT  
NO ONE KNOWS  
(OR LIKES)



THE ONE THAT  
CAN'T BE SUNG  
ADEQUATELY,  
BUT FITS WITH  
THE READINGS



THE ONE WHERE  
SOME PEOPLE  
LIKE TO CLAP  
AND DO ACTIONS



THE ONE THAT SOMEONE  
ENTHUSIASTIC LEARNT  
WHILST AWAY ON A  
CONFERENCE, BUT  
UNFORTUNATELY  
DOESN'T REALLY  
WORK HERE AT ALL



THE ONE WHERE  
THE ORGANIST  
LETS RIP ON  
THE LAST VERSE

## First Church is proud to support its COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Cantare Con Vivo
- College Awareness
- Community Women's Orchestra
- Faith in Action East Bay
- Food Not Bombs
- Habitat For Humanity, East Bay Silicon Valley
- Oakland Early Head Start Preschool
- Oakland Gay Men's Chorus
- Oakland Kids First
- Piedmont East Bay Children's Choirs
- Quinteto Latino
- ReCares
- The Lucy Kinchen Chorale
- Western Service Workers Assoc.

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

Writing by Bill Coburn, Julia Marquez,  
Marilyn Reynolds & Chris Weber

Copy editing by Anne Margaret Manay &  
Dorrie Dodge

Photos by Lexine Alpert, Bill Coburn, Chris Weber

### 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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Deesis Mosaic, Hagia Sofia, Istanbul

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
OAKLAND  
AD 1853

SUNDAY, October 31, 2021

# Help my Unbelief

*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

Welcome

Call to Worship

*Poem 133: Summer,*  
Mary Oliver

One: Who made the world?  
Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
Who made the grasshopper?  
This grasshopper, I mean—  
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—  
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.  
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.  
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.  
Tell me, what else should I have done?  
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?

### Gathering Prayer

**One:** God, you are our God, and we come as people seeking you each day. Gather us in, that we may remember the ties that bind us together in your love. Write your truth and hope upon our hearts, that others may find us to be generous and loving friends. Strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may live in love – a love that transforms our lives, even as we help to transform the lives of others. In the hope of your miraculous love, we pray,

**All: Amen**

*Please stand as you are able*

Opening Hymn

#649, *Amazing Grace*

## CONFESSIO N o f SIN & ASSURANCE o f GRACE

### Confession

**One:** Helper God, be the hope that overcomes our despair; Be the love that overcomes our hatred; Be the mercy that overcomes our sin. Set us free from the prisons of our own making, and release us from the bonds that bind us. Forgive us and watch over us. Welcome us home into the loving arms of your mercy. In Christ's name we pray.

**All: Amen**

*Please stand as you are able*

Assurance of Pardon

**One:** You are not far from the kingdom of God, for in Christ we are given grace and forgiveness. Praise God for this marvelous 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**

Musical Offering

*It Is Well With My Soul*

## CONFESSIONS 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

One: Gracious God, Lord of Creation,

We are humbled by the intricacy and vastness of your work. Although we gladly sing your praise, our voices tremble into silence at the limits of our understanding. For like Job we have agonizing questions about the suffering we see around us.

Jesus assures us that you love your creation, even us. In astonished gratitude and confidence in your steadfast care, we offer you our fragile love and dare lift up before the oppression, suffering, injustices, and torments that afflict your children.

Forgive us that we have failed in the two sacred tasks you have asked of us: to love you above all and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We confess that we inflict much pain, suffering, poverty, disease, and violence in it many forms upon one another in our beautiful world.

In the anguish of our shame we beg you to forgive us and to strengthen us anew rightly worship you: By imaginative and wise caring for one another, near and far; By tending our rare, precious planet, glowing and pulsing with life; By living with empathy and hope, courage and faithful persistence in active pursuit of your will

for us all; By seeking a generous peace among nations and neighbors, families and strangers; and by working toward what not only serves our country by what benefits global humanity.

Thank you for hearing our prayer, uttered in our own name and with the encouragement of Jesus, Amen.

## THE WORD

New Testament Reading

*Mark 9:14-29 (NRSV)*

One: <sup>14</sup>And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd about them, and scribes arguing with them. <sup>15</sup>And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed, and ran up to him and greeted him. <sup>16</sup>And he asked them, “What are you discussing with them?” <sup>17</sup>And one of the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; <sup>18</sup>and wherever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.” <sup>19</sup>And he answered them, “O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.” <sup>20</sup>And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup>And Jesus asked his father, “How long has he had this?” And he said, “From childhood. <sup>22</sup>And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us.” <sup>23</sup>And Jesus said to him, “If you can! All things are possible to him who believes.” <sup>24</sup>Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!” <sup>25</sup>And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again.” <sup>26</sup>And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, “He is dead.” <sup>27</sup>But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. <sup>28</sup>And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” <sup>29</sup>And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”

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 of Response

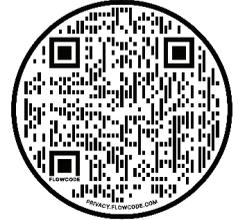
#728, *Somebody's Knocking At Your Door*

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

#384 *Soon and Very Soon*

Benediction

One: Go to love God and neighbor

**All: We go forth in the love of God.**

One: Go to welcome the stranger.

**All: We go forth with love for the world.**

Postlude

## SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

**Pastor:** Rev. Matt Prinz

**Music Director:** Aaron Nee

**Guest Organist:** Herman Water

**Liturgist:** David Alexander

**Testimony:** Shawn Jones

**Song Leader:** Marilyn Reynolds

**Godly Play Story Teller:** Di Pagel

**Godly Play Door Person:** Dorrie Dodge

**Head Usher:** Matthew Inadomi

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

**Flowers:** Bill Coburn

**Fellowship Snacks:** Julia Marquez, Ann Tisher,  
Rose Mary Richmond, Ann & Rich Jones,  
Anna Lisa Fear, Di Pagel