

Congregation requested to be present at
January 9 meeting, pledges needed, p. 9
Personal perspectives on Homelessness to be
discussed, p. 9



Habitat for Humanity looks for help with 2022
building projects, p. 11

Temple Sinai pitches in to help Food Ministry
over Christmas, p. 9

Weekly Newsletter

Week of January 2, 2022

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, January 2

- 9 am Worship leader preparation
- 10 am Worship with Communion
- 11 am Fellowship Time
- 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, January 3

- 10 am Food Ministry lunch prep starts
- 10:30 Pop-up clinic
- 12 pm Food Ministry lunch service

Tuesday, January 4

- 11 am Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts

Wednesday, January 5

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

Thursday, January 6

- 11 am Food Not Bombs lunch prep starts

Friday, January 7

- 12 pm ReCares equipment distribution

Saturday, January 8

- 7 am Food Ministry grocery pick-up.

Photos from Christams Eve Nativity Service



2022 Pledges Still Needed From Congregation

Once a year the membership of First Church makes a commitment to pledge financial support for the coming year. Pledging offers an opportunity to consider one's own role in supporting the ministry and work of the church with a commitment of time, talent and treasure. Making a commitment now ensures that the leadership of the church is capable of planning for the coming year.

Anyone needing a pledge card can contact Linda Carter, Rose Mary Richmond or Pastor Matt. This year, in addition to financial pledges, members are encouraged to make a pledge to support the various ministry groups at First Church.

Congregation's Annual Meeting Slated for January 9

The Annual Meeting will be held following worship on January 9. The meeting, a requirement for the local church given by both the National Church and the State of California, is primarily for the election of Elders, Deacons, Trustees (required by the State for the church's non-profit corporation) and Nominating Committee members. An annual report is typically given to the congregation by the Session.

Campus Heat to be Restored in January

Demolition and removal of our old campus boiler was successfully completed, which included removal of asbestos and an air quality inspection. Installation of our new campus heating equipment began December 28. Completion is expected on January 10, though flexibility with that date is requested from the installation crew, as recent Covid infections may cause delays.

Choral Singing to Return to Worship Soon

Music Director Aaron Nee is planning the return of choral singing to worship services, sometime in 2022. Work is already underway for the selection of music. The choir last contributed to worship in March of 2020, with virtual contributions provided for pre-recorded worship services in 2020.

Anyone with interest in participating in the choir is encouraged to meet with Aaron. Aaron is also considering the addition of hired section leaders to assist in rebuilding the group, following its two-year hiatus. The choir will have regular rehearsals (days and times to be determined) in addition to their Sunday morning responsibilities.

Black History Month Planning Begins

Each year, members of the congregation celebrate Black History Month with special contributions to worship, learning opportunities after worship, and Fellowship Time activities. Anyone interested in lifting up Black History in February is welcome to participate in planning the month. Contact Loraine Provost for more information.

Homelessness Gets Personal at Next Building the Beloved Community Gathering

First-hand experiences of homelessness will be shared at the Wednesday, January 26 Zoom gathering for Building the Beloved Community. Participants in the gathering will hear from people in the congregation who have first-hand experiences living without housing, or connections to those living unhoused.



Food Ministry Weekly Report

By Bill Coburn

Even with Christmas inserting itself into our week, we fed people and provided socks and warm clothing. We were happy to be able to do so, as it remains very cold and wet; all the more challenging for those on the streets. We adjusted our food pick up for missing Whole Foods on Saturday. Bryan did a Good Eggs pick up on Friday. We had a special delivery from Food Not Bombs (some Whole Foods groceries) and an unplanned Arizmendi Bakery delivery. We arranged a Firebrand bread delivery on Thursday. We were also recipients of some foods from Food of God program. We thank Bryan and Henry for being available. Extra items we distributed to ECAP.

Sunday, the day after Christmas, we were reinforced with Temple Sinai volunteers (Ellen, daughter Hannah, Teri, Jean, Laura, husband, Steve, son Paul and) and Pauline, Navdeep, Jeannie, Ricky, Victor, Bonnie, and Bryan were able to put together egg salad sandwiches, pastries, bananas and chips. Ann and Kyong were able to be there as well. We shelled 170 boiled eggs, put together spaghetti sauce (thank you

Teri and Ellen with amendments from Jeannie, Bill, Su and Rajiv), made salad and sliced a million carrots and prepared desserts for Monday, giving some relief to our usual crew. TiVo took out sandwiches to the streets along with socks.

Monday, our team included Ellen, Hannah, Jean, Paul, friend Steve, Bryan, Hunter, Navdeep, Connie, Barbara, Jeanie and Ricky and Victor. Hannah did a great job with the pasta prep, Ellen expanded the carrots with green beans, Jan worked her magic and found enough fruit for one bowl. We ended up using two bowls of salad, and extra spaghetti, which we gave out with the lunches. We had a lot of extra food to give away, including extra lunches from Sunday. We accommodated some extra grocery donations that appeared this morning. Some prepared food we froze and refrigerated for next week.

Lexine and team distributed lunches, donated socks, and warm clothing donated by the congregation this Sunday. It was another cold, wet day.

Habitat For Humanity Looks for New 2022 Volunteers

From the Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley Blog



Spend a day volunteering for Habitat for Humanity East Bay/Silicon Valley, and there's a good chance you'll hear the phrase "thank you" more times than you can count. That is because, at Habitat, we know that each and every Habitat volunteer makes a difference. That might seem like a lot of pressure (don't worry, you're not building an entire house yourself!), but one of the biggest perks of the gig is that you don't do it alone. It takes a community to build a community, and there's no better example than our incredible community of volunteers.

Habitat gets a lot out of our volunteer support with 80% of a Habitat homes built by volunteers. For long-time volunteer, Monica, volunteering is a way to share what she's grateful for. "I am blessed to have enough- a safe roof over my head, food in the fridge, and time for leisure activities," says Monica. "I believe I am meant to share these gifts the Lord has given me, so I take my time to volunteer." Monica keeps coming back because that she loves working alongside like-minded volunteers to build homes and communities - which is evident in the number of Build-A-Thons and Women's Build events she has helped lead crews for!

There is this energy that pulses through the construction site, the ReStore, the Playhouse Workshops, and even our offices when volunteers finish a project and see the difference they made with their fellow volunteers.

This connective energy is obvious at every Home Dedication, when new Habitat homeowners celebrate their accomplishment with the community that helped them build their way there. In the hugs and claspings of hands, there's a feeling of shared joy and something more: the sense that we did this monumental thing, together.

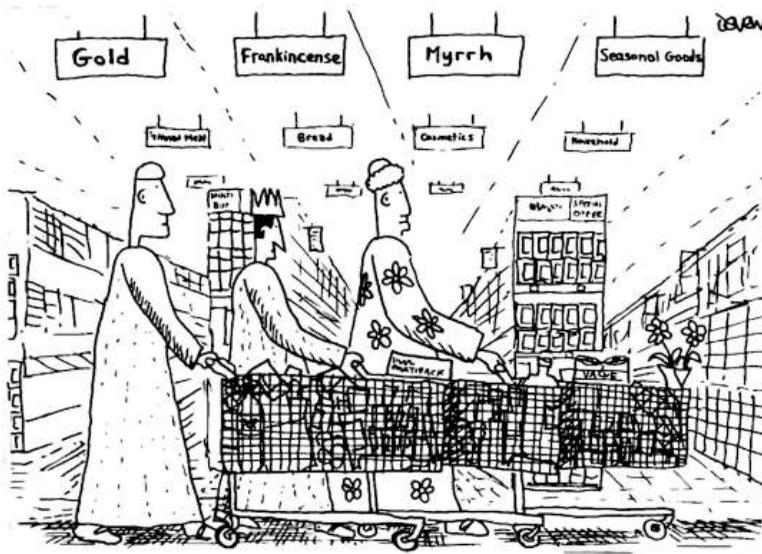
You'll feel it in something as simple as working shoulder to shoulder — there's nothing like the feeling of many hands on many 2x4s, and pairs of feet walking in unison to raise that wall. Or in

I believe I am meant to share these gifts the Lord has given me, so I take my time to volunteer.

the less glamorous but no less meaningful ways, like sitting down together for a water break after you and your crew hefted a stack of drywall from one spot to another.

You'll feel it when you show up for a team building day with co-workers or community group members and leave as friends, like Kirk, who volunteered with his church one time and continued to volunteer ever since. "We can contribute together as one team effort," Kirk says. "We can make a difference together!"

Community is central to our mission — we strive to bring people together to build homes, communities, and hope. It's there in our goal and in how we achieve it. And, for our volunteers, it's a little something to take away besides some sweat and maybe a splatter of paint, work day after work day.



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

Chris Weber, Interim Facility Manager
chris@firstchurchoakland.org

Gus Lopez, Head Custodian
510.290.9677

Rose Mary Richmond, Treasurer, office volunteer
rosemary@firstchurchoakland.org

Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper
joan@firstchurchoakland.org

Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Bill Coburn, Chris Weber
Copy editing by Anne Margaret Manay
Photos by Bill Coburn, Chris Weber, Suzie Inadomi

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 Civic Orchestra
- Oakland Early Head Start Preschool
- Oakland Gay Men's Chorus
- Oakland Kids First
- Piedmont East Bay Children's Choirs
- Quinteto Latino
- ReCares
- Sacred & Profane Chamber Chorus
- The Lucy Kinchen Chorale
- Vituity Care Foundation
- Western Service Workers Assoc.



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

Sunday, January 2, 2022

Epiphany

Worship for the outsiders

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.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Music Director: Aaron Nee

Liturgist: Marilyn Reynolds

Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Special Music: Joshua Day Marquez

Head Usher: Louise Hill

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

Flowers: Bill Coburn

Communion Setup: Diane Hill, Martha Bauman

Fellowship Snacks: Martha Bauman

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: Why are we here? Did we follow a star? Well no, but we did make a journey; perhaps we did not travel quite as far as the wise men. But like the wise men we left our homes and our busy lives to come here—not sure of what to expect—but hoping to meet Jesus, hoping to encounter God in this place. And this makes the journey worthwhile.

Gathering Prayer

One: Lord, we invite you into our hearts and souls and lives this morning. This is why we have come.

Please stand as you are able

Openin Hymn

#151 : We Three Kings of Orient Are
(verses 1-3, 5)

CONFESSIO n of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Ever patient God, we are a people who live in thick darkness. We stumble around, bombarded by news of war and poverty, injustice and oppression. The maelstrom of things and issues can overwhelm and paralyze us. Help us to be people of your light, shining your life of righteousness, peace, and joy into all the hurting places in our lives and world. Unlock the mystery and glory of the babe born in Bethlehem. Turn our aimless wanderings into a journey of purpose guided by your star. Let the light break into our lives and our world, and transform us into people of your light.

Silent Reflection

You are invited into a time of silent, personal prayer

One: In the name of the one who loves us unconditionally, we pray.

All: Amen

Assurance of Pardon

King John's Christmas

A. A. Milne

King John was not a good man --
He had his little ways.
And sometimes no one spoke to him
For days and days and days.
And men who came across him,
When walking in the town,
Gave him a supercilious stare,
Or passed with noses in the air --
And bad King John stood dumbly there,
Blushing beneath his crown.

King John was not a good man,
And no good friends had he.
He stayed in every afternoon...
But no one came to tea.
And, round about December,
The cards upon his shelf
Which wished him lots of Christmas cheer,
And fortune in the coming year,
Were never from his near and dear,
But only from himself.

King John was not a good man,
Yet had his hopes and fears.
They'd given him no present now
For years and years and years.
But every year at Christmas,

While minstrels stood about,
Collecting tribute from the young
For all the songs they might have sung,
He stole away upstairs and hung
A hopeful stocking out.

King John was not a good man,
He lived his life aloof;
Alone he thought a message out
While climbing up the roof.
He wrote it down and propped it
Against the chimney stack:
"TO ALL AND SUNDRY - NEAR AND FAR -
F. Christmas in particular."
And signed it not "Johannes R."
But very humbly, "Jack."
"I want some crackers,
And I want some candy;
I think a box of chocolates
Would come in handy;
I don't mind oranges,
I do like nuts!
And I SHOULD like a pocket-knife
That really cuts.
And, oh! Father Christmas, if you love me at all,
Bring me a big, red, India-rubber ball!"

King John was not a good man --
He wrote this message out,
And gat him to this room again,
Descending by the spout.
And all that night he lay there,
A prey to hopes and fears.
“I think that’s him a-coming now!”
(Anxiety bedewed his brow.)
“He’ll bring one present, anyhow --
The first I had for years.”
“Forget about the crackers,
And forget the candy;
I’m sure a box of chocolates
Would never come in handy;
I don’t like oranges,
I don’t want nuts,
And I HAVE got a pocket-knife
That almost cuts.
But, oh! Father Christmas, if you love me at all,
Bring me a big, red, india-rubber ball!”

King John was not a good man,
Next morning when the sun
Rose up to tell a waiting world
That Christmas had begun,
And people seized their stockings,
And opened them with glee,
And crackers, toys and games appeared,
And lips with sticky sweets were smeared,

King John said grimly: “As I feared,
Nothing again for me!”
“I did want crackers,
And I did want candy;
I know a box of chocolates
Would come in handy;
I do love oranges,
I did want nuts!
And, oh! if Father Christmas, had loved me at all,
He would have brought a big, red,
India-rubber ball!”

King John stood by the window,
And frowned to see below
The happy bands of boys and girls
All playing in the snow.
A while he stood there watching,
And envying them all ...
When through the window big and red
There hurtled by his royal head,
And bounced and fell upon the bed,
An India-rubber ball!

AND, OH, FATHER CHRISTMAS,
MY BLESSINGS ON YOU FALL
FOR BRINGING HIM
A BIG, RED,
INDIA-RUBBER
BALL!

Song of Response

#582: *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free,
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen!**
(repeat one time)

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!)

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

Matthew 2 : 1-12 (NRSV)

One: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.*

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

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

Musical Offering

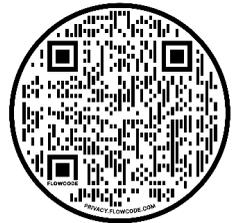
Sharing the Holy Meal

Please come forward as the ushers allow. Communion is alcohol and gluten free.

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.



Prayer of Dedication

One: God of light and promise, we bring our gifts to further your work in the world. May they bring your light to those overwhelmed by darkness, pain, and loneliness. Accept these gifts of money and time, indeed, the gift of our very selves. Let them shine for all to see, and be brought into the sphere of your love and righteousness.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Sending Hymn

#152 : What Star is This, with Beams so Bright?

Benediction

One: Arise, and go forth to shine for all the world to see.

All: We go to spread the good news of light and love, righteousness and justice.

One: Go now and follow the star that will guide you on your journey this week, this year, and forever.

All: As the Magi of old, we go forth in trust and excitement, transformed in the presence of the child of light.

One: May the blessing of the God of light rest upon you and fill you with light.

All: Amen

Postlude