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February 27, 2022

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

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



Black Joy Parade Caps Black History Celebration

First Church's annual celebration of Black History wraps up on Sunday with an invitation to attend the Black Joy Parade in downtown Oakland. The parade, which begins at 12:30 pm extends along Broadway, from 14th Street to 20th Street. A performance and vendor area will be located at Broadway & 20th Streets.

In month of February, worship and bible study were opportunities to celebrate the black experience, with preaching from First Church elders Henry Gardner and David Alexander. On February 20, First Church joined Faith Presbyterian Church, a black congregation in Temescal, for a combined worship service on Zoom, with Rev. Valerie Tribble preaching. Wednesday night bible study hours shifted gears away from scripture for a few weeks. A poetry night was held on February 16 with attendees invited to share poems by black authors. Darlene Flynn, chief of the Race & Equity Division for the City of Oakland, joined the congregation in conversation on February 23.

Musical offerings in the month of February were provided by singers Marilyn Reynolds and Heidi Hill. Sandra Iglehart and Herman Waters provided accompaniment, with song selection also focusing on works by black song writers and traditional African American Spirituals.

Deep South Pilgrimage Retraces Southern Black Freedom Struggle

Pastor Matt helped guide the Empower Initiative Team on a pilgrimage to Birmingham, Montgomery, and Selma Alabama. The trip retraced sacred sites of the Southern Black Freedom Struggle. Those attending were challenged to learn and grow in their capacity to widen the circle of human concern. Remembering the courage, sacrifice, and faith of those who took part in the struggle inspired and the Empower Initiative Team to consider God's work today and how they may step into God's hope and justice in the world. To learn more about the work of Empower Initiative and First Church participation, contact Pastor Matt.



Ceasefire Night Walks Call for End to Violence

First Church joined other Faith in Action congregations on the evening of February 18 for a Ceasefire Walk for Peace, calling attention to the ongoing problem of gun violence in the City of Oakland. Organized by Faith in Action East Bay, the "night walks" are an opportunity for faith communities to make visible demonstrations of Christ's call for peace and an end to violence. The next night walks are scheduled for Fridays March 11, 18 and 25.

Spring Concerts Bring Art & Advocacy to First Church



Emerging Voices

Oakland Civic Orchestra Sunday, February 27, 4 pm

Join us for a free one hour concert in the Fellowship Hall featuring the World Premiere of *Burlesk for Two Solo Violoncelli and Orchestra* by OCO Composer in Residence Nikolaus Umar Durr, with guest cellists Eamon Riley and Milo Klise, of the San Francisco Symphony Youth Orchestra.

The program also features the powerful Chamber Symphony Opus 110 by Dmitri Shostakovich, Edward Elgar's beloved *Serenade for Strings* and the Welsh Hymn Tune *Rhosymedre*, a tender tribute to youth and family, set for string orchestra by Ralph Vaughan Williams.



Brahms' Requiem

Cantare Sunday, March 27, 4 pm

In March 2022, Cantare will present one of the pinnacles of Western Art, Johannes Brahms' Requiem. This work stands apart from other requiem settings in that Brahms does not use any part of the traditional Latin requiem texts. Brahms completed the piece when he is just 33 years old and without any impetus of a commission. He had nothing to gain from it apart from articulating what he wanted and need to express.

It is a work whose focus is on the living, those who have experienced loss and who now seek comfort in their solitude. Singers are drawn into the mastery of Brahms' writing, his use of classical forms, his elegant melodies coupled with the harmonic richness of the Romantic period.



Oakland Gay Men's Chorus Sunday, April 10, 4 pm

Oakland Gay Men's Chorus proudly presents our Spring Concert, *Be the Change* - a concert with a special emphasis on intergenerational collaboration and advocacy. Join us to hear songs that will empower courage, hope, and action in the face of growing concerns for both our local community and our world.

This two-act concert features some of our favorite songs like "Seize the Day" (from *Newsies*), "Make Them Hear You" (from *Ragtime*), "You Will Be Found" (from *Dear Evan Hansen*), and "Home" (by Phillip Phillips). A special treat will be our premiere performance of "Look Out Above," arranged for OGMC by composer Jocelyn Hagen and hip hop artist Dessa.

Marathon Runners to Make Four Passes at First Church

The Oakland Marathon will pass by First Church – four times on March 20. The new route is a half course, which marathon runners will complete twice, running up Broadway to Oakland Technical High School and back down again. First Church has provided a water station for runners in the past, in addition to cheerleading and sharing Fellowship Time snacks with passers-by. Volunteers interested in serving this year’s runners can contact Chris Weber.



Vituity Doctors Provide Monthly Medical Care at First Church

Vituity Cares Foundation doctors and the Alameda County Health Department provided their third, free health clinic at First Church on February 21. The clinic provided care for 30 neighbors who would otherwise have struggled to find conventional health care services. Following their work at First Church, the doctors visited the “Tiny Homes” at 27th and Northgate. The next free clinic is scheduled for March 21



Prayer Practices Encouraged as Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the season of Lent - a journey of 40 days leading up to Easter. The season of Lent is an invitation to reflect and meditate on our personal and communal need for God’s resurrecting and reconciling power.

We will gather at noon on Wednesday, March 2, to pray, reflect, sing, and share the mark of ashes as we begin the journey towards Jesus’ resurrection together. On Wednesday evenings during Lent, we will spend time developing new prayer practices during our regular Bible Study meeting on Zoom. These practices are designed to be incorporated as a daily ritual during lent, with a new prayer incorporated each week. Shawn Jones will initiate this new discipline with a prayer offering shared the evening of March 2.



Lawrence Reh Memorial Planned

Long time First Church member and volunteer, Lawrence Reh, will be remembered at a memorial service planned for March 19, in the Sanctuary. Additional details about this memorial service will be provided as they develop.

Food Ministry Kitchen Report

By Bill Coburn

Friday and Sat the pickup teams gathered foods from Western Service Workers' Association, Food Of God, Good Eggs, Whole Foods, Omni, and Hazel Seiden's after school program. From this collection, we shared foods with Berkeley Presbyterian Homes, Manna from Heaven, and Emeryville Citizens' Assistance Program. We thank Rajiv for the use of his truck, and team members, Devon, Rajiv, Steve, Bryan, Paul, Henry and Peter, for the weekly collection effort.

For Sunday we prepared 150 boxed lunches. This week's meal included a tamale, salsa, chips, fruit and cookies and cheese for most boxes. We also gave out a lot of extra foods at the gate, milk, packed sandwiches and wraps, yogurt, lettuce, and other items. Carmelo and team distributed the sandwiches to neighbors along with, water and a few socks.

Monday's meal preparation by the Sunday team included roasting 25 chickens, 5 trays of potatoes, cauliflower and zucchini, in addition to a salad. Team members for Sunday were: Ann, Rose, Stacey, Kyong, Pauline, Ricky, Jeannie, Navdeep, Bryan, Peter, and Victor.

On Monday we served 150 boxed lunches, consisting of baked chicken, potatoes, zucchini, cauliflower, squash, green and fruit salad and deserts. Our thanks to team members, Jan, Crissi, Cathy, Bonnie, Connie, Natalie, Teri and Ricky. Remaining extra groceries were distributed at the gate. Lexine was off this week but arranged for her team to distribute lunches to neighbors living on the streets.

The total food distribution for this week was 300 meals.



Food Ministry Street Report

By Lexine Alpert

Linda and I delivered 97 meals this Valentine's Day...consisting of hamburger patties over rice, veggies, salad and dessert. We made many people very happy and so many on the street were appreciative and wished us a beautiful Valentine's Day.

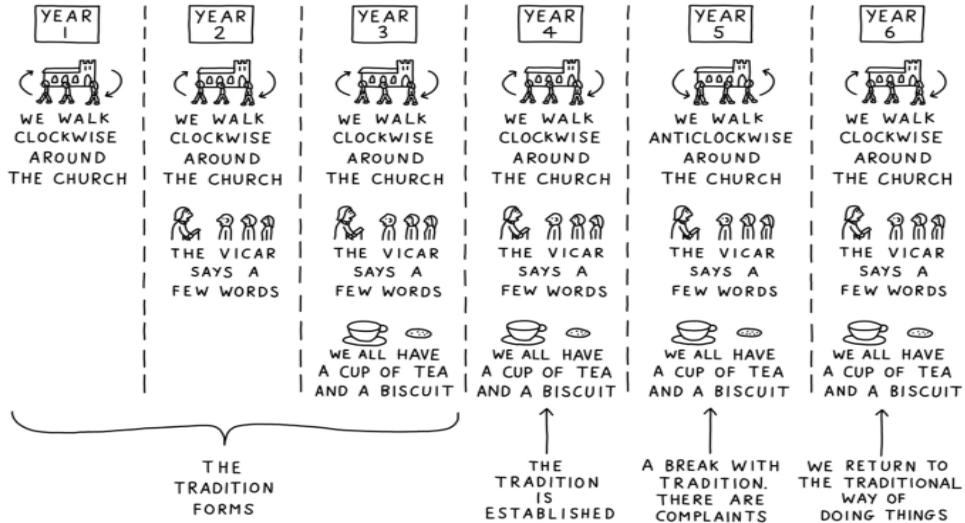
We did our normal rounds up and down Market, Telegraph, Broadway and through all of the many underpasses where people are living in tents and abandoned cars. We also went to Frank Ogawa Plaza and Lafayette Square Park where I have been spending hours trying to secure help for a woman who is a paraplegic and incontinent, living in a car. She and others had been living in tents until CalTrans knocked down all the tents a month ago. The other homeless there are trying to help her, but there is not much they can do.

I've called 211, emailed the Mayor's office, spoke to the Mayor's office, called Operation Dignity, Healthcare for the Homeless, Family Front Door as well as BACS with no response or help. Today, I decided to write Channel 2 local news to see if they might pick up Chavone's story.

Also saw a man with horrible cellulitis but who said he had just been discharged from the hospital. So sad that this man is living on the street like this...he desperately needs antibiotics.

TRADITION

HOW IT DEVELOPS



Elders

Linda Carter, Dorothy Dugger, Henry Gardner,
Suzie Inadomi, Elizabeth Cureton, Chris Weber,
Alessandra Mohar

Session Officers

Rev. Matt Prinz, Moderator
Anne Margaret Manay, Clerk
Rose Mary Richmond, Treasurer

Deacons

Judy Rowan, Louise Hill, Chris Kovach, Marjorie
Witt, Barbara Goodroe, Martha Bauman, Diane Hill,
Lorraine Provost

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Temple Tidings is now a bi-weekly publication.
All are welcome to contribute news, events and
opinion.

Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Bill Coburn, Matt Prinz, Lexine Alpert &
Chris Weber

Photos by Susannah Prinz, Linda Carter & Chris
Weber

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.



From *March on Washington* by Norman Lewis

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

Sunday, February 27, 2022

Celebrate Black History Month

*Making God's
welcome known*

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.

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

Sermon: Rev. Joel Mackey

Liturgist: Cami Inadomi, Elizabeth Goodwin

Guest Musician: Herman Waters

Song Leader: Marilyn Reynolds

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play Story Teller: Di Pagel

Godly Play Door Person: Ruby Prinz

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

Flowers: Bill Coburn

ORDER of SERVICE INVITATION to WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We step off the streets, away from places of work, shopping malls, billboards, and news broadcasts, to stand before the living God.

All: Our help is in the name of the living God, maker of heaven and earth.

One: We turn away from the world and the patterns of power that too often hurt, trap, and swallow us up.

All: We stand before our helper, the God of mercy, who rescues and renews us.

One: We come to this sanctuary seeking the living God, maker of heaven and earth.

All: We present ourselves to the living God, who is compassionate and merciful, as a living and please sacrifice.

Gathering Prayer

One: Maker of heaven and earth, we come from different places with our own place on the journey. Some of us have succeeded and found favor. Some of us have failed and seek reassurance. Some of us feel trapped and helpless. Some of us have escaped peril and feel great relief. But no matter what our experience has been, we come here today to meet you in worship. Remind us of your power and mercy. Replenish our courage and vision. Renew our identity as your people. Reinvigorate our holy work in this world, for our help is in your name alone, Holy God, maker of heaven and earth.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able

Opening Hymn

*#740: Lead Me, Guide Me
(sing through twice)*

CONFESSIO N of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: God of mercy and grace, it is hard to hold onto hope. We see people handed over as food for the enemies' teeth, or as prey for the hunters' traps. Sometimes we are the food and the prey. Sometimes we are the enemy and the hunter. Sometimes we are merely bystanders, too afraid or powerless to act as we should. Forgive us, God, when we accept things as they are. Maker of heaven and earth, giver of hope, savior of the distressed, fill our imaginations and our hearts with your splendid vision for our world. Transform and renew our minds, that we may discern what is good and pleasing to you in this world you love so deeply.

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

One: Christ's love is greater than our deepest failings.

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

Children 3-12 are invited to join Godly Play leaders at the cloister door.

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.

Musical Offering

We've Come This Far By Faith

THE WORD

New Testament Readings

Romans 12 : 1 - 2 (NRSV)

One: ¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. ²Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

John 8 : 31 - 32 (NRSV)

One: ³¹Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

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 Offering

One: Offering our gifts to God is a holy act. In this sacred moment, let us offer our gifts and our lives to the holy work of God.

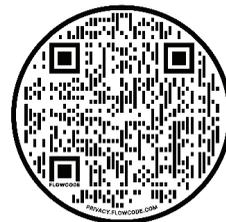
Musical Offering

Ushers will collect the weekly 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.



Prayer of Dedication

One: In gratitude for your amazing works in the world, we offer our gifts to further you work, Holy One. Bless us as you blessed Moses before us, that we may be a blessing of your holy work. Guide our steps, and bless the offerings we bring, that the world may be touched by your holy love.

All: Amen

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Sending Hymn

#697: Take My Life And Let It Be
(verses 1-3)

Benediction

One: God sends us to serve.

All: Here I am, ready to serve!

One: God sends us to love.

All: Here I am, ready to love!

One: God sends us to bless the world.

All: Here I am, ready to bless the world!

Postlude

He's Got The Whole World In His Hands