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March 13, 2022

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

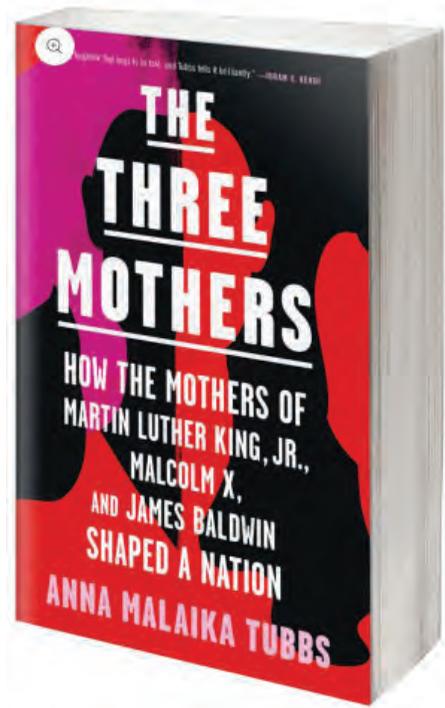


Lawrence Reh Memorial Planned

Long time First Church member and volunteer, Lawrence Reh, will be remembered at a memorial service planned for March 19 at 11 am, in the Sanctuary. A lunch reception in the Reception Room will follow the service.

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. Contact Suzie Inadomi to learn more about the March Night Walk.



Building The Beloved Community to Examine Mothers of Three Great Leaders

Join us, Wednesday, March 23, 7 pm on Zoom. Martin Luther King Jr., Malcom X and James Baldwin shaped American history. Anna Malaika Tubbs’ book, *The Three Mothers*, examines the roles their mothers took in shaping their sons’ outlook and activism. Tubbs draws connections between the heroic work of these men and the examples set by their mothers, Alberta Williams King, Louise Little, and Emma Berdis Jones.

“They fought for their dignity and their families no matter what challenge was thrown their way,” said Cassandra Flipper, who will be leading the Building the Beloved Community discussion of the book. Copies of the book are available for anyone who wishes to participate in the open discussion. Contact Pastor Matt for a copy.

Daily Prayer Practices

Encouraged as Lent Begins

Lent is the 40-day season leading up to Easter. It is a time to meditate on our personal and communal need for God's resurrecting and reconciling power. 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 rituals during lent, with a new prayer incorporated each week.

Join us, Wednesday evenings on Zoom – contact Pastor Matt for Zoom access.

Spring Concerts Bring Art & Advocacy to First Church



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.

Special Fellowship Time Help Needed Next Week

Fellowship Time will resume following the service this coming Sunday, March 20, just in time for the Oakland Marathon. Fellowship Time will be hosted on the lawn, allowing First Church members to mingle with marathon spectators on Broadway.

Easy to serve snacks are requested for March 20 – items that can be served at room temperature and eaten without silverware are best – cookies, fruit, cheese, and crackers. If you are willing to help with this special hospitality opportunity, contact Julia Marquez.



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



The Heat Is On!

Central Heating Plant Replacement Is Complete.

After four months and eight days without heat, the campus is warming up tonight. The new gas-fired high-efficiency boiler (and adjacent equipment) has been installed, adjusted, tested, re-adjusted and finally fired up for use. We are pleased to report that the project cost, approximately \$130,000, was funded entirely from the church’s Facility Maintenance Budget, made possible by the stewardship and careful planning of your staff and elders over the last several years. The project was completed by Air Systems & Controls Inc., whose project foreman was responsible for keeping our old boiler running, more than two decades longer than its intended service life. They executed a difficult project in a very old building, during a pandemic resurgence, and amidst a global supply chain meltdown. We trust that your experience of the sanctuary this coming Sunday will be warm and pleasant.

The Buildings & Grounds and Finance Committees will be considering new major capital projects over the course of 2022, in an effort to avoid another building system failure. First Church is now home to seventeen organizations, in addition to the congregation. The expanded presence of these organizations at our campus is what now enables us to address building maintenance issues proactively. Please join me in thanking these organizations (you can find a list in the back of every Temple Tidings) for bundling up and keeping their work at First Church, despite the cold winter.

Anyone with interest in planning our next campus projects - big or small - is invited to contact me for information about the next Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting. Thank you for your patience and support while this project was completed.

You Can Help Make Care Packages for Neighbors

By Anne Margaret Manay

From time to time, Arav and I make care packages for our unhoused neighbors. We try to include items that will be useful and comforting, as well as easy to obtain in bulk by ordering online. Seeing in the weekly Food Ministry reports the level of need in the camps, we wanted to make a lot of them this time. So, we invited Arav's friend Nataleigh to help us pack the bags. We made about fifty of them. Here is a list of items we always try to include:

- **A new pair of socks (probably the most important item)**
- **Pre-moistened body cleansing wipe**
- **Sanitizing hand wipe**
- **Facial tissue**
- **Toothbrush (individually wrapped)**
- **Toothpaste**
- **Mini deodorant**
- **Lip balm**
- **Face mask (individually wrapped)**

We pack the items in gallon-size plastic zipper bags. The bags are useful on the street to keep things dry, and they make it easy for volunteers to hand out the supplies. You could also include such items as granola bars, band-aids, underwear, feminine sanitary supplies, chewing gum, dental floss, mouthwash, hand cream, or anything else you think would brighten someone's day or make their life on the street a little easier.

Care packages can be given to Bill Coburn, Dorothy Dugger, or anyone else working for the Food Ministry on Sunday mornings. They will be distributed by the Food Ministry Team, either at the gate here, or by the food delivery team on the streets.



Food Ministry Street Report

By Lexine Alpert

Today Linda and I delivered 82 meals out on the street. The meals consisted of chicken over rice, a coleslaw salad, fruit salad, and a dessert. We also brought socks, doggie treats (many homeless need their companions), underwear, and some jackets in the car. We headed out to many of our usual locations, always stopping for individuals sleeping on the sidewalk or at bus stops.

One of our first stops was at the camp behind the CVS store on 34th and Telegraph. We discovered it had been demolished and the city (or CalTrans) had placed large boulders to make sure no one could possibly live there again. We fed many of the people living in cars and tents in the underpasses off of Telegraph and the 30's Streets, then headed to downtown Oakland and Lafayette Square Park. Someone had responded to our earlier calls for help and we found Lifelong Medical Care staff (Mallory, RN) helping Chavonne who is disabled and elderly, living in her car. We were so grateful to them for coming to help.

We fed many others including someone new, Travis, who I noticed had a very bad case of cellulitis on his arm that desperately needed antibiotics. I called Lifelong Medical Care (now I have a phone number) and they promised to send out staff to visit Travis the next day.

New Here? Newish?

New Address?

We would love to stay in touch! Signing up to be in our directory is the best way to keep on top of news and events at First Church. Fill out a “Welcome” card, found in the back of each pew, and place it in the offering plate or give it directly to Pastor Matt. This will enable you to receive weekly emails about happenings at First Church. You can also follow us on Instagram, @firstchurchoakland, or check in to our website, firstchurchoakland.org.

If you have recently moved, please update your address by providing a new welcome card.

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

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

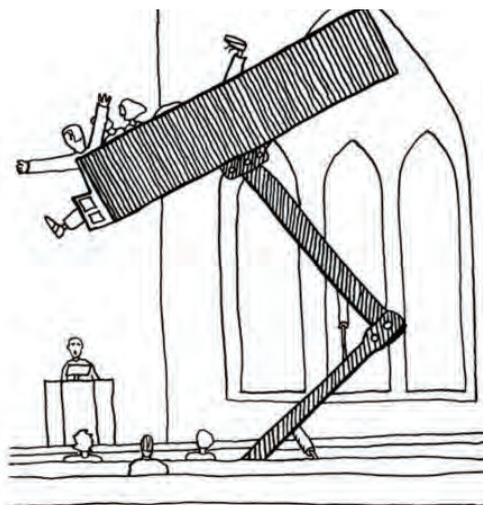
Chris Weber, Facility Management
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Gus Lopez, Head Custodian
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Rose Mary Richmond, Treasurer, office volunteer
rosemary@firstchurchoakland.org

Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper
joan@firstchurchoakland.org

SOME OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE WANTED
CHURCH TO BE MORE EXCITING



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

Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Chris Weber, Anne Margaret Manay & Lexine Alpert
Photos by Lexine Alpert, Linda Carter, Matt Prinz & 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
- Vitivity Care Foundation
- Western Service Workers Assoc.

From *Jonah & The Whale* by Shayna Feinstein



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

Second Sunday of Lent, March 13, 2022

Jonah

The Reluctant Prophet

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, or if you would like to be added to our email and mailing lists and keep up to date on things happening here at First Church.
- 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.

ORDER of SERVICE
INVITATION to WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: The Holy One calls us to trust and pray.

All: God is our light and salvation, the stronghold of our lives.

One: The Holy One calls us to take courage, as we travel the path with Jesus.

All: Teach us your ways, God, and lead us on our journeys.

One: Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

All: Behold the beauty of the Holy One, and bless God's holy name.

Scripture Lesson

Jonah 1 : 1-6

One: Now the word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, "Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me." But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD . He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of the LORD .

But the LORD hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to his god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. The captain came and said to him, "What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish."

Gathering Prayer

One: Lifegiving lover of all nations, you promised Abraham and Sarah that their descendants would be more plentiful than all the stars in the night sky. You made a covenant to guide them throughout the ages. Just as you guided our ancestors in faith, guide us here today, and teach us your ways. Help us remember the ancient stories, even as we place our trust in you and lift up your name. Bless us as we follow the path that leads us to the cross with Jesus.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able

Opening Hymn

#39 : Great Is Thy Faithfulness

CONFESSIO N of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Loving Guide and Protector of your children, when Jesus began his walk toward Jerusalem, he knew the danger ahead.

All: When we cannot see the road ahead, we are tempted to turn back instead of trusting the path you lay before our feet.

One: When Herod threatened to hurt Jesus, he remained with the people, casting out demons and healing the sick.

All: When trouble comes, we are tempted to run away and protect ourselves, rather than remain with those who need our help.

One: Facing the cross, Jesus longed to gather the people as a hen gathers her chicks beneath her wings.

All: Forgive us when we are not willing to take shelter in your loving arms.

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

Please stand as you are able

Assurance of Pardon

One: Hear the good news: The Holy One forgives and guides us, conforming us into the very image of Christ. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God. Amen.

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.

P R A Y E R S of t h e P E O P L E

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

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

#177 : I Will Come to You

Scripture Lesson

Jonah 1 : 7 -17

One: The sailors said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. Then they said to him, “Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” “I am a Hebrew,” he replied. “I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of the LORD, because he had told them so.

Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you.” Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. Then they cried out to the LORD, “Please, O LORD, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O LORD, have done as it pleased you.” So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. Then the men feared the LORD even more, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows.

But the LORD provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

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.

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

#834 : Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Invitation to the Offering

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: Holy One, our light and our salvation, the stronghold of our lives, accept these gifts as a token of our commitment to walk in your ways.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please stand as you are able

Sending Hymn

#32 : I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Benediction

Postlude

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Chris Weber

Guest Musician: Joe Warner

Song Leaders: Linda Carter

Godly Play Story Teller: Di Pagel

Godly Play Door Person: Elizabeth Goodwin

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

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

Flowers: Bill Coburn