

Food Ministry Team Organizes Special Monday Meal and Kitchen Clean-Up



Congregation Invited to Experience Self-led Stations of the Cross on Good Friday

Housing Justice, Lack of Homes a Discussion for Faith in Action

Oakland Gay Men's Chorus to Perform "Be The Change" at First Church

Weekly Newsletter

April 10, 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

Good Friday Pilgrimage Route Retraces Stations of the Cross

The day of Jesus Christ's crucifixion and death some two thousand years ago is remembered on Good Friday. Traditionally, this is a day set aside in Christian churches for solemn remembrance of the events of that day, as depicted in the four gospel narratives of the New Testament. The sorrow and solemnity of Good Friday precedes Easter Sunday, which is set aside for celebrating Jesus Christ's resurrection from the grave.

The Stations of the Cross are a chronological ordering of the events of that day, leading from Jesus's trial and sentencing in a Roman court, his taking up of a cross (his instrument of execution), through his eventual death and entombment. Historically, there are fourteen "stations" each focusing on a singular portion of his final moments and used as a tool for devotion and introspection among the faithful.

This Friday, the Stations of the Cross will be recreated throughout the First Church campus, as a pilgrimage route, allowing for a self-guided retracing of Jesus's life leading up to his death and entombment. **The pilgrimage route will be open on campus from 4 – 7 pm on Friday.**

Volunteers to Provide Easter Brunch - You Can Help

Julia Marquez is looking for volunteers to help make Fellowship Time special on Easter Sunday, with a brunch offering following the service. If you enjoy sharing your culinary skills with your church family and guests, please contact Julia to get involved. Fellowship Time offerings are one of the many ways we live out our mission of "making God's welcome known."



Easter Bunnies Needed to Return Eggs to First Church Lawn

Brightly colored plastic eggs stuffed with Easter treats will dot the First Church lawn Easter Sunday, giving young children an opportunity to scramble for candy following the service. Congregational Life leader and part-time Easter Bunny, Julia Marquez is looking for donated candy and some help prepping eggs before Easter Sunday. To help out, hop on over to Julia.



Sponsor a Lily for Easter

Easter Lilies will be decorating the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022. If you wish to donate an Easter Lily in honor of, or in memory of a family member, friend, or other significant person in your life, please see Diane Hill, Deacon, on Sunday mornings.



First Church Is Hiring A Community Events Manager

If you've been to the First Church campus anytime other than Sunday mornings, you've probably noticed how bustling the place can be. The Fellowship Hall, the Reception Room and even the Sanctuary are used by community groups and performing arts groups every day of the week for meetings, rehearsals, and concerts. School dances have even made their way to First Church. There are 17 groups that call First Church home now. And every month there are at least two or three private parties on Saturdays.

Can Churches Provide Affordable Housing?

There are an estimated 5,000 people living in Oakland without homes. The average home price has risen to more than \$1M. Rising cost of rent endangers housing stability for many more. There is currently no state, county, or local plan for providing permanent or temporary housing for those without homes, leaving non-profit community groups like Richmond Land, and property-rich churches to fill in the gaps.

Mia Carbajal, is Director of Place-Keeping with Richmond Land, a community land trust that provides pathways for "community driven housing." The trust acquires property for the purpose of making housing available to those who would be affected by overcrowding or displacement. The trust's properties consist of either existing housing stock that is improved or underutilized land that is developed in partnership with non-profit housing developers.

Mia will be joining First Church's Faith In Action group on Zoom this Wednesday at 2 pm to discuss the trust's work and ownership model, and the dire need for housing justice in the Bay Area.

All this activity is helping to bring new revenue which contributes to keeping the campus maintained and available for community use. But it's also creating a fair amount of extra volunteer work for First Church Buildings & Grounds Committee Chair, Chris Weber, who is eager to pass the responsibility on to someone else.

Session has agreed to hire a new Community Events Manager, whose job will be serving the community and church by managing campus rentals, the church calendar and coordinating campus use by our Community Partner groups. This new, part time job is expected to take about 8-10 hours per week, with some office hours required for public interface. The work requires a fair amount of interaction with the campus community and neighborhood and some careful organization. Additional details about the job can be requested from Chris Weber or Pastor Matt.

The new job position has been posted online, but word of mouth is always a great way to make introductions and recruit. Any candidate with a talent for making people feel welcome and keeping a busy campus organized is encouraged to inquire.

Spring Concerts Bring Art & Advocacy to First Church



Oakland Gay Men's Chorus Today, 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.



Community Women's Orchestra Sunday, May 1, 4 pm

Join Community Women's Orchestra for an evening of spectacular music, featuring the world premiere of Jessica Krash's *Seven Kinds of Happiness*. Community Women's Orchestra concerts showcase contributions by women in classical music as composers and musicians.

Other works in the concert include *Karelia Suite* by Jean Sibelius, Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel Overture*, Kalinnikov's *Symphony No. 1*, Copland's *Variations on a Shaker Melody*. The orchestra will be guest conducted by Martha Stoddard. Tickets are available at CWO's website. All attendees will need to provide proof of full vaccination at the door.



Oakland Civic Orchestra Sunday, May 15, 4 pm

Featuring the premier of a special commission by Oakland local, Umar Durr: *Serenade: A Zephyr in Gemini*, with Eamon Riley and Milo Klise, playing Violoncelli. Also featuring Brahms: *Academic Festival Overture* and Beethoven: *Symphony No. 7*.



Oakland School for the Arts Sunday, May 6, 7 pm

Come experience the Oakland School for the Arts year-end concert, featuring dozens of student performing groups, with musical styles ranging from acapella and classical to hip hop and pop.



Food Ministry Kitchen Report

By Bill Coburn

On Friday afternoon, our food gathering team members, Devon and Bryan, collected groceries from Western Service Workers Association and delivered them to the church. This was followed up by the Saturday pick up at Whole Foods, Good Eggs and a delivery of more groceries to the church from Omni Commons. Rajiv, Paul, Henry, Peter, and Steve all participated in the grocery collection effort. Extra groceries brought in here are donated to First Presbyterian Homes of Berkeley and to Emeryville Citizens Assistance Program on San Pablo Ave. Extra donated bread items will be going to the Mana from Heaven program on Wednesday.

Sunday we prepared 150 lunches of ham and cheese and lettuce sandwiches, chips, fruit, and desserts of different kinds. We were well supported with volunteers, Ann, Matt, Kyong, Bryan, Dorothy and Steve. Additionally, we had a new, young volunteer, Sadie who did a great job. Navdeep and Victor distributed boxed meals at the gate along with other items. Pauline, Peter, and Bonnie helped in the kitchen on Sunday.

In preparation for the Monday meal, we prepared corned beef with potatoes, carrots and onions. We also prepared the green salad and green beans. There was a special effort to get the corned beef and vegetables in the oven early because of the long cooking time, as well as to prepare the associated vegetables. Bryan and Dorothy both played significant roles in making all of this happen. Dorothy stayed into the late afternoon reorganizing the pantry. Carmelo

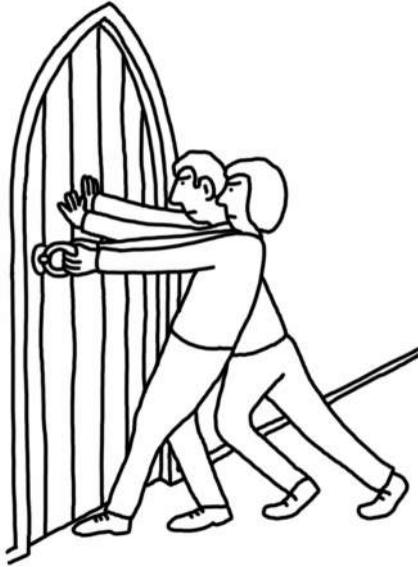
and his team took the boxed meals off campus for distribution in the neighborhood - much appreciated! Teri's totally professional team put the corned beef, vegetable and salads together and got it all packed for distribution. Jan did miracle work putting together a fruit salad of mostly bananas and yogurt. Navdeep, Victor, and Pastor Matt Prinz's parents handled distribution of meals at the gate.

First Church Kitchen Considered as New Home for Justice Group

Oak Harvest Kitchen provides formerly incarcerated community members, and people with employment barriers, the training they need to gain skills for second chance employment opportunities in food service. The group provides reentry job training for local residents as well as quick, affordable, delicious meals consisting of plant-based food, using produce from Mandela Partner's network of BIPOC farmers located within a 150 mile radius of Oakland.

Trainees receive hands-on mentorship in food safety, kitchen skills, customer service and hospitality, and essential technologies used in food-service and the workplace. Participants also train inside live kitchens, like the kitchen at First Church, to build skills and experience to add to their resumes. Program graduates either stay on as part of our kitchen team or gain employment through partner food businesses, ready and committed to providing dignified job opportunities.

Representatives from Oak Harvest Kitchen have expressed an interest in partnering with First Church and using the kitchen during "off hours" weekday afternoons. Food Ministry and Facilities leadership are being asked to consider the many logistical needs of incorporating a new organization into the campus fabric, as well as the possibility for mission expansion.



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

Rev. Joel Mackey, Parish Associate
 joelmackey@comcast.net

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Gus Lopez, Head Custodian
 510.290.9677

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

Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper
 joan@firstchurchoakland.org

From the Vault

From the second week of April, 2016: Angus Ahanotu, Jan Busch & Martha Bauman fry chicken for the wake celebrating John Hampton.



Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Chris Weber, Bill Coburn
 Photos by Chris Weber, Linda Carter
 Temple Tidings is a weekly publication. All are welcome to contribute news, events and opinion.

First Church is proud to support its COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Cantare Choirs
- 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
- The Lucy Kinchen Chorale
- Vituity Care Foundation
- Western Service Workers Assoc.



Entry Into Jerusalem by Sadao Watanabe

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022

Entry Into
Jerusalem

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, 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.

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: Our king is coming riding on a donkey.

All: Hosanna in the highest!

One: Our savior has come to waving palms and cheers of praise.

All: Shout alleluia!

One: Jesus has come to show us the greatness of God's love.

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

Gathering Prayer

One: God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, be with us in the joys and sorrows of life. We turn to you this day, knowing that we will not be put to shame. Be at our side when the crowd shouts “Hosanna!” as Jesus rode into Jerusalem. Be with us also when the crowd turns, as those who loved him fell away. Their story is our story. Be with us in the telling, that we may walk with Jesus once more on the long journey of Holy Week.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able

Opening Hymn

#196 : All Glory, Laud, and Honor

CONFESSIO N o f S I N & A S S U R A N C E o f G R A C E

Confession

from Psalm 31

One: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. By your grace, help us, for trouble is never far away. We can't see or think clearly. Our bodies waste away from grief and sorrow. Our strength fails us. Our misery is more than we can bear. Yet even in the depth of our despair, Lord, we place our trust in you. You are our God, our very help in times of trouble. Let your face shine upon us and save us in your unfailing and steadfast love!

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: All who call on the name of the Lord are answered. There is nothing to fear. The Lord stands beside you to help. God's steadfast love endures forever. This is the day that the Lord has made! Rejoice and be glad.

All: 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.

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.

Litany

On Peacemaking: A Litany for Lamenting Every Act of Violence
by Diana Oestreich

One: Come and hear our pain, God. Come near and hear our complaint. Violence is singing a victory song, and our arms are hanging limp at our sides. Our tears cannot stop. Violence has cut us. Bleeding, we stand together now. Make us brave enough to stand in front of violence and call it thief and liar.

All: In your mercy, make all things new again.

One: Make us lion-hearted, roaring at the acts of violence around us, more dedicated to the common good than our own preservation. May we learn to place those who are hurting first and ourselves second.

All: In your mercy, make us brave again.

One: Make us mercy, calling to those committing the violence. Like lost lambs living in darkness, drinking bitterness, disconnected from their true selves, may we call them back to the fold, shouting loudly that they are created for life not death; kinship not killing; love not hate.

All: In your love, make us family again.

One: Make us plowshares, sowing peace by renouncing every act of violence committed by our friends, our country, our enemies. May we refuse to be weapons against our brothers and sisters and siblings.

All: In your power, make us peaceful again.

One: Make us fearless, relentlessly waging peace instead of war. Refusing to accept any act that cuts, kills, and breaks down people made in your image – no matter if they wear the uniform of a police officer, pastor, politician, or soldier.

All: As our Good Parent, make us fierce peacemakers again.

One: For those who have laid down their lives for others and who have joined God in the unseen kingdom. For those who have died to the kingdom of death and who have risen to life with Christ in their breath.

All: We raise our hope because joy comes in the morning!

THE WORD

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

#216 : *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*

Scripture Lesson

Luke 19 : 28 - 40

One: After he had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem.

When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

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

Musical Offering

Were You There When They Crucified My Lord

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: Jesus came as our king, to share your blessings with the world. The one who was greatest among us became the least for us and our salvation. Our servant king humbled himself to sustain our weary souls. Receive the gifts we bring before you this day, that the whole world may know the glory and power of your kingdom. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please stand as you are able

Sending Hymn

#221 : O Sacred Head Now Wounded

Benediction

One: On the back of a donkey,

All: Jesus came to bless us.

One: With love in his heart,

All: Jesus came to save us.

One: From the power of death,

All: Jesus came to free us.

One: Go with the blessings of God's anointed.

Postlude

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: David Alexander

Guest Musician: Joe Warner, piano

Special Music: Shawn Jones, bassoon, Elizabeth Cureton, flute

Godly Play: Dorrie Dodge & Elizabeth Goodwin

Song Leader: Marilyn Reynolds

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

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