

Theology of the Church

Join us for this four-part worship & sermon series that examines the major aspects of life in the Christian Church

- **April 24: Overview**
- **May 1: Congregational Life**
Love for each other
- **May 8: Missional Life**
Love for our neighbors
- **May 15: Spiritual Life**
Love of God

First Church Invited to DA Candidates' Forum

Faith in Action East Bay is hosting a public forum for voters to meet the four candidates running for Alameda County District Attorney. The event is co-sponsored by Northern California 100 Black Women, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. The candidates include Pamela Price, Jimmy Wilson, Terry Wiley & Seth Steward.

The forum will be held on Tuesday, April 26, 6 - 8 pm at St. Columba Church and on Zoom



Discussion Group to Focus on Inter-generational Community

First Church confirmation class is focused on the spiritual practices and work of our church community. The students in this year's confirmation class identified worship services, bible study, food ministry, faith in action organizing, and Building the Beloved Community as four central practices of our church community. The class, consisting of three high school students, meets once a month to participate in one of these practices, to share a meal together, and to reflect upon how this practice informs our faith.

During each gathering, Pastor Matt invites different First Church members to join the confirmation class to build community and to allow the students to experience the diversity or work and perspective found in the life of First Church. The current confirmation class will conclude with each member Cami Inadomi, Leah Marquez, Elizabeth Goodwin, and Alessandra Mohar sharing their story of growing up at First Church during the Building the Beloved Community meeting on **Wednesday, May 11 on Zoom**. Please join us for this important conversation.



Elizabeth Goodwin, Leah Marquez & Alessandra Mohar work with Dorothy Dugger to prepare food for use in the Food Ministry's Monday meal.

Brisket & Bocce Tournament

Nancy and Keith Ogden will be hosting a Bocce ball tournament in their backyard in May. Micah Ogden and Pastor Matt will be smoking a brisket and all are invited to bring a side dish to share. Come and build community as we eat, play and laugh together, **Sunday May 15th from 3:30 to 5:30 pm.**

After 113 Weeks, Worship on Zoom to Conclude

In response to the Coronavirus Pandemic, First Church has provided a virtual worship service for 110 Sundays so far. Services offered on Zoom allowed church members and distant friends alike to join together in worship and fellowship. At its April meeting, the Session acknowledged the waning weeks of the global pandemic and the relative safety of meeting together. May 8 will be the final church service to be streamed live on Zoom. Audio of worship services will be recorded on Sundays and uploaded to First Church's YouTube channel.

Expect other changes to worship services in coming weeks as Covid protocols are lifted, including The Lord's Supper served by elders, by intinction, greeting each other with handshakes and embraces during the passing of the Peace, and eventually removal of masks while indoors.

Other gatherings, including Bible Study, Women's Circle, and committee meetings will still be held by Zoom at the discretion of each group's leadership.

Please be sure to thank Linda Carter, whose volunteer leadership supported making Zoom available for the entirety the pandemic.

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.

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 at First Church



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. Tickets are available at CWO's website.



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.



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*.

Session to consider Funding for Deferred Maintenance Projects

By Chris Weber, Buildings & Grounds Committee

With the Campus Central Heating Plant Project having been completed, First Church leaders are turning their attention to a long list of other deferred maintenance projects and to the funding sources available to execute them. The Finance & Buildings & Grounds Committee will be meeting jointly to prioritize estimates received for an array of projects, ranging from replacement of our leaking slate roof, to expanding the cold storage capacity in the kitchen.

Increased campus use and expanded tenant areas have both expanded First Church's missional reach and brought in much needed new sources of revenue – enough new revenue to allow First Church to fund these much needed new projects through a line of credit. The long list of projects currently adds up to just over \$2M in work. This number is likely to increase as the Joint Committee evaluates the list and considers adding other projects.

So far, the project list includes repair and restoration of our leaking and deteriorating masonry façade, replacement of our leaking roof, replacement of our inefficient steam heating system, painting and repair of 152 wood window sashes, replacement of old water heaters, and scores of others designed to keep the campus running efficiently. The projects won't be completed at once, and the list may take several years to complete, if they are funded.

Caring for the campus and investing in its vitality is one of the ways I "make God's welcome known." I would like to invite anyone in our church community who has experience and enthusiasm for facilities to join this effort and help us discern how to be good stewards of our funds and campus.



Food Ministry Kitchen Report

By Bill Coburn

Friday afternoon, our pick up team, Bryan and Henry, picked up items from Western Service Workers Association and Good Eggs. Saturday morning, we returned to Good Eggs for a second donation, and also picked up groceries from Whole Foods. We received a delivery from Omni Commons. Additionally, we had vegetable items from the Food of God program. We continue to have donations from longtime supporter, Sandy.

On Sunday, 150 sandwich lunches were made of cold cuts and tomato and lettuce, plus chips, fruit and desserts. Dorothy directed the Sunday volunteers about food prep for Monday. Some meals were distributed at the gate, the remaining were distributed throughout the neighborhood.

For Monday, Teri led the team preparing chicken, some with BBQ sauce and some with sweet chili sauce. Also, a number of mixed vegetables, some rice, bread, green and fruit salad plus desserts. Lexine Alpert distributed the meals in the neighborhood, with her friend Linda Ellinwood. We thank the many dedicated volunteers, who continue to make all this happen.

Food Ministry Street Report

By Lexine Alpert

This Monday, Linda and I picked up 74 beautiful hot meals consisting of corned beef, potatoes, green beans, green salad, and a dessert.

We also were given about twelve large bags of dog food that Teri had put together for us to give out to the many dogs that accompany those

living on the streets. Thank you so much Teri! I focused this week on the many dogs that we see out there who provide comfort and love to those dealing with the challenges of living in the rough.

Thank you, Teri and to the many volunteers who make such fantastic meals for those hungry and homeless. These are not cold sandwiches on dry bread, but hot delicious and healthy meals that people on our route look so forward to.

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.



THIS NEXT SONG IS A
DIFFICULT AND TEDIOUS
ONE, BUT WE'RE GOING
TO SING IT ANYWAY

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
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Rev. Joel Mackey, Parish Associate
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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

Someone is Turning 47!

Join us in celebrating Pastor Matt's 47th Birthday,
next Sunday, May 1 (Matt's birthday is April 30).



Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Chris Weber, Julia Marquez & Matt
Prinz. Photos by Chris Weber & Matt Prinz.
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.

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

Second Sunday of Easter, April 24, 2022

Theology of the Church

*Making God's
welcome known*

Welcome to this time of inter-generational 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 and remember your name and your visit with us. If you would like to be added to our email and mailing lists the welcome card will do that too (you can also sign up on the home page of our website - at the very bottom)
- 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 with materials that can be used by children during the service.
- On the first Sunday of every month we celebrate **Family Worship & Communion**. 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

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.

INVITATION to WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

from Psalm 4

One: Answer us when we call, God. Be gracious to us and hear our prayer.

All: **When we are in distress, you make space for us. You put gladness in our hearts, as with a fine feast.**

One: When we are disturbed, may we not sin, but ponder things on our beds, and be silent.

All: **I will lie down and sleep in peace. For you alone, God, make me lie down in safety.**

Gathering Prayer

One: Holy God, we give thanks that you often reveal yourself to be different from our expectations. When we long for the love we have known in the past, our eyes are dimmed to the beauty you reveal to us now. As your first followers struggled to see how a suffering Savior could be Messiah, we strain to recognize you still today. Come, Spirit, make yourself known in the study of scripture, in our songs of praise, and especially in the grace and love we offer one another. Make yourself known in every friend we have yet to meet in your good and blessed name.

All: **Amen**

Please stand as you are able

Opening Hymn

#611 : Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

CONFESSIO N of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Spirit of the Risen Savior, when we fail to recognize you, we become reluctant to follow in your way. Just as disciples struggled to comprehend how the Christ could have been a suffering servant, we find it difficult to see you in those who suffer today. We resist starting down the path you have shown us until we know exactly where it will lead. Free us from cynicism and fear. Liberate your world from suspicion and prejudice. Forgive us, Living Lord, and lead us wherever you will.

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: God is faithful in love and grace, making our confession welcome and cleansing our soul. Rejoice! We are children of light. Even when we falter, God's love is strong enough to bring us back to the light of forgiveness and grace.

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.

Children are invited to join Di & Monrovia for today's Godly Play Story: Francis of Assisi

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

Please stand as you are able

Opening Hymn

#611 : Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Scripture Lesson

Luke 24 : 13 - 35

One: Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

One: For the Word in scripture, the Word made flesh, and the Word in our hearts

All: Thanks be to God

Congregational
love each other

Missional
love our neighbors

Spiritual
love God

R E S P O N S E to the W O R D

Sermon Continued

Pastor Matt will lead the congregation in reflection on the reading and sermon.

One: Spend time, here and now, with the risen Lord.

All: We will see Christ when we sing together, when we study scriptures, and when we serve a stranger in need.

One: Even when our vision grows cloudy, we can remain with Christ amidst suffering and loss.

All: Let us remain with God's Spirit, until the clouds pass and our anger subsides. In Christ, God did not stay far off, but dwelt with us, until we truly saw God's love.

One: Let us remain with one another, and with all of God's children, until Christ unmistakably appears

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

#366 : Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

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.



Please stand as you are able

Doxology

#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

One: God of love, help us remember that Christ has no body now on earth but ours, no hands but ours, no feet but ours. Ours are the eyes to see the needs of the world. Ours are the hands to bless the people we meet. Ours are the feet to do good in Christ's name. Bless, God, the work of our hands and these offerings, that they may be Christ's work in the world.

All: Amen

Appreciation of Service Within Our Church Community

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Sending Hymn

#321: The Church's One Foundation

Benediction

One: Christ is alive and has met us here. Now let us meet God's Spirit among friends, strangers, and in all of creation. For God's love lives today and forevermore.

All: Amen

Postlude

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Henry Gardner

Guest Musician: Dave Hatt, organ

Song Leader: Linda Carter

Godly Play: Di Pagel & Monrovia Prinz

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

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