

Joel Mackey joins First Church as Parish Associate

Sunday Volunteers Sought for Food Ministry Lunch Service



Congregation invited to Backyard Brisket & Bocce Bash

Inter-generational Community a Topic for Next Building the Beloved Community

May 8, 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

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 15: Congregational Life**
Love for each other
- **May 22: Missional Life**
Love for our neighbors
- **May 29: Spiritual Life**
Love of God

Pride Month at First Church

Join us Sundays in June as we celebrate Pride Month and recognize the contributions of the LGBTQ community to the church.

Spring Concert Season Concludes with Reunion



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*.

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.**

Volunteers Needed for Sunday Food Ministry Effort

The Food Ministry is a vital ministry of First Church and is entirely supported by volunteer efforts. Each week, volunteers prepare 300 meals for the community. This effort has critical short term volunteer gaps to fill while leaders are recovering from illness and injury or preparing to move. Food Ministry leadership is requesting the kind assistance of new volunteers interested in a short-term assignment, Sundays in May, June and July.

What does this volunteer work look like? Sunday mornings before the worship service, 8 am – 10 am, volunteers are needed to make sandwiches and package them in to-go boxes with other sides. The menu will already have been planned and all provisions made – help is just needed with assembly. Typically 150 meals are prepared on Sunday morning.

New volunteers are also needed Sundays, after the worship service to either assist with distributing meals at the gate (about 50 meals are given away at the gate, the remainder are loaded into vehicles and driven to encampments) or with helping to prepare components of the Monday meal, which is typically more elaborate.

Do you feel called to assist? Please contact Steve Cabrera, Dorothy Dugger, Louise Hill, Gay Cobb or Bryan Breitung, or just walk into the kitchen and introduce yourself.

Looking for Ways to Serve? Here are a Few:



Fellowship Time Hospitality

Volunteers are needed each week to prepare and serve refreshments for the church's Fellowship Time in the Reception Room. Church staff provide coffee, tea and place settings as needed. Each week, volunteers are asked to bring refreshments. Community is formed through the sharing of a meal, and volunteers are welcome to use their imaginations to create quick and easy snacks or elaborate lunches. Interested in giving it a try? Find Julia Marquez and claim a Sunday.



Joyful Gardening and Floral Arranging

We are blessed with scores of rose bushes and other beautiful flowering plants. Each week we rely on volunteers to come and prune away the spent blossoms, allowing new growth to flourish. The work is easy and can be combined with a meditation or prayer practice. When you are finished you can take home your own fragrant bouquet. Bring your own clippers and gloves.

Would you like to try making a floral arrangement for Sunday morning worship services? It's easier than you think and very rewarding. If you are interested in spending some time in the garden, find Chris Weber.

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.

Home Ownership Creates Equity: How We Can Build Homes for All

From the Habitat For Humanity East Bay Silicon Valley Blog

California Assemblymember Timothy Grayson, whose district includes Habitat build project Esperanza Place, is leading a coalition of fellow state legislators, the California Association of Realtors, the California Building Industry Association, and Habitat for Humanity California, united in a call for increased funding for the construction of affordable ownership housing. We urge the Governor to include in his May Revise Budget a substantive investment in increasing access to homeownership for more Californians.

“The funding that we are here advocating for today will support permanent housing solutions in

California, it will help fix our broken housing ladder, and it will increase equity in the housing market by expanding opportunities for Californians to build equity in a home they own,” Assemblymember Grayson said in a press conference at the Capitol earlier this month.

Assemblymember Mia Bonta – who represents hundreds of Habitat homeowners from Oakland, over to Alameda, and down through San Leandro – recalled a childhood on the move, spent moving 13 times in 16 years. “I certainly know what it means to not have the stability of homeownership,” she said, adding, “I am very proud to be able to be a part of a legislative package that will ensure that homeownership can be something achievable for every Californian.”

We stand with Mr. Grayson, our coalition partners,

and a bi-partisan group of over 40 legislators in advocating for \$400 million in funding for the production of affordable ownership housing – including \$200 million for the CalHome program, a key Habitat funding lifeline. Habitat also supports an allocation of 20% of all new state housing funds to new construction of lower-income, owner-occupied homes.

“Increasing the supply of affordable homeownership is essential to permanently solving our housing crisis,” Ms. Arakel pointed out. “Together, we must stop perpetuating the wealth inequities and racial inequities, because California is denying lower income households access to ownership.”

The current proposed State Budget for 2022-2023, however, does not reflect this holistic strategy to investing in affordable housing. Only \$69.56 million is currently allocated for affordable homeownership programs, which is not even 3.5% of the funds slated for deed-restricted rental housing programs. “It’s time,” Ms. Arakel said. “It’s well past time that we start insisting that affordable ownership be included in the budget to help achieve housing justice for all.”

Assemblymember Grayson agreed, encouraging, “Let’s not wait another year to invest in California’s future first-time homebuyers. Let’s use this State Budget to increase access to affordable homeownership and begin to turn the page on a long history of injustices that have denied too many Californians the opportunity to own a home.”

At Habitat for Humanity, we know that increasing access to homeownership is one of our most potent ways to redress systemic racism and injustice. Offer a chance at homeownership to a family priced out of the market, and you offer more than a stable place to count on. You offer an entirely new trajectory for that family’s future.

***It’s well past time
that we start
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Joel Mackey Joins First Church as Parish Associate



First Church has a new Parish Associate, Rev. Joel Mackey. Joel is a long time Bay Area resident and has served most recently as Parish Associate at Sojourner Truth Presbyterian Church. Joel is currently a professional clinical counselor at Bay Area Community Resource and an attorney in private practice.

Joel's past work has included serving as executive director for Habitat for Humanity East Bay Silicon Valley (a First Church Community Partner), Oakland Public Education Fund, The Ed. Fund, and Harbor House Ministries, to name a few. Joel and his wife, Mary Biasotti, run Mission Rooted Consulting, an organization that assists non-profit organizations with start-up, legal help, strategic planning, and other needs.

"I believe I am called to serve as part of a community active in 'repairing the world' through

tangible acts of justice, mercy, and grace," said Joel in response to his new commitment to serve as Parish Associate. In the Presbyterian Church (USA), a parish associate is an ordained Minister

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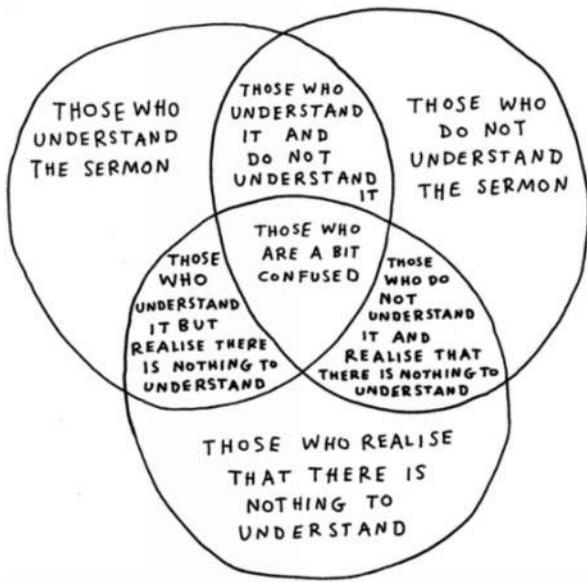
of Word and Sacrament who is participating in a local church not in an installed role, but through congregational ministry.

"I have significant lifelong experience in nonprofit organizations focused on the housing, educational, economic, and spiritual needs of people. I believe that I am called to a ministry

setting where the congregation is engaged in concretely serving its community," added Joel. "I hope to be connected to a ministry that allows me to utilize my varied gifts."

Joel has led a Building the Beloved Community discussion group on the topic of Intersectionality and lead a Bible Study group on the topic of prayer and intimacy with God. "I would like to be in ministry setting that encourages every member to discover and share their gifts for the growth and edification of the congregation and the community," said Joel. "I would hope that the congregation would nurture this same impulse within me." Joel has also participated as worship leader and preacher. He meets regularly with Pastor Matt for pastoral support and leadership development.

Joel is a graduate of Northwestern University, the University of California, Berkeley, and Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary at Northwestern University. Joel has a passion for coaching youth sports. He is currently the head coach of the girls' varsity basketball team at Making Waves High School. He has also coached boy's high school basketball and youth soccer.



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

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 matt@firstchurchoakland.org
 510.488.3812
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 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

Oakland Tribune, February 1913:
 First Church Building Razed



Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Chris Weber, Matt Prinz & Dorothy Dugger. 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
- Vuity Care Foundation
- Western Service Workers Assoc.



SADAO WATANABE 1977

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

Fourth Sunday of Easter, May 8, 2022

The Good Shepherd

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 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 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 **Family Worship & 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

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

One: Christ is our shepherd.

All: We are Christ's sheep.

One: The shepherd is calling us to join God's flock.

All: We will follow our shepherd.

One: Rejoice, little one, for no one can snatch us from the shepherd's hand.

All: In God's flock, we rest secure.

One: Come! Let us worship.

Gathering Prayer

One: Loving Shepherd, in the midst of sorrow and loss, you wipe away every tear from our eyes. May the wonders of your love reach down to us this day. Raise us to new life. Help us cling no longer to the darkness threatening to overcome our world, that we may reside in the glory of the Lamb. Wake us from the slumber that numbs our spirit, even as you nourish us in the strength of your Spirit. May the world see the shepherd living in us, and may we come to dwell in your pastures, which remain ever green.

All: Amen

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

Confession

One: The voices of your faithful ones echo in our ears: "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" We long to join their words of praise, but feel unworthy. We know that you are our shepherd, watching over us every minute of our lives. We yearn to join the chorus of those worshipping the Lamb, but we feel unsure and insecure. Open us to the one who wipes away every tear, that we may truly rest in green pastures and drink from still waters. For you alone restore our souls. You alone meet us in our time of need.

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

From John 10 : 27 - 28

One: Trust the words of our shepherd: "My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand." Rest secure that our shepherd loves us, and leads us into life.

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.

P R A Y E R S o f 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

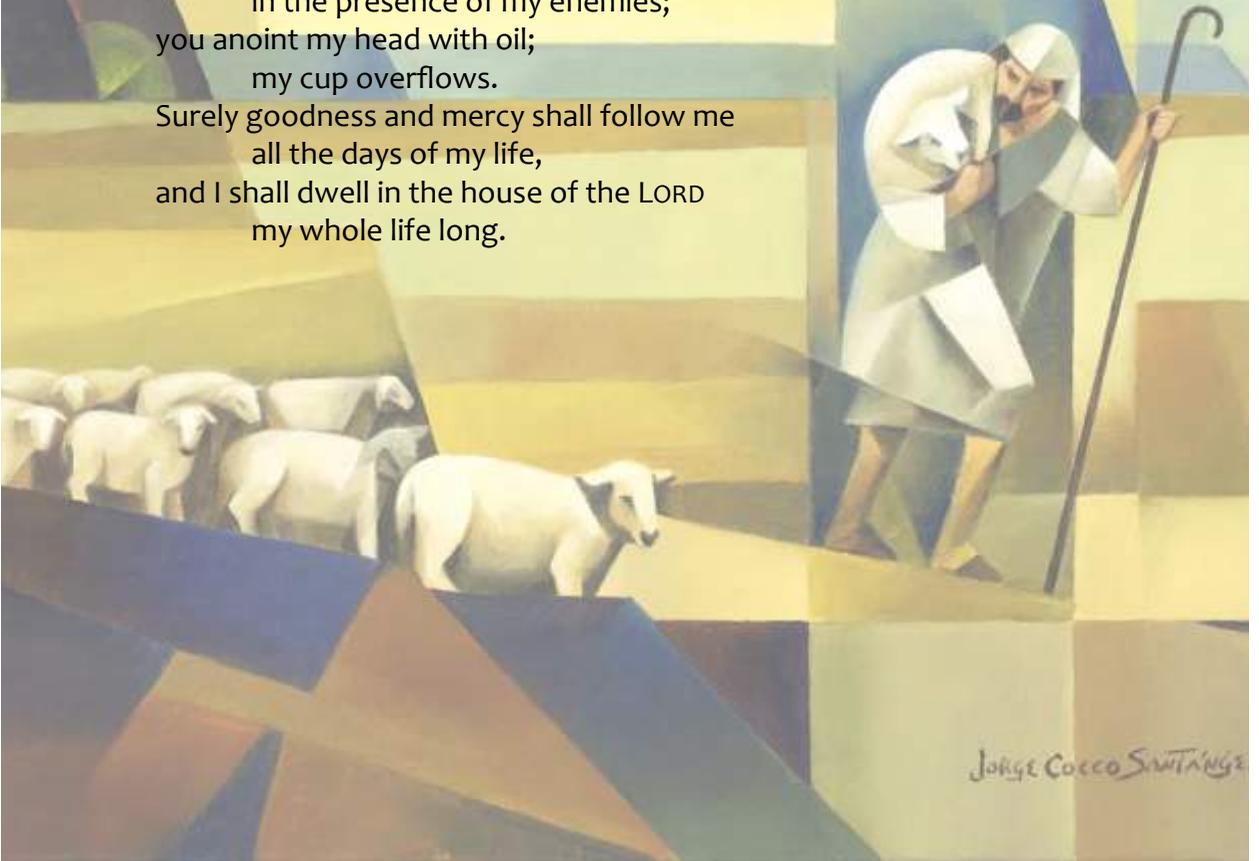
Please stand as you are able
Hymn

#649 : Amazing Grace

First Scripture Lesson

Psalm 23

One: The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.



JORGE COCCO SANTIANGE

One: At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. The Father and I are one.”

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

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

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

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

#139 : Great is Thy Faithfulness

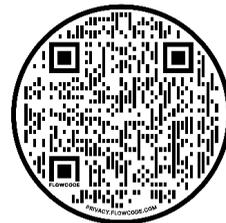
Invitation to the Offering

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: Loving Shepherd, we thank you for your tender care. Everything we have comes from the goodness of your love. Receive the gifts we return to you now, that sheep in other flocks may come to know you and discover that you are the one who lays down your life for the flock.

All: Amen

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Please stand as you are able

Sending Hymn

#268 : *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Invitation to Community Life

Benediction

One: The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want.

All: We lie down in green pastures and drink from still waters.

One: Our shepherd restores our souls.

All: Even though we walk through the darkest valleys, we fear no evil, for our shepherd travels with us.

One: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives.

All: And we will dwell with our shepherd forever.

Postlude

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz (away)

Guest Preacher: Rev. Bill Beatty

Liturgists: Suzie Inadomi, Cami Inadomi

Guest Musician: Joe Warner, piano

Song Leader: Tiffany Price

Godly Play: Di Pagel & Elizabeth Goodwin

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

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

Flowers: Chris Weber

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Julia Marquez