

Joel Mackey joins First Church as Parish Associate

Sunday Volunteers Sought for Food Ministry Lunch Service



Congregation invited to Backyard Brisket & Bocce Bash

Post Mothers' Day Reflection: A Mother's Love is Like the Love of God

May 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

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

Backyard Brisket & Bocce Tournament Today

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.**



Micah Ogden assists Pastor Matt in the three-day brisket smoking process, above.

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.

Pentecost Sunday: Seeing Red

June 5, Rev. Joel Mackey preaches. Participate in a First Church tradition by wearing red, orange or yellow to symbolize the color of flame, a symbol of the Holy Spirit. Pastor Matt and the Prinz Family will be away June 1 - 9.

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.

“What is the Church For?”

Wednesday Bible Study Resumes

A fundamental question, “what is the church for?” is a new topic for mid-week bible study, led by Pastor Matt on Zoom. The spring-summer bible study topic is intended to create new vision for what First Church can be by examining scripture’s many accounts of Beloved Community.

Mid-week bible study is a great way to get to know folks at First Church and exchange views on scripture, theology, and community. Contact Pastor Matt if you do not already receive the weekly email invitation to join on Zoom.
Wednesdays, 7pm, Zoom

Donations to Deacons Enable Congregational Care

by Judy Rowan, Moderator of Deacons

The Deacons are a group whose ministry is to care for people. At First Church, the deacons connect with members and frequent visitors monthly and on special occasions. We pray for people with special concerns and we visit people who are ill.

On the first Sunday of the month, a special offering is collected to provide for parishioners’ special needs. Those funds also support the Food Ministry and the Presbyterian Deacon Foundation. Please join the Deacons in supporting the special needs in the congregation by donating to the Deacons’ Fund on First Sundays.

Fellowship Time Helpers Found

Thank you to the dozens of folks who signed up to bring refreshments during Fellowship Time through the spring and summer. Only a few slots remain. Donations are appreciated, but reimbursement can be available. Contact Julia Marquez to help make Fellowship Time delightful for all.

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*.

Afterglow Chorus Moves to First Church



AfterGlow’s mission is to perform beautiful choral works of all genres with the highest level of musicianship and emotional meaning. The chorus’s goal is to tap into inner joy by singing beautiful music of all genres that is emotionally meaningful. The Chorus moves to First Church this summer, joining seven other performing arts groups that call First Church home.

Mothers' Day Reflection

By Julia Marquez

Last December, I shared my reflections on motherhood in our worship service. On the occasion of Mother's Day, I thought it appropriate to provide my testimony in writing for the weekly church bulletin. Being a mother and having a loving mother have helped me understand a little bit about what God's love for me may be like.

My mom loves me like no one else. I can't wait to tell her when something good happens to me because she truly shares my joy. When something bad happens to me, I may hesitate to tell her because I know she will feel as hurt as I do. Saul and I took a trip to Mexico in the beginning of December and when we returned home, my parents were tripping over themselves asking questions about my experiences. My mom cares about every detail of my life and more than anything she wants me to be happy. I don't know why but this concern makes me feel so good. Maybe this is what it feels like to be loved.

As my church family knows, I am a mother of two children, Joshua Day and Leah, ages 24 and 18. I first knew of Leah's existence on June 28, 2004 when the social worker sent a fax photo of her to my office fax number. I looked into those black eyes and all I could think of was "will you be mine? Will you be my child?". It took the social workers a few weeks to decide if we were a good match and during that time, I fell apart. I couldn't eat, I couldn't sleep, I couldn't concentrate. We kept eating Costco lasagne because I couldn't bring myself to cook. I have never felt such a longing

***...Each is indeed
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Can it be that God
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either before or since. It makes me think of Jesus' words: "Oh Jerusalem. how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings".

My children can really get me upset, more than anyone else - perhaps I care too much. I want them to be thoughtful, kind, considerate and pick up their own messes. Is that so much to ask? And perhaps because they are secure in my love, they are free to be themselves with me - including their complaining, venting and utterly annoying selves. But I forgive them. Again and again. I cannot not forgive them. They are my children.

And how hard it is to let them make their own choices - choices that might harm them. I want to tell them "I am older and wiser, why don't you just trust me and do what I say?" I expect God could say the same thing to me - in fact I believe she does.

When Leah was about 3 she asked Saul - "Who do you love more, me or Day?" Doesn't every sibling wonder that? Saul answered - "I love you both the same" to which Leah replied - "but you love me just a little bit more, right papa?"

When I hear "God loves you", it does not touch me. If God loves everybody in the world, what kind of love is that for me, in particular? It's like what Dash says, in the movie The Incredibles, "if everyone is special, then no one is," but then I consider Joshua Day and Leah who I have known all their lives, - their appearance, their personality, their quirks, and sense of humor - each is indeed so fearfully and wonderfully made and I love each fully for who they are. Can it be that God loves me uniquely in this way as well?

My mom always tells me "no one loves you like your mother" . Maybe no human does. But I believe God does, God loves me like a mother.

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.

WORSHIP AS A LIFESTYLE



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

Chris Weber, Facility Management
chris@firstchurchoakland.org

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

Crowds gather to watch a hot air balloon in front
of First Church at 14th & Franklin, ca. 1910.



Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Chris Weber, Dorothy Dugger & Julia
Marquez. Photos by Chris Weber.

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

First Church is proud to support its COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

- Afterglow Chorus
- 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

Congregational
love each
other

Missional
love our
neighbors

Spiritual
love God

Fifth Sunday of Easter, May 15, 2022

Theology of the Church

*Making God's
welcome known*

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 148

One: As the sun rises in the morning,

All: let all creation worship God.

One: From the highest mountains to the deepest seas,

All: let all creation proclaim the name of the Lord, for God alone is worthy to be praised.

One: God alone makes all things new.

All: All praise, glory, and honor be yours, forever.

Gathering Prayer

One: Gracious and loving God, you meet us where we are. We gather together from many walks of life, but we are unified as one heart in the body of Christ. In our time of worship, open our ears to hear your voice, open our eyes to see your glory, open our minds to receive your word; open our hearts to perceive your presence.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able

Opening Hymn

#621: We Praise You, O God

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Rise up, God and judge the nations righteously.

All: We are prone to favor the powerful; to give to the mighty and neglect the weak.

One: Rise up, God and rescue the needy; give us courage to be your hands and feet. Forgive us.

All: We are prone to ignore the plight of orphans, to walk by the homeless and those who are destitute. Rise up, God and judge in righteousness, even us.

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: When we are thirsty, God renews our souls with living waters. Drink deeply, knowing that in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

Renewal: A Repentant, Hopeful Litany for a Changing

By Sandra Maria Van Opstal

One: Lord, you have shown us your ways of compassion and justice. Forgive us for being so caught up in our own lives. Forgive us for not having eyes to see and closing them when we don't want to hear. Forgive us for not having ears to hear and covering them when we don't want to hear. Forgive us for not knowing you, seeking you, and following you.

All: Revive your church. Renew us and remake us in your image. Revive your church. Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.

One: Jesus, you modeled sacrifice and love for neighbor. Deliver us from our anemic and self-focused faith practices. Deliver us from narcissism in our worship practices that center on us and not others. Deliver us from fear that keeps us from taking risks in order to serve our neighbors. Deliver us from apathy in our own hearts towards those at the margins.

All: Revive your church. Renew us and remakes us in your image. Revive your church. Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.

One: Holy Spirit, you promise to root, strengthen, and guide us. Fill us with courage to speak out and speak up when we feel weak. Fill us with assurance that you are working in ways we can't always see. Fill us with power to act and love and be the church you are making us to be. Fill us with the wisdom of a gentle dove and a shrewd serpent that we may be effective.

Revive your church. Renew us and remakes us in your image. Revive your church.

All: Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.

One: Lord, you promised that you are coming back in your fullness to restore and renew. Help us to be made new now and at your full return. Help us to confess together, repent together, and hope together for the church. Help us to live into the reality that we serve a God who will make wrong things right. Help us point to the coming kingdom with our actions and lives.

All: Revive your church. Renew us and remakes us in your image. Revive your church. Renew us so that we may point others to a new heaven and a new earth.

THE WORD

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

Scripture Lesson

#450 : Be Thou My Vision

Luke 10 : 25 – 37

One: An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

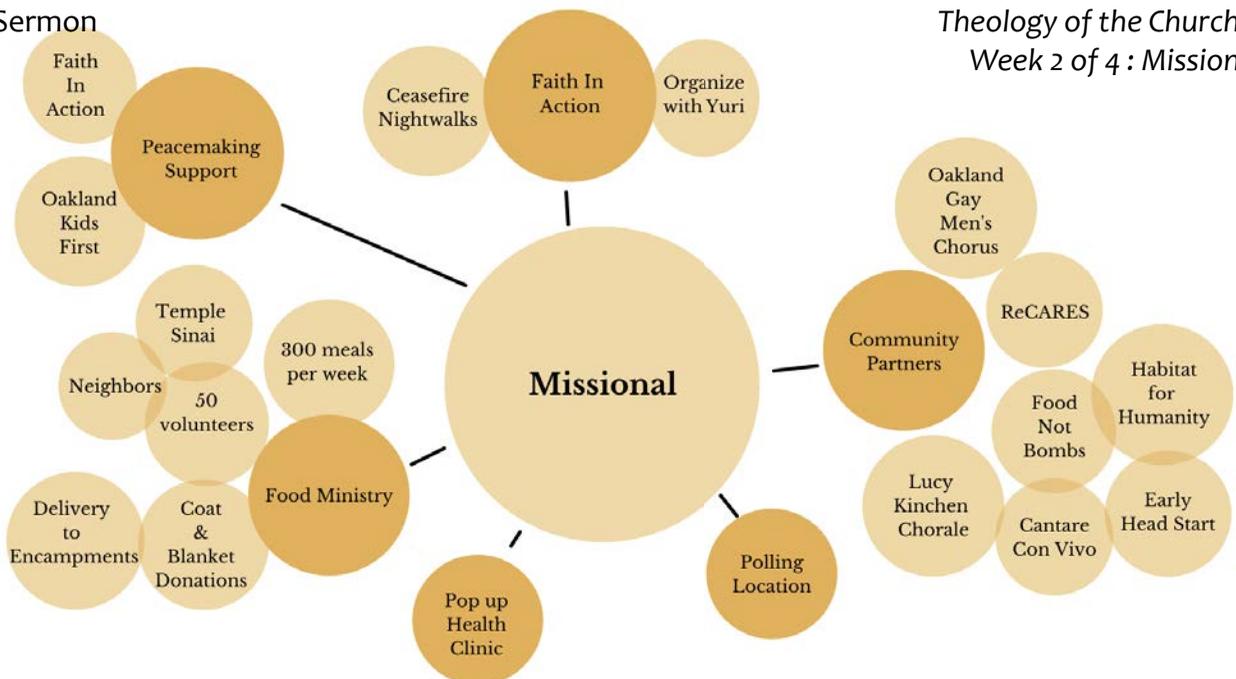
One: For the Word in scripture, the Word made flesh, and the Word in our hearts

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

Theology of the Church

Week 2 of 4 : Mission



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 O God You Give Us Neighbors

1. O God, you give us neigh - bors for whom your love a - bounds.
2. O God, you give us neigh - bors in this world that div - ides.
3. O God, you give us neigh - bors and call us all to see
4. O God, you give us neigh - bors; and now, what must we do?
5. God, may we work for jus - tice for those who live in fear;

They've come here seek - ing ref - uge; they work here in our towns.
We see them at the bor - der; they're strug - gling for their lives.
our com - mon fears and long - ings, our shared hu - ma - ni - ty.
This ques - tion asked of Je - sus is one we ask a - new.
may we show Christ's com - pas - sion, and pray and per - se - vere—

Their child - ren go to school here; they come to church and pray.
They're hurt - ing by the road - side, and by the riv - er, too.
You call us all to lis - ten to bur - dens they have known,
May we not make ex - cu - ses and choose to walk on by
and by your Ho - ly Spi - rit, in all we do and say,

O Lord, we grieve when neigh - bors are be - ing sent a - way.
You call us to show mer - cy to neigh - bors loved by you.
to hear the truth they tell us, to see the love they've shown.
these neigh - bors flee - ing vio - lence— some sent back now to die.
may we stand up for neigh - bors now be - ing sent a - way.

Invitation to the Lord's Supper & Offering

Prayer of Thanksgiving

One: The bread of heaven is here, leading us into life.

All: We draw strength from the bread of life.

One: The cup of blessing is at hand, bringing us salvation.

All: We find life in the cup of salvation.

One: Eat and drink, for Christ is here, offering us eternal life.

All: Thanks be to God.

Words of Institution

Musical Offering

You've Got A Friend

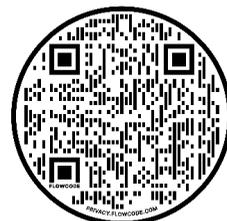
Sharing the Holy Meal

Please come forward as the ushers allow and return to your seat down the side aisles. Communion is alcohol and gluten free.

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.



SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Sending Hymn

#300 : *They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love*

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: Gay Plair Cobb

Guest Musician: Dave Hatt, organ

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Godly Play: Di Pagel & Monrovia Prinz

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Communion Setup: Diane Hill & Judy Rowan

Audio & Online Support: Diane Hill & Bex Fortin

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Someone special :)

Flowers: Ted Saxon