

Congregation Prepares Hygiene Care Packages
for Neighbors
Sunday Volunteers Sought for Food Ministry
Lunch Service
Pentecost Pot Luck to Bring Cultural Fare



Congregation Invited to June Ceasefire Night
Walk for Peace
Women's Prayer Circle Invites Connection

May 22, 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



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.



Pentecost Potluck

Sunday, June 5, 11 am

Let's celebrate Pentecost by sharing a meal together and enjoying each other's company. In keeping with the many nations represented in the Pentecost story, we invite you to bring a dish from your own cultural background or another cuisine. Taste and see that the Lord is good!

“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.

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. Chris Weber preaches on Sunday, June 26.

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.



Women’s Prayer Circle Invites Connection

Every month the Prayer Circle meets, taking time to check in with one another by mutual invitation and then practicing the art of *lectio divina* (a monastic practice of listening to scripture with the eyes of the heart - how does this reading connect with where I find myself in life right now?). We also share prayers and close in prayer or with poetry.

The circle is always open both to newcomers and one time visitors. Call Di Pagel at 925.324.5271 or email dianapagel@gmail.com for the Zoom link.
Our next gathering is Tuesday, May 31 at 7 pm.

Backyard Celebration Snapshots

May 15 - Ogden Residence



Ceasefire Night Walks for Peace

Friday, June 17, 6 pm - St. Columba
Catholic Church

Let's continue to participate in the Community Ceasefire Night Walks sponsored by Faith In Action East Bay. Faith leaders, residents, schools, neighborhood organizations, social services, public agencies and law enforcement across the community are uniting to build a culture of peace and healing. We are walking our neighborhoods to carry this message: "We love you and we want you to be alive and free!"

Join others from various faith backgrounds who come together to support the community around us. Help us stop the killings so we can work together to create opportunities for a way out. Bring a friend! **Contact Suzie Inadomi or Pastor Matt for more information.**



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

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.

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

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

Marilyn Williams, Cindy Whalen, Dorrie Dodge &
 Louise Hill replanting the front yard, March, 2015



Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

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

Sixth Sunday of Easter, May 22, 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

One: We gather in the midst of upheaval.

All: We come to you for strength.

One: We come from different places.

All: We come to unite as your people.

One: We fear the injustice in the world.

All: We come seeking wrongs to be made right.

One: We think we're in control of our lives.

All: We seek to release ourselves to you.

One: We avoid silence so we cannot hear you.

All: Open our hearts to you so our brokenness can be healed.

Gathering Prayer

One: Loving Creator, in times such as these we feel the weight of the world upon our hearts. There is so much turmoil, anger, and sadness that it is hard not to feel lost and unable to see beyond so much pain and suffering. We are horrified by the hate crimes that resulted in the senseless loss of life in Buffalo and Laguna Woods. We feel helpless that we cannot do more to stop the unprovoked war in Ukraine. Our confidence that we control our destiny is our downfall when we finally recognize that we aren't really in control. Lord, we come to you seeking solace, hope and direction. We come to you to be with our church family and gather the strength to face another day of uncertainty. We come to you, raw in our need and ready to give ourselves to you. We come to you to be church.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able

Opening Hymn

#352 : My Lord! What a Morning

CONFESSIOⁿ of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: We long for you, God, discouraged by our flagging efforts. We are afraid of what the future may bring. We separate ourselves from our siblings in Christ because they are different from us. When we pray, we don't always feel that you hear us. Be present with us. Heal the places of our doubt, despair, and alienation. Cure us from hatred and discrimination. Cast out all that keeps us from you and from one another.

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: We are human and have human failures. We strive to do the right thing, to care for each other and to live our authentic selves. Our struggles aren't unnoticed. As we accept the fact that we are bound to make mistakes, misjudge and ignore the need around us, remember that God knows us and loves us, unconditionally. Be assured, in Christ's love we are forgiven and blessed by God's 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 Godly Play

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

Continued, next page

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.

T H E W O R D

Please stand as you are able

Hymn *Hymn #410 : God is Calling through the Whisper*

Scripture Lesson *1 Kings 19 : 4 - 16*

One: But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there.

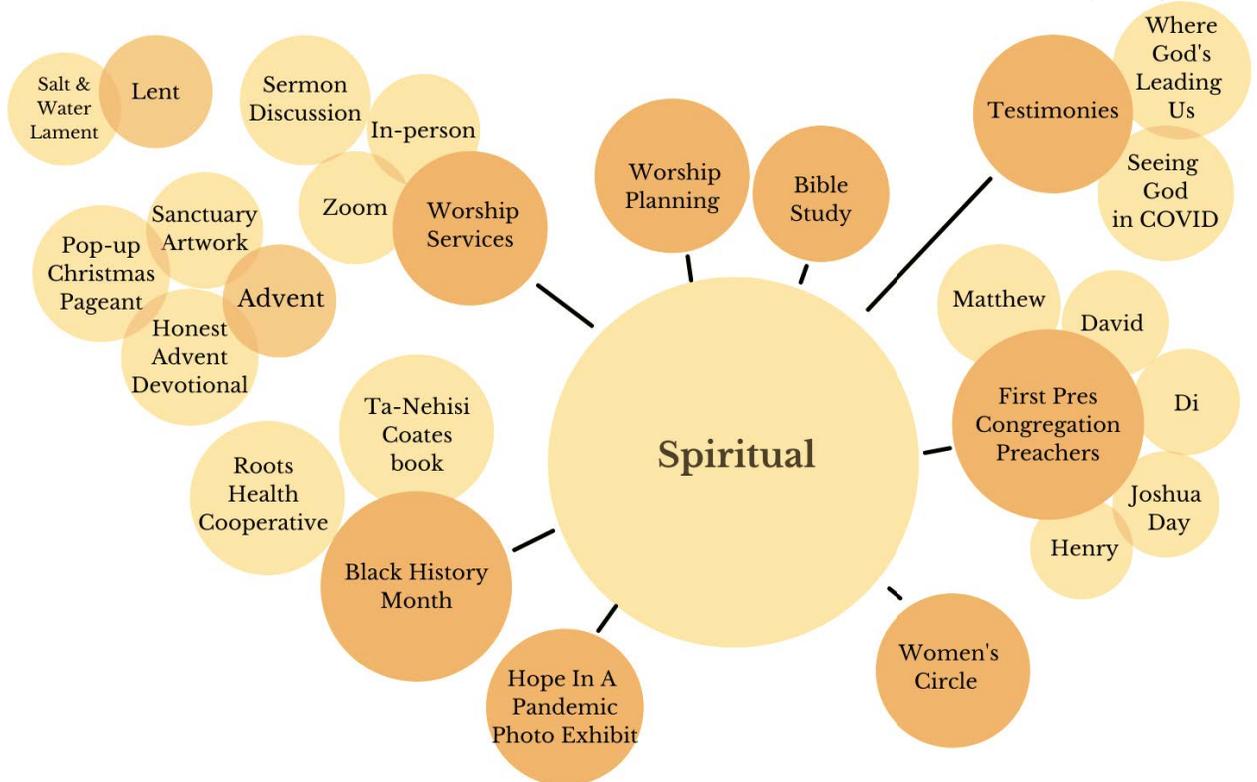
Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away." Then the LORD said to him, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place.

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 3 of 4 : Spiritual*



RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

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

Musical Offering

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll not Want

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

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.



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

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please stand as you are able

Sending Hymn

#620 : Praise, My Soul the King of Heaven

Benediction

Postlude

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Linda Carter

Guest Musician: Dave Hatt

Godly Play: Di Pagel & Dorrie Dodge

Song Leader: Elizabeth Cureton

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

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

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Kerry Sherman