

First Church Kitchen Prepares for Growth
Juneteenth Commemorated
Origins of *More Light* Movement Explored
Congregation Invited to Explore Spiritual
Disciplines



Weekly Newsletter

June 19, 2022

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland
Making God's Welcome Known

Faith In Action: Monday Food Ministry Volunteers Deliver Hospitality

Photos by Barbara Goodroe



First Church Community Responds Quickly to Kitchen Needs: New Fridge Installed

The Food Ministry, Buildings & Grounds, and Mr. G's worked quickly to fund, find and install a new 54" wide refrigerator in the First Church pantry, nearly doubling the Food Ministry's cold storage capacity, and alleviating some of the hardship of sharing refrigerator space with the Fellowship Hall's weekend renters. Bill Coburn located a discounted, new floor model, and Penny De La Rey provided a donation to cover the cost.

In addition to improving Food Ministry operations, this new equipment will enable the First Church kitchen to host another Community Partner, Oak Harvest Kitchen. Oak Harvest provides food service training for formerly incarcerated people, helping them gain stability and skills for employment. Oak Harvest also provides free vegan meals. In addition to Oak Harvest, the kitchen is home to Food Not Bombs and Oakland Early Head Start Preschool. First Church's kitchen plays a vital role in keeping the neighborhood fed.

California Commemorates Juneteenth '22



From *Juneteenth* by Synthia Saint James

From *The Oakland Post*, June 15, 2022

Juneteenth is recognition of June 19, 1865, the day Union soldiers notified enslaved African Americans in Galveston Bay, Texas that they were free under the Emancipation Proclamation. Two and a half years earlier, enslaved and free African Americans gathered in churches and private homes across the country to mark what was known as “Freedom’s Eve” on Jan. 1, 1863. They were awaiting news confirming that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation that ended slavery in Confederate States.

Anticipation heightened and celebrations began as the news spread of the 13th Amendment, the constitutional modification that established the abolition of slavery. Union soldiers began their march to spread the news throughout plantations and cities in the South. However, not everyone in Confederate territory would immediately be free. Even though the Emancipation Proclamation was signed into law in 1863, it could not be implemented in places still under Confederate control. As a result, in the westernmost Confederate state of Texas, enslaved people would not be free until much later.

In Galveston Bay, freedom finally came on June 19, 1865, when some 2,000 Union troops arrived. The army announced that the more than 250,000

enslaved black people in the state, were free by executive decree. That momentous day came to be known as “Juneteenth,” by the newly freed people in Texas.

Juneteenth State Proposal, 2022

On May 19, California State Senators Steven Bradford (D-Gardena) and Sydney Kamlager (D-Los Angeles) introduced Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 109, which would recognize Juneteenth as an official holiday statewide this year. Nine other members of the California Legislative Black Caucus are co-sponsors of the resolution.

For the past three years, Gov. Gavin Newsom has issued Juneteenth proclamations commemorating the holiday and declaring it “Juneteenth National Freedom Day: A Day of Observance” in the State.

“By making Juneteenth an official state holiday, California would demonstrate its commitment to celebrating the emancipation of all slaves,” Assemblymember Akilah Weber (D-San Diego) said in a statement. “Juneteenth is an important and special annual celebration for Black culture, resilience, and achievement,” Weber continued. “Designating this date as a paid state holiday mirrors the federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.”

The Inclusive Christ From Lepers & Lunatics

By Lawrence Reh

When Jesus cleansed lepers of their disfigurement, it was not because he thought them unclean, but because society feared them and called them unclean, shutting them out of human love and community. Before the trials of his last week on earth, Jesus chose to spend perhaps his last social evening at dinner in the house of “Simon the leper.” (Matthew 26:6) In the second gospel, a leper came to Jesus with a strange claim: “If you choose, you can make me clean.” (Mark 1:40-41) Not “if you are powerful enough,” or “if you have the right know-how,” but only “if you choose.” How many times are we given the opportunity to make someone clean by simply choosing to regard them so? “I do choose,” Jesus affirmed. “Be made clean!” The “unclean” on today’s streets are the homeless; spouses running from abusive partners; gay, straight and gender-nonconforming teenagers escaping punitive or rejecting parents and bullies; the mentally troubled; persons with HIV-AIDS; unclean not by nature, but because we have chosen to see them that way.

WHAT IS A MORE LIGHT CHURCH?

The informal beginning of the More Light movement was in 1974, when David Bailey Sindt, at a meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly, held up a sign reading “Is anybody else out there gay?” Sindt invited sympathetic individuals within the church to join what he first called the “Presbyterian Gay Caucus,” later changing the name to “Presbyterians for Gay Concerns,” and then “Presbyterians for Lesbian and Gay Concerns (PLGC).” It was after the 190th meeting of the General Assembly in 1978, when the assembly approved a statement that “homosexuality is not God’s wish for humanity”

and “unrepentant homosexual practice does not accord with the requirements for ordination” that several Presbyterian congregations adopted policies welcoming lesbian and gay members and affirming their right to ordination as deacon and elder if elected by the congregation and found qualified by the session. Although there were other Presbyterian congregations which had been actively welcoming lesbian and gay members (notably the Munn Avenue Presbyterian Church and the West Hollywood Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles), the first congregation to make a formal statement from the pulpit declaring itself a More Light Church was West Park Presbyterian Church in Manhattan in 1978.

The More Light Churches Network (MLCN) was formalized in 1992, and in June 1998 the group combined with the former Presbyterians for Gay and Lesbian Concerns to make a single organization, More Light Presbyterians. More Light Presbyterians engages over 230 congregations

David Bailey Sindt, at a meeting of the Presbyterian General Assembly 1974, held up a sign reading “Is anybody else out there gay?”

and thousands of individuals in the Presbyterian Church (USA), enabling Presbyterians to lead LGBTQIA+ service and advocacy in communities nationwide. More Light’s mission has always been to empower and equip individuals and congregations to live into their welcome for LGBTQIA+ people. More Light is one of several American Christian LGBT-welcoming church programs working for gay inclusion in America. Similar groups in other denominations are “Reconciling Congregations” among the

Methodists, “Open and Affirming Congregations” in the United Church of Christ and Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), “Association of Welcoming and Affirming Baptists” in the Baptist church, “Reconciled in Christ Congregations” among the Evangelical Lutherans and Integrity USA in the Episcopal Church.

THE ORIGIN OF THE TERM MORE LIGHT

John Robinson, spiritual leader of the pilgrims who founded the Plymouth colony, died in England before he could join his followers in the New World. In 1646, governor Edward Winslow recalled Robinson’s farewell to the pilgrims as they set sail on the Mayflower. Robinson had urged the pilgrims to be open to new religious teaching, and: ...if God should reveal anything to us by any other instrument of his, to be as ready to receive it, as ever we were to receive any truth by his Ministry. For he was very confident the Lord had more truth and light yet to break forth out of his holy Word. In the 1850s the Congregationalist hymn writer George Rawson (1807-1889) used Robinson’s speech as the basis of his hymn “We Limit Not the Truth of God,” with the lyric:

*We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of
mind — By notions of our day and sect -- crude,
partial, and confined*

*That universe, how much unknown! That ocean
unexplored; For God hath yet more light and
truth to break forth from the Word.*

*Eternal God, Incarnate Word, Spirit of flame
and dove, enlarge, expand all living souls to
comprehend your love;*

*And help us all to seek your will with wiser
powers conferred; O God, grant yet more light
and truth to break forth from the Word.*

“What is the Church For?”

Bible Study Resumes in July

A fundamental question, “what is the church for?” is a new topic for mid-week bible study, led by Pastor Matt. The 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**

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. Formerly called “Women’s Circle, The Prayer Circle is always open both to newcomers and one time visitors of any gender. Call Di Pagel at 925.324.5271 or email dianapagel@gmail.com for the Zoom link. **Our next gathering is Tuesday, June 28 at 7 pm.**

Donations to Deacons Enable 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.

Nova Students Home at First Church



Seventy Oakland public school kids are participating in a two-week performing arts summer camp provided by Nova, Cantare's youth choral arts program. The students have been filling the First Church campus with beautiful song and a little rambunciousness. The summer camp will conclude with a performance for friends and family in the Fellowship Hall, this Friday.

Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Chris Weber, The Oakland Post, Lawrence Reh

Photos by Chris Weber, Matt Prinz, Barbara Goodroe.

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



From *The New Yorker*, by Roz Chast

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
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joelmackey@comcast.net

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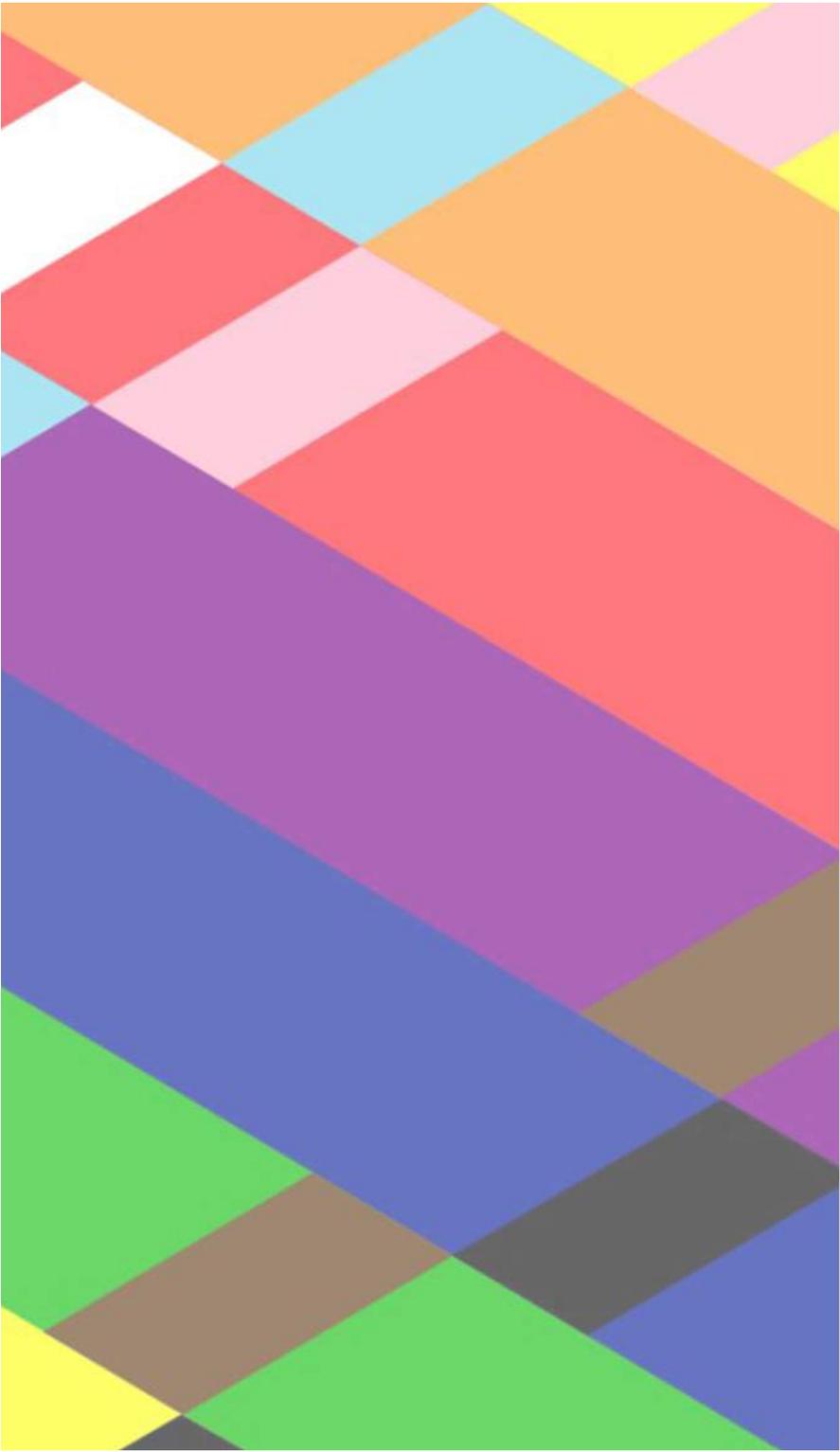
Gus Lopez, Head Custodian
510.290.9677

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

Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper
joan@firstchurchoakland.org

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

Sunday, June 19, 2022

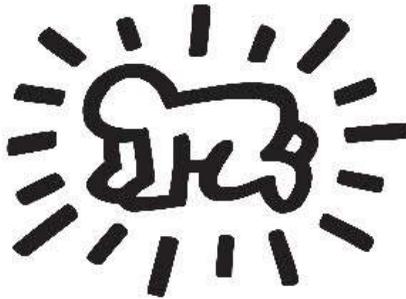
**P
R
I
D
E**

*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 worship play items.
 - On the first Sunday of the month we celebrate **Family Worship & Communion** and children remain in worship.
 - **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

Balleto del Granduca

Welcome

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

Call to Worship

One: We all come to this place as partial failures.

All: We are always less than what we could be, what God has created us to be. That is what it means to be human.

One: But we come as people assured that failing is not a judgment against us.

All: We come as people already loved, forgiven, saved and renewed by the grace of our Creator.

One: We come as people for whom failing is not the end.

All: We come as people seeking to be better, to learn from mistakes, to follow the Jesus way.

One: We are not required to be perfect.

All: Failing, losing, forgetting, not knowing, can teach us more creative, more cooperative, more surprising ways of being—in God’s blessed community and in the wider world. All of these are opportunities to wake up, to be aware, to learn, to trust and try again.

One: May we draw closer to God.

Gathering Prayer

All: Extravagant God, you trust and believe in us even when we doubt ourselves. Teach us, lead us, encourage us, inspire us to be your best people. Help us to serve not just you, not just ourselves, but everyone we meet in our lives, be they friends or strangers, people much like us, or people so different we hesitate to engage them. In everything we attempt, be our light and guide.

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

Sing a New World Into Being

Mary Louise Bringle

***Sing a new world into being. Sound a bold and hopeful theme.
Find a tune for silent yearnings. Lend your voice and dare to dream.
Dream a church where all who worship find their lives and loves belong.
Sing a new world into being. Sing as Christ inspires your song!***

***Sing a new world into being where each gender class and race.
Brings its rainbow gifts and colors to God’s limitless embrace;
Where the lines that once divided form instead the ties that bind.
Sing a new world into being: risk transforming hearts and mind!***

***Sing a new world into being where the homeless find a home.
Where no children ever hunger but are filled with God’s shalom;
Where all people work for justice, where all hate and vengeance cease.
Sing a new world into being: raise the harmonies of peace.***

***Sing a new world into being. Join the ancient prophets’ cry
For a time of health and plenty when all tears have been wiped dry;
When compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve.
Sing a new world into being: live the promise you believe!***

CONFESSIO N of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: In the beginning, God created all that is seen and unseen; Every leaf and grain of sand, every living thing, large and small; reflecting the glory and the image of our expansive Creator. And God looked upon the earth and seeing the multiplicity of humanity, God spoke the truth that has been spoken over humanity since the very beginning: “This is very good.” O Creator God, you have spoken this truth over humanity since the very beginning: “We are very good.” Forgive us when we fear difference, when we minimize diversity, and when we forget that your image is only reflected within us when we live into the uniqueness of our identity. Let us remind one another:

All: We need you, for in our diversity we reflect the divinity of our Creator.

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: Each day, God’s love is steadfast.
Each night, God’s peace abides with us.
We are all part of one family in Christ Jesus.

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 *We need You: A Litany for embracing the Divinity of God in the LGBTQIA+ Community*
by Brandan Robertson

One: O Creator God, when we find ourselves recoiling in fear or pushing away in ignorance. Remind us to lean in, to reach out, and to seek your presence in the face of our other. For in the most unlikely people and the most disregarded places, your Spirit works most powerfully. Let us remember that no one is a stranger, and everyone can be a channel of your light. Let us remind one another:

All: We need you, for in our diversity we reflect the divinity of our Creator.

One: O Creator God, you humbled yourself in the person of Jesus, taking on the flesh of one who was rejected and marginalized because of who he was in the world. May the life and light of Jesus guide us as we live into our unique identities. When we face discrimination or oppression, may we lean all the more firmly into the subversive love he embodied. Let us remind one another:

All: We need you, for in our diversity we reflect the divinity of our Creator.

One: O Creator God, help us to see you in all of the ways you manifest in every moment of every day. Help us to see you in our others and help us to see you in ourselves. May we live our lives to proclaim with passion that every single one of us is pierced through with divinity and that every aspect of our queerness is a reflection of your glory in the world. Let us remind one another:

All: We need you, for in our diversity we reflect the divinity of our Creator.

Receiving of a New Member

Church Membership is both a public declaration of faith and a life-long commitment to the mission and life of First Church. Membership is open to anyone who feels called to make a declaration of faith to the Session and a pledge of that faith to the congregation. Anyone who feels called to church membership should speak with Pastor Matt.

Children are invited to Godly Play. Today's story: Parable of the Good Shepherd.

T H E W O R D

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

#792 : There Is A Balm In Gilead

Scripture Lesson

Proverbs 8: 1-4

One: Does not wisdom call
and understanding raise her voice?
On the heights, beside the way,
at the crossroads she takes her stand;
beside the gates in front of the town,
at the entrance of the portals she cries out:
“To you, O people, I call,
and my cry is to all who live.”

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.

Please stand as you are able

Hymn #174 : *Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom*

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

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

Communion Music

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

Herman G. Stuempfle

Sharing the Holy Meal & Offering

Please come forward as the ushers allow. 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.



Prayer of Dedication

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please stand as you are able

Hymn #66 : *Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

Benediction

Postlude

Basse et Dessus de Trompette

Louis Nicolas Clérambault

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Preaching Today: April Edwell

Liturgy: Lawrence Reh

Liturgist: Suzie Inadomi

Guest Musician: Christopher Thorpe

Song Leader: Linda Carter

Godly Play: Dorrie Dodge & Monrovia Prinz

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Audio Setup: Diane Hill & Bex Fortin

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Inadomi Family