



Food Ministry Street Deliveries Meet Dire Need
First Church Kitchen Welcomes New Ministry Group
Sundays in August to See Worship in New Settings
Summer Concerts Bring Joy & Contemplation to First Church

Weekly Newsletter

July 24, 2022

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland
Making God's Welcome Known

Sundays In August Introduce Intergenerational Interaction

There is no Godly Play during the month of August. Worship services will be specially formatted to be engaging for young minds and adults alike. Come prepared to try out new settings and new ways of responding to the word.

Sunday, August 7

Sanctuary

Henry Gardner, preaching

Christopher Thorpe, organ

The Sanctuary will have places for interactive contemplation, prayers and response to the sermon. The special Deacon's Offering will be received on this Sunday.

Sunday, August 14

Reception Room

Di Pagel, Godly Play Storytelling

Joe Warner, piano

Di Pagel will lead a Godly Play Story. We'll experiment with seating "in the round" in an informal setting.

Sunday, August 21

Fellowship Hall

Rev. Matt Prinz, preaching

Susannah Prinz & Keith Ogden, music

This service will focus on the Food Ministry, allowing us to worship in proximity to the work being done in the kitchen, and the community being served outside.



“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. In the coming weeks, Pastor Matt will be focusing on the Psalms, and discussing worship practices and music.

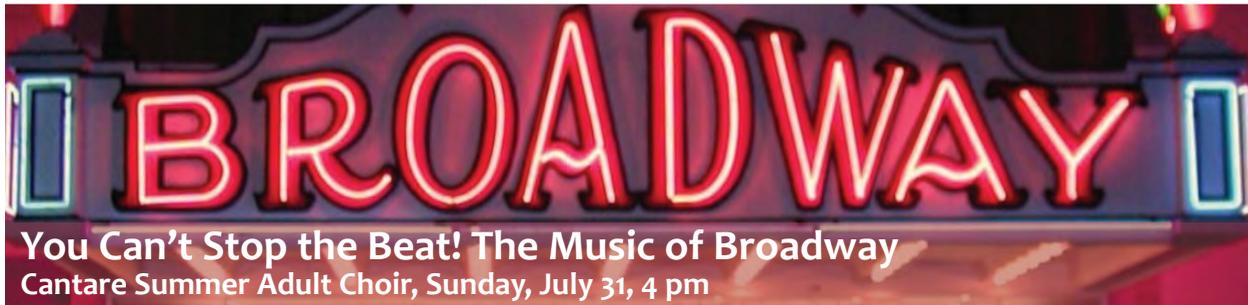
The summer bible study topic is intended to create new vision for what First Church can be by examining scripture's many accounts of Beloved Community. Mid-week bible study is a great way to get to know folks at First Church and exchange views on scripture, theology, and community. Contact Pastor Matt if you do not already receive the weekly email invitation to join on Zoom.

Wednesdays, 7pm, Zoom

Women's 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. Women's Circle is always open newcomers and one time visitors. Call Di Pagel at 925.324.5271 or email dianapagel@gmail.com for the Zoom link. **The next gathering is Tuesday, July 26 at 7 pm.**

Summer Concerts at First Church



Cantare's non-auditioned summer adult choir, for ages 14 and up, returns to open the 2022-23 season with the favorites from Broadway musicals. The concert will feature well known works from *Porgy and Bess*, *Oklahoma*, *Guys and Dolls*, *The Sound of Music*, *My Fair Lady*, *Cabaret*, *A Chorus Line*, *Miss Saigon*, *West Side Story*, *The Music Man*, *Hairspray*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Cats*,

Wicked, *Avenue Q*, *The Color Purple*, *Dear Evan Hansen* and more.

Nova, Cantare's choir for children and youth in Oakland Public Schools, recently finished their summer camp at First Church, offering 75 students new performing arts skills and an opportunity to express themselves with music.



This concert will honor the lives and victims lost to both the pandemic and racism in the past two years. This concert also honors the 50th anniversary of Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On?" (ranked number one on Rolling Stone's list of the 500 Greatest Albums of All Time).

The emotional and powerful program includes a wide range of composers and genres, including a movement from the Brahms Requiem, a stunning motet by Henry Purcell, African-American spirituals, Cynthia Erivo's "Stand Up" (from the movie "Harriet"), Alicia Keys, Sara Bareilles,

"You're All I Need to Get By" by Marvin Gaye and Tammi Terrell, and the gospel classic "Total Praise" by Richard Smallwood. This concert also features work by Greg Murai, former First Church worship consultant.

AfterGlow Chorus is an advanced, auditioned chamber choir of 45 highly-skilled, experienced singers based in Oakland. AfterGlow's mission is to perform beautiful choral works of all genres with the highest level of musicianship and emotional impact. They are First Church's newest Community Partner.



Oak Harvest Kitchen Considering New Home at First Church

Oak Harvest Kitchen provides formerly incarcerated people, and those with employment barriers, the training they need to gain skills for second chance employment through the Regenerate Opportunity Program. Oak Harvest staff provide mentorship, in addition to hands-on experience in food safety, kitchen skills, customer service, hospitality, and essential technologies used in food-service and the workplace. Trainees also receive access to working kitchens - at partner food-based businesses- to build skills and experience to add to their resumes.

Regenerate Opportunity Program graduates either stay on as part of the Oak Harvest kitchen team or gain employment through partner food businesses, ready and committed to providing dignified job opportunities.

Oak Harvest Kitchen is an Oakland-rooted company specializing in plant-based, whole meals, using produce from Mandela Partner's network of BIPOC farmers located within a 150 mile radius of Oakland. Oak Harvest Kitchen works towards health, wealth and sustainability by providing reentry job opportunities for local residents as well as quick, affordable, delicious meals without processed and unhealthy ingredients.

Food Ministry Street Report

By Lexine Alpert

After three months of volunteering in a refugee camp in Greece, I returned to the food delivery this past Monday. A few things have changed, but overall, it seems there are lots of fantastic volunteers, Teri and Bryan are leading the Monday program, and lots of great experimenting going on to figure out the best way to feed those experiencing food needs here in Oakland.

Linda and I picked up 82 meals, consisting of different combinations of pizza, chicken, veggie patties, and served with vegetables, fruit salad, dessert and an incredible looking garlic bread. We drove to many of our regular spots: the underpasses where many homeless live in tents, the downtown parks, West Oakland side streets, the recycling center, as well as finding many people just sleeping in doorways and on bus stops. Honestly, the situation here is so much worse than anything I saw during my time in Greece. The homeless here seem so much more desperate, lonely and often suffering with mental illness. It is a horrific situation.



Food Ministry Kitchen Report

by Bill Coburn (welcome back!)

Friday, July 8

Devon picked up from Good Eggs, Bryan and Bill went to Western Service Workers Association. Every week we receive donations from a neighbor, Sandy, for which we are grateful. These include food, miscellaneous items and clothing, all of which are given at the gate or reserved for use in the pantry.

Saturday July 9

Volunteers were, Bryan, Paul, Peter, Henry, Steve, Teri and Bill. Henry, Peter, and Devon picked up at Whole Foods, Bryan and Paul went to Good Eggs. Bryan received food from Omni. Mark from Presbyterian Homes picked up food.

Sunday July 10

Sunday's lunch team included Ann, Pauline, Louise, Matt, Lorraine, Laura, Erica, Kyong, Victor and Dorothy. The menu: Chicken salad sandwiches, fruit, chips, dessert pastry, Cliff bar and cherries.

Monday July 11

Volunteers were Barbara, Jan, Beth, Natalie, her husband Dan, Hunter, Paul, Ru, Bryan, Crissi, Tom, Trish, a new volunteer - Joanna, Anthony, Connie, and our very valued and respected Ellen who is leaving for Boston for a year. Menu was chicken with tandoori spice, garlic, pickle and chutney. Potatoes with Indian spices, pizza, quiche, garlic bread, chicken salad, brussels sprouts, fruit salad, green salad, and dessert. 60 meals went to the gate, around 80 to the streets. Lexine is back doing the street delivery. As usual clothing was also distributed.

Our volunteer Bonnie fell and broke her hip and arm and is recuperating at Piedmont Gardens. we will post updates, as to her recovery, in future, and wish her a speedy recovery!

Friday, July 15

Devon and Steve went to Good Eggs and Western Service Workers. Henry picked up from Arizmendi.

Saturday, July 16

Volunteers were Steve, Paul, Teri, Bryan Bill, Peter, Devon, and Henry. Omni delivered foods, and Presbyterian Homes picked up foods.

Sunday, July 17

Volunteers were Dorothy, Ann, Pauline, Louise, Martha, Laura, Lorraine, and Nina, with son Jack. Lunch made was tuna sandwiches, chips, morning pastry, desserts and fruit. Tivo did the street delivery.

Monday, July 18

Volunteers were: Barbara, Jan, Tom, Natlie and Dave, Trish, Crissi, Connie who left early as she was not feeling well, Paul, Richard, Jennie, Hunter, Ru, Diane, and Linda who stayed to help clean up rather than go to the streets. Menu was Asian chicken with rice, and vegetables, green salad, fruit salad, potatoes and dessert. Lots of clothing was distributed at the gate. Lexine did the food distribution to the streets.

A note from a volunteer:

Hi Bill,

I just wanted to say thank you for welcoming me into the food ministry community. I thoroughly enjoyed my time volunteering with the group, meeting everyone, and giving back to our community. I moved to RWC for the year, but hope to be back in Oakland in the near future.

Thank you so much. Well wishes to you and the group!

*Best,
Diana*



ReCares serves approximately 100-120 people each week by providing free mobility aids and home health care equipment. They are open every Friday, 12 - 4 pm for pick ups & drop offs in the First Church parking garage.

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
- Oak Harvest Kitchen
- 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 Association

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, Diane Hill, Martha Bauman, Lorraine Provost

Church Staff

Rev. Matt Prinz, Pastor

matt@firstchurchoakland.org

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rosemary@firstchurchoakland.org

Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper

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Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Chris Weber, Di Pagel, Judy Rowan, Julia Marquez

Photos by Chris Weber

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



Scan this code with your smart phone for access to all First Church News and past editions of *Temple Tidings*

Sing Out Your Joy
by Jean Blackmer



FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
OAKLAND
AD 1853

Sunday, July 24, 2022

What Makes You Sing?

*Making God's
welcome known*

W E L C O M E

- 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.

O R D E R o f S E R V I C E

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.

I N V I T A T I O N t o W O R S H I P

Prelude *I Know Whom I Have Believed*
Welcome By James McGranahan

Call to Worship
One: Jesus dwells among us, teaching us to believe in his name.
All: Let us offer God our thanks.
One: The Holy Spirit dwells among us, guiding us down the paths of life.
All: Let us offer God our praise.
One: God dwells among us, beckoning us to worship.
All: Let us offer God our worship.

Gathering Prayer
One: Come, Holy Spirit, our constant Companion. Remind us of all that our brother Jesus taught. Refresh us with water from your life-giving stream, and renew us with your heavenly peace. Grant us visions of your new creation, and draw us together as your family. Come, Holy Spirit, come and stay.
All: Amen

Please stand as you are able
Hymn

#821: My Life Flows On

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys & 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.

Prayer

From Black Liturgies

by Cole Arthur Riley

One: God of tension and beauty, we will not become numb to suffering. It seems there is so much at stake in the world and in ourselves, that to look away would be callous neglect. But sustain us, God. Give us the gift of the beautiful as we try to survive the tragedies of this world. Awaken us to the artists and creatives in our midst – those whose songs, and paintings, and words, and films can hold the seams of our souls together when under the harshest duress. Awaken us to the stars, the snow falling, the smell of rain, that even when we find ourselves too exhausted to create, we might be held by the beauty of your own creation. Remind us that violence and oppression cannot conquer beauty itself. That our love, our lament, our rage, are each in their own way messengers of beauty in an aching world. Amen.

All: *inhale: I resist the tyranny of despair.*

exhale: My soul awakens to beauty.

THE WORD

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

#625 : How Great Thou Art

Scripture Lesson

Acts 16 : 19 - 34

One: But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men, these Jews, are disturbing our city and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us, being Romans, to adopt or observe.” The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors

were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

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

All: Thanks be to God

Sermon

What Makes You Sing?

R E S P O N S E t o t h e W O R D

Sermon Continued

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

Please stand as you are able

Hymn *#32 : I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

Invitation to the Offering

From Psalm 67

One: Our lives have been blessed by flowing waters and harvests of fruit. Let us share our harvests with you and your world.

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.

Sing A Song

By Joe Raposo



Prayer of Dedication

One: Creator and almighty God, from city to city, you continue to bless our lives. Wherever we find ourselves, the bounty of your peace meets us there. We bring these gifts to you in order to share our bounty, as you have shared yours with us. May those who need these gifts find your presence, even as they receive what they need. May their paths of faith be lit with your light, as ours have been. In your holy name, we pray.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

Give Me That Old Time Religion

All:

Refrain:

**Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
It's good enough for me.**

**It was good for the Hebrew children,
It was good for the Hebrew children,
It was good for the Hebrew children,
It's good enough for me. *(Refrain)***

**It was good for Paul and Silas,
It was good for Paul and Silas,
It was good for Paul and Silas,
It's good enough for me. *(Refrain)***

**Makes me love ev'rybody,
Makes me love ev'rybody,
Makes me love ev'rybody,
It's good enough for me. *(Refrain)***

Benediction

Postlude

*In My Heart There Rings a Melody,
I Will Sing of My Redeemer &
Blessed Assurance*

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Gay Plair Cobb

Guest Musician: David Morales

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Goldy Play: Di Pagel

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Audio Setup: Bex Fortin & Diane Hill

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Monrovia & Ruby Prinz