



Godly Play Training January 21  
Leadership Election set for January 29  
Photos Submissions Requested for  
Congregation Art Project  
Habitat For Humanity to Relinquish Third  
Floor of Parish House in 2024  
Get to Know: Marjorie Witt

Weekly Newsletter

January 15, 2023

# Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland  
Making God's Welcome Known

## Get To Know: Marjorie Witt



My sister and I, as preacher's kids, strayed away from church once we gained our independence. We became what dad referred to as "two timers." That is, we went to church on Easter and Christmas. Soon it became only a Christmas Eve tradition. Each year we would pick one or two churches to attend.

One of those years, probably in the mid 1980's, we visited First Presbyterian. The church was packed. We both felt it was the best Christmas Eve service we had experienced.

Fast forward to the birth of our grandson, JJ. When Eric and I became guardians, I began the search for places where JJ (who is mixed race) would be welcomed and feel that he belonged. That's when I remembered the diversity of the church I had visited over two decades earlier. I came to the church for diversity and a place to nurture my grandson but it wasn't long before the church became the place to nurture myself.

I loved when JJ was an enthusiastic acolyte and insisted on wearing the traditional white robe. Like many teenagers, he reached a point where he lost interest in going to church. That's okay. I am confident he has been given a firm foundation and understanding that he is free to return anytime. It's his choice.

I don't have JJ as my reason to attend First Church anymore. Instead I attend because I love being in the sanctuary with people I've come to know. Of course, the organ is a draw as well which keeps Eric coming along with me. I enjoy a traditional service with three hymns, perhaps triggered by the memory of the wooden hymn board that hung on the wall where my father first preached back in the 50s.

I've seen a lot of new faces lately, especially those of a younger generation. We have several young people off to college and it has been a joy to see them participate and grow up in the church. I hope they will return and the day comes when all the pews are filled like the first time I visited so many years ago.

I am currently serving as a deacon. It's a role that I turned down previously because I didn't feel capable. It was out of my comfort zone as I'm more of a behind the scenes kind of person. It's still a learning process for me but I have a much better understanding of how the church works. I would encourage everyone to find a place to serve.

You may have seen the photo of my labyrinth during coffee hour in the reception room. It is my key connection between spirituality and religion. Ask me if you are curious.

**Get to Know is a new *Temple Tidings* feature focusing on church members and Community Partners. To be included in an upcoming edition, email [micheline@firstchurchoakland.org](mailto:micheline@firstchurchoakland.org) for instructions.**

# Parish House “Social Hall” to be Vacated by Habitat in 2024

By Chris Weber, Elder for Buildings & Grounds

Organizations around the country are reducing their office footprints. With the advent of “work from home” technology, the need for vast office spaces has diminished. Prior to the pandemic, Habitat for Humanity had a daily workforce of 40-50 people in their tenant spaces at First Church, on the second and third floors of the Parish House (the three-story building adjacent to the Sanctuary). Those numbers never rebounded with the waning of the pandemic, and most days see only a skeleton crew of Habitat employees working in their 8,500 square feet of office space. Habitat has provided First Church notice of their intent to vacate the third floor by February 2024, giving First Church an opportunity to find a new use for the space.

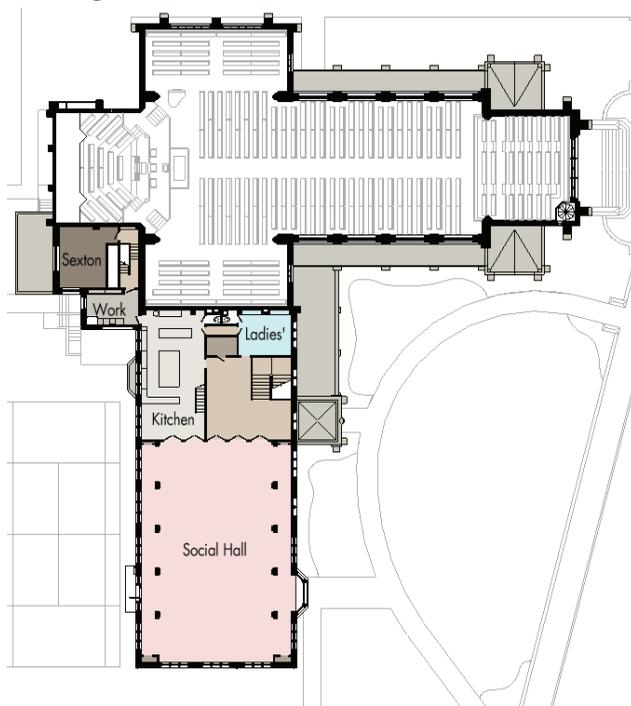
The Third Floor of the Parish House has been through a few iterations since opening in 1914. Originally designed as First Church’s “Social Hall,” the floor included a kitchen and “ladies’ room” (for mothers with babies). The space has a soaring barrel-vaulted ceiling and beautiful views on three sides. But the beauty of the space did not outweigh its limitations, namely the lack of restrooms and adequate fire-egress for large crowds. By 1960, First Church had opened the Fellowship Hall, and the Third Floor was turned over to children and youth, with some clumsy repartitioning of the floor plan. In the late 1990s the Pacific Boy Choir rented the Third Floor, but soon relocated to a small campus near Piedmont Avenue. Habitat for Humanity began renting the Second Floor around this time, and gradually expanded to encompass both floors.

At the conclusion of 2022, First Church appears to have received \$474K in rental income from leases and hourly-use of the campus. This represents a monumental 53% increase in income over 2019 (the last full year unaffected by the

pandemic). This increase in income was a result of applying our mission, “making God’s welcome known” to our facility and inviting new groups in as Community Partners.

In 2022 Habitat’s rent made up 37% of our total rental income (approximately \$174K). We expect 2023 income to be consistent with 2022. But a vacant third floor (approximately 4,200 square feet) in 2024 will reduce our rental income that year to \$387K. This vacancy gives us another opportunity to apply our mission to our management of the campus.

In 2023, the Buildings & Grounds Committee will be considering new uses for the third floor that meet the needs of Oakland today. At this very early stage, we welcome your input. Do you know of a use or organization that can be at home here? How do you envision the third floor being used in 2024?



# Food Ministry Kitchen Report

By Bill Coburn

## Friday, January 6

Steve did the Friday pick up to Good Eggs and Western Service workers.

## Saturday, January 7

Dorothy and Paul to Good Eggs, Henry, Devon, and Rajiv went to Whole Foods. Bryan, Teri, kitchen. and Bill were in the kitchen. Food Not Bombs delivered. Berkeley Presbyterian Homes picked up extra food. Delivered extra food to ECAP. Food was organized and some freezer space was created. Boiled eggs were prepared for Sunday and Monday meals. Sandy donated food and useful items.

## Sunday, January 8

Sunday, ham or salami and cheese and lettuce sandwiches were made, with chips, fruit, hard boiled eggs, dessert, and morning pastries were bagged for distribution. Carmelo's team delivered to the streets. Volunteers were Ann, Martha, Louise, pastor Matt, Erica, Kyong, Aaron, Dorothy Pauline, and Bonnie. Gay, Lorraine, and Victor gave out lunches at the 27th Street gate. Resurrection Church donated donuts for give away on Sunday and Monday.

## Monday, January 9

Monday volunteers were: Teri, Barbara T, Shirley, Joanne, Diane, Hunter, Paul, Natalie, Dan, Dave, Tom, Anthony, Trish, Bonnie and Victor. Menu: baked chicken, 3 sauces, beef curry stew, piled pork, stuffing, all, set on bread to absorb the juices. Croissants, carrots, green salad, (fruit salad omitted to make room for other items) boiled eggs, dessert and water given to the streets. Clothing not given out (raining). 85 meals went with Lexine and team and 35 to the gate. Extra food was given at the gate.

# Street Report

By Lexine Alpert

Happy New Year!! Lots of rain...sadly a disaster to those we are feeding/helping out in the cold wet streets, but desperately needed in general environmentally. Today we had so much food to give out, Linda and I wondered how we would ever do it. We had about 90 meals consisting of chili or mac n cheese, with salads, bread, desserts, probably 25 bags of pre-made lunches, at least 20 donated chicken wraps and salads. It was truly amazing we were able to fit all the food and clothing in Linda's car.

We started out driving under the freeway underpasses where we knew we would find lots of people trying to shelter from the rain. We then headed onto the streets, and sadly, came across many individuals laying on benches and on the street with soaking clothes and blankets. Very disturbing. We even tried to encourage some individuals to move into some nearby sheltered areas in building doorways, but often couldn't get people to budge.

We found Trevor on the streets, the nicest man who I have fed many times over the last several years. He knows me and is happy to see me coming. He took two meals and a lunch as he had not eaten anything for two days. I tried to find him shoes from our car (see his mismatched shoes?); he is a size 13 and we had none that large.



## Election of Elders, Deacons, & Corporation Officers on Jan 29

A Congregational Meeting for the election of church leaders will be held on January 29 at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

The congregation will be asked to approve the nomination of three Elders, two Deacons, & two “at-large” members of the Nominating Committee. The slate of Nominees is selected each year by the church’s Nominating Committee, which consists of two Elders, two Deacons and three “at-large” members of the congregation.

A meeting will also be held of the First Church Corporation for election of Trustee Officers. In the State of California, 501c3 corporations are required to have a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. At First Church, these positions have no independent authority or responsibilities, apart from occasional signing of papers at the direction of the Session.

The congregation will also be asked to renew the Terms of Call (i.e. compensation) for Pastor Matt Prinz. All members are requested to be present for the election

## “I Wonder...” Godly Play Workshop to Inspire Storytellers

On Saturday, January 21, First Church Oakland is hosting a day long regional Godly Play training for those working with this program in churches of all denominations in the Bay area. This first workshop (Sacred Stories and Spaces) focuses on how to share the sacred stories of our Christian tradition with children and on what spaces enable us to come close to the mystery of God’s presence. Anyone interested in attending or with questions, can contact either Pastor Matt, or Di Pagel at dianapagel@gmail.com.

## “When Did You Feel Close to God?” Submissions Sought for Congregational Photo Gallery



In the Spring of 2021, we asked members to take photos of what gave them hope in the midst of the ongoing pandemic. We displayed these photographs in our reception room to inspire our church community in difficult times.

One spiritual practice we use to open up our weekly Bible study is to share a time you felt alive during the day. This practice is taken from one form of the prayer of examen where one reflects upon their day and asks when did I join God today and when did I fail to join God today?

We believe when we join God’s work in the world we feel alive. When did you feel most alive this week? This month? When did you join God’s justice, beauty, and hope in the world?

Take a picture or two or three and send them to Aaron Ruff (aaronruff@gmail.com) or Pastor Matt (matt@firstchurchoakland.org) and we will display them in the Reception Room.



Lexine and Linda with a car full of food to distribute on a very rainy day.

**First Church is proud to support its  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

- Afterglow Chorus
- Cantare Choirs
- Catalyst Youth Network
- College Awareness
- Community Women's Orchestra
- Downtown Streets Team
- 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
- 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**

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510.290.9677

**Rose Mary Richmond**, Treasurer

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**Joan Clerk**, Bookkeeper

[joan@firstchurchoakland.org](mailto:joan@firstchurchoakland.org)

**Temple Tidings Contributors This Week**

Writing by Bill Coburn, Lexine Alpert, Micheline La Mont. Photos by Suzie Inadomi, Lexine Alpert, Marjorie Witt

*Temple Tidings* is a weekly publication. All are welcome to contribute news, events and opinion. Email Micheline La Mont at [micheline@firstchurchoakland.org](mailto:micheline@firstchurchoakland.org) to submit content.



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FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
OAKLAND  
AD 1853

Sunday, January 15, 2023

# Strength Comes Through Prayer.

*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

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*  
W.W. Walford

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We have been through trials and tribulations.

**All: Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty, we are Free at last!**

One: We have come through storms of political injustice.

**All: Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty, we are Free at last!**

One: Some said we wouldn't make it!

**All: Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty, we are free at last.**

One: Come now, let us worship the Lord our God as a free people!

## Gathering Prayer

One: Lord, we thank you for the ministry and life of Martin Luther King Jr. We thank you for the instruction given to Martin by his parents to not accept racial injustice as a way of life. We thank you for the sacrifices that his wife Coretta offered as she saw her husband jailed, attacked, and suffered tremendous pressure and stress. We thank you for the strength of his children who grew up having their Daddy with the world. Thank you for those names we know and don't know who prayed with, marched with, pushed for change with, and died with Martin. Thank you for we have been transformed by his life, liberated by his death, and renewed by the conviction that we will get to the promise land one day.

**All: Amen.**

*Please stand as you are able*  
Hymn

*#65: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

## **C O N F E S S I O N o f S I N & A S S U R A N C E o f G R A C E**

### Confession

One: God of love, we gather today as your children admitting that we have not been faithful to the call to love our enemies. Nor have we always prayed for those who have persecuted us. We have become comfortable with the materials and status that we have acquired that we have often neglected the needs of others around us. We have not always supported our children and youth, nor have we worked for justice and peace in the world. Forgive us for the times we have not responded. Forgive us for the moments we chose to remain silent when we should have spoken up. Give us the courage that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. exhibited in his life and even in his death. Enable us to be agents of your peace and love.

**All: Amen.**

### 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

### Response

*#582: Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me  
And to the son, whose grace has pardoned me  
And to the spirit, whose love has set me free  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, Amen**  
*Repeat*

## Passing of 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 can go to Godly Play with Leaders.*

## P R A Y E R S of t h e P E O P L E

### 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

**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**

## T H E W O R D

Hymn #834: *Precious Lord, Take My Hand*

### Scripture Lesson

*Mark 1: 22-39*

One: They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be quiet and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. They were all amazed, and they kept asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, “Everyone is searching for you.” He answered, “Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do.” And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*Strength Comes Through Prayer*

## **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.*

Hymn

*Standing in the Need of Prayer*

- 1) It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standing in the need of Prayer (repeat)
  
- 2) Not my brother nor my sister, but it's me O Lord.  
Standing in the need of Prayer (repeat)
  
- 3) Not the preacher nor the deacon, but it's me O Lord.  
Standing in the need of Prayer (repeat)

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.**

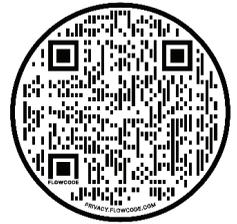
Words of Institution

Communion Music

*Take it to the Lord in Prayer*  
arr. Patrick Lundy

## 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:*



## Prayer of Dedication

**One:** Lamb of God, bless these gifts with your mercy and your grace. Shine through these gifts with your light and love, that our ministries and our church may be a beacon of light and love, revealing your presence to our world.

**All: Amen.**

## SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

### Invitation to Community Life

*Please stand as you are able*

### Hymn

*We Shall Overcome*

- 1) We shall overcome, we shall overcome,  
We shall overcome someday,  
O, deep in my heart I do believe  
We shall overcome someday.
- 2) We are not afraid...
- 3) We'll walk hand in hand...
- 4) We shall live in peace...

### Benediction

**One:** And now unto Him who is able to keep us from falling. And now unto him who is able to lift us from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope. And now unto Him who is able to solve the racial injustice if we will cooperate with Him. And now unto Him who is able to transform this cosmic energy into constructive force. Now unto Him who is able to transform this midnight of injustice into a glowing daybreak of freedom and justice. To Him be power and authority, majesty and dominion, now henceforth, and forever more.

### Postlude

## SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

**Pastor:** Rev. Matt Prinz

**Liturgist:** Dorothy Dugger

**Guest Musician:** David Morales

**Song Leader:** Anne Margaret Manay

**Head Usher:** Matthew Inadomi

**Communion Set-Up:** Diane Hill and Margie Witt

**Godly Play:** Di Pagel and Ruby Prinz