

Weekly Newsletter

September 3, 2023

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



W E L C O M E

Visitors:

- If you would like to be added to our email list, please go to firstchurchoakland.org and fill at the form at the bottom of the home page.
- Need help hearing? Ushers can provide **hearing devices** to assist you.
- Please feel free to take the Sanctuary flowers home to enjoy after the service.

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 o f 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

He is King of Kings
African-American Spiritual

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come and worship.

All: God is here.

One: Listen for God's word.

All: It is alive and active.

One: Draw near to the source of mercy.

All: The God of grace is with us.

Gathering Prayer

One: Holy God, as we gather in your glorious presence, come and make us holy. Guide us this day, that we may receive your teachings and walk in your truth, even as we welcome others on the journey with us. Strengthen our holy communion, that we may create a community of belonging, where all are included, and where your grace binds us together in unity and love.

All: Amen.

Hymn

#352: My LORD, What a Morning

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSIO N of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Living God, your way can be hard. How can we give up everything to follow you? We feel so frustrated when reach out to you and feel only silence. We cling to what we own, fearing the future. Free us from our desire to accumulate more and more. Transform us into generous spirits, sharing your gifts with the world. Work within us, that we may know your real presence, even when we feel so little. We cannot do this alone. We need your help.

All: Amen

Please stand as you are able

Sung Assurance

#59: The Steadfast Love of the LORD

**The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, new every morning;
great is your faithfulness, O LORD, great is your faithfulness.
(sing twice)**

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.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

"In a real sense all life is inter-related. All people are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be, and you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be...This is the inter-related structure of reality."

— Martin Luther King Jr., Letter from Birmingham Jail

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud. Children stay in Sanctuary for Family Sunday.

Prayer

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.

Prayer for Godly Play Storytellers and Helpers

Hymn

#69: I, the LORD of the Sea and Sky

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Mark 10. 13 – 15 (NRSV)

One: People were bringing children to him in order that he might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Spiritual Practice of Play

RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

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

Hymn

#188: Jesus Loves Me!

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

Come to the Table of Grace

Sharing of the Holy Meal & Offering

Please come forward when invited by ushers. Communion is alcohol and gluten free. Donations can be placed in the offering plate. Donations may also be made using this QR Code:



Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please stand as you are able

Hymn

#80: You Shall Go Out with Joy

Benediction

One: Go and follow Jesus on the pathway of love.

Share the good news of mercy and grace.

Dare to let go.

Find the courage and see what adventures God has in store for us.

May the blessing of the Holy One give you courage, for with God, nothing is impossible.

Postlude

Guide my Feet

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Carter Provost

Guest Musician: joe Warner

Song Leader: Linda Carter

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

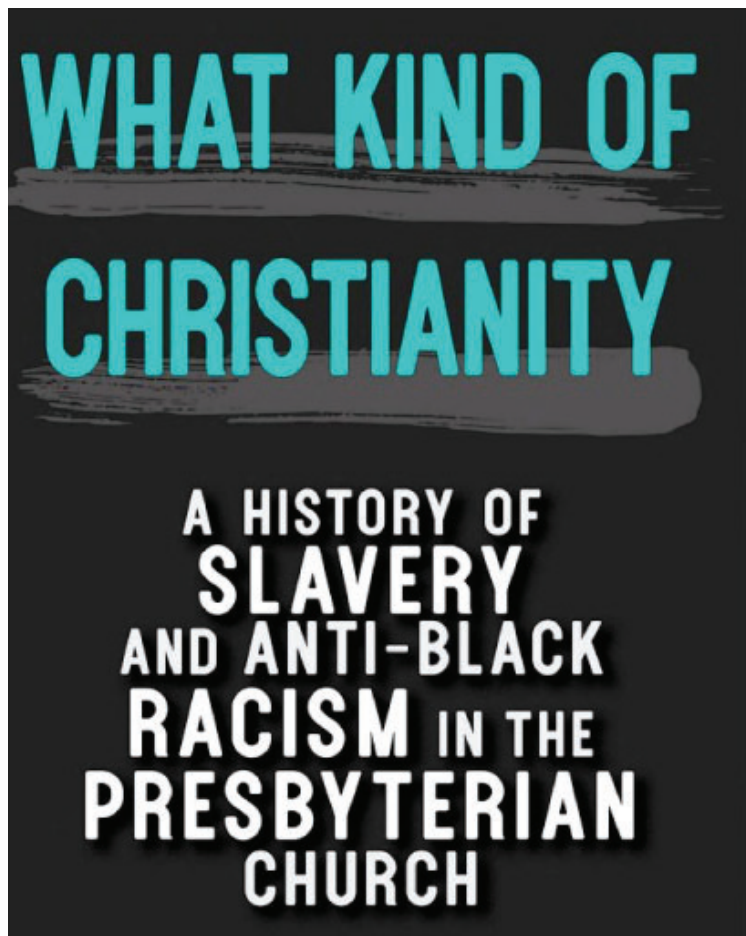
Communion Set Up: Diane Hil and Louise Hill

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Emily and Donovan Chandler

Be Sure to Join us for Presbytery Day – Saturday, Sept. 23 – 10-2 pm

by Pastor Matt

In line with our Building the Beloved Community work, you are invited to join First Church members to hear Dr. William Yoo speak about his important new book, “What Kind of Christianity.”



Rev. Kamal Hassan, pastor of Sojourner Truth, is leading a Presbytery wide book club through Dr. Yoo’s important book about Racism in the History of the Presbyterian denomination. The book study and William Yoo’s upcoming presentation are part of larger anti-racism work within the Presbytery of San Francisco (60 Presbyterian churches in the Bay Area including First Church). Dr. William Yoo is a Professor of American Religious and Cultural History at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia.

Please contact me to carpool. The event takes place at First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, 2407 Dana Street.

Join First Church Members for the Friday, Sept 22, CeaseFire Walk



The Ceasefire nightwalks are a part of a larger evidence based strategy to reduce gun violence in the City of Oakland. The nightwalks intentionally take place in neighborhoods severely impacted by gun violence. The purpose of the nightwalks are to reach out to neighbors affected by gun violence and show our community we care and want the violence to end.

Talk with Pastor Matt or Suzie Inadomi if you would like to join us, Friday, Sept. 22, 6-8 p.m., St. Anthony Church, 1535 16th Ave, Oakland.

Growing in Generosity Together with Special Offerings for Schools

by Pastor Matt

Before we gather our tithes and offerings during our worship services I often say “We practice generosity in many ways each week – with our time, our skills and with our resources – we take an offering as one way to practice generosity together and support the ministries of our church.” Our tithes and offerings fuel our church ministries, and we hope help us exercise our muscles of generosity.

In a world full of needs what gives you the energy or the inspiration to increase your generosity? A great need? A terrible event? A close relationship with someone in need? A heart felt plea for help?

We step out in generosity when we see other people being generous. If my friends or neighbors or fellow church members can sacrifice and give to help this situation then I can as well. Beyond our weekly giving, we want to encourage each other, as a church community, to step into greater generosity through taking a special offering for Oakland schools. Until Sept 17, we will be taking a special offering to support local Oakland schools. We know there is huge inequity between schools within the Oakland Unified School District.

Some schools through the generous giving of their parents can raise \$100,000s for their PTAs to support electives, teachers’ aides, and school supplies, while other schools in economically depleted areas have very little in PTA funds.

Children from First Church attend several Oakland schools (Redwood Heights Elementary, Skyline H.S., Oakland Tech H.S., Brett Harte M.S., Montera M.S., Allendale Elementary) and we send our collective gift to the ones with the fewest PTA funds. (Please write ‘Oakland schools gift’ on your check or let the ushers know).



Sunday Worship Service as a Template for Daily Spiritual Practice

By Pastor Matt

Recently, I received this picture by a doctor in our church community, who was with a family experiencing loss and grief. The doctor found packets of salt and a glass of water and shared our prayer practice of sprinkling salt in the water, as an act of lament and grief, a physical way to show the hurt inside us. We use salt and water remembering our salty tears. (We often put out the salt/water and candles as forms of prayer during family Sundays at First Church.)

Our Sunday Worship services are designed to model spiritual practices we can use throughout each week. We hope you experience moments of wonder and delight each week that cause you to thank and praise God. We know we are part of a fractured world and take missteps along the way, we need to confess and receive God's loving forgiveness. Each week we have needs and see the hurt of others and turn to God in prayer. We hope in our Sunday services, as we collectively sing, pray, give testimony, and reflect on scriptures that we are empowered to continue these spiritual practices throughout the week.



A Poem to Encourage Coffee Hour Conversations

So, What do you do for work?

By Jess Janz

It's boring, what you do for money:
we all need to put food in our mouths.

I could listen for hours about the moments when you felt most alive,
and what burns a hole in your belly, the people your eyes turn gold for,
all of the cliffs you've jumped from,
and about your favorite dinners.

Tell me a story about a time when to you it was confirmed
that the world is made of magic.

Pamela Price and Chesa Boudin Present their Perspective to the Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

By Henry Gardner



The Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club sponsored a community forum on Progressive Prosecutors: “The Future of Criminal Justice Reform” on August 24 to a standing room only audience at First Presbyterian Church Reception Room. The forum featured Alameda County District Attorney Pamela Price, former San Francisco District Attorney Chesa Boudin, and Christie Soto, Executive Director of the Prosecutors Alliance.

The discussion focused on the statutory role of the district attorney and the authority and limits of the role. The issues that have been the most concerning to the general public are the rising incidents of crime, including home burglaries, car thefts, car jackings, and armed robberies. The district attorneys stressed that these cases begin with an arrest, and without an arrest there is no role for the district attorney. Arresting suspects is the role of the police. The quality of the information provided by the police is critical in charging and successfully prosecuting a suspect. They stressed that in order to successfully prosecute a charged person requires a unanimous verdict by a jury. Ms. Price also pointed out that the rise in crime

was happening before she took office. She said she has met with the police chiefs in the County and will continue to do so to better coordinate their respective roles and to be mutually supportive.

Ms. Price noted that she has only been in the office for 7 months and most of the cases she has reviewed for prosecution are cases that were either pending when she took office or had been put on the shelf. She said the office is understaffed but she has been able to reorganize the office and hire a few additional staff, including more victim advocates. She said she intends to continue to make sure charges are appropriate to the offense. She noted that she has already charged over 58 murder cases. She defended her rather brief tenure and said she remains committed to pursuing equal justice under the law without regard to wealth or status. She referenced a potential recall effort and said if the petition qualifies, she will vigorously oppose it.

The audience asked thoughtful questions, the answers were to the point and direct, and the audience was courteous and polite. Good information was shared by all.

Food Ministry Kitchen Report

By Bill Coburn

Friday, August 25

Pick up from Good Eggs and Western Service Workers done by Bill and Cornelia. FNB and Food of God delivered items and we received a pallet of water. Thanks Temple Sinai for financial support and to Victor who transferred the water into the storage area.

Saturday, August 26

Pick ups were Bryan from Good Eggs and St Vincent de Paul's, Rajiv and Devon and Henry from Whole Foods, and Henry from Arizmendi. Bill, Steve, and Teri were in the kitchen. Eggs were boiled and sausages grilled. Berkeley Presbyterian Homes picked up food. Food Not Bombs delivered. Extra food donated to ECAP.

Sunday, August 27

Sunday lunches were prepared: 125 sausage, cheese, tomato, lettuce and mayo/mustard mix were made, along with chips, boiled eggs, bananas or oranges, and pastries packed and distributed by the Berkeley Presbyterian Homes team of Carmelo, Jaz and Uzoma. Volunteers: Bill (lead), Ann, Eric, Stewart, Kyong, Betsy, Pauline, Derrick, and Bonnie and Victor. Vegetables for Monday meal prepped. Pauline cleaned up the potato bin.

Monday, August 28

Volunteers: Teri (lead) Barbara T, Paul, Ellen, Trish, Jan, Dan M, Beth, Serena, Maurine, Dan C, Crissi, Dan C, Hunter, Joanne, Shirley, Natalie, Bonnie, Pam and Tom. Menu: Pasta with tofu and mixed vegetables, burgers and veggie burgers. Other items served: mixed vegetables, green salad, fruit salad and dessert. We sent out a lot of bottled water and lemonade in the car delivery. Barbra T donated bags of dog biscuits. 65 lunches went to the gate and 88 to the cars for distribution.

Street Report

By Lexine Alpert

I have been back in Oakland distributing food made by First Presbyterian Church and Temple Sinai for the last 7 weeks. Honestly, as I wrote before, it was shocking to be back here in Oakland and witness the hunger, homelessness and despair apparent on our streets. I had just come from helping in refugee camps and, despite their horrific situations and loss of home and country, did not witness the same kind of despair. As many of you know, and for those that watched my slideshow on my refugee work, I will be returning to the camps as of next week, August 29th, 2023. I will be there for another 2.5 months.

This last Monday, Claire and I picked up over 85 meals, including lots of packaged salads, desserts, and many items of clothing to give out on the streets. We returned to some of the people in Chinatown and the San Antonio area of Oakland that houses many desperate people living in abandoned cars and in the park. We also returned to Oakland's Main Public Library downtown where many homeless spend their days as it provides a warm and comfortable place to sit and read or use Wifi.

Again, I want to thank you all for all the work that you do every week for our community. You are some of the few institutions that actually talk the talk and walk the walk. I wish there were more...



Celebrate September Birthdays!



Be sure to wish the following people a very happy birthday this month:

- September 6: Marian Kerr
- September 13: Myles Ogden
- September 20: Elizabeth Goodwin
- September 22: Charmaine Irmiter
- September 22: Chad Provost
- September 25: Hazel Seiden-Miller
- September 26: Ann Tisher
- September 27: Chima Ngumezi
- September 28: Erick Bevington

Please let me know if we missed your birthday:
micheline@firstchurchoakland.org.

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
- Mandela Partners
- 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
- Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club

Elders

Henry Gardner, Suzie Inadomi, Elizabeth Cureton, Chris Weber, Di Pagel, Gay Plair Cobb, Erick Bevington, Elizabeth Goodwin

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, Derrick Polk, Su Coburn, Pauline Ahanotu, Monrovia Prinz

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Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

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