

Weekly Newsletter

September 17, 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](http://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 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

Welcome

Call to Worship

**One:** This is the day the Lord has made.

**All:** **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Gathering Prayer

**One:** We sing to you, God, for you have been our strength. You open the waters of suffering and lead us safely through. You uphold us in times of deep distress and we exalt you holy name. Receive our honor and thanks, mighty God.

**All:** **Amen.**

Hymn  
*Please stand as you are able*

Oh, the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus, vast, unmeasured, boundless, free,  
Rolling as a mighty ocean in its fullness over me!  
Underneath me, all around me, is the current of his love,  
Leading onward, leading homeward to that glorious rest above.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus, spread his praise from shore to shore!  
He who loves us ever loves us, changes never, nevermore;  
He, who died to save his loved ones, intercedes for them above;  
He who called them his own people, watches over them in love.**

**O the deep, deep love of Jesus, love of every love the best,  
Vast the ocean of his blessing, sweet the haven of his rest!  
O the deep, deep love of Jesus-for my heaven of heavens is he;  
This my everlasting glory – Jesus' mighty love for me.**

## **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:** Creator God, Giver of all that is good, forgive us when we are too busy to acknowledge your goodness. Savior God, our help in times of trouble and at all times, forgive us for holding on to our illusion of control, planning and ordering every moment of our lives, instead of trusting you. May your Spirit guide us into the way of Life.

**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

### Sharing of Joys & Concerns

*You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud. Children may go with leaders to Godly Play.*

### Prayer

*'Rhythm and Balance: A Litany for Anchoring and Energizing Justice work with Sabbath, Contemplation, and Community'*

by Onleilove Chika Alston

**One:** We welcome Sabbath and call all who are weary to come to the slain but risen King, and receive rest. We know that sabbath rest was even something needed by you, our Creator, when we read that you rested on the seventh day of creation. If you, Creator of heaven and earth, need sabbath, how much more your creation?

**All: We hear, and we will rest by resisting the culture of exploitation.**

**One:** Calling all who are anxious, exhausted, and overwhelmed. Come enter the beautiful rest of our Abba. Enter the Creator's jubilee rest. Enter into God's love and shalom.

**All: We will enter in and welcome shalom in our hearts, homes, and communities.**

Yahweh, help us to know that our value comes not from our activity but from our identity, which is rooted in you. Help us not to overwork to fill a void in our identity but to root our identity in you.

**All: Yahweh, we need your help. Renew our minds so that we value relationships more than we value profit.**

**One:** Yahweh, we need your spirit to dwell in us to give us the wisdom of pause. Help us to see the divinity of rest. Help us to see the divinity in community. Help us to see the divinity in our neighbors and ourselves.

**All: With the help of Yahweh and God's Spirit, we will pause to take care of our bodies, hearts, and minds.**

**One:** Yahweh, bless those who cannot take sabbath because they are enslaved, or exploited. Bless all who are entering into sabbath rest today. Help us to remember that sabbath is a privilege to which we all do not have access, but that a day is coming when your kingdom will reign on earth and all will be able to enter your rest.

**All: Yahweh, we pray your kingdom comes soon so that shalom and justice can reign on earth.**

**One:** May Yahweh make our rest sweet and our shalom complete.

**All: Amen.**

Hymn

#701: Lord Prepare Me - Sanctuary

## THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Isaiah 58: 13 - 14 (NRSV)

One: If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath  
and from doing as you please on my holy day,  
if you call the Sabbath a delight  
and the LORD's holy day honorable,  
and if you honor it by not going your own way  
and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,  
then you will find your joy in the LORD.

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 Sabbath*

## RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

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

Hymn

#370: This is my Father's World

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

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

*#611 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

Benediction

Go and delight in the gift of sabbath rest.  
Go with God's love surrounding you.  
Go with the liberating ways of Jesus.  
Go with the comfort of the Spirit.

Postlude

## SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

**Pastor:** Rev. Joel Mackey

**Preacher:** Julia Marquez

**Liturgist:** Di Pagel

**Guest Musician:** Erin Downey

**Song Leader:** Susannah Prinz

**Head Usher:** Matthew Inadomi

**Godly Play:** Dorrie Dodge and Monrovia Prinz

**Fellowship Time Refreshments:** Tacos Catering by Victor Carrillo

*Today, Pastor Matt is in Ventura, Ca participating in the installation service of Jeff Mattesich as pastor of Community Presbyterian Church. Community Presbyterian Church was the church Pastor Matt grew up attending.*



## Feliz Cumpleaños to Victor: Tacos on the Menu for Fellowship Time



In celebration of his birthday, Victor Carrillo, our beloved custodian, is hosting tacos in the courtyard today after worship service.

Come and enjoy some delicious eats and please be sure to wish him a “Feliz Cumpleaños.”

## The Spirituality of Ted Lasso



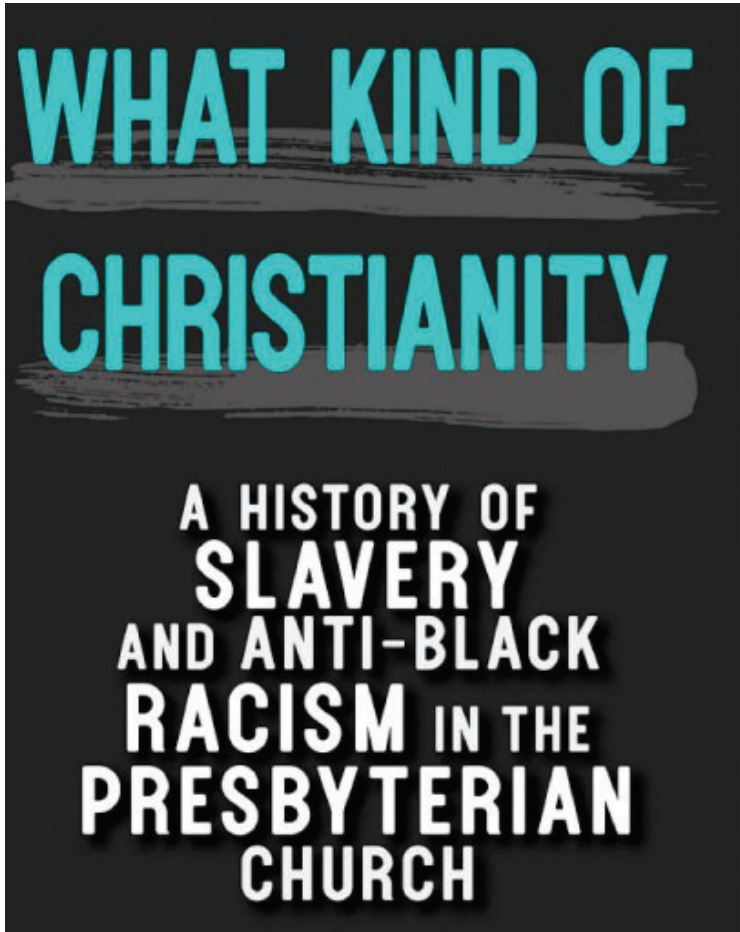
Coming soon, the Ted Lasso group. What is the Ted Lasso group you ask? The Ted Lasso group will consist of approximately ten people who are interested in participating in a three week exploration of our spiritual journey through the lens of the Ted Lasso show. The group will begin on October 1 and go for three consecutive Sundays, from 12 - 1 pm. We will view clips from the Ted Lasso

show and reflect on various themes that have spiritual resonance for us. Everyone is welcome to participate in the group whether you’ve watched Ted Lasso or have never heard of the television show. All are welcome! Interested? Contact Joel Mackey, [joelmackey@comcast.net](mailto:joelmackey@comcast.net) and sign up for the group. Space is limited, so sign up soon to be part of the group.

## 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.” His talk will happen between 10:45 and 11:30 a.m.



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.

## First Fridays at First Church – ‘Sound Bath’ – Oct 6 – 6-7:30pm

Thousands of Oaklanders come to the neighborhood surrounding the church building every First Friday of the month to see art openings and walk through a street fair with food and vendors on Telegraph Ave. It is a joyous event of beauty and community.

How might we as a church community join the goodness of First Fridays? In the past we have open our sanctuary to different music groups to perform and our fellowship hall for art openings. We are collaborating with James Parish Smith,

Music minister at First Pres. Berkeley, on Oct. 6th to create a spiritual sound experience within our sanctuary. We are hoping that neighbors can come to experience the awe and grace of the space and let the music wash over them.

Please plan on joining us. We need members to help design posters and postcards, members to be hosts Oct. 6th, and members to dream of other ways to participate in First Fridays. Let Pastor Matt know if you would like to help with this experiment in ministry.



# First Church Continues Learning About Affordable Homes

By Chris Weber, Elder for Buildings & Grounds

I met last week with representatives from Christian Church Homes (CCH). Like Resources for Community Development (whom we met with last month), CCH develops and manages affordable housing, usually in partnership with congregations.

Their clientele are low-income seniors. Among their housing portfolio are two mid-rise towers, just two blocks from the church campus, on 28th Street. CCH funds their projects in partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

We have begun coordinating a field trip to CCH's Fargo Senior Center Apartments, located on the campus of New Life Church in San Leandro. The purpose of the field trip will be to get to know CCH as a possible development partner (among others), to learn about the nuances of affordable senior housing, and to learn about the partnership between New Life Church, CCH, and the federal government. We hope to have this field trip scheduled very soon.

I also met this week with Rev. Sophia deWitt, Interim Co-Director for East Bay Housing Organization (EBHO). EBHO's mission is primarily focused on advocacy for public policy in the area of affordable homes. EBHO's membership includes every housing developer, designer, and builder in the affordable housing field, making it a wealth of networking resources.

She described for me a project by First Congregational Church of Berkeley to develop a project very similar to our concept. Following the fire on that campus in 2018, First Church Berkeley has done its own reimagining of how their campus is used. Their latest idea includes adding 70 homes on their Berkeley campus. We have much in common. I have reached out to that congregation for a preliminary discussion, with the hope of an additional presentation to First Church, with an opportunity for discussion and questions from us.

I would be delighted for feedback or additional ideas for field trips, presentations or other events which may be of use to us as we consider what we may do with our property and resources.



Fargo Senior Homes features 75 low-income units for seniors 62 and older.

# Berkeley Arts and Letters Holding Author Events at First Church

First Church is thrilled to host a new series of author events beginning this month. Berkeley Arts and Letters presents informal evenings with writers and thinkers discussing their recent works.

Here are the upcoming presentations:



NAOMI KLEIN  
presents  
DOPPELGÄNGER:  
A TRIP INTO THE  
MIRROR WORLD  
September 20, 7pm



ADAM MANSBACH  
launches THE GOLEM  
OF BROOKLYN  
In conversation with  
W. KAMAU BELL

September 26, 7 pm

ROXANE GAY  
presents  
OPINIONS: A DECADE  
OF ARGUMENTS,  
CRITICISM, AND  
MINDING OTHER  
PEOPLE'S BUSINESS



October 24, 7 pm

Begun in 2009, after the closing of key literary event-producing Cody's Books, BA&L offers engaging, entertaining, and often provocative speakers.

All its programs are followed by book signing opportunities, and books are always available for purchase before and after programs. Its independent bookselling partner is The Booksmith in San Francisco's Haight-Ashbury.

For tickets please visit: [berkeleyarts.org](http://berkeleyarts.org).



TEJU COLE presents  
TREMOR  
October 23, 7pm

HEATHER COX  
RICHARDSON  
presents  
DEMOCRACY  
AWAKENING:  
NOTES ON THE  
STATE OF AMERICA  
October 4, 7pm



# Food Ministry Kitchen Report

By Bill Coburn

This week we want to especially thank Dorothy, upon her return for the time she spent organizing both the storage closets and the pantry, all of which had become congested and disorganized over the past few months. Anyone who loves this kind of effort is welcomed to be on call to help!

## Friday, September 8

Food Not Bombs delivered. Cornelia and Bill picked up from Good Eggs and WSWA.

## Saturday, September 9

Volunteers were Teri, Bryan, Henry, Paul, Devon, and Steve. Food received from Whole Foods, Good Eggs, St Vincent de Paul and Food Not Bombs. Menu for Sunday and Monday prepared. Eggs boiled. Sandy donated items.

## Sunday, September 10

Sunday volunteers: Ann, Stewart, Laura, Martha, Kyong, Eric L, Pauline, Dereck, Gay, Lorraine, and Lorraine's oldest grandson, Victor and Dorothy. Carmelo and Jasmine distributed lunches to people on the streets. Menu: Chicken salad sandwiches, pizza fruit, eggs, pastries, dessert. Food prep for Monday and extra food given at the gate.

## Monday, September 11

Volunteers: Teri, Dan Mc, Pam, Tom, Barbara T, Jan, Bonnie, Ellen, Shirley, Natalie, Dan, Crissi, Trish, Joanne and Victor. Menu: tacos, cheese and salami, baked chicken with potatoes, pulled pork with potatoes, steak and vegetables, burgers, salmon and cheese, egg, spinach pies, sweetened carrots mixed vegetables, corn on the cob, whole plums and desserts. 135 lunches, 85 to the streets, with Erica and team. Clothing, toiletries, and a tent given out.

# Food Ministry Needs Your Help!

The Food Ministry is looking to incorporate many more First Church volunteers into the work of the weekly ministry. Anyone who has not previously volunteered is invited to try one Sunday shift. Volunteering for this ministry is low-stress, hassle free and easy kitchen work. The Food Ministry is primarily sustained by the same volunteer group. It is important for new people to volunteer for the church's primary charitable effort so that the core volunteers do not become overtaxed – teamwork makes the dreamwork!

Here is what you can do:

## Sunday Morning Lunchbag Prep (8:30 – 10:00 am)

Arrive early and help put together bagged sandwich lunches. This shift operates with seven volunteers, so you'll have lots of help learning how the assembly line works. The conversation is lively, coffee is hot, and the work concludes when worship starts at 10 am.

## Sunday Prep for Monday's Hot Meal (11:30 – 1 pm)

You can join this work after Fellowship Time. Work typically consists of preparing vegetables and side dishes for the hot meal to be prepared on Monday morning. You'll be expected to tidy up the kitchen too. The meal plan is already laid out. This shift typically has three volunteers.

## Sunday Lunch Giveaway & Clean-up (11:30 – 1 pm)

You can also volunteer to distribute bagged lunches and coffee/tea at the 27th Street gate. Some days produce and clothes are also given away (depending on what is available). This is a great way to have conversations with our guests and offer some friendly hospitality. You'll be expected to join in the clean-up effort when the lunches are distributed.

To get involved, contact Nina Lapachet, [ninalapachet@gmail.com](mailto:ninalapachet@gmail.com)



# Join First Church at this Friday's CeaseFire Walk



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

## 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

## 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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