

Weekly Newsletter June 23, 2024

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 out the form at the bottom
- 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

"The Organ-Grinder Sings" and "In Church" from "Album for Children"
Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Tchaikovsky was a famed Russian composer in the Romantic era,
whom most modern historians believe was a gay man.

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: God calls us to speak out loud.

All: In the world where we live, silence gives consent to the way things are, when we need to articulate a world that still can be.

One: God urges us to sing out loud.

All: Each of us may feel insecure about the strength of our voices, our songs, but when we join together, we make a powerful choir.

One: God encourages us to hope out loud.

All: We are not yet the shining city on a hill, but when we join in God's vision, we dare to see beyond what is, to what is possible.

One: God strengthens us to live out loud.

All: We were not created to be bystanders, but active participants in the building of what yet can be.

One: God enables us to love out loud.

All: Let us make it so.

Gathering Prayer

One: Empowering God, we dare to try to be your voice, your song, your hands and feet and spirit in a world that seems to need, even more with each passing day, to feel your love and grace, your unconditional acceptance, and your invitation to joy. Help us to overcome our doubts and insecurities, to live your Way out loud, and to carry your light forward in whatever ways we are able.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Hymn

#465: What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Merciful God, be with us in our hour of need. When lashed by the winds of life, we long to hear you speak words of grace, "Peace! Be still!" When frightened by the waves of woe, we yearn to have you by our side, calming our fear. Reveal your Presence in the eye of the storm, and give us the courage to call out in our need, for you are our calm center and our hope when all hope seems lost.

Silent Reflection

You are invited into a time of silent, personal reflection

One: In the name of the one who loves unconditionally, we pray.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Assurance of Pardon

God listens; God helps. Now is the day of our salvation. Rejoice and receive the good news.

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

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.

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

One Voice (The Wailin' Jennys)

This is the sound of all of us
singing with love and the will to trust.
Leave the rest behind; it will turn to dust.
This is the sound of all of us.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Mark 4.35 - 41 NRSV

One: On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Untapped Resources

RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

Rev. Chris will lead the congregation in reflection on the reading and sermon.

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

#462: I Love to Tell the Story

Invitation to the Offering

God's boundless generosity transcends the limits of this world and nudges us to fill our land with blessing. Through our energy, time, talents, and treasures, we usher God's peace into a world filled with storms and obstacles.

Offertory

Peace be Still

words by Mary Ann Baker, music by H.R. Palmer

Ushers will collect the weekly offering. Donations 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: We are always rejoicing, Holy One, for your many gifts in our lives. Even when we have nothing, you make us feel as if we have everything. May these gifts usher peace into our world, that all may know of your love and touch your grace.

All: **Amen.**

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

Refrain:

Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand.

Hold to His hand, God's unchanging hand.

Build your hopes on things eternal.

Hold to God's unchanging hand.

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

*Dance of the Little Swans from Swan Lake
Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky*

Benediction

One: May the breezes of the Spirit calm our hearts as we share God's presence with the world. May the peace of Christ pacify our engulfed minds as we go to care for our neighbors. The Holy One is our source of peace, today and forevermore.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Preacher: Rev. Christopher Logan

Liturgist: Suzie Inadomi

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Marilyn Reynolds

Liturgy: Lawrence Reh

Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Dorrie Dodge and Aaron Ruff

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Martha Bauman and Jan Busch

About Today's Guest Preacher: Chris Logan



Chris Logan grew up in Detroit and moved to the Bay Area in 2020 where he served as an organizer for PACT and Sacred Heart Community Service in San Jose. He worked on public safety, alternatives to policing, and affordable housing projects.

Chris received a B.S. in Business Administration from Western Michigan University and an M.Div. from Saint Paul School of Theology in Leawood, Kansas. He wrote his thesis on how the church should desist from its oppression of LGBTQI+ people so that they are free to love God and love their neighbors.

“My faith inspires my work as a community organizer in every way! I believe organizers are prophets. The handbook for organizers is the book of Exodus. The way Moses did it: he organized Israel to move toward a better life.

They got hungry and he fed them. It's hard to do this work if you don't have faith. It gives me a sense of groundedness. Otherwise you act from a place that's desperate, emotional. It doesn't mean you are not agitational, it means you come from faith and not fear.”

He is a part of the East Bay Church of Religious Science community. He also leads faith forums with university students with explorations of social justice, faith displacement, and the sacraments.

“So much of the work we do is sacramental: transforming people who are victims in situations and turning them into agents. That's what the sacraments are supposed to do. The first revolution is internal. That is the sacramental part of our work.”

The Pride Flag - An Essay by Jen Edwell



Progress Pride flag, developed in 2018 by Daniel Quasar (xe/xyr). Quasar added the black, brown, light blue, pink and white stripes in the shape of an arrow. These colors represent transgender and BIPOC queer folks as well as those impacted by AIDS.

Pride Flags in Church

Baker said, “When a person puts the Rainbow Flag on [their] car or [their] house, they’re not just flying a flag. They’re taking action.” So, what kind of action is putting Pride banners in church?

Alongside the gothic architecture, stained glass windows, and organ, the rainbow banners in the front of the sanctuary stand out—bright and modern—as a declaration of theological, congregational, and political inclusivity. To kick off Pride month, I thought it might be useful for us to (re)consider this familiar symbol and the role it plays in our church.

History of the Pride Flag

In the 1970s, political up-and-comer Harvey Milk met military veteran turned fashion designer Gilbert Baker, and encouraged him to create a new symbol for the LGBTQ community. Baker’s original design, flown in the 1978 “Gay Freedom Day” Parade in San Francisco, featured eight stripes: hot pink for sexuality, red for life, orange for healing, yellow for the sun, green for nature, turquoise blue for art, indigo for harmony, and violet for spirit. As the flag gained popularity, the pink and turquoise stripes were removed for logistical reasons—leaving the standard 6-stripe rainbow.

In recent years, new flags have been created to recognize specific identities within the community as well as flags that signify greater inclusivity. The flag in our sanctuary is the

First, it’s a theological action—a way of thinking about God, reading scripture, and understanding Christian ethics. It’s also a congregational action—a way for the community to demonstrate commitment to inclusion. And it’s an effective one. Research has found that visibly inclusive statements and signs are key to helping LGBTQ+ people feel safe in church.

Lastly, it’s a political action. In 2021, a Presbyterian Church in Middletown, Delaware became a hot topic of debate for flying Black Lives Matter and Pride flags in front of the church. Rev. Brooke Scott, the pastor, responded to criticism by saying, “If the Gospel is not good news for those who have been most harmed throughout history, it cannot be the true Gospel.” The Gospel should lead us to action, to discipleship, to activism.

The Pride flag wasn’t designed to be hung up by allies signaling their good intentions. It was meant to be flown by LGBTQ+ people, to honor themselves and their community. So, to me, the Pride banners at First Pres aren’t just a signal that queer folks are “welcome,” but that they/we already belong.

National Convention of the American Guild of Organists Coming Monday, July 1 - Jake Fontana Seek Volunteers to Usher



NICOLE KELLER



ROSALES ORGAN BUILDERS, INC.
OPUS 16 (1993)
(SEE PAGE 88)

Monday, July 1

First Presbyterian Church
Rosales Organ Builders, Opus 16 (1993)
2:00–2:45 PM and 3:30–4:15 PM

Oakland

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY A GIFT FROM ROSALES ORGAN BUILDERS

Voluntary for Organ

William Bolcom (b. 1938)

Wisdom

WORLD PREMIERE

Carl Rütli (b. 1949)

Dancing Wisdom – Brother Glacier’s Farewell
Mea culpa – Hope – La sapienza di San Francesco
Commissioned by the San Francisco 2024 AGO National Convention

Twentieth Sonata

Rayner Brown (1912–1999)

1. Allegramente
2. Adagio
3. Scherzando
4. Allegro

3 Improvisations

Nadia Boulanger (1887–1979)

Prélude
Petit Canon
Improvisation

Variations on Two Themes

Naji Hakim (b. 1955)

NICOLE KELLER

Nicole Keller is in demand as a concert artist, adjudicator, and clinician. She has concertized in the States and abroad in venues such as St. Patrick’s Cathedral, New York; Cathédrale Notre-Dame, Paris; Dom St. Stephan, Passau; St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Armagh, Northern Ireland; and The Kazakh National University for the Arts, Astana, Kazakhstan. Ms. Keller specializes in eclectic programs suited to instrument and audience with a desire to expand the listener’s horizons, pairing familiar sounds and genres with less familiar ones. Her performances with orchestras includes concertos, works for small chamber orchestra, and large works involving organ, harpsichord, and piano. She has extensive experience as a chamber musician and as a continuo player, including many performances of Bach’s *St. Matthew* and *St. John Passions*, the *Christmas Oratorio*, and the *Mass in B minor* in addition to a host of cantatas and baroque chamber music.

As a teacher, Ms. Keller strives to foster and model a commitment to excellence in performance, scholarship and self-growth as students deepen their love of music and their instrument. Her students have been accepted into and attended prestigious graduate schools throughout the country and enjoy successful musical careers in a variety of settings. She was on the faculty at the Conservatory of Music at Baldwin Wallace University for more than 20 years as an instructor of organ, harpsichord, church music, and chamber music coach. She was recently appointed to the faculty of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance at the University of Michigan.

Ms. Keller received the Performer’s Certificate and the Master of Music Degree in Organ Performance and Literature at the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York under the tutelage of David Higgs. While at Eastman, she studied continuo with Arthur Haas and improvisation with Gerre Hancock. She received the Bachelor of Music Degree in Piano Performance from the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory of Music in Berea, Ohio, where she studied piano with George Cherry and Jean Stell and organ with Margaret Scharf.

First Church Choir Practice Today after Coffee Hour



The First Church Choir meets after coffee hour on the second and fourth Sundays of every month. All are welcome to join in, no experience required! Contact Jake (jake@firstchurchoakland.org) for more information or just come by a rehearsal.

Pride 2024 Book Group - *The 57 Bus* by Dashka Slater

Recently April Edwell listened to the Dashka Slater's book *The 57 Bus* and suggested that it would be a great book to read and discuss. *The 57 Bus* is a true story of the tragic encounter of two youth, Sasha and Richard, who are from very different worlds in Oakland.

The book looks at the intersection of race, class, gender, identity, morality, and forgiveness through the before and after of Sasha and Richards' lives. We will read the book in June and discuss together the first week of July. Ask Pastor Matt for a copy.

A description from the book - Two ends of the same line. Two sides of the same crime. If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in

the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a Black teen, lived in the economically challenged flatlands and attended a large public one.

Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight. But in *The 57 Bus*, award-winning journalist Dashka Slater shows that what might at first seem like a simple matter of right and wrong, justice and injustice, victim and criminal, is something more complicated—and far more heartbreaking.

We will meet on Wednesday, July 10 from 6-8 p.m. for dinner and discussion at Pastor Matt's house.

Special Offering for Oakland LGBTQ Center

During Pride month 2023, we gathered as a church community to read and reflect upon Andrea Gibson's powerful collection of poems *You Better Be Lighting*. Jen Edwell hosted our conversation and guided us to read together Gibson's poem 'Queer Youth are five times more likely to die by suicide.' Some of us learned and others were reminded of the hardships of growing up as a LGBTQ youth in American society. We ask the question, "How do we support the youth in our church and in our community? What groups in our community are creating safe and nurturing spaces for our LGBTQ youth?"

Oakland LGBTQ center is one local organization that seeks to support local youth through a crisis hotline, youth LGBTQ support groups, and mentorships. Oakland LGBTQ center is dedicated to enhancing and sustaining the well-being of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) individuals, our families and allies, by providing educational, social, and health related activities, programs and services.

Throughout this month we will be gathering a special offering, above and beyond our tithes/offerings, to support the work of the Oakland LGBTQ Center. At the end of the June we will send in our collected donation to support youth services at Oakland LGBTQ Center, to help vulnerable youth. (please note on your check or donation if it should be a part of this special offering.)



Excerpt from 'Queer Youth are Five times more likely to die by Suicide' by Andrea Gibson
means:

You lived five times harder than you should have had to
to still have a body when you graduated high school.

means:

Hate worked five times harder
to make your spirit its wishbone.

means:

When your mother asked what was wrong,
you were five times more likely to believe you'd lose her if you spoke the truth.

means:

You were told five times more often
you'd go to hell when you died.

means:

Burning for eternity seemed five times more doable than another day in the school lunchroom.

means:

You were five times more inclined
to triple-padlock your diary.

means:

You were five times more likely
to stop writing your story down.

means:

I write my heart out now.

Queer youth are five times more likely to:
see you how you dream of seeing yourself.
To write something in your yearbook that will get you
through the next decade. To spot a stranger crying
and ask if there's anything they can do to help.
Five times more likely to:
need us to do the same.

Food Ministry Kitchen Report

By Bill Coburn

Friday, June 14

Ban and Martha did the pick up at Good Eggs and Western Service Workers Workers. FNB dropped off items throughout the week, eggs, desserts and other items. Cornelia did Macro lunches on Wed.

Saturday, June 15

In kitchen was Bryan. David helped with sandwich prep. Steve got desserts from St Vincent's de Paul. Pick up from Whole Foods was Steve and Henry. Henry picked up from Arizmendi.

Sunday, June 16

Eggsalad sandwiches were prepared, chips, desserts and fruit were put in the lunchbags.

Monday, June 17

Volunteers were: Shirley, Bonnie, Barbara T, Jan, Beth, Can C, Dan C, Trish, Crissie, Dan N, Kathy. Menu, in a collective effort spaghetti sauce was prepared (tomato based), along with vegetables, salad, fruit and dessert. 84 were distributed at the cars and 38 at the gate.



Food Ministry Needs You!

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

Pastor Matt on Vacation



Pastor Matt will be on vacation with his family from June 17-July 8. If you require pastoral care while he is away, please contact your deacon, Martha Bauman (moderator of the deacons), or Rev. Bill Beatty who will be on-call. Please pray for a time of rest and refreshment for Pastor Matt, Susannah, Monrovia, and Ruby

First Church proudly supports our 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

Elizabeth Cureton, Chris Weber, Di Pagel, Gay Plair Cobb, Erick Bevington, Elizabeth Goodwin, Maggie Harmon, Julia Marquez

Session Officers

Rev. Matt Prinz, Moderator
Anne Margaret Manay, Clerk
Erick Bevington, Treasurer

Deacons

Marjorie Witt, Barbara Goodroe, Derrick Polk, Su Coburn, Pauline Ahanotu, Monrovia Prinz, Martha Bauman, Charmaine Irmiter

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Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Matt Prinz, Jake Fontana, Bill Coburn, Micheline La Mont. Photos by Jen Edwell, Susannah Prinz. *Temple Tidings* is a weekly publication. All are welcome to contribute news, events and opinion. **Sign up to be on our email list:** firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings



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