

Weekly Newsletter

July 7, 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

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come to worship the God of our salvation.

All: God's goodness has called us here.

One: Seek, and you will find.

All: With joy, we sing of Christ's steadfast love.

One: Knock, and the door will be opened for you.

All: Here, steadfast love and faithfulness meet.

One: Ask, and it shall be given to you.

All: Here, righteousness and peace kiss.

One: Come to worship the God of our salvation.

All: All: God's goodness has called us here.

Gathering Prayer

One: Sustaining God, grant us this day the blessings of your faithfulness and your grace. Where there is hunger, give us bread. Where there is thirst, give us cool water to drink. Where there is loneliness give us friendship. Forgive our transgressions and our errant ways, as we forgive those who transgress against us. Where we have wronged another, guide us in reconciliation. And where we have been wronged, guide us on the journey of forgiveness. For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Hymn

#307: God of Grace and God of Glory

CONFESSIO N o f SIN & ASSURANCE o f GRACE

Confession

One: How long, LORD, will you hide your face from us? As our world is ripped apart, we long for the day of salvation. As our lives are tattered and torn, we yearn for you to restore our fortunes. As we knock on the door and seek your face, open the door to us, for we need your presence if we are to be whole once more. Show us your steadfast love, Holy One. Fulfill your promise to answer your prayers, and we will dwell with joy in your house forever.

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

The one who gives us our daily bread, blesses us with what we need each and every day of our lives. The one who forgives our sins answers our prayers and offers us fullness of life. Thanks be to God!

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 stay in the Sanctuary for Family Worship.

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

#175: Seek Ye First

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 6: 9 - 15 NRSV

One: “Pray, then, in this way:
Our Father in heaven,
may your name be revered as holy.
May your kingdom come.
May your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And do not bring us to the time of trial,
but rescue us from the evil one.

“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

#525: Let Us Break Bread Together

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

Seed, Scattered and Sown

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

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

#625: How Great Thou Art

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

Benediction

One: Go forth as God's faithful ones, showing love and kindness to all.

All: We will scatter seeds of righteousness and peace, that God's kingdom may bloom anew.

One: Go forth and grow strong with Christ as the root and the foundation of your lives.

All: We will bloom in the faith God has given us – a faith that springs forth to bless the world.

One: Go with God.

S E R V I N G i n W O R S H I P T O D A Y

Pastor: Rev. Joel Mackey (parish associate)

Preacher: Nate Millheim

Liturgist: Elizabeth Goodwin

Guest Musician: Erin Downey

Song Leader: Linda Carter

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Family Sunday

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Julia Marquez

About Today's Guest Preacher: Nate Millheim



Nate Millheim founded Oakland Leadership Center after several years of working in the non-profit sector and pastoral work in local church congregations. He graduated summa cum laude from Simpson University with a degree in Ministry. He served as a licensed Pastor at Creekside Community Church in Alamo for several years before serving as Director of Training Initiatives for Reimagine, a center for Integral Christian practice in San Francisco.

Nate is married to Andrea and has three children: Kayla, Chase and Ava. They reside in Oakland. Nate has been named a Local Hero by the District 4 City Council on two separate occasions. He serves on the Board of Project Peace which creates and deepens partnerships between local churches and non-profits in the Bay Area. Nate frequently preaches at local churches as a part of his duties at OLC. He enjoys coaching OLC's AAU basketball teams, the Oakland Lions, and is also the head boys basketball coach at Oakland Unity High School.

Pride 2024 Book Discussion this Wednesday, July 10 from 6-8 p.m.

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 during Pride month. *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.

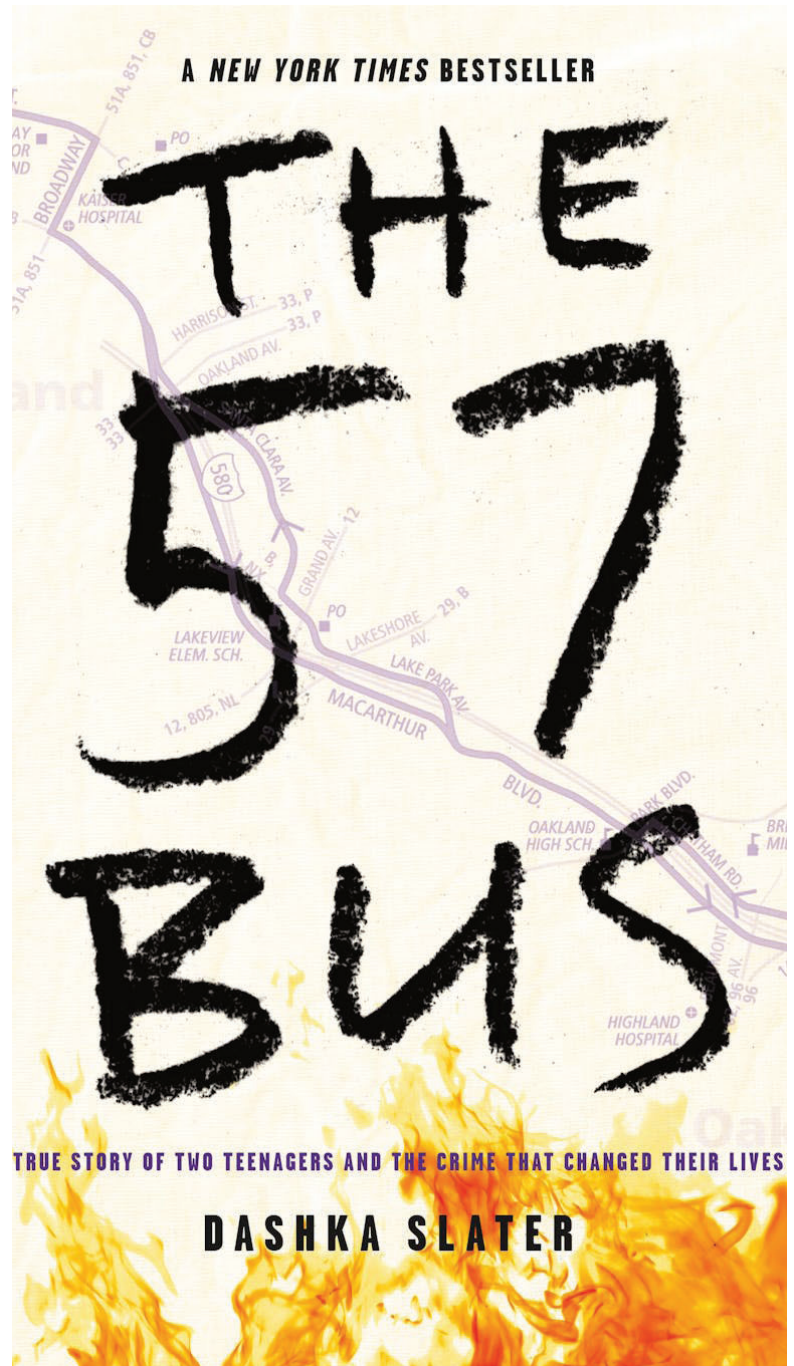
The book looks at the intersection of race, class, gender, identity, morality, and forgiveness through the before and after of Sasha and Richards' lives. We will read the book in June and discuss together the first week of July. Ask Pastor Matt for a copy.

A description from the book -

Two ends of the same line. Two sides of the same crime.

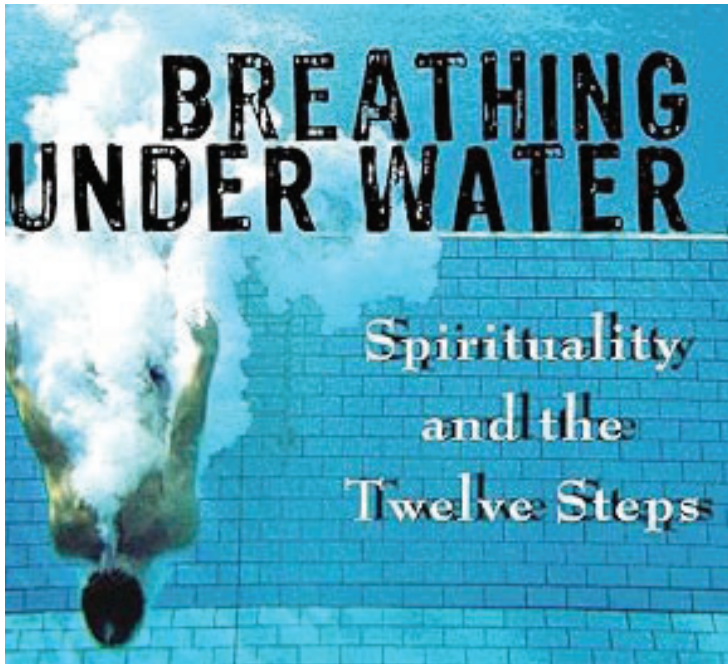
If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. 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.

Join us for a First Church Contemplative Study



Please join as First Church takes a summer break to dive into the spirituality of awakening into our life as beloved children of God. Over the course of three months we will gently explore Breathing Under Water by Father Richard Rohr. This book will guide us in 'breaking negative patterns and experiencing greater internal freedom' to help us find 'bold hope and transformation.'

Build contemplative practices, consider how to break negative patterns, and have fun with your community! This is for believers, non-believers, the spiritually curious, and anyone who is willing to be surprised by God. Come to one session or all - please RSVP to the monthly host so we can plan food.

July 28 @ 12:00pm Di Pagel
(dianapagel@gmail.com)

August 25 Pastor Matt (time tbd)

September 29 @ 4:00pm Maggie Harmon
maggieafh@gmail.com

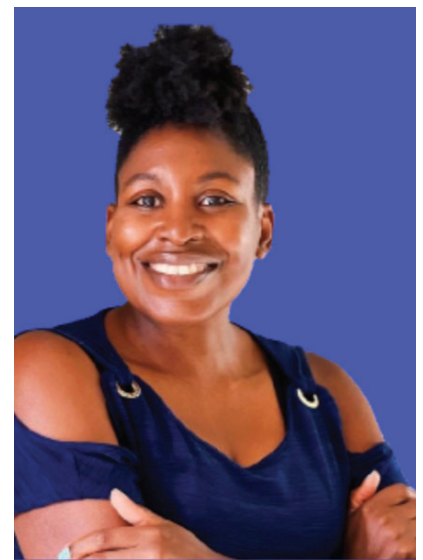


Serena Smith is a lay leadership partner of Berkeley Christian Counselors (a ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley) and is interested in introducing the First Church congregation to the mental health services provided by BCC.

Berkeley Christian Counselors is a fee-for-service counseling center that provides professional counseling services to clients in the Bay Area and throughout California. Its clients are diverse in many ways, including age, race, gender orientation, faith, work and personal backgrounds. BCC is also a training institute by providing consultation with Christian licensed counselors as well as supervision for Associates and Trainees working towards licensure.

Of special note is a small therapist-facilitated group called "Care 4 Carers" to provide encouragement to support those caring for people with short and long-term illnesses.

Also there is a group for teens is called Anxiety Tools for Youth 12-14 years old for those experiencing anxiety in any form and introduces participants to a variety of mindfulness tools.



Serena Smith

**Berkeley
Christian
Counselors**

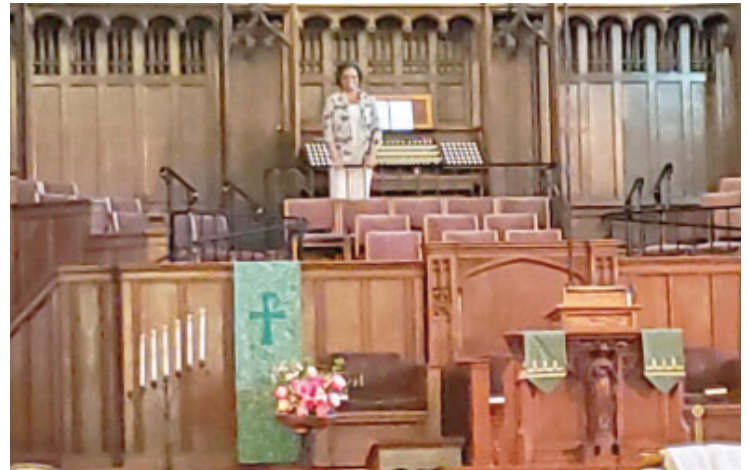
(510) 548-5858

Nicole Keller Wows the Crowd at the National Convention of the American Guild of Organists

by Jake Fontana

This past Monday's concerts by Nicole Keller were a huge success. The convention of the American Guild of Organists brought 200 people over two performances to hear our pipe organ. The Rosales organ company spent two weeks getting the instrument into shape, and it sounded great!

Thank you to all who ushered and helped to welcome the attendees.



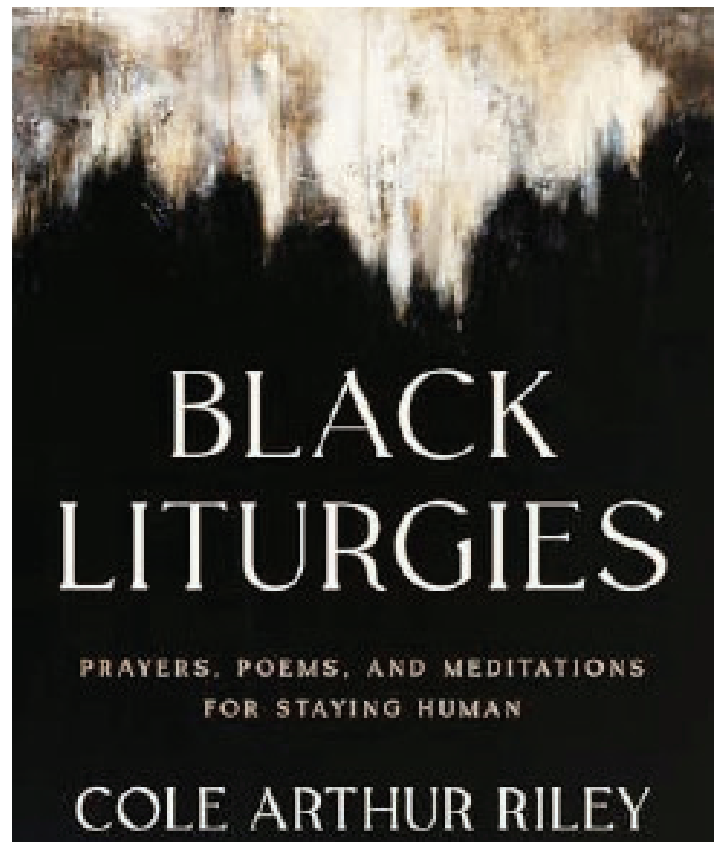
Reflection on Liturgy from Cole Arthur Riley's *Black Liturgies*



Cole Arthur Riley sharing about her first experiences with liturgy (written prayers/readings) in a church community. How do her experiences compare to yours? How does liturgy invite you to worship God and be formed as a follower of Jesus?

“I was twenty-three when I walked into an Episcopal church with an overwhelming desire to die. The service began with a hymn. Two dozen elderly choir members hovered above us from the loft, singing words I couldn’t make out, which has its own way of making you feel alone. But then all around me people began to speak the liturgy aloud. Blessed be God. And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. As the voices began their recitation, a few things occurred in me at once. First, defiance the atoms of me surged in resistance. To recite words like some mindless zombie? I had my own thoughts, my own idealized individualism to protect. The second, chills. The voices of the room blurred together, all speaking in unison. How strange this landed on the senses. What cult was this? Liturgy can feel eerie, especially to those of us who know what it is to have a mob chant words in unison, not for beauty or mystery, but for destruction. But the third, relief- complicated and undeniable relief. It can be difficult to find

the words to pray when one wants to die. The independence of personal prayer required more imagination than I could access at the time. It is exhausting enough trying to keep oneself alive; to be expected to articulate love and hope and beauty- and more dangerously, lament- was like trying to float with weights hanging from my neck. Liturgy, I found, was a kind of rest. For the first time, my presence in a spiritual space didn’t depend on my own articulation or imagination. I could rise and sit and kneel and speak or not speak in this sacred theater that others had written the script for. I could let others hold a sacred imagination for me. To be clear, liturgy in no way saved me, nor was it even a remedy to my depression. But it was an anchor, something that kept me from drifting helplessly into my own interior current. Ritual, when coupled with beauty, makes for a very adequate mooring. It won’t carry you to shore, but it will keep you close enough that hope can swim out to visit you regularly.”



Food Ministry Kitchen Report

By Bill Coburn

Saturday, June 29

Saturday we were missing a few key volunteers but managed short handed tho we were. Grocery donations were picked up from Whole Foods by David, Henry and Dorothy, from Good Eggs by Paul and Devon and from St Vincent's by David. That team plus Teri put away groceries, made hard boiled eggs for Sunday and Monday lunches, planned the menus for Sunday and Monday and started defrosting frozen items. Tom took a break from arranging Sunday service flowers to make sandwiches for MACRO team's use.

Sunday, June 30

Shorthanded seems to be a theme this week—maybe summer vacations are part of the reason. Ann, Martha and Dorothy made lunch bags, with a final assist from Ben. We served quiche for a change plus all the regular additions of fruit, dessert, morning pastry, and hard boiled egg. Pauline, Derick, Ann and Bonnie helped prep items for Monday lunch. Matt S, Pauline, Derick and Victor gave out lunches to our guests at 27th street. Jaz and Carmello delivered lunch to people living on the streets.

Monday, July 1

Monday's lunch included either Tomato beef pasta, beef stroganoff, or roasted chicken, green salad, fruit mixed vegetables coffee and dessert. Gave away 4 large bags of clothes. Volunteers were Beth, Barbara, Trish, Tom, Crissi, Pam, Jan J, Dan C, Bonnie, Teri and Paul.

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

Let's Celebrate July Birthdays!



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

July 2: John Goodwin

July 13: Suzie Inadomi

July 23: Su Coburn

July 25: Diane Hill

July 26: Kassim Wesley

July 30: Connor Gillikin

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

Church Staff

Rev. Matt Prinz, Pastor

matt@firstchurchoakland.org

510.488.3812

email to make an appointment

Rev. Joel Mackey, Parish Associate

joelmackey@comcast.net

Jake Fontana, Music Director

jake@firstchurchoakland.org

Micheline La Mont, Community Relationships Manager

micheline@firstchurchoakland.org

510.488.3810

Office hours Weds: 9:30-4:30; Thurs 1-4

Gus Lopez, Head Custodian

510.290.9677

Erick Bevington, Treasurer

erick@firstchurchoakland.org

Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper

joan@firstchurchoakland.org

Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Matt Prinz, Jake Fontana, Bill Coburn, Micheline La Mont. Photos by Jake Fontana. *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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