

Weekly Newsletter

Temple Tidings

July 14, 2024

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

Variations on "Our Father In Heaven"
by Felix Mendelssohn

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: We gather to hear what the Holy One will speak.

All: God will speak peace to the faithful, those who turn to love in their hearts.

One: Surely wholeness is at hand for those who stand in awe.

All: Show us your steadfast love, Holy One, and grant us your wholeness and peace.

One: Let steadfast love and faithfulness meet us today.

Gathering Prayer

One: Holy Mystery, in ancient days, when Jesus' disciples asked him how to pray, Jesus called them beloved children of God, telling them to ask only for each day's bread. Today, we stand in awe, waiting to hear your word, yearning to know that we, too, are you beloved children. Give us the bread we need today, so that we might feed a world that hungers for wholeness.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Hymn

#450: Be Thou My Vision

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Jesus said, when you pray, say ‘give us each day our daily bread.’”

All: Yet we hoard our money, our time, and our love, wanting much more than what we need each day.

One: Jesus said, “Say to your Father and Mother in heaven, ‘Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.’”

All: Still, we hold grudges, refusing to forgive, even when the debt is paid.

One: Jesus said, “Say to the Holy One, ‘Hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come.’”

All: Holy Mystery, forgive the times we take your name in vain, and heal our refusal to live each day in holy realm.

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

One: Hear the good news: If you, who are merely human, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the Holy Spirit come to those who ask?

**All: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. Glory to God.
Amen**

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

#469: LORD, Listen to Your Children Praying

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, 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

Abundance of Daily Bread

RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

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

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

#444: Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

Invitation to the Offering

Generous Giver, having received so much from you, we offer our tithes and offerings into your hands, that they may bring hope and gladness to a hurting world. Amen

Offertory

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: Most loving God, most welcoming God, we bring these gifts to you, knowing that you will use them according to your purposes. We dedicate ourselves to your way, to challenge the worldly values that are so prevalent in your world today.

All: **Amen.**

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

#740: Lead Me, Guide Me

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

Toccata on "Our Father in Heaven"
by Felix Mendelssohn

Benediction

One: As you have received Christ Jesus, continue to live your lives in him. Remain rooted and built up in him, abounding in thanksgiving and established in true faith, just as you were taught. Forgiven, loved, and filled with the Holy Spirit, let us go in peace to love and serve the world.

All: **Amen.**

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

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Maggie Harmon

Music Director: Jake Fontana

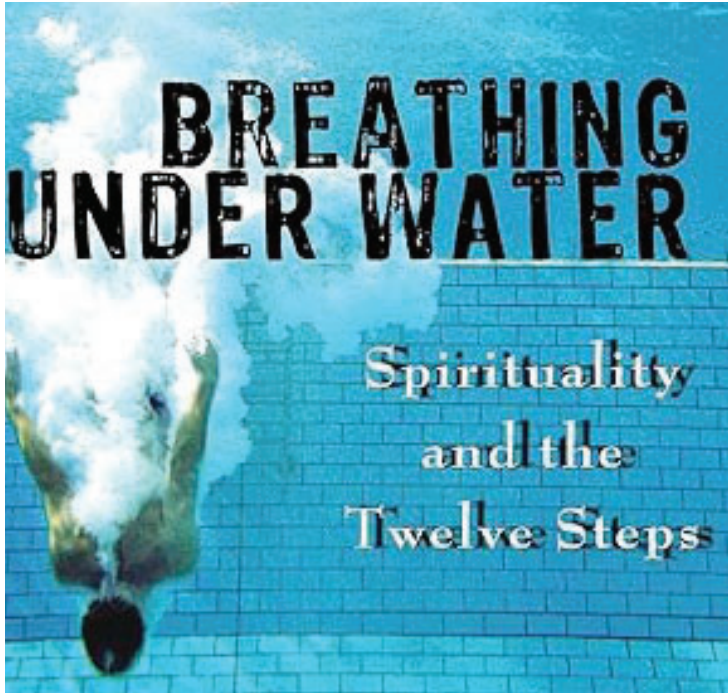
Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Head Ushers: Di Pagel and Louise Hill

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Anne Margaret Manay

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Nina and Eric Lapachet

Join us for a First Church Contemplative Study Starting July 28



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

Brother Rohr may just take you to places you've both avoided and longed for, to truth, union, joy, laughter, and the greatest of all, to your own precious self, here on earth with us, a child of God.

- Anne Lamott, from the forward

More about the book:

We all suffer from unhealthy dependencies that we continually return to in hopes of having a better life. But after yet another TV show is streamed or another drink is swallowed, we find we once again feel worse, not better, than we did before. Where is the hope for that fully awakened life we long to live?

World-renowned author Richard Rohr says we can only be healed and find true fulfillment by facing our dependencies head-on. *Breathing Under Water* will guide you to:

- Disentangle from cultural cycles of sin and emptiness
- Discover how to get free from your personal dependencies
- Learn how the Twelve Step program can supplement Christian teaching
- Find compassion for others and yourself
- Enjoy a deeper spiritual life, feeling God's love for you.

Those who are ready to break negative patterns and experience greater internal freedom will find bold hope and transformation in this insightful book.

CandleLight Concert Bring a Variety of Music to First Church



Candlelight concerts bring the magic of a live, multi-sensory musical experience to our beautiful sanctuary. Discover the music of your artists under the gentle glow of candlelight.

Upcoming events include:

Friday, July 19, 7 p.m. Favorite Anime Themes

Friday, July 19, 9 p.m. Neo-Soul Favorites

Saturday, August 31, 7 p.m. Tribute to Beyoncé

Saturday, August 31, 9 p.m. Tribute to Bad Bunny

Friday, September 13, 7 p.m. Beatles Favorites

Friday, September 13, 9 p.m. Neo-Soul Favorites

For tickets visit: feverup.com/en/oakland

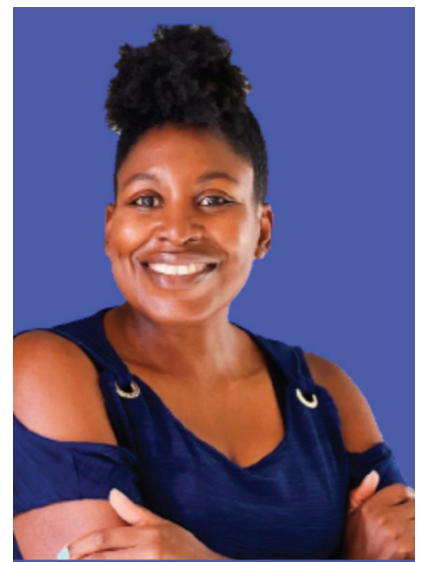


Serena Smith is a lay leadership partner of Berkeley Christian Counselors (a ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley) and is interested in introducing the First Church congregation to the mental health services provided by BCC.

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.

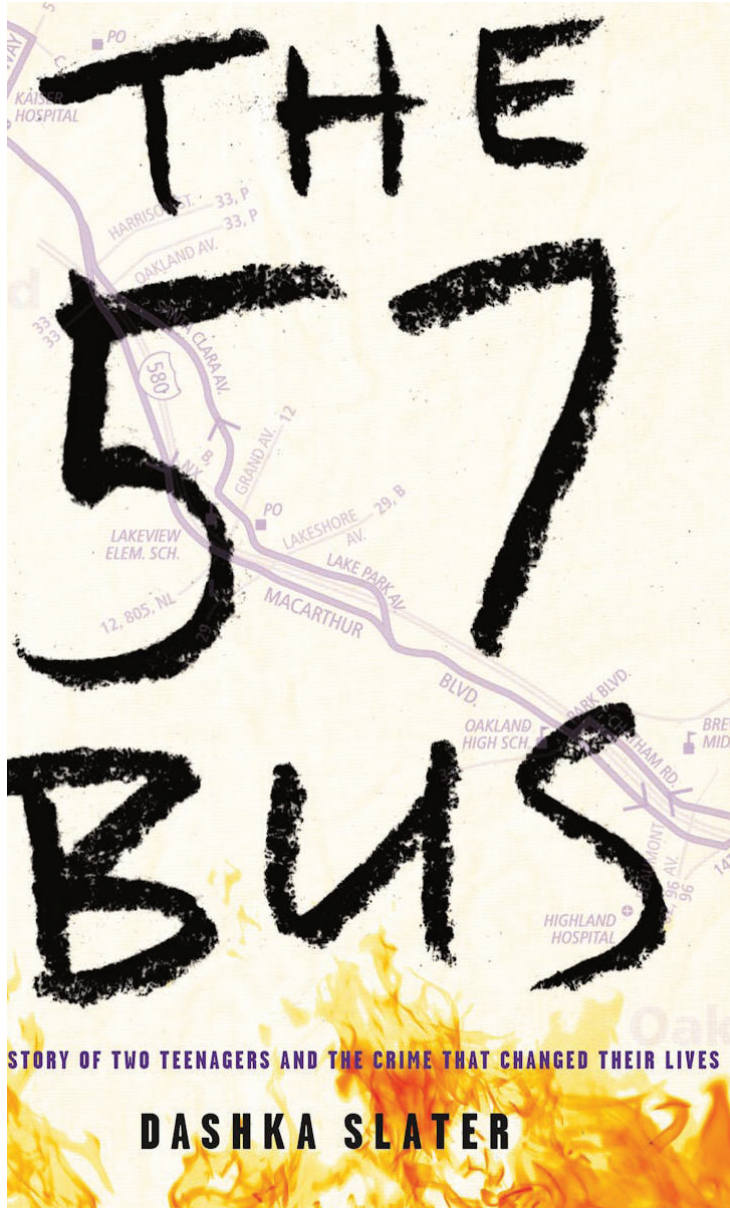


Serena Smith

**Berkeley
Christian
Counselors**

(510) 548-5858

Book Discussion of The 57 Bus Concludes Pride Month 2024



How do we Choose the Music for Sunday Worship at First Church?

By Jake Fontana



A few weeks back, you may remember singing traditional hymns with the pipe organ, gospel standards accompanied on the Hammond, and some modern folk music too. The postlude was organ music by a twentieth century queer woman, and the prelude was “I Will Survive,” played on the Hammond, piano, and guitar.

How does such a combination all come together? As music director, I am always looking to balance tradition and modernity, comfort and challenge, and old favorites with new ideas. I start by checking the scripture for the week. There are lots of resources that point to good songs -- there’s even a scriptural index in the back of our hymnal. I check in with the preacher about the message they will share, and I talk to the song leader about what music is on their mind. To me it adds something meaningful to worship when music, prayer, and preaching work together.

I also speak to Pastor Matt and other worship leaders to get their thoughts. It’s an exercise in free association: what music comes to mind when you consider this scripture passage or this theme? For an important occasion, I might ask: what music says “Juneteenth” or “Pride Month” to you? We also think about exploring the many ways the congregation can sing, such as a call-and-response style song or a repeated

Taizé chant. We consider how we could call on the many musical gifts in the congregation -- singers, jazz pianists, guitarists, bassoonists and oboists, and more. I’m amazed how generative these brainstorming sessions can be when many heads are put together.

Then, it’s just putting it all together — bearing a few important things in mind. What order of music makes the best flow for worship? Is there a good balance of the familiar and the new? Will this combination encourage the congregation to grow in its spiritual engagement with music? And are we representing the diversity of identities, traditions, and values in the church? Are there moments of healing, hope, joy, and inspiration? The Sunday that I described above felt like a day when we hit a lot of these marks. Other days, we might change the music spontaneously during the service, when it feels like an opportunity comes up to express something deeper than what’s printed in the bulletin.

Please be in touch if you’d like to contribute to the process of music-making at First Church. I can’t promise we’ll be able to fit all your favorite songs, but I would love to hear what music speaks to you and why, and how we can bring that spirit to worship.

Food Ministry Kitchen Report

Grocery donations were picked up from our donors Whole Foods, Good Eggs and Western Service Workers. Ben and Martha picked up on Friday. Saturday volunteer team was Paul, Devon, Teri, David, Dorothy and Henry.

Sunday lunches were made and served by Martha, Ben, Ann, Erica, Kyong, Dorothy, Matthew S, Bonnie, Pauline, Derek and Victor. Carmello and Jaz from Berkeley Presbyterian Homes community delivered meals to people living in the streets. 125 lunches were served

Monday's hot lunch was prepared by Barbara, Beth, Natalie, Dan, Paul, Dave, Dan Mc, Shirley, Trish, Bonnie, Crissi, Diane, Jan and Teri. 50 meals were served at the 27th St entrance and 89 meals were delivered to people living outside.

Di, Judy and Dorothy provide much needed support in the form of weekly laundering of the kitchen towels used by the Food Ministry and Food Not Bombs.



Join the Food Ministry Team!

The Food Ministry is looking to incorporate many more First Church volunteers into our work. Anyone is invited to try one shift. Volunteering is low-stress, hassle free and easy kitchen work. The Food Ministry is primarily sustained by the same volunteer group. It's important for new people to volunteer for our primary charitable effort!

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 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

Sundays not a good day for you to volunteer?

There are opportunities on Saturday and on Monday. Join the Sat crew to sort and put away donated groceries, help with prep for upcoming lunches (usually hard boiling and sometimes peeling) 300 +/- eggs, and light cleanup. There is a lot that happens in a short period of time. Hours 9-11. Talk with Steve Cabrera, Henry Ewoke, Chris Magnuson or Dorothy Dugger at coffee hour. Monday's team is in need of help with washing the pans and utensils used to prepare Monday hot lunch and general cleanup. Not the most glamorous job perhaps, but critical to the operation. Usually between 11:00 and 1:00, could start earlier if that is more convenient. Talk to Dorothy if interested. 510-926-0626.

The Prinz Family Returns from a Wonderful Vacation



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

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510.488.3812

email to make an appointment

Rev. Joel Mackey, Parish Associate

joelmackey@comcast.net

Jake Fontana, Music Director

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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, Micheline La Mont. Photos by Suzie Inadomi and Ruby 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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