

Weekly Newsletter August 4, 2024

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Cloud Over Tabernacle

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

Gathering Songs

Open the Eyes of My Heart

**Refrain: Open the eyes of my heart, LORD. Open the eyes of my heart.
I want to see you; I want to see you.**

Maranatha

**Maranatha, maranatha, come LORD Jesus, come;
Maranatha, maranatha, come LORD Jesus, come.**

Over My Head

**Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
Over my head, I hear music in the air.
There must be a God somewhere.**

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: When you are weary in your bones...

All: here you will find rest.

One: When you are divided from family and friends...

All: here you will find peace.

One: When you are discouraged and downhearted...

All: here you will find hope and courage.

One: When you are looking for a shepherd to guide you...

All: here you will find hope and peace.

Gathering Prayer

One: Healer of division, your Son came to bring redemption and healing. Unite us with your saints and bring us into the peace of your community, that we might dwell as one family through one Spirit. Be present in our worship this day and seal us in the heart of Christ, our shepherd.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Hymn

837: What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Shepherding God, call us away to a deserted place, for we need your loving care. We need your Spirit to guide us. We need your peace to our divisions. We yearn to abandon old grievances and embrace wholeness in our lives. We long to see all people, friends and adversaries alike, as beloved members of your household. In this, we will find peace.

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

Hymn

#59: The Steadfast Love of the LORD

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.

P R A Y E R S of the P E O P L E

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud. Children remain in the reception room for family worship.

Prayer

From a New Zealand Prayer Book

Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
Sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
Now and forever. Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

701 LORD, Prepare Me (Sanctuary)

**LORD, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 25.8; Acts 2.44-47 NRSV

One: Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them.

All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Story

The Tent for God

RESPONSE to the WORD

Wondering Questions

A time of response.

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

#507: Come to the Table of Grace

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

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

#600: Amen

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

Benediction

The Great Ends of The Church

From the Book of Order of P.C.U.S.A.

- 1) the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind
- 2) the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God
- 3) the maintenance of divine worship
- 4) the preservation of the truth
- 5) the promotion of social righteousness
- 6) the exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Preacher: Di Pagel

Liturgist: Monrovia Prinz

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: April Edwell

Communion Preparation: Diane Hill and Deacon

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Prinz Family

In Memory: Bill Coburn - Church Member and Food Ministry Leader



Bill was surrounded by his family when he peacefully passed on Friday, July 26 after a long battle with cancer.

A memorial service will be held in the sanctuary on Saturday, September 7 at 11 a.m. with a reception immediately following. All are invited to attend.

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”.... this familiar hymn comes to mind as we think of Bill Coburn, including the words “morning by morning new mercies I see.” Bill was faithful to our Christian mission, and merciful in new and surprising ways to those around him ---especially the less fortunate. Our ministry to those experiencing food insecurity stands as an enduring legacy of Bill’s compassion, leadership and grace.

Gay & Paul

A true disciple! As accomplished and talented as he was, he used his gifts not for personal gain, but in his ministries of love. I was always blown away by his boundless vision. This was evident in his many projects over the years: from landscaping the church grounds and beautifying the sanctuary with gorgeous flowers to his service to all God’s people through the First Church Food Ministry. He never stopped dreaming, planning and implementing ways to grow the Food Ministry to meet the increasing needs around our city. I learned much from him and hope to emulate his visioning spirit.

Jan Busch

Bill represented the best of who we are as Christians. He was unfailing in his commitment to those in need, most especially the hungry and homeless. His quiet and unassuming leadership was ever present with grace and humility. His love for the church and the church community was unmistakable. We will miss this kind and gentle soul and every time I look at the flowers in the sanctuary, although they will not be from the hands of Bill, seeing them will be for me a forever remembrance. He has now joined that great cloud of witnesses.

Henry Gardner

Bill saw beauty in all things and if it didn’t exist, he worked to create it. Several years ago he facilitated a church project to plant flowers in the center divide on 27th street and I dutifully brought plants home, planted them and at the correct time a few months later, dug them up so he and the group could replant them. Remnants of them still exist, albeit amongst weeds, but I always think of him and his optimism that we could make Oakland beautiful. He had the most amazing flower patch in his backyard – a larger version of the creations he faithfully provided for Sunday services. He also designed the choir loft railings to compliment our gothic style and did the rear loft as well. His talents, quiet dignity and selflessness will be sorely missed.

Linda Carter

We showed up in Oakland in late 2015. Looking for a church and landed at First Church Oakland. Of all the people we talked to Bill who asked us to join Food Ministry to help with everything they do. I choose to gather the food from donors. During those years before Covid we met at Micky D’s every Saturday morning over coffee, stories, & laughter. This was a good platform to know the crew. Bill was the center of it all. His presence will be greatly missed by me and others that he touched with gentle leadership.

Steven Cabrera

Bill clearly loved this church, the building and the congregation. I appreciated the flowers that he used to decorate the front of the church every Sunday. I also honor his devotion to the homeless and needy by leading our Food Ministry program for so many years.

Cassandra Flipper

About the Artist for our September Reception Room Art Show

A wise priest once taught me the ‘A, B, C’s’ of priestly ministry—“Absolve, Bless, Consecrate” were the words she used. She may have been referring to the liturgical acts a priest performs—assuring people of God’s forgiveness, declaring God’s blessing, and consecrating the bread and wine. And that is the work I have done in congregations of housed and unhoused over the course of my priestly ministry.

There came a time in my life as a priest when I was serving no congregation nor celebrating at any altar nor preaching in any pulpit. But I was still a priest. Then another wise mentor—this time a Jesuit—helped me find new meanings for those words. Meanings that at base call to a ministry of connection, forgiveness, delight—a ministry of pointing to the holy. It is therein that I find the central habitation of my heart.

There are other habitations of my heart as well. The places and moments that inspire, the materials with which I work, and the very working of and with those materials. Many of the pieces in this exhibit are inspired by places I have lived or memories of cherished moments with those I love. I work primarily with four materials: Japanese Boro Cloth, silk organza I dye myself, mulberry paper I fuse and shape using an ancient Korean process known as Joomchi, and seaweed. I call it kelp though I know that term applies to only one subspecies of seaweed. Kelp just sounds better. Most of the Boro Cloth in this exhibit is over a hundred years old. Made of patched and mended cotton and hemp, it has been worked by the hands of many women. The dyes I use come from our yard and from the yards of friends. Some even come from the Desert Willows and Yarrow plants on the grounds of my home parish. And the kelp—the kelp I collect as I walk the beaches on the California coast. The materials provide my heart a dwelling place—

when I’m gathering them together, when I’m working with them, and when I walk by the finished work and brush my hand against a piece I’ve fashioned from Boro Cloth—“My Grandmother’s Dreams” for example—or pause and wonder at the beauty the sea coughs up. I’ve come to believe that the core of priestly ministry is pointing to the holy—be it from the altar or the pulpit or in the people or in the world. Priest and preacher Barbara Brown Taylor talks about the Altar of the World. That is the altar at which I now serve.

Susan Allison-Hatch



Upcoming Building a Beloved Community Events



TODAY: Inside Out 2

Inside Out 2 is an animated coming of age story following the life of Riley as she juggles friendship, going to summer hockey camp, and preparing to enter high school. Riley experiences new emotions as she turns thirteen, makes a series of bad decisions, and wrestles with who she is becoming as a young adult. We will depart after coffee hour to watch the movie together and Jake Fontana will host a conversation afterwards about the film and its intersection with our lives.

August 25: Oakland A's Game

Come and cheer for the Oakland A's on Sunday, August 25 at 1:05 p.m. The A's will match up with the Chicago White Sox for the game.

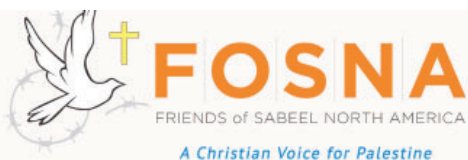
Suzie Inadomi is organizing this event and will have more information about ticket prices and other details in the upcoming weeks! Let's go, Oakland!



August 10-11: Rev. Munther Issac

Rev. Munther Isaac, a prominent Palestinian Christian pastor from Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem and the Lutheran Church in Beit Sahour- will be in town next weekend. Some of the events require pre-registration.

For more information, please visit fosna.org/ the-fosna-blog/fosna-presents-rev-munther-isaac or register using the bit.ly urls.



REV. MUNTHUR ISAAC: NORCAL SPEAKING TOUR

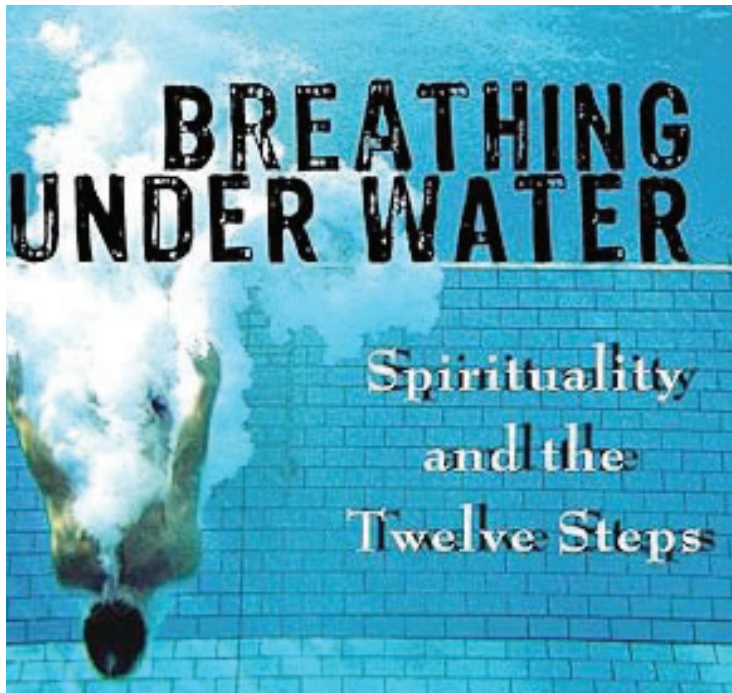


Sat, Aug 10th @ 7pm
Lakeshore Baptist Church
Oakland, CA
<https://bit.ly/3WqZ61J>

Sun, Aug 11th @ 10am
The Way Christian Center
Berkeley, CA

Sun, Aug 11th @ 6pm
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Lafayette, CA
<https://bit.ly/3zVdPut>

Join us for a First Church Contemplative Study August 25



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.

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.

Food Ministry Kitchen Report

Weekend food donation pickups were handled by Ben and Martha on Friday and Henry, Dorothy, Bryan and Michael on Saturday. The Saturday pickup crew was joined by Teri and Ellen in the kitchen to receive and store groceries, plan menus for Sunday and Monday and boil and peel eggs for Sunday and Monday lunch.

Sunday team leader was Jan, joined by volunteers Ann, Martha, Ben, Stewart, Betsy, Matt S and Dorothy. Jan, Louise, Matt S and Victor gave out lunches at 27th St entrance. Berkeley Presbyterian Homes team and MACRO picked up lunches to distribute to people living in the streets. Pauline, Derek, Ann and Bonnie helped prep food for Monday lunch.

Monday volunteers included: Teri, Ellen, Dan C, Jan J, Barb, Lynn, Diane, Beth, Chrissy, Shirley, Natalie, Trish, Bonnie, Dan M and Paul. Welcome to first time volunteer Sarah who answered the appeal for volunteers to help with kitchen cleanup duties. Thank you!

49 lunches were served to guests who came to the 27th St entrance. MACRO picked up 16 lunches and Lexine and crew delivered 85 lunches to people living in the streets.

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

Is Sunday not a good day for you to volunteer?

There are opportunities on Saturday and on Monday. Join the Saturday 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.

Celebrate our August Birthdays!



Please wish the following people a happy birthday this month:

August 4: Paulette Eggert

August 5: Steve Flores

August 6: Micah Ogden

August 7: Sean Ekwoe

August 8: Maxine Law

August 11: Nicole Provost

August 13: Stella Ekwoe

August 17: Taylor Gardner

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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email to make an appointment

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Jake Fontana, Music Director

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Micheline La Mont, Community Relationships Manager

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510.488.3810

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Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Matt Prinz, Micheline La Mont. Photos by Linda Carter, Suzie Inadomi. *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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