

Weekly Newsletter

August 18, 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. Godly Play is on break during August.

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

Song

Maranatha, maranatha, come Lord Jesus, come. (2x)

Over my head I hear music in the air. (3x)
There must be a God somewhere.

Come to the table of grace. (2x)
This is God's table, it's not yours or mine.
Come to the table of grace.

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Are you hungry for a word of hope?

All: We come to be fed and nourished.

One: Are you yearning to see the bounty of God?

All: We long to see and believe.

One: Are you ready to witness the power of our God?

All: We are ready.

One: Come! Let us worship.

Gathering Prayer

One: Mighty God, pour out your power and strength on us. Grant us the nourishment we need to receive your word. May your presence fill our lives and carry us forth, preparing us to be your people and equipping us to do your work in the world. In your holy name, we pray.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Hymn

#770: I'm Gonna Eat at the Welcome Table

CONFESS 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: Come to us, Holy One, even in our times of resistance. Work within and through us, even when we wrestle with doubt and despair. Enlighten and guide us, even in our darkest hours. Bless us and call us by name, even when we reject your presence. Hold us and love us, even when we try to run away. When we feel beat down by the world, and are weary with fatigue and sorrow, nourish us with your mercy and your grace. Fill us with your love, that we may go forth with confidence and faith. In your mighty name, we pray.

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 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, oh LORD, great is your faithfulness.**

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. Godly Play is on break during the month of August.

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)

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Mark 6. 30 - 44 NRSV and Acts 2. 42 – 47 NRSV

One: The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But he answered them, "You give them something to eat."

They said to him, “Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?” And he said to them, “How many loaves have you? Go and see.” When they had found out, they said, “Five, and two fish.” Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 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.**

Sermon/Youth Panel

- 1) *What is church to you?*
- 2) *What connections do you see between church and food?*

R E S P O N S E t o t h e W O R D

Sermon Continued

Please rise in body or spirit

#525: Let Us Break Bread Together

Song

Invitation to the LORD’s Supper

The LORD be with you. **And also with you.** (*sung twice*)

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the LORD.**

Let us give thanks to the LORD our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Creator God. You feed my soul. With the whole earth. You feed my soul. With the creatures that walk. And swim. And fly. You feed my soul. With the wind and the rain. You feed my soul. With the stars in the heavens. You feed my soul. And I grow strong. In my heart and my mind and my spirit. With your gifts... Amen

Words of Institution

Communion Music

We've Come This Far By Faith

Sharing of the Holy Meal & Offering & Packing Meals for Neighbors

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

Source of Compassion, you meet our needs.

May our gifts become loaves and fish for those who hunger.

May our offerings become love and light for those who feel lost and afraid.

Bless our lives and our ministries, that we may be a people who share our abundance with those who live in want.

In our living and in our giving, may the world be fed and made whole again.

Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

#700: I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

Benediction

And the Table Will Be Wide by Jan Richardson

And the table will be wide. And the welcome will be wide. And the arms will open wide to gather us in. And our hearts will open wide to receive.

And we will come as children who trust there is enough. And we will come unhindered and free. And our aching will be met with bread. And our sorrow will be met with wine.

And we will open our hands to the feast without shame. And we will turn toward each other without fear. And we will give up our appetite for despair. And we will taste and know of delight.

And we will become bread for a hungry world. And we will become drink for those who thirst. And the blessed will become the blessing. And everywhere will be the feast.

What is a Presbyterian?

By Maggie Harmon



At the most basic level the word “presbyter” means ‘elder’ - it is from a Greek word that designated the officers or leaders in the early church (even before the Reformation). For us then to be a Presbyterian means to be a leader in the church and that concept is really at the heart of what being a Presbyterian is.

You do not achieve the title of Presbyter by doing something particular or completing a degree or taking an exam. As a member of the church, as a part of the community, you simply are a leader in that community.

The Presbyterian Church USA of which we are a member is a denomination made up of over 8,000 congregations across the country. We are built, very intentionally as communities that are autonomous and that are made up of leaders guiding the congregation but not controlling everything. Regionally we are a part of the Presbytery of San Francisco that draws its own leadership from the congregational members. Currently I am serving as a representative on the Finance and Property Oversight Committee. Pastor Matt is serving as a part of a Racial Equity commission.

Within the congregation itself leadership is divided between Ruling Elders, those elected by the membership to manage the business of the church, and Teaching Elders, clergy responsible for guiding us in our exploration of the gospel and our deepening relationship with God. Every two years representatives are elected by each Presbytery across the country to serve at the General Assembly where the Book of Order (our guiding constitution) is reviewed, amended, and kept a living document the serves to create structure for the church in the world.

The Book of Order reminds us that we are to do our work “decently and in order” which can sometimes feel like too many meetings, too many committees, too long to get things done. But really it allows us to be what are: elders, leading our church, all of us working to bring God’s word to the whole world.

Whether you are currently serving on Session, working in another one of our ministries, or simply showing up to worship on Sunday morning remember that you too are an elder in the church. You too are called to lead. You too are responsible for caring, preserving, and growing these gifts.

Lorraine Provost to Discuss the Importance of Vaccinations



GOOD HEALTH WINS

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN, INC. & VACCINATE YOUR FAMILY



Today, Lorraine Provost will be discussing an initiative called, “Good Health WINS,” sponsored by the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW). The focus of this initiative is to recognize the benefits and the importance of vaccinations.

The Good Health Women’s Immunization Networks (Good Health WINS) is the organization’s commitment to build an army of good health champions who understand

the importance of immunizations across the lifespan. Good Health Wins educates, advocates and impacts families and communities across the US to end the pandemic, address health disparities, and shine the light on the importance of good health. Through its network of trusted messengers and grassroots activities, the goal is to increase vaccination rates, access and help remove barriers to access to vaccines and good health.

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.

Upcoming Building a Beloved Community Events

August 25: Oakland A's Game

Tickets still available! 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!



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.

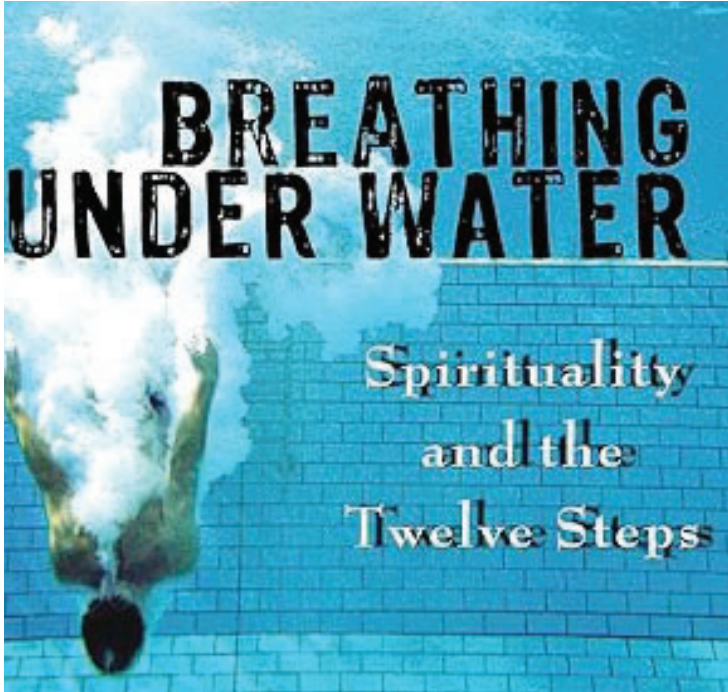
There came a time in my life as a priest when I was serving no congregation nor celebrating at any altar nor preaching in any pulpit. But I was still a priest. Then another wise mentor—this time a Jesuit—helped me find new meanings for those words. Meanings that at base call to a ministry of connection, 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's the altar at which I now serve.

Susan Allison-Hatch

Join us August 24 at Pastor Matt's



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 24: Prinz Home 10-11:30 a.m.

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

Faith in Action Night Walk to Celebrate 12th Anniversary

SAVE THE DATE! Join Faith in Action at 6 p.m. on September 13 to celebrate 12 years of walking our streets to be a ministry of presence in our city. Learn more about the Ceasefire Strategy and an important public safety measure on the ballot that will strengthen violence-reduction work in Oakland.



Food Ministry Kitchen Report

Ben and Martha picked up food donations on Friday. Saturday we welcomed Steve back to pick up duties after an extended absence to address health issues. Sat food donations were picked by Michael, David, Rae, Henry, Steve, Devon and Bryan. They joined Teri, Ellen and Dorothy in the kitchen to stow groceries, boil and peel eggs for Sunday and Monday lunch and plan menus for both days. Monday regular volunteer Trish joined us to help peel 200 eggs! Much appreciated.

A small but mighty team of Sunday volunteers got it all done in time led by Louise included Ben, Martha and Ann. They made lunches of egg salad sandwiches, fruit, chips and desserts. Bonnie, Derek, Pauline and Ann prepped veggies for Monday. Lorraine and Gay and Victor distributed lunches to guests at 27th street. MACRO and the Berkeley Presbyterian Homes team distributed lunches to people living in the streets.

Monday's lunch of quiche, green salad, fruit salad and mixed vegetables was prepared by volunteers : Ellen, Bonnie, Shirley, Lynn, Kathy, Tai, Barb, Sarah, Beth, Jan, Natalie, Dan, Diane, Trish, Hunter and Crissey.

Many thanks to all.

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.



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

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