

Weekly Newsletter

August 25, 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

**Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You alone, O LORD, are holy.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Alleluia!**

Maranatha, marantha, come, LORD Jesus, come. (x2)

Holy Spirit, come to us.

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Magnify the LORD.

All: Praise God's holy name.

One: The LORD hears the pleas of the suffering.

All: God transforms our suffering into songs of joy.

One: God restores our fortunes when calamity strikes.

All: Bless the LORD and praise God's holy name!

Gathering Prayer

One: God our healer, source of everlasting mercy, give us the courage to cry out in our need, when the crowd seeks to silence us, as did blind Bartimaeus outside Jericho. Grant us your healing balm, God, that we may be truly made well and whole and follow you all the days of our lives.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Hymn

Here I am to worship

Refrain:

**Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.**

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: God of quiet mystery, we come looking for a blessing. We long to be counted among the wise, but often find ourselves among the foolish, speaking without knowledge. We yearn to be found among the righteous, but often travel with those who boast without cause. We desire to be instruments of your grace, but often meet genuine pain with empty words. As blind Bartimaeus before us, grant us the courage to cry out in our need, for you are ever drawing near to make us whole.

All: Amen.

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

Song

#59: The Steadfast Love of the LORD

Assurance of Pardon

**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.

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. 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 10.46 - 52 NRSV

One: They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!' Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, 'Son of David, have mercy on me!' Jesus stood still and said, 'Call him here.' And they called the blind man, saying to him, 'Take heart; get up, he is calling you.' So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. Then Jesus said to him, 'What do you want me to do for you?' The blind man said to him, 'My teacher, let me see again.' Jesus said to him, 'Go; your faith has made you well.' Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

LORD Help Us See

RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

- 1) *Who is God calling you to become?*
- 2) *Who is God calling us to become?*

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

Psalm 91 by Keith Ogden

**Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty (repeat)**

**I will say of the LORD, God is my refuge, God is my fortress (repeat)
My refuge, My fortress, My God in whom I trust**

Invitation to the Offering

God's grace is abundant. Wherever we wander, God remains our God. The profoundness of God's love stands in contrast to the harsh judgment of our world. In response to this unfailing love, let us bring our time, talents, and treasures to serve the ministries to which we are called.

Offertory

Good To Me

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: Mighty God, as you restore sight to the blind and healing to the afflicted, use these offerings to provide refuge for the lost and mercy for those who suffer. May our gifts find those who cry out in need and who seek you with receptive hearts.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

#649: Amazing Grace

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

Benediction

One: God heals the broken and makes the wounded whole.

All: We go with peace in our hearts.

One: God finds the lost and gives them a home.

All: We go with joy and thanksgiving.

One: God visits the lonely and makes them family.

All: We go as the people of God.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Suzie Inadomi

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Susannah Prinz

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Ben and Martha Baab

New Food Ministry Roles Now Available - Come and Join Us!

Please contact Pastor Matt or Dorothy Dugger to sign up for these new opportunities to serve.

Saturday 10 a.m. - noon: Each Saturday morning volunteers go to Whole Foods and Good Eggs to pick up donations. We need help organizing and cleaning up the donation pick-ups. Love our neighbors and build community with others.

Weekly Communications: Each week we share in word and picture what is happening within our food ministry to the church community. Would you like to take a few pictures and type up a brief report about the food ministry to encourage and inspire others to join us in loving our neighbors?

Sunday Lead: We are seeking another volunteer to lead one Sunday a month before and after our worship service. A Sunday lead follows the meal plan, coordinates volunteers, guides food distribution, and checks on the clean-up. The lead ensures that volunteers have meaningful service and can contribute to this important ministry.

Laundry day: We need 1 or 2 volunteers to pick up dirty dishtowels etc mid week, wash and return to the kitchen by Sunday. 1 week per month.

Organizing dry goods pantry and storage closets: With many users of the kitchen, things sometimes don't get put away in the best place or with the most logic. Spend an hour or two at the most, once a month to put things back in shape and help keep the kitchen functional.

Neighbor Liasion: Get to know the neighbors we serve and guests who come pick up lunch and sometimes groceries at our 27th St entrance. Sundays after fellowship hour. 11:45 to 12:45-1:00. 2 volunteers needed to give out lunch bags and serve coffee and visit with our guests. You can sign up online when you see a vacancy or pick one Sunday a month as a regular time of service.



Aug 18 Worship Lights Up the Fellowship Hall with Fun and Community



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.

Attend a Public Town Hall for a Safe and Clean Oakland



FEATURING



Police Chief
Floyd Mitchell



City Administrator
Jestin Johnson



Oakland Mayor
Sheng Thao



DVP Chief
Holly Joshi



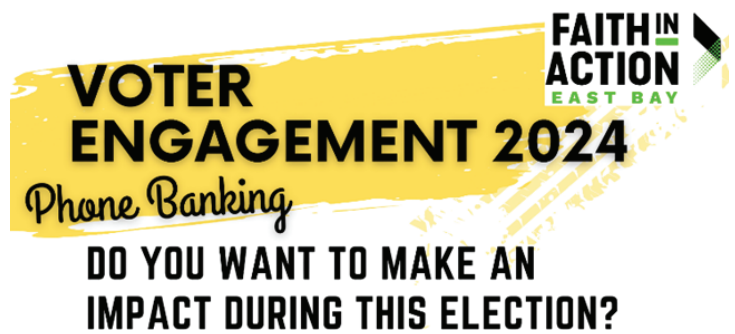
Fire Chief
Damon Covington

Meet Oakland's public safety leadership team and join us for a discussion about key strategies and initiatives around improving public safety in the City of Oakland. All Town Halls will take place from 5:30-7:30pm.

REGISTER AND
LEARN MORE AT

OAKLANDCA.GOV/TOWNHALL

AUG 26 **St. John's Episcopal Church** 1707 Gouldin Rd
AUG 27 **Fremont High School** 4610 Foothill Blvd
AUG 29 **Allen Temple Baptist Church** 8501 International Blvd
AUG 30 **Oakland Asian Cultural Center** 388 9th St, Ste 290



Volunteering to phone bank is a great opportunity to encourage people to vote and empower the community with information about what will be on the ballot

Phone Banking Opportunities from now until the election - Training Provided

REGISTER

- Tuesdays on zoom from 6 - 8 p.m.
tinyurl.com/fiaebtuesdays
- Thursdays on zoom from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
tinyurl.com/fiaebthursdays

Faith in Action Night Walk to Celebrate 12th Anniversary

SAVE THE DATE! Join Faith in Action at 6 p.m. on September 13 at the Allen Temple, 8501 International Blvd, Oakland, 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.



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



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.

We are asking all members to bring a packet of seeds to share and a picture/written memorial or appreciation of Bill we can add to a memory binder for Su and family. If you are open to making a dessert for the reception please sign up with Martha Bauman.

Spiritual Practice of our Attention

enfleshed as adrienne maree brown has taught us, "what you put your attention on grows." there are many things that need our attention. too many things, truly. we are asked - we are required - to carry more in our minds, hearts, bodies, (all of us and also some of us more than others), than is really humanly possible. and much of where our attention is directed comes with significant force from outside influences. all day, our gazes are being funneled. to this video. that voice. this perspective. that product. this idea. that limitation. this boundary. that threat. this possibility but not that one or that one or that one. this truth not that one. this form of suffering and not that one. this struggle, not that one. not those. this shapes a great deal of collective unfolding. and like in all things, we have some level of both joy and responsibility, to reflect on the fruit of our participation.

where attention is funneled - from our listening, to our imagination, to the resources of our day - is it in alignment with our values, to a degree with which we are satisfied? yes, there are compromises we must make. yes, there are some things beyond our control. and also, yes, there are ways we practice our agency in the midst. may we be faithful to whom and to what we offer the gift of our attention, that we may be a part of sharing this resource only on what we wish to see grow in the world.

to practice agency over our attention. to recognize it for the precious resource it is. to treat it as one of our most prized possessions. with respect. with protection. with love. this is spiritual work. part of a practice we must cultivate.

enfleshed
spiritual nourishment for collective liberation





**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



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Temple Tidings

Elders

Elizabeth Cureton: Youth and Children
Chris Weber: Building and Grounds
Di Pagel: Worship and Music/Personnel
Gay Plair Cobb: Personnel/Food Ministry
Erick Bevington: Treasurer
Maggie Harmon: Finance
Julia Marquez: Community Life

Session Officers

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

Deacons

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Su Coburn, Pauline Ahanotu, Monrovia Prinz,
Martha Bauman, Charmaine Irmiter

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Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Matt Prinz, Dorothy Dugger and Maggie Harmon. Photos by Suzie Inadomi and Linda Carter. *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