

Weekly Newsletter

September 1, 2024

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Partnering with MACRO as they set out
to love our neighbors

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

Prelude

If I Could Help Somebody
by Alma Bazel Androzzo

Gathering 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)

Over my head I hear music in the air. (x3)
There must be a God somewhere!

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Sing praise to God, who changes our mourning to dancing.

All: Sing praise to Christ, who offers healing for our sickness.

One: Sing praise to the Spirit, who brings peace to our turmoil.

All: Sing praise to God, who gives us strength for the journey.

One: Singing God's praises,

All: we come to worship and pray.

Gathering Prayer

One: Healer God, bring your shalom to our time of worship. Weave your peace and your healing through our words and our thoughts this day. Flow through us with your presence and your love, with your spirit that we may bring your presence and your love to all the world. In hope and gratefulness, we pray.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit

Hymn

#741: Guide My Feet

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: Great Doctor, we cry out in our sickness for healing and hope. We look for your peace, even in our troubling world. We yearn for your grace, even in our sinful moments. We need you more than ever, even as you need us. Bring healing; bring peace; bring grace; bring strength, that we may serve and love your world, even as you serve and love us so generously.

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

Sung Assurance

#695: Change My Heart, O 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.

P R A Y E R S o f t h e P E O P L E

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud. Children remain 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

697: Take My Life

T H E W O R D

Scripture Lesson

Luke 10. 1 -11 NRSV

One: After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way; I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals, and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if a person of peace is there, your peace will rest on that person, but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

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

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Sent Ones

RESPONSE to the WORD

Sermon Continued

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

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

#69: Here I am, LORD

Invitation to the LORD's Supper

#507: Come to the Table of Grace

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

What Was I Made For?

by Billie Eilish

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

298 LORD, You Give the Great Commission

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

Postlude in D

by Healey Willan

Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of a word of inspiration or comfort and to prepare you for the week ahead. Receive in silence.

Benediction

One: With what shall we journey in faith?

All: Not with bags or sandals.

One: Nor with rituals or rules.

All: No, but with blessings of peace.

One: With acts of mercy.

All: With words of love.

One: With prayers of healing.

All: For all who are willing to receive.

One: With peace, mercy, love and healing,

All: we are ready to journey 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. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Kerry Sherman

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Anne Margaret Manay

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Communion Set Up: Diane Hill and Deacon

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Emily and Donovan Chandler

Church Happens Throughout the Campus on Sundays

By Di Pagel

In worship on Sunday Pastor Matt often reminds us that church is happening all over our campus simultaneously. It's happening in the kitchen where members and friends of our congregation are preparing food for distribution to the food challenged that day. It's happening in Room 2 in the Christian Education wing where adult mentors are worshipping together with our children in Godly Play and also wherever on campus the congregation is meeting through song, liturgy and sacrament. As we experienced this August, worship might be in the sanctuary, Fellowship hall or in the Reception room. Our faith community is certainly spiritually enriched by this diversity of ministry opportunities and offerings each Sunday.

On Sunday, September 8 at the end of worship everyone will be invited to leave the service and stop by to celebrate with those involved in the Food Ministry and Godly Play programs. It is good for all of us to know what is happening on Sunday mornings. There will be the usual refreshments in the Reception room but there will also be an important opportunity to



meet with Elder Maggie Harmon (Finance and Stewardship) who will be at a table to speak with those who are interested about the 2024 church budget and the financial health of our church. There will be a brief overview of what a budget is, how our finances are managed, and the current status of our income and expenses. It will enable all of us to be better informed on how we sustain and grow our Christian ministry in this part of Oakland.



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.



First Church Membership and Participation and Community

First Church is inviting all who are interested to consider becoming members of the congregation to make First Church a permanent church home. Members are asked to make a “profession of faith” to the elders. This profession generally consists of telling your own story and describing why Christian faith and the church are meaningful for you. New members are then received by the congregation in a brief ceremony where they pledge to follow Christ by loving and supporting each other. This also serves as a form of public declaration to make First Church a permanent church home.

Voting in church is part of the Presbyterian Church’s origin story. During the Age of Enlightenment, church reformers wrested control of their churches away from rule by Bishops, and vested it in the congregation, giving all members a right to elect their leaders (known as elders in English,



Important Element of Church

or Presbyters in Greek). This form of church government operates very similar to a republic, with elected leaders making decisions of behalf of the congregation. At First Church, we elect our Pastor (Minister of Word and Sacrament), our Ruling Elders (currently we have seven) and our Deacons (numbering eight). All these elected members are responsible for discerning the church’s mission and using the church’s resources to accomplish it.

Only members of the congregation can be nominated for leadership. And only members of the congregation can vote at meetings. The Elders at First Church are responsible for receiving new members, and they enthusiastically welcome any new(ish) person interested in making First Church their home. Anyone interested can discuss membership with Pastor Matt or any Elder.



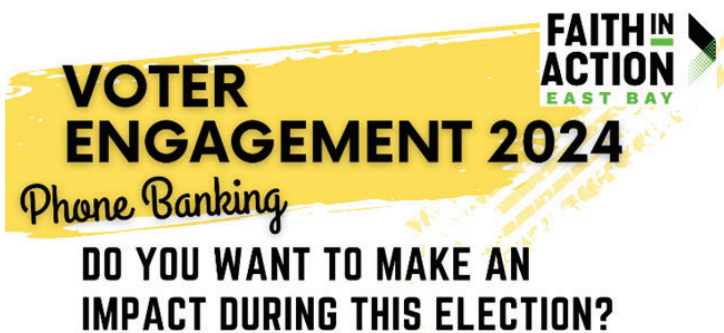
In Memory: Bill Coburn - Church Member and Food Ministry Leader



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.

Phone Banking Opportunities Available with Training Provided



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

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.



Food Ministry Street Report

By Lexine Alpert

In July, Governor Gavin Newsom, following the Supreme Court's decision, announced that homelessness would be illegal and that camps were going to be cleared out. Sadly, there were no plans to provide housing for the 181,000+ people living homeless in California, and no ideas for where these people were to be displaced to. Since this time, we have noticed many homeless people being evicted, with their little property being thrown out, and more and more are receiving notices daily that they will soon be forcibly removed. Not sure what is to happen, but people are always grateful for the meals they receive and the kindness of those of us who care. On Monday, David Bellman and I drove through



the streets of Oakland, always looking for those individuals on their own, (rather than in the larger encampments who often get services from other organizations). We started on the underpasses off of Telegraph, and toward Frank Ogawa Plaza, the streets of West Oakland, and finally to the growing homeless numbers in Clinton Park and along International and 12th Avenues. If you haven't been down there, you should take a drive to this area south of Lake Merritt....sadly there are young prostitutes everywhere and rows of dilapidated cardboard boxes serving as houses. You would believe you are in a third world country...Extreme signs of poverty in our country that continues to give billions away to other countries...



And finally me, talking with Rondell who was just forcibly moved from a spot along the freeway he had been living at for several years. He is now outside of a gas station with his two dogs and we're trying to help him secure a new spot.

As always, thank you all for your tremendous humanitarian efforts and contributions. Sadly, we are doing what our country is not doing. I return next month to my work volunteering in refugee camps abroad. Greece, a poor country, has very few homeless, and medical care and education are free. I keep asking myself why America cannot (or chooses not) to take care of its own...

Celebrate September Birthdays!



September 13: Myles Ogden
September 15: Joan Clerk
September 17: Victor Carrillo
September 20: Elizabeth Goodwin
September 22: Charmaine Irmiter
September 22: Chad Provost
September 25: Hazel Seiden-Miller
September 26: Ann Tisher
September 27: Chima Ngumezi
September 28: Erick Bevington
September 30: Isabella Seiden-Miller

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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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

Marjorie Witt, Barbara Goodroe, Derrick Polk,
Su Coburn, Pauline Ahanotu, Monrovia Prinz,
Martha Bauman, Charmaine Irmiter

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