

Weekly Newsletter

September 15, 2024

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Ruth and Naomi by Kelli Latimore

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

*Adoration
by Florence Price*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come into the land of God.

All: We come seeking the land of love.

One: Live as the people of God.

All: We gather to grow as a community of love.

One: Follow in the ways of the LORD.

All: We move forward on the path of love.

One: Come, young and old, friend and foreigner, for all are welcome here.

All: We live and grow in the love of Christ. Praise God for this wonderful gift!

Gathering Prayer

One: God, you are our God, and we come as your people on earth. Gather us in, that we may remember the ties that bind us together in your love. Write your law upon our hearts, that others may find us to be a generous and loving community. Strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may live in love – a love that transforms lives, even as we help to transform the lives of others. In the hope of your miraculous love, we pray.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit
Hymn

#324: For All the Faithful Women

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: Helper God, be the hope that overcomes despair; be the love that overcomes hatred; be the mercy that overcomes our sin. Set us free from the prisons of our own making, and release us from the bonds that bind us. Forgive us and watch over us. Welcome us home into the loving arms of your mercy. In Christ's name, we pray.

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.

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

*From Borders and Belonging
by Padraig o Tuama*

God of bodies, if it is true that the earth is yours and all within it, then yours are the rocks and grasses on every side of every border. And-more- yours are the faces of every person: border-dwellers, border-crossers, border-guards, border-deniers, border-defenders, borderless, borderful, border-endangered and border-dreamers. What we ask is simple, but it will take many lifetimes: let us make borders serve us, not us them. And - again - let us be people who make justice stretch across borders. Because the earth is yours and everything in it. It is round and everything turns on itself. May we turn to each other as we turn to you

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Ruth 1. 1 - 18 NRSV

One: In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, "Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said,

"Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;

your people shall be my people and your God my God.

Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus to me, and more as well,

if even death parts me from you!"

When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

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

Where you may go

Wher - ev - er you may go, I will fol - low, and

your peo - ple shall be my peo - ple too. Wher - ev - er you may go, I will

fol - low, for I would be faith - ful, loy - al and true.

Invitation to the LORD's Supper

Song of Thanksgiving

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.**

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

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

I have decided to follow Jesus (x3). No turning back, no turning back!
Though no one join me, still I will follow... no turning back!
The world behind me, the cross before me... no turning back!

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

Festal March
by Florence Price

Ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of a word of inspiration or comfort from the worship service and to prepare you for the week ahead. Please receive in silence.

Benediction

One: Go to love God and neighbor.

All: We go forth in the love of God.

One: Go to welcome the stranger.

All: We go forth with love for the world.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Nina Lapachet

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Cantor: Ben Chandler

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Communion Set Up: Diane Hill and Martha Bauman

Godly Play: Raenelle Tauro and Aaron Ruff

Fellowship Time Refreshments: The Ogden Family

Susan Allison-Hatch September 22 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



Practices of our Church Community – Ways to Join Us

Worship Service Each Sunday we gather at 10am to sing, pray, confess, and worship God together. We invite our community to participate in our worship services through singing, reading, praying, ushering, or sharing testimony. Do you like to write prayers or help connect music to themes in scripture? Talk with Di Pagel (Elder of Worship), Jake Fontana (Music Director) or Pastor Matt if you would like to help lead/design our worship services. You can also help us create space for conversation and building community through providing food during our coffee hour (11-12). Talk with Julia Marquez if you would like to contribute.

Food Ministry Each week, more than 40 volunteers share over 300 meals with our neighbors through our food ministry. Volunteers gather donated food on Fridays and Saturdays from local supermarkets and bakeries. Meals are prepared on Sundays and Mondays and are shared with neighbors and delivered to local encampments. We have opportunities to serve during the week, each Saturday, and Sunday. Talk with Gay Cobb or Dorothy Dugger or Nina Lapachet to get involved.

Bible Study Wednesday nights at 7pm via Zoom we gather around the sacred texts of scripture to study and reflect upon our lives and take new steps of faithfulness together. No need to study beforehand, just sign up for our weekly emails, click on the Zoom link and join conversation. Come with a desire to build community and listen for God's Spirit in the midst of scripture. Talk with Henry Gardner or Maggie Harmon or Pastor Matt for more details.

Building the Beloved Community Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. constantly spoke about God's work of building the beloved community - a community bridging across the differences of race, class, gender, sexuality, and ability. Building the Beloved Community is one lens we use to look at all of our ministry at First Church. We also host conversations, book groups, attend concerts and art shows, to learn, reflect, and to help us build God's beloved community within our church community, in our neighborhoods, and city. Talk with Suzie Inadomi, Pastor Matt or Pastor Joel to learn about ways to join BBC work at First Presbyterian Church of Oakland.

Faith in Action "Justice is what love looks like in the public." Cornel West. How do we put our faith into action to love our neighbors? One way we live out our faith is joining the ministries of Faith in Action East Bay, who for over 40 years have advocated and worked in areas of gun violence, immigration, education, housing, and equity in Oakland and the larger Bay Area. Members of First Pres. regularly join FIA Ceasefire night walks, advocate for affordable housing, and seek to support new structural changes for equity and justice. Talk with Pastor Matt to get involved and our new community organizer Chris Logan.

Community Life - God is community Three in one and we are made for community. Creating spaces for community around meals, discussion groups, backyard firepits, and outings together (A's game, beach etc.) are an important ministry within our church community. Do you like to host events, love connecting with others, enjoy building community? Talk with Julia Marquez or Pastor Matt and join them in planning our next community life events.

First Church Membership is an Important Element of Church 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,

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 nine). 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.



Join us September 29 at Maggie's

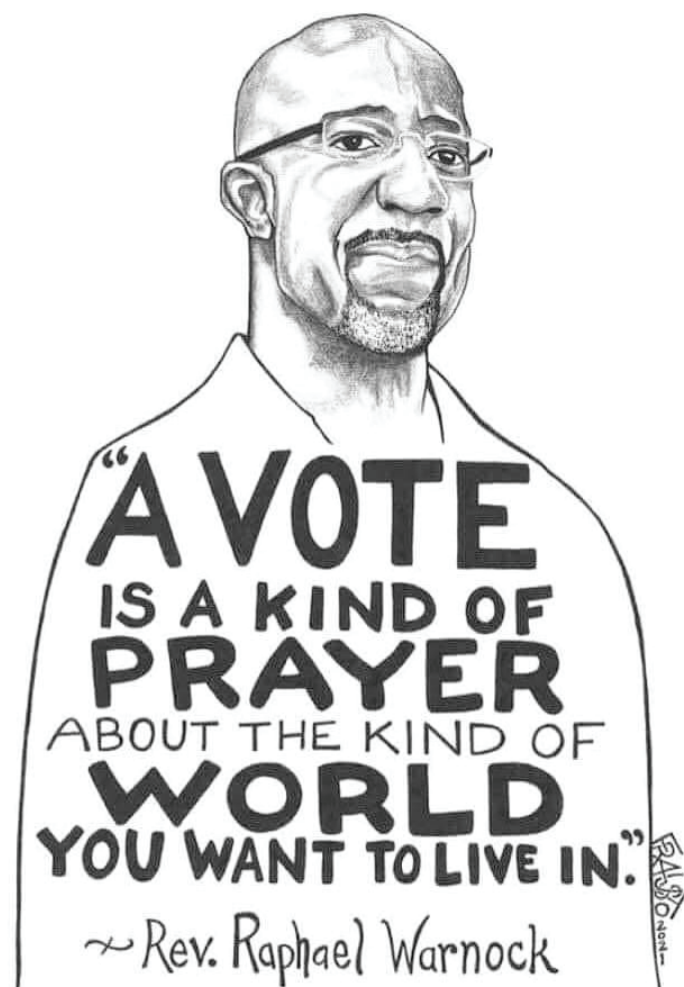
Please join us at First Church as we continue our dive into the spirituality of awakening into our life as beloved children of God. Over the course of the summer we have been exploring *Breathing Under Water* by Father Richard Rohr. This book will guide us in 'breaking negative patterns and experiencing 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. Please RSVP so we can plan food. September 29: @ 4:00pm
Maggie Harmon- maggieafh@gmail.com

Working Names Studio Concert Oct. 5 at 7 p.m.



Come to the Oct. 19 Ballot Party



Ballot Party on Oct. 19th from 10 - 1130am in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your voter guide and sample ballot and learn/discuss local and statewide measures on the ballot. We will look at summaries of each measure/proposition, ask questions, share our ideas with others, and take a straw poll.

Faith in Action organizer Chris Logan will share ways to encourage others to vote. Members of College Ave Presbyterian Church, Bethel Presbyterian Church, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, and Oaklife Church will be joining us.

Ask Pastor Matt or Nancy Ogden if you have questions or would like further information

Food Ministry Report

We have two new members of the FM laundry brigade. Welcome and thank you Julia and Sarah, who join Judy, Di and Dorothy in weekly laundering of Food Ministry laundry.

And many thanks to Martha who has brought our freezer back to life with a good cleaning of the coils and more!

Martha and Ben picked up grocery donations on Friday from Whole Foods and Western Service Workers. On Saturday, Devon and Michael picked up groceries from Good Eggs and a David and Steve picked up from Whole Foods.

Bryan, Teri, Ellen-joined by her daughter Hannah and Dorothy, prepped eggs for Sunday and Monday lunch, organized refrigerators to receive new donations and helped receive and store donations.

Sundays lunch of egg salad sandwiches, fruit, chips and desserts were prepared by Ann, Martha, Ben, Sean, Laura, Erica, Aaron and Dorothy. Gay, Lorraine, Jo, Matt and Victor gave out lunches to guests at 27th St entrance. Macro and Berkeley Presbyterian Homes team distributed meals to people living in the streets.

On Monday the volunteer team of Teri, Ellen, Shirley, Trish, Barb, Jan. Beth, Diane, Dan C, Natalie, Crissi, Hunter, Bonnie prepared lunches of Rice, beans, cheese, beef casserole Or roasted chicken, or vegetarian tofu veg dish, green salad, fruit salad, dessert and coffee.

Food Ministry Roles Available

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

Bill Coburn Memory Book Still Available for Additions



Please see Martha Bauman if you would like to add to the book for Bill's family. thanks to all who came to the memorial and who planned the event.

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

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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 and Maggie Harmon. Photos by Suzie Inadomi, 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