

Weekly Newsletter

September 22, 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

Sehnsucht

Welcome

by Melissa Dunphy

Call to Worship

One: Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.

All: Build us into a spiritual house, God, and we will be a holy people.

One: Unless the Lord guards the city, the guards keep watch in vain.

All: Guard our hearts and minds, that we may walk in your ways.

One: Unless the Lord is the center of our worship, our words and praise are in vain.

All: Here and now, Holy One, may we taste eternity.

Gathering Prayer

One: God of infinite possibilities, when the world says, "No," you say, "Yes!" The world warns against marrying outsiders, but you transform honest love into a blessing for all people. The LORD lauds the industry of the rich, but you cherish the sacrifice of the poor. Build us into a household of love and guard the walls of our spirit, that we may remain strong in service to one another.

All: Amen

Please rise in body or spirit
Hymn

#475: Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: God of welcome,
We confess that at times we have been content to exclude or neglect those our communities cannot use. We have been so wrapped up in status and symbol that we have constructed walls not out of wisdom or self-understanding, but out of feigned superiority and elitism. We have not loved well. We have prioritized the powerful and popular. We have neglected the friends who give more than they ever receive. We have forgotten the quiet. We have forgotten ourselves. Have mercy on us, that we might become faithful harbors for belonging in a dislocated world. And as we gaze on the faces of the lonely, of the abandoned, forgive us.

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

#695: Change My Heart, O God

Assurance of Pardon

One: Let your soul receive this rest: The God whose friends fell asleep in the garden on the night he needed them desperately has mercy on you now. Just as this sacred company rose to be loved by God evermore, may you also know and receive this same forgiveness, extending it to all whom you've chosen to love and be loved by.

All: Amen.

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

One: When I was a child I thought like a child.
My country good; theirs evil.
Or: my country is bad; theirs is better;
Or: my country is poor; my country is corrupt;
Or: my country is recovering from empire.
When I was a child, I thought the stories I told
were the stories every country told.
Now, looking at maps and borders
new lines on old land and remembering stories of people
who crossed rivers and oceans,
seeing the twists of my families' history,
knowing that the DNA that twists in me
is more legion than the stories I've inherited
I turn to the story of my country and make it be many.

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

#840: When Peace Like a River

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Ruth 2. 1 - 13 NRSV

Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a prominent rich man of the family of Elimelech whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain behind someone in whose sight I may find favor." She said to her, "Go, my daughter." So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech. Just then Boaz came from Bethlehem. He said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you." They answered, "The LORD bless you." Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "To whom does this young woman belong?" The young man who was in charge of the reapers answered, "She is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. She said, 'Please, let me glean and gather among the sheaves behind the reapers.' So she came, and she has been on her feet from early this morning until now without resting even for a moment."

Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Now listen, my daughter, do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but keep close to my young women. Keep your eyes on the field that is being reaped and follow behind them. I have ordered the young men not to bother you. If you get thirsty, go to the vessels and drink from what the young men have drawn.” Then she fell prostrate, with her face to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your sight, that you should take notice of me, when I am a foreigner?” But Boaz answered her, “All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told me, how you left your father and mother and your native land and came to a people that you did not know before. May the LORD reward you for your deeds, and may you have a full reward from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge!” Then she said, “May I continue to find favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and spoken kindly to your servant, even though I am not one of your servants.”

One: For the Word in Scripture, the Word made flesh and the Word in our hearts.
 All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Making Our Way

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

Wherever you may go

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

4
 your peo - ple shall be my peo - ple too. Wher - ev - er you may go, I will

7
 fol - low, for I would be faith - ful, loy - al and true.

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

May You Find a Light
by Josh Garrels

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: Free our hearts, gracious God, that your great purposes may work through our love, as they did for Naomi and Ruth before us. Multiply our gifts, Holy One, that all people may be built into a spiritual house—a house that no one can bring down.

All: Amen.

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

#837: What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

Gigue in G
by Jacquet de la Guerre

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

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Derek Mueller

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Susannah Prinz

Liturgy by: Cole Arther Riley from Black Liturgies

Head Usher: Louise Hill

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Ruby Prinz

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Paula Goodwin and Derek Mueller

Susan Allison-Hatch Reception Room Art Show TODAY at 11 !

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



The Importance of Stewardship

by Maggie Harmon

Stewardship: the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving...

For over 100 years First Presbyterian church has been cared for by those who worship, share, and create community within its walls. Today it is our turn to assume responsibility for caring for this precious place. Your gift in any amount allows us to continue to live as the beloved community, sharing our resources, and joyfully worshipping together.

Please support the ministry of First Presbyterian Church of Oakland with a gift today.



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 guides 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

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

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.



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.

From othering to belonging: a framework for DEI history- telling and strategizing

By April Edwell and Jennifer Edwell

Check out a recent article by Jen and April in *Medical Humanities*.

Abstract:

The medical profession in the USA is, and has long been, a segregated workforce. Currently, just 5% of all US physicians are black. Understanding the origins and mechanisms of this disparity is essential to creating a future where black healing and healers are supported by our medical system. In pursuit of this future, this article offers “othering” and “belonging” as frames of analysis and intervention for diversity and equity initiatives.

Building on previous historical studies of racism in medicine, this project reveals how the figure of the “American physician” was created through exclusionary/othering tactics. In part 1, we analyze antebellum historical sources to demonstrate the role of medicine in creating and promulgating racial categories and hierarchies. Next, in part 2, we explore the historical conditions that produced the American physician as a significant identity by analyzing texts by the American Medical Association and affiliated state medical societies. Then, we turn toward solutions in part 3. To redress inequities produced by othering, particularly the continued exclusion of black people from the medical profession, we argue that medical leaders should cultivate a professional culture of belonging. As we will explain, belonging goes beyond tolerating and respecting differences; it entails shared culture, equal rights and inclusive structure

Food Ministry Report

Sunday, 9/15 volunteers: Ann, Martha, Betsy, Stuart, Laura, Bonnie, Victor, Pauline, Matthew, Jan (lead)

We served egg salad sandwiches with fruit, snacks and an assortment of desserts. The Lapachet Family supported the neighbors at the church gate.

Extra bags were taken to our neighbors living on the streets by community volunteers and the MACRO Team.

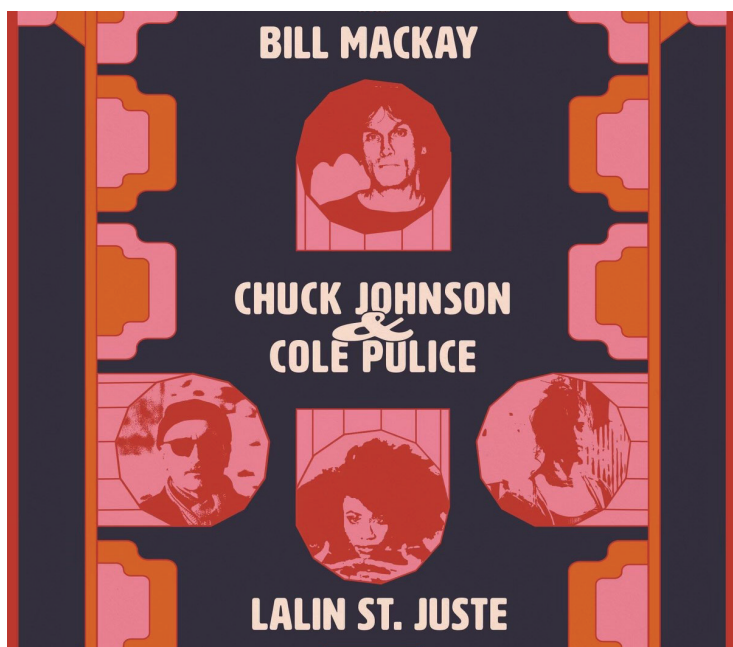
Monday Menu: corn chowder with salmon or sausage and chicken on rice. Green salad, mixed vegetables, hardboiled egg, fruit, dessert coffee at the gate. Clothes given away ... lots of sweaters, hygiene kits and blankets.

Monday volunteers included: Teri, Ellen, Dave, Barb, Bonnie, Jan, Pam, Natalie, Dan C, Beth, Shirley, Crissi, Trish and Diane.



Working Names Studio Concert

Oct. 5 at 7 p.m.



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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and past editions of
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

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

Church Staff

Rev. Matt Prinz, Pastor

matt@firstchurchoakland.org

510.488.3812

email to make an appointment

Rev. Joel Mackey, Parish Associate

joelmackey@comcast.net

Jake Fontana, Music Director

jake@firstchurchoakland.org

Micheline La Mont, Community Relationships Manager

micheline@firstchurchoakland.org

510.488.3810

Gus Lopez, Head Custodian

510.290.9677

Erick Bevington, Treasurer

erick@firstchurchoakland.org

Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper

joan@firstchurchoakland.org

Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Matt Prinz and Maggie Harmon. *Temple Tidings* is a weekly publication. All are welcome to contribute news, events and opinion.

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