

Weekly Newsletter

October 6, 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

Gathering Songs

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

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

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

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Your steadfast love is before our eyes, God.

All: Help us move in faithfulness.

One: When tests and trials come-when evil itself appears- we place our trust in you,
Knower of joy and suffering.

All: Help us move with integrity.

One: Place us on level ground, Redeemer.

All: Move us to sing songs of thanksgiving and to proclaim your wondrous deeds.

Gathering Prayer

One: Gracious God, through whom all things exist, we are mindful this day of siblings in faith around the world. We rejoice in our oneness with them. We are mindful, too, of those near at hand and those far away—those who suffer from ills and calamities, from wars and disasters. Be present with them and us, we pray—even as you fix our hearts on you and how we might, in faith, respond to the need of neighbors around the world.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit
Hymn

#39: *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

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: There will be a time, we hear, when our young will dream dreams and our old will see visions. Take those dreams and visions – God of night – God of day and shape them in the shape of your creation. We infuse our dreams with vision of the other that demean the other and depletes our love for one another. Reveal us to ourselves. Guide our dreams towards a resolution that might lead us to imagine others in your image, not others in the image of our worst nightmare. Because your image blooms with life and grows and moves and breathes in the night and the day. Make this our dream, make this our vision: the flourishing of our hearts in the presence of each other.

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 of Pardon

#452: *Open the Eyes of My Heart*

Greet those around you with a sign of Christ's peace.

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

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud. Children stay in the Sanctuary for Family Worship.

Prayer

One: You gave us branches that we carved into handles for the swords we carried. You gave us metals that we mined and fashioned into blades for the tops of spears. You gave us land and we made maps and drew borders on those maps, building fences, making traps. You gave us coal and sulphur and we made bullets out of things that could warm. You took our sharp swords, our handles for our weapons, our bullets made for killing and made them into pruning hooks and ploughshares and hearths burning brightly for hearts' imagining. What we made sharp you made sharper still, imagining us into better being.

All: Amen.

Hymn

#729: LORD, I Want to Be a Christian

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Ruth 1. 6 - 18 NRSV

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

R E S P O N S E to the W O R D

Sermon Continued

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

Song *Wherever you may go*

Wherever you may go, I will follow, and your people shall be my people too.

Wherever you may go, I will follow, for I would be faithful, loyal, and true.

Invitation to the LORD's Supper

Please rise in body or spirit

Communion Invitation

#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

*All of Me
by John Legend*

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

835: Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

*Moderato
by Elizabeth Stirling*

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

Testimony: Jen Edwell

Liturgist: Cole Provost

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: April Edwell

Liturgy: Confession and Prayer by Padraig O Tuama

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Communion Set Up: Diane Hill and Deacon

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Sarah and Paul Roberts

Susan Allison-Hatch Reception Room Art Show Continues!



You're Invited to the Celebration of Life for William "Brad" Bradshaw

William "Brad" Bradshaw passed away on September 1, 2024. His family invites you to his celebration of life:

Saturday, October 26 at 1 p.m.
Joaquin Miller Community Center
3594 Sanborn Drive, Oakland.

There will be snacks and drinks along with a display of his favorite trinkets (mostly sports- and train-related.) If you have a story to share about Brad, please bring that along with you.



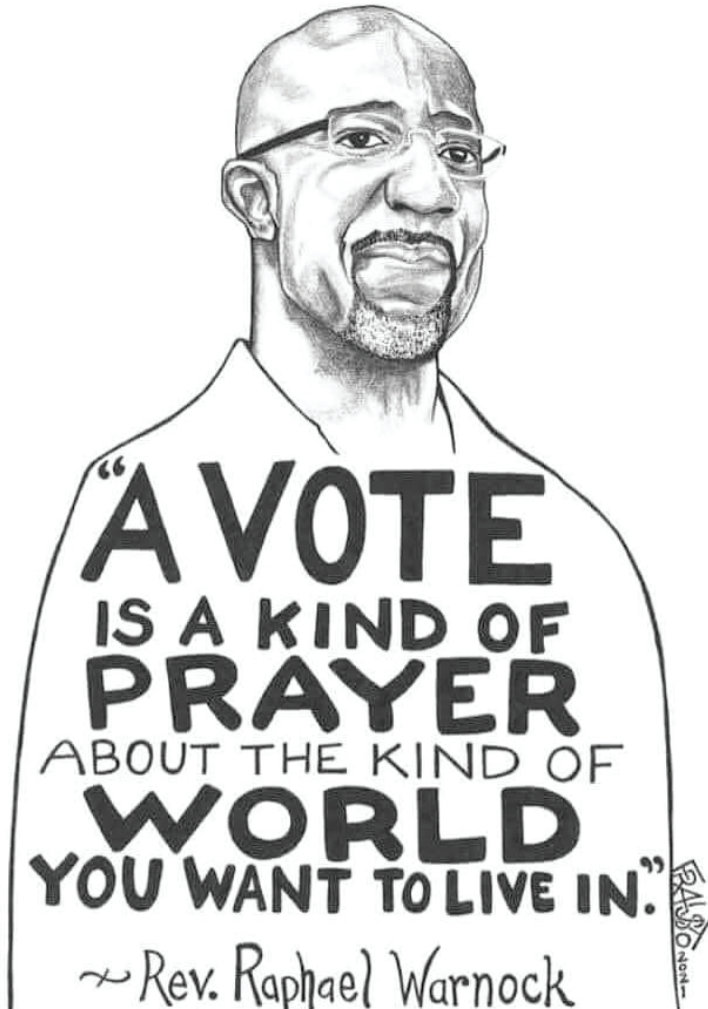
Time, Talent, AND Treasure by Maggie Harmon

We are each called to give of ourselves in different ways throughout our lives. Sometimes we have more time, sometimes we have a special talent, AND sometimes it is our treasure that we can share. Always we are called to stretch just a little to see where and how we can support this family of faith that nurtures our spirit.

We invite you to consider how you can participate in the ministry of the church through your special skills and with a monetary gift in any amount to help sustain the ways in which we learn and grow together, and live faithfully everyday.



Join us on October 19 for a Ballot Party Led by Faith In Action



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.

Love over Fear Concert Set for November 12 at 6:30 p.m.



Join the Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity for its second annual 2024 Love Over Fear Benefit Concert, an inspiring evening of music and storytelling that celebrates global rhythms and deep connections to land and heritage. Proceeds from the concert will advance IM4HI's work to demand the full humanity of every individual through immigration and decarceration advocacy, accompaniment, and the leadership development of directly impacted leaders and faith allies.

This year's show will be produced once again by Benjamin Mertz (aka BenjaSoul), IM4HI board member and renowned composer/performer specializing in the rich tradition of Black Spiritual music.

November 12, 2024
6:30pm (Doors open at 6:00pm)
Freight & Salvage
2020 Addison St. Berkeley
www.im4humanintegrity.org

Food Ministry Report

On Sunday the lunch prep team led by Louise included Ann, Martha, Kyong, Betsy, Stewart, Aaron, Ben and Matt S. 125 egg salad sandwiches with fruit, chips and desserts were prepared. 15 of the lunches were picked up by MACRO for their street clients.

Pauline with Derrick (pictured below) prepared vegetables for the Monday meal along with clean-up of the kitchen and refrigerators. Eric Lapachet and Louise distributed 45 lunches at the gate along with coffee made by Victor.

Come join us on Sunday mornings to help in the bag assembly or greet our guests at the gate at noon.

Contact Louise Hill or Nina Lapachet if interested.



Celebrate our October Birthday!



Please wish the following person a happy birthday this month:

October 29: Henry Gardner

Did we miss your birthday? Please let us know: micheline@firstchurchoakland.org

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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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.

Sign up to be on our email list: firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings