

Weekly Newsletter

October 13, 2024

# Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Jesus Washing Disciples' Feet

# W E L C O M E

## Visitors:

- If you would like to be added to our email list, please go to [firstchurchoakland.org](http://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

*Adagio in D-flat*  
by Franz Liszt

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: LORD, you have never been ashamed to reveal your love—By any means necessary.

All: **You emptied yourself and took the form of a slave—for us. You suffered under oppressive rulers and powers—for us. You humbled yourself and became obedient to death on a cross—for us.**

One: LORD, you revealed yourself in human form so that we could “see” what God is like.  
LORD, reveal yourself to us today—by any means necessary.

All: **Even if it means asking us to endure hardship for your sake. Even if it means asking us to go out of our way to help a stranger.**

One: LORD, reveal yourself to us today—by any means necessary.

All: **Even if it means asking us to give away what we “thought” we had to have. Even if it means asking us to deny ourselves for the sake of others.**

One: LORD, reveal yourself to us today—by any means necessary.

All: **LORD, reveal yourself to us today so that we may reveal your love to others—by any means necessary!**

## Gathering Prayer

One: We marvel, God, at the thought that you care about us. We are amazed that the Creator of the universe would take on human flesh to draw near to us in ways we could begin to understand. As Jesus emptied himself to serve, modeling your love even in the face of death, we seek in these moments to lay aside self-interest that we might take direction from you. Help us to humble ourselves in order to obey you, to listen in order to hear, to care in order to serve. Lead us day and night through the dangers of the wilderness of our times. Lead us in these moments to honest and fervent worship.

**All: Amen.**

*Please rise in body or spirit*  
Hymn

*#401: Gather Us In*

## 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: We fear to approach you with our confession, holy God, for you will require changes in us that are costly. You ask us to have the mind of Christ, a mind free of pretense and self-interest. You challenge us to lay aside our advantages to go where you send us. WE fear loss of security if we are obedient. It is difficult to consider others when we feel like victims. We confess our need for you and our desire to find your purpose for 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*

Sung Assurance of Pardon

*#582: Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

*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 may go with leaders to Godly Play.*

### 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.**

### Hymn

*Give Me a Clean Heart*

Give me a clean heart so I may serve Thee. Lord fix my  
heart\_\_\_\_\_ so that I\_\_\_\_\_ may be used\_\_\_\_\_ by Thee. For I'm not  
wor - thy of all these bless - ings. Give me a  
clean heart,\_\_\_\_\_ and I'll fol - low Thee.\_\_\_\_\_

## THE WORD

### Scripture Lesson

*Philippians 2. 1 - 11 NRSV*

If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he

existed in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
assuming human likeness.  
And being found in appearance as a human,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God exalted him even more highly  
and gave him the name  
that is above every other name,  
so that at the name given to Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*What is Humility?*

## **R E S P O N S E   t o   t h e   W O R D**

Sermon Continued

*Pastor Joel will lead the congregation in reflection on reading and sermon.*

Song

*#727: Will You Let Me Be Your Servant*

Invitation to the Offering

One: As Christ gave up selfish ambition and conceit for human beings like us, may we offer our best for our siblings who need the message we can share and practical help we can provide through our offerings.

Offertory

*For Free  
by Joni Mitchell*

*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:*



## SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

*Please rise in body or spirit*  
Song

#372: O For a World

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

*Postlude in F*  
*by Christian Cappelen*

*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 forth to serve in the spirit of Christ. Dare to question false values that hold us captive.

**All: We will seek the mind of Christ in all things. We will put aside selfish ambition and conceit.**

One: Look to the interests of all people. In humility, view each person as precious to God.

**All: We count it a privilege to serve in Christ's name. We are grateful for the saving power of love.**

One: Remember always that God is at work in you. With God's help, amazing good can be accomplished.

**All: May we do what we have so boldly declared. May we follow and serve in joyful obedience. Amen.**

## SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

**Pastor:** Rev. Joel Mackey

**Preacher:** Rick Leong

**Liturgist:** Matthew Inadomi

**Music Director:** Jake Fontana

**Song Leader:** Anne Margaret Manay

**Head Usher:** Matthew Inadomi

**Godly Play:** Dorrie Dodge and Aaron Ruff

**Fellowship Time Refreshments:** Ben and Martha Baab

# The Whys and Wherefores of Family Sundays at FPCO

By Di Pagel, Elder for Worship and Music

I was chatting recently with a mother of a child who grew up in our church attending both Godly Play and first Sundays on a regular basis. Her daughter is currently in college. On a visit home this summer she brought a Jewish friend to the church to give her a tour of the sanctuary. Her mother could see how important it was for her to show her friend that space and she heard her say “this is my church”.

Many churches divide the congregation up into age groups every Sunday. But research over the past 20 years in Christian Education has posited that children who rarely experience congregational worship become adults who don't develop an affiliative faith, that sense of belonging to a particular faith community. It is one reason adults leave the church. They have not grown up regularly observing how their parents participate in the life of the church nor have they learned and practiced the skills needed to participate in the act of congregational worship.

The research prompted those in leadership at FPCO to introduce family worship once a month in 2008 and offer Godly Play on all other Sundays except the first when we celebrate communion. PC (USA) in the Book of Order recommends that when communion is celebrated children and youth are not excluded from observing the sacrament with their church family.

However, we know parenting in the pews on those Sundays can be challenging. On Saturday, October 6, Sarah and Aaron Ruff hosted a conversation with other parents about family worship with staff, Pastor Matt and Jake.

Services are generally adult-oriented and so the focus of the conversation was:

1. do we believe it's of value to offer intergenerational worship once a month and
2. what changes might need to be made to the movement and order of worship, and
3. how do we collaborate so that all generations can participate in their own way.

This was just the first of many conversations that will continue to happen around this topic. If you have any thoughts, suggestions or ideas to share please contact me directly at [dianapagel@gmail.com](mailto:dianapagel@gmail.com) or 925 254 4507. I can then share these at a monthly worship planning meeting with Jake and Matt.



## Get to Know Today's Guest Preacher Rick Leong



Rick is an Oakland native - a product of the Oakland public schools and the Chinese Presbyterian Church in Oakland Chinatown. He married (36 years) his high school sweetheart Kathy and has two young adult daughters, Noelle and Hope.

His professional background is in natural resource management (retired after 31 years working at the East Bay Municipal Utility District - EBMUD). Rick returned to school in 2010 in response to God's call to ministry and is a Candidate for Ministry under the care of the Presbytery of San Francisco. Jesus' modeling of love and compassion, forgiveness and reconciliation, and justice had led him into the ministry areas of chaplaincy and justice/equity.

He looks forward to being further transformed by the Holy Spirit and the First Church Oakland faith community as we all continue to discover who God created us to be in this world.

## 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](http://www.im4humanintegrity.org)

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

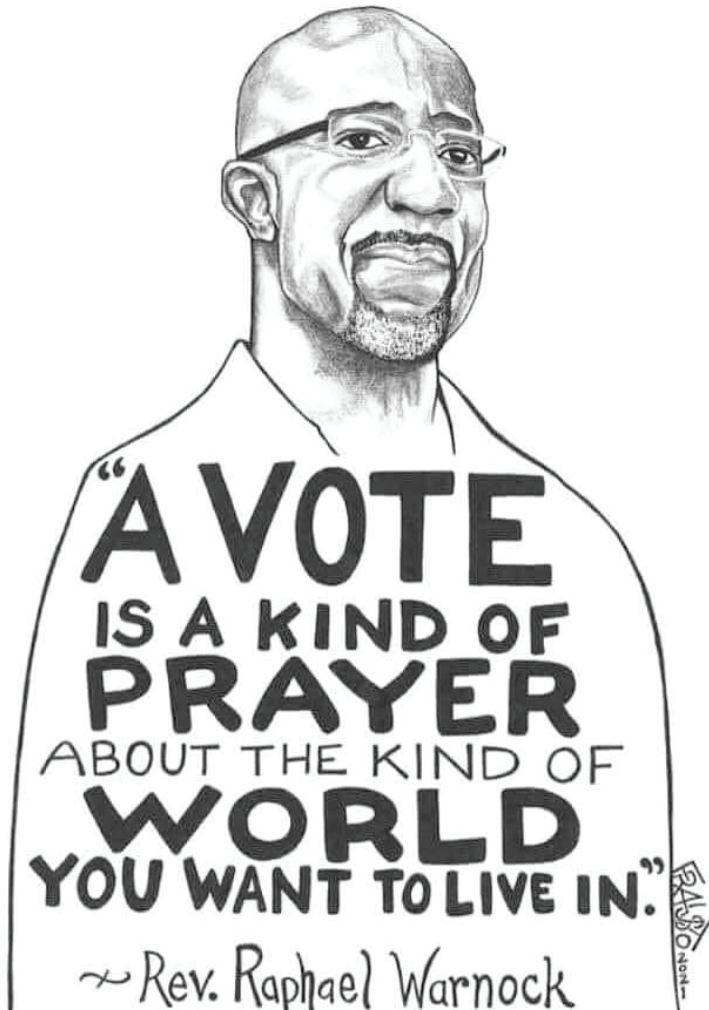
William "Brad" Bradshaw passed away on September 1, 2024. His family invites you to his celebration of life:

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.



## 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's Vision for Children and Youth**

**We seek to make First Presbyterian Church a community where:**

**We are an extended family with members of all ages:**

**We honor our baptismal vows by nurturing all children in our care;**

**We develop caring relationships with children and youth in our community;**

**We support parents and join them in the faith development of their children;**

**We recognize the vulnerability of children and protect them from harm.**

**We welcome children and youth:**

**We allow children to act like children;**

**We affirm each child's unique personality and God-given gifts;**

**We offer worship services and church events that are relevant and accessible to them;**

**We offer God's grace to children and youth beyond our church community.**

**We take children and youth seriously:**

**Children, youth and adults all share in ministry;**

**Children and youth are trusted with responsibilities.**

**We encourage children and youth to know and follow Jesus:**

**They hear the stories of the Bible;**

**They have a forum for addressing their spiritual questions and concerns;**

**They learn ways to express their faith**

**They see love and respect modeled by the community and practice it themselves;**

**They have opportunities to respond to God's love in community.**

**We covenant to make this vision a reality both now and in times to come.**

## **Ceasefire Night Walk to Start Near First Church on October 18**

Faith-In-Action East Bay is organizing a short (30-45 min) neighborhood walk with senior residents living at affordable housing on 28th and Valdez streets. as a demonstration of solidarity and to promote safety in the area.

The walk begins at 6 p.m. at the Westlake Christian Terrace, 275 28th Street in Oakland. All are welcomed to join.



# 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.





**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**

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

### **Church Staff**

**Rev. Matt Prinz**, Pastor

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email to make an appointment

**Rev. Joel Mackey**, Parish Associate

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**Jake Fontana**, Music Director

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**Gus Lopez**, Head Custodian

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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](http://firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings)