

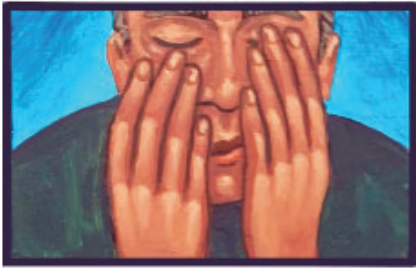
Weekly Newsletter

October 20, 2024

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



• THE BEATITUDES •



Art by Kelly 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

*If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
by J.S. Bach*

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come into God's presence.

All: All are welcome here.

One: Come into God's glory.

All: God's glory is all around.

One: As Christ came before us,

All: we come to worship and to pray.

One: As Christ turned to God,

All: we bring our anguish and our tears.

One: As Christ came to serve,

All: we bring our humble hearts.

One: Come into God's presence.

All: All are welcome here.

Gathering Prayer

One: We gather in this sacred place to honor and adore you. We come humbly, claiming the cross of Jesus Christ as our sign. We give thanks that you lift up the weak and lowly, defy the world's foolishness, and invite us to share in life at its fullest as disciples of Jesus. We want to accept your invitation.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit
Hymn

#611: Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

Confession

One: God of compassion, we are overwhelmed by the struggles of life. We hunger and thirst for righteousness but find ourselves feeling empty. We grieve in seasons of loss, feeling hopeless and lost. We want to show mercy, but we hold on to old resentments. We want to make peace, but we don't even know where to begin. Come with your wisdom and guide us in your ways. Renew us and inspire us to live faithfully, as you walk beside 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. If you would like, there are two tables set up with candles for prayer and salt water for lament.

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.

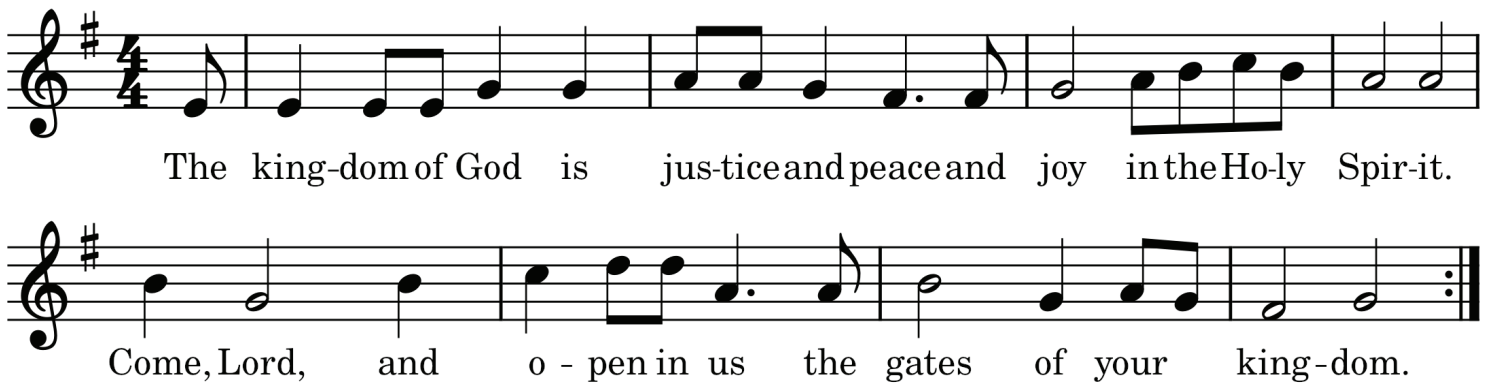
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Song

The Kingdom of God



THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 5: 1-4 NRSV

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

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 in reflection on reading and sermon.

Hymn

#697: Take My Life

Invitation to the LORD's Supper

Please rise in body or spirit

Sung Communion Invitation

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.**

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

Variations on If Thou but Trust in God To Guide Thee

by Georg Böhm

Sharing of the Holy Meal & Offering

Please come forward when invited by ushers. Communion is non alcoholic 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

#656: We've Come This Far by Faith

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee
by J.S. Bach

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 into the world and do what the Lord requires: living with kindness and justice, walking your path humbly, with God. Then you will find yourself blessed. Know that yours is the kingdom of heaven, yours the strength and mercy of God, yours are all the blessings given to God's beloved children.

All: Amen.

Translation of Matthew 5 from Glen Stassen

Joyful are those who are poor and humble before God,
for theirs is the reign of God.

Joyful are those who are deeply saddened to the point of action,
for they will be comforted.

Joyful are those whose wills are surrendered to God,
for they will inherit the earth.

Joyful are those who practice compassion in action,
for they will receive God's compassion.

Joyful are those who seek God's will in all they are and do,
for they will see God.

Joyful are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

Joyful are those who suffer because of restorative justice,
for theirs is the reign of God.

Joyful are you when they criticize, persecute, and slander you, because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in God.

For in the same way, they persecuted the prophets before you.

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: Gay Cobb

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Dorrie Dodge

Cantor: Ben Chandler

Music: The First Church Choir

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Communion Set Up: Diane Hill and Deacon

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Monrovia Prinz

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Martha Bauman and Jan Busch

Art Night Comes to First Church on Friday, November 1



Join us for a special night of art and community on Friday, November 1st at 6:30. This event will be hosted by First Presbyterian Oakland and Oak Life Church and will coincide with Oakland First Fridays. Would you like to share your art (song, poetry, visual, comedy, etc.)?

Sign up to let them know what you're thinking! Presenters will have up to 10 minutes each to share their creativity with the community!

To sign up, go to: forms.gle/aotUf4HyqyX8YgSN8

Are you taking your RMD? You can help the church and reduce your taxable income!

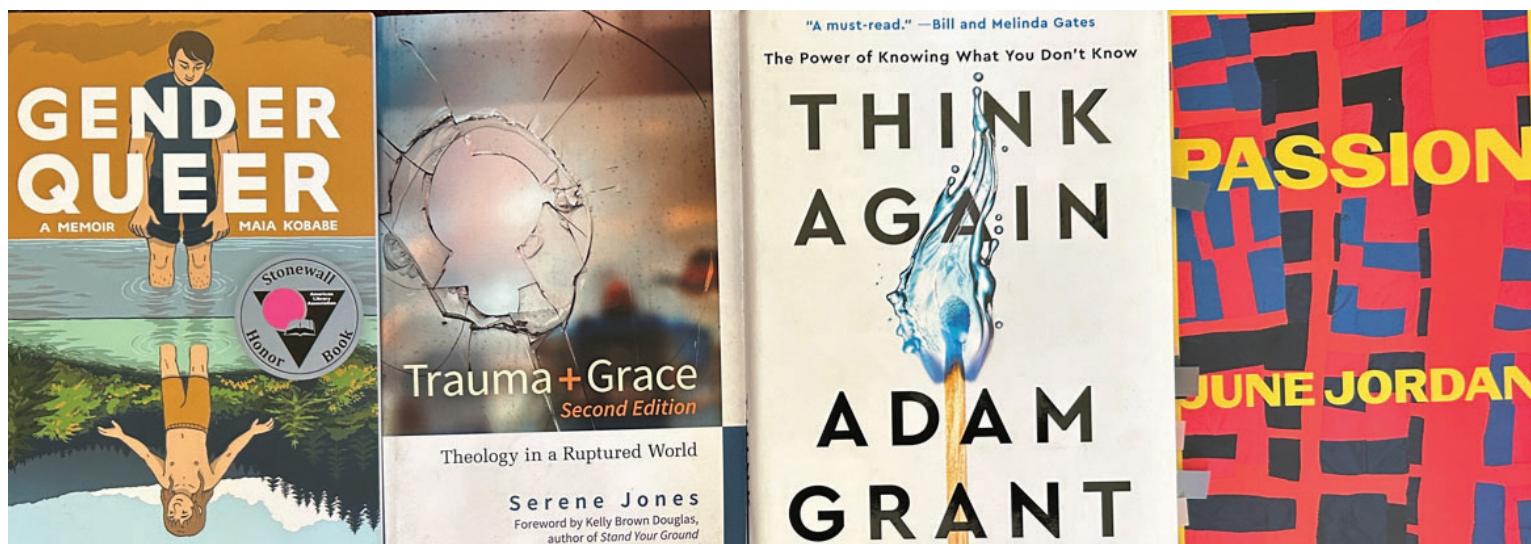
by Maggie Harmon

If you are taking your Required Minimum Distribution (or if you are 70 ½) you can direct a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) from your IRA to First Presbyterian Church in any amount from \$100 to \$100,000. The gift is not taxable to you as income and can potentially reduce your overall tax rate (talk to your advisor for info). Most importantly your gift helps to sustain the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.



What is Pastor Study Leave?

By Rev. Matt Prinz



Often when I take study leave as a pastor I get asked ‘What is study leave? Or what do you do during a study leave?’ Study leave is intentional time and space for a pastor to reflect, to learn, to pray, to plan, and to recharge. It is a time away from the weekly rhythms of pastoral ministry. Some pastors take a class, others go on a silent retreat, still others focus on discerning vision and planning for the months ahead in the church. This last week I focused on reading/studying and praying. This combination of study and prayer helps to give me new ideas and insights for teaching/preaching and more time to connect with God. Each day last week I exercised in the morning, read/studied all day, and then took a long prayer walk in the early evening.

“What did you read or study during your leave?” I read a diversity of topics and authors that can support and guide the ministries of our church. I read/prayed through the entire book of Psalms because we are studying this in our weekly Wednesday Bible studies. I read *Trauma and Grace* by Serene Jones – which reviewed current wisdom of trauma studies and made suggestions for Christian ministry. I read poems by June Jordan

Passions, weaving beauty and justice and hope together. I studied *Except for Palestine* by Lamont Hill and Plitnick which examines the limits of progressive politics concerning Palestine. I read *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe which follows Kobabe’s journey of identity and discovery and connects with our work building God’s beloved community. I also read a graphic novel *The Black Panther Party* by Walker and Anderson and learned new parts of the history of the party and those who contributed. Finally, I made it part way through Adam Grant’s *Think Again* which looks at what it takes for us to reconsider our beliefs and how we create a community that encourages growth, curiosity, and humility.

Study leave is important and sacred work for me. It encourages space to learn and grow and reflect upon what God is doing in our church community, how God is forming us, and where God is leading us. I believe it helps me to be a better pastor. When I take study leave, please pray for me and afterwards ask me about the books I am reading or reflecting upon and how they are connecting to God’s work in our church and the world.

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 or 925 254 4507. I can then share these at a monthly worship planning meeting with Jake and Matt.



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.

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.

November 12, 2024

6:30pm (Doors open at 6:00pm)

Freight & Salvage

2020 Addison St. Berkeley

www.im4humanintegrity.org



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.



Food Not Bombs Cooks Meals on Tuesdays and Thursdays



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



Scan this code with your smart phone for access to all First Church News 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

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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