

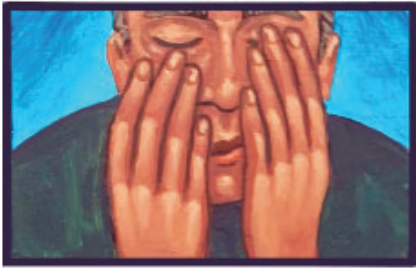
Weekly Newsletter

October 27, 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

Welcome

*All Glory be to God on High
by Johann Pachelbel*

Call to Worship

One: Blessed are the poor in spirit,

All: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

One: Blessed are those who mourn,

All: for they will be comforted.

One: Blessed are the meek,

All: for they will inherit the earth.

One: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

All: for they will be filled.

Gathering Prayer

One: Loving God, be with us in our time of worship. Bless every enterprise of our lives, that we might be a blessing to others. Shower us with grace and mercy, that we might bring grace and mercy to a world in pain and want. Give us pure hearts and humble spirits, that we might show Christ's example in all that we say and do. Grant us hope and perseverance. In Christ's name we pray.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit
Hymn

Here I am to Worship

**Here I am to worship, here I am to bow down,
Here I am to say that you're my God.
You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,
altogether wonderful to me.**

C O N F E S S 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 confess every attempt to steal and grant dignity, as if it's something we have dominion over. We have lost ourselves in a world of anti-Blackness, transphobia, homophobia, ableism, and misogyny. We have amplified the cool and the confident and alienated those who feel strange and awkward. In demeaning others, we mistakenly believe that our own self-worth may be magnified, but in doing so we only become less human. We have not become bigger but smaller. Not safer but more afraid. Every effort to diminish the worth of another has only distanced us from the truth of our own dignity. Forgive us. And remind us of who we are, what we're made of, that collective image of God is dwelling in and through us. May we forgive ourselves and become faithful keepers of our cosmic birthright to beauty, justice, and belonging.

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.

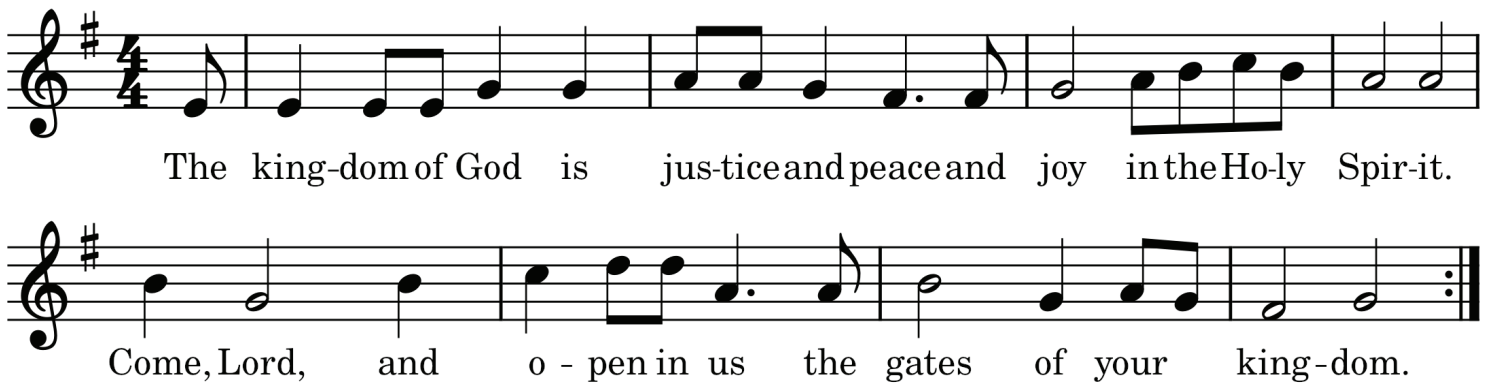
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

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: 1-6 NRSV

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then 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.

‘Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

‘Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

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.

Song

*Psalm 91
by Keith Ogden*

**Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty (repeat)
I will say of the Lord, God is my refuge, God is my fortress (repeat)
My refuge, My fortress, My God in whom I trust**

Invitation to the Offering

One: In service and love, may we bring our hearts, our offerings, and our gifts to God and to God's church.

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 for the Offering

One: Great and gracious God, as you have blessed our lives and all of creation, bless the gifts we now return to you. Bless our hands and our lives, that they may serve you and your creation. Continue creating life and hope through our offerings and our ministries. May your glory and your grace shine through everything we give, everything we say, and everything we do. In loving gratitude, we pray.

All: Amen

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Please rise in body or spirit

Song

#834: Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Invitation to Community Life

Music for Reflection

*Toccata in E Minor
by Johann Pachelbel*

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: May the God who made all things and holds together all things remind you of your making. May you rest in the immanence of your own worth, knowing you have nothing to prove and everything to love. Constant as the moon, which is tethered to us by unseen forces, which is suspended above us in the dark and the light, let our dignity remain, be it visible or invisible to those below. And may we remember, the same dignity that holds us, so too holds together every person and piece of the cosmos at once and evermore. Go, in honor, to claim all that you are worthy of. May it be so.

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

Preacher: Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson

Liturgist: Maggie Harmon

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Susannah Prinz

Musicians: Keith and Micah Ogden

Head Usher: Martha Bauman

Liturgy: Cole Arthur Riley from Black Liturgies

Godly Play: Raenelle Tauro and Anne Margaret Manay

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Judy Rowan and Charmaine Irmiter

Sanctuary Sound Support - Volunteer Sought for Sunday worship

Session recently approved funding a comprehensive upgrade of the sanctuary sound system. We have all new microphones which have improved the sound in there during worship. This upgrade included the use of an iPad which allows the volume of sound to be adjusted as necessary from within the sanctuary.

In the past Bex Fortin was our primary sound support on Sunday mornings, but they recently left the area for work reasons.

To avoid either Matt or Jake being responsible for this during worship, we are looking for anyone who is willing to learn how to use this system to volunteer to be trained to assist from the pews. Jake will set up a time to train anyone willing to help whether it is once or twice a month, or once a quarter. Please let Jake know if you are interested and we will set up a time for volunteer training one Sunday after worship.

Most importantly your gift helps to sustain the ministry of First Presbyterian Church.

Art Night Comes to First Church on Friday, November 1



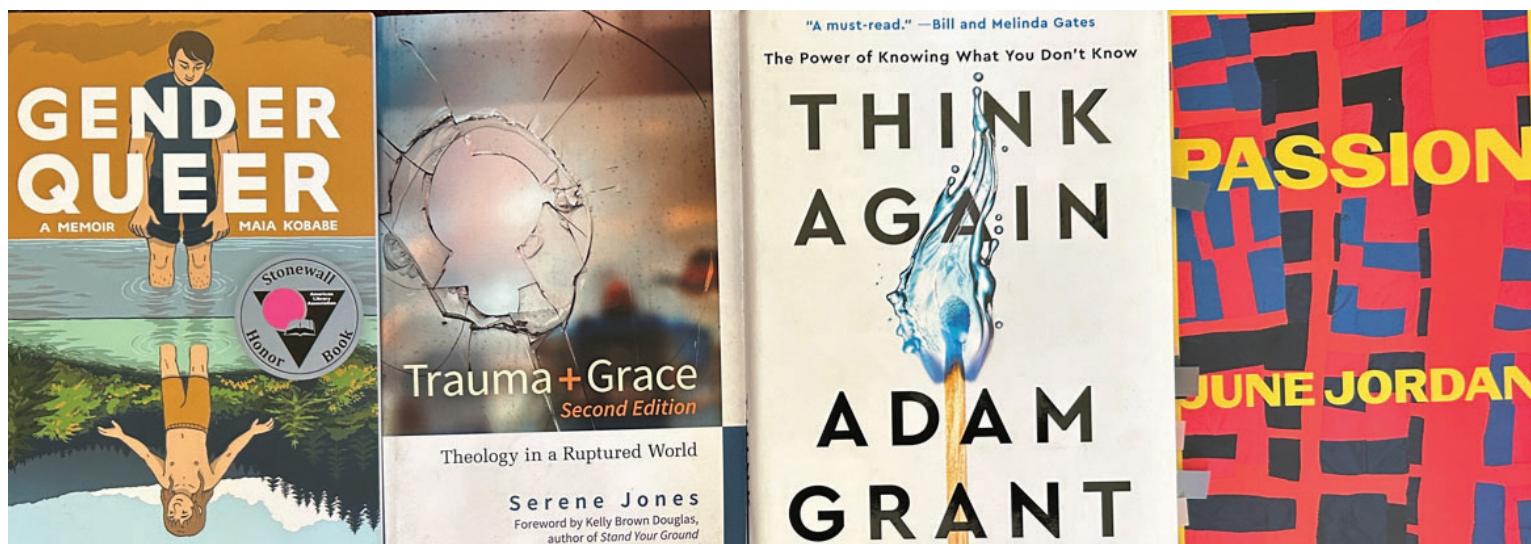
Join us for a special night of art and community on Friday, November 1st at 6:30. This event will be hosted by First Presbyterian Oakland and Oak Life Church and will coincide with Oakland First Fridays. Would you like to share your art (song, poetry, visual, comedy, etc.)?

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

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.

Voting Party an Excellent Resource for Participants



Members of multiple churches, College Ave Presbyterian, Oaklife, Bethel Community Presbyterian Church, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, and First Church Oakland, met last Saturday to learn about and discuss local measures and statewide propositions.

Special thanks to Nancy Ogden, Susannah Prinz, and Keigh Ogden who helped create the summaries.

Please encourage others to vote by November 5 in this very important election.



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



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 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