

Weekly Newsletter

February 2, 2025

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



Cover Art by Glenn Ligon

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

Excerpt from "The Other America" by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Prelude

Allegretto
Florence Price

Florence Price was the first African American woman to have her music performed by a major symphony orchestra. Her musical renown has grown significantly since her death in 1953.

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Let us gather to listen deeply.

All: Holy Spirit, speak.

One: Let us bring our whole lives to worship.

All: Holy Spirit, comfort us.

One: Holy Spirit, guide us.

All: Your servants are listening.

Gathering Prayer

One: Source of healing and mercy, hear us when we cry out in need. Give us confidence to sing your praises, even when fear and doubt darken our thoughts. Give us your healing balm, God, that we may be made well and follow you all the days of our lives.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit
Hymn

Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing
African American Heritage Hymnal #540

Often called the "Black national anthem," this hymn was written by James Weldon Johnson and his brother John Rosamond Johnson in 1900. It was first performed by a choir of 500 schoolchildren to celebrate Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

CONFESSIO N o f S I N & A S S U R A N C E o f G R A C E

One: Gracious, loving God, pour your love into our hearts and lives. Bless us with such overflowing grace that your love might flow within us and through us. Be patient with our impatience. Calm us with your love in all of our encounters. Forgive us and fill us with your grace, that we might extend loving forgiveness to others. In your loving name, we pray.

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

Assurance of Pardon

Faith, hope, and love remain. But it is through the greatest of these, love that we forgive and are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

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.

Children remain in the sanctuary on the first Sunday to celebrate communion with their families.

P R A Y E R S o f t h e P E O P L E

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Write a word or prayer for what you hope on one side of your prayer tag and word/prayer for what you fear in this season on the other side. Bring your prayer tag forward and attach it to the prayer tree.

T H E W O R D

Scripture Lesson

Mark 2. 1 – 12 NRSV

When he returned to Capernaum after some days, it was reported that he was at home. So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them, not even in front of the door, and he was speaking the word to them. Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him, and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, “Child, your sins are forgiven.” Now some of the scribes were sitting there questioning in their hearts, “Why does this fellow speak in this way? It is blasphemy! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” At once Jesus perceived in his spirit that they were discussing these questions among themselves, and he said to them, “Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”—he said to the paralytic— “I say to you, stand up, take your mat, and go to your home.” And he stood up and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them, so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

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 t o t h e W O R D

Sermon Continued

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

Hymn

*Lead Me, Guide Me
African American Heritage Hymnal #474*

Doris Akers was a biracial American composer of over 500 songs, largely in the gospel style.

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Hymn

*Let Us Break Bread Together, verse 1
African American Heritage Hymnal #686*

Words of Institution

Communion Music

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

Invitation to Community Life

Please come forward while singing to stand around the Hammond organ as a church community.

Hymn *Amazing Grace*

Originally written by a former slave ship captain, 'Amazing Grace' has been reclaimed as an anthem of liberation. It was a prominent song of protest during the Civil Rights movement, sung by Mahalia Jackson and others.

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.**

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Benediction

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

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: Henry Gardner

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Marilyn Reynolds

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Black History Month Catered Lunch

Black History Month Celebration Events at First Church - Looking Back and Moving Forward

Sunday Feb 2 – Family Sunday, Henry Gardner leading us in the importance of Black History Month, Marilyn Reynold leading us in musical worship. Kick-off meal together following worship service.



Friday, February 7 5:30-7:15 pm – Soundscape with Michael Kim-Eubanks

Sunday Feb. 9 – Youth Sunday. Youth members will be leading our prayers, reading, and playing music. They will also be interviewing members about their life experiences and getting advice.

Sunday Feb. 9 – Field Trip to see Amy Sherald art exhibit at SFMOMA. Join us at noon as we go to enjoy the beautiful art of Amy Sherald. Many people are familiar with her portrait of Michele Obama and Breanna Taylor. We will carpool over. Let Pastor Matt know if you would like to join us.



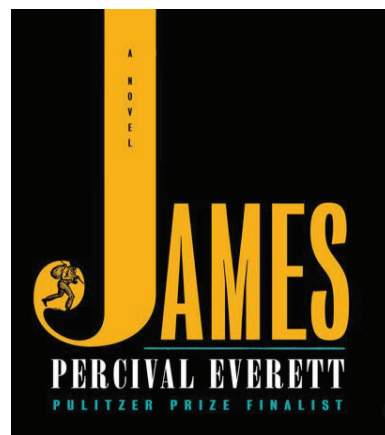
Sunday Feb. 16 – Rev. Chris Logan preaching, inspiration in our musical worship from works by Black female composers, Shawn Jones playing music.



Sunday Feb. 23 – Rev. Riana Shaw Robinson preaching, Lucy Kinchen Chorale sharing their musical gifts. Community potluck meal following our worship service.



Wednesday Feb. 26
Book discussion of James, by Percival Everett. Share a meal and discuss Everett's brilliant novel. Event from 5:30 – 7:30pm at Pastor Matt's house.



Mahalia Jackson: The World's Greatest Gospel Singer

by Henry Gardner

Hailed as the greatest gospel singer in the world, Mahalia Jackson was a dramatic and powerful contralto with a voice never heard before or since. She was born in New Orleans on October 26, 1911 and died in Illinois on January 27, 1972. She was a civil rights activist, a close friend of Martin Luther King, Jr., sang at the March on Washington in 1963, and is heard on an enhanced recording urging King to move away from his prepared speech where she tells him, “tell them about the dream Martin,” referring to a speech she had heard previously. She sang “Precious Lord, Take My Hand” at King’s funeral.

Jackson’s career spanned forty years and she sang throughout the United States, often in the segregated South to integrated audiences. She was popular throughout Europe, especially in France and England and sold more than 22 million records. Church was her home and she never left it. She was deeply religious and sang the songs that moved her to joy and tears.



She moved to Chicago at age 10 with her aunt and that is where her great talent was recognized and where her career was launched. She stayed in Chicago the rest of her life.

Born into poverty, her grandparents on both sides were slaves. She dropped out of school at age ten to do domestic work to support herself and the family. Not yet realizing what was ahead as an international star, she became a licensed beautician, which was the major source of her income and singing was supplemental.

Her first major recording was “Move on up a Little Higher” in 1947, selling two million records. Throughout her career she was pressured to turn to jazz but she refused, staying with her deep religious roots. A listening of her recording of “The Trouble of the World” and “Precious Lord, Take my Hand” are a must. Her “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” is like none other.



Watch this Year's Super Bowl at Chris and Maggie Harmon's



Join Chris and Maggie Harmon for a Super Bowl party! February 9th, 2:30 pm. Kickoff is at 3:30. We don't care about the game so let's watch commercials and have some fun.

Commercial bingo, quarter, half, and game score prizes - buy in will be donated to the church - snacks and revelry.

Please let us know if you plan to attend, bring your favorite football snack to share, and wear your favorite team jersey (football or other).

Please contact Maggie to confirm attendance: maggieharmon@me.com or 510-688-8595

2025 FPCO Church Directory Coming Soon!

A final draft of the Church Directory will soon be emailed to all those listed in it. If you have any changes you would like to make to your listing (information or photo) please reply to micheline@firstchurchoakland.org.

If you have a new photo you would like to replace what is shown here, please send a high resolution jpg file via email to Micheline.



2025 DIRECTORY
Making God's Welcome Known
by email, text, card or phone

Celebrate 2024 Ministry at First Presbyterian Church Oakland

January Jake Fontana started as our new music director, guiding us in a diversity of musical styles to worship God. We joined the Alameda County Homeless count to walk the census tract surrounding our church building and hear the stories of our unhoused neighbors.

February Black History month celebration each Sunday: youth participation, guest preachers, Lucy Kinchen Chorale, and a joyful community meal. Pastor Joel discussed the book Reading While Black and reflecting on the cultural and racial lens we bring to our sacred scriptures.



March We walked the path of Jesus the final hours of his life on Good Friday and reflected upon God's invitation to courageous faith. Jake restarted our choir and they led us in our Easter celebration.

April We joined Empower Initiative on a pilgrimage to sacred civil rights sites in Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham Alabama. We studied the power of faith communities to bring change in the past and were renewed in our commitment to work for God's justice in our own city and neighborhoods. Women's circle met and used lectio divino to reflect on scripture and their personal spiritual journey.



May Pastor Matt visited our college students to encourage them and to hear about their school experience. Deacons sent packages to our college students to support them as they prepared to take their school finals. Bible Study met every Wednesday night to read and wrestle with the scriptures and take new steps of faith.



June Pride month was celebrated each Sunday with liturgy by the enfleshed collective, guest preachers, and education to foster belonging. Jen Edwell led us in a discussion of the book 57 Bus and looked at issues of gender, the justice and education system, and race in Oakland.

July We joined the Ceasefire night walk anniversary celebration and walked with others to help reduce gun violence in Oakland. The Ceasefire program led to an over 30% reduction in homicides in 2024. Piano and organ music created sacred space in our Friday night 'Soundscape.' We invited neighbors to enjoy the sacred space for pray and reflect and rest.



August We moved out worship services throughout the church campus from the reception room to the courtyard to the fellowship hall. We reflected on the church as the gathered community and packed bagged lunches for our food ministry during communion. We enjoyed community at one of the last A's games in Oakland. We met in member's homes to discuss Richard Rohr's book Breathing Underwater, a spirituality of the 12 steps.



September We celebrated the life of Bill Coburn and his leadership in our food ministry. Godly Play storytellers created beautiful community and learning space every Sunday with our children. We opened our sanctuary for Working Names Studio to host an ambient sound concert.



October We hosted an art show of Susan Allison Hatch mixed media fabric art on justice, the Psalms, and God's call on our lives. Our session voted to seek community discernment about how to continue to faithfully use our church building and campus to love God and our neighbors. Should we continue to make space for local non-profits and performing arts or explore creating affordable housing or are there other options?

November Lucy Kinchen Chorale blessed us on Sunday morning, singing African American spirituals in our worship service. We hosted an art night with OakLife church. Artists shared their poetry, music, and visual art with the community.

December We gathered in homes for Advent dinners each Wednesday night to reflect upon the coming Christ and enjoy Christian community. We sang carols, acted out the nativity story, and carried Christ's light out onto Broadway Ave.





Feb 2: Gwendolyn Bucholz
 Feb 8: Saul Marquez
 Feb 11: Barbara Goodroe
 Feb 13: Matthew Inadomi
 Feb 16: Lorraine Provost
 Feb 18: Maria Ekwoge
 Feb 22: Cole Provost
 Feb 22: Judy Rowan
 Feb 24: Dorrie Dodge
 Feb 28: Rose Mary Richmond

**First Church proudly supports our
 COMMUNITY PARTNERS:**

- Afterglow Chorus
- Cantare Choirs
- Catalyst Youth Network
- College Awareness
- Community Women's Orchestra
- 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
- 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

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Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Matt Prinz, Henry Gardner and Micheline
 La Mont. Photos by Suzie Inadomi. *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](mailto:firstchurchoakland.org/temple-tidings)