

Weekly Newsletter

February 16, 2025

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



First Church Youth-Led Sunday Worship!

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

As part of our ongoing observance of Black History Month, this morning we celebrate music of Black women composers.

Prelude

Can't Give Up Now

Welcome

Mary Mary

Mary Mary is a contemporary gospel duo named for the two most famous Marys in the Bible: Mary Magdalene and Mary, mother of Jesus.

Responsive Prayer

One: The voice of God is calling: "Whom shall I send?"

All: We are here to answer God's call.

One: The voice of Christ is calling: "Who will be my faithful disciples?"

All: We are here to answer Christ's call.

One: The voice of the Spirit is calling: "Who will be a light to the nations?"

All: We are here. Send us, we pray!

Gathering Prayer

One: Your wisdom, Holy Mystery, is as unfathomable as the deep, as alluring as the night sky. When all seems lost, call us from the wreckage of our lives. Grant us the ability and the will to hear your call and bless us with the grace to embrace your promised salvation. Help us face our fears, that we might remain sure-footed on our journey of faith.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit
Hymn

Lead Me, Guide Me
African American Heritage Hymnal #474

Doris Mae Akers was an incredibly prolific gospel composer in the twentieth century, writing more than 500 songs.

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

One: Almighty God, we are a people of unclean lips and live among a people of unclean lips. We are more accustomed to spreading gossip than we are to singing, “Holy, holy, holy.” Yet, we long to be made new and whole this day. Breathe your Holy Spirit upon us and call us to follow you once more. As the disciples left their fishing boats, may we leave the comfort of familiar shores. Work through us in the power of your Son, that all people might be brought to your hope and life.

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 - Church Choir

“Give Me a Clean Heart”
by Margaret Pleasant Douroux

Margaret Pleasant Douroux lives in Los Angeles
and continues to advocate for new gospel music.

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 may go with leaders to Godly Play.

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

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.

Please rise in body or spirit
Hymn

Somebody Prayed for Me
African American Heritage Hymnal #505

Composer Dorothy Norwood is an American gospel singer-songwriter who toured with Mahalia Jackson.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Luke 5. 1 -11 NRSV

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus's knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him

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

Musical Reflection

Is There Anybody Here That Loves My Jesus
Arr. Undine Smith Moore

Undine Smith Moore, known as the "Dean of Black Women composers," was a twentieth century American composer and professor of music, famed for her songs based on spirituals.

Invitation to the LORD's Supper

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

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:



Communion Music

I'm Workin' on My Buildin'

Arr. Florence Price

Florence Price was a key figure in the development of American art songs like this one in the early twentieth century. Price spent much of her professional life in Chicago, where a number of her previously unknown works were discovered in 2009.

Prayer

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Invitation to Community Life

Please rise in body or spirit

Hymn

The Lord is My Light

African American Heritage Hymnal #160

Very little is known about the life of Lillian Bouknight, who passed away in 1990. She was a member of the Pentecostal Holiness movement in Pennsylvania.

Benediction

One: Do not fear the turbulent waters of faith

All: Christ is with us in the boat.

One: Do not avoid the dangers of the deep.

All: God is with us on the journey.

One: Do not doubt your ability to reach the lost and hurting.

All: The Spirit blesses us with a bounty of love and justice for all.

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Preacher: Rev. Christopher Logan

Liturgist: Chad Provost

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Raenelle Tauro

Soloist: Jameia Iwuagwu

Bassoonist: Shawn Jones

Godly Play: Di Pagel and Monrovia Prinz

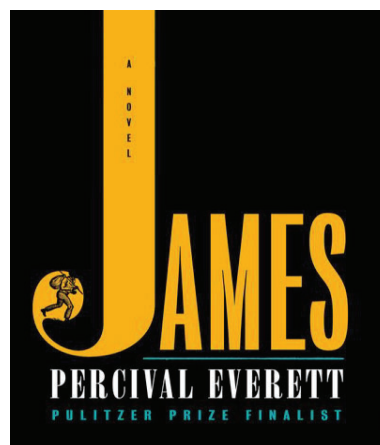
Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Ben and Martha Baab

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

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.



**"WHEN I LIBERATE MYSELF, I
LIBERATE OTHERS. IF YOU DON'T
SPEAK OUT AIN'T NOBODY GOING
TO SPEAK OUT FOR YOU."**

Fannie Lou Hamer
1917-1977



**"IF THEY DON'T GIVE YOU A
SEAT AT THE TABLE, BRING
A FOLDING CHAIR."**

Shirley Chisholm
1924-2005



**"I AM NOT FREE WHILE ANY
WOMAN IS UNFREE, EVEN WHEN
HER SHACKLES ARE VERY
DIFFERENT FROM MY OWN."**

Audre Lorde
1934-1992



**"AS LONG AS GAY PEOPLE
DON'T HAVE THEIR RIGHTS ALL
ACROSS AMERICA, THERE'S NO
REASON FOR CELEBRATION."**

Marsha P. Johnson
1945 - 1992



**"FEMINIST THINKING TEACHES US
ALL, ESPECIALLY, HOW TO LOVE
JUSTICE AND FREEDOM IN WAYS
THAT FOSTER AND AFFIRM LIFE."**

bell hooks
1952-2021



Opportunities to Discuss Campus Discernment and Direction

By Maggie Harmon

Hopefully you had the opportunity in the last few weeks to take the campus use survey, visit during one of the walk-arounds, or engage in your own discernment about the use of our campus and property. As we seek to clarify the direction the community and congregation feels pulled toward we invite you to engage in discussion about the campus.

On Sunday, March 2nd after worship Ben Baab will facilitate a conversation during coffee hour (no response needed) and then on Tuesday, March 4 I will host a dinner discussion (please let me know you plan to attend as space is limited, maggieharmon@me.com).

Jazz Legends Known for Being the Greatest of the Great

by Henry Gardner

There is not enough space to list the dozens of jazz greats, so therefore we will start with four of the jazz legends: Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan, Count Basie, and Duke Ellington. When listing the greatest jazz singers, band leaders and composers of all time, no list would be authoritative without these four as among the greatest in jazz history.

ELLA FITZGERALD 1917-1996



Ella Jane Fitzgerald, called the First Lady of Song, the Queen of Jazz, was noted for her purity of tone, impeccable diction, phrasing, timing, intonation, scat singing and improvisational ability. It was the children's song, "A-Tisket, A-Tasket" that made her famous and she gave numerous versions of this song throughout her long career. She would take a song and improvise like none other. Her "How High the Moon" and "Mack the Knife" are the gold standard of improvisation. She recorded dozens of records of such great quality that her place in jazz history is very secure. She gave hundreds of concerts in the United States and abroad and to see her perform live was an experience not to be forgotten. She often performed with Count Basie and Duke Ellington.

DUKE ELLINGTON 1899-1974



Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington was a jazz pianist, composer, and leader of his legendary orchestra from 1923 until his death in 1974. Known the world over for his extraordinary gifts, he is a living legend. Many of his works are standards. He wrote or collaborated on more than 1,000 compositions. Perhaps his closest collaborator was the enormously talented Billy Strayhorn, credited with "Take the A Train." While Ellington was at the top of the jazz world, he considered himself more than a jazz artist. He described his music as "beyond category, more as American music." He was born to musically trained parents, both were pianists but his father was partial to operatic arias. As a youth he carried an air about him with elegant dress and a dignified manner. As a result, his friends called him Duke and it stuck. His compositions cover a wide range from "It Don't Mean a Thing", "Mood Indigo," "Solitude", and "In a Sentimental Mood," to his Sacred Concerts and various Suites.

COUNT BASIE 1904-1984



One of the greatest of all jazz pianists, composers and bandleaders, William James “Count” Basie was known for his economical piano style. He played sparingly, only a few notes most of the time. An observer once remarked “why does he only play a few notes most of the time on the piano?” The response was you should hear the band play without those few notes and it will not be good. The Count Basie Orchestra was formed in 1926, and although the Count died in 1984, still performs today. The pianist today is from the Bay Area and often played in downtown Oakland at Geoffrey’s. Duke Ellington had already claimed the aristocratic title of Duke, so Basie settled on Count. He earned numerous awards and made countless classic recordings”: “Lil Darlin,” “April in Paris,” and “Lullaby of Birdland.”

SARAH VAUGHAN 1924-1990



Sarah Lois Vaughan, called “The Divine One” and “Sassy”, was a pianist and singer, but it was as a singer that established her as one of the greatest jazz singers in history. She got her first break singing at the Apollo Theater in Harlem. Her discography is extensive, and among others includes two volumes of the George Gershwin Songbook. She almost reluctantly recorded Stephen Sondheim’s “Send in the Clowns,” and what a pity had she not relented. Her “Misty” is a must listening. She frequently collaborated with Count Basie and Duke Ellington. She had a three octave vocal range and the jazz singer Betty Carter noted that had Vaughan had classical training she could have been a great opera singer. She was nominated for 19 Grammy Awards.

Pastor Joel Leads Meditation Workshop March 2 and March 9

Interested in deepening your faith by engaging in the spiritual discipline of mindful meditation? Meditation is well-known to us as a practice connected with yoga, Buddhism, Hinduism, and other religions from various parts of the world. Did you know that meditation is also an ancient practice of the early church, practiced throughout history by many monastic traditions, and perhaps less obvious currently practiced by many Christians. Practitioners of mindful meditation report greater awareness of self and a deeper connection to others. In this four part series, we will seek to explore how meditation can also

bring us to a deeper awareness and connection with the Divine that resides within us. Our four week journey will include a consideration of the various ways meditation has been understood in various cultures and the history and meaning of meditation within Christian communities. We will also practice meditation during various parts of each session. We will meet on March 2 and March 9 at noon. We will decide together the best dates for the 2nd and 3rd classes.

Contact Joel Mackey for further details and/or to sign up. Join us.

Trip to Museum to see Amy Sherald Exhibit Fun and Enlightening



Come to the Faith In Action March and Vigil for Immigration



INTERFAITH IMMIGRATION MARCH & VIGIL

5-7 p.m. Thursday, February 20

**We will congregate at:
Fruitvale Village Plaza (near Fruitvale BART Station)
3401 E 12th St., Oakland**

**and march to St. Anthony's Church, 1535 16th ave, Oakland
The vigil will take place at St. Anthony's Church.**

Join us in solidarity as we celebrate and uplift our diverse voices in an interfaith people's rights march and vigil. Come march peacefully with your community! Feel free to wear your cultural attire and bring artwork that represents you!

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.



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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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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Hours: Wednesday 2-4:30/Thursday 9-2:30

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Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper

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Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Matt Prinz, Henry Gardner, Maggie Harmon. Photos by Suzie Inadomi. *Temple Tidings* is a weekly publication. All are welcome to contribute news, events and opinion.

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