

Weekly Newsletter

March 2, 2025

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



First Church members join the Immigrant March, Thursday, February 20, Fruitvale District

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

“Air” from Suite No. 1

Welcome

Florence Price

Call to Worship

- One: Christ has called us here,
All: inviting us to offer praise and prayer.
- One: May Christ's presence be revealed in this time,
All: showing us the way to go.
- One: May Christ's glory shine into our worship,
All: that Christ's glory may shine in our lives.

Gathering Prayer

- One: God of glory and power, pour out your Holy Spirit on us today. Reveal to us your wisdom and guidance. Manifest through us your Spirit of glorious grace and love. And make your loving presence known to all, through the ministries of your church.
- All: Amen.**

Please rise in body or spirit
Hymn

For All the Faithful Women
Glory to God #324

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

One: Gracious God, we tremble in the presence of your glory and power. Strengthen our courage, that we might look upon your love and stop shrinking away in fear. Embolden us to trust your grace, no matter how grave our faults or ashamed our hearts may be. Shine upon us with your mercy, that we may shine for all to see. Grant us confidence in both your grace and your abundant love. In your loving name, we pray.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit

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

Assurance of Pardon

By God's mercy, we are redeemed and renewed to shine with the love of Christ. 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 stay in the Sanctuary for Family Worship

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

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.

Music

"Chorale"
by Fanny Mendelssohn Hensel

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 5. 1 - 12 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.

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

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

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

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

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection

RESPONSE to the WORD

Song

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom



Come and seek the ways of Wis-dom, she who danced when earth was new.
Sis - ter Wis-dom, come, as-sist us; nur-ture all who seek re-birth.



Fol-low close-ly what she teach-es, for her words are right and true.
Spir-it-guide and close com-pan-ion, bring to light our sa - cred worth.



Wis - dom clears the path to just-ice, show-ing us what love must do.
Free us to be-come your peo-ple, ho - ly friends of God and earth.

March is Women's History Month.

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

Communion Music

Hari Bin, Kaun Gati Meri
by: Mirabai

This song is a bhajan. Bhajans are a form of lyrical song, written in vernacular languages, which arose during the bhakti movement in India. The Bhakti movement emphasized devotion to God over rituals and caste distinctions, the expression of which includes love of one's fellow human beings.

Lyrics, translated from Hindi

Without God, who is my protector?

You are my protector

I am your servant, I am surrendering everything to you

Without God, who is my protector?

The universe is a disorderly ocean, but in between there is something very precious and deep

Without God, who is my protector?

I call out again and again. Oh Lord, I worship you.

Without God, who is my protector?

The boat is broken,

Oh lord, tie the sails, the boat is sinking

Without God, who is my protector?

Your servant Mira recites your name.

I seek your refuge.

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

She's Got the Whole World in Her Hands

*Please come forward while singing to stand around the piano or
Hammond organ as a church community*

She's got the whole world in her hands (x3)...

She's got the whole world in her hands!

She's got the sun and the moon in her hands (x3)...

She's got the whole world in her hands!

She's got the wind and the rain in her hands (x3)...

She's got the whole world in her hands!

She's got the little tiny baby in her hands (x3)...

She's got the whole world in his hands.

Benediction

She's got everybody here in her hands (x3)...

She's got the whole world in her hands!

SERVING in WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Susannah Prinz

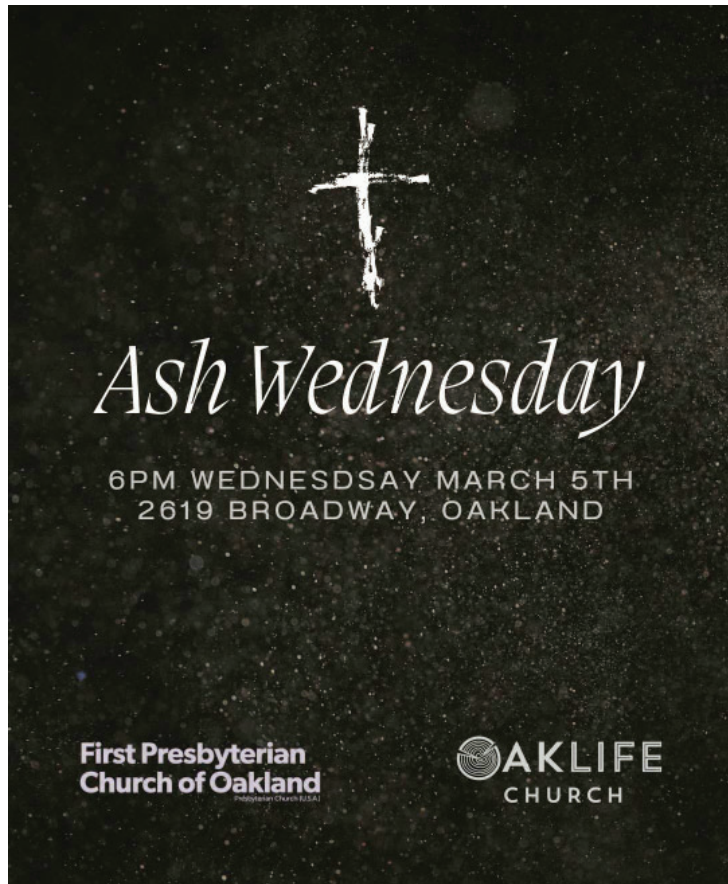
Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Mira Manickam-Shirley

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Fellowship Time Refreshments: Jan Busch and Martha Bauman

Please Join us on Ash Wednesday



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 a campus discussion.

Today 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 maggieharmon@me.com).

Pastor Joel Leads Meditation Workshop Today 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.

First Church Members Join other Churches to Show Support for Our Immigrant Neighbors



To learn more about Faith In Action East Bay events visit: faeastbay.org/events/

Save the Date for our Fall Retreat: September 27-28, 2025



Join us at the beautiful Zephyr Point Presbyterian Center for a weekend of peace and joy. Please see Pastor Matt if you are interested in helping to plan the retreat.



Upcoming Ceasefire Nightwalks

March 14, 6 p.m.

First Mt. Sinai, 1970 86th Ave.

March 21, 6 p.m.

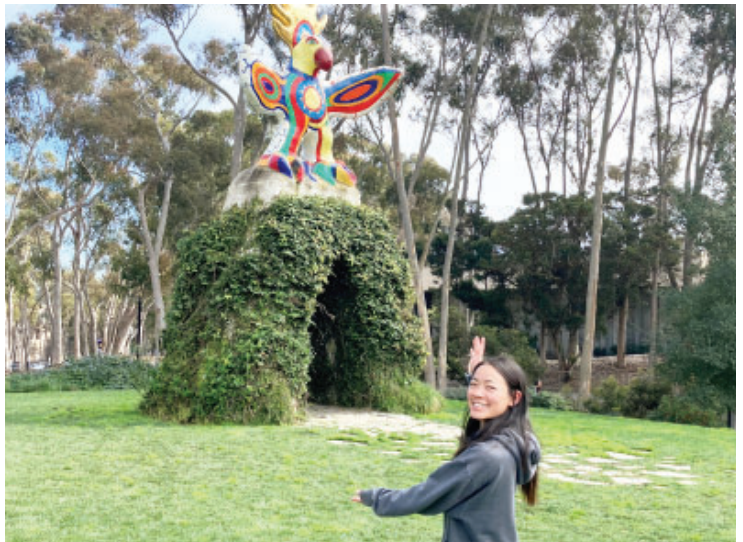
Tabernacle Baptist Church, 10115 Edes Ave.

March 28: 6 p.m.

At Thy Word, 8915 International Blvd.



Pastor Matt visits Cami Inadmoni at UC San Diego



Super Soul Sunday Tops off Another Fantastic Black History Month





Celebrate March Birthdays!



Please wish the following a happy birthday:

March 5: Carter Provost

March 6: Christopher Weber, Gay Cobb

March 21: Angus Ahanotu

March 22: Lia Inadomi

March ??? First Church! 172 in 2025

March 29: Anne Margaret Manay

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



Scan this code with your smart phone for access to all First Church News and past editions of *Temple Tidings*

Elders

Ben Baab: 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

Suzie Inadomi: Building the Beloved Community

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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Joan Clerk, Bookkeeper

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Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

Writing by Matt Prinz, Maggie Harmon. Photos by Linda Carter and Matt Prinz. *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