

Weekly Newsletter

March 23, 2025

Temple Tidings

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland

Making God's Welcome Known



The Golden Calf by Marc Chagall

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** by the Hammond organ and in the back of the sanctuary.
- 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

Andante Grazioso
by Kate Boundy

Welcome

Call to Worship

One: Come away from the valleys of misplaced loyalty. Come, seeking to meet the God of creation.

All: We have come to praise God and give thanks. We believe God's steadfast love endures forever.

One: We come together that our faith might be strengthened. We seek strength to live by what we believe.

All: God's awesome deeds saved our ancestors. Surely God's steadfast love continues with us.

One: God continues to deliver us in times of distress. God's steadfast love endures forever.

All: We rejoice that God is near and available to us. We hear God welcoming us to this time of worship.

Gathering Prayer

One: Gracious God, you have invited and welcomed us to this place of worship. You draw us away from the idols we create to take your place. When we come together, we sense that there is nothing in life that can substitute for a vital relationship with you. We catch glimpses of your work among us and are amazed. We want to meet you again this morning, as for the first time. Remake us. Help us to stand firm in the faith.

All: Amen.

Please rise in body or spirit
Song

O for a Closer Walk with God
Glory to God #739

CONFESSION of SIN & ASSURANCE of GRACE

One: God of all mercy, you have planted within us a desire to do justice and love mercy. We want to be faithful and honorable, delighting in life shared honestly with family, friends, and neighbors. Instead, we are often defensive, fearful, and distracted. We spend more time with our distractions than with your truth. We seek temporary thrills rather than lasting meaning. Then we are disappointed when our 'golden calves' bring no fulfillment. We return to you, loving God, intent on following the guidance we are receiving from you. Save us. Forgive 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
Assurance of Pardon

Rejoice, knowing that God is always near, forgiving us and welcoming us with open arms.

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.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

You may share requests for prayer with the congregation aloud or fill out a prayer card and place it in the offering plate to privately share your prayer need with the pastor. If you would like, there are two tables set up with candles for prayer and salt water for lament.

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

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 jus-tice, 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.

THE WORD

Scripture Lesson

Exodus 32. 1 - 14 NRSV

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me."

So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron. He took these from them, formed them in a mold, and cast an image of a calf, and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.” They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel. The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’ ” The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation.” But Moses implored the Lord his God and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’ ” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

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.

Song

Jesus Calls Us

Invitation to the Offering

Glory to God #720

As recipients of God’s steadfast love and grace, let us offer gifts of gratitude in our tithes and offerings

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:



Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
African American Heritage Hymnal #650

Prayer for the Offering

One: God of steadfast love, your bounty knows no bounds. For the abundant gifts in our lives, we thank you. For the peace that passes all understanding, we praise you. For keeping our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, we honor you. Receive the gifts we bring you this day, and help us stay focused on things that are excellent and admirable, holy and just, righteous and pure.

All: Amen.

Invitation to Community Life

SENDING OUT to be THE CHURCH

Song

Don't Let Anyone Turn you 'Round



Don't you let no - bo - dy turn you round, turn you round,
turn you round. Don't you let no - bo - dy turn you round, you got to
keep on walk-in', keep on talk-in', march-in' up to free-dom land.

This traditional spiritual was adapted into a civil rights protest anthem in the 1960s, going by the title "Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Around."

Benediction

One: May God bless you with a restless discomfort about easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships, so that you may seek truth boldly and love deep within your heart.

May God bless you with holy anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may tirelessly work for justice, freedom, and peace among all people.

May God bless you with the gift of tears to shed with those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, or the loss of all that they cherish, so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and transform their pain into joy.

May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you really can make a difference in this world, so that you are able, with God's grace, to do what others claim cannot be done.

All: Amen.

SERVING in WORSHIP T O D A Y

Pastor: Rev. Matt Prinz

Liturgist: Linda Carter

Music Director: Jake Fontana

Song Leader: Raenelle Tauro

Head Usher: Matthew Inadomi

Godly Play: Dorrie Dodge and
Anne Margaret Manay

Fellowship Time Refreshments:
Dorothy Dugger

Building Community Work Party

By Ben Baab

Are you interested in helping us reinforce some chairs? We have a set of 75 wooden folding chairs that are prone to collapsing due to a minor design flaw. Our solution is to attach two small pegs that will prevent the collapsing. The tasks include applying a little wood glue into a pre-drilled hole, tapping a peg into the hole with a small hammer or rubber mallet, wiping off any excess glue, and then reattaching the chair seat. The pegs are pre-stained to match the chair frame, but a little touch-up staining may be required. If we have enough helpers, the work can be organized into an assembly line with different stations for the various tasks.



If you are interested in participating, please let me know (benb@firstchurchoakland.org or call me at 925-285-1068). Our work day is set for **Sunday, March 30** after coffee hour.

We will arrange with the Food Ministers to have some extra sandwiches and desserts prepared for helpers.

Giving and Receiving

By Maggie Harmon

Typically we talk about giving and receiving at the end of the year when the talk is all about presents. But here, deep into the Lenten season we are offered an opportunity to think differently about what we get when we give something up.

Interestingly the word “Lent” itself has nothing to do with sacrifice, it’s from a root that refers to the lengthening of days that happen this time of year. Liturgically it is that period of time from Ash Wednesday to Easter when we remember the forty days Jesus spent alone, fasting and praying, preparing for what he had to become. Often people will give something up for Lent, a sacrifice for the sacrifice, but I don’t believe God is looking for us to suffer as a way of demonstrating our faith. I think God is looking for us to demonstrate our faith by ever deepening our willingness to go where God leads.

For the last several years rather than give something up for Lent, I have instead let something in: a dedicated time for prayer each day, reading through a book of meditations or poems, mindful walking, some act that quiets my mind, forces me to give up some of the busyness of my ego, and that creates a little more space for God to work in my life. After forty or so days these practices often stay, and so I am changed (numerous studies have shown that habit formation takes about forty days to stick), and I find that I have given up a little time that I often filled with nothing terribly important and gained a new peacefulness to take into the world. In this time of Lent what can you give so that you might receive a little more from God? What practice can you bring in to replace something you need to let go of? What joy have you been putting off, that is perhaps the very thing you need to help you grow?

Reflection on Alabama Learning Lab From Ruby Prinz

Youth involvement in Freedom Movement

Before this pilgrimage I didn't know how much the kids were involved in the Civil Rights movement. They endured violence and continued to do what they thought was right. When they marched to Kelly Ingram Park and got attacked by dogs and sprayed with water hoses, they kept going.

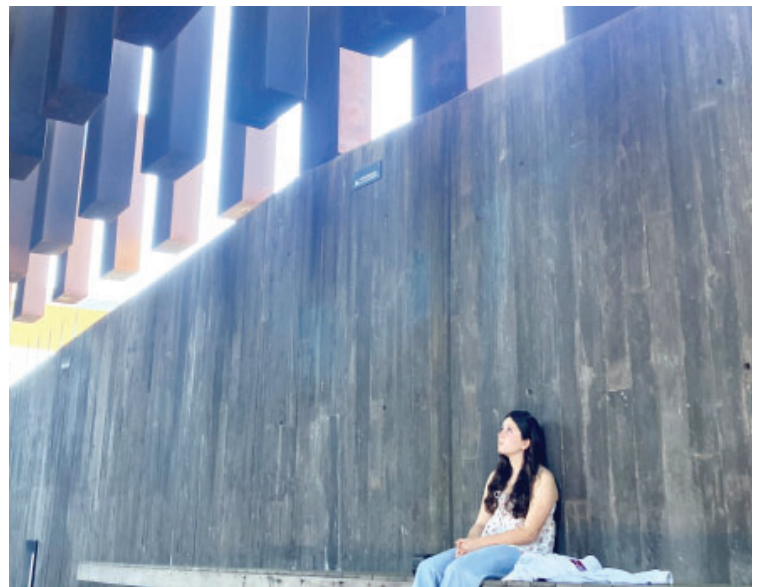
I was inspired by the youth who were singing and dancing even while they were being arrested and taken to jail. Middle School and High School students taken to jail for protesting racial segregation. I wonder if I was alive during this time and if I was their ages, 'what would I have done?' Would I be brave enough to face the police dogs, stand up against the firefighter's water hoses, and confront the hate?

I think I would want to but am inspired that they went through so much and did not fight back. During our time in Kelly Ingram Park there were several classes of students learning about what happened and being encouraged to be young people who stand up and speak out.



Lynching Memorial

I was overwhelmed to walk through the Peace and Freedom Memorial which recognizes the over 4,000 victims of lynching in America. There were so many Black Americans killed who did not do anything wrong. It was difficult to see and hold all of the hate and violence done to Black families for no reason. The worst for me, were the stories of siblings and family members who were attacked and lynched together.



Join us for the Building a Beloved Community Event



DEFINING COURAGE

FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 2025 at 8:00pm

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, CA

An Immersive, Live Show that Dares Us to Live Courageously



FEATURING: Trio Barclay, Daniel Ho, Harold Payne, and the Cal Chamber Chorus

Defining Courage commemorates the struggles and sacrifices of the Nisei soldiers of World War II through vivid cinematography, stirring live music, eyewitness interviews, and deft storytelling. Serving in segregated units, these Americans of Japanese ancestry were among the war's most decorated soldiers, unsung heroes fighting for the US while many of their families were held in incarceration camps back at home. There is also a post-performance panel that will discuss how different forms of storytelling, including

performance, journalism, and legal advocacy, can correct this historical record and bring greater awareness to untold or misrepresented histories. The Building Beloved Community Committee will be subsidizing this event. We are offering tickets based on a sliding scale: free/\$21/\$42. This means that you can pay what you are comfortable paying. Please let Suzie Inadomi know if you can join us. Limited tickets are available.

First Presbyterian Church of Oakland - Deacons and Parishes

Pauline Ahonotu

Rev. Bill and Beth Beatty
Steve Cabrera and Pat Osborne
Dorrie Dodge
Henry and Stella Ekwoge, Maria, Ryan, Sean and Henry Jr.
Chima Ngumezi
Di Pagel
Aaron and Sarah Postman
Pam and Tom Prinz

Martha Bauman

Erick Bevington
Cassandra Flipper
Henry Gardner
Christopher and Maggie Harmon
Charmaine Irmiter, Chantal and Alessandra Mohan
Julia and Saul Marquez, Joshua Day and Leah
Matt and Susannah Prinz, Monrovia and Ruby
Judy Rowan
Margaret Sigurdson
Margie and Eric Witt

Su Coburn

Martha Bauman
Barbara and Wayne Goodroe
Louise Hill
Rich and Ann Jones
Shawn Jones and Elizabeth Cureton, Hannah and Theo
Nina and Eric Lapachet, Grace and Jack
Lachlan Welsh
Carol Zell

Charmaine Irmiter

Pauline and Angus Ahonotu
Ben and Martha Baab
Anna Lisa Fear and John Goodwin, Elizabeth and William
Marie Henderson

Charmaine Irmiter (cont.)

Diane Hill
Chris and Christine Kovach, Katherine
Hazel and Isabella Seiden-Miller
Matt Spowart
Leo Sullivan
Chris Weber

Derrick Polk

Jan Busch, Alex, Connor and Ainsley Gillikin
Gay Plair Cobb and Paul Cobb
Su Coburn
Carol Enoch
Iheanyi and Brandee Ngumezi
Dan Nishimura
Keith and Nancy Ogden, Micah and Myles
Bryan Philpot
Paul and Sarah Roberts
Barbara Williams

Pam Prinz

David Alexander
Dorothy Dugger
Matthew and Suzie Inadomi, Ryan, Lia and Cami
Anne Margaret and Siddharth Manay, Arav
Anne Huss
Derek Mueller and Paula Goodwin
Derrick Polk
Chad and Nicole Provost, Cole and Carter
Lorraine Provost
Marilyn Reynolds
Kerry Sherman
Ann Tisher

Monrovia Prinz

Youth member relations
Eva Chandler
Micah Ogden
Myles Ogden
Cole Provost
Carter Provost

Artist's Corner: Derek Mueller's "Do Unto Others"



Earlier this year, I was commissioned to do a painting on the subjects of "Faith and Family." I have always been inspired by the work of Norman Rockwell, so I chose to depict men, women and children of several different faiths, as he did for a painting entitled "Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You."

Although many more religions could have been represented, we agreed that Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hindu and Buddhism would be shown. I endeavored to include men, women,

children and people of different races. Again, since I limited the number of figures to eight, many more could have been included. The title of the painting is "Do Unto Others." We thought that most everyone would be familiar with the rest of the phrase known as the Golden Rule. The final location for the painting will be in a public place in Dallas, Texas.

I will be showing this nearly finished painting in the reception area this Sunday during coffee hour.

2025 FPCO Church Directory

Available Sunday at Coffee Hour

The updated directory has been printed and will be available for pick up during coffee hour.

If you would like one mailed to you, please contact your deacon or Pastor Matt.

Thank you to Martha Bauman for her work in getting the directory updated.



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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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

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Rev. Matt Prinz, Moderator
Anne Margaret Manay, Clerk
Erick Bevington, Treasurer

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Monrovia Prinz, Martha Bauman, Charmaine
Irmiter, Pam Prinz

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Temple Tidings Contributors This Week

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